

CONTACT GROUP

ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPSC) was created on January 14, 2009 pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1851. This voluntary ad hoc international forum brings together those stakeholders affected by Somali piracy: countries from the region, Western Europe, Middle East and Asia, industry, seafarer's organisations and NGOs. The Contact Group coordinates political, military, and non-governmental efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia, ensure that pirates are brought to justice, and support regional states to develop sustainable maritime security capabilities.

Message From The Chairman

It is with pleasure that I can inform you that the preparations for the Counter-Piracy Week are well under way. As you'll know, the Counter-Piracy Week is based on two main blocks of activities: CGPCS meetings culminating in the 17th Plenary Session of the CGPCS and the UAE Counter-Piracy Conference, now the fourth of its kind.

The '2014 UAE Counter-Piracy Week' as we commonly call it, will bring together many representatives from governments, international organisations, the private sector and NGOs for four full days of discussions, networking and strategizing.

In this Newsletter you'll find the draft Main Events Schedule listing the key elements of an eventful week.

I kindly request your attention for the mandatory registration to the events. CGPCS stakeholders are invited to attend the UAE Counter-Piracy Conference. Soon a separate email will be sent out with a link to the on-line registration module. For security reasons you are requested to register separately for the CGPCS activities and for the UAE Counter-Piracy Conference of the Counter-Piracy Week.

I look forward to see many of you in Dubai from 27 to 30 October!

With best personal regards

Maciej Popowski

RAPPICC to REFLECS3



Following the change in name from RAPPICC to REFLECS3 in October 2013 the counter piracy centre has been focusing on its new and wider remit of; combating transnational organised crime, improving maritime information sharing and coordinating capacity building programmes.

The Centre hopes to link each of these three objectives together with the aim of contributing to long term sustainable maritime security in the region.

Key to this will be the development of improved Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) to enable a comprehensive understanding of how the maritime domain is being used by those involved in illicit activity. REFLECS3 will be working closely with the MSA Technical Sub Group to ensure that the centre is fully connected with other similar facilities in the region.

To ensure capacity building programmes are also harmonised REFLECS3 has been hosting regular multi-agency coordination meetings. These meetings are attended by all the main capacity building organisations in the Seychelles including UNODC, EUCAP Nestor, IOC, Interpol and single nation teams. The last year has seen collaboration on establishing the Seychelles Maritime Police unit, enhancing the Seychelles Vessel Protection Team and delivering a maritime crime and law enforcement programme. In the coming months REFLECS3 will be supporting programmes to develop prison information systems and dynamic security.

Ultimately the new wider remit was designed to enable the centre to maintain its focus on pursuing piracy 'Kingpins' and those involved in trans-national crime. In recent months REFLECS3 has supported regional investigation teams in putting evidence before courts and continued to develop intelligence on drug trafficking vessels to enable successful interdiction.

PIRACY STATISTICS		CURRENT NUMBER
	HOSTAGES HELD BY PIRATES	37
	VESSELS HELD BY PIRATES	It is believed that all vessels held by pirates have become defunct, have run aground and do not possess any oceangoing capacity

Source: International Maritime Bureau

ITS Mimbelli completes NATO Counter-Piracy deployment after 6 months

After six months of support to counter-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden, the Italian frigate ITS Francesco Mimbelli departed Task Force 508 and ended her participation in [Operation Ocean Shield](#) at the beginning of August.

During her deployment she has sailed more than 32,000 nautical miles and spent 152 days at sea. The Italian ship contributed considerably to maritime capacity building in the region whilst still conducting counter-piracy operations right up to her departure from the area. During a port visit to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in late July her boarding teams



ITS Mimbelli visits an orphanage when on a port visit to Dar Es Salaam during her deployment to Operation Ocean Shield - Photo: NATO

