OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report
13 November - 13 December 2017

14 December 2017

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1. (U) Scope Note

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on piracy threats to, and criminal action against or that involves merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Warnings and Advisories

A. (U) IMB WARNING 141435 UTC DEC 2017: To: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN/OFF NIGERIAN WATERS / GULF OF GUINEA. On 14.12.2017 at 0830 UTC in position 03:46.4N - 006:17.2E, around 32 nm south of Brass, Nigeria, a merchant vessel was attacked and boarded by pirates. Nigerian Navy notified. No further details available. Vessels are advised to exercise caution in the vicinity of the position given in this report and maintain maximum CPA with any vessel acting suspiciously. Early assessment / detection will allow ships to take evasive measures to prevent boarding and request for assistance. All attacks and suspicious sightings should be reported. IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24-hour anti-piracy helpline +603 2031 0014 fax: +603 2078 5769. Email: mailto: imbkl@icc-ccs.org // piracy@icc-ccs.org.

B. (U) MDAT-GOG Advisory 005/DEC/2017: Category: ATTACK. Description: On 14 December 2017 at 08:05Zhrs, a merchant vessel in position 0345N - 00615E (South/32NM from Brass, NIGERIA) was attacked and boarded by several persons on board a fast boat. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG via 3rd party report. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.

C. (U) MDAT-GOG Advisory 04/DEC/2017: Category: ATTEMPTED BOARDING. Description: On 14 December 2017 at 0128UTC, a boat made an unsuccessful attempt to board a Merchant Vessel in psn: 035818N 0061224E. Vessel and crew are SAFE. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Any queries regarding this Waming Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.

D. (U) MDAT GOG Warning 003/DEC/2017 – Update: Category: ATTACK. Description: On 08 December 2017 approx. 1500LT, a MV is under attack in PSN N0411 E00700 (16 Nm far from BONNY RIVER NIGERIA). Pirates boarded vessel. Vessel released by naval forces. Crew are SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this...
area. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper Email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org.

E. (U) **UKMTO WARNING 001/DEC/2017**: ATTACK: On 07 DEC 2017 at 1830 UTC. Vessel reported being Attacked by 2 Armed Skiffs in POSN 14-32.5N 042-47.3E (20nms South West of Hodeidah). Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. UKMTO Watchkeeper: watchkeepers@ukmto.org. Emergency Tel: +971 5055 23215.

F. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory 002/DEC/17**: Category: ATTACK. Description: On 07 December 2017 at 0530UTC, a vessel was attacked by 1 boat with 8 armed men in psn 0331N - 0070E. Pirates try to climb onboard. Vessel and crew are SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.

G. (U) **MDAT Advisory 001/DEC/17**: Category: THEFT. Description: At 0200UTC on 02 DEC2 017 an MV in POSN 04°54N - 001°42W was boarded by one person with five others waiting in two nearby boats. A fire hose, computer and monitor reported missing. A navy patrol boat was dispatched to the zone. VESSEL IS SAFE. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.

H. (U) **IMBKL WARNING 011330 UTC DEC 2017**: To: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN/OFF NIGERIA WATERS / GULF OF GUINEA. On 01.12.2017 at 0910 UTC in position 03°24N - 006°5E, around 57nm SSW of Bonny, Nigeria. a merchant vessel has been attacked and boarded by pirates. Nigerian Navy has been notified and are responding. No further details available. Vessels are advised to exercise caution in the vicinity of the position given in this report and maintain maximum CPA with any vessel acting suspiciously. Early assessment / detection will allow ships to take evasive measures to prevent boarding and request for assistance. All attacks and suspicious sightings should be reported. IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24-hour anti-piracy helpline +603 2031 0014 fax: +603 2078 5769. Email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org // piracy@icc-ccs.org.

