

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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 - 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.
More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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Summary (March 17 - 23, 2014 - Week 12; Edition 29)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One incident reported during this period.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Two incidents reported during this period

Southeast Asia: No incidents reported during this period.

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

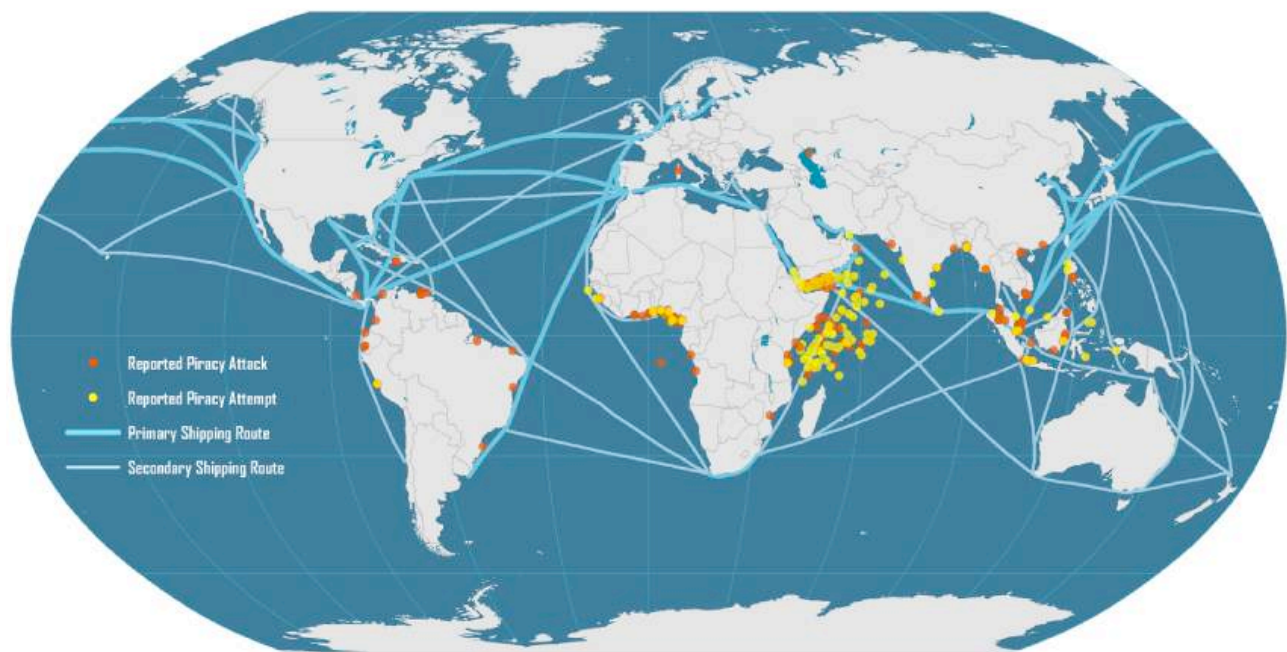
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

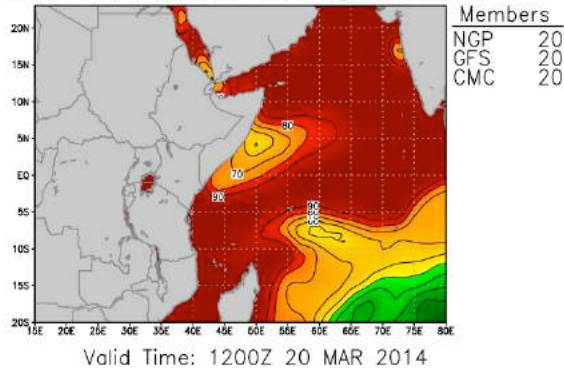
- **18 March 2014** – MV reported approach by 4 skiffs with 3 – 4 pirates on board at 17 knots at 0712 UTC in position 19:35.12N – 059:19.24E, approximately 52 nautical miles southeast of Masirah Island. The skiffs split into pairs and approached the vessel from each side, with CPA approximately 550m. No weapons or ladders were observed on board the skiffs. Embarked armed security team on board the vessel stood to and displayed their weapons, resulting in the skiffs moving away.
- **17 March 2014** – MV reported 6 suspicious skiffs with 2 – 3 or 4 – 6 pirates on board at 0420 UTC in position 13:12N – 043:04E, in the southern Red Sea. Crew was alerted and mustered into the citadel. Bridge team and embarked armed security team monitored the skiffs approach to 350m to port. Armed security team displayed their weapons as the skiffs continued to follow the vessel. Armed security team fired one warning shot, resulting in the skiffs moving away from the vessel.

