

MS | RISK

Global Piracy Report

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On - The - Ground Analysis Focusing on Somalia, the Gulf of Guinea, Southeast Asia and South America

About MS Risk

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MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
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- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
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 - 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.
More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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Summary (March 3 – 9, 2014 - Week 10; Edition 27)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: Four incidents reported during this period.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Four suspicious incidents reported during this period.

Southeast Asia: Two incidents reported during this period.

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

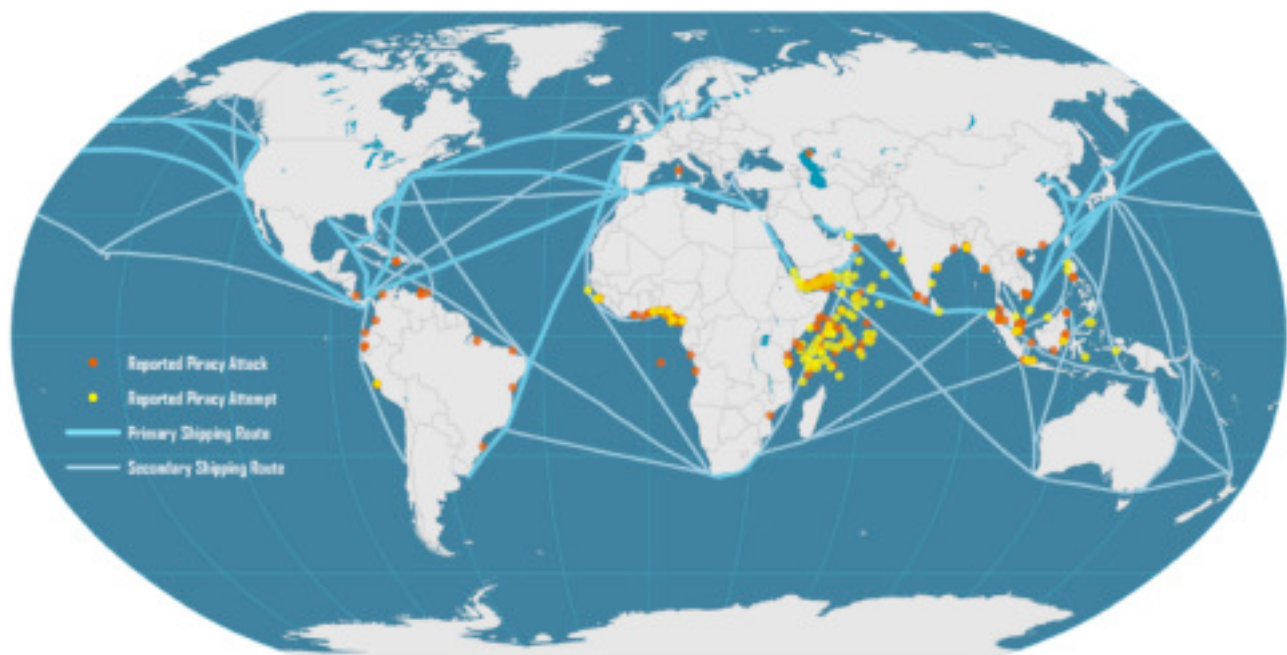
North America: No current incidents to report