I. (U) **MDAT-GOG Warning 001 UPDATE 2/DEC/17**: Warning 001/DEC/2017. Category: Attack. Description: MV attacked at 010910ZDec17 in position 03°24N - 006°5E, 57nm South of Bonny. The vessel no longer has pirates on-board and crew are SAFE. Vessels transiting the area are to exercise extreme caution. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org. Emergency Tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

J. (U) **IMB WARNING: 260600 UTC NOV 2017**: To: All Ships Transiting Tawi Tawi/North East Sabah Waters /Celebes Sea / Sulu Sea / Southern Philippines/ East Kalimantan. Update / Further Information. ASG planned kidnapping in Sabah waters and coastal areas. Philippines intelligence advised that on 190730 Nov 2017, ASG/KFR groups were monitored on 180800 November 2017 in the coastal area of Lokangke, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi province. The group fetched their logistical requirements for their planned kidnapping activity. Information further disclosed that a new target area for their kidnapping activity will also be between Tawau (Sabah) and Tarakan (Indonesia). On 182200 November 2017, the said group went underway west of Sitangkai. It appears the ASG/KFR group may try to attack ships in this water as most ships are not taking preventive actions in this water which is further down south. The earlier warning on the plan of seajacking/abduction of sea going vessel in Lahad Datu, Malaysia still remains. This group is aboard a 2-engine, colored blue jungkong speedboat. Information states that the group is targeting a Korean vessel but may opt for other ships and nationalities plying the Tawi-Tawi-Sabah waters. Extreme caution is advised. SOP/countermeasures necessary. All ships are advised to maintain strict anti-piracy watch and take additional measures. Report all attacks to local authorities and to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre as per IMO circular 1334. IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24-hour anti-piracy helpline +603 2031 0014 fax: +603 2078 5769. email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org // piracy@icc-ccs.org.

K. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory 005/NOV/17**: Category: Attempted Boarding. Description: At 222140Z NOV 2017 a merchant vessel at 05:13N 00:403E (Abidjan anchorage) observed 1 boat approach to a close proximity. Port control informed and then disturbed boarding attempt and boat escaped. MV SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area. For queries regarding this Warning Notice call 0033 298 22 88 88.

L. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory 006/NOV/17**: Category: Suspicious Approach. Description: At 210335Z NOV 2017 a merchant vessel in position 03:04N - 006:59E (89 nm from Port Harcourt) reported being followed for approximately two hours by one skiff with three persons onboard. The skiff got to within a 0.5 cables at one point.
Crew and vessel are safe. Vessels within the area are to exercise extreme caution. For queries regarding this Warning Notice call 0033 298 22 88 88.

M. (U) MDAT-GOG Advisory 004/NOV/17: Category: Suspicious Approach/Attempted Boarding. Description: At 210050Z NOV 2017 a merchant vessel at 06:18N 003:10E (Lagos Anchorage) observed two small boats approach to a close proximity. POB of boats attempted to board using hooked ropes. Patrol boat informed on VHF and then disturbed boarding attempt and boats escaped. MV SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area. For queries regarding this Warning Notice call 0033 298 22 88 88.

3. (U) Summary

A. (U) CARIBBEAN SEA: On 12 November, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations, along with other agencies intercepted a self-propelled semi-submersible vessel and seized 3,800 pounds of cocaine.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 December, three robbers boarded a tanker anchored 5 nm south of Lagos.

C. (U) EGYPT: On 10 December, Interior Ministry authorities foiled an attempt by foreign smugglers to smuggle 200 kilograms of heroin into the country.

D. (U) INDIA: On 9 December, four suspected pirates were arrested after a boat chase in Sundarbans waters.

E. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 December, a merchant vessel reported being boarded near the Bonny River.

F. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 December, 4 robbers armed with knives and swords boarded an anchored tanker 15 nm north-northeast of Pulau Bintan.

G. (U) RED SEA: On 7 December, a vessel reported being attacked near Hodeida, Yemen.

H. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 December, authorities recovered the remains of a Vietnamese ship captain kidnapped from a bulk carrier by the Abu Sayyaf militants over a year ago.

I. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 December, three robbers boarded a container ship anchored in Manila anchorage.

J. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December, four robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored offshore supply vessel in Galang Anchorage.

K. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December, robbers boarded an offshore support vessel anchored in Galang Lay Up Anchorage.

L. (U) INDIA: On 5 October, robbers attempted to board an unmanned tanker under tow 10 nm south of Pipavav.

M. (U) BANGLADESH: On 5 December, robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 21:52N - 091:45E, 4.47 nm west of Kutubdia Island.

