



भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 35-NT(03)/PRY/2019

Date: 01.04.2020

NT Wing Piracy Circular No. 02 of 2020

Subject: Maritime Security Advisory - Best Management Practices (BMP) to deter piracy and enhance maritime security off the coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea - reg.

1. The Directorate has issued maritime security advisories to deter piracy and enhance maritime security off the coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea vide NT Wing Piracy circular 04 of 2019 dated 24.12.2019, NT Wing Piracy circular 03 of 2019 dated 08.05.2019, NT Wing Piracy circular 01 of 2019 dated 13.02.2019 and NT Wing Piracy circular 01 of 2018 dated 21.02.2018 (F. No. 35-NT(03)/PRY/2019 & F. No. 35-NT(04)/PRY/2018).
2. The Best Management Practices (BMP5) issued earlier by the shipping industry was specific to acts of piracy in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea regions. There were no specific BMPs issued that were applicable for acts of piracy in the West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea region. The shipping industry has now issued Best Management Practices (BMP) version 1 published in March 2020 specific to West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea region. (Copies enclosed)
3. All seafarers, ship owners, ship managers, RPSL agents, shipping agents, ship master, and charterers etc. are advised to comply with the BMP version 1 while operating in West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea region and BMP 5 while operating in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea regions so as to deter piracy and enhance maritime security in the said regions.
4. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

[Capt. (Dr.) A. Daniel J Joseph]

Nautical Surveyor - cum - Dy. DG (Tech. & Piracy)

Email: danieljohn-dgs@gov.in

Enclosure (s): As above

BMP West Africa

Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea



Produced and supported by:



International
Chamber of Shipping



InterManager



IMEC



KCC International Maritime Bureau



OCIMF



International
Group of Port & Cargo



WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL
ESTABLISHED IN 1921



INTERPOL

BMP West Africa

Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and
Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West
Africa including the Gulf of Guinea

Version 1 published March 2020

Authors: ICS, BIMCO, IGP&I Clubs, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO and OCIMF

Legal Notice

BMP WA has been developed purely as guidance to be used at the user's own risk. No responsibility is accepted by the Authors, their Members or by any person, firm, corporation or organisation for the accuracy of any information in BMP WA or any omission from BMP WA or for any consequence whatsoever resulting directly or indirectly from applying or relying upon guidance contained in BMP WA even if caused by a failure to exercise reasonable care.

Copyright Notice

The Authors of BMP WA have provided BMP WA free of charge. All information, data and text contained in BMP WA whether in whole or in part may be reproduced or copied without any payment, individual application or written license provided that:

- It is used only for non-commercial purposes; and
- The content is not modified

Exceptions:
The permission granted above permits the photographs to be used within the whole or part of BMP WA. The permission does not extend to using the photographs separately outside of BMP WA as these photographs belong to a third party. Authorisation to use the photographs separately from BMP WA must first be obtained from the copyright holders, details of whom may be obtained from the Authors.

Logos and trademarks are excluded from the general permission above other than when they are used as an integral part of BMP WA.

BMP WA replaces any existing regional guidance issued by the supporting signatories.

Contents

The fundamental requirements of BMP		4
Section 1	Introduction	5
Section 2	The threat	7
Section 3	Threat and risk assessment	9
Section 4	Planning	11
Section 5	Ship Protection Measures	15
Section 6	Reporting	29
Section 7	Ships under attack	31
Annex A	Contact details	39
Annex B	Maritime security charts	42
Annex C	Common understanding	44
Annex D	MDAT-GoG reporting forms	46
Annex E	Other maritime security threats	50
Annex F	Additional guidance for vessels engaged in fishing	52
Annex G	Additional advice for leisure craft, including yachts	54
Annex H	Definitions and abbreviations	55
Annex I	Supporting organisations	58

The fundamental requirements of BMP

Understand the threat

- Maritime threats are dynamic.
- Obtaining current threat information is critical for risk assessment and decision making.

Conduct risk assessments

- Companies must conduct risk assessments.
- Identify ship protection measures.

Implement ship protection measures

- Harden the ship.
- Brief and train the crew.
- Enhanced lookout.
- Follow Flag State, insurance and military guidance.

Report

- Register and report to MDAT-GoG.
- Report incidents and suspicious activity.
- Send distress signal when attacked.

Cooperate

- Cooperate with other shipping and military forces.
- Cooperate with law enforcement to preserve evidence.
- Cooperate with welfare providers.