EUCAP Nestor continues to build maritime capacity throughout East Africa

As one element of the comprehensive approach of the European Union in the Horn of Africa, the EU's maritime security capacity building mission, [EUCAP Nestor](#), now with an extended mandate until 2016, continues to develop partnerships and deliver training throughout the region. In the framework of an on-going Mentoring Teaching and Training programme - MTT - coordinated by the EUCAP Nestor Somalia office in Somaliland, a 3-day MTT activity for Somaliland young Coast Guard Officers was organized between 26 – 28 August. The MTT, attended by 20 mostly junior officers, provided a foundation knowledge of maritime subjects. In particular, as a result of the EUCAP Nestor training, the young



EUCAP Nestor team deliver Mentoring, Teaching and Training Programme to members of the Somaliland Coastguard - Photo: EUCAP Nestor



ITS Mimbelli met EU Naval Force Flagship ITS Andrea Doria shortly before she left the area of operations - Photo: NATO

performed maritime cooperation activities with the Tanzanian Navy, sharing experiences and knowledge on counter-piracy procedures, Maritime Interdiction Operations, force protection capabilities, fire fighting and damage control procedures.

Furthermore in April/May she has also conducted instruction and experience at sea for officers from the Yemeni Navy and Coastguard as well as conducting exercise with the Royal Navy of Oman in April and June from both Salalah and Muscat. "I am proud of the contribution our crew gave to freedom of the seas and to the security and prosperity of the entire region," said ITS MIMBELLI's Commanding Officer, Captain Davide Berna.

officers achieved a better understanding of generic Coast Guard Functions such as border control, search and rescue, countering illegal fishing, and surveillance. Within the efforts for maritime capacity building, EUCAP Nestor is active in enhancing the Somaliland Legal sector. The August visit to Somaliland set an opportunity for mission experts to discuss with local counterparts EU contribution to the improvement of prosecutors' capabilities within the field of maritime crime, and consult for planning a training programme for judges, prosecutors and investigators in the police force. Based on that, planning of future trainings to be held in Somaliland include: The Somaliland Piracy Law of 2012, handling of evidence in piracy cases and legal aspects, safety awareness for prosecutors. On 18 August, the Legal Module of the training for Seychelles' new Maritime Police Patrol Unit (MPPU) commenced. The four-week Basic Training provided for the Seychelles Air Force (SAF), jointly provided by EUCAP Nestor and SAF, continued during the period, as did the Basic Training for the Seychelles Coast Guard.

On 30 July, EUCAP Nestor attended a meeting of the Nairobi Hub – a technical working group established to coordinate maritime security activities in Somalia, and comprising EUCAP Nestor, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). The meeting was supportive of EUCAP Nestor's plans

to deliver basic training and light equipment to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) Coast Guard. From a legal perspective, preparations are ongoing for the first EUCAP Nestor Regional Law Drafting Conference to be held on 7-8 October. The aim of the event is to bring together senior law drafting experts from around the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean to share knowledge and best practices to enhance drafting capacities, particularly in relation to maritime security and criminal law.



Members of EUCAP Nestor Seychelles Country Team with the Evidence Handling Guide presented to the Seychelles Forces - Photo: EUCAP Nestor

Japan: A committed partner to CMF Counter-Piracy Effort

Japan is one of the [Combined Maritime Forces](#) more recent members and has made a significant impact in CMF counter-piracy efforts since they joined in late 2013. Their commitment and skill as a maritime nation makes them a valued member in combatting the real threat that remains from piracy, efforts that are developing further following the recent reinterpretation of their constitution to allow collective self-defence.

Since 2009, the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) has conducted counter-piracy operations, patrolling the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor, in the Gulf of Aden. As part of their commitment to help protect global maritime commerce and secure freedom of navigation with along other international naval forces, the JMSDF has committed two destroyers and two Djibouti-based Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft to support these efforts. Their ships have conducted over 500 escort operations in the Gulf.

In early December 2013 JS Samidare, a Murasame Class Destroyer, became the first Japanese Ship to formally support CMF. This decision was taken in recognition that counter-piracy operations could be more efficiently delivered within the multi-national Combined Task Force 151 and in cooperation with related EU and NATO missions.

