



## **12/25/09 - EU NAVFOR Humanitarian Effort Saves Life at Sea**

**On the 25 of December, EU NAVFOR French warship COMMANDANT L'HERMINIER handed over 7 castaways to Somali Authorities in the waters off BOSASO, north of Somalia.**

In two separate incidents, during an EU NAVFOR patrolling operation, 7 Somali citizens were found about 800 nautical miles east of MOGADISHO. between 15 and 19 December. The castaways were rescued from the sea while drifting in their boats with no available means of propulsion. They were provided with food and water and, after full medical checks, they were all given a clean bill of health. COMEUNAVFOR coordinated with regional Authorities for their safe return and they have now arrived back in Somalia. The individuals were fortunate to have been found and they all expressed their gratitude to EU NAVFOR for their safe return.

EUNAVFOR SOMALIA Operation ATALANTA main tasks are to escort merchant vessels carrying humanitarian aids of the 'World Food Program' (WFP), to protect vulnerable ships in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean and to deter and disrupt piracy.