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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 12 -18 April 2022

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 12-18 Apr 22, three incidents (comprising two CAT 4¹ incidents, and one attempted incident) of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The first CAT 4 incident occurred to a ship while anchored at Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia and the second CAT 4 incident occurred to a ship while underway in the Singapore Strait. The attempted incident occurred to a semi-submersible rig while being towed by a tug boat at the Gulf of Khambat, India. In all three incidents, the crew was safe and nothing stolen.

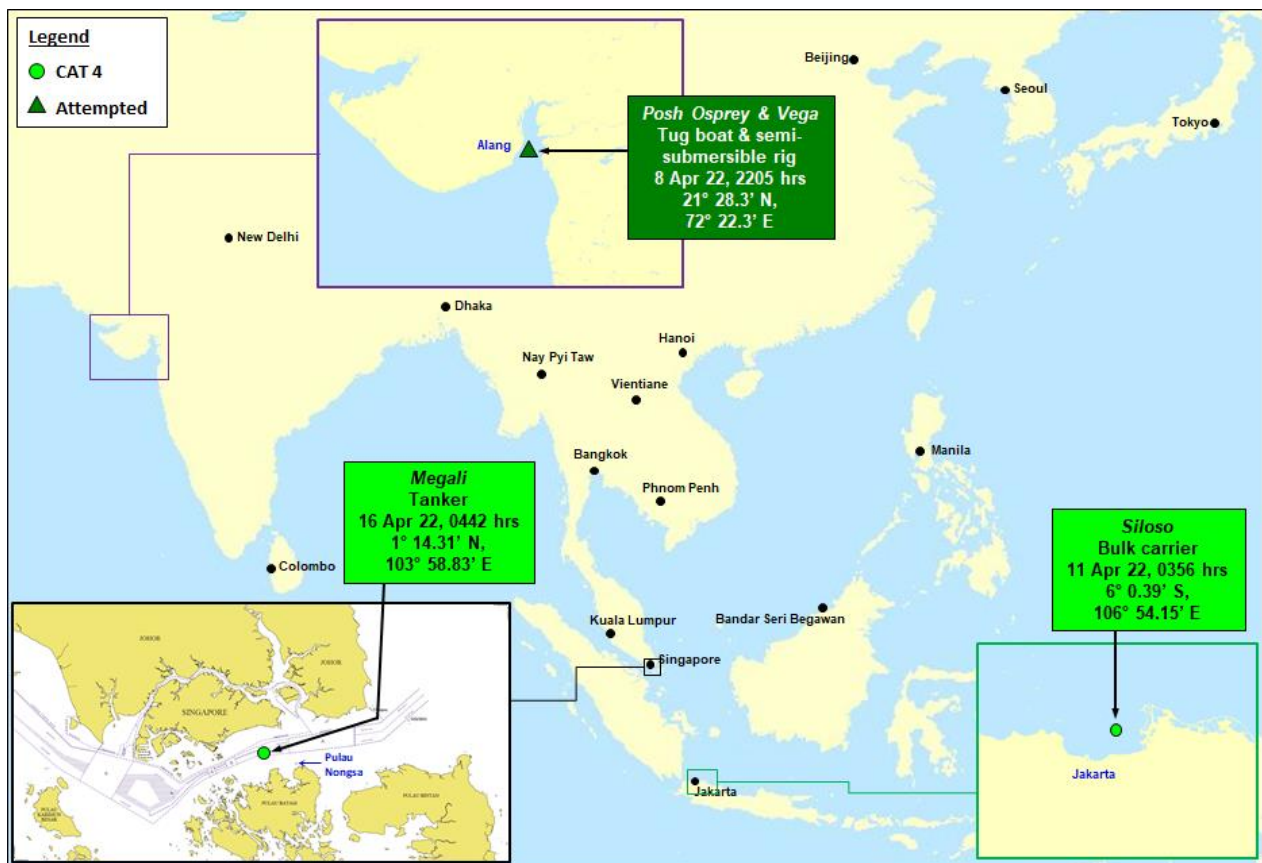
(1) The incident at Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia occurred to a bulk carrier on 11 Apr. In the incident, the duty oiler spotted three perpetrators on board the ship trying to enter the engine room. He immediately informed the duty officer on the bridge. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators.

