

# News Release



Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood  
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## HNLMS Tromp Takes Over as Flagship of NATO Counter Piracy Task Group

**LONDON:** After serving as the NATO flagship for 4 months in the counter piracy mission Operation Ocean Shield, the Dutch warship HNLMS DE Ruyter handed over her flagship duties to HNLMS Tromp yesterday. Tromp is the third warship to hold flagship duties for the NATO Task Group under Netherlands command.

“All three Dutch flagships are of the same class which makes adjusting to the new ship very easy. My team have been welcomed and supported by the ship’s company of the flagship in the best possible way and we expect the new ship will do just as well. Even when the term for HNLMS De Ruyter was extended the crew took it very well. I am sad to see them go but am looking forward to working with Tromp and her crew.” Commodore Hijmans, the Commander of the NATO Task Force said.

During her time in Operation Ocean Shield, De Ruyter disrupted multiple pirate attacks. At sea, the ship covered over 26 000 miles in the vast area of operations and has besides fighting piracy, supported the NATO Task Force commander during important engagements at sea with the Chinese, Russian and the Indian Naval force active in the area for the same cause. In port in the Seychelles, HNLMS De Ruyter was able to provide capacity building and training for the Seychelles coast guard

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### Background Information:

NATO has contributed to the international counter piracy effort off the Horn of Africa since December 2008. The mission has expanded from escorting UN and World Food Programme Shipping under Operation Allied Provider and protecting merchant traffic in the Gulf of Aden under Operation Allied Protector. In addition to these activities and as part of the latest mission, Operation Ocean Shield, NATO is working with other international bodies to help develop capacity of countries in the region to tackle piracy on their own.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) is permanently assigned to NATO. It is a multi-national Naval Group that provides the NATO Alliance with the ability to respond quickly to crisis

## Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2)

situations anywhere in the world. It is a capable, stand-alone task group and one of four standing maritime elements that form a flexible core around which NATO can build a larger force to meet a wide range of missions. These include non-combatant evacuations, consequence management, counter terrorism, crisis response and embargo operations. Its command rotates amongst the contributing nations and SNMG 2 is currently commanded by Commodore Michiel B. Hijmans, Royal Netherlands Navy.

NATO has announced its continuing commitment to counter-piracy by extending Operation Ocean Shield to December 2012.

NATO Forces currently in Operation Ocean Shield:

HNLMS TROMP (Flagship) - Netherlands  
USS BAINBRIDGE – United States of America  
HNLMS DE RUYTER - Netherlands  
HDMS ESBERN SNARE - Denmark  
USS HALYBURTON - United States of America  
TCG GIRESUN – Turkey

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