



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



April 13, 2009

U.S. Navy Rescue

"We remain resolved to halt the rise of piracy in this region. To achieve that goal, we must continue to work with our partners to prevent future attacks, be prepared to interdict acts of piracy and ensure that those who commit acts of piracy are held accountable for their crimes."

– President Barack Obama

U.S. naval forces rescued Captain Richard Phillips, the master of motor vessel Maersk Alabama, on April 12 at 7:19 p.m. local time in Bahrain (12:19 p.m. Eastern Standard Time), ending a five-day confrontation with Somali pirates who seized the motor vessel April 8 and held its captain after the U.S. crew regained control of its ship.

U.S. Navy Involvement

- USS Halyburton (FFG 40), a Mayport, Fla. based frigate, and USS Bainbridge (DDG 96), a Norfolk, Va. based guided missile destroyer, arrived on scene following the hijacking to monitor and assess the situation.
- The Maersk Alabama arrived at the Port of Mombasa, Kenya, late on Saturday, April 11, local time. Representatives of Maersk Line, Limited, from the United States met the vessel in Mombasa to assist the 19 crewmembers, all U.S. citizens, with onward arrangements. Eighteen Sailors from Bainbridge were on board Maersk Alabama to provide assistance.
- The U.S. Navy remained in constant communication with Maersk shipping company regarding the situation. FBI negotiators stationed at Quantico were called by the Navy to assist with discussions with the Somali pirates and were fully engaged in this matter.
- While working throughout the negotiation process on April 12, the on-scene commander decided that the Capt. Phillips' life was in immediate danger. Three pirates were subsequently killed; the one pirate who surrendered is being treated humanely.
- Following the rescue, Phillips was taken aboard Bainbridge then flown to the San Diego-based amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), where he contacted his family and received a routine medical evaluation.

Combined Task Force 151

In response to the increase in piracy off the Somali coast, the U.S. Navy is leading a multinational effort to patrol the waters near the Horn of Africa.

- Combined Task Force 151 has been established to deter, disrupt and suppress piracy in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1851, protect the global maritime environment, enhance maritime security and secure freedom of navigation for all nations.
- CTF 151 is a multinational task force that conducts counter-piracy operations in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Red Sea and was created to provide a lawful maritime order and develop security in the maritime environment.
- Countering irregular and transnational threats such as piracy keeps the Sea Lines of Communication open and protects our homeland, enhances global stability and secures freedom of navigation for the benefit of all.

Key Messages

- Piracy is an international problem and requires an international solution.
- The U.S. Navy will continue to function as part of a larger international endeavor combining efforts of governments, militaries and maritime industry to stop piracy on the high seas.
- The Navy remains engaged in counter-piracy operations as part of longstanding efforts to combat crime on the high seas.

Facts & Figures

- **Piracy Events 2009**
 - 65 Total
 - 19 Successful
 - 46 Unsuccessful
- The area involved off the coast of Somalia and Kenya as well as the Gulf of Aden equals more than 1.1 million square miles (2.5 million square kilometers), roughly four times the size of Texas.
- More than 23,000 ships transit the Gulf of Aden annually.