Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 28 Jul-3 Aug 2020, two incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the two incidents, one was an attempted piracy incident that occurred on board a LPG tanker while underway in the South China Sea. The other was an incident of armed robbery against ship (CAT 4\(^1\)) occurred on board a container ship while anchored in Manila, Philippines.

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents 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 abduction incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia, 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)
+63-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+63-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+63-2-527-3877 (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.
### Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
28 July-3 August 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>State</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCIDENT IN ASIA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ACTUAL INCIDENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Newark</strong> Container ship Liberia 35573 9322504</td>
<td>ship</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>35573</td>
<td>9322504</td>
<td>20/07/20</td>
<td>0340 hrs</td>
<td>14° 32.66’ N, 120° 55.15’ E Vicinity waters of Manila Bay Quarantine Anchorage Area South Harbour, Manila, Philippines</td>
<td>While conducting roving at the forecastle of the ship, the crew noticed that the padlocks of the bosun store and paint store were broken. Paints and ship stores were missing. The incident was immediately reported to VTMS Manila. The crew was not injured. The Philippine Coast Guard’s ship, BRP Tubbataha immediately proceeded to the location of the ship and conducted survey of the area but no suspicious motor bancas were sighted. (Category 4)</td>
<td>The crew was not injured. Items missing were paints, welding machines, electrical drills, jigsaw, electrical angle grinders, immersion suits, face shield, cylinder breathing apparatuses, helmet, self-contained breathing apparatus and chemical suit.</td>
<td>The incident was immediately reported to VTMS Manila.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>VTMS Manila</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)</td>
<td>The Philippine Coast Guard's ship, BRP Tubbataha immediately proceeded to the location of the ship and conducted survey of the area but no suspicious motor bancas were sighted.</td>
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<td><strong>ATTEMPTED INCIDENT</strong></td>
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<td>2. <strong>Global Phenix</strong> LPG tanker Panama 5917 9562719</td>
<td>tanker</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>5917</td>
<td>9562719</td>
<td>08/07/20</td>
<td>1404 hrs</td>
<td>3° 27.5’ N, 108° 40.9’ E Approximately 23 nm southeast of Natuna Island, Indonesia</td>
<td>While underway, five perpetrators in a boat attempted to come alongside and board the tanker. Seeing the approaching boat, the ship conducted evasive manoeuvring and directed the Aldis lights towards the boat, which resulted in the boat moving away.</td>
<td>The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>The ship conducted evasive manoeuvring and directed the Aldis lights towards the boat.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan)</td>
<td>No information available</td>
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