



(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 9 July - 8 August 2018



9 August 2018

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1. (U) Scope Note

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to 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) No current items to report.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) ITALY: On 9 August, Italian police announced they had intercepted the Panama-flagged research ship REMUS and took the ship to Sicily for further investigation. A search of the ship revealed 20 tons of hashish hidden in the ship's fuel tanks.

B. (U) BRAZIL: On 5 August, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Macapa Anchorage unnoticed. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 August, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta, stole engine spares and escaped.

- D. (U) GHANA: On 3 August, authorities arrested 17 persons suspected to be part of a cartel dealing in the smuggling of petroleum products.
- E. (U) COLOMBIA: On 2 August, the container ship M/V CAP SAN TAINARO was intercepted by Colombian Navy and fast response team in the Caribbean off Cartagena. Anti-drug team boarded the ship, checked containers and found in one of them 1,144 kilograms of cocaine.
- F. (U) BANGLADESH: On 2 August, six robbers in a small boat boarded an anchored tanker in Kutubdia Anchorage, using a hook attached with a rope. They stole ship's stores and properties and escaped.
- G. (U) PORTUGAL On 1 August, an elite unit of Portugal's maritime police rescued a French citizen who was kidnapped and held captive on his own yacht by a compatriot accused of drug dealing.
- H. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 August, five robbers boarded duty personnel onboard a bulk carrier anchored in Samarinda Anchorage.
- I. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 28 July, one robber attempted to board a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored in Batangas Anchorage.
- J. (U) COSTA RICA: On 28 July, Authorities detained two suspects aboard a homemade submarine transporting 1,200 kilograms of cocaine in the Punta Burica area.
- K. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 July, one robber boarded a berthed product tanker in the Port of Nacala.
- L. (U) IVORY COAST: On 22 July, three robbers in a small boat boarded an anchored product tanker in Abidjan, Anchorage.

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

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for August 2018. 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: China Navy convoy schedule for August 2018. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn or etg546cn@163.com, or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)
- C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for August 2018. To register, email: gcommcentredgs@nic.in; or visit ww.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (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 25 July, China's COSCO Shipping Lines was hit by an apparent cyber-attack that caused a 'network breakdown' within its Americas region, the shipping line confirmed in a social media post. "Due to the local network breakdown within our Americas region, local email and network telephone is not working properly at the moment. For safety precautions, we have shut down connections with other regions for further investigations," COSCO wrote in a customer advisory posting. Despite the breakdown, COSCO ensured that so far its vessel operations have not been impacted. The breakdown is believed to have started at COSCO Pier J terminal at the Port of Long Beach, California, on the U.S. west coast and has spread to its operations in the U.K. (www.gcaptain.com)
- 2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 11 July, authorities intercepted a vessel near Miami, Florida. A search of the vessel revealed 496 pounds of marijuana. (www.cbp.gov)
- 3. (U) MEXICO: On 9 July, navy personnel seized 250 kilograms of cocaine and apprehended two men aboard a small boat traveling off the coast of Guerrero. Routine aerial surveillance spotted the vessel 370 kilometers south of Acapulco. A joint aerial and maritime operation resulted in the arrest of the two men found onboard a "go-fast" boat, popular for smuggling drugs. The boat was carrying 71 plastic canisters, 10 of which contained small packets of cocaine amounting to a total of 250 kilograms. The other 61 containers held 3,000 liters of fuel. (www.mexiconewsdaily.com)