Weather Analysis

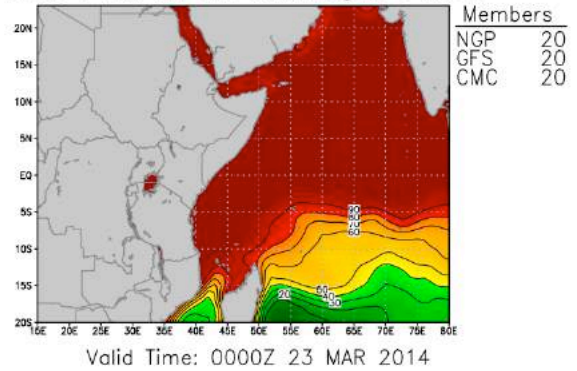
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – 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.
 - **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** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – The Northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are variable with most areas having an 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 begins to weaken as the onset of the transition season starts to influence the region. High pressure begins to influence the Arabian Gulf, expect clear to partly cloudy skies.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

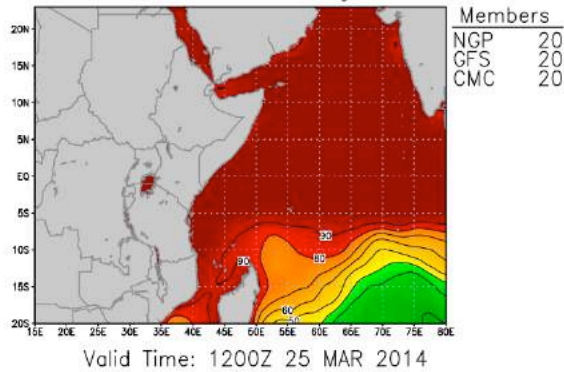
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



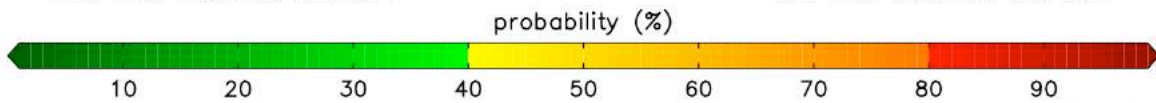
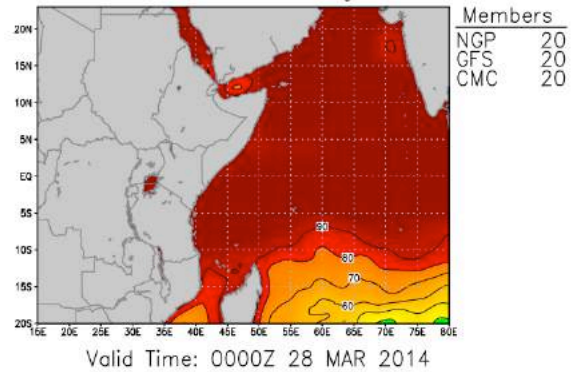
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



