



**High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCoC/JA,
Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024**

Panel Discussion 3: Commodore Mark Anderson, CMF

We have already heard from other regional naval colleagues how regional navies can best support the Djibouti code of conduct. I would, however, as deputy Commander of the 46 nation combined maritime forces offer some thoughts on how global organizations like CMF and other international naval partners can best support regional maritime security efforts.

It is in the interests of all nations, not just from this region, to see stability and security throughout the vital waterways of The Red Sea, Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Aden and wider Indian Ocean. Combined Maritime Forces as an organization is founded on a principle of upholding freedom of navigation, the rule of law and what is perhaps more commonly known as the rules based international order.

Our strategy is to support, enable and facilitate regional partners leading and delivering Maritime security in their own region. For example, task force 152, charged with providing maritime security throughout the Arabian Gulf is always led by a GCC nation, currently Kuwait.

The defining of regional needs and their priorities should come from the region, organizations and meetings such as the Djibouti code of conduct high level meeting present opportunities for me to better understand what those regional needs and priorities are. Thus today I am pleased to be included on this panel to listen and to understand where Combined Maritime Forces may be able to assist.

Combined maritime forces offers a good template for others to follow. Through the generosity of the US Navy - not a regional state - and the kind agreement of the king of Bahrain, we house 46 nations under one roof. This allows international navies to create opportunities for regional engagement. For example: we offer opportunities to lead maritime security operations and task forces, Kuwait leads the task force in the Arabian Gulf but it is enabled through US Navy communications systems, international staff to run the operations and is routinely supported by international ships from countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States who, through CMF, have a mechanism to work alongside GCC nations.

Pakistan is currently leading counter narcotic operations in the Indian Ocean. CMF is able to create opportunities for 'focused operations' which allow International Navies to work alongside regional partners such as Pakistan, for example, last month during a focused operation in the north Arabian Sea, the Pakistani ship PNS ZULFIGAR Successfully interdicted one and a half tons of hash. This operation enabled by CMF included regional partners such as the Pakistan



Maritime security agency the Kenyan Navy and the Seychelles alongside international partners such as US Coast Guard ships and Spanish ships and aircraft who had been working with ATALANTA.

Sharing of knowledge and skills is also important so as to build capacity within the region to deliver Maritime security. Task force 154 was launched in May 2023 and is designed to do just that for example, last month TF 154 currently under the command of the Egyptians delivered vessel board search and seizure training for regional partners. The question now is: how can we ensure that international efforts are coherent and actually meeting regional needs and requirements? Organizations such as DCOC have a fundamental role to play in assisting international navies in understanding regional requirements. The DCOC Capacity building Coordination matrix is helping organizations such as CMF to understand what the priorities are.