

# Report on Somalia

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On-the-Ground Analysis





Piracy - At Sea - On Land - Domestic News - International Developments



## Report on Somalia ~ SUMMARY

April 29 - May 5, 2013 (Week 18)



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#### At Sea:

- 29 April 2013 Bulk Carrier was approached while underway in position 13:16N 042:55E, in Bab El Mandeb Straits, Red Sea.
- 26 April 2013 (Late Reporting) Tanker was approached while underway at 11:56N 044:39E, 19 nautical miles from "A" IRTC in the Gulf of Aden.

#### **Updates**:

#### **Key Statistics**

Hijacks: 0Attacks: 0Sightings: 1Releases: 1

- 30 April 2013 After more than two years of captivity, the sailors who were kidnapped by Somali pirates in the hijacking of the Danish cargo ship the MV Leopard in January 2011, have finally been released and taken to safety.
- 29 April 2013 An Italian legal expert has criticized India's top court for ruling that a national antiterror body will continue to probe the case of the two Italian marines who have been accused of killing two Indian fishermen.

#### Weather Analysis:

• The weather forecast throughout the following week will remain relatively good for pirate activities to occur. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will be able to move relatively freely in the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman and along the Somali coast. Further out in the Indian Ocean, sea conditions will begin to gradually worsen. As such, it is likely that motherships will be operating further out to sea.

#### On Land:

- 5 May 2013 Mogadishu has been hit by a deadly blast as a car bomb hits a government convoy.
- 1 May 2013 According to reports, al-Qaeda-linked Somali militants have entered northern parts of Puntland province, pledging vengeance after authorities in the autonomous region executed thirteen suspected Islamist rebels.
  - Meanwhile, residents in Mogadishu have indicated that they are facing major road blocks on the second day of heavy security operations that are taking place throughout the capital city.
- 30 April 2013 A military court official in Somalia's northern Puntland province has confirmed that thirteen suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants on Tuesday, further noting that security forces have been deployed heavily throughout the coastal city of Bosasso in order to ward off any possible reprisal attacks.
  - Meanwhile, an al-Shabaab commander has indicated that the militant group has newly recruited fighters and that they will boost up their rebellion activities against the Somali government and the African Union forces.



#### **Domestic News:**

• 2 May 2013 - According to a new study by the UN Food Agency and the US-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network, nearly 260,000 people died during the famine that hit Somalia from 2010 to 2012.

#### **International Developments:**

- 3 May 2013 The United Nations has stated that there have been no Somali pirate hijackings in nearly one year, indicating a massive reduction in pirate attacks on vessels transiting the region aided through greater co-operation coupled with the use of armed guards and harsh jail terms.
- 29 April 2013 Although suicide bombings and shootings continue to wage havoc on the streets of the Somali capital, the United Nations has announced that it is planning to triple its international presence in Mogadishu by July in order to stem corruption in aid projects that are managed from outside the country and in order gain access to new areas.
  - Meanwhile the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Nicholas Kay, a British diplomat, as his new Special Representative for Somalia.

About MS Risk



## Report on Somalia

April 29 - May 5, 2013 (Week 18)

#### At Sea:

• 29 April 2013 - Bulk Carrier was approached while underway in position 13:16N - 042:55E, in Bab El Mandeb Straits, Red Sea. Four skiffs approached the bulk carrier underway at 20 knots. The ship raised the alarm and sounded the ship's horn; all non-essential crew members were mustered into the citadel. All four skiffs stopped their approach at 1.5 nautical miles away from the vessel. Two of the four skiffs made another attempt to approach the ship two minutes later. They stopped their approach at 1 nautical mile away from the vessel after an armed security team was spotted on board. According to reports, six of the eight pirates

#### **Key Statistics**

Hijacks: 0Attacks: 0Sightings: 1Releases: 1

were armed and carrying guns. The vessel has been reported to be safe. Any vessels transiting through the Red Sea are cautioned to remain vigilant as it is likely this pirate action group (PAG) will be operating in the region.

