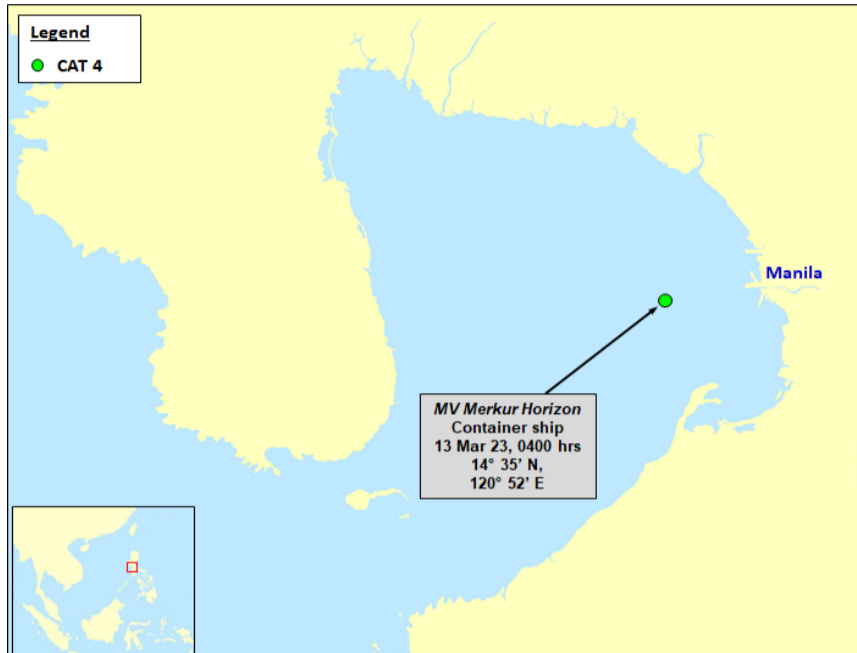


### OVERVIEW

One incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia (CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incident) was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on board a container ship while anchored at Manila Anchorage, the Philippines. The crew was safe and several ship properties were missing. Detail of incident is shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location
	Philippines
	Manila Anchorage Area (1 incident)
Type of ship	Container ship
Date/Time	13 Mar at 0400 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Unknown
Weapons	Not mentioned
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Significance level	<b>CAT 4</b>
Items stolen	Several ship properties

### AREA OF CONCERN

This is the first incident reported at Manila Anchorage in 2023. The last known incident occurred in August 2021. Of concern was the occurrence of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). A total of 15 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) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.