
22 February 2018

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1. (U) Horn of Africa - Piracy Events Over the Past Week

(U) Pirate and maritime crime activity in East Africa waters is at a low level. One suspicious event was reported this past week.

A. (U) Details:

(U) Vessels Hijacked: No incidents to report.

(U) Vessels Boarded: No incidents to report.

(U) Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings: No incidents to report.

(U) Other Activity:

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 February, a merchant vessel near position 13:59N - 051:14E, near Point B in the IRTC, reported a suspicious approach by a skiff. (UKMTO)
B. (U) Incident Disposition:

C. (U) Tabulated Data for Horn of Africa Activity

(U) Table 1.

(U) Summary of Horn of Africa Piracy Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Feb 2018</th>
<th>Jan 2018</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hijacked</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(U) Table 1 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior years. Note: The above statistics do not include regional dhows/fishing vessels that were hijacked. Hijacked dhows are frequently used as motherships by pirates and released without a ransom being paid.

2. (U) Weather Forecast for 22 - 28 February 2018 and Graphic Aids to 10-Day Weather Conditions and Small Boat Operations Capabilities

(U) Horn of Africa Weather Forecast for 22 - 28 February 2018


B. (U) GULF OF OMAN: Variable winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf. EXTENDED FORECAST: Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: East-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf. EXTENDED FORECAST: East-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

D. (U) SOMALI COAST: Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the southern section of the coastline. EXTENDED FORECAST: Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots, and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the southern section of the coastline.

E. (U) CENTRAL AFRICAN COAST/INDIAN OCEAN: Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet. EXTENDED FORECAST: Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet.

F. (U) MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL: North-northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots, with seas of 5 - 7 feet in the southern Channel. EXTENDED FORECAST: Northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots, and seas 5 - 7 feet in the southern Channel.

G. (U) 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’ speed along the Somali Basin are northeasterly averaging between 2 - 3 knots.

H. (U) SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION: High pressure will dominate the weather pattern over much of the region producing mostly clear skies. Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms can be expected during the forecast as an area of low pressure moves through the region. Expect increased localized wind flow through the Strait of Hormuz due to funneling effects and occasional shimal winds across the Arabian Gulf.
(U) Figure 2. Ten-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast (Graphic courtesy of the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, FNMOC)

(U) In the graphic above, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents an increased likelihood of pirate activity.

3. (U) Gulf of Guinea - Piracy Events Over the Past Week

(U) Pirate and maritime crime activity in West Africa waters is at a high level. Three boardings and two attacks were reported this past week; with no further information available on one of the boarding events. Late reporting was received on an attack from a previous week.

A. (U) Details

(U) Vessels Hijacked: No incidents to report.

(U) Kidnapping: No incidents to report.
(U) Vessels Boarded:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 20 February, six robbers boarded an anchored merchant vessel near position 06:17N - 003:14E, southwest of Lagos. They jumped overboard once the vessel sounded alarms. Nothing was stolen. (MDAT-GOG)

2. (U) BENIN: On 17 February, the duty officer onboard a tanker anchored near position 06:17N - 002:30E, Cotonou Anchorage, noticed three armed persons on deck and immediately raised the alarm. SSAS activated and all crew retreated to the citadel. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre received the incident information from the CSO and immediately informed the Benin Authorities. Three patrol boats were dispatched to the location. They searched the waters around the tanker. A Navy team boarded the tanker. On confirmation from the team that the tanker was clear of pirates, the master and crew emerged from the citadel. On investigating, the ship’s office port hole was damaged due to a gunshot and other ship’s property found damaged. (IMKB)

(U) Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding/Attack:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 February, six pirates armed with AK-47 rifles in a black hull speed boat approached and attempted to board a crude oil tanker underway near position 04:02N - 006:34E, 25 nm southeast of Brass. Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, transmitted distress message, increased speed, took evasive maneuvers and crew secured all access doors. The pirates made seven attempts to hook an aluminum ladder on the tanker’s railing but were unsuccessful due to the evasive maneuvers taken by the master. They then fired upon at the tanker and moved away. A Nigerian Navy boat was in contact with the tanker and arrived at the location. The tanker and crew are safe. (IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 February, four pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon a container ship underway near position 03:42N - 007:05E, 40 nm south-southwest of Bonny. The master increased speed and commenced evasive maneuvers. Due to the presence of a Nigerian naval escort boat the pirates aborted and moved away. Crew and ship reported safe. (IMB)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 January, armed pirates chased and attacked a product tanker underway near position 03:30N - 006:20E, 48 nm south of Brass. The presence of armed naval personnel onboard the tanker resulted in the pirates aborting the attack. The tanker and crew members are safe. (IMB)

(U) Other Activity: No incidents to report.
B. (U) Incident Disposition

![Map showing Gulf of Guinea piracy events.]

