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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 29 June - 5 July 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

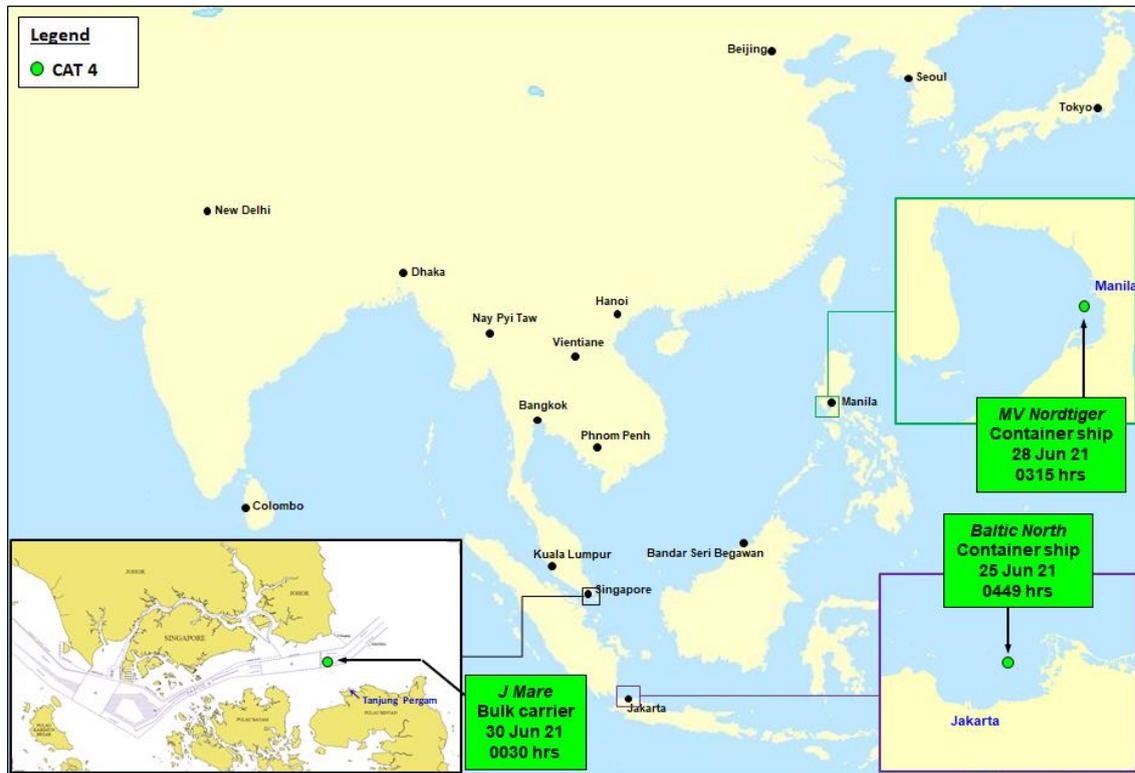
OVERVIEW

During 29 Jun – 5 Jul 21, three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All were CAT 4¹ incidents. Of these, two incidents occurred to ships while anchored at Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia and Manila Quarantine Anchorage, the Philippines. In both incidents, the perpetrators escaped upon being sighted and the crew was not harmed. Nothing was stolen in the incident at Jakarta Anchorage, while one breathing apparatus was stolen in the incident at Manila Quarantine Anchorage.

The third incident occurred to a ship while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS). The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS, particularly off Tanjung Pergam, and issued an Incident Alert (IA 04/2021) on 30 Jun 21. Of the 20 incidents reported in the SS during January-June 2021, 16 incidents occurred off Tanjung Pergam.

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

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.



Location of incidents

INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA

During 29 Jun – 5 Jul 21, two incidents outside Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incidents occurred on 30 Jun and 2 Jul to ships anchored/ berthed at Callao Inner Anchorage area, Peru. The detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in the attachment.

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).

However, on 3 Nov 20, the Philippines authorities had prevented a kidnap-for-ransom plan by the ASG. On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces had conducted the 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. Therefore, the threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high.

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:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Three numbered red circles indicate contact points: 1 is located near Zamboanga on the eastern coast of Mindanao; 2a and 2b are located near Bongao on the island of Tawi-Tawi; and 3 is located near Lahad Datu on the northern coast of Sabah, Malaysia.

