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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 19-25 October 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

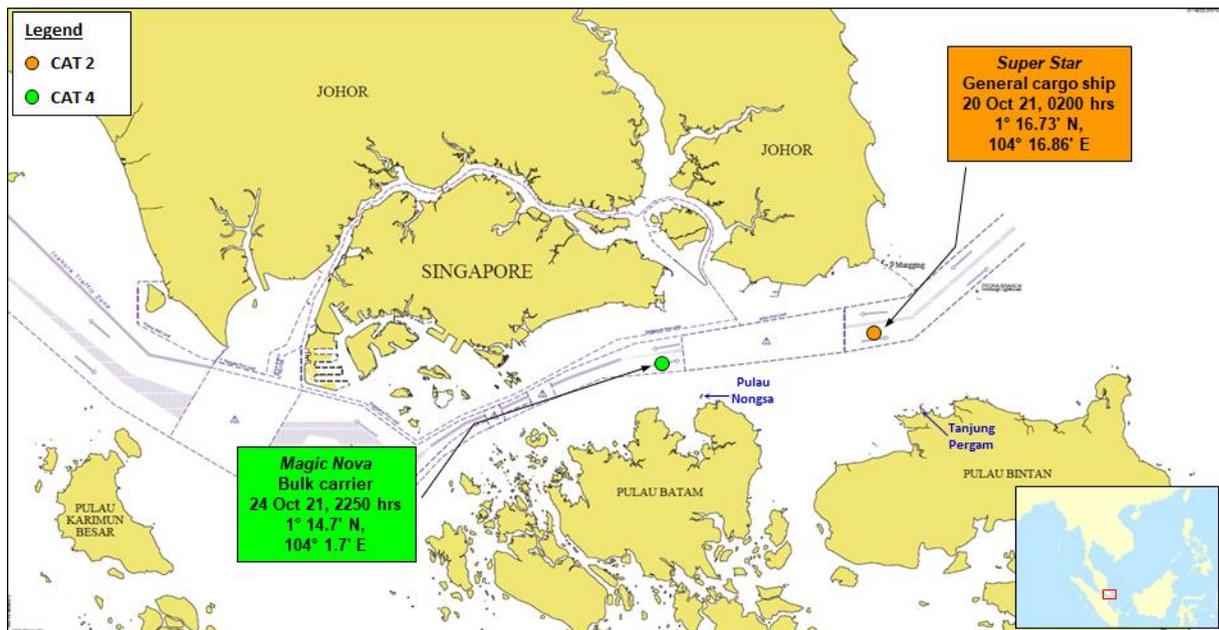
During 19-25 Oct 21, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one CAT 2¹ incident and one CAT 4² incident) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The two incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait. The CAT 2 incident occurred on 20 Oct north west of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia). In the incident, the perpetrators were sighted in the engine room and two of them were armed with guns. The guns were not fired. The CAT 4 incident occurred on 24 Oct off Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia). The perpetrators were sighted in the stern main deck and were not armed. In both incidents, the crew was not injured and nothing was stolen.

With the two incidents, a total of 34 incidents were reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore since January 2021. They comprise 33 incidents in the Singapore Strait and one incident in the Malacca Strait. In particular, 22 incidents (including 2 incidents in October) occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), and 6 incidents (including 4 incidents in October) occurred off Nongsa point, Batam Island (Indonesia) since January 2021.

The location of the two incidents are shown in the map on the next page, and detailed description tabulated in the attachment.

¹ CAT (Category) 2 incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

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.



Location of incidents

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

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported since the last incident in January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces conducted a military operation against members of the ASG during which one of the ASG leaders responsible for the abduction of crew in the area of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi had managed to escape. The threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high particularly in the areas of Sulu and nearby waters off Tawi-Tawi.

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 all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown below:



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
19-25 October 2021**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO	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 Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Super Star General cargo ship Panama 9932 9469247	20/10/21 0200 hrs	1.0; 16.73' N, 104.0; 16.86' E Approximately 6.3 nm north west of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in eastbound lane of the traffic separation scheme. (SOMS)	While underway, the master reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that five unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. Two of them were armed with guns. The ship alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search on board the ship. There was no further sighting of the perpetrators. The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities. [Category 2]	All crew were safe and accounted for. Nothing was reported stolen.	The ship alarm was raised. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS A search on board the ship was conducted.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO	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 Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Magic Nova Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 41662 9425679	24/10/21 2250 hrs	1.0; 14.7' N, 104.0; 1.7' E Approximately 3.9 nm north west of Pulau Nongsa Light House, Batam (Indonesia) in eastbound lane of the traffic separation scheme. (SOMS)	While underway, the master reported to Singapore VTIS that four unauthorised persons were sighted at the stern main deck. The ship alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search on board the ship. There was no further sighting of the perpetrators. The crew was safe and nothing was stolen. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities. [Category 4]	All crew were safe and accounted for. Nothing was reported stolen.	The ship alarm was raised. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS A search was conducted on board the ship.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.