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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 26 April-3 May 2022

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During the period 26 Apr-3 May 22, four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (all CAT 4¹ incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the four incidents, two incidents occurred to ships while anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, Bangladesh, one incident occurred to a tanker while anchored at Batangas Anchorage, the Philippines and one incident occurred to a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait. The crew were safe in all four incidents. Ship property/stores were stolen only in three incidents. The details of the four incidents are as follows:

(1) On 16 Apr, an unknown number of perpetrators in a country boat came alongside the LPG tanker. One of the perpetrators boarded the ship and reportedly stole 20 cans of paint and two drums of lubricating oil. Due to timely reporting of the incident to the local authorities, the Bangladesh Coast Guard recovered the stolen items and handed over to the master. The crew was not injured.

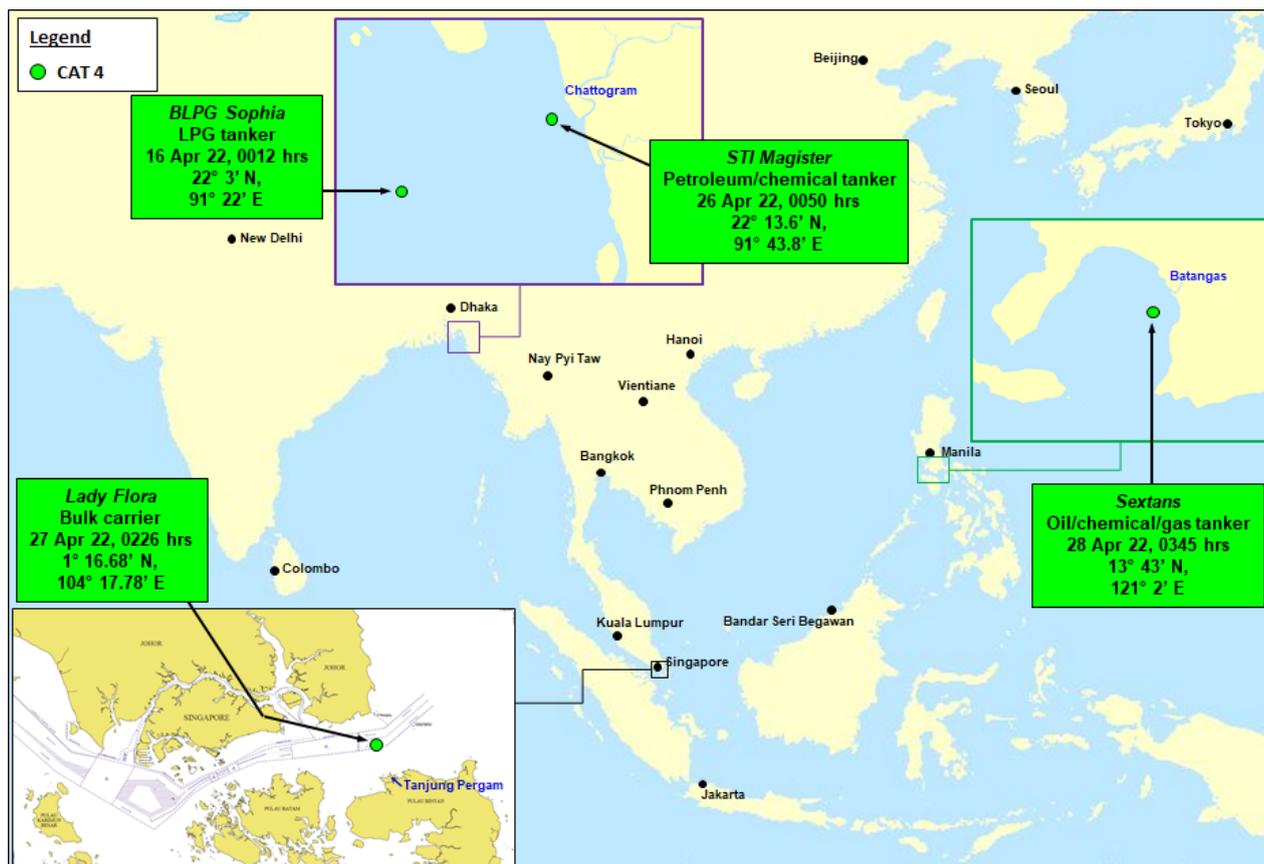
(2) On 26 Apr, about seven to eight perpetrators boarded the petroleum/chemical tanker from a small boat. The alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped immediately upon hearing the alarm. One set of gangway wire coil was found missing. The crew was not injured.

(3) On 27 Apr, the master of the bulk carrier reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that one perpetrator was sighted in the engine room. Nothing stolen and there was no confrontation between the perpetrator and the crew. With this incident, a total of 21 incidents since January 2022 (comprising 20 actual incidents and one attempted incident) were reported in the Singapore Strait.

(4) On 28 Apr, three perpetrators boarded the oil/chemical/gas tanker. The alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped immediately upon hearing the alarm. A 10mm rope bundle, two cans of grease can (20kg) and butterfly nuts of forward hatch, were stolen. The crew was not injured.

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.

The location of the four incidents are shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incidents are tabulated in the attachment.



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 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. However, 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 as the ASG is still active and the leaders of the ASG who were responsible for the past incidents of abduction are at large.

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: bilanggerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Contact details

In the event, the ship master is unable 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
26 April-3 May 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 INCIDENT									
1.	BLPG Sophia LPG tanker Bangladesh	16/4/22 0012 hrs	22° 3' N 91° 2' E Chattogram Port Outer Area "C" Anchorage, Bangladesh	While at anchor, an unknown number of perpetrators in a country boat came alongside the ship. One perpetrator boarded the ship while an unknown number of them stayed in the boat. The perpetrator reportedly stole 20 cans of paint and two drums of lubricating oil. The crew was not injured. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The Bangladesh Coast Guard despatched a team, who investigated the incident. They recovered the stolen items after a combing operation in the vicinity and handed the items over to the master. Considering the quantity of items stolen by one perpetrator, there were some linkages between the perpetrators and the crew or others. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. 20 cans of paint and two drums of lubricating oil were stolen.	No information available	Yes Local authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)	The Bangladesh Coast Guard despatched a team, who investigated the incident. They recovered the stolen items after a combing operation in the vicinity and handed the items over to the master.

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2.	STI Magister Petroleum/chemical tanker Singapore 29991 9833541	26/4/22 0050 hrs	22° 13.6' N 91° 43.8' E Chattogram Outer Anchorage, Bangladesh	<p>While at anchor, the duty officer on board sighted four perpetrators on fore-circuit television (CCTV). The duty officer immediately raised alarm, informed master and mustered ship crew. The duty officer further observed on CCTV that the door of fore peak store was opened and three perpetrators came out of the store room upon hearing the alarm. The duty officer then sent some of the ship crew to the forward deck and crew saw the perpetrators escaping from the ship by either jumping into the water or climbing down the anchor chain. About seven or eight perpetrators made their escape in a small boat.</p> <p>A search on board was conducted by the crew and no other perpetrators spotted. One set of gangway wire coil was found missing. There was no reported damage to the ship and the crew not injured. The incident was reported to the local port control centre and Bangladesh Coast Guard. Three Coast Guard personnel boarded the ship at about 0240 hrs on same day to collect evidence. The Coast Guard personnel found footprints and a broken lock from the fore peak store. Investigation is ongoing.</p>	<p>There was no reported damage to the ship and the crew was not injured.</p> <p>One set of gangway wire coil was found missing.</p>	<p>The duty officer raised the alarm, informed the master and mustered the ship crew.</p> <p>The duty officer sent some of the ship crew to the forward deck.</p> <p>A search on board was conducted by the crew.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Port control centre and Bangladesh Coast Guard</p>	<p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), and ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)</p>	<p>Three Coast Guard personnel boarded the ship at about 0240 hrs on the same day to collect evidence. The Coast Guard personnel found footprints and a broken lock from the fore peak store.</p>

[Category 4]

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3.	Lady Flora Bulk carrier Panama 25969 9163001	27/4/22 0226 hrs	1° 16.68' N 104° 17.78' E Approximately 5.6 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait	While underway, an unauthorised person was sighted in the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrator. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). The master reported that nothing was stolen and there was no confrontation between the perpetrator and the crew. The crew was safe with no injury. The master did not require any assistance. The ship is bound for Ko Sichang, Thailand. 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 Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. [Category 4]	There was no confrontation between the perpetrator and the crew. The crew was safe with no injury. Nothing was stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board 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 Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.

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4.	Sextans Oil/chemical/gas tanker Marshall Islands 30068 9358321	28/4/22 0345 hrs	13° 43' N 121° 2' E Batangas Alpha Anchorage, Philippines	<p>While at anchor, the duty A/B sighted three perpetrators on the ship forecastle. Upon noticing the duty A/B, the perpetrators escaped immediately. The duty A/B informed the duty officer on the navigating bridge, who sounded the ship's general alarm and horn on the forecastle. The master gathered and mustered the ship's crew on the bridge and called Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Batangas and Coast Guard Station Batangas for immediate assistance.</p> <p>Upon receipt of the report, at about 0357 hrs on the same day, Coast Guard Station Batangas immediately directed Coast Guard Sub-station (CGSS) Batangas City to verify and respond to the incident. At about 0436 hrs, the CGSS Batangas City arrived at the anchorage area and immediately contacted the ship via radio. Personnel of CGSS Batangas City, together with Coast Guard Special Operation Units, conducted jibe maritime patrol within the vicinity waters off Batangas City and adjacent municipalities to gather information that could lead to the possible identification and apprehension of the perpetrators but yielded</p>	<p>The crew was not injured.</p> <p>Unsecured items, comprising a 10mm rope bundle, two cans of grease can (20kg) and butterfly nuts of forward hatch were stolen.</p>	<p>The duty A/B informed the duty officer on the navigating bridge, who sounded the ship's general alarm and horn on the forecastle.</p> <p>The master gathered and mustered the ship's crew on the bridge and called VTMS Batangas and Coast Guard Station Batangas for immediate assistance.</p>	Yes VTMS Batangas and Coast Guard Station Batangas	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	Upon receipt of the report, at about 0357 hrs on the same day, Coast Guard Station Batangas immediately directed CGSS Batangas City to verify and respond to the incident. At about 0436 hrs, the CGSS Batangas City arrived at the anchorage area and immediately contacted the ship via radio. Personnel of CGSS Batangas City, together with Coast Guard Special Operation Units, conducted jibe maritime patrol within the vicinity waters off Batangas City and adjacent municipalities to gather information that could lead to the possible identification and apprehension of the perpetrators but yielded negative result.

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				negative result. Unsecured items were stolen. The crew was not injured. [Category 4]					