Section 1

Introduction

The maritime security situation off the West Coast of Africa is complex and dynamic. BMP – West Africa (WA) has been produced to help ships and seafarers avoid becoming the victims of maritime security incidents in these waters.

This publication aims to help ships plan their voyage and to detect, avoid, deter, delay and report attacks. Experience has shown that application of the recommendations in this publication makes a significant difference to the safety of seafarers.

The BMP contained in this publication mitigate the risk from piracy and armed robbery. However, differences in attack methods from other threats may require other forms of mitigation.

The consequences of not adopting effective security measures can be severe. Some pirates have subjected crew to violence and other ill treatment and extended periods of captivity. Other attacks have demonstrated an intent to damage ships, seize the cargo and endanger life.

Other maritime crime in the region, such as the trafficking of firearms, humans and narcotics, migrant smuggling and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, can contribute to insecurity.

The Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) (<https://gog-mdat.org/home>) website should be consulted for advice. See annex A for contact details.

Nothing in this BMP detracts from the Master's overriding authority and responsibility to protect their crew, ship and cargo.

This BMP complements piracy guidance in the latest International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Resolutions and Circulars (www.imo.org).

Geographical area

This Guidance introduces recommended practices and procedures for vessels operating in the Voluntary Reporting Area as depicted on UKHO Chart Q6114 and SHOM Chart 8801CSD.

Attacks on ships and seafarers have taken place throughout the region but most predominantly in the eastern part of the Gulf of Guinea. Threats are dynamic; information should be sought from the organisations listed in annex A.

Voluntary Reporting Area

The MDAT-GoG Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) is identified on maritime security charts such as **UKHO Q6114** & **SHOM Chart 8801CSD**. Ships entering and operating within the VRA are encouraged to register with the MDAT-GoG as registration establishes direct contact between the reporting ship and MDAT-GoG.

Joint War Committee listed area

The insurance community lists an area of perceived enhanced risk in the region. Ships entering the area would need to notify their insurers and additional insurance premiums may apply. The Joint War Committee (JWC) comprises underwriting representatives from both Lloyd's and the International Underwriting Association representing the interests of those who write marine hull war business in the London market. The geographic limits of the JWC listed area can be found on their website: www.lmalloyds.com/lma/jointwar

Section 2

The threat

The complex range of maritime security issues off the coast of West Africa creates direct and indirect threats to the safety of seafarers. For this reason, it is important that all maritime crime is addressed. This Guidance focuses on maritime crime that causes a direct threat to seafarers, armed (and unarmed) robbery, including cargo theft, hijacking of vessels and kidnapping.

The likelihood of attack further offshore is higher during the inter-monsoon season (September-March). Attacks can take place at any time – day or night. However, more seafarers have been kidnapped during the hours of darkness.

Attacks on Vessels

Attacks occur close to shore, in rivers and in ports; however, attacks have been reported over 200Nm from the coast.

Attacks on vessels vary significantly in their form. Attacks for theft may involve just a few individuals. However, an attack on a vessel where the intention is the kidnapping of seafarers and/or offloading cargo from tankers may involve a large number of heavily armed individuals. Different types of vessels are used during attacks, these include fast small craft, fishing vessels and small merchant vessels. Whilst most attacks on ships at anchor off ports occur at night, many of the attacks further out to sea occur during the day or night. Ships at anchor, drifting or conducting ship-to-ship (STS) operations are particularly vulnerable. Attacks against vessels underway may occur when proceeding at slow speed and occasionally involve some form of deception to force the vessel to stop. If a mother ship is used it will carry pirates, stores, fuel and attack skiffs to enable attackers to operate over a much larger area.

Attackers may use small arms fire and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) during attacks; the bridge and accommodation tend to be the main targets for these weapons. Attackers may use long lightweight ladders, knotted climbing ropes or long hooked poles to climb up the side of the ship. Once onboard they will make their way to the bridge to try to take control of the ship. When on the bridge they will demand the ship slows/stops to enable others to board.

The objective of an attack varies. Kidnap for ransom is widespread. These kidnappings have ranged from one seafarer to the entire crew of a ship. Seafarers are held in distressful, unsanitary conditions lacking adequate medical support, which has resulted in sickness and sometimes death.

