Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 31 Mar-6 Apr 20, one incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 3\(^1\) incident occurred on board a product tanker while anchored at Batangas Port, Philippines.

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

\(^1\) 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.
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, 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:

1. Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao
   - Tel: +63 999 585 7972
   - +63 917 842 9446
   - VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
   - Email: hcpdswm@yahoo.com

2. Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)
   - Tel: +63 998 585 7941
   - +63 917 842 8402
   - VHF: Channel 16
   - Email: cpd_tawi2@yahoo.com

3. Philippine Navy – Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
   - Tel: +63 955 714 0153
   - VHF: Channel 16
   - Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com

Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)
- Tel: +60 89963181/016
- Fax: +60 89963182
- VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
- Email: bilikoperasian.esscom@psom.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: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
   +632-998-585-5327 (mobile)
   +632-917-842-8249 (mobile)
   +632-8-527-3877 (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.
## Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
### 31 March – 6 April 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 Local Time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of 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 Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Au Libra</td>
<td>Chemical/oil product tanker</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>7092</td>
<td>9236339</td>
<td>23/03/20 0255 hrs</td>
<td>13°45.11' N 121°2.21' E Batangas Port, Philippines</td>
<td>While at anchor, the duty crew noticed movement at the forecastle deck and saw a perpetrator with a knife climbing through the starboard anchor cable of the ship. The duty crew informed the Officer on Watch, raised the alarm on PA system and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the approaching crew, the perpetrator jumped into the water immediately; and escaped together with another person who was waiting in a small boat. An inventory of the ship's properties was conducted, and nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>Nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>The duty crew informed the Officer on Watch, raised the alarm on PA system and mustered the crew. An inventory of the ship's properties was conducted, and nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)</td>
<td>No information available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### INCIDENT IN ASIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTUAL INCIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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