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

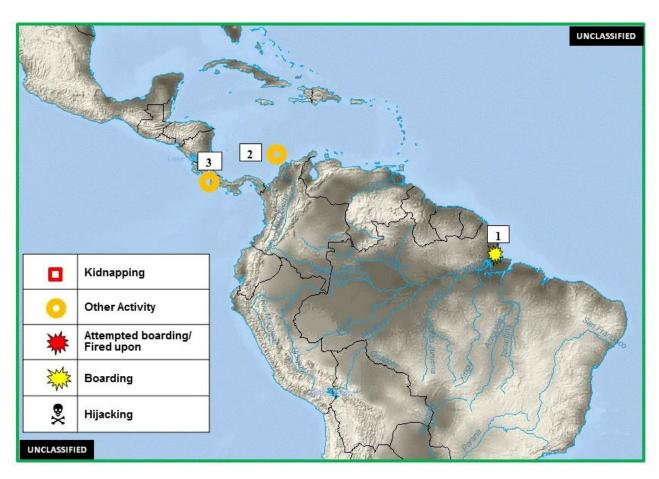


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South
America Piracy and Maritime Crime

- 1. (U) BRAZIL: On 5 August, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:04.0N 050:58.5W, Macapa Anchorage unnoticed. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. Incident reported to local agent. (IMB)
- 2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 2 August, the container ship M/V CAP SAN TAINARO was intercepted by Colombian Navy and fast response team in the Caribbean off Cartagena, when the ship was en route to Caucedo, Dominican Republic. Anti-drug team boarded the ship, checked containers and found in one of them 1,144 kilograms of cocaine, hidden in a container loaded with wine. The 15 persons allegedly related to this shipment were arrested, with several crewmen among them. (www.fleetmon.com)
- 3. (U) COSTA RICA: On 28 July, Authorities detained two suspects aboard a homemade submarine transporting 1,200 kilograms of cocaine in the Punta Burica area, a small coastal peninsula and reef in the Pacific Ocean region of Costa Rica's southern zone. (www.gcostarica.com)
- 4. (U) COLOMBIA: On 25 July, the duty officer onboard tanker MAERSK MATSUYAMA anchored near position 10:19N 075:31W, Mamonal Anchorage, noticed the locks on the forward storeroom had been cut and ship's stores had been stolen, on investigating it was noticed that the robbers had gained access via the anchor chain. Incident reported to the local agent who informed the local police. (IMB; www.pviltd.com)
- 5. (U) COSTA RICA: On 25 July, the Ministry of Public Security announced that a total of 580 kilograms of cocaine were found aboard a go-fast boat in Puntarenas. Six men were arrested. (www.ews.co.cr)
- 6. (U) BRAZIL: On 23 July, police seized 336 kilograms of cocaine aboard a shipping vessel in Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro State. The narcotics were meant to be shipped to Europe, the police said. (www.pviltd.com)
- 7. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 19 July, French Customs officials seized 1.5 tons of cocaine from a sail boat. Two men were arrested in connection with the drug bust after setting fire to the boat and taking refuge in a life raft. However, the Customs Officials managed to extinguish the fire and discovered the cocaine packed in plastic bags. (www.stluciatimes.com)
- 8. (U) CHILE: On 18 July, authorities intercepted two fishing vessels on the same day conducting illegal fishing activities in the Corral region. F/V DON FELIX II was found to be carrying 3.1 tons of illegally caught Pacific pomfret; while F/V DON CARLIN I was found to have 2 tons of the fish. (www.fis.com)
- 9. (U) GUATEMALA: On 16 July, authorities from the National Police apprehended a small submarine, arresting 3 persons and confiscating 823 kilograms of cocaine. (www.101greatgoals.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