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email: hcgdsww@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: +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
29 Jun - 5 Jul 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.	J Mare Bulk carrier Liberia 43241 9802231	30/06/21 0020 hrs	1° 15.0' N, 104° 10.0' E Approximately 6.7 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS	While underway, four unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The perpetrators escaped in a small boat upon being sighted. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted. At 0112 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. The master reported that nothing was stolen; and all crew was safe and accounted for. The master declared that no assistance was required and the ship continued with her voyage for Ruizhou, China. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. [Category 4]	All crew were safe and accounted for. Nothing was stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised A search on board the ship was conducted.	The incident was reported to the Singapore's VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) and ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan)	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 shared with Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.

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2.	MV Nordtiger Container ship Cyprus 18826 9626247	28/06/21 0315 hrs	14° 33.78' N 120° 55.54' E Manila Quarantine Anchorage Area, the Philippines	While at anchor, the 2 nd Officer noticed two unidentified persons in the Bosun's store and alerted all crew onboard. Upon realising the crew had been alerted, the two perpetrators jumped overboard immediately and escaped in a motorized banca. The duty officer directed the crew to conduct an initial assessment of missing items. One breathing apparatus was found stolen. The crew was not injured. The Philippine Coast Guard conducted operation and information gathering in the nearby areas for possible interdiction of perpetrators. [Category 4]	All crew were safe and accounted for. One breathing apparatus was stolen.	Duty Officer Alerted all crew onboard. The crew conducted an initial assessment if there are missing items.	The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and the Philippine Coast Guard.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Philippine Coast Guard conducted operation and information gathering to nearby areas for possible interdiction of perpetrators.
3.	Baltic North Container ship Marshall Islands 44234 9463310	25/06/21 0449 hrs	5° 59.5' S, 106° 54.2' E Off Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, two unauthorised persons were sighted at the poop deck by a duty AB during anchoring operation. The ship's alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped in a waiting small boat, with another four persons onboard. The incident was reported to the Coast Guard who boarded the ship for investigation. Nothing was reported stolen. [Category 4]	All crew were safe and accounted for. Nothing was stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised. The master of the ship reported the incident to the local VTIS.	The incident was reported to the local VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Indonesian Coast Guard boarded the vessel and conducted investigation.

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INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Santa Barbara Bulk carrier Singapore 34830 9633006	02/07/21 2112 hrs	12° 0.0' S 77° 7.0' W Callao Inner Anchorage, Peru	<p>While at berth, the duty able-bodied (AB) seaman who was making his rounds sighted 4 to 6 unknown perpetrators climbing up the anchor chain cable on the starboard side of the vessel.</p> <p>Upon discovery, the AB informed the duty officer on the bridge who sounded the ship's horn and the general alarm, followed by an announcement through the intercom to inform the ship's crew. The master also reported the incident to the coastal state.</p> <p>The crew then conducted a search and checked the ship's surroundings but the perpetrators were nowhere to be found. The crew then increased their deck watch after confirming the ship was safe.</p> <p>There was no reported damage to the ship, nothing was stolen and the crew not injured.</p>	<p>The crew was safe.</p> <p>Ship was not damaged</p> <p>Nothing was stolen.</p>	<p>The duty officer sounded the ship's horn and the general alarm followed by announcement through the intercom to inform the ship's crew.</p> <p>The master immediately reported the incident to the Coastal State who in turn relayed the information to their naval patrol boat..</p> <p>The crew then conducted a search and checked the ship's surroundings and increased their deck watch.</p>	The master immediately reported the incident to the Coastal State.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Acknowledged report by master and relayed the information to their naval patrol boat.

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2.	Maersk Borneo Chemical tanker Singapore 19758 9341445	28/06/21 1600 hrs	12° 1.0' S 77° 13.0' W Callao Inner Anchorage, Peru	<p>While at anchor, the crew found five units of spare mooring ropes missing from the ship's forecastle store. It was suspected that the items were stolen from the forecastle store while the ship was anchored at Callao Anchorage, Peru. on 28 Jun.</p> <p>On 30 Jun at around 0030 hours LT, the deck watchman spotted three unknown perpetrators at the forecastle deck underneath the forward windlass. The deck watchman immediately informed the officer on watch. The general emergency alarm was sounded and the three perpetrators fled the scene.</p> <p>A search was conducted and no item was reported missing. There was no reported damage to the ship nor injury to the crew.</p>	<p>On the alleged incident in 28 Jun, five mooring ropes were stolen from the ship's forecastle store.</p> <p>While on 30 Jun, no item was reported missing.</p> <p>The ship was not damaged and all crew were safe.</p>	<p>The general emergency alarm was sounded and a search was conducted.</p> <p>The company is to review ship security plan and enhance their security measures as appropriate.</p>	NA	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	NA