



## ANTI-PIRACY WORKSHOP, UKRAINE, FEBRUARY 2012

From 21 – 25 February 2012 the NATO Shipping Centre visited Odessa, Ukraine to conduct a one-day NATO Shipping Centre Workshop jointly organised by the International Transport Workers Federation and the Maritime Piracy – a Humanitarian Response Programme.

The Workshop was hosted and facilitated by the Ukrainian based ship management company V.Ships and the local Humanitarian Response Programme coordinator in the Ukraine.

The workshop was conducted as part of the NATO Shipping Centre outreach initiative with an objective to make regional and local shipping communities aware of Best Management Practices. Tied to this, the outreach stresses the importance of implementing Self Protective Measures in order to avoid being pirated. as well as general assistance to the shipping community in hardening vessels, crew and shipping companies against attacks by pirates.

Ukraine represents approximately 12% of the world's seafarers and several of the latest incidents and hijackings have had Ukrainian interests. Therefore, this workshop was regarded as an important step forward to establish relationships with local shipping organizations in order to provide current advice and assistance to the shipping community in this specific region.



The NATO Shipping Centre conducted the workshop together with International Transport Workers Federation, Seafarers Trust and the Maritime Piracy – a Humanitarian Response Programme. The workshop focussed on awareness of Best Management Practices 4 as well as the humanitarian response pre-, during, and in a post- release situation.



The workshop was conducted in support of EUNAVFOR/MSCHOA with the Company Security Officer for CLIPPER Group, Mr. Gary S. Porter, representing the industry.

The workshop was very well attended by a mix of ship owners, shipping companies, ship management companies, security companies, as well as naval institutes and educational

institutions, with a total of approx. 130 persons. Ukrainian media was also present throughout the workshop.



Visitors



Visitors

Knowledge of Best Management Practices 4 was fairly strong among the participants; nevertheless, the workshop did underline the importance of continued emphasis on BMPs in order to enhance the actual implementation with improved Self Protective Measures.

The dialogue during the workshop also emphasized the value of spreading the knowledge and understanding of anti-piracy efforts made by naval forces in the region; even though they may not be spotted during a passage. Some participants stressed the importance and value of feedback on their reporting procedures, while the panel stressed the importance of reporting and the value of doing so.



The panel in action



CDR SG Stein O. Hagalid  
Cell Head NSC, dealing with the press.

All these aspects of merchant and naval operations were focused upon during the workshop, with mutual understanding, and enhanced understanding of the working conditions for the different players in theatre.

The workshop was well covered in the Ukrainian media, and the originator appeared on Ukrainian national television twice during the visit, as well as being mentioned in local and national newspapers throughout the week.