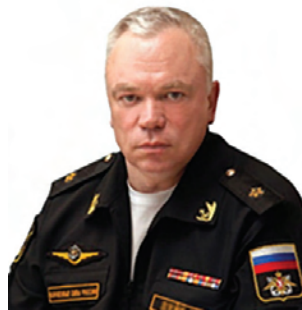


# Role of the Russian Navy in Providing Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean



## **Rear Admiral LUIK Eduard Endelievich** Chief Navigator of the Russian Fleet

### Anti-Piracy Activities of Russian Navy

The World Ocean is the most important transport corridor. Experts say that up to 50% of container shipping and up to 70% of oil shipping go through Indian Ocean only.

Annually, more than 50 000 ships and 32,2 mln. barrels of crude oil and oil products are being transported through Malacca Strait.

According to the experts' forecasts, a number of oil transporting tankers through Malacca and Hormuz straits will be doubled by 2030.

Speaking about the maritime security, besides possible natural disaster, it is necessary to take into account the increasing threats from illegal human activities.

International relations are in a difficult period, the essence of which is in forming the multipolar international system.

The Russian Federation speaks up successively for joining the international efforts of states under the aegis of UN in fighting against transnational organized crime.

The international cooperation in fighting against transnational organized crime in general and against piracy in particular is today very relevant. The cooperation at sea within the frameworks of fighting against piracy today requires the close attention.

In countries with unstable political system (which is Somalia), the pirate groups could turn into the real force and influence on geopolitical processes in the region. It must not be allowed.

Statistic says, that pirates' activity areas do not change in general, and any ship, regardless of the countries flag it sails, could be attacked.

In accordance with Russia's position, the Navy actively participates in cooperation development for maritime security benefits.

Main areas of international cooperation are on the slide, as you can see – anti-piracy is one of the main.

Special features of antipiracy activity of the Russian Navy, that increase effectiveness of actions, are:

- Direct escort of ships convoys through stated route from the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea and back;
- Cooperation on counter-piracy with Navy units of European Union, multinational forces, as well as with Navy ships of countries, that act in the area of the African Horn according to their national plans, on exchanging the information on situation in the task area;
- To enhance convoys ships protection by embarkation of marine corps personnel. Consent to deployment of security personnel is given by captains in accordance with the agreement of ships owners;
- Working meetings of commanding officers are organized to discuss the main issues of interaction and exchanging information. During these meetings the themes concerning interaction in the issues of counteraction of piracy such as:
  - Information exchange received from the intelligence equipment of ships (for example carried-based aircraft)
  - Conducting the joint exercises on releasing the seized ship
  - Exchange of experience, finding new way to counteract the pirate activity and resolve actual problem issues in implementing fight against piracy activity
  - Exchange of experience on special additional equipment of military ship and ships involved in fighting against piracy
  - Multilateral medicine support and other issues on sides' agreement. Since 2008 more than 50 working meetings have been conducted.

Within the framework of civil shipping protection since 2008 till present the Russian Navy executed :

- 30 campaigns, escorted 152 convoys with total number of ships – 727, including 56 ships under Russian flag. Prevented 10 attempts of ships seizure. 80 pirates detained.

Representative of Defense Attaché Office by the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Singapore is now cooperating with International Information Center of the Singapore Navy and with the Regional coordination center of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief of the Joint Staff of the Armed forces of the Republic of Singapore.

An officer of the National Defense Control Center is being sent every time for work with centers during the exercise time.

The Russian Navy participation in counter-piracy will keep its actual continuity further. Russia builds its policy with countries going out from the interests, free of ideological and other pressure, based on strict observation of provisions and principles of international law, stipulated in the UN Charter, not only in bilateral, but also in multilateral formats.

In conclusion it is necessary to note, that with insufficient attention to discussed matters the new wave of piracy could become more difficult challenge for commercial shipping, than in 2008-2012.

Taking into account the effectiveness of such platform as UN Contact Group on Counter-Piracy off the coast of Somalia for joint actions coordination and perspectives it might be useful to include in CGCPS Mandate other crimes, along with piracy, as well as to expand its geographical and functional frames.