• 26 April 2013 (Late Reporting) - Tanker was approached while underway at 11:56N - 044:39E, 19 nautical miles from "A" IRTC in the Gulf of Aden. Four skiffs manned with four pirates armed with AK-47 rifles chased the tanker. All non-essential crew members were mustered into the citadel. The onboard armed security team fired warning shoots which resulted in the pirates aborting their attack. The vessel is safe.

#### **Updates**:

• 30 April 2013 - After more than two years of captivity, the sailors who were kidnapped by Somali pirates in the hijacking of the Danish cargo ship the MV Leopard in January 2011, have finally been released and taken to safety. The two Danish and four Philippine crew members have been released and are now in safe surroundings. Claus Bech, Managing Director of Shipcraft has



confirmed that "it is with great happiness and relief we can inform that our colleagues finally have been released. The past more than two years have been extremely traumatic and inhuman for our crew and their families, and we very much look forward to having our colleagues back home." He further indicated that "I have just talked to the families of the seamen. It was a very emotional moment, and it goes without saying that the happy news were received with great joy." Claus Bech is now on his way to meet the crew members who are currently in safety and are surrounded by a professional team consisting of both doctors and psychologists. Defence Minister Nick Haekkerup has also confirmed

that Danish commandoes have been sent to Somalia in order to pick up the hostages however he declined to provide further details. Although for now, the details of their captivity are limited, it is



certain that this long period of time in captivity has been inhuman and exhausting for the hostages. The crew members were kidnapped by Somali pirates in the Arabian Sea in January 2011, when pirates captured the M/V Leopard. However, the pirates damaged the ship which was later left drifting in the waters off the Somali coast. The ship was later found dead in the water by the crew aboard a NATO Turkish forces patrolling the area. The pirates then kidnapped the crew and took them ashore, where they were moved to different locations in Somalia. On a few occasions, the hostages were allowed to talk to their families. Since the kidnapping of the crew, Shipcraft has worked closely with the Danish Authorities in order to ensure the best possible handling of the situation. During the entire period, the company has been closely connected to well reputable foreign kidnapping experts. The experts have throughout the duration of the kidnapping advised Shipcraft in these extremely difficult negotiations with the pirates. Considering possible future kidnapping situations, Shipcraft has not revealed the size of the ransom however it is believed that the company has paid a high ransom, substantially more than previous kidnappings where Danish citizens have been involved. Reports have indicated that the kidnappers may have received between 30 and 40 million DKK (between 5.3 and 7 million USD) for the release.

• 29 April 2013 - An Italian legal expert has criticized India's top court for ruling that a national antiterror body will continue to probe the case of the two Italian marines who have been accused of killing two Indian fishermen. This decision signifies that the pair could face the death penalty if they are convicted. India's Supreme Court has ruled that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) would continue to probe the case of Italian marines Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, who are charged with murder over the shooting of two fishermen off the coast of the southern state of Kerala in February 2012. Italy has argued that the case should be investigated by police and not the NIA, which probes and prosecutes crimes that fall under India's maritime safety act, a legislation which says that offenses that cause "death to any person" shall be punished with death. Earlier in April, the NIA charged the two men with murder and violation of maritime safety laws. The charges came shortly after the Italian government had returned the marines to India in order to end an escalating diplomatic standoff after New Delhi had promised Rome that the two marines would not face capital punishment.