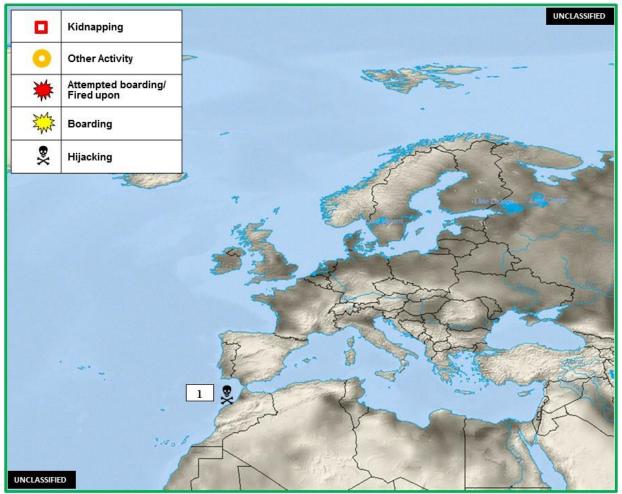


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

- 1. (U) PORTUGAL On 1 August, an elite unit of Portugal's maritime police rescued a French citizen who was kidnapped and held captive on his own yacht by a compatriot accused of drug dealing. The police staged the dramatic rescue, with help from the air force, swooping on the vessel after the victim managed to tip off a friend in France by telephone and the latter raised the alarm, judicial police revealed. The kidnapper, from the French island of Corsica, forced the yacht owner to raise anchor at Leixoes, a port near the northern city of Porto, threatening his family if he did not comply. Police said the kidnapper was looking to take delivery of a stash of drugs in Morocco. The rescue came after authorities located the yacht 300 kilometers off Portugal's southern Algarye coast. (www.expatica.com)
- 2. (U) GREAT BRITAIN: On 20 July, authorities intercepted S/Y MARCIA off the southwest coast of the country. A search of the vessel revealed two tons of cocaine. Two Dutch nationals were arrested. The port of Newlyn Harbour was briefly closed while the yacht was escorted into the area for further investigation. (www.independent.co.uk)
- **D.** (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

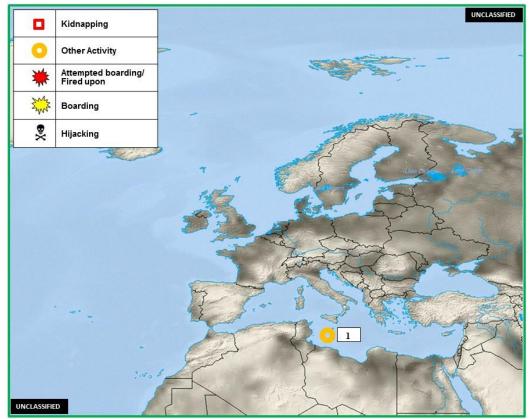


Figure 3. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

- 1. (U) ITALY: On 9 August, Italian police announced they had intercepted the Panama-flagged research ship REMUS and took the ship to Sicily for further investigation. A search of the ship revealed 20 tons of hashish hidden in the ship's fuel tanks. The entire 11-person crew, all from Montenegro, were arrested for international drug trafficking, Italy's finance police said in a statement. The research and survey vessel Remus left the Canary Islands bound for Egypt and Turkey, but police surveillance showed it had turned off its position transmitter near the coast of North Africa, raising investigators' suspicions. (www.uk.reuters.com)
- 2. (U) LIBYA: On 1 August, a private news website stated that the Libyan Coast Guard had rescued 292 migrants, including 42 women and 10 children, from three inflatable boats off the coast near the northwestern city of Zawiya. It also quoted the spokesman for the Libyan naval forces as saying that 181 migrants, including 24 women and nine children, were also rescued off the coast of Garabulli, about 50 km east of the capital Tripoli. The migrants were handed over to the relevant authorities after receiving humanitarian and medical aid the website said. (Cairo-based news website Al-Wasat, focusing on Libyan affairs.)
- 3. (U) LIBYA: On 30 July, the Italy-flagged anchor handling tug ASSO VENTOTTO was tasked to pick up migrants from an inflatable boat which was floating 1.5 nm off the Sabratah oil platform, located 57 nm from Tripoli. The tug picked up 101 migrants and, as ordered by authorities, sailed to Tripoli escorted by a Libyan patrol boat. Migrants were safely disembarked in Tripoli. (www.fleetmon.com)
- 4. (U) SPAIN: Between 27 and 28 July, Spain's maritime rescue service saved nearly 1,000 migrants attempting the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean to Europe from North Africa. The service says it pulled 206 people from 10 different boats on 28 July, after rescuing 774 migrants traveling in 52 boats the day before. (www.apnews.com)