4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for December 2017. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for December 2017. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at 1-203-574-6387. Email: bluesea24@navy.mil.kr. (MSCHOA)
C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for December 2017. For further information, please e-mail planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 00870 773 121 248; or 441 203 136. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for December 2017. To register, email dgcommcentre-dgs@nic.in; or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for December 2017. For further information, e-mail smb@msecurity.ru; isps@msecurity.ru; or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (MSCHOA)

5. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:

1. (U) UNITED STATES: On 1 December, U.S. Customs and Border Protection stopped an attempt to smuggle 15 people into the U.S. off the coast of San Diego. A crew was on patrol when they spotted a 23-foot cabin boat. After inspecting the vessel, which was spotted about four miles south of Point Loma, agents saw that it was overloaded with people. The driver of the boat will face federal charges related to the smuggling attempt. (www.10news.com)

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:

1. (U) CARIBBEAN SEA: On 12 November, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations, along with other agencies tracked a self-propelled semi-submersible vessel through international waters. The next day, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel intercepted the drug smugglers, arrested the three-member crew and seized 3,800 pounds of cocaine. (www.usatoday.com)
2. (U) JAMAICA: On 16 November, authorities found 26.7 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container in the port of Kingston. The container had recently arrived from Suriname. (www.jamaica-gleaner.com)

3. (U) COLOMBIA: On 16 November, robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker near position 10:19N - 075:31W, Mamonal Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers and notified the duty officer who raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship’s property. A search was carried out and port control notified. All crew safe. (IMB)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) GREECE: On 6 December, the merchant tug ANDREAS was intercepted by Greek Coast Guard, south of Ierapetra, Crete, on suspicion of drug trafficking. The tug was taken to Agia Galini port, southwest Crete, and searched. Ten tons of hashish were found in tug’s cargo hold, hidden beneath drums. All 6 crew of Syrian nationality were arrested. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) SPAIN: On 30 November, police officials announced that they had seized 331 kilograms of heroin. The haul was worth 120 million euros. A 263-kilogram batch of high-purity heroin was discovered at the port of Barcelona, hidden inside a shipment of cement that had been sent from Turkey, according to Spain’s Interior Minister. The rest was found in the residences of four suspects who were detained as part of the police operation and during an attempted transaction that went wrong. The four include two Dominicans, an Ecuadorian and a Spaniard. All have been charged with drug trafficking. (www.dw.com/en)

3. (U) SPAIN: On 28 November, authorities in Algeciras discovered 5,800 kilograms of highly pure cocaine in shipping containers amongst a cargo of bananas coming from Colombia aboard the M/V BANAK. Three people had been arrested in relation to the haul, including the Spanish head of the import company using the container, and more arrests have not been ruled out with at least two more under investigation. (www.gcaptain.com)

4. (U) GREECE: On 25 November, Greek Coast Guard authorities seized 1.6 tons of cannabis and arrested 10 men suspected of being part of a large network smuggling drugs from Albania to Greece and Italy. Their suspicious speedboat was first intercepted by a coast guard patrol in the Ionian Sea and was pursued by more coast guard vessels and a helicopter across to the Aegean. Two officers were injured when they dove off their boat under fire from the smugglers, who were eventually stopped by helicopter snipers in the area between the islands of Makronissos and Tzia. Three men, two Albanian nationals and an Italian, were arrested on the boat and another seven suspects have been brought in for questioning. (www.ekathimerini.com)
F. (U) WEST AFRICA

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 December, duty crewman onboard a tanker anchored near position 06:19N - 003:17E, 5 nm south of Lagos, noticed three robbers on the main deck and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 December, a merchant vessel reported being boarded near position 04:11N - 007:00E, vicinity of Bonny River. Nigerian Navy vessel responded, but pirates had already gone. Ship and crew are safe. (MDAT-GOG)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 December, a merchant ship reported that 8 robbers attempted to board their ship near position 03:31N - 007:07E, approximately 60 nm south of Bonny. The boarding attempt failed and the ship and crew are reportedly safe. (MDAT-GOG)

4. (U) GHANA: On 2 December, a merchant vessel near position 04:54N - 001:42W, Takoradi Anchorage, was boarded by one person with five others waiting in two nearby boats. A fire hose, computer and monitor reported missing. A navy patrol boat was dispatched to the zone. (MDAT-GOG)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 December, pirates boarded a merchant vessel near position 03:24N - 006:50E, 57 nm south-southwest of Bonny. Nigerian Navy responded. (MDAT-GOG)

