

# News Release



Ref: SNMG1 2009 / 11

27th April 2009

## NATO returns to counter piracy mission

NATO ships will resume their counter piracy mission earlier than planned and will make their way back to the Gulf of Aden this week.

With the great increase in pirate attacks, and the ensuing international concern, NATO's recent contribution to the international counter piracy effort has been significant. NATO nations have revised their plan for Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1), cancelling their port visits to Singapore and Australia and directed the Group to continue its important counter piracy mission, Operation Allied Protector, in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa. This mission will now patrol these dangerous waters until 28 June.

Cdr Chris Davies, Chief Public Affairs Officer at MCC Northwood said:

“There is now a global recognition that piracy is a cancer and NATO intends to play its part in countering the effects of these criminal activities. Using NATO’s 60 years of experience in alliance building, SNMG1 will recommence its cooperation and coordination with other actors in the area.”

Regarding a longer-term solution - at the Strasbourg summit on 4 April, NATO leaders stated “The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia plays an important role in order to facilitate coordination among all actors involved. Addressing the root causes of piracy requires a comprehensive approach by the international community. We are considering

## Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)



options for a possible long-term NATO role to combat piracy, including by taking into account, as appropriate, regional requests for maritime capacity-building.”

#### **Notes to editors**

1. Rear Admiral José Pereira da Cunha assumed Command of the force on 23 January 2009 in El Ferrol, Spain.
2. The Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1) is one of four immediate maritime reaction Forces. It is a multinational seagoing force, on task continuously, giving NATO the ability to respond quickly as the spearhead of the NRF, with the flexibility to promote NATO's interest anywhere in the world. The Force, previously known as Standing Naval Force Atlantic and Standing NATO Response Force Maritime Group 1, was officially renamed Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 in 2006.
3. Standing NATO Maritime Group ONE (SNMG1) under the Command of Rear Admiral José Domingos Pereira da Cunha, Portuguese Navy, will conduct maritime operations off the Horn of Africa in order to counter piracy attacks and to help deter, defend against and disrupt pirate activities in the area of operations in conjunction and coordination with other nations and organizations involved.

SNMG1 fulfilled a commitment to visit Karachi, Pakistan on 26 / 27 April.

#### **Media Inquiries only to:**

SNMG1 Staff Public Affairs Officer  
<mailto:snmg1@hotmail.com>

Public Affairs Officer  
+44 (0)1923 956763  
<mailto:pio@manw.nato.int>

**Further information about SNMG1 is available at the web page:**

<http://www.snmg1.nato.int>

**MCC Northwood website:**

<http://www.manw.nato.int>

## Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)