Central America-Caribbean: No current incidents to report

Atlantic Ocean Area: No current incidents to report

Northern Europe-Baltic: No current incidents to report

Mediterranean-Black Sea: No current incidents to report



SOMALIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

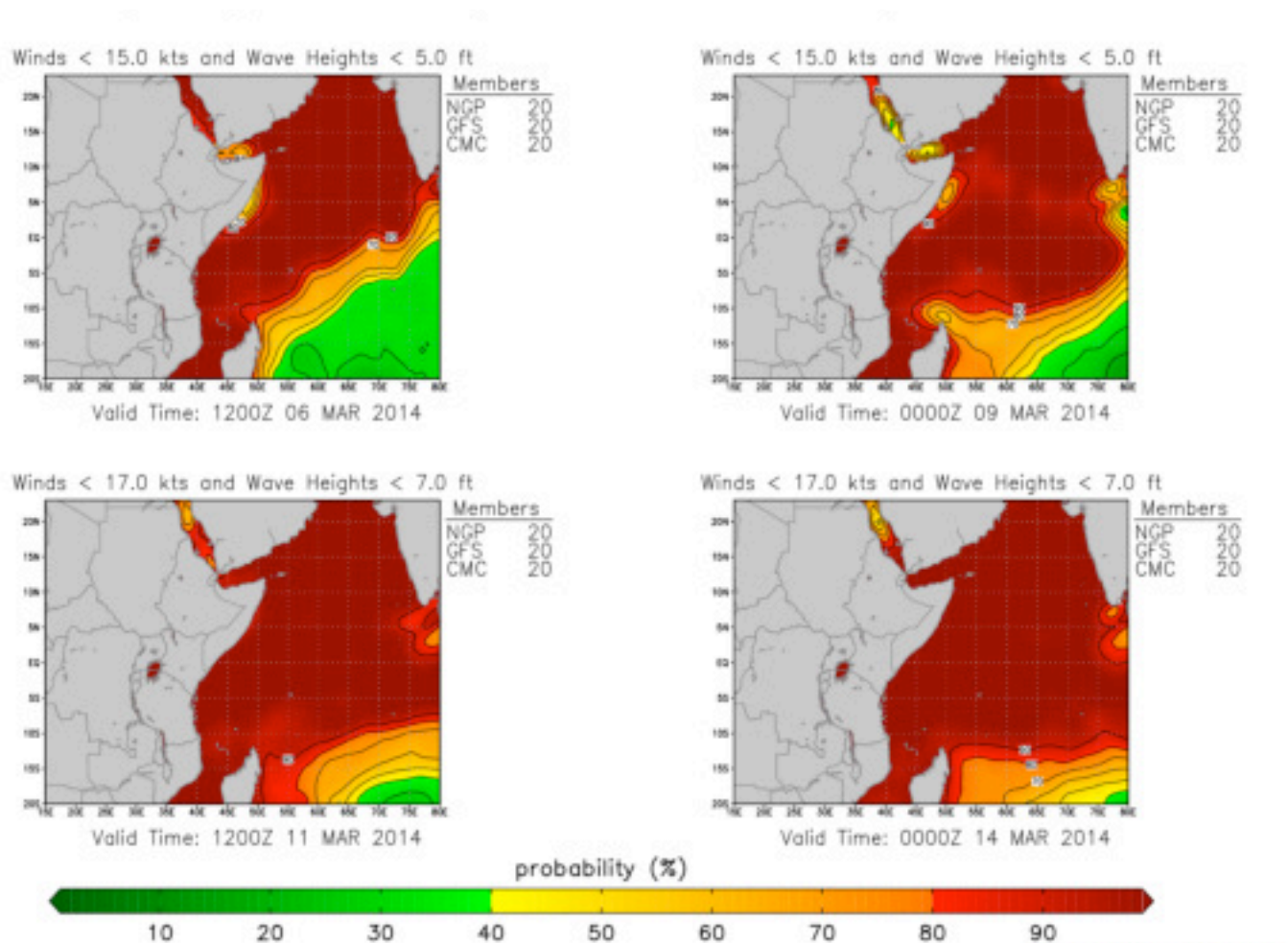
Suspicious Activity:

- **7 March 2014** – Cargo ship reported being chased by PAG consisting of three skiffs at 1645 UTC in position 14:19N – 052:57E, approximately 100 nautical miles north of Socotra Island, Gulf of Aden. Skiffs moved towards the stern of the vessel, which carried out evasive maneuvers. Two skiffs moved to the port and starboard side. Embarked armed security team on the vessel fired three flares, resulting in the skiffs moving away. Naval unit with helicopter responded, arriving on scene shortly after the incident. Vessel and crewmembers on board reported safe.
- **6 March 2014** – MV reported suspicious approach by 3 white skiffs with two pirates on board on each at 0745 UTC in position 22:27.1N – 060:29.2E, 37 nautical miles off the Omani coastline. Skiffs closed in on the vessel's starboard side and came within a distance of 5/6 cables. Vessel sounded the horn as skiffs continued to close in. Armed security team on board the vessel fired warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away. Vessel has been reported safe.
- **3 March 2014** – Merchant vessel reported suspicious approach by two skiffs at 1400 UTC in position 01:34.4S – 041:48.5E, approximately 85 nautical miles south of Kismayo, Somalia; only nine nautical miles off the Somali coast. Skiffs with 7 – 8 pirates on board followed the vessel's course changes, closing from port and starboard to 1 nautical mile. Embarked armed security team on board the vessel fired two warning shots at each approach, resulting in the skiffs moving away.
 - Merchant vessel reported being shadowed by suspicious craft for 3 hours at 1134 UTC in position 03:16.N – 057:30E, Indian Ocean. Craft closed to approximately 1500m. Embarked armed security team on board the vessel displayed their weapons. Craft continued to follow for a further 30 minutes before slowing down.

Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 2 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet; with northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet; with northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be easterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** – The Northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are variable with most areas having average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having an average speed of 2 knots. Currents speeds along the Somali basin are northeasterly averaging between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Northeastern Monsoonal pattern continues to influence the entire region.

Sea Conditions for the Following 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 the Ground Analysis

- **7 March 2014** – Intelligence reports from the Strategic Intelligence Resources in Somalia have indicated that Kenyan Defence Forces may have killed al-Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Ali Dheere. While these reports have not yet been confirmed by either the Kenyan Government nor by al-Shabaab, if these reports are confirmed, then the death of Ali Dheere will result in a lethal blow to the al-Shabaab leadership as he was not only the militant's group spokesperson, but also a key play in the command chain of the militants. Over the past few months, Kenyan Defence Forces have been carrying out a number of preemptive airstrikes and commando raids throughout Somalia, most of which have targeted al-Shabaab bases and the militant group's leadership. In the past two months alone, Kenyan Defence Forces have successfully destroyed bases, killed hundreds of militants and pushed the terror group out of a number of its key bases.
- **6 March 2014** – Officials in Somalia have confirmed that Ethiopian and Somali government forces have seized a key town in central Somali from al-Shabaab militants. According to local residents, fighting had lasted for several hours, with at least twelve people were killed in heavy fighting for control of Rabdhure, a town located in the Bakool region. The fall of Rabdhure is significant as the town was a major al-Shabaab base from which they launched attacks across the region. This is the first town to be taken from al-Shabaab since September 2013, when Mahaday, which is located in central Somalia, fell to AU-backed government forces. The latest attack and take over is also a likely sign of the start of a new offensive against al-Shabaab, with on the ground sources indicating that troops are not advancing towards Bakool's regional capital, Hudur, which is still controlled by al-Shabaab.
- **5 March 2014** – On Wednesday evening, heavy fighting broke out between the Somali Federal Government military forces and police officers at a security checkpoint in the Bay regional capital of Baidoa. Five persons, including a deputy police commander, were killed. Sources within the Somali Federal Government confirmed that the Deputy Commander of Bay police division Col. Nishow Kurtun died in the shootout after police officers denied the entry of a truck loaded with commodities into Baidoa. Sources have indicated that the military sources on board the truck fired live ammunitions at the police officers, killing five and wounding five others. Reports have indicated that police forces in Baidoa have completely withdrawn from their compounds and have formed temporary bases along the outskirts of Baidoa.
- **4 March 2014** – Residents have reported that on Tuesday evening, al-Shabaab militants publicly executed three men, which they had accused of spying against them. In a statement posted on the militant group's social network, al-Shabaab confirmed the executions, which occurred in the port town of Barawe, one of the few remaining al-Shabaab strongholds, which is located 180 km (110 miles) south of Mogadishu. According to the militant group, two of the men were convicted of spying for the Somali Federal Government and Puntland regional state Intelligence Agencies. The other man was accused of directing a drone air strike, which was carried out by a US drone in October last year in southern Somalia. That drone strike killed a senior al-Shabaab commander. Residents of the district were called to attend the executions after vehicles with loudspeakers went around the town announcing.
- **3 March 2014** - Meanwhile officials in a town located near the Kenyan-Somali border have confirmed the arrest of two Zanzibar nationals who were heading to join al-Shabaab. According to Beled Hawo

District Commissioner Mohamed Abdinur Behani, both men were apprehended Sunday night and are currently in police custody, adding “they were fresh foreign recruits wanting to join the terrorist group. We will handle them to the Central Government for further investigations and have already contacted them on taking their responsibility.” The District Commissioner declined to give out the names of the two men. The two Zanzibar nationals are believed to have entered Somali via the Kenyan border, with police officials claiming that they were heading towards the al-Shabaab controlled areas in the Gedo region.

