



PRESS RELEASE

Standing NATO Maritime Group ONE Aids in Volcanic Eruption Search and Rescue

Staff Public Affairs Officer (SPAO)
Ensign Matthew A. Goetz, USN
Email: goetzma@ddg96.navy.mil

01 October 2007

OFF THE COAST OF YEMEN IN THE RED SEA – On the afternoon of 30 September 2007, Standing NATO Maritime Group 1, transiting North in the Red Sea, received a report from Canadian ship HMCS TORONTO of an explosion some 80 nm to the North of the force. Two ships, NRP ALVARES CABRAL (Portugal) and HNLMS EVERTSEN (The Netherlands), scouting ahead of the force, were on scene by late afternoon, confirming a volcano eruption on the Yemeni Island of Jazirat at Ta'ir.

Working directly with the Yemen Coast Guard Operations Center, the Force of six NATO ships including Portuguese frigate NRP ALVARES CABRAL with her Lynx Mk95 helicopter, American destroyer USS BAINBRIDGE, flagship of the Commander NATO Maritime Group 1, Dutch frigate HNLMS EVERTSEN, Danish frigate HDMS OLFERT FISCHER, German oiler FGS SPESSART and Canadian frigate HMCS TORONTO, searched the waters around the island throughout the night for any survivors in the aftermath of the volcano's eruption.

The alarm was raised in BAINBRIDGE this morning as a man was sighted in the water. At 0845 hours local, BAINBRIDGE recovered a Yemeni survivor from the water, tired from his overnight ordeal, but in good health and spirits. Shortly thereafter, HMCS TORONTO recovered a second survivor. After consultation with the Yemen Coast Guard, SNMG1 ships are remaining in the vicinity of Jazirat at Ta'ir to continue the search for survivors.

For further information you may contact:
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Ensign Matthew A. Goetz, USN
Email: goetzma@ddg96.navy.mil
Interviews may be arranged by contacting
Ensign Goetz at +1 757 443-8704