

23 August 2021



Incident Alert

Incidents at Manila Anchorage Areas, the Philippines

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23 August 2021

Incidents at Manila Anchorage Areas, the Philippines

During January-August 2021, a total of eight incidents of armed robbery against ships occurred at Manila Anchorage areas in the Philippines. The location of all the eight incidents is at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila (location map on page 4).

Particularly, in the latest three incidents in July and August, the perpetrators were armed with gun/knife and demonstrated violence to the crew.

In the incident on 17 Jul, the perpetrator pointed an improvised (hand-made) gun at a duty crew, took his radio and tied him to the railing of the ship. In the incident on 4 Aug, the perpetrator tried to stab a duty crew with a knife. The crew managed to avoid the stabbing, but was tied up by two other perpetrators with a rope on the forecastle deck. In the incident on 13 Aug, the perpetrator pointed a gun at a duty crew, ordered him to open the storage room and tied up his hands with a rope at the forward centre bollard. In the same incident, another perpetrator threatened a crew with a knife. In all three incidents, ship stores were stolen, with significant quantity of stores stolen in the two cases of August.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents and the increased level of violence at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila. Ship masters and crew are strongly advised to exercise vigilance, maintain constant look-out for suspicious boats and report all incidents immediately to the local authorities. It is also very important for the crew not to engage in a confrontation with the perpetrators.

Ship masters are advised to immediately report all incidents to the local authorities. The contact numbers for ships at Manila Port and Anchorage areas are as follows:

Coastal Guard District National Capital Region – Central Luzon

Contact numbers: +63 917 821 8124
+632-8-527-3882

Email address: ncrc1@coastguard.gov.ph
ncrcld3@gmail.com

Coast Guard Station Manila

Contact number: +63 917 842 7614
Email address: cgsmanila@coastguard.gov.ph

Ships can also report directly to the PCG Command Centre:

PCG Command Centre

Contact numbers: +632-8-527-8481(ext:6136/37)
+632-998-585-5327 /+632-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)

Email Address: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph



Details of Incidents

The ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) reported to the ReCAAP ISC the three incidents that occurred to ships while anchored at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila on 17 Jul, 4 Aug and 13 Aug. The details of the three incidents are as follows:

