

## Canadian Navy helps boat ward off suspected pirates off Somali coast



The Canadian navy helped ward off suspected pirates from possibly hijacking a commercial vessel around the northern coast of Somalia, a commander said Sunday.

The HMCS Winnipeg dispatched its Sea King helicopter on Saturday after three small boats chased the oil tanker Pacific Opal in the Gulf of Aden, where piracy is rampant. The helicopter crew warned the suspected pirates by hanging a sign that read "stop" in Somali outside the chopper's cargo door next to the machine gun, Cmdr. Craig Baines said. "As soon as the vessels saw the helicopter, they immediately stopped what they were doing and let the vessel carry on its way," he said. The Sea King stayed with the Pacific Opal until the threat was gone, Baines said.

Within hours of averting the possible hijacking, HMCS Winnipeg also helped a boatload of 51 Somali refugees, including women and children, who were trying to cross the gulf to Yemen.

The refugees, who had been at sea for about two days, were given food and water before continuing on their way, Baines said.

HMCS Winnipeg is currently participating in a NATO-led counter-piracy mission known as Operation Allied Protector, part of an effort by the international community to restore safety to a major shipping lane that passes by the Horn of Africa.

With a crew of approximately 240 officers and non-commissioned members, the 134-metre long patrol frigate has been at sea since Feb. 5 and won't return to Victoria until Aug. 21. CBC News

# District F Drumhead Service

September 28th 2008

For the first time in 68 years, Branch 112 of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted the annual Drumhead Ceremony.

Legion branches from all over Southern Ontario attended the event. The ceremony originated when soldiers in the field of battle would create an altar for their padre by piling their drums together.



Piling the Drums



Reviewing Stand



*The Coalition*