Regional Reporting

- **4 March 2014** – According to a Ugandan army spokesman, Uganda will deploy a 410-strong special force in order to protect United Nations installations in Somalia’s capital city. Speaking to reporters, Col. Paddy Akunda indicated that the protection squad will free up thousands of UN-backed troops who will now likely focus on pursuing militants in Mogadishu and neighboring regions, adding that the protection squad would ensure that the AU force was not “bogged down” escorting UN staff, many of whom are involved in aid work. The announcement comes as al-Shabaab has increased its attacks in Mogadishu in recent weeks, with the latest occurring last Thursday in which at least twelve people were killed in a suicide bombing. The militant group was also responsible for carrying out a major assault on the UN base in Mogadishu last June, leaving at least twenty-two people dead. Sources on the ground believe that the announcement comes at a time when the Somali government and forces are looking to renew their offensive against al-Shabaab and to take back control of towns and cities located in the central and southern regions of Somalia.

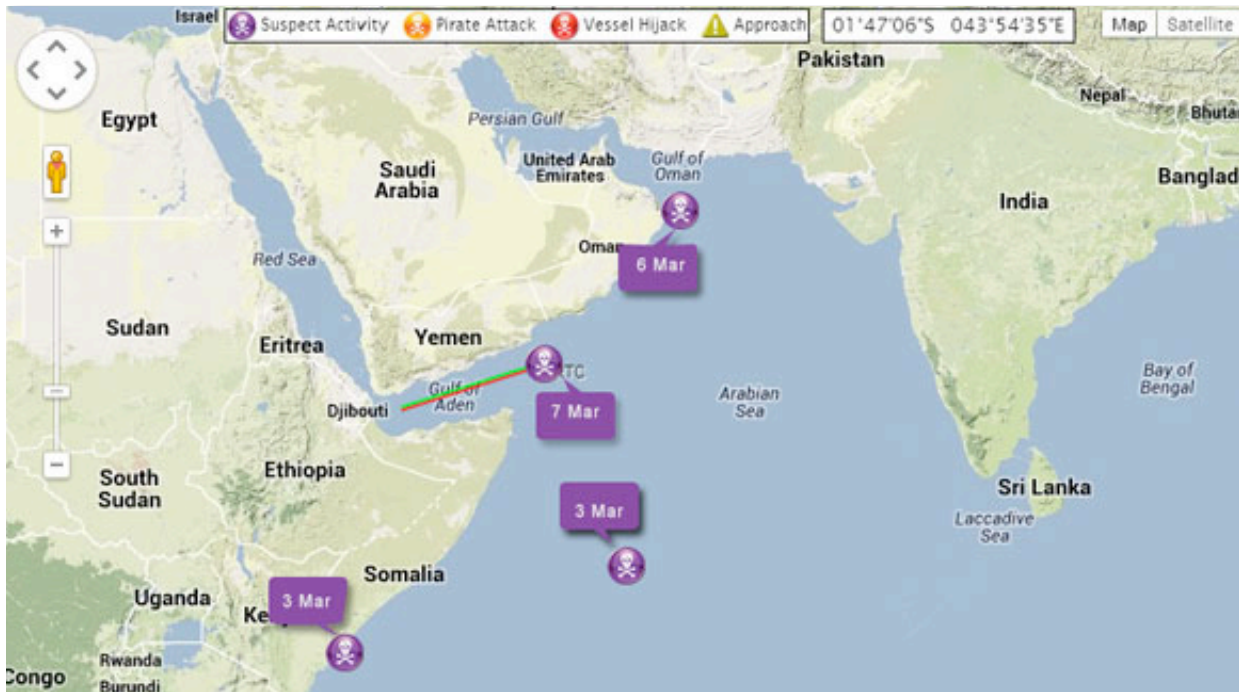
Domestic News

- **4 March 2014** – On Tuesday, a Somali military general, Hassan Mohamud, assumed the post of major of Mogadishu, replacing Mohamed Nur. The government’s decision to appoint the military general demonstrates that improving security in Mogadishu continues to be a key priority for the government. Despite losing control of Mogadishu to African Union (AU) and Somali government troops in 2011, al-Shabaab has changed its strategy and has since launched a number of guerrilla-style attacks, including suicide bombings and nighttime mortar raids. Last month, al-Shabaab fighters stormed Villa Somalia, the seat of the Somali government in Mogadishu, killing at least eleven people. The group has waged an eight-year insurgency, which has focused on overthrowing the weak UN-backed government and creating an Islamic state in Somalia.