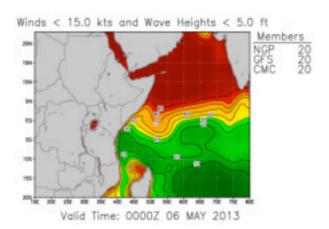
#### Weather Analysis:

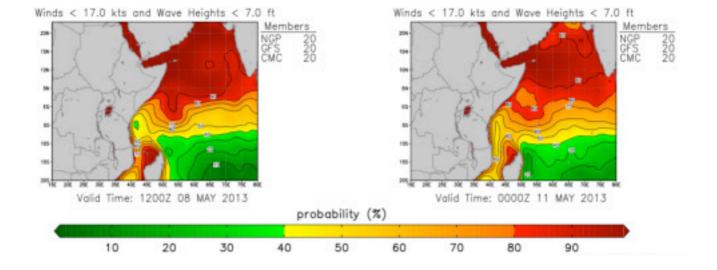
- Gulf of Aden East-northeast winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section Gulf, winds will be east-northeast at 10 15 knots with gusts to 20 knots and seas of 1 3 feet.
  - Extended Forecast East-northeast winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- Gulf of Oman Northwest winds of 5 10 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 5 10 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - Extended Forecast Northwest winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 1 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- Somali Coast South-southeast winds of 5 10 knots and seas of 2 4 feet.
  - Extended Forecast Southeast winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 2 4 feet.
- Arabian Sea Northwest winds of 5 10 knots and seas of 2 4 feet.
  - Extended Forecast West-northwest winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 2 4 feet.
- Central African Coast/Indian Ocean Southerly winds of 15 20 knots and seas of 4 6 feet.
  - Extended Forecast Southerly winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 4 6 feet.
- *Mozambique Channel* Southeast winds of 15 20 knots and seas of 7 9 feet in the northern Channel: with southeast winds of 15 20 knots and seas of 7 9 feet in the southern Channel.
  - Extended Forecast Southerly winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 5 7 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 15 knots and seas of 5 7 feet in the southern Channel.
- Surface Currents The Northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden currents are northeasterly with most areas having average speeds of 1 2 knots. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable, having average speeds of 2 3 knots. Current speeds in the Somali Basin average between 1 2 knots.
- Synoptic Discussion The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the spring transition to the Southwest Monsoon. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of a large low pressure system. Expect cloudy to mostly cloudy conditions with thunder storms and rain showers throughout the most of the East African coastal areas.



#### Sea Conditions For This Week:

\*\*\* In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh sea conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats \*\*\*







#### On Land:

- 5 May 2013 Mogadishu has been hit by a deadly blast as a car bomb hits a government convoy. Officials have confirmed that a car bomb has exploded near a government convoy carrying officials from Qatar in the Somali capital, killing at least seven people. Ten people were also injured by the explosion. According to a police spokesman, a suicide attacker had driven a car laden with explosives at an armored government vehicle. Eyewitnesses have reported that a government vehicle carrying foreigners had been targeted. Officials have confirmed that four government officials visiting from Qatar were travelling in the armored vehicles which belong to the interior ministry. None of them were harmed. The attack occurred close to a police station at the central K4 roundabout, which is a busy part of Mogadishu where many people gather to drink tea at the roadside stalls. Government forces had only re-opened the main roads in Mogadishu on Saturday after a four-day ban on vehicle traffic. The ban had been aimed at preventing terrorist attacks from being carried out. No group has carried out Sunday's attack however it is highly likely that al-Shabaab is responsible. The attack comes just one day after a senior al-Shabaab commander, Ahmed Abdi Godane, released an audio message in which he urged "the mujahedeen to increase the number of martyrdom operations, so as to permanently cripple the weak apostate regime." The incident also comes just days before a conference which is set to be held in London and which will focus on how best the international community can support Somalia's progress. More than fifty countries and organisations are due to take part when it opens on Tuesday. The conference will be co-hosted by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and UK Prime Minister David Cameroon.
- 1 May 2013 According to reports, al-Qaeda-linked Somali militants have entered northern parts of Puntland province, pledging vengeance after authorities in the autonomous region executed thirteen suspected Islamist rebels. Puntland officials have indicated that many of the insurgents have taken up positions in the mountains west of the port city of Bosasso. The suspected insurgents were shot dead early on Tuesday just outside of Bosasso. A military court official in Puntland indicated that they had all confessed to being militants however al-Shabaab denied that any of its fighters were in detention in Puntland. Wary of the possibility of reprisal attacks, Puntland security forces later deployed heavy security into Bosasso. In response to the killings, al-Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage stated in an audio recording that was posted late on Tuesday that "Puntland massacred innocent Muslims," further noting that "we shall avenge them. All those who spied, bore false witness, judged, and shot them will face a tough punishment." Sheikh Rage also indicated that the deaths resembled a string of apparent extrajudicial killings in Mogadishu last month, when residents reported that government security forces had killed at least ten pardoned al-Shabaab fighters and left their bodies in the streets. In response, the Somali government has promised to investigate those killings which followed the murder of two senior security officials for which al-Shabaab claimed responsibility. Although Puntland long avoided being caught up in successive Islamist insurgencies that have shattered Somalia, the autonomous region has slowly been infiltrated by al-Shabaab rebels who have been squeezed out of their former south-central urban redoubts in the Horn of Africa state.
  - Meanwhile, residents in Mogadishu have indicated that they are facing major road blocks on the second day of heavy security operations that are taking place throughout the capital city. Hundreds of Somali government security forces have been deployed into the city's main roads, blocking the movement of the vehicles, including public buses. The operation, which began on Tuesday, continued on Wednesday where main roads were blocked by armed police and members of the national security agency. Reports have also indicated that security forces apprehended dozens of people on Tuesday night following heavy search operations on the eastern parts of the capital city. The national security and interior minister Abdikarim Hussein Guled indicating that the operations aimed to prevent possible terrorist attacks in the capital, stating that "there are no imminent threats now, but we aim to tighten the security." According



