

# CTF-152

Established in 2004, CTF152 area of operations is one of the most globally significant and geographically constrained regions. CTF 152 operates within the Arabian Gulf, a very politically complex but globally strategic region. The staff is made up of personnel from the Gulf Cooperation Council nations supported by CMF assets. CTF 152 coordinates maritime security operations in the Gulf, facilitating cooperation and team work between regional maritime forces. The task force also operates to protect key maritime infrastructure, including oil platforms, from terrorist threat. CTF 152 operations influence events ashore as terrorist groups and others seeking to undermine maritime security or conduct other unlawful activity are denied this freedom of movement.



# CMF Vision

CMF is an enduring global maritime partnership of willing nations aligned in common purpose to conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in order to provide security and stability in the maritime environment.

Its forces must be scalable, flexible and responsive to an increasingly complex, diverse and changing environment and must be prepared to counter all maritime security threats for the next 10 years.



# CMF Mission

CMF aims to establish, promote and protect the freedom of navigation for all legitimate seafarers by countering terrorism, piracy, narcotics, smuggling and any other emerging threats through:

- Supporting the free flow of legitimate commerce in the region.
- Denying the use of the high seas by terrorist and illicit non-state actors.
- Undertaking strategic engagement with regional partners and other key stakeholders in the region.



# Combined Maritime Forces



*Ready Together*

# CMF

The global economy depends on freedom of navigation through international waters in order to ensure the expedient movement of goods across vast expanses of ocean. The navies of the world must work in cooperation and coordination with each other and with external agencies to ensure the area is secure. The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) was created in 2001 to help counter the threat from international terrorism but the mission was later expanded to include counter piracy operations. Originally a collective of 12 like-minded Maritime Forces, CMF now comprises 33 nations from across the globe, with active support from the Gulf Cooperation Council and growing involvement from South East Asian nations.

## CMF Membership

*Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA, Yemen.*

The CMF area of operations includes one of the most strategically important maritime areas in the world. It covers 3.2 million square miles, bordering 21 states. The shipping lanes in the region include 3 choke points: The Strait of Hormuz, Bab Al Mandeb (BAM) and Suez Canal through which the world's energy and trade must flow. Freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce in the region are threatened by terrorism, illicit networks and piracy. Commanded from its headquarters in Bahrain, CMF operates three Combined Task Forces (CTFs) across the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Somali Basin, Northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf.

When it comes to combating piracy or terrorism, no single nation or military could possibly have enough ships or aircraft to cover the entire area. Operating within international law, CMF achieves results by working together, pooling resources and actively supporting regional maritime forces patrolling their own maritime environment.

## CTF-150

Established in 2002, CTF150 is primarily focused on disrupting terrorist organisations and their unlawful activities by restricting freedom of manoeuvre in the maritime domain.



CTF150, with assets from CMF member nations, engages in intelligence led, carefully planned maritime security operations in the international waters of the Middle East and Northern Indian Ocean. These operations ensure that legitimate commercial shipping can freely transit the region and complement the security efforts of regional nations in order to disrupt the use of the maritime environment as a venue to illegally transport personnel, weapons, charcoal and narcotics, thereby obstructing the fundraising of terrorist organisations.

## CTF-151

Established in 2009, CTF151 is focused on the disruption of piracy and armed robbery in the maritime environment. Engaging with regional and other partners, it aims to build capacity and improve relevant capabilities in order to secure freedom of navigation and protect global maritime commerce.

In conjunction with forces from European Union Naval Forces (EU NAVFOR) and other independent nations such as China and India, CTF151 helps patrol the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin, including the Maritime Security Transit Corridor that includes the IRTC and extends through the BAM into the Southern Red Sea. Whilst the presence of CTF151 units acts as a deterrent, they also promote the precautionary measures to be taken by shipping companies to reduce the vulnerability of their vessels to attack. These measures are detailed in the Best Management Practice (BMP) which is produced by a consortium of shipping industry and military organisations engaged in counter piracy operations. We strongly recommend that these practices are fully adhered to.

To keep updated on CMF activity, please visit our website <https://combinedmaritimeforces.com> or e-mail us at: [cmf\\_info@me.navy.mil](mailto:cmf_info@me.navy.mil)

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