Cases of armed robbery at sea involve the theft of cargo, valuables and the destruction of navigation and communication equipment; sometimes they are opportunistic but are carefully planned. A hijack will typically last several days whilst the vessel is moved around outside the jurisdiction of the coastal states. During this time the vessel may be moved to a number of rendezvous points to enable STS transfers of cargo.

Experience has shown the crew of a vessel targeted for armed robbery at sea or cargo theft are likely to be treated badly by perpetrators during an attack. Injuries are common and any resistance shown to the attackers may lead to an escalation of violence.

The capability of military and law enforcement forces to respond to incidents of armed robbery at sea, hijacking and kidnapping in the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) is improving, but remains limited. Only a few countries provide or allow Secure Anchorage Areas (SAA), Security Escort Vessels (SEV) and or Vessel Protection Detachments (VPDs) for merchant vessels within their EEZ and/or territorial waters.

Other maritime security concerns are outlined at annex E.

Section 3

Threat and risk assessment

Threat assessment

The threat assessment must include all regional maritime security threats.

As part of every ship risk assessment prior to transit through the VRA the latest regional threat advice can be obtained from the Interregional Coordination Centre, MDAT-GoG, the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC) and commercial providers.

A **threat** is formed of capability, intent and opportunity.



Capability means attackers have the physical means to conduct an attack. Intent is demonstrated by continued attacks or by good intelligence. Opportunity is what is mitigated by the company, ship and crew through application of the measures described in this Guidance. In addition to the information provided in this Guidance, supplementary information about the characteristics of the specific threat or new tactics, and regional background factors may be sought from regional reporting centres and organisations as listed in annex A.

If one side of the triangle is removed, then risk is minimised. The company/Master cannot influence either capability or intent, therefore BMP measures focus on minimising the opportunity.

Risk assessment

Risk assessment is an integral part of voyage planning within a safety management system. The risk assessment should identify measures for prevention, mitigation and recovery, which will mean combining statutory regulations with supplementary measures.

Further guidance on risk assessments can be found at www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org

The risk assessment must consider but may not be limited to:

- The threat assessment and geographical areas of increased risk.
- Requirements of the Flag State, company, charterers and insurers.
- Secure Anchorage Areas (SAA), Security Escort Vessels (SEV) and or Vessel Protection Detachments (VPDs).
- The ship's characteristics, vulnerabilities and inherent capabilities, including citadel and/or safe muster points to withstand the threat (freeboard, speed, general arrangement, etc).
- The ship's and company's procedures (drills, watch rosters, chain of command, decision making processes, etc).
- Background factors shaping the situation, e.g. traffic patterns and local patterns of life, including fishing vessel activity.
- Cooperation with military.

All voyages in this region require thorough advanced planning using all available information. The maritime threats are dynamic, and it is therefore essential that a detailed threat and risk assessment is completed for each voyage and activity within the region.

Section 4

Planning

Company planning

Together with the following, the output of the risk assessment will help develop the ship's voyage plan:

- Regular review of the threat and risk assessments. Plans should be updated as necessary.
- Review of the Ship Security Assessment (SSA), Ship Security Plan (SSP) and Vessel Hardening Plan (VHP).
- Guidance to the Master about the recommended route and any rendezvous requirements.
- Due diligence of companies providing security services.
- Guidance on using a SAA, SEV and any transfer to terminal security.
- Company mandated Ship Protection Measures (SPM).
- Companies should consider using hidden position transmitting devices as hijackers will often attempt to disable all visible communication and tracking devices and aerials straight away.
- Review of company manning requirements. Consider disembarking of non- essential crew and families prior to sailing to areas of high security risk.
- Crew training plans.

Information security

To avoid critical voyage information falling into the wrong hands, the following is advised:

- Communications with external parties should be kept to a minimum, with close attention paid to organising rendezvous points and waiting positions.
- Minimise the use of VHF and use email or a secure satellite telephone instead. Where possible, only answer known or legitimate callers on the VHF and keep voyage critical information to a minimum.
- Email correspondence to agents, charterers and chandlers should be controlled and information within the email kept concise, containing the minimum that is contractually required.
- Reminding crew of the dangers of posting voyage related information on social media.

STS Operations

- Review the threat assessment and security measures for the location of STS operations.

Offshore Terminals

- Review the threat assessment and security measures for the location of Offshore Terminals.

Security is a key part of any voyage plan.

