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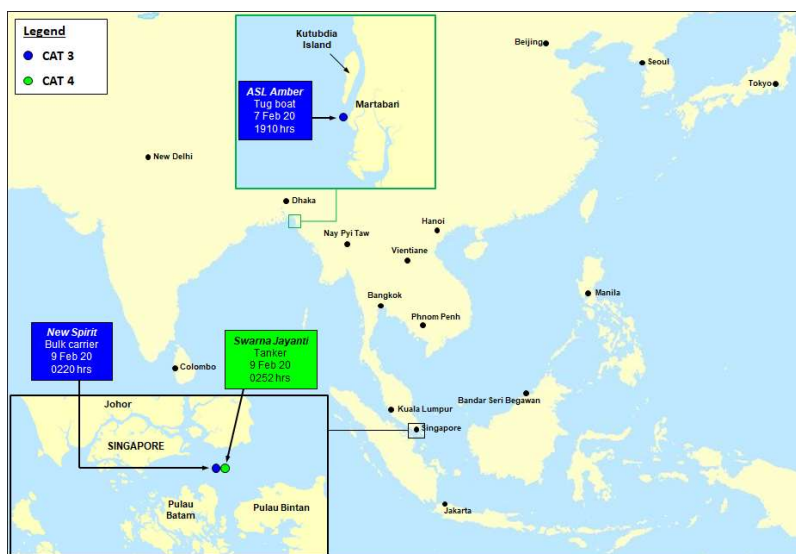
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 4-10 February 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 4-10 Feb 20, three incidents of armed robbery against ships (comprising two CAT 3¹ incidents and one CAT 4² incident) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Of the three incidents, two incidents (one CAT 3 and one CAT 4) occurred to a bulk carrier and a tanker while underway off Nongsa Point, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. With these two incidents, a total of six incidents have been reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2020, all in the eastbound lane of the TSS. The ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert (IA 03/2020) on these incidents on 9 February.

The third incident (CAT 3) occurred on board a tug boat while anchored at Martabari Anchorage, Bangladesh. The location of the three incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description tabulated in the attachment.



Location of the incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is ‘less significant’ in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

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.

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

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by the recurrence of the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20, 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 immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu (point 3), Bongao (points 2a and 2b), and Zamboanga (point 1). The Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao is located near Zamboanga.

- 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: bilanggerakan_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
4-10 February 2020**

	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 Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	Swarna Jayanti Tanker India 57702 9467720	09/02/20 0252 hrs	1° 15.68' N, 104° 10.52' E Approximately 6.2 nm from Nongsa Point, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, a perpetrator was sighted in the engine room. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and conducted search for the perpetrator. Some valves (engine spares) were reported missing from the engine room. The master reported incident to Singapore VTIS East. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Some valves (engine spares) were reported missing from the engine room.	The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and conducted search for the perpetrator.	Yes Singapore VTIS East	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available	
2.	New Spirit Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 32287 9425801	09/02/20 0220 hrs	1° 15.72' N, 104° 8.47' E Approximately 5.1 nm from Nongsa Point, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, six perpetrators armed with knives were seen in the engine room. The perpetrators ran onto the deck when they saw the crew. The master mustered and accounted for all crew in the bridge. He reported the incident to Singapore VTIS East and requested to go to Singapore to conduct further search. Upon arrival in Singapore, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct further search. No perpetrators were found and engine spares including 20 pieces circular brakes, 130m cables and 25 pieces magnetic contactors were stolen. (Category 3)	The crew was not injured. Engine spares including 20 pieces circular brakes, 130m cables and 25 pieces magnetic contactors were stolen.	The master mustered and accounted for all crew in the bridge.	Yes Singapore VTIS East	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Upon the bulk carrier's arrival in Singapore, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct further search.	

	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
3.	ASL Amber Tug boat Singapore 977 9430301	07/02/20 1910 hrs	21° 41.72' N, 91° 50.34' E Martabari Anchorage, Bangladesh	While at anchor, the duty A/B sighted two suspicious fishing boats approaching the tug boat. He saw several perpetrators armed with knives boarding the tug boat. He reported to the OOW, who immediately activated the general alarm. The perpetrators escaped from the tug boat when they realised their presence was discovered. The crew conducted a search and found some mooring ropes and shackles were stolen. The crew was not injured and there was no damage to the tug boat. (Category 3)	The crew was not injured. Some mooring ropes and shackles were stolen.	The general alarm was activated and a search was conducted on board the tug boat.	Yes Bangladesh Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The security forces and Bangladesh Coast Guard went on board to investigate.