

Experience Brief EU OPS ATALANTA

22 Oct 2012



Commander Carl Gillis – Former Commanding Officer - F931 Louise-Marie



NAVTRACK



**Aim : sharing personal experience with
embedded media during operation ATALANTA**

1. Setting the scene
2. Good Preparations
3. Managing Expectations
4. Experience & 'good practices'
5. Questions

Setting the scene

ATALANTA MISSION STATEMENT

- **Escort UN World Food Program and other vulnerable shipping**

Result : Not a single escorted ship hijacked

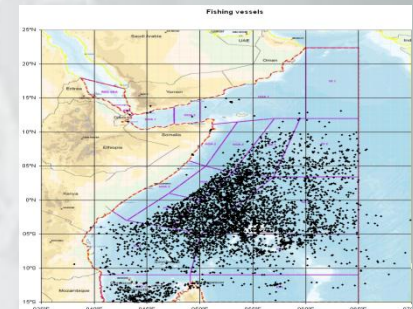


- **Deter and disrupt piracy**

Result : steep decline in piracy activity

- **Monitor Fishing Activities**

Result : mapping of fishing activities



Setting the scene

F931 Louise-Marie - HoA



Former Dutch Frigate

Apr 2009

Koningin Paola

Sint-Niklaas

Crew 170

- Bilingual unit
- Joint & 1 civilian
- Mixed gender
- Dutch - DJI

2 months in area



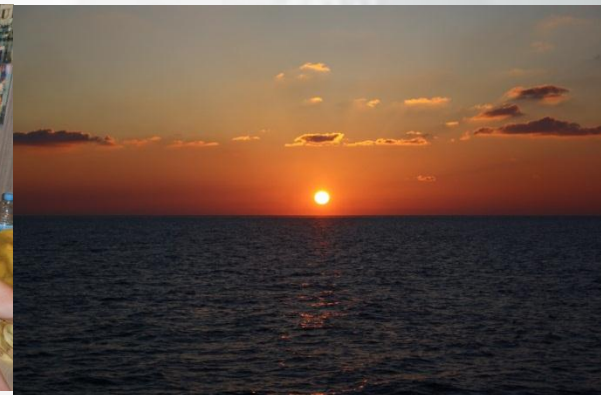
Good Preparations

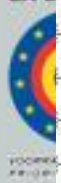
- Volunteers only & good condition (sea sickness)
- 'Amarinage' for embedded press prior to embarkation
 - Naval Training Centre near Bruges
 - Basic Skills
 - Do's and don't's
- Crew preparation
 - Media training
 - Public Affairs Officer
 - Crew awareness
- Prepare a program for the media



Managing Expectations

- Limited Living Space (soccerfield)
- Little Privacy
- SAFETY at sea is every ones concern
- Daily Ship's routine
- No smoking