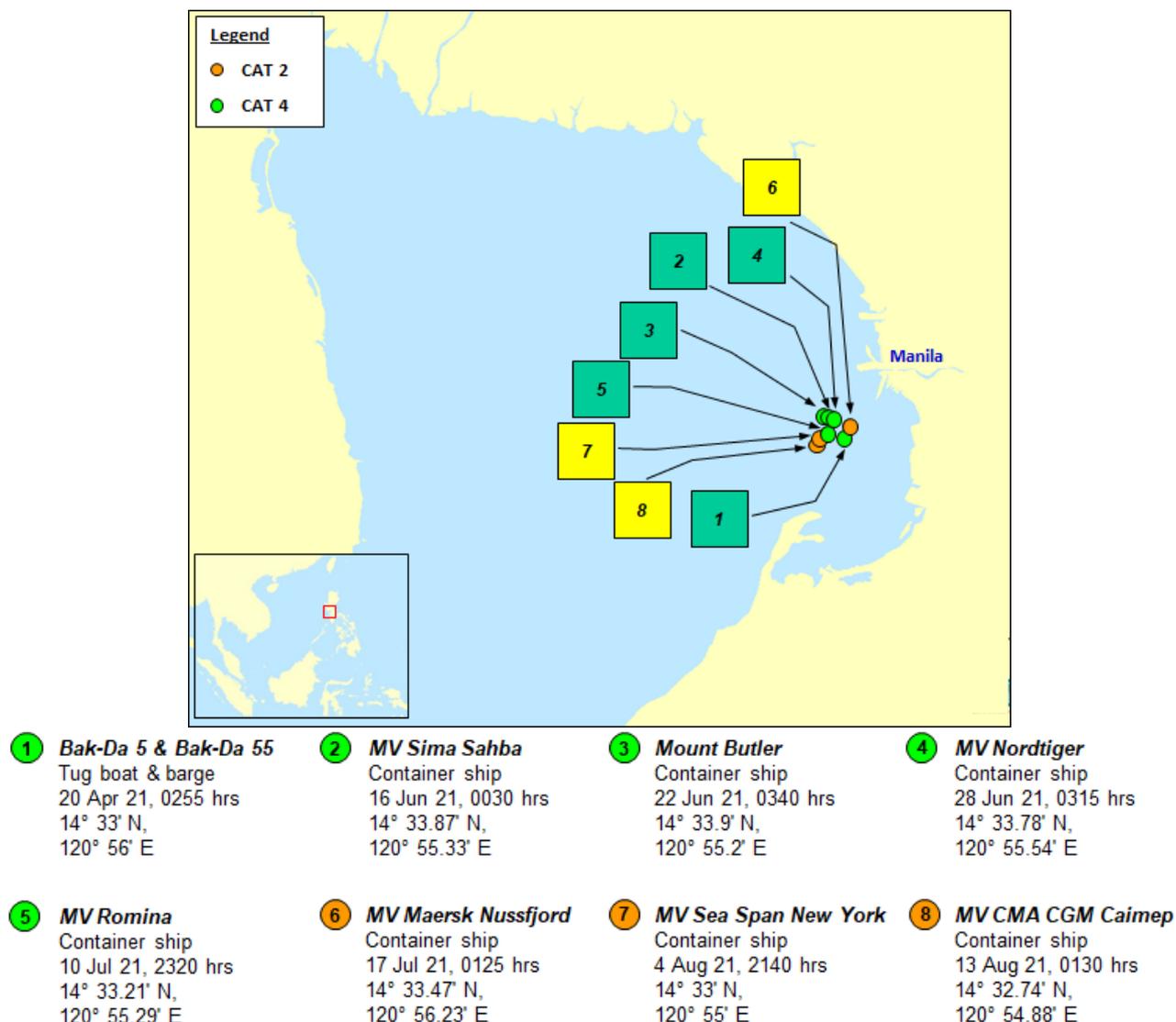
a. On 17 Jul at about 0125 hrs, when a container ship, *MV Maersk Nussfjord* was anchored at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila, the duty watcher left his post to take a rain suit from the gangway due to heavy rain. On his return to his post, a perpetrator at the forecandle **pointed an improvised (hand-made) gun at the back of the duty watcher's head**, took away his two-way radio and **tied him up** to the railing of the ship. Seven other perpetrators then appeared on board the ship. They broke the padlock of the boatswain mate locker, and took away **one roll of new spare rope mooring line**. At about 0205 hrs, the eight perpetrators left the ship using the loose rope from bow and escaped in an unmarked motor banca. The duty watcher untied himself and alerted an AB who then reported the incident to the duty officer. The duty officer sounded the alarm and reported the incident to the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila. A maritime patrol was conducted by the Coast Guard.

b. On 4 Aug at about 2140 hrs, when a container ship, *MV Sea Span New York* was anchored in the vicinity waters off Quarantine No. 12, South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila, the ship's duty crew was conducting roving inspection at the forward of the ship and noticed three perpetrators on board the ship. They were trying to steal the ship's property at the forecandle, and there were two other perpetrators waiting in a small boat. As the duty crew approached them, **one perpetrator armed with a knife tried to stab him**. The duty crew managed to avoid being stabbed, but the other two perpetrators **tied him with a rope** on the forecandle deck. The perpetrators broke the padlock of the forecandle and **stole two portable welding machines with cables, 20 reefer cables, three bronze nozzles, and five hydrant caps**. They went down the ship using a loose rope and escaped. The duty crew managed to untie himself and reported the incident to the bridge. The general alarm was sounded and crew mustered. A roving inspection was subsequently conducted with no further sightings of the perpetrators on board the ship. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila.

c. On 13 Aug at about 0130 hrs, when container ship, *MV CMA CGM Caimep* was anchored at vicinity of Quarantine No. 16, South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila and the duty watcher was proceeding to the forecandle deck (starboard side) to check the accommodation doors of the ship, **a perpetrator appeared and aimed a gun** at him. The perpetrator, along with four other perpetrators who served as look-outs, asked the duty watcher about the location of the storage room. The perpetrators took the duty watcher to the storage room and ordered him to open it. The perpetrators, then, **tied the hands of the duty watcher** with a rope at the forward centre bollard and **stole 20 buckets of paint** from the storage room. As the master and second officer of the ship could not contact the duty watcher, the deck cadet went to check. While checking, the deck cadet noticed **a perpetrator with a**



knife who shouted at him not to move. The deck cadet escaped and reported the incident to the bridge using a two-way radio. At about 0142 hrs, the master sounded the alarm and whistle, used the search light as counter-measures and conducted muster of crew. The second officer found the duty watcher and untied him. At about 0150 hrs, the five perpetrators left the ship using a loose rope and escaped in their small boat. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and a maritime patrol was conducted by the Coast Guard.



Location of the eight incidents occurred at Manila anchorage areas, the Philippines (January-13 August 2021)