- 5. (U) SPAIN: On 18 July, a group of possible migrants attacked the Great Britain-flagged general cargo ship CELTIC VENTURE as the ship bunkered in Cueta. The migrants threw a large number of stones at the ship and at personnel fueling the ship. Civil Guard forces intervened. (www.fleetmon.com)
- 6. (U) ITALY: On 12 July, the tug VOS THALASSA rescued 67 migrants off the coast of Libya. During the voyage, according to Italy's Interior Minister, a Sudanese man and a Ghanaian man allegedly tried to hijack the tug so it wouldn't return them to Libya. An Italian Coast Guard vessel brought the migrants back to Trapani, in western Sicily for further investigation. (www.abcnews.go.com; BBC)
- 7. (U) TURKEY: On 9 July, authorities in the port of Mersin confiscated 14.9-tons of acetic anhydride hidden in a truck traveling in a Turkey-flagged ro-ro ship from Italy, according to a statement from Turkey's Customs and Trade Ministry. The chemical is used in the production of heroin. (www.aa.com.tr)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

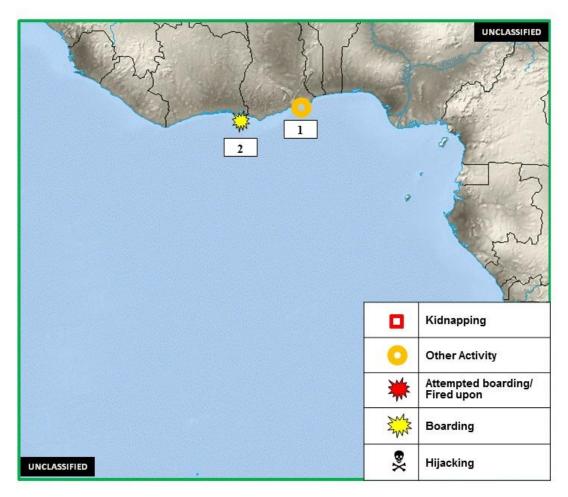


Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime
Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 3 August, authorities arrested 17 persons suspected to be part of a cartel dealing in the smuggling of petroleum products Most were arrested following a tip-off that they were transferring fuel from a ship to drums on the shores of Aflao in the Volta Region. Seven drums filled with diesel, 76 empty drums, 32 filled yellow gallons (25 liters) of diesel and 20 empty containers were seized. A statement said four others were arrested while siphoning fuel from two "canoe tankers" to fuel a tanker truck at the Tema Fishing Harbour. A tanker truck was impounded along with 16,000 liters of fuel, a pumping machine and fuel hose but the tanker boats and its operators escaped. (www.allafrica.com)

- 2. (U) IVORY COAST: On 22 July, three robbers in a small boat boarded an anchored product tanker near position 05:11N 004:04W, Abidjan, Anchorage. Duty watchman saw the robbers near the port quarter and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping with three mooring ropes. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)
- 3. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 22 July, a merchant vessel was approached by a blue and white fishing vessel near position 01:30N 001:15E, 274 nm southeast of Takoradi, Ghana. The fishing vessel launched two skiffs which approached the merchant vessel. The vessel conducted evasive maneuvers preventing skiffs getting within 0.5 nm. (MDAT-GoG, www.pviktd.com)
- 4. (U) GHANA: On 18 July, six Ghanaians were apprehended who were suspected of attempting to stowaway onboard a ship bound for Europe at Takoradi Port. Security personnel also arrested nine persons believed to have collaborated in the stowaway attempt. They were arrested by a combined team of National Security, Port Security, Immigration service, the Bureau of National Investigation and Marine Police personnel. The Marine Police say the persons got access to the vessel by using bamboo sticks as a makeshift ladder to climb aboard the ship. (www.modernghana.com)
- 5. (U) GABON: On 17 July, the government of Gabon announced that one week after the announcement of Operation Albacore II, a joint operation between an environmental NGO and the Gabonese government to tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in central West Africa, the crew of the NGO's ship assisted Gabonese authorities in the arrest of two illegal fishing trawlers. The two vessels, the China-flagged trawlers HAIXIN 23 and HAIXIN 28, were intercepted after five fishing vessels were observed on radar crossing the border between the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Congo under the cover of darkness. Armed Gabonese marines boarded and secured the two trawlers without injury or incident as Fisheries Enforcement officers inspected the vessels. The other three trawlers escaped across the border into Congolese waters. Upon inspection, it was discovered that neither vessel was licensed to fish in Gabonese waters, and one of the trawlers did not even have a license to fish in Congolese waters. (www.maratime-executive.com)
- **G.** (U) **ARABIAN GULF:** No current incidents to report.

