Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 12-18 Nov 19, two attempted\(^1\) incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Points. The incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait and at Alpha Anchorage, Batangas Bay, Philippines. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description is tabulated in attachment.

\(^1\) Attempted incident is incident where perpetrators tried but failed to board the ship.
As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high, ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre at the following contact details:

Tel: +63-2-5273877 (direct)
+63-2-527-8481 to 89 (ext: 6136/37)
+63-917-724-3682 (mobile)
+63-929-825-3207 (mobile)

Email: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available at www.recaap.org.
RECOMMENDATION

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.*
## Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
12-18 November 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Number</th>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Type of Ship</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage</th>
<th>IMO Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Local Time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of the Incident</th>
<th>Details of the Incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or International Organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>GT Equality</strong></td>
<td>Chemical tanker</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>4159</td>
<td>9205512</td>
<td>12-18 Nov 19</td>
<td>5/11/19 2118 hrs</td>
<td>1° 12.6' N, 103° 34.3' E Approximately 4.8 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia, in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)</td>
<td>While the chemical tanker was departing from Tanjung Pelepas, Johor, Malaysia, six perpetrators in two speed boats attempted to board the ship. Upon sighting of the two speed boats, the alarm was raised. The master increased the speed and took evasive manoeuvres. The perpetrators aborted the attempt to board the ship. The ship resumed her voyage heading easterly. The crew was safe.</td>
<td>The crew was not injured.</td>
<td>The alarm was raised. The master increased the speed and took evasive manoeuvres.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>No information available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Silver Millie</strong></td>
<td>Tanker</td>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>29327</td>
<td>9692363</td>
<td>12-18 Nov 19</td>
<td>9/11/19 0100 hrs</td>
<td>13° 45' N, 121° 1' E Alpha Anchorage, Batangas Bay, Batangas City, Philippines</td>
<td>While the tanker was dropping its anchor, the duty anchor detail of the watch noticed a perpetrator trying to climb through the ship’s anchor chain. The duty officer shook the hawse pipe, causing the perpetrator to fall into the water. The perpetrator escaped towards an unknown direction.</td>
<td>The crew was not injured.</td>
<td>The duty officer shook the hawse pipe causing the perpetrator to fall into the water.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)</td>
<td>The Philippine Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog</td>
<td>The Philippine Coast Guard, and Bureau of Immigration, and Quarantine boarded the ship and conducted an initial investigation. They advised the master of the ship to enhance security measures to avoid recurrence of similar incident.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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