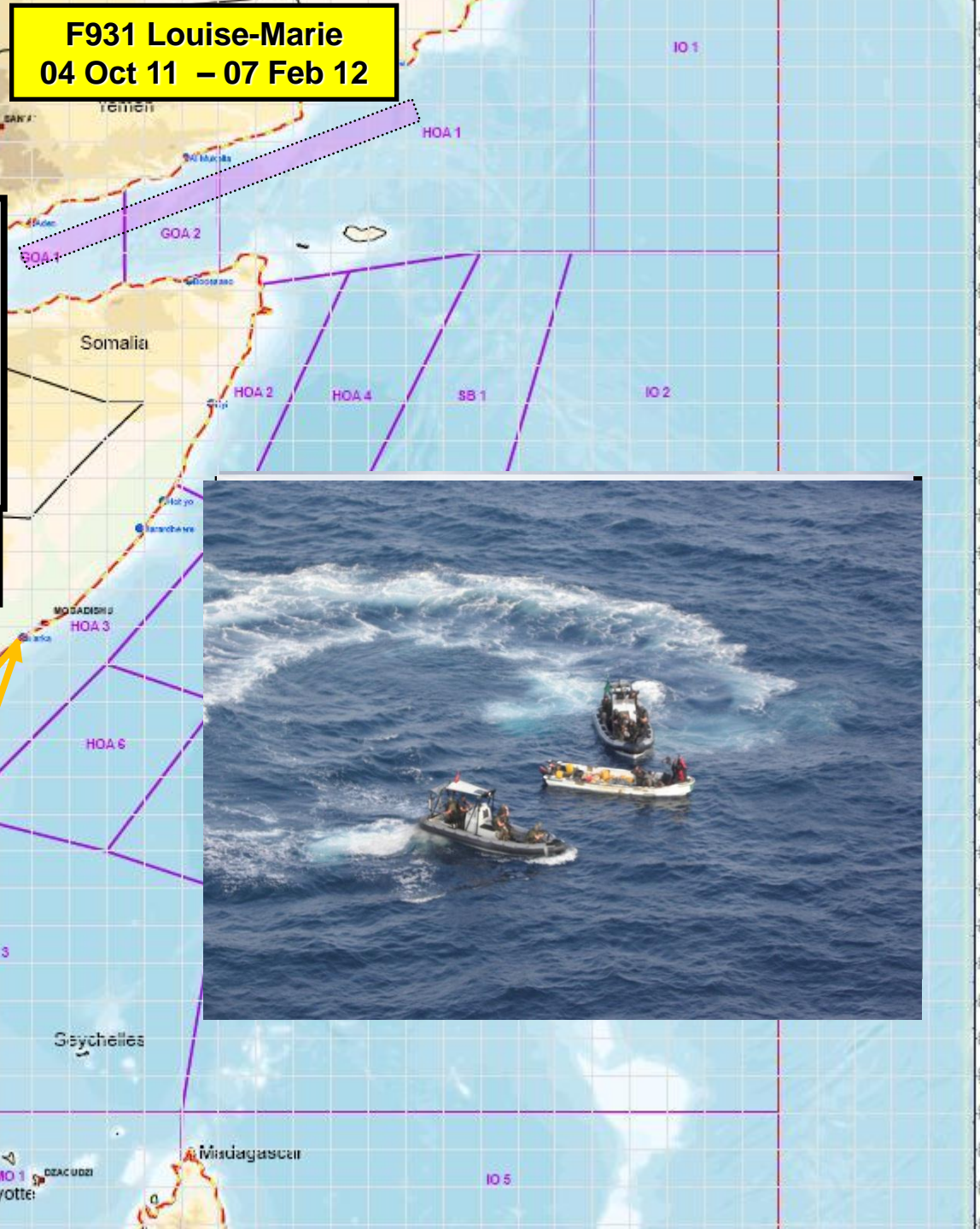




F931 Louise-Marie 04 Oct 11 – 07 Feb 12



**Stijn Vercruysen - VRT
Bas Bogaert - Freelance**



**MOMBASA
28 NOV**

**MOMBASA
7 DEC**



Experience & 'good practices'

- Avoid frustration & misunderstandings by agreeing upon some basic rules
 - Safety always comes first
 - Daily coordination meeting CO – journalists
 - All filming is allowed, but CO has final say in release of footage (VRT News – Koppen)
 - Screening of texts (GvA – P-magazine)
 - Examples – video 'Koppen'
- Explain what is happening & provide context
- Presence of personnel DGCOM very helpfull
- Take part in the ships' life
 - Get a feel for living & working at sea
 - Gain crew's trust





Questions?



F931 Louise-Marie

1. Timeline

- a. ATALANTA I : Aug - Dec 2009
- b. PDT ATALANTA II: (May - Jun) + (Aug - Sept) 2010
- c. Summer Leave : Jul
- d. ATALANTA II : 04 Okt - 07 Feb 2011 (4 months in total)

2. Composition of the Force

- a. LOMA + Alo III
- b. VPD team (6 Pathfinders) - incl BT and FP
- c. Diving module (2 Combat Divers) - incl BT and FP
- d. Med Role 1+ (2+2 pax - monthly rotation)
- e. LEGAD (approx 6 weeks)
- f. RMO (2 months)
- g. Interpreter (DJI Navy)

INCHOP
20 OCT

SUEZ CANAL
17 OCT

SALALAH
6-10 NOV

DJIBOUTI

Total distance sailed:

During Atalanta: 19391 NM

Zeebr.-Zeebr.: 28324 NM

(Equator: 21600 NM)

DAR-ES-SALAAM
22-26 DEC