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

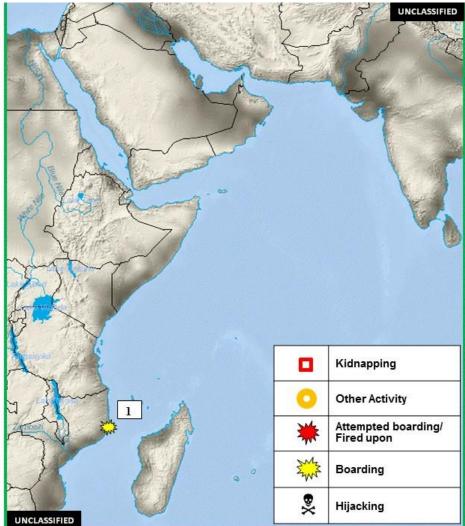


Figure 5. Indian Ocean - East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

- 1. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 July, three robbers in a small boat approached a berthed product tanker near position 14:32S 040:40E, Port of Nacala. The ship was conducting discharging operations. Using a bamboo pole attached with hook and a portable wooden ladder, one robber managed to board the tanker. The duty deck watch crewman saw the robber and immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped with his two accomplices. A search was made throughout the tanker. It was reported that ship's properties were stolen. Incident reported to Port Authorities through the local agents. (IMB)
- 2. (U) RED SEA: On 26 July, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said that yesterday, on 25 July, two Saudi Arabia-flagged oil tankers were attacked by Houthis near position 14:47N 041:44E, 70 nm west of Hodeidah, Yemen. One of the tankers sustained minimal damage. "Saudi Arabia is temporarily halting all oil shipments through Bab al-Mandeb Strait immediately until the situation becomes clearer and the maritime transit through Bab al-Mandeb is safe," the statement said. (UKMTO; www.pviltd.com; Reuters)
- 3. (U) SOMALIA: On 22 July, a merchant vessel near position 01:062N 044:02E, in the vicinity of Baraawe port reported being under attack. The ship subsequently reported that the attack had ended and the ship is safe in the port. (UKMTO, www.pviktd.com)

4. (U) RED SEA: On 11 July, a merchant vessel transiting near position 13:22N - 042:45E, 15 nm south of the Hanish Islands, reported that a group of skiffs approached the vessel. One skiff approached the vessel to within 0.2 nm. The embarked security team showed their weapons and the skiff departed. A ladder was reportedly sighted. (UKMTO)