to security sources, the operations in the capital began after intelligence signaled that al-Shabaab may be targeting government buildings in order to gain revenge for the death of its former commander Adan Hashi Eyrow who was killed in a US airstrike in central Somalia on 1 May 2008.

- 30 April 2013 A military court official in Somalia's northern Puntland province has confirmed that thirteen suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants on Tuesday, further noting that security forces have been deployed heavily throughout the coastal city of Bosasso in order to ward off any possible reprisal attacks. According to Abdifatah Haji Aden, chairman of Puntland's military court, "we shot to death 13 prisoners including a woman...they all pleaded guilty to being al-Shabaab members and carrying out the prominent clerics in the region." In contrast, al-Shabaab's spokesman for the rebel's military operations, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, has indicated that Puntland had not detained any of their combatants and that those who were shot dead by the firing squad had been innocent civilians.
  - Meanwhile, an al-Shabaab commander has indicated that the militant group has newly recruited fighters and that they will boost up their rebellion activities against the Somali government and the African Union forces. According to sources, hundreds of newly recruited fighters, mostly masked young men, were seen marching the road between Ambareeso village and Barawwe town, which is the only al-Shabaab stronghold located in the Middle Shabelle region which is located 350 km south of the Somali capital. The group's maneuver in Baraawe town becomes the biggest military show in southern Somalia since the group lost large regions of land in the southern region of the country, following heavy military assaults by government forces backed by the African Union's mission. Al-Shabaab's Middle Shabelle region commander Mohamed Abu Cabdalla has vowed that the militant group will destroy the bases of AMISoM and Somali Furthermore, a pro-al-Shabaab cleric, Sheikh Jama Abdisalam has government forces. indicated that the new fighters have shown their willingness to fight for the religion and to return back what he called as "al-Shabaab's lost power" in Somalia. He also warned them to avoid any internal conflict, referring to the recent foiled murder attempt against Omar Hamammi, an American-born al-Shabaab member who was attacked in the Bay region of southern Somalia.