*** 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

- **22 March 2014** – Officials and eyewitnesses reported Saturday that Somali government forces, supported by African Union troops, took control of a key southern town as they closed in on a major bastion of al-Shabaab. Witnesses reported that Somali and AMISOM troops fought a heavy battle outside Qoryooley in the lower Shabelle region before finally wresting control of the town and closing in on al-Shabaab's coastal base of Barawe. Barawe is situated between the capital Mogadishu and the southern port city of Kismayo, which is controlled by Kenyan AMISOM troops. According to Colonel Mohamed Amey of the Somali army, "the national army with the support of the AMISOM peacekeepers defeated that al-Qaeda affiliated militants in the lower Shabelle region, today we have taken control of Qoryooley and we are moving onto other major towns where the militants are still harassing people." Local residents confirmed that al-Shabaab militants had pulled out of the town after heavy fighting with Somali and AMISOM troops. Witnesses also reported hundreds of residents fleeing the area in order to avoid being caught in the crossfire. Over the past month, the UN-backed AU force has launched a fresh offensive against al-Shabaab bases, with gunmen largely fleeing ahead of the assault, only to later stage guerilla attacks. UN envoy to Somalia Nicholas Kay has called the offensive "the most significant and geographically extensive military advance" since AU troops started operations in 2007.
- **20 March 2014** – Al-Shabaab militants have imposed a blockade on the Bakool regional capital of Hudur, located in southwestern Somalia, turning back all vehicles moving into the newly liberated town. Speaking with Mogadishu-based radio station, Bakool Governor Mohamed Abdi Tool stated that the price of food is now up after al-Shabaab militants, who maintain a presence around Hudur, denied trucks loaded with commercial commodities to enter the town. Mr. Tool indicated that "if the trucks carrying food and other essential items veer-off the road leading to Hudur, we will take action against them, the commercial commodity will be confiscated and distributed to the needy persons." On March 7, Somali government forces, aided by battalions from neighboring Ethiopia, liberated Hudur from al-Shabaab following little resistance from the militants in the outskirts and nearby villages.
- **19 March 2014** – Al-Shabaab militants on Wednesday identified a suicide bomber who struck a town recently captured by African Union troops as a 60-year-old Somali man who held Norwegian citizenship. According to al-Shabaab military spokesman Sheikh Abdul Aziz Abu Musab, "the attacker of Buulo Burde was a 60-year-old man who came from Norway to fight the enemies of Allah." The spokesman named the attacker as Abdullahi Ahmed Abdulle, a Norwegian national of Somali origin, adding "he paid the sacrifice in order to be close to Allah by killing his enemies. The event is showing us that there is no age limit for jihad." The attack in Buulo Burde on Tuesday targeted a hotel crowded with army officers and was followed by an assault by al-Shabaab gunmen, which according to officials left several dead.
- **17 March 2014** – Security officials in Somalia confirmed Tuesday that a suicide bomber had struck a vehicle packed full of explosives into a hotel in a southern town, just days after it was recaptured by forces from al-Shabaab. According to security official Sulieman Adam, "there was a suicide attack involving terrorists at a hotel in Buulo Burde." According to the official, the attack took place late on Monday, with local residents reporting that at least eight people were killed in the attack. So far, regional officials have not released an official death toll. While such attacks in southern and central Somalia are common, with a majority of attacks being carried out by al-Shabaab militants, this particular attack was likely aimed at

scaring both local residents and AMISOM and Government forces stationed in the area. It was likely carried out as an attempt to re-gain control of the town.

- The incident in Buulo Burde came as a convoy of African Union's AMISOM force was targeted by a car bomb just outside the Somali capital on Monday. The attack took place near a checkpoint on the road linking Mogadishu and the town of Afgoye. A witness reported that "...a suicide bomber rammed his car into an AMISOM convoy," adding that "there was a heavy explosion at the Alamada area..., we don't know about the casualties but I saw military ambulances rushing to the scene." A Somali military official, Omar Adan, confirmed the attack however declined to give the number of casualties. Mr. Adan blamed militants from al-Shabaab, stating "al-Qaeda linked militants, who have lost ground, are attempting desperate attacks." Hours later, al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that its militants killed seven people, including three foreigners. Monday's attack came just days after a car bomb went off in central Mogadishu near a hotel popular with government officials and business men. Saturday's attack injured at least one person, however so far no claims of responsibility for the attack have been made. In February alone, major attacks in Mogadishu have included a car bomb at the gates of the airport, a major suicide attack on the presidential palace and a car bombing on a café located close to the intelligence headquarters.

Regional Reporting

- **23 March 2014** – Police reported Sunday that attackers shot dead two people and wounded ten others when they burst into a church service near the Kenyan port city of Mombasa. According to local police chief Robert Mureithi, from the Likoni district located just south of Mombasa, the gunmen had killed the two worshippers, a man and a woman, and then fled, in what is the latest violence amidst heightened warnings of a threat of attacks by al-Shabaab. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, however Kenya has been hit by a series of attacks since it deployed troops to southern Somalia in October 2011. In the past week, Kenya, and Uganda, have both warned of the threat of new attacks carried out by al-Shabaab in their own countries. The latest attack also comes just days after police arrested two men with a vehicle filled with large quantities of powerful explosives prepared in pipe bombs, which experts have indicated would have been strong enough to bring down a major building. So far, police officials have not indicated whether there is a link between the two men arrested and the latest attack in Mombasa. Kenya's top security chiefs warned last month of "increased threats of radicalization" amongst homegrown Islamists.
- **19 March 2014** – Officials announced Wednesday that security agencies in two East African countries are on high alert for possible terrorist attacks carried out by Somali extremists who have vowed to avenge the presence of African Union troops in Somalia. Al-Shabaab has vowed to inflict violent attacks on both Kenya and Uganda as the two countries have contributed troops to the African Union (AU) forces that are supporting the Somali government. The announcement also comes as anti-terror police foiled a planned terrorist attack in the coastal city of Mombasa after they intercepted a car packed with explosives a week ago. The FBI is aiding the investigation and two men who were allegedly caught in the car were charged in court Wednesday for preparing to commit murder, being members of an outlawed organization and illegal possession of explosives and weapons. The two men charged in court were identified as Abdiaziz Abudlahi Abdi and Isaak Noor Ibrahim. They are believed