6. (U) CAPE VERDE: On 30 November, a Netherlands-flagged sailing yacht anchored in Ihla de Santiago, Porto da Praia Bay was boarded by 2 men armed with knives and a metal pipe. They spent two hours on the yacht, thoroughly ransacking it and assaulting the crew, injuring several with the metal pipe. (www.noonsite.com)
7. (U) CÔTE D’IVOIRE: On 22 November, a merchant vessel near position 05:13N - 004:03E, in the Abidjan Anchorage, observed individuals in a boat attempted to board their vessel. Port control was informed. (MDAT-GOG)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 November, a merchant vessel reported that one speed boat with three persons onboard, approached to within cable after following for about 30 minutes, near position 03:17N - 006:52E, 66 nm south-southwest of Bonny. Vessel took anti-piracy preventive measures and the attempted boarding was aborted. Vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GOG)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 November, crew aboard a merchant vessel near position 06:18N - 003:10E, Lagos Anchorage, observed two small boats approach to a close proximity. Persons on the boat attempted to board the ship using hooked ropes. Nigerian patrol boat informed on VHF and responded causing the pirates to flee the area. (MDAT-GOG)

10. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 November, a merchant vessel reported being followed for two hours by a skiff near position 03:04N - 065:09E, 89 nm from Port Harcourt. The skiff had three persons on board and approached to within a CPA 0.5 cables before departing the area. Crew and vessel are safe. (MDAT-GOG)

11. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 November, a merchant vessel was attacked near position 04:07N - 006:57E, 20 nm southwest of Bonny. All crew mustered in the citadel. A Nigerian Navy team boarded the vessel, but pirates had already left the vessel. (MDAT-GOG)

12. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 November, a merchant tanker reported an attempted boarding by seven individuals in a white speedboat using ladders near position 03:30N - 006:46E, 60 nm south of Bonny. Due to the vessel’s high freeboard, pirates aborted the boarding after five minutes. (MDAT-GOG)

13. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 November, pirates attacked a bulk carrier underway near position 04:07N - 006:57E, 19 nm southwest of Bonny. The attack occurred about 15 minutes after its Nigerian Navy security escort boat departed the area. Upon hearing the "mayday" transmission, the security vessel returned to the bulk carrier and fired upon the pirate boat resulting in the pirates fleeing the area. The Nigerian Navy security vessel then escorted the bulk carrier to Bonny Anchorage. (IMB)

14. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 November, seven pirates in a speed boat chased a tanker underway near position 03:30N - 006:45E, 56 nm south-southwest of Bonny Island. As the boat closed to 300 meters, the crew noticed a long ladder. The crew raised the alarm, commenced evasive maneuvers, and mustered the crew in safe place while the pirates chased the vessel. Due to the anti-piracy measures employed by the crew, the suspected pirates aborted the chase and departed the area. Nigerian Navy HQ notified. (IMB)

15. (U) CAPE VERDE: On 13 November, three robbers armed with knives, boarded a sailing yacht anchored at Porto da Praia, Ilha de Santiago and threatened to cut the throats of the crew and owner of the yacht if they did not get all the money. They also stole telephones, cameras, drone, computers, tabs, hard-disks, shoes, alcohol, measuring instruments. The owner was tied to the mast inside the boat, and the crew was taken hostage. They stole the dinghy with outboard to escape to land. They were unfamiliar with the outboard, and had to row. The owner managed to untie all the knots and alarmed the Port Police over VHF. The Police waited for the robbers on the beach, one robber was arrested as he swam ashore, the rest escaped. They left almost all the stolen items, as they jumped into the water to avoid the Police, but some items are still missing or lost. (www.noonsite.com)

16. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 November, a press release stated that pirates have released six crew members of the container ship DEMETER kidnapped in late October this year off the Nigerian coast. A spokesman for the shipping company, said that the men "are in good condition and have returned to their families," but did not elaborate on when the men were released. (All Africa Global Media)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) IRAQ: On 30 November, a shipping container loaded with 80 million narcotic pills was seized by Basra Operations Command at the southern port of Umm Qasr. The drug haul is being described by officials as the
largest amount apprehended in Iraq’s war against drugs. “Based on accurate intelligence, filed in a follow-up to
intensive efforts by the Basra Operations Command, a container was found in the southern port of Umm Qasr
containing narcotic pills,” a statement from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense said on its official website. The statement
did not mention the type of pills found but did say there were an estimated “80 million pills in small school bags”,
while local media has speculated that the pills were Captagon. (www.arabiansupplychain.co)