#### **Domestic News:**

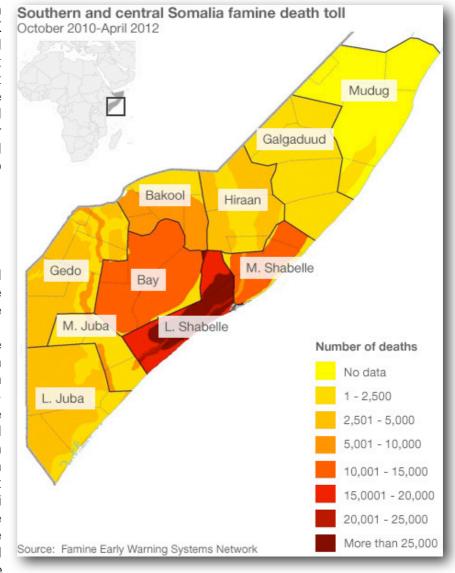
• 2 May 2013 - According to a new study by the UN Food Agency and the US-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network, nearly 260,000 people died during the famine that hit Somalia from 2010 to 2012. Half of them were children under the age of five. The number of deaths, which was caused by a sever drought and worsened by conflict between rival groups fighting for power, is higher than the estimated 220,000 people who died during the 1992 famine. The UN first declared a famine in July 2011 in Somalia's Southern Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions, which at the time were controlled by al-Shabaab militants. Al-Shabaab however denied that there was a famine and banned several Western aid agencies from operating in areas under the group's control. The famine later spread to other areas, including the Middle Shabelle region, Afgoye as well as at camps for displaced people in the government-controlled capital of Mogadishu. The report also indicated that an estimated 4.6% of the total population and 10% of children under five died in southern and central Somalia. According to Philippe Lazzarini, UN humanitarian co-ordinator for Somalia, "the report confirms we should have done more before the famine was declared." He further noted that "warnings that began as far back as the drought in 2010 did not trigger sufficient early action." In the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia, 18% of children under the five died while in Mogadishu, the rate was 17%. Somalia was worst hit by extreme drought in 2011 that affected more than 13 million people across the Horn of Africa. Furthermore, "while conditions in Somalia have improved in recent months, the country still has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition and infant mortality in the world." Tens of thousands of people fled their homes in search of food. The UN



declared the famine over in February 2012. The UK government has indicated that at a conference that it will be hosting next week that it will set out how to tackle the root cause of famine and ensure Somalis are better prepared to stop bad droughts from turning into famines.

# International Developments:

• 3 May 2013 - The United Nations has stated that there have been no Somali pirate hijackings in nearly one year, indicating a massive reduction in pirate attacks on vessels transiting the region aided through greater cooperation coupled with the use of armed guards and harsh jail terms. American diplomat Donna Leigh Hopkins has indicated that the fight against Somali pirates has been so effective that they have not been able to mount a successful hijacking in nearly a year. She



further credited the combined efforts of international naval forces and increased security on ships, including the use of armed guards. However she noted that the jailing of 1,140 Somali pirates in 21 countries "started de-glamorizing piracy." According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), over the past few years, Somali pirates hijacked 46 ships in 2009, 47 in 2010 however only 25 in 2011, an indication that new on-board defenses were working. In 2012, there were 75 attacks reported off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, down from 237 in 2011. In turn, only 14 ships were hijacked. According to Hopkins, "pirate attacks are down by at least 75%...there are still pirate attacks being attempted but there has not been a successful hijacking since May 2012, 1 May will be the one-year anniversary of no successful hijackings off the coast of Somalia." The last successful hijacking was of the MV Smyrni, a Greek-registered tanker less than two years old and loaded with crude oil worth tens of millions of dollars. According to Hopkins, it was released after eleven months of negotiations and payment of "a record-breaking ransom nearing US \$15m." This past Wednesday, the UN discussed combating pirates at a meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy, which includes more than 85 countries as well as international organizations and private-sector representatives. Hopkins, the group's chairman, along with Danish ambassador Thomas Winkler, both stressed that there was no room for complacency, citing havens for pirates on the northern Somali coast and million-dollar ransoms to release hijacked vessels and crews that continue to attract young men to piracy. Winkler further noted that prosecuting more than 1,000 pirates and



transferring them to Somali prisons, were conditions are grim, appeared to also be having a preventive effect on decreasing piracy activity in the region. In turn, ships from NATO, the EU, China, Russia and other countries have succeeded in disrupting and discouraging Somali pirates however they still continue to roam the Indian ocean, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in search of vessels to attack.

