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FACT SHEET

OPERATION ALLIED PROVIDER

Since 24 October 2008, NATO has been conducting an anti-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia – Operation Allied Provider (OAP).

This operation is being conducted in response to a specific request by the UN Secretary General to assist the World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver humanitarian aid to Somalia.

Four ships are currently participating in the operation:

- ITS Durand de la Penne (flagship, Italy)
- HS Themistokles (Greece)
- TCG Gokova (Turkey)
- HMS Cumberland (United Kingdom)

These 4 vessels are supported by the oiler FGS Roehn (Germany).

Since 24 October 2008, OAP units have successfully accomplished seven escorts in support of the following WFP-chartered motor vessels:

- MV Fadhil Rabi
- MV Victoria (three times)
- MV As Salaam (twice)
- MV Rabbana

No incident of any kind was reported during those escorts, which have facilitated the delivery of 29,000 metric tons of humanitarian aid.

On 1 December 2008, HS Themistokles will start the escort of MV Miltzow with about 1,000 metric tons of humanitarian aid. Port of departure is Mombassa (Kenya), final destination Port of Merka (Somalia).

At 30 November 2008:*

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|---|-----|
| - number of piracy attacks in the area encompassing the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden, since 24 October [†] | 32 |
| - number of merchant vessels captured by pirates since 24 Oct. | 12 |
| - number of merchant vessels currently hijacked | 16 |
| - number of merchant vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden daily | >50 |
| - an average of 15 military vessels operate in the piracy area, nations include: Denmark, France, Greece, India, Italy, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America | |

* Statistics compiled from publicly-available sources

[†] The main area affected by piracy includes the Gulf of Aden and the area off the coast of Somalia, as far as 1,000 kms from the shore

Operation Allied Provider is scheduled to end in December 2008 when the EU is expected to launch its Operation Atalanta. Currently, Allies are discussing a potential longer-term role for NATO in the prevention and suppression of acts of piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia.

For more information:

http://www.afsouth.nato.int/JFCN_Operations/allied_provider/index.htm