to be Somali nationals. According to Mombasa County Criminal Investigations Chief Henry Ondieki, two more suspects, Mohammed Daayo, a Somali national, and Shadrack Nicholas, a Kenyan, are in police custody in connection with the planned attack. According to Kenya's Internal Security Minister Joseph Ole Lenku following the arrests, security in the county has been increased. Mombasa County commissioner Nelson Marwa has stated that two senior FBI agents attached to the US Embassy in Nairobi are currently in Mombasa assisting Kenyan agencies with the technology for analyzing the explosives. Mr Marwa further noted that the FBI used satellites to locate and track the blue Toyota SUV in which the explosives had been mounted leading to the arrests. Police had arrested the first two suspects on March 11 but it is only on March 17 that they discovered the explosives, which were concealed under the seats of the suspects' sports utility vehicle. Meanwhile in Uganda, police spokesman Ibn Ssenkumbi has warned that Somali militants may be planning to launch attacks on fuel trucks. According to Mr Ssenkumbi, a spokesman for the police in the Ugandan capital in Kampala, the authorities had taken precautionary measures, such as providing police escorts to fuel trucks parked or moving along highway. He added that "we got intelligence that a group actually was planning to attack, but we can't tell if they are already in the country or not." Certain gas stations in Kampala have also been ordered to keep parking lots empty of all vehicles, while most fuel depots across the country are now under heavy guard. Due to the fact that Uganda is landlocked, fuel trucks arriving from the Kenyan port city of Mombasa are a common sight along major highways. Trugs going to neighboring Rwanda also pass through Uganda. Since the attack on a shopping mall in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi last September, Ugandan officials have issued a number of terror alerts. The attack in Nairobi was claimed by al-Shabaab, and Ugandan officials believe those Somali Islamic extremists are now plotting to carry out a similar deadly attack on Ugandan territory in retaliation over Uganda's military involvement in Somalia. Al-Shabaab was responsible for the bombing of a bar during the 2010 World Cup final in Uganda's capital in July 2010, an attack that killed more than seventy people.

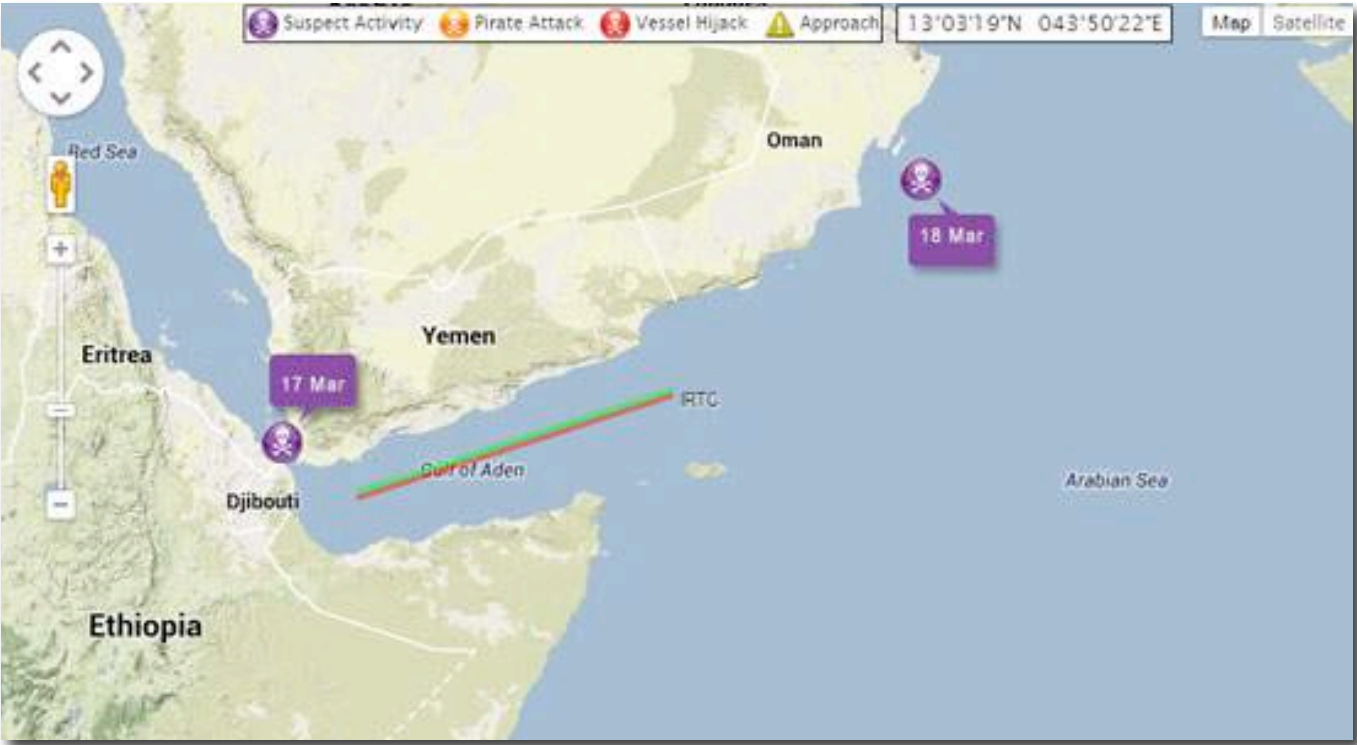
- Meanwhile on Wednesday, a Kenyan court in the city of Mombasa has charged two suspected Somali Islamist militants with terrorism-related offences, two days after they were arrested for driving a car carrying pipe-bombs and grenades. Anti-terror police seized the two after detectives and foreign agents intercepted telephone communications they made with suspected insurgents inside Somalia. Officials have indicated that the bombs that the suspects, Abdi Aziz Abdullahi Abdi and Issak Noor Ibrahim, were found with were ready to be detonated. The two have denied all seven charges that they face, including being members of al-Shabaab. They were remanded in custody. Police recovered from their car six cylinder bombs weighting 10 kg each, half a dozen grenades, an automatic rifle and mobile phones, which detectives have stated were likely to be used as detonators. Forensic investigators on Tuesday combed the vehicle for evidence after explosives were found welded under the seats and bonnet. Robots were used in order to disable the bombs. Although police have indicated that an attack had been foiled, the case has heightened fears amongst Kenyans at the relative ease at which foreign militants appear to be able to move within the country. The Kenyan parliament has called for better coordination after the failures of the security and intelligence in handling an attack on a shopping mall in the capital Nairobi in September that killed at least sixty-seven people. Al-Shabaab has stated that they attacked the Nairobi mall to avenge Kenya's deployment of troops in Somalia, where an African Union forces is battling the militants.