(2) The incident in the Singapore Strait occurred to a tanker while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme of the Singapore Strait on 16 Apr. An unauthorised person was sighted in the vicinity of the ship poop deck in the way to the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and a search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrator. With this incident, a total of 19 incidents (comprising 18 actual incidents and one attempted incident) were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2022.

(3) The attempted incident occurred on 8 Apr to a semi-submersible rig while being towed by a tug boat in the Gulf of Khambat, India. About six to seven persons armed with knives attempted to board the semi-submersible rig. Upon being sighted by the crew on board the tug boat, the unauthorised persons aborted the boarding attempt.

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

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are 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 potentially 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 on next page.



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Contact point 1 is located near Zamboanga. Contact points 2a and 2b are located near Bongao. Contact point 3 is located near Lahad Datu.

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email: hcgdswm@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
12-18 April 2022**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	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.	Siloso Bulk carrier Singapore 17951 9293870	11/4/22 0356 hrs	6.0° 0.39' N, 106.0° 54.15' E Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia	<p>While at anchor, the duty oiler spotted three perpetrators on board and trying to enter the engine room. He immediately informed the duty officer on the bridge, who subsequently raised the alarm and made an announcement through the PA system. All crew was mustered at the poop deck and a search of the engine room, accommodation, deck and stores was conducted. No perpetrators were found.</p> <p>At about 0458 hrs (local time), three port police boarded the ship and another search was conducted with the crew. No perpetrators were found. The police investigated and disembarked the ship at about 0555 hrs (local time).</p> <p>There was no reported damage to the ship. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. Thereafter, anti-piracy watch was doubled and additional cargo lights were rigged on the overboard side.</p> <p align="right">[Category 4]</p>	<p>The crew was not injured.</p> <p>Nothing was reported stolen.</p>	<p>The CSO reported the incident to the coastal State.</p> <p>The alarm was raised and an announcement was made through the PA.</p> <p>The crew conducted a search on board the ship.</p> <p>Anti-piracy watch was doubled and additional cargo lights were rigged on the overboard side.</p>	<p>The ship claimed that the CSO have reported the incident to the coastal State.</p>	<p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</p>	<p>At about 0458 hrs (local time), three port police boarded the ship and another search was conducted with the crew. No perpetrators were found. The police investigated and disembarked the ship at about 0555 hrs (local time).</p>

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2.	Megali Tanker Malta 40865 9334557	16/4/22 0442 hrs	1.0° 14.31' N 106.0° 58.83' E Approximately 7.4 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. (SOMS)	While underway, an unauthorised person was sighted in the vicinity of the ship poop deck in the way of engine room. The alarm was raised and a search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrator. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). Nothing was reported stolen and there was no confrontation with the crew. The crew was safe and accounted for. The master did not require any assistance. The ship is bound for Pasir Gudang, Malaysia. 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 4]	The crew was safe and accounted for. Nothing was stolen	The ship's alarm was raised. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrator The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	Yes. The master reported the incident to 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
ATTEMPTED INCIDENT									
3.	Posh Osprey Tug boat Singapore 3513 9658264	8/4/22 2300 hrs	21.0° 25.51' N, 72.0° 20.07' E Gulf of Khambat, India	While underway, six to seven persons armed with knives were sighted on board two boats attempting to board the semi-submersible rig. Upon being spotted by the crew on board the tug boat, the perpetrators, aborted their	The crew was not injured. Nothing were stolen.	The crew notified the master of the tug boat	Not known The master of the tug boat notified his company, who later informed the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) and ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	The Indian Coast Guard Station Pipavav met the Port Authorities and law enforcement agencies for institution of remedial measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. In addition, the

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	Vega Semi-submersible rig Saint Kitts and Nevis			attempt to board. There was no reported damage to the ship. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew was not injured.					VTS Khambhat has also been advised to alert the merchant traffic in the area to enhance vigilance.