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Weekly Advisory / Situation Report 02-12 Mar 2018

Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- 08 Mar 2018 at 0920 an MV in POSN 1232N 04327E (Bab el Mandeb Strait) was approached by 3 skiffs, 3-4 POB each. Vsl and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution.

Interesting information

-[Maritime security, nuclear deal to top agenda of Macron's India talks](#) NEW DELHI: Maritime security and nuclear cooperation will be the staple items on the table when French President Emmanuel Macron holds discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to India + this weekend. While the "Quad" comprising India, Japan, Australia and the US is pitched as the new political counterpoint to China

-[Indian Navy Fully Capable of Ensuring Maritime Security, Says Admiral Sunil Lanba](#) New Delhi, Mar 5: Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lamba on

Monday said that India is keeping a close watch on the movements of Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean. In an interview to Zee media group, Lamba said that the navy is fully capable of keeping of ensuring its maritime security.

[-The UAE still supports al-Shabaab through Somalia's illicit charcoal trade](#) Since the inauguration of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in 2012, the United Arab Emirates has increasingly vied with other regional powers for influence in the country, investing in infrastructure, and bolstering the country's military capabilities. The UAE opened a military training facility in Mogadishu in 2015 to train members of the Somali Armed Forces

[-Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin \(IRTB\) 004 – The attack on MT LEOPARD SUN – 160NM 157nm off the coast of Somalia \(East of Hobyoy\)](#) This IRTB has been written by EU NAVFOR and Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). This information is assessed as HIGHLY LIKELY to be an attempted pirate attack. Whilst it cannot be completely discounted that the incident may have been related to local fishing activity we assess this to be HIGHLY UNLIKELY. Due to the difficulty and risk associated with targeting a vessel in the hours of darkness we assess that this was most likely an opportunistic attack, rather than a deliberate attempt to conduct an attack under the cover of darkness, and as such is UNLIKELY to mark a deliberate evolution of tactics. This possibility of a tactical evolution cannot however be completely dismissed; further trend analysis will be necessary to understand the significance of this attack.

Threat assessment

- There was reported 1 incident last week in Bab el Mandeb strait where 3 skiffs approached a vessel. The incident was reported by UKMTO and fortunately both vessel and crew are safe.

Despite the effective implementation of BMP, the carriage of PAST, and the continued presence of international naval forces in the Area, recent incidents serve to highlight that piracy is not eradicated. It is assessed that piracy attacks will likely remain sporadic and at a low level. The role of military counter piracy organisations such as CMF and EU NAVFOR, together with

the application of BMP and PAST, remain pivotal in creating these conditions.

The risk of collateral damage for commercial shipping in Southern Red Sea, linked to the ongoing conflict in Yemen. CMF and EU NAVFOR strongly recommend that the maritime industry continues to implement BMP and the carriage of PAST, along with utilizing the MSTC and registering with MSCHOA / UKMTO; this combination of good practice continues to be the best form of protection.

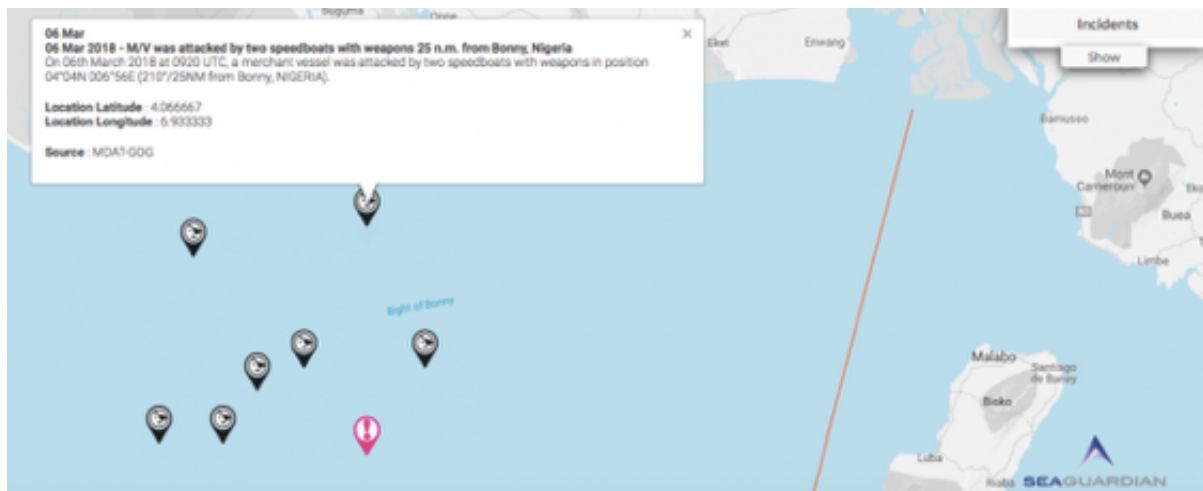
Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance in the entire HRA with South Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Somali Coast, remaining areas where caution needs to be exercised considering the recent incidents. ALL advisories in effect in South Red Sea and Yemeni Coast must be adhered by all. Reduced military presence in the area makes strict BMP Implementation (including IRTC and group transit scheme use) of the utmost importance

West Africa Incidents



- On 08 March 2018 at 1700 UTC, a merchant vessel was approached by three speedboats, in position 03°55N 001°14W (155°/65NM from Takoradi, GHANA). Occupants were wearing camouflage clothing and carrying weapons.