- 29 April 2013 Although suicide bombings and shootings continue to wage havoc on the streets of the Somali capital, the United Nations has announced that it is planning to triple its international presence in Mogadishu by July in order to stem corruption in aid projects that are managed from outside the country and in order gain access to new areas. According to the Aid Worker Security Database, Somalia is one of the most dangerous and logistically difficult places to deliver aid, with 136 humanitarian staff killed there since 2000. Foreign aid workers in Somalia risk being kidnapped by militants who demand large ransom payments. In addition, al-Shabaab has banned many international agencies from working in its territory, accusing them of creating an aid dependency. However the optimism is growing after the end of two decades of civil war coupled with an African Union military offensive that has driven al-Shabaab insurgents out of Mogadishu and which has in turn aided the establishment of the current government which was elected in August of last year. As such, the newly formed government enjoys more legitimacy than its predecessors. Currently, the UN humanitarian and development agencies have around twenty-five international staff that are based in Mogadishu. This is up from fifteen two years ago. According to Justin Brady, head of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Somalia, "we should be up to 70 to 90 slots within three months and that will make a huge difference." Brady is the first country director of a UN agency to live in Mogadishu for many years as most agencies operate by "remote control" out of neighbouring Kenya and instead get local Somali partners to implement their projects. Brady has further noted that the head of the UN's Development Programme moved to Mogadishu in December and his counterpart at the UN's refugee agency followed in February. In turn, the country directors of the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the UN's Children's Fund are also planning to relocate to the city in the next couple of months. relocations also come at a time when Britain opened an embassy in Mogadishu last week, the first Western power to do so, ahead of an international conference on Somalia which is set to take place in London on May 7. While it is ten times more expensive to operates out of Mogadishu than Nairobi, due to the security costs and the challenge of finding suitable offices in a city where many buildings have been reduced to rubble, international agencies have been severely criticized for failing to monitor or coordinate their aid projects. A report released by Refugees International indicated that the theft of aid from displaced people's camps in Mogadishu was systematic. The report further provided examples of multiple donors funding the same latrine project and 'ghost camps' where tents and latrines are set up with no people living there. The report cited that "the lack of effective governance in Mogadishu, along with the 'remote control' approach that aid groups have taken in Somalia, have sustained this abusive system for years."
  - Meanwhile the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Nicholas Kay, a British diplomat, as his new Special Representative for Somalia. Kay succeeds Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania, who has served as Special Representative and head of the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) for the last three years and who will complete his assignment on 3 June 2013. In the announcement of the new appointment which was made on Monday, the UN chief paid tribute to Mr. Mahiga's "exemplary leadership" in helping to steer the conclusion of Somalia's eight-year political transition in the summer of 201. Ban recalled "with deep appreciation the fact that Mr. Mahiga's contributions had laid the foundation on which the Federal Government of Somalia, with the help of the international community can now further engage on peacebuilding and the consolidation of security and development initiatives in the country." Kay is currently the Africa Director at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRCO and Sudan from



2007 to 2010 and 2010 to 2012, respectively. He was also the UK's Regional Coordinator for Southern Afghanistan and Head of the Provincial Reconstruction Team for Helmand Province from 2006 to 2007. His career also includes diplomatic stints in Spain and Cuba, as well as fourteen years of work as an English teacher in a number of countries. As the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia, Kay will be responsible for leading UN efforts to assist the country's leaders and citizens to build peace, political stability and a hopeful future after decades of conflict.



#### Map:





#### About MS Risk

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  - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
  - Crisis management
  - Business continuity management
  - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

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