Prior to entering the Voluntary Reporting Area

- Obtain the latest threat information.
- Check the latest NAVAREA warnings, alerts and the Inmarsat SafetyNet broadcasts.
- Implement VRA vessel registration and reporting requirements as highlighted in section 6 and annex D.
- If security services are used, confirm arrangements with the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC).
- If used, rendezvous position and communication plan for Security Escort Vessels.
- Contingency plans if security services do not arrive or cannot meet operational requirements.
- Confirm propulsion can operate at full speed.
- Implement security measures in accordance with the Ship Security Plan (SSP).

Brief crew and conduct drills

Crews should be made aware of the threat, risk and consequences along with available resources to cope. Good practice guides can be found at <https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/resources>

The crew should be fully briefed on the preparations and drills should be conducted with the Ship Protection Measures (SPM) in place. The plan should be reviewed, and all crew briefed on their duties, including familiarity with the alarm that signals an attack, an all-clear situation and the appropriate response to each. The drills should test:

- The SPM, including testing the security of all access points.
- Lock down conditions, including crew safety considerations.
- The bridge team's security knowledge and crew awareness.
- The crew's understanding of required action in the event of an attack.

On entering the VRA

- Submit ship reports as highlighted in section 6 and annex D.
- Update and monitor latest threat information.
- Ensure all access points are limited and controlled.
- Minimise the use of VHF and use email or a secure satellite telephone instead. Where possible, only answer known or legitimate callers on the VHF and keep ship, crew, cargo and voyage-critical information to a minimum.

Other considerations

- Prepare and test an emergency communication plan. Masters are advised to prepare an emergency communication plan, to include all essential emergency contact numbers (see annex A) and prepared messages, which should be at hand or permanently displayed near all external communications stations including safe muster point and/or the citadel. Communication devices and the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) should be tested.
- Define the ship's Automatic Identification System (AIS) policy. It is recommended that AIS should remain switched on throughout passages in the VRA to ensure reporting centres and militaries can track the ship but restrict the data to ship's identity, position, course, speed, navigational status and safety related information.
- Reschedule planned maintenance on voyage critical equipment for transit through areas identified in the risk assessment and have all equipment ready in the event of attack.

Location and Time at Anchor

- Keep time at anchor to a minimum.
- Anchor watch to be maintained.
- Avoid setting patterns.
- Consider use of "secure anchorage areas" operated by some countries in the region. More information is contained in local Notice to Mariners or Admiralty Charts.
- Vessels are most vulnerable when stopped in the water, drifting, at anchor or carrying out STS transfer, Single Buoy Mooring (SBM) operations or slowing down for pilot transfer.

Coordinated Arrival

Many vessels wait offshore and transit at high speed to arrive at any rendezvous point 'Just in Time' including STS and/or Offshore Terminals. Some vessels tender a virtual Notice of Readiness (NOR) whilst staying safely offshore, and both are accepted practice for many vessels operating in the GoG.

Planning considerations for vessels permanently operating inside the VRA

Marine operations in the GoG region are diverse, covering many areas of activity including:

- Offshore supply.
- Diving & RoV Support.
- MODU/MOU.
- Pipe laying.
- Fishing vessels.
- Passenger vessels and ferries.
- Recreation craft.

In general, maritime security considerations for vessels permanently operating in the region are not dissimilar to those for vessels visiting the region, its ports and harbours.

There is no set pattern to the location of attacks against vessels based and operating in the region, but it should be assumed criminals are aware of the regular transit routes to offshore installations, STS and ship waiting areas, fishing grounds and scheduled ferry routes.

Section 5

Ship Protection Measures

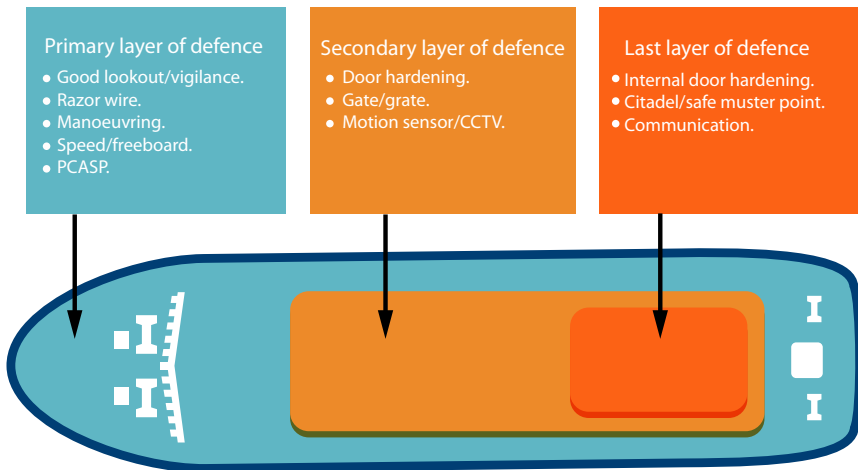
This section highlights proven SPM that provide layered protection. The BMP is based on regional experience of attacks and will continue to evolve as methods change.

