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## EU NAVFOR ships BNS LOUISE-MARIE and HSwMS MALMOE escorts vulnerable giant MIGHTY SERVANT 1



**On 13 and 14 September the EU NAVFOR Belgian warship LOUISE-MARIE escorted the Mighty Servant 1, a 29,000-ton semi-submersible heavy-lift ship.**

The LOUISE-MARIE, participating in the European Union Naval Force - Operation Atalanta, was tasked to escort the Mighty Servant 1, a 29,000-ton semi-submersible heavy-lift ship. The Mighty Servant 1, transiting from the Maldives to Norway, is transporting a huge part of an oil production platform. The Mighty Servant 1 can submerge herself in order to receive a heavy load and this type of ship has a typically low well deck and sails with at relatively low speed. The extreme load also means that there are several blind sectors of visibility around the ship and these factors, as well as her low speed make the Mighty Servant 1 vulnerable to pirate attack . EU NAVFOR Belgian warship Louise-Marie started her escort of the Might Servant 1 on 13 Sep and after 2 days handed over to EU NAVFOR Swedish warship HSwMS MALMOE to continue the escort.

EU NAVFOR, the NATO Task Force and TF 151 of the Combined Maritime Forces headquartered in Bahrein coordinate their efforts for the protection of all shipping in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. Ships that register with MSCHOA and have received a high vulnerability rating will be particularly monitored during their transit through the protected IRTC.

All shipping is strongly advised to adopt the Best Management Practices as advertised on the MSCHOA website. On top of that, the Chinese, Japanese and South Korean maritime forces that conduct in principle National



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convoys regularly allow other flagged ships to attach. Information and coordination between all the Task Forces mentioned above is exchanged via the EU initiated common communications system.



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