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

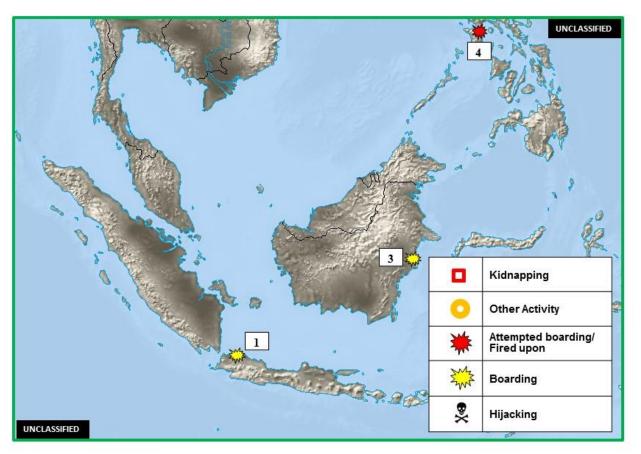


Figure 6. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

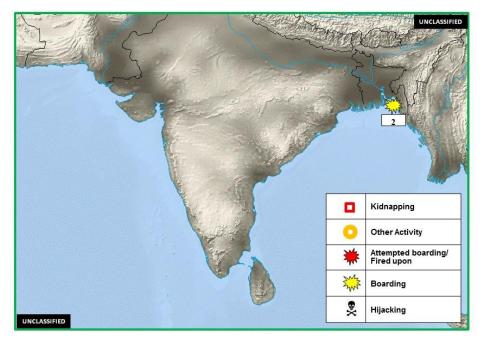


Figure 7. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

- 1. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 August, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 06:02S 106:53E, Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta, stole engine spares and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds and a search throughout the vessel was carried out. (IMB)
- 2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 2 August, six robbers in a small boat boarded an anchored tanker near position 22:01N 091:46E, Kutubdia Anchorage, using a hook attached with a rope. They stole ship's stores and properties and escaped. The incident was reported to the Bangladesh Coast Guard who searched the area. (IMB)
- 3. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 August, duty personnel onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:14S 117:33E, Samarinda Anchorage, saw five robbers on the forecastle deck armed with knives and immediately informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised. Seeing the alerted crew approach the forecastle deck the robbers escaped with stolen ships stores. (IMB)
- 4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 28 July, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 13:44N 121:01E, Batangas Anchorage, saw an unauthorized person attempting to board the ship from a small boat using a hook attached with a rope. Duty crew informed the bridge and SSO. Alarm activated and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the person aborted the boarding attempt and escaped. Incident was reported to the local agent and the Coast Guard. (IMB)
- 5. (U) VIETNAM: On 24 July, authorities discovered 35 kilograms of heroin hidden in a shipping container of imported scrap steel in the port of Cai Mep. (www.talkvietnam.org)
- 6. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 19 July, authorities arrested two persons at the port of Samar, Visayas, while the two were attempting to smuggle firearms and ammunition. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Central Visayas said ten .38-caliber revolvers and four .45-caliber pistols with various types of ammunition were recovered. The suspects, who were in a bus on a roll-on roll-off ferry bound for Ormoc, Leyte, at the Marabut port, failed to present the necessary documents, the PCG said. (www.philstar.com)

- 7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 19 July, robbers boarded a Panama-flagged container ship anchored near position 22:19N 091:43E, Chittagong Outer Anchorage and stole three mooring ropes. The robbers escaped unnoticed although upon uncovering the theft, crew notified the Bangladesh Coast Guard who dispatched a patrol boat to the area and apprehended the assailants, who were still near the vessel. (www.pviltd.com)
- 8. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 July, robbers boarded a tanker berthed near position 05:48N 118:03E, Sandakan Port, Sabah State, stole ship's properties and escaped unseen. The theft was noticed by the duty crew on routine rounds. Incident reported to the local agent who informed the port police. Local police boarded the tanker for investigation. (IMB; www.pviltd.com)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

- 1. (U) HONG KONG: On 8 July, authorities seized about 8,700-kilograms of suspected Thailand rosewood from a container at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected a container arriving in Hong Kong from Cambodia. (www.7thspace.com)
- K. (U) AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC OCEAN AREA: 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 embarkation 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
 - DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
 - EU Naval Forces (EU)
 - International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
 - International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
 - Llovd's
 - 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: 8 August 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