

[NATO SHIPPING CENTRE CONDUCTS COUNTER-PIRACY WORKSHOPS](#)

The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) recently completed the next series of ongoing Counter Piracy Workshops to the Commercial Shipping Industry. Working with partners from the International Transport Federation (ITF) Seafarer's Trust; EU NavFor, and Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), workshops were presented to seafarers, ship owners and company security officers in Delhi and Mumbai, India on 31 October and 2 November, respectively and in Hong Kong on 4 November.

NATO Shipping Centre CP Workshop Delhi 31 Oct 11



Provision of such workshops contributes to achieving some of NATO's counter-piracy objectives for Operation Ocean Shield. These objectives ensure that the commercial shipping is better protected through: enhancing the situational awareness of masters and company security officers; effectively advising the industry on the effective use of Best Management Practices for Protection Against Somalia Based Piracy; and ensuring the vessels and crews are hardened against piracy attacks by use of Self Protection Measures. This forum also provided an opportunity to highlight the products used by the NATO Shipping Centre in their delivery of advice and guidance to shipping, primarily the updates, warnings and piracy location maps all revised daily and distributed through the NSC website. Many industry representatives signed up with the NSC to receive the weekly assessment by email and have provided very positive feedback on their use and reliance on the products.

NATO Shipping Centre Counter Piracy Workshops Mumbai 2 Nov 11



Taking appropriate action to prepare ships to combat piracy has been the focus of many counter piracy efforts since the surge of pirate attacks increased in 2008, however, more consideration is now being addressed towards the preparation of the seafarers as well. Driving this additional focus has been the “Maritime Piracy – Humanitarian Response Programme”, an initiative driven and supported by the ITF, with additional support from the TK Foundation. This programme aims to not only bring attention to the long overlooked human plight of piracy, but to provide tools in the form of training guides to assist ship owners, management and crewing companies in effectively preparing and strengthening seafarers and their families to deal with the potential situation of piracy. Mr Roy Paul is the Programme manager for MPHRP, and his partnership in these workshops has ensured that participants are cognizant of the need to harden the ship through effective use of BMPs and appropriate Ship Protection Measures, as well as the need to harden the crew’s resiliency to cope and recover.

NATO Shipping Centre Counter Piracy Workshop 2 Nov 11



The NATO Shipping Centre has been a partner on the Steering Committee to develop the MPHRP and has worked closely to assist the ITF with their products, while benefiting from the reciprocation of the ITF in collaboratively presenting the series of interactive workshops that have been extremely well received by the industry. Using a realistic voyage scenario, Cdr Stein Hagalid, Head of the NATO Shipping Centre, moderated the interaction between expert panel members and the audience. Throughout the day, participants were actively challenged to consider all that could be done, prior to and during a voyage to reduce vulnerability to piracy. The range of exposure to effective use of BMP varies throughout the merchant community, and the workshops ensured that many left with not only newly gained knowledge, but a much greater awareness of the resources that are available to assist in preparation to sail and while at sea. These most recent workshops followed a series provided in the spring 2011, in Hamburg, Singapore and Manila, and queries have already been received from the shipping industry in other geographical regions to have the workshops provided to a broader audience.

NATO Shipping Centre Counter Piracy Workshops Hong Kong 4 Nov 11