In August 2013, the JMSDF decided to extend their efforts and provide MPRA assets. The surveillance provided by these air assets is a crucial element in disrupting and deterring piracy further enhancing their contribution to CMF's operations. As of July 2014, they have undertaken a total of 1,159 flights in support of CMF. Always looking forward, Japan is not content to limit themselves to their current efforts and will take the lead in CMF's counter-piracy efforts by taking command of CTF-151 in 2015.



Japanese Destroyer JDS Samidare at sea and P3 Orion MPRA based in Djibouti - Photo: CMF

African Partnership Station Visit MSCHOA and IMO

Six members from US Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) in Naples, Italy visited the [Maritime Security Center Horn of Africa](#) (MSCHOA) within the [EU Naval Force](#) (EU NAVFOR) Operational Headquarters in Northwood, London on 7 August to tour the facilities and meet with MSCHOA and EU NAVFOR personnel.

The intent of the trip was to gain knowledge of MSCHOA's counter-piracy role within Operation Atalanta and look for ways that NAVAF and MSCHOA can best coordinate training opportunities in countries that are affected by piracy on the East African coast.

The first day of the visit involved a OHQ tour along with meetings to discuss current efforts and future NAVAF/MSCHOA areas of cooperation. Commander Dan Moritsch, NAVAF's South and East Africa Regional Engagement Team Leader commented "Our group was very impressed with the capabilities of MSCHOA and the professionalism of all those we met. Not only was everyone extremely knowledgeable about their mission, but they had a genuine passion for wanting to eradicate piracy in the Horn of Africa. It was great to see." Additionally, each group presented background briefs on their command's organization and mission.

On day two, the NAVAF group met with personnel from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at their headquarters in London. Since curbing piracy in the HOA needs to be a multi-faceted effort with military as well as civilian stakeholders, the group was fortunate enough to meet with some of those involved with maritime security at the IMO. Topics ranging from the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, strategies to increase partner nation maritime capabilities, training opportunities, and future goals were all discussed at length.

While there was a lot of useful information presented in the two-day visit, it was the personal introductions that will continue to pay benefits in the future.

2014 UAE Counter-Piracy Week

Main Events Schedule (27-30 October 2014)

Conference Venue: UAE Counter-Piracy Week will take place in the JW Marriott Marquis Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai.

Monday 27 October	
CGPCS Working Group "Capacity Building"	09.00 - 12.30
CGPCS Working Group "Disrupting Pirate Networks Ashore"	13.30 - 17.30
Legal Forum of the CGPCS	17.30 - 20.00
Communiqué Meeting	20.30hrs
Tuesday 28 October	
CGPCS Working Group "Counter Maritime Piracy Operations"	08.00 - 11.30
Trust Fund Board Meeting	08.00 - 11.30
CGPCS 17 th Plenary	12.30 - 18.00
CGPCS Press Conference	18.00hrs
UAE Welcome Reception	20.00hrs (TBC)
Wednesday 29 October	
UAE Counter-Piracy Conference Registration	Whole Morning
Jebel Ali Port Visit (Optional)	09.00 - 11.30
UAE Counter-Piracy Conference Day 1	13.30 - 18.00
Thursday 30 October	
UAE Counter-Piracy Conference Day 2	09.00 - 18.00
Media Briefing	18.00hrs

Notes:

1. A special ad-hoc meeting on the Revision of the High Risk Area is scheduled for Sunday 26 October at 18.00hrs.
2. UNODC, IMO and Oceans Beyond Piracy will facilitate a workshop on the Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy 23-26 October.



EU Naval Force Flagship to Support UAE Counter-Piracy Week

The Flagship of EU Naval Force ITS Andrea Doria, an Italian Destroyer, will be in Dubai during UAE Counter-Piracy Week.

Rear Admiral Guido Rando the Force Commander of [EU Naval Force](#) will be deployed aboard the ship along with his embarked staff for 6 months and took over as Force Commander in August 2014.

Apologies

The copyright on the photo regarding the release of the 11 seafarers from MV Albedo in the July Newsletter was wrongly attributed to UNODC. The correct source is the Galmudug Counter Piracy Focal Point.