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CMF Threat brief

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Agenda



- Regional Overview
- Piracy
- Houthi Threat
- Terrorism
- Smuggling
- Maritime Crime





Regional Overview



- **Maritime domain**
 - Highly complex
 - Highly active
- **Regional Instability**
 - Al Shabab in Somalia
- **Yemen Conflict**
 - Dispute between Houthis & SLC
- **Smuggling**
 - Income generation

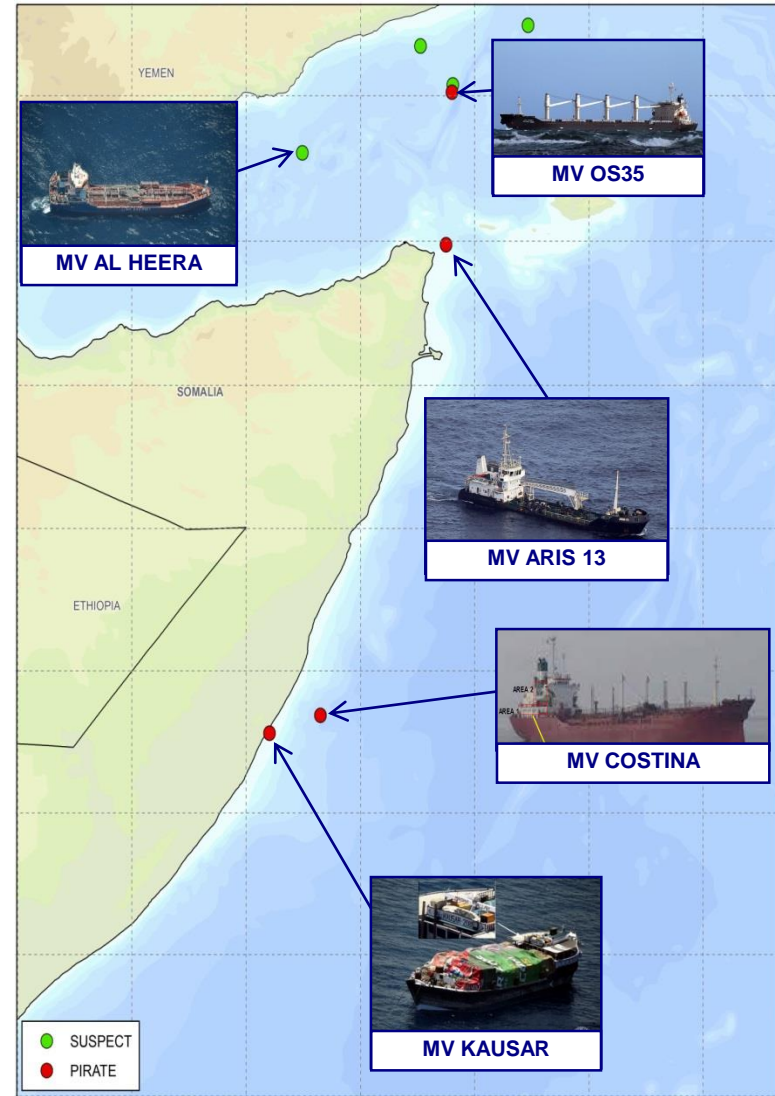




Piracy



- **Spike in 2017**
- **Pirated**
 - Aris 13
 - Al Kausar
- **Attacked**
 - OS-35
 - MT Al Heera
 - MT Costina
 - MV Ever Dynamic / Galerna III





Threat = Capability and Intent



Capability

- Pirate networks
- Motherships / Skiffs
- Weapons
- Pirate paraphernalia
- Launch sites

INTENT

- Financial imperative
- Domestic situation in Somalia
 - Fishing
 - Smuggling
- Deterrent presence of CMF / EU forces
- Local security provision (PMPF)
- Likelihood of success





Observed Piracy Tripwires



- **Suspicious crew composition**
 - Crew greater than five
 - Excessive quantity of provisions
 - Crew armed with AK-47, RPGs, and handguns
- **Suspicious item observations**
 - No visible fishing gear
 - Grappling hooks and ladders
 - Several skiffs on deck, in tow, or alongside
- **Suspicious operational activity**
 - No lights during darkness
 - Transfers of fuel and stores between vessels
 - Larger vessels (mother-ships) not transmitting AIS





Houthi Threat



- **Southern Red Sea**

- Mines
- Explosive Boats
- Coastal Defence Cruise Missiles





Terrorism



- **Recent Activity**
 - MV Muskie
- **Means**
 - Small Arms
 - Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG)
 - Explosive Boats





Smuggling



- **NARCOTICS / WEAPONS**
 - Source of regional instability
 - Funds terrorism
- **CHARCOAL**
 - Causes environmental devastation
 - Funds Al-Shabaab





Maritime Crime



Recent activity

- **28 Sep: MV Arabian Sun**
 - Attacked off Nishtun
- **06 Oct: Iranian FVs**
 - Engaged by PMPF
- **21 Oct: Iran ship seized**
 - Seized by Yemeni authorities
- **24 Oct: Dhow Sameer**
 - Attacked by unknown vessel





Summary(1)



- **Piracy:**
 - Precipitous decline, but inattention to root causes guarantees enduring threat
 - Suppressed not eliminated (7 x piracy events in 2017)
- **Yemen Conflict:**
 - Houthi forces have conducted multiple attacks on ships in southern Red Sea
 - Conflict restricted, but risk of collateral damage
- **Terrorism:**
 - Extremist groups maintain intent to attack shipping; leverage smuggling networks for funding, personnel, and material support
 - Ungoverned and under-governed spaces create maritime security threats



Summary(2)



- **Smuggling:**
 - Traffickers capitalize on inexpensive and anonymous medium of maritime conveyance
- **Maritime Crime:**
 - Protection of natural resources
 - Local militias / Government authorities





Questions