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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

26 November – 2 December 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 26 Nov – 2 Dec 19, three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Points. Two were CAT 3¹ incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait; and one was a CAT 4² incident while the ship was at anchor in Batangas, Philippines. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description is tabulated in the attachment.



Location of the incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.


² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

SITUATION IN THE SINGAPORE STRAIT

Concerning the incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait, ReCAAP ISC recommends to refer to its Incident Alert issued on 29 Nov 19.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao), 2a (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station, Bongao), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command).

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**
Tel: +63 998 585 7941
+63 917 842 8402
VHF: Channel 16
Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
Tel: +63 955 714 0153
VHF: Channel 16
Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**
Tel: +60 89863181/016
Fax: +60 89863182
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Contact details

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
26 November – 2 December 2019**

	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 coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENT IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	KMAX Evdokia Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 41662 9341873	28/11/19 0458 hrs	1° 17.17' N, 104° 19.67' E Approximately 6.9 nm northeast of Pulau Tanjung Buntung Besar, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, the duty oiler, who was collecting engine spares at the steering gear room, was confronted by five perpetrators. The duty oiler was grabbed and had a knife pointed at him. The duty oiler subsequently managed to escape to the engine control room. The ship's alarm was raised, the crew mustered and a search was carried out on board. The master reported that all crew were accounted for and there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. Nothing was stolen and the ship did not require further assistance. <i>KMAX Evdokia</i> was en route from Singapore to Phu My, Vietnam. (Category 3)	The duty oiler was grabbed and had a knife pointed at him. Nothing was stolen from the ship.	The ship's alarm was raised, the crew mustered and a search was carried out on board.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Republic of Singapore Navy and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. The Singapore Police Coast Guard deployed its asset to search for the perpetrators and escorted <i>KMAX Evdokia</i> till she cleared the TSS. The Indonesia authority was also notified and a safety navigational broadcast was initiated.	

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2	China Pioneer Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 106884 9588768	28/11/19 2320 hrs	1° 16.2' N, 104° 13.4' E Approximately 7.6 nm northwest of Pulau Tanjung Buntung Besar, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, the chief engineer sighted four perpetrators in the engine room on the 2 nd deck level. One of the perpetrators was armed with a knife about 50 cm long. The chief engineer reported to the master about the unauthorised boarding. The perpetrators escaped upon activation of ship's alarm and deck lightings. The crew was mustered at the bridge and a search conducted on board. All crew was safe and nothing was stolen. The ship departed Singapore for Majishan, China. (Category 3)	The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised, deck lightings were activated and crew mustered at the bridge. A search on board the ship was also conducted.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Republic of Singapore Navy and Singapore Police Coast Guard was notified. Indonesia authority was informed. Safety Navigational broadcast initiated for the incident.
3.	Rio Daytona Tanker Marshall Islands 8278 9449443	30/11/19 0330 hrs	13° 43.9' N, 121° 2.5' E Alpha Anchorage, Tabangao, Batangas, Philippines	While at anchor, two perpetrators boarded the ship through the hawse pipe and stole one piece of fire nozzle, one piece of fire hydrant cover and five pieces of butterfly bolt from bosun store hatch. They immediately escaped when the duty officer noticed them. The crew informed the master, raised the ship's general alarm and conducted check on the inventory of the ship's property. (Category 4)	No confrontation with the crew. Ship's properties were stolen.	The duty crew informed the master, raised the general alarm and conducted check on the inventory of the ship's property was conducted.	Yes Port State Control Manila and Coast Guard Station Batangas	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Coast Guard Station Batangas sent its asset to conduct maritime patrol in the area.