- **17 March 2014** – Kenyan police authorities indicated Monday that they had arrested two men who were driving a vehicle packed with explosives in the Indian Ocean resort city of Mombasa. According to Henry Ondiek of the Mombasa Criminal Investigation Department, “we have not established where the target was, but we have detained two terror suspects who were in the vehicle,” adding “we were tipped off that the two were headed for an attack on an unspecified place and we laid an ambush and got them.” One police source indicated that the two men were of Somali origin, signaling that they were likely members or supporters of Somalia’s al-Shabaab militant group. According to Kenyan police, two homemade bombs were found in the vehicle, along with a mobile phone, which could have been used as a detonator. The arrest of the two suspected terrorists comes after Kenya’s top security chiefs warned last month of “increased threats of radicalization” from homegrown Islamists, singling out Mombasa’s Musa mosque as a specific center encouraging extremism, along with two others. Over the past several years, Kenya has suffered a string of attacks, which have all been blamed on al-Shabaab, including the September 2013 massacre in Nairobi’s Westgate mall in which at least sixty-seven people were killed.

International Developments

- **19 March 2014** – Overcoming its previous reluctance to deploy troops to the East African country, Germany has announced that it will contribute soldiers to a European Union-led military training mission in Somalia. Government spokesman Steffen Seibert has indicated that Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Cabinet decided Wednesday to commit up to twenty soldiers to the mission. The move however still needs parliamentary approval, which it is expected to receive. The EU Mission, which was launched in Uganda in 2010, moved to the Somali capital Mogadishu in December. Although Germany did participate in training exercises in Uganda, officials did initially indicate that they would not be deploying soldiers to Somalia due to the security concerns. Under Merkel’s new coalition government, which took office in December 2013, Germany has been cautiously moving towards a more active foreign policy role.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **20 March 2014** – A Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker, MT Crete, was reported attacked by four pirates in a speedboat at about 0130 LT in position 04:14N – 005:00E, about 40 nautical miles off Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The oil tanker issued a distress call, increased speed and conducted evasive maneuvers. Reports state that the pirates aborted the attack after approximately 2 hours, and the tanker confirmed at 0345 LT that the assailants had failed to board the vessel. The vessel and all crewmembers have been reported safe.

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:

- None reported during this period.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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