



National Maritime
Information Centre

A Perspective on Piracy and Armed Robbery in Africa and Asia





The Horn of Africa

- Substantial reduction in incidents following the introduction of CTF-151, EUNAVFOR and other escort missions
- Vessels better defended through use application of Best Management Practices (BMP) and Armed Security Teams





The Horn of Africa: Re-Emergence of Piracy or Evolving Threat?

- Conflict overspill
- Other criminal activity





The Gulf of Guinea

- Disorder in the West African oil industry
- High oil prices encouraged black market trade for petroleum products, especially in Nigeria – oil price now lower
- Kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) and theft are the most common forms of attack





South-East Asia

- Oil and cargo theft in Straits of Malacca (SOMS) reduced due to drop in oil price and increased situational awareness coupled with increased enforcement activity
- Kidnap-for-ransom in Sulu/Celebes Seas fuelled by insurgency/terrorism in the Philippines
- Extreme violence used on occasions





Summary of Comparison Between Africa and Asia

AFRICA

- **HoA**
 - Somalia: Fragile State
 - Business Model
 - BMP implemented
 - AST permitted
 - No effective LE
 - Situation controlled
- **GoG**
 - Functioning States
 - Initially attacks on Nigerian oil industry
 - Insurgency in Niger Delta
 - KFR now the norm
 - BMP improving
 - AST not permitted
 - LE effectiveness improving

ASIA

- **SoMs**
 - Functioning States
 - Theft
 - BMP implemented to an extent
 - AST not permitted
 - LE effective
 - Situation under control
- **Sulu/Celebes**
 - Functioning States
 - KFR the norm
 - Terrorism nexus
 - Extreme violence on occasions
 - BMP increasing
 - AST not permitted
 - LE increasingly effective



Methods to Combat Piracy

- Adherence to BMP
- Effective Situational Awareness
 - Ability to develop and interpret the maritime picture
 - An effective reporting mechanism
 - Information sharing between agencies
 - Working with the local maritime community
- Regional and International Co-operation
- Response and Co-ordination Ability
- Determination to tackle the root causes of piracy



Evolution of Maritime Attacks

- Attacks are no longer just piracy related
- Cognisance has to be taken of emerging and future threats



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