Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 23-29 Jun 20, one incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4 incident occurred on board a container ship while anchored at Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) Anchorage, Philippines.

The location of the incident is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incident tabulated in the attachment.

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1 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 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 as demonstrated by the recurrence of the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping by members of ASG on 22 May 20, the 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:

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: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+63-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+63-8-527-3877 (fax)

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Description of 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</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCIDENT IN ASIA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACTUAL INCIDENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Seaspan Fraser</strong></td>
<td>Container ship Hong Kong, China 41225 9351608</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date Local Time of Incident (LT)</strong></td>
<td>13/06/20 0325 hrs</td>
<td>14° 35.7' N, 120° 51.48' E</td>
<td>While the ship was preparing to heave up the anchor going to MICT Pilot Station, one of the crew spotted a bolt cutter near the bosun store and noticed that the padlock of the store was broken. The bosun store is on the forward bow of the ship. The bosun mate immediately inspected the store and assessed that there were no missing items, and there might have been a boarding to attempt theft. The incident was reported to the Port State Control Manila. (Category 4)</td>
<td>The padlock of the bosun store was broken. Nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>Yes Port State Control Manila</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)</td>
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