- On 06th March 2018 at 0920 UTC, a merchant vessel was attacked by two speedboats with weapons in position 04°04N 006°56E (210°/25NM from Bonny, NIGERIA).

Interesting information

- [National Nigeria loses \\$70m to illegal fishing, others yearly](#) The Nigeria navy has disclosed that the country loses \$70m to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), oil theft and other maritime crimes by the Chinese vessels annually. Defence Attaché, Colonel Thomas Brillisauer, stated this during visit of a delegation from the German Armed Forces General Staff College to the Western Naval Command (WNC) headquarters in Lagos.

- [Off West Africa, navies team up in fight against piracy](#) “Sir, we’re going to handcuff you,” a coast guard from Sao Tome tells a man accused of fishing illegally in the archipelago’s waters. But the “fisherman” is really a French navy seaman disguised in a T-shirt, cap and sunglasses — a member of an unusual multinational training exercise to combat crime in the Gulf of Guinea.

- [Pirates Invade Bayelsa Communities, Kill 2; Steal 10 Speedboats](#) Gunmen suspected to be pirates, on Monday, invaded Anyama community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, killing two persons, injuring three others and stealing 10 speedboats. The invasion took place on the same day when the Chief of Army Staff, General Tukur Buratai, visited the state and said the Niger Delta is now safe.

- [Sea Pirates Kill 2, Injure 3 In Bayelsa](#) Suspected sea pirates have killed two persons and injured three others in Ayama community, Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa. Suspected sea pirates have killed two persons and injured three others in Ayama community, Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa. The pirates, according to a witness, invaded the community on Monday at about 9 p.m. and shot sporadically

Threat assessment

- There were reported 2 incidents in West Africa waters last week. The first one took place in Bonny Nigeria, where a merchant vessel was attacked by two speedboats boarded with armed men. The second happened near Takoradi, Ghana where another merchant vessel was approached by speedboats again boarded with armed men wearing camouflage as the reports from MDAT GoG indicate.

Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance for all vessels operating GoG waters should adopt strict BMP4 implementation measures, follow MDAT-GoG guidelines and report any suspicious activity.

South East Asia Incidents



- No incidents were reported in South East Asia during this time period.

Interesting information

- [Abu Sayyaf leader shot dead in Sabah: Report](#) An Abu Sayyaf sub-commander high on the Philippines' wanted list was among three gunmen killed in a gunfight at a plantation in the east coast of Sabah, regional intelligence sources told The Star. They said Nurhassan Jamiri was armed with a high-powered rifle when he was gunned down. He had been off the radar for nearly seven years.

- [Philippine military identifies new leader of ISIS in South-east Asia](#) MANILA – The Philippine military has identified the new leader or “emir” of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in South-east Asia. Major Ronald Suscano, spokesman for the army's 1st Infantry Division, said one of those who plotted the Marawi siege, identified only as “Abu Dar”, replaced Isnilon Hapilon who was killed last year (2017)

- [Pirates board Maersk ship](#) By Jite Eriabie Pirates boarded the Singapore-flagged oil products tanker Maersk Maya while it was anchored in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on February 22. According to Asian piracy watchdog ReCAAP ICC, “While at anchor, the security on watch sighted some perpetrators armed with guns at the ship's forecastle area.” Once sighted, the crew raised the alarm, and sounded the general alarm.

- [Fresh arson attacks in Sri Lanka despite emergency laws](#) Mobs torched Muslim-owned businesses in a central Sri Lanka district on Wednesday as hundreds of police and troops struggled to restore order after days of rioting. The soldiers poured into Kandy to reinforce police but arson attacks persisted even though the government has imposed a nationwide state of emergency and suspended the internet locally to quell attacks by mobs

Threat assessment

-No incidents were reported in this area during this time period;

nevertheless, ships are recommended to exercise extreme caution while passing these waters. While no abduction cases have been reported since April 17, sea kidnappings remain a concern, as operations by enforcement agencies are still ongoing. Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region remain the most dangerous waters in SE Asia. Common patrols to fight the terrorist groups in addition with the shore-based efforts have managed to confine the surge of incidents comparing with the same period 2016 and the flast quarter of 2017.

SEAGUARDIAN continues to reiterate the need for collective efforts and shared responsibility among regional authorities and the shipping industry in addressing the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. In any case all ships transiting the areas of concern should enhance vigilance especially during hours of darkness and report all incidents to the nearest coastal State and flag State immediately.

Overall Map of Incidents can be found [at our website](#).

We would also like to encourage the recipients of this report, to follow Sea Guardian's Social networks for up to date and real time information.



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