(UNCLASSIFIED) Figure 3. Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime Activity, 15 - 21 February 2018

C. (U) Tabulated Data for Gulf of Guinea Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Feb 2018</th>
<th>Jan 2018</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hijacked</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boarding</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(UNCLASSIFIED) Table 2. (U) Summary of Gulf of Guinea Piracy Events*
Table 2 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior years. *Militant activity is no longer listed in this table.

4. (U) Gulf of Guinea Weather Forecast for 22 - 28 February 2018

A. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet.

B. (U) SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION: High pressure continues to dominate the weather in the region producing relatively light winds across the Somali Basin. Isolated thunderstorms and rain showers can be routinely expected along the Somali and West Africa coasts with increased southerly wind flow through the Bab el Mandeb Strait due to funneling effects.

5. (U) Southeast Asia - Piracy Events Over the Past Week

(U) Pirate and maritime crime activity in Southeast Asia waters is at a low level. One attack was reported this past week.

A. (U) Details

(U) Vessels Hijacked: No incidents to report.

(U) Kidnapping: No incidents to report.

(U) Vessels Boarded: No incidents to report.

(U) Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding/Attack:

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 16 February, an attack by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants was thwarted after boiling water mixed with oil was poured on the men as they tried to board the vessel. The M/V KUDOS 1 was sailing off the waters of Basilan in the Philippines when it was attacked by men in three motorboats. After their boarding attempt failed, the pirates fired shots at the vessel and caused some damage and minor injuries as a result. The Western Mindanao Command Commander, praised the actions of the crew who foiled the attempt before naval and coast guard forces arrived on the scene. On arrival, Coast Guard personnel treated the injured crewmen and naval ships escorted the vessel to anchorage. (www.gcaptain.com; www.maritime-executive.com)

(U) Other Activity: No incidents to report.
B. (U) Incident Disposition

C. (U) Tabulated Data for Southeast Asia Activity

(U) Table 3.
(U) Summary of Southeast Asia Piracy Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Feb 2018</th>
<th>Jan 2018</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Attacks, Boardings, Attempted Boardings</td>
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<td>Kidnappings</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(U) Table 3 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior years. This table includes incidents not described in this product line.

6. (U) Southeast Asia Weather Forecast for 22 - 28 February 2018

A. (U) Southern South China Sea: Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet.
EXTENDED FORECAST: Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet.

B. (U) Malacca Strait: Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, and seas of 1 - 2 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 2 feet in the southern Strait. EXTENDED FORECAST: Northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 2 feet in the southern Strait.

C. (U) Andaman Sea: Northerly winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern section; with northerly winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the southern section. EXTENDED FORECAST: Easterly winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern section; with easterly winds of 10 - 15 knots, and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the southern section.

D. (U) Southern Sulu Sea - Northern Celebes Sea: Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, and seas of 1 - 2 feet. EXTENDED FORECAST: Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots, and seas of 1 - 2 feet.

E. (U) SURFACE CURRENTS: Currents in the southern South China Sea, Malacca Strait, and Andaman Sea are generally less than 1 knot with a few areas in the southern South China Sea averaging 1 knot.

F. (U) SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION: An area of low pressure moving off of China will produce slightly increased wind flow in the South China Sea. Expect strong gusts in and around scattered thunderstorms, throughout the Malacca Strait and the Andaman Sea due to funneling effects and daytime heating.

(U) Appendix

(U) Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting, and it also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity, are independent of target vessel status, and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities.

(U) Terms of Reference

(U) The following terms have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

(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 by an unknown vessel.

(U) Piracy Levels
- (U) High: 5 or more piracy incidents in this one-week period.
- (U) Moderate: 2–4 piracy incidents in this one-week period.
- (U) Low: 0–1 piracy incidents in this one-week period.

(U) Sourcing

(U) Information contained in this report is derived through 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**: 21 February 2018

(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