2. (U) IRAN: On 21 November, authorities intercepted a boat near Kish Island conducting illegal fishing activity.
(IRNA)  

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA:

1. (U) EGYPT: On 10 December, Interior Ministry authorities foiled an attempt by foreign smugglers
to smuggle 200 kilograms of heroin into the country via Safaga Port in the Red Sea. (www.egypttoday.com)

2. (U) RED SEA: On 7 December, a vessel reported being attacked near position 14:32N - 042:47E, vicinity of
Hodeida, Yemen. (UKMTO)

3. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 28 November, Border Guards in Tabuk foiled an attempt to smuggle 745,000
amphetamine tablets through Saudi waters, near the Haql beaches. A Border Guards spokesman said marine
patrols in Tabuk intercepted a target of interest in Saudi waters. He said the boat tried to return to Egyptian waters
when the Saudi patrols approached it. The patrols, however, managed to stop it and an inspection yielded the
banned drugs. Two Egyptians on board were arrested and 745,000 Captagon tablets were found. (www.arabnews.com)

4. (U) Gulf of Aden: On 21 November, a merchant ship reported being attacked skiff near position 14:08N-048:57E, near the port of Al Mukalla, Yemen. (UKMTO)

5. (U) GULF OF ADEN On 19 November, a merchant ship reported sighting a suspicious skiff near position 14:04N-051:47E, near IRTC Point B. The skiff was reportedly carrying a ladder. (UKMTO)

6. (U) INDIAN OCEAN On 18 November, pirates approached fishing vessel GALERNA III near position 01:56S-049:23E, 380 nm east of the Somali coast. The Italian Navy ship ITS VIRGINIO FASAN investigated the incident and intercepted two small boats and arrested six Somalis on suspicion of piracy. (EUNAVFOR; www.gcaptain.com; www.fis.com; UKMTO)

7. (U) INDIAN OCEAN On 17 November, pirates attacked MV EVER DYNAMIC near position 01:55S-047:56E, 363 nm east of the Somali coast. The Italian Navy ship ITS VIRGINIO FASAN investigated the incident. (EUNAVFOR; www.gcaptain.com; UKMTO)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime
1. (U) INDIA: On 9 December, four suspected pirates were arrested after a boat chase in Sundarbans waters. Police recovered seven firearms and 14 rounds of ammunition from them. Interrogation revealed the men were from Satkhira in Bangladesh. (The Telegraph Online)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 December, 4 robbers armed with knives and swords boarded an anchored tanker near position 01:27N - 104:39E, 15 nm north-northeast of Pulau Bintan. The robbers tied up the second engineer in the engine room workshop, stole engine spare parts and escaped. Ship searched. (IMB)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 December, duty watchmen onboard a container ship anchored near position 14:35N - 120:51E, Manila anchorage, noticed three robbers near the forecastle and immediately notified the officer on watch. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with ship’s properties. Coast Guard notified. (IMB)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December, four robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored offshore supply vessel near position 00:43N - 104:10E, Galang Anchorage. Duty watchman spotted the robbers and informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Seeing the crew’s alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December, a crewman onboard an offshore support vessel anchored near position 00:44N - 104:08E, Galang Lay Up Anchorage, noticed several robbers armed with crow bars and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship’s stores. Local authorities contacted. A security team boarded the vessel for investigations. (IMB)
6. (U) INDIA: On 5 October, robbers attempted to board an unmanned tanker under tow near position 20:43N - 071:29E, 10 nm south of Pipavav. Alarm raised, crew mustered and evasive maneuvers initiated. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped, stealing the buoys attached to the tow wire. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)

7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 5 December, robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 21:52N - 091:45E, 4.47 nm west of Kutubdia Island. The robbers were able steal barge properties and escape. No injury to crews. Incident reported to the authorities. (IMB)

8. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 December, authorities recovered the remains of a Vietnamese ship captain kidnapped from a bulk carrier by the Abu Sayyaf militants over a year ago. The captain, identified as Pham Minh Tuan, was among six people kidnapped from the M/V ROYAL 16 as it sailed in Philippine waters off Basilan Island on 11 November 2016. Another crew member was shot during the incident. Authorities said they discovered Tuan’s body in Jolo, the capital city of Sulu. Officials, however, believe that Tuan had been killed by his captors during a standoff with the Philippine military in the city of Talipao in September. (www.gcaptain.com)

9. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 December, during routine security rounds, crewman onboard an anchored container ship near position 14:33N - 120:55E, Manila Quarantine Anchorage, noticed the securing cables for the forward lifesaving equipment cut and the life rafts and immersion suits missing. On inspecting the area, it was noticed that the robbers had boarded the vessel via the anchor chain and hawse pipe. VTS Manila and the Coast Guard carried out a security search around the vessel. (IMB)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 October, an alert crewman onboard a general cargo ship underway near position 01:03N - 103:41E, 1.8 nm northwest of Pulau Cula, noticed four persons onboard a small wooden craft closing in on the stern of the ship. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the boat moved away. Master reported the attempted boarding to Singapore VTIS via VHF. (IMB)

11. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 November, a duty crewman conducting routine rounds onboard a product tanker anchored near position 01:25N - 104:41E, 13 nm north-northeast of Tanjung. Berakit, Pulau Bintan, noticed two damaged padlocks and raised the alarm. The crew mustered and searched the vessel, but found nothing missing. The authorities were informed. (IMB)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 November, pirates hijacked the tug EVER PROSPER, tied up the crew and stole the barge EVER OMEGA, carrying 3,700 tons of palm oil. The barge was later found by authorities, but the cargo was gone. (New Straits Times)

13. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 November, an unlit boat approached a bulk carrier underway near position 01:02N - 103:39E, 6 nm south of Pulau Nipah, and came alongside the starboard quarter. Crew on deck watch noticed the boat and informed the duty officer. Deck lights and search lights switched on and directed towards the boat. Duty officer noticed eight robbers in the boat. A ladder was seen hooked onto the ships rail. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers unhooked the ladder and moved away. VTIS informed. Once the vessel arrived at the anchorage, the Singapore Coast Guard boarded the vessel for investigation. (IMB)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 November, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored product tanker near position 01:25N - 104:35E, 12 nm north of Tanjung. Berakit, Pulau Bintan. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with ship’s properties. A search was carried out. Incident report to MPA Singapore. (IMB)

15. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 17 November, the Philippine military rescued 5 kidnapped Filipino fishing crew members on the remote southern province of Tawi-Tawi, officials said. The fishermen, all from Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur province were recovered on Languyan Island. The men were crew members of the fishing boat DANVIL 8, kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf on October 14 off Pangutanar Island in the Sulu Sea. (www.mindanaoexaminer.com)

16. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 November, crewman on routine rounds onboard an LPG Tanker anchored near position 01:28N - 104:38E, 14 nm north-northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan, noticed three unauthorized persons on the poop deck. Alarm raised and crew mustered. A search was carried out throughout the tanker. The
padlock of a mooring hatch cover was found broken. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

17. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 10 November, three Vietnamese sailors held for eight months by Islamist gunmen were rescued by soldiers in the southern Philippines in the latest operation against the kidnap-for-ransom militants. The sailors were found in the southernmost island group of Tawi-Tawi along with the body of another Vietnamese seaman who had died in captivity from an illness. "He was already dead when the troops found them," said a spokesman, adding that he could not reveal further details because the military operation against the kidnappers was ongoing. The Vietnamese sailors were among the crew of the general cargo vessel GIANG HAI captured in February this year in the seas off the southern Philippines and held by the Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic extremist group blamed for kidnappings, piracy and bombings in the area. (The Straits Times)

18. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 November, robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier underway near position 02:53N - 105:17E, 21 nm southwest of Pulau Mangkai, Kepulauan Anambas. They threatened the crew with the knives, stole ship’s properties, cash and crew personal belonging, damaged communication equipment and escaped in a boat. (IMB)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA: No current incidents to report.

K. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN - SOUTHERN OCEAN: No current incidents to report.

6. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency’s Maritime Safety site: http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: http://www.icc-ccs.org/. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm.

7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- (U) Attempted Boarding – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
• (U) Blocking – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.

• (U) Boarding – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

• (U) Fired Upon – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.

• (U) Hijacking – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.

• (U) Kidnapping – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.

• (U) Robbery – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.

• (U) Suspicious Approach – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

(U) ICOD: 13 December 2017

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy