



# OPERATION ATALANTA



**INMARSAT GLOBAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMUNICATIONS MADE CERTAIN**

This case study is over 5 years old. Whilst the specific hardware mentioned may have been superseded with more advanced models, it proves the longevity and capability of Inmarsat's L-band services. With proven technology and global coverage, you can rely on our services for [#communicationsmadecertain](#)

# COLOMBIA: A SECURITY SUCCESS STORY

**Colombia's success in countering security challenges has led to greater international collaboration as well as the export of Colombian security expertise to over 60 nations across the world.**

As part of its integration with international peacekeeping operations, Colombian Ocean Patrol Vessel (OPV) ARC 7 DE AGOSTO arrived in the Gulf of Aden on 8 August 2015, as part of Operation Atalanta. This collaborative counter-piracy operation aimed at responding to growing threats of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. The vessel had a Spanish Navy liaison team on board to help co-ordinate the day-to-day

operations with the EU Naval Force flagship, ESPS Galicia.

Establishing a reliable communications link was vital to the success of this campaign and Inmarsat's FleetBroadband proved to fit the brief perfectly. Captain Jorge Alberto Arocha of the Colombian Navy spoke to Inmarsat at the conclusion of the operation about the challenges of embarking on such missions. According to Captain Arocha, "in an operation like this the main challenge was

to maintain communication both with the home country of Colombia and her allies. This was coupled with a real need to manage the cost of these communications because of limited budget." FleetBroadband 500 was used on board the ARC 7 and was a key factor in the success of the operation as it "allowed the Navy vessel and HQ to remain in contact with what was happening at all time, both within Colombia and the Coalition."



# CREW MORALE

The 73 crew on board ARC 7 included members from all branches of the Colombian Armed Forces, a National Police officer and the Spanish Navy liaison team.

Captain Arocha said "On such a mission, crew morale is crucial. The operation ran for three months and it was very important for the crew to be able to keep in touch with their families."



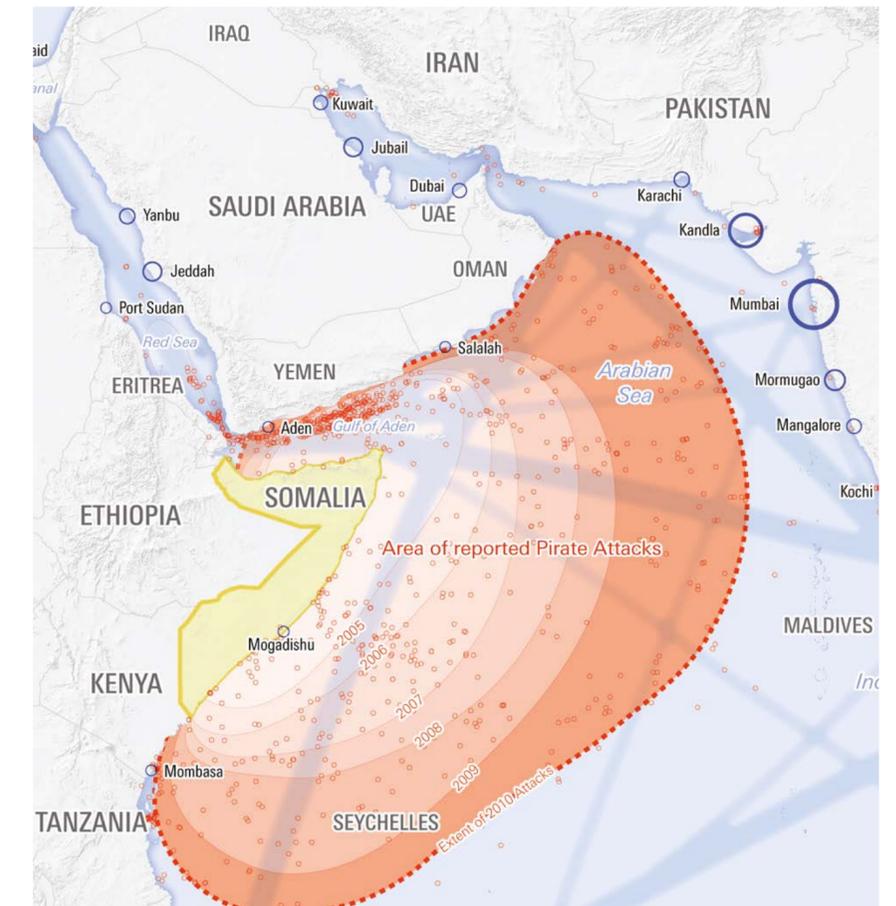


# OPERATION ATALANTA

Created under the UN Security Council resolutions 1814, 1816 and 1846, Operation Atalanta covers a 2,000,000 square nautical mile area across the southern Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, most of the Indian Ocean including Seychelles, Mauritius and Comoros, and the coastal territory of Somalia, including its territorial and internal waters.

## Operation Atalanta Objectives

- 1 Protect vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP), African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other vulnerable vessels in order to secure food supplies for over 1.600.000 Somalis.
- 2 Deter and disrupt piracy and armed robbery at sea.
- 3 Monitor fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.



# NAVY OPERATIONS

Captain Arocha explained that Colombia has few incidents of piracy therefore this mission was outside of their traditional scope. The Colombian Navy is far more involved in search and rescue operations, internal affairs and combating narco-traffickers.

Colombian participation in Operation Atalanta was part of an international mission of cooperation to help deal with the global scourge of piracy. This spirit of international cooperation has been well recognised, significantly strengthening diplomatic ties between Colombia and Spain.

## COLOMBIA IS CURRENTLY IN A COMMUNICATION UPGRADE CYCLE

Satellite communications are a political priority for the Colombian government. They

are always looking to improve capability as this is considered to be of primary importance for operational effectiveness and the achievement of success. There is a desire to source new technology and stay ahead of the game. It is this driver which saw the recent evaluation of Inmarsat services for operational fit.

## GLOBAL XPRESS: THE LATEST IN SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY

In order to ensure a future-proof communications solution, the Colombian Navy will be conducting live testing of Inmarsat Global Xpress this year to ascertain its relevance for their requirements.



"Inmarsat services provides the best support in achieving our mission goals and by keeping us connected. Inmarsat helps us achieve success."

**Captain Jorge Alberto Arocha**  
Colombian Navy







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