



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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New Operation Commander announced for EU Naval Force Somalia

The Political and Security Committee today announced the appointment of the new Operation Commander for the EU Naval Force Somalia - Operation Atalanta, which aims to prevent piracy and armed robbery off the Somali Coast and in the Indian Ocean.

Rear Admiral Robert Tarrant of the UK Royal Navy will take up the post of Operation Commander of Operation Atalanta on 16 January 2013. He will replace Rear Admiral Duncan Potts, who has commanded the EU's counter piracy mission since 15 June 2011.

Operation Atalanta was launched in December 2008 under the Common Security and Defence Policy and is part of the EU's comprehensive approach for a peaceful, stable and democratic Somalia. The operation also protects vessels of the World Food Programme delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia and shipping of the African Union mission in Somalia (Amisom).

For more information, see www.eunavfor.eu.

P R E S S

**Rear Admiral (designate)
Robert K Tarrant
Royal Navy
Commander United Kingdom
Maritime Forces (designate)**



Rear Admiral (designate) Bob Tarrant was born in 1961 and joined the Royal Navy in 1979. During his service at sea he has held positions in both submarines and surface ships and commanded the nuclear powered submarine *HMS Talent* from 1997-99 and the Ice Patrol Ship *HMS Endurance* 2007-08. He has a variety of operational experience from the Falklands Conflict in 1982 on board the destroyer *HMS Antrim*, numerous submarine patrols, two seasons in the Antarctic and periods of defence diplomacy off West Africa.

Ashore he has trained junior officers and been on the staff of Commander Submarine Force US Atlantic Fleet. More recently he has focused on the higher management of defence, developing security policy and strategy and creating effective international and political relationships. After a tour as the Commodore Naval Staff, supporting the First Sea Lord in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review developing the strategy for the future of the Royal Navy, he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

He is currently Commander Combined Task Force 150, responsible for a multi-national maritime security operation extending from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Oman, and will be promoted Rear Admiral in January 2013 to assume the role of Commander United Kingdom Maritime Forces.

Bob is married to Tracy and they have two children. Beyond professional duties, he focuses on his family.
