

### OVERVIEW

**Two** incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one CAT 3<sup>1</sup> incident and one CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incident) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4 incident occurred on board a petroleum/chemical tanker at anchor at Panjang Anchorage, Indonesia. Engine spares were missing. The CAT 3 incident occurred on board a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait (SS). Nothing was reported stolen. The crew members were safe in both incidents. Details of incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location	
	Indonesia	Singapore Strait
	Panjang Port, Indonesia (1 incident)	Off Pulau Cula, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Petroleum/chemical tanker	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	24 Feb at 0354 hrs	2 Mar at 2322 hrs
Number of perpetrators	5 perpetrators / 1 small boat	4 perpetrators
Weapons	Not stated	Knives/Machetes
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No Injuries
Significance level	<b>CAT 4</b>	<b>CAT 3</b>
Items stolen	Engine spares	Nothing

### AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). With this incident reported in the Singapore Strait (SS), a total of 13 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

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

#### Downgrading of threat level

- The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), after careful consideration of inputs from stakeholders and counterparts with vital involvement in securing the Sulu-Celebes Seas maritime security measure, recommends the downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to 'MODERATE'. The MODERATE threat level implies that **'Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature'**.

#### Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas has diminished since January 2020 due to successful military operations and robust law enforcement initiatives, the ReCAAP ISC updates its Advisory to all ships to **consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative**.
- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance 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 in Picture 1.



Picture 1

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, referring to the Poster on the *Contact Details for Reporting of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*.

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\* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. Although the crew can be subjected to duress or threat during the incident, they are not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, nothing is stolen. In cases where losses are reported, stores and engine spares are commonly stolen items.

<sup>2</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.