

# HDMS ABSALON



The ship is named after the Absalon Assersen (1128-1201) who became bishop and is regarded as the founder of the Danish capital - Copenhagen.

The first ship in the Danish Navy that had the name Absalon was a schooner that was built in England by The Thames Iron Works. The schooner was commissioned in 1862 and was decommissioned in 1908.

## ABSALON DATA



The Flexible Support ship HDMS Absalon is the first of two ships in the same class (Absalon class). Her sister ship is named HDMS Esbern Snare and the ships are the largest ships in the history of the Royal Danish Navy. The hull is built in order to minimize noise, radar reflections and infrared signatures – a stealth design.

HDMS Absalon PNT L 16  
Type: LCSH (Landing ship with  
Command control and Support  
facilities, helo)

Shipyard	Lindoe Shipyard, Odense (Denmark)
Commissioned	19 <sup>th</sup> of October 2005
Crew	99
LOA	137,6m
Beam	19,5m
Draught	6,3m
Displacement	6300t
Main machinery	2 X MTU diesel engines
Speed: cruise/max	15/25
Range	9000 nm at 15 kts
Flex-deck	900m <sup>2</sup> (32 std 20` containers)



HDMS Absalon is equipped with 2 Landing Craft Personnel (LCP). The LCP can carry 9 fully armoured personnel and has a top speed of 40kts with an endurance of 2 hrs at top speed.

The LCP can be used for Force Protection of own unit but also for protection and platform for personnel during NEO or DRO (Evacuation or Disaster relief)

HDMS Absalon LCPs hold PNT 1 and 2  
Sistership (HDMS Esbern Snare) LCPs hold  
PNT 3 and 4

HDMS Absalon is equipped with 2 RHIBs which are used for normal personnel transfer and during Man Over Board (MOB) operations. Furthermore HDMS Absalon can carry and handle up to two medium size helicopters (Merlin-size)

**SENSORS:**

SMART-S	Air surveillance radar
TERMA	Surface surveillance radar
FURUNO	Navigation radars
FLIR	Infrared camera
4 x CEROS	Fire control radars with TV, laser and electro optics
EDO	Electronic Support Measure
ATLAS	Medium Range sonar with Mine Avoidance

For Command, Control and Communication purposes Absalon uses UHF- VHF- HF and SATCOM supporting; TV, phone, fax, WWW, LAN and classified networks.

**WEAPONS:**

1 x 127mm gun	Anti air/surface gun including naval fire support.
2 x 35mm gun	Close in weapon system (CIWS)
8 x 12,7mm	Heavy machine gun
HARPOON	Surface-surface missile
SEASPARROW	Surface-air missile
STINGER	Anti air
MU-90 torpedoes	Subsurface warfare
CHAFF	Anti ship missile defence

**FLEX-deck**

Absalon has a feature that makes it unique compared to other navy vessels. Besides being able to fight as a standard frigate it has the capability to carry a wide variety of material and personnel due to the FLEX-deck layout. The FLEX-deck can be compared to a “ferry-deck” and the size of the deck makes it possible for Absalon to support many different kinds of capacities.



Via the aft hatch HDMS Absalon can load items with a size and weight equivalent to the weight of a tank (62 t) from the Danish Army. Adjacent compartments and holds are also an integrated part of the FLEX-deck.



Being able to fight as a “regular” war ship makes it possible for HDMS Absalon, not only to support but also to provide the safety for the personnel and material that is carried onboard, thereby making it possible for the onboard contingent to operate in a hostile environment.

Loading of Army tank (62 t)

## ROLES

The FLEX-deck is fully integrated in HDMS Absalon hull and therefore HDMS Absalon is able to carry out different roles all dependant of the load that is placed on the FLEX-deck. The plug and play concept of the flex-deck facilitates all connections (water, air, current, TV, phone, WWW, LAN, classified networks if requested) needed for running any operation within the roles mentioned below:

- C2 platform for a CJTF
- Logistic support and Supply platform
- Hospital ship
- Combat Support Ship

## INTERNAL ORGANISATION

HDMS Absalon internal organisation is constructed in order to be able to support any contingent that is carried onboard in any of the above mentioned roles. The organisation is divided in 4 divisions

- **Operations division:**  
6 officers, 4 PO, 21 ratings
- **Logistics division:**  
2 officers, 4 PO, 24 ratings
- **Weapons- and Electronics division:**  
2 officers, 3 PO, 12 ratings
- **Technical Division:**  
4 officers, 1 PO, 13 ratings



HDMS Absalon crew

**CO biography:**

## **ABSALON OFFICERS**

### **XO**

Name: Claus Buur

Rank: Commander (CDR)

In charge of the personnel and education element and is responsible for coordinating the onboard activities.

The XO handles issues related to the press.

XO is part of ship Command Team

### **Chief Engineer (TKO)**

Name: Thomas Vestergaard

Rank: Commander (CDR)

Is responsible for any technical issue onboard the ship.

TKO is part of ship Command Team

### **Logistics Officer (LGO)**

Name: Søren Dreijer

Rank: Lieutenant Commander (Lt Cdr)

Is responsible for the ship administration, ship supplies and provisions, ship deck (incl helo).

LGO is part of ship Command Team

### **Operations Officer (OPO)**

Name: Aksel J. Primdahl

Rank: Lieutenant Commander (Lt Cdr)

Is responsible for the planning, execution and control of the ship operations.

OPO is part of ship Command Team

### **Weapons and Electronics Officer (VEO)**

Name: Stefan Thomsen

Rank: Lieutenant Commander (Lt Cdr)

Is responsible for issues within the IT area and any matter regarding weapons

VEO is part of ship Command Team

### **Navigation Officer (NAO)**

Name: Lars K. Hansen

Rank: Lieutenant (Lt)

Is responsible for ship navigation.

## RECENT OPERATIONS

HDMS Absalon has been participating in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) as a part of Task Force 150 and later Task Force 151.



HDMS Absalon was deployed from 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2007 until 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. During this period HDMS Absalon crew was relieved by HDMS Esbern Snare crew from the 6<sup>th</sup> of November until the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.

HDMS Absalon supported Commander Task Force 150 (CTF 150) from the 17<sup>th</sup> of August until the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.

Picture of CTF 150 AOR

An extensive education program was conducted as preparation for the TF 150 task. Focus was on weapons handling, smallboat operations, boarding and helicopter operations.

HDMS Absalon uses every opportunity to train with other navies. Aim is to familiarize own crew with assets from other navies and also to give other navies an insight in HDMS Absalon capabilities.



Boarding operations are an important part of the ship's operational pattern and the effort of maintaining a high degree of professionalism is an ongoing process. All boarding team members participate in extensive training and education programs ranging from cultural and legal aspects to physical training.

HDMS Esbern Snare boarding team in action during TF 150 in the Gulf of Aden

HDMS Absalon ship and crew is expected to be a part of SNMG 1 in 2010 in the role as supporting platform for COMSNMG1.