



# UKMTO

## Weekly Report

### 9 - 15 Dec 17

#### IN THIS ISSUE

## Command Overview

1. This week UKMTO issued one advisory, see page 3 for details.

2. On 14 Dec UKMTO received a report that a Merchant Vessel had been approached by 3 skiffs 60nm SE of Mukallah, Ref ADVISORY NOTICE 001/DEC/ 2017. The skiffs came to within 300m and followed the ship for a considerable length of time. Whilst the incident was suspicious no aggressive approach or other trip wires were noted. Vessel and crew are safe.

3. The initial report to UKMTO for ADVISORY NOTICE 001/DEC/ 2017 was received by e mail and few hours after the incident. The merchant community are requested to ensure that any suspicious activity is reported immediately, where possible by phone, in line with BMP4. This will ensure that any potential response and warning to shipping in the area can be actioned quickly.

4. EUNAVFOR have issued an Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin which gives in-depth details of the piracy incident in mid-November, see pages 4 – 7. Please note that further distribution requires authority, all queries to be directed to EUNAVFOR.

5. The minutes from the recent MIEVOM meeting will be published on Monday and available on the

UKMTO website. [www.ukmto.org](http://www.ukmto.org)

6. The threat of CYBER attacks is an ever increasing issue within the maritime industry and there is speculation that this could be the cause behind recent incidents. See article (a) for further details.

7. World-wide piracy and crime at sea was highlighted in articles (b) and (c). A capacity building workshop to combat piracy and armed robbery in Asia was held in India in coordination with ReCAAP. An attempted boarding attack in the Gulf of Guinea was captured on video, this illustrates some trip wires (ladder, fuel and number of persons on board) to be watchful for when being approached by unidentified skiffs.

8. Open Source Media Articles of interest. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting:

a. 11 Dec - Not just Somali pirates, Cyber attacks too hit ships - <http://bit.ly/2CaWVoY>

b. 16 Dec - ReCAAP, India Coast Guard Conduct Workshop - <http://bit.ly/2oibXq9>

c. 13 Dec - Pirates Chase Containership in Gulf of Guinea - <http://bit.ly/2AsUmh2>



**ATTACKED, BOARDED OR HI-JACKED**

- (1) **Attacked**  
No incidents to report.
- (2) **Boarded**  
No incidents to report.
- (3) **Hijacked**  
No confirmed incidents.

**Vessels & persons under pirate control**

Details of Vessel	No. Vessels held	No. Souls held	Date Taken
Merchant Vessels	0		
Dhows/Fishing Vessels	0	0	0
Dhow		8	26/03/15
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	

**FUTURE EVENTS**

Date	Event	Location
17/18 Apr 18	SHADE	Bahrain
22 Apr 18	MIEVOM	Dubai

**LIAISON AND VISITS**

13 Dec – Visit by Commodore Malcolm Wise RAN and his staff of CTF 150.

Should anyone wish to visit our office in Dubai please contact Lt Cdr Beaton E-mail: [dubai-oic@ukmto.org](mailto:dubai-oic@ukmto.org)

**ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- [www.ukmto.org](http://www.ukmto.org)
- [MSCHOA](#)
- [Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)
- [Middle East Navigation Aids Service \(MENAS\)](#)
- [United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)
- [IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)
- [www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI](http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI)
- [NATO Maritime Command \(MARCOM\)](#)

**SHIPS BRIEFED**

Date	Location	Vessel
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	MSC DEILA
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	MAERSK KYRENIA
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	MANDARIN CROWN
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	CARIBOO
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	SBI URSA
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	HYUNDAI VICTORY
11/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	KOTA LAYAR
12/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	MAERSK EMDEN
12/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	CMA CGM OKAPI
12/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	EVERRICH 1
12/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	DATO LUCKY
13/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	APL LE HAVRE
13/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	BALABAN
13/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	ATLANTIC GRACE
14/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	HAMBURG BAY
14/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	HARRISON BAY
15/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	BUSAN TRADER
15/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	RICKMERS SINGAPORE
15/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	PACIFIC YANTAI
15/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	MSC GAIA
15/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	GRAND ACE 12
15/12/2017	JEBEL ALI	BUXHANSA

**WARNINGS**

No warning issued this week

**ADVISORIES**

**001/DEC/2017**

**Category:** Suspicious Approach.

**Description:** Between 0715Z and 0900Z, on the 14 DEC 2017 a MV in position 13 56.50N 049 51.50E (60 nm SE of Mukallah) was approached by 3 skiffs with 3-4 POB on each. The skiffs last sighted in Psn 14 00.00N -050 06.15E. MV SAFE.

Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.

**NOTES**

Any queries regarding these Advisory Notices ring:  
0044 2392 222060 only, for further information.

**THESE ADVISORIES** are not classified as a Maritime Security Events and have not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.





## Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) 002 (to IRTA 1 Dec 17<sup>1</sup>)



Issued 15 Dec 17

**For official use only.** This Threat Bulletin has been released to the Shipping Industry in confidence. It should not be disseminated further without permission.

1. **Foreword.** This IRTB has been written by EU NAVFOR and Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). It is intended to inform risk management decision making for shipping operators responsible for merchant vessels that are transiting through the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden (GoA), Gulf of Oman (GoO) and the Western Indian Ocean.
2. The purpose of an **Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB)** is to provide a specific update to industry on events that may require military assessment above and beyond the overarching Industry Releasable Threat Assessment. The information contained in the IRTBs will be incorporated into the IRTA at the next issue<sup>2</sup>.
3. **Incident/identifier.** 17-18 Nov 2017 MV EVER DYNAMIC and FV GALERNA III.
4. **Date/time.** 170917Z Nov 17 (MV EVER DYNAMIC) and 180555Z Nov 17 (FV GALERNA III).
5. **Location.** Approximately 300nm off the coast of southern Somalia. The attack on MV EVER DYNAMIC took place in position 01 55.9S 047 56.8E. Less than 24 hours later, and 88nm east of this position, the incident involving FV GALERNA III occurred.



<sup>1</sup> The latest Industry Releasable Threat Assessment (IRTA) was issued 1 Dec 17 (with an information cut-off date 15 Nov 17).  
Date of next issue: 1 Mar 18.

6. **Vessel description.**

- a. **MV EVER DYNAMIC**; Panama flagged container ship. LOA 294m x Breadth 32m, 52,090 GRT. Freeboard 6.2 metres.



- b. **FV GALERNA III**; Seychelles flagged fishing vessel.



7. **Event description.**

a. 17 Nov 17; MV EVER DYNAMIC reported that she was under attack from a skiff. Five persons and a ladder were observed as the skiff came alongside and attempted to board at midships. The initial approach was unsuccessful as the pirates' ladder was too short; however they came very close to successfully boarding. The skiff then moved to the stern of the ship and the pirates attempted a second boarding which was thwarted by the ship's effective Best Management Practice (BMP) measures. Subsequently the skiff moved away from the ship and fired two RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenade), one at the stern and one at the bridge, both of which missed their target. We assess that this was likely a final attempt to slow the ship. As the EVER DYNAMIC gradually increased speed to 20 knots the skiff could not keep up and subsequently withdrew towards a larger whaler that was approximately 1nm away, which is believed to have been operating as a supporting mother ship.

b. 18 Nov 17; FV GALERNA III reported a suspicious approach by a skiff. The skiff closed to within a distance of approximately 300m and did not move away until warning shots were fired by the embarked Private Armed Security Team (PAST). The skiff moved towards a whaler which was loitering approximately 7 nm away.

8. **Outcome.** Both incidents were ultimately unsuccessful and both the vessels and the crew were left unharmed.

9. **Follow up.** Following the incidents EU NAVFOR's Flagship, the Italian vessel ITS VIRGINIO FASAN located the whaler and skiff in conjunction with Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) assets. Having located the craft the FASAN tracked the suspected pirates overnight 18/19 Nov 2017. Imagery taken by both the MPRA and the FASAN's organic helicopter was shared with the masters of the EVER DYNAMIC and GALERNA III who confirmed that it appeared to be the same craft that were involved in the respective attacks. As a result a team from the FASAN conducted a boarding on the morning of 19 Nov 2017, detaining six suspected pirates and seizing the skiff and whaler. The six suspected pirates have now been transferred to the authorities in the Seychelles for potential prosecution.



10. **Comment.**

- a. These incidents serve as a timely reminder that through the effective implementation of BMP and PAST, and the continued presence of international naval forces, ***piracy has been suppressed - not eradicated***. It is likely that criminal networks will continue to seek opportunistic targets and as such the importance of continued vigilance and adherence to BMP cannot be over emphasized.
- b. The incidents highlight that the BMP measures put in place by industry ***remain fit for purpose***, but only as long as they are fully employed. All partners are strongly encouraged to maintain a high speed whilst transiting in the High Risk Area. In this instance the speed at which skiffs closed with the MV did not give them the necessary time to get up to speed to outrun the small craft. In this instance the pirates generated an opportunity to board and it was fortunate that they were ultimately unsuccessful.
- c. The attackers were not dissuaded by their first failure and the following day performed a second attempt which shows ***determination and commitment***. The presence of EU Naval Forces in the area and the military response in locating the pirates enabled the swift apprehension of the suspected pirates, who otherwise may have continued to seek targets of opportunity.
- d. The incident took place 300nm from the Somali coast, which represents the first identified long range pirate activity group (PAG) operating amongst trans Indian Ocean shipping traffic in the Somali Basin for over 4 years. This marks a change in tactics from the spike of piracy activity last March and April 2017 when attacks took place much closer to the Somali coast. Once again the importance of adherence to BMP 4 is critical, in particular vigilance and **the reporting of all suspicious incidents to UKMTO at the time they are observed** cannot be over emphasised.
- e. In this instance the imagery captured by both the MV EVER DYNAMIC and the FV GALERNA III played a crucial part in linking the suspected pirates and craft to both incidents and is therefore likely to be pivotal in any subsequent legal process. We therefore suggest that during such incidents, **when feasible and without endangering the vessel or her crew**, imagery is taken of those involved and provided to MSCHOA.

11. **Assessment.** Since these incidents, we have seen no further pirate activity that would indicate that this event represents a newly active PAG or a new spike in activity. We assess that the successful detention and transfer to the Seychelles authorities for prosecution will likely have a deterrence effect on would-be pirates. We therefore assess that this event does not alter the overall assessed future trend for the area, and assess that piracy attacks will likely remain sporadic and at a low level. However these events clearly indicate that the threat of piracy is still present and strongly recommend that all ship security risk assessments take account of these incidents for vessels transiting the Somali Basin.

12. **Publication and feedback.**

- c. Prepared by CMF and EU NAVFOR.
- d. Distributed by the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSC HoA).
- e. All enquiries - in the first instance – should be referred to MSCHOA using:
  - (1) **Tel:** +44 (0) 1923 958545 / +44 (0) 1923 958700
  - (2) **Fax:** +44 (0) 1923 958520
  - (3) **Website:** [www.mschoa.org](http://www.mschoa.org)