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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

15-21 August 2017

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

Overview

During 15-21 Aug 17, two incidents (comprising one actual incident and one attempted incident) of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The locations of the incidents are as shown in map below; and detailed descriptions tabulated in attachment.



Location of Incident

Update of *ROYAL 16*

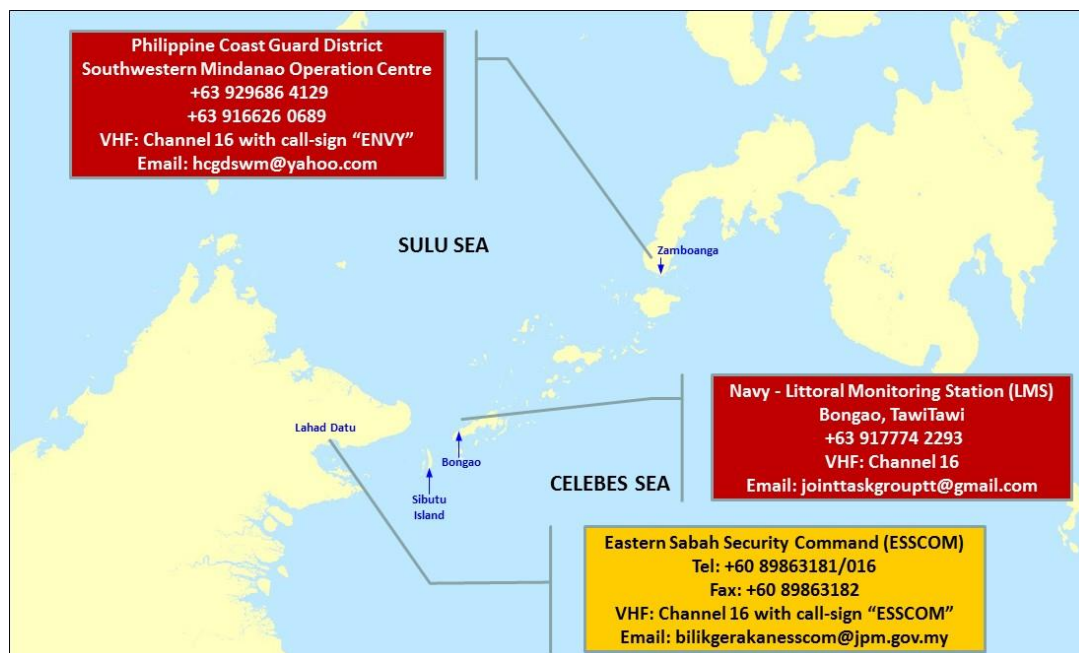
The ReCAAP Focal Point for Philippines reported to the ReCAAP ISC that on 20 Aug 17, one abducted crew of *Royal 16* was rescued by the Philippine authorities while they were conducting military operations in the vicinity of Mataja Island, Basilan province.

The *Royal 16*, was boarded by 10 armed men on 11 Nov 16 who abducted its six crew. On 16 Jun 17, while the government troops were conducting military operations, they successfully rescued and recovered one of the abducted crew in Sumipsip, Basilan, Philippines. On 5 Jul 17, the Philippine military found the bodies of another two *Royal 16*'s abducted crew at Sitio Limbutulan, Brgy Tumahubong, Sumisip Basilan, Philippines. To date, the remaining **two** crew of *Royal 16* are still being held in captivity. The above-mentioned updates were published in the ReCAAP ISC Weekly Reports covering the period of 8-14 Nov 16, 13-19 Jun 17 and 4-10 Jul 17.

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 centres

**Description of Incident of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
15-21 August 2017**

NO	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
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1	Star Lily Bulk carrier Panama 21192 9370422	21/8/17 0234 hrs	1° 7.6' N, 103°45.27' E Eastbound lane of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, at about 1.3nm WNW off Helen Mar Reef	While sailing, the crew sighted four perpetrators armed with machete, boarded the vessel from a craft. The alarm was raised, accommodation area secured and anti-piracy measures activated on board. The perpetrators escaped in a waiting boat. Nothing was stolen and the crew was safe.	The crew was not injured. No items were stolen.	The master raised the alarm, secured the accommodation area and activated anti-piracy measures. Reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS).	Yes VTIS Singapore	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The VTIS notified the Singapore Navy, the Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authority. It also initiated the navigational broadcast to warn ships in the vicinity.
ATTEMPTED INCIDENT									
1	Aquabelle Chemical tanker Malaysia 5256 9410193	13/8/17 1355 hrs	5°48.34' N, 118°4.57' E Alongside the KBOT (Karamunting Bulk Oil Terminal), Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia	While at berth, the crew along with the cargo surveyor and the loading master were carrying out cargo gauging when the duty AB noticed one perpetrator attempting to board the ship through its starboard side near no.1 cargo tank using a small rope. The cargo control room was alerted and alarm was raised. The perpetrator escaped in a small boat which had another person on board.	The crew was not injured. No items were stolen.	The master raised the general alarm, carried out search, rigged razor wire on seaside and posted extra lookout. He also reported the incident to the terminal loading master and the local authorities.	Yes Local authorities and the terminal loading master ReCAAP ISC Focal Point Singapore	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available.