International Developments

- **5 March 2014** – On Wednesday, the United Nations Security Council extended a partial suspension of the decades-old arms embargo on Somalia for a period of eight months, with officials highlighting concerns about the possible diversion of weapons to al-Qaeda-linked militants. Instead of extending the partial easing for a year, or getting rid of the embargo entirely, as the Somali government would have liked, the council resolution instead renews it until 25 October, which is when UN experts who monitor the embargo and other sanctions on Somalia and Eritrea are due to report back. A resolution unanimously adopted by the council has its members “condemning flows of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia in violation of the arms embargo on Somalia, as well as the destabilizing accumulation of such weapons, as a serious threat to peace and stability in the region.” Speaking to reporters shortly after the decision, British UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant stated “the resolution makes very clear that the Somali authorities need to meet strict conditions on the monitoring and reporting of arms imports into Somalia to ensure in particular that they do not get into the hands of al-Shabaab.” One year ago, the fifteen-member Security Council agreed to partially lift the arms embargo on Somalia, effectively allowing the government in Mogadishu to purchase light weapons in order to strengthen its security forces to fight al-Shabaab militants. Last month, in a confidential report, the UN Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group had recommended to the Security Council’s sanctions committee that either the full arms embargo be restored or at least notification and reporting requirements related to arms deliveries be tightened. The monitors’ report warned of “systematic abuses” by Somalia’s government, which the monitors say has allowed the diversion of weapons that Somali authorities purchased thanks to the easing of restrictions on arms sales. The council accepted the latter recommendations.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **5 March 2014** – Nigeria-flagged supply vessel, MDPL Asha Deep, underway reported being attacked and boarded by gunmen in the vicinity of the Agbami oilfield as it was transiting from Erha field to Onne Port. Unconfirmed reports state that the Captain, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer, all Indian nationals, have been kidnapped.
 - Gunmen in a skiff attacked a product tanker, unconfirmed to be Liberia-flagged Capt Gregory, while underway at 0645 LT in position 04:26N – 005:06E, around 32 nautical miles off Bayelsa state, Nigeria. The Master ordered the crewmembers into the citadel and conducted evasive maneuvers as the skiff made a second approach, resulting in the skiff aborting the attempt.
- **4 March 2014** – Armed pirates in two skiffs chased and fired upon and attempted to board a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier, SSI Pride, while underway at 1915 UTC in position 04:00.2N – 005:16.6E, around 58 nautical miles west-southwest of Brass, Nigeria. The vessel raised the alarm and all non-essential crewmembers were mustered into the citadel. Master increased speed, took evasive maneuvers and sent a SSAS alert. Due to the hardening measures taken by the Master, the pirates aborted the attempted attack and moved away. During the attack, the vessel sustained bullet damage to the accommodation.
 - Nigeria-flagged supply ship, Prince Joseph 1, underway reported being attacked by five gunmen in a speed boat at 0130LT in position 04:17.52N – 07:53.26E, approximately 17 nautical miles south of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Reportedly, five crewmembers were kidnapped however two crew were later found after hiding themselves within the vessel. Three other crew members, including the Captain, Panamian Chief Engineer and one Nigerian, are still missing

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Gulf of Guinea will be impacted by partly to mostly cloudy skies, with isolated thunderstorms.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **6 March 2014** – While underway OOW on a Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker, Orpheas, at 0538 LT in position 01:09N – 103:30E, Nipo Transit, Malacca Strait, heard over the VHF a vessel reporting a robbery incident. Upon hearing this, the OOW ordered his crewmembers to secure the accommodation. While locking the entrance to the steering gear room, a crewmembers was approached by three pirates with knives and were threatened while two more pirates were seen exiting the steering gear room with stolen ships property. As the pirates escaped, the crewmembers reported to the bridge and the Master raised the alarm and informed the local authorities. All crewmembers have been reported safe.
 - Four robbers armed with knives in a speed boat boarded a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, Sea Voyager, underway at 0500 LT in position 01:11N – 103:26E, 3 nautical miles off Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia. The alarm was raised and the crewmembers were alerted. Upon seeing the alerted crewmembers, the robbers escaped immediately. Nothing was stolen.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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