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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 20-26 February 2018

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During the period of 20-26 Feb 18, one attempted incident of armed robbery against ships was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The location of the incident is shown in the map below; and detailed description tabulated in attachment.



Location of incident

Also included in this report are two attempted incidents of piracy that occurred outside Asia (in the Gulf of Aden and off Somalia) on 18 and 23 Feb 18 respectively. Both incidents were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). Detailed description of the two incidents are in attachment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

The ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 November 2016 to all ships to re-route from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region, and report immediately to the following Centres:



Contact details of the reporting centres

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
20-26 February 2018**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ATTEMPTED INCIDENT IN ASIA									
1.	Team Challenge Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 17679 9282780	10/02/18 0100 hrs	22° 11.4' N, 88° 9.17' E Diamond Harbour Anchorage, near Kolkata, India	While at anchor, the duty AB noticed an unusual noise coming from the anchor chain. He checked and saw one perpetrator climbing up through the anchor chain, and two persons were waiting in a boat. The duty crew shouted, and the perpetrator jumped into the water and escaped in the boat where the two perpetrators were on board. The master raised the general alarm and mustered the crew.	The crew was not injured. No items were stolen.	Sounded the general alarm and mustered the crew.	Yes MRCC Mumbai who is also the ReCAAP ISC Focal Point in India	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) unit in Haldia (CGD HQ 8) investigated and verified the incident. The ICG requested the local port authorities to implement deterrent measures in the area. Pending further investigation by the police and local port authorities.
ATTEMPTED INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA									
2	Thalassa Niki Container ship Singapore 148667 9665645	18/2/18 0530 hrs	13°50.97' N, 51° 26.18' E Gulf of Aden	While sailing, the officer-on-watch spotted a suspicious boat towing three skiffs within the vicinity. About seven minutes thereafter, the ship received a MAYDAY call via VHF 16 that a sailing yacht <i>Arakai</i> which was 15 nm ahead of the ship, was being pursued by two skiffs. Due to the inability of <i>Arakai</i> to contact the coalition Navy, the master of the ship reported the incident to UKMTO. While the ship was nearly abeam to yacht <i>Arakai</i> , one of the skiffs approached at approximately 1.5 nm towards the ship's starboard side and another skiff attempted to close in to 1 nm from its starboard side. The other three skiffs remained stationary at	The crew was not injured. No items were stolen.	The ship's general alarm was raised, announcement made over PA system; and the crew mustered at the citadel. The master increased the ship's speed to maximum and reported the incident to UKMTO	Yes UKMTO	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A Japan Navy helicopter and navy warcraft were deployed to the scene of the incident.

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
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				<p>approximately 2.5 nm from ship's position. The crew raised the general alarm and made announcement over the PA system. The master increased the ship's speed to maximum.</p> <p>The Japan Navy helicopter and warship were deployed in the area. When the perpetrators noticed the presence of the authorities, they immediately abandoned their attempt.</p> <p>A total of 15 perpetrators on board five skiffs were reported with the following descriptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Skiff 1- red hull with white overboard motor and four perpetrators onboard; Skiff 2- brown/ yellow hull with two white overboard motors and three perpetrators onboard; Skiff 3- blue hull with yellow overboard motor and four persons onboard; Skiff 4- blue hull with white overboard motor and four persons onboard; Skiff 5- no clear observations. 					
3	Leopard Sun Petroleum/ chemical Tanker Singapore 29939 9635781	23/2/18 0030 hrs	3°28.1' N, 50° 27.8' E Approximately 160 nm from Somalia	While sailing enroute to Cape Town, South Africa, the ship was approached by a suspicious boat with three perpetrators on board. The perpetrators fired upon the ship. The master activated the security alert button and instructed the crew to muster at the citadel. The master altered the ship's course and increased speed to avoid the	The crew was not injured. No items were stolen.	The master activated the security alert button and instructed the crew to muster at the citadel. The master altered the ship's course and	Yes Flag state (Singapore)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available

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				boat. The perpetrators escaped and aborted the attack.		increased speed to avoid the boat.			