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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 13-20 July 2021

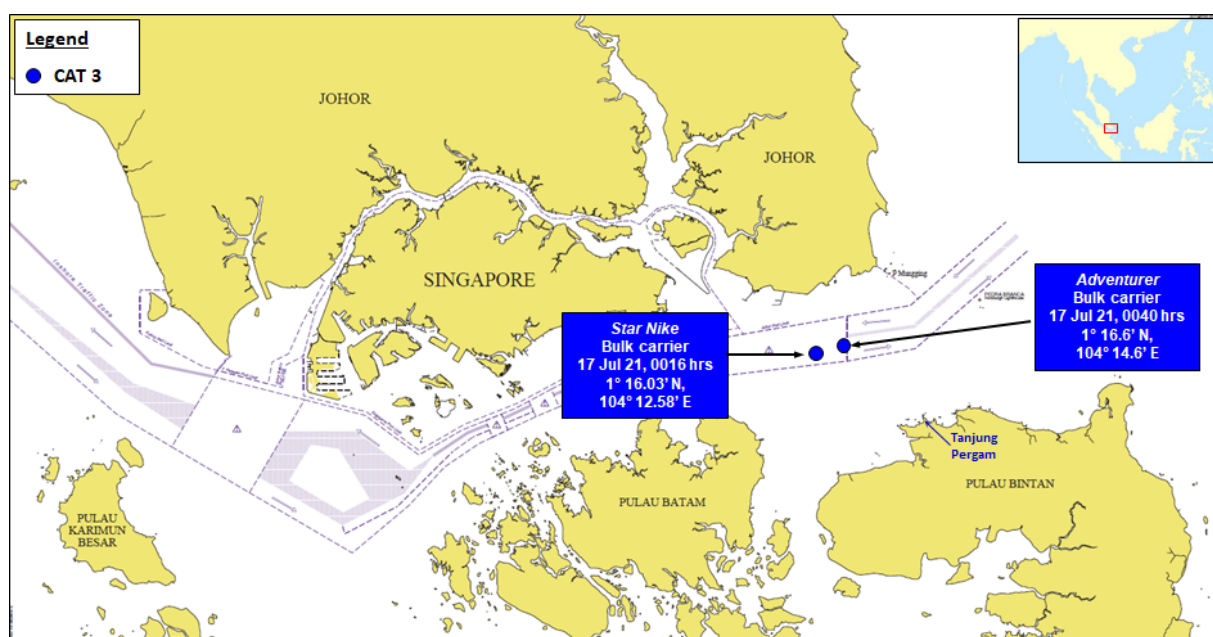
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 13-20 Jul , two CAT 3 incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The two incidents occurred to ships while underway off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in the Singapore Strait on 17 Jul within an interval of 30 mins and in close proximity to each other. In both incidents, the perpetrators were armed with knives. They were sighted in the engine room in one incident, and in the steering gear room in the other. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted, the crew was safe and nothing was stolen in both incidents.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, particularly off Tanjung Pergam and issued an Incident Alert (IA 05/2021) on 19 Jul . Of the 22 incidents reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2021, 18 incidents occurred off Tanjung Pergam.

The locations of the two incidents on 17 Jul are shown in map below, and detailed description of the incidents 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 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 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.

The threat of the abduction of crew from ships remains high in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, 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 next page:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Zamboanga, and Bongao. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 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
13-20 July 2021**

	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	Adventurer Bulk carrier Liberia 35210 9805752	17/07/21 0040 hrs	1° 16.6' N, 104° 14.6' E Approximately 7.7 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS) [Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)]	While underway, five unauthorised persons armed with knives were sighted in the engine room. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted but with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that nothing was stolen. All crew are safe and accounted for. No assistance was required and the ship continued her voyage for Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China. 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 3]	All crew are safe and accounted for. Nothing was stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted and there was no further sighting of the perpetrators.	Yes Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (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.

	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
2	Star Nike Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 35835 9875094	17/07/21 0016 hrs	1° 16.03' N, 104° 12.58' E Approximately 9 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the SS (SOMS)	<p>While underway, five unauthorised persons were sighted in the steering gear room. One of the perpetrators was armed with knives. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was conducted but with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that nothing was stolen.</p> <p>All crew are safe and accounted for. No assistance was required and the ship continued her voyage for Manila, the Philippines.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>[Category 3]</p>	<p>All crew are safe and accounted for.</p> <p>Master declared nothing was stolen.</p>	<p>The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.</p> <p>A search on board was conducted and there was no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Singapore VTIS</p>	<p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</p>	<p>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.</p>