When considering SPM it is important to recognise that ships may be subject to attack whilst underway or stationary. Ships are especially vulnerable when at anchor or when carrying out STS or SBM operations.

A Vessel Hardening Plan (VHP) can ensure vessels are prepared for operations in areas of increased threat and ought to be considered as part of voyage preparation. The requirement for a VHP should be defined within the company management procedures for security. The Company Security Officer (CSO) should be responsible for the plan, with the Master and Ship Security Officer (SSO) reviewing the contents before transit or operation within known security risk areas.

The implementation of SPM will be identified during the voyage planning process and clearly marked on the VHP. Companies may wish to consider making further alterations to the ship beyond the scope of this BMP, and/or providing additional equipment and/or personnel as a means of further reducing the risk of attack.

Watch keeping and enhanced vigilance



The Master should implement the following actions to assist in raising vigilance on board:

- Provide additional, fully briefed lookouts.
- Maintain an all-round lookout from an elevated position. During STS operations there is a tendency for members of the crew to be looking “in” not “out”.
- Enhanced vigilance may be required for exposed fender and mooring stations where SPM have been removed.
- Consider shorter rotation of the watch period to maximise alertness of the lookouts.
- Maintain sufficient binoculars for the enhanced bridge team, preferably anti-glare.
- Consider the use of thermal imagery optics and night vision aids as they provide a reliable all-weather, day and night surveillance capability.
- Maintain a careful radar watch and monitor all navigational safety warnings and communications, particularly VHF and GMDSS alerts.
- Consider placing well-constructed dummies at strategic locations around the ship to give the impression of greater numbers of crew on watch.
- Consider using CCTV and fixed search lights for better monitoring. Fixed search lights can deter approaches from the stern.
- Consider mounting anti-piracy mirrors on the bridge wings to make looking aft easier.
- The accommodation and pilot ladders, if rigged, should be kept at main deck level and lowered when required only.
- When in port:
 - Access to the vessel must be controlled.
 - Regular security rounds should be conducted.
- Ensure the crew, especially those assigned to Security Duties are well rested.



A proper lookout is the most effective method of ship protection. It can help identify a suspicious approach or attack early on, which allows defences to be deployed.

Manoeuvring

The Master and Officers should practice manoeuvring the ship to ensure familiarity with the ship's handling characteristics. The Master should also practice avoidance manoeuvres while maintaining the best possible speed. Experience has shown that such action can defeat even a lengthy and determined attack as the effect of hydrostatic pressure between vessels can have a better defensive impact than speed.

Alarms

The ship's alarms inform the crew that an attack is underway and warn the attacker that the ship is aware and is reacting. In addition, continuous sounding of the ship's whistle may distract the attackers.

It is important that:

- The alarms are distinctive to avoid confusion.
- Crew members are familiar with each alarm, especially those warning of an attack and indicating 'all clear'.
- All alarms are backed up by an announcement over the accommodation and deck PA system, where fitted.
- Drills are carried out to ensure that the alarm is heard throughout the ship. The drill will confirm the time necessary for all crew to move to a position of safety.

Physical barriers

Physical barriers are intended to make it as difficult as possible for attackers to gain access to ships by increasing the difficulty of the climb. When planning the placement of barriers, special consideration should be given to ships with sunken poop decks.

Razor wire

Razor wire creates an effective barrier only if properly rigged and secured. The quality of razor wire varies considerably and lower quality razor wire is less effective. The following is recommended:

- Use a high tensile concertina razor wire with coil diameters of 730mm or 980mm. This is difficult to cut with hand tools.
- Use a double roll. If this is not possible, place a single high-quality roll outboard of the ship's structure.
- Secure razor wire to the ship properly, to prevent attackers pulling the wire off. For example, attach at least every third wire ring to ship's railings and rig a steel cable through its core.
- Use personal protective equipment and wire hooks to move and install razor wire.



- Obtain razor wire in short sections, e.g. 10m, so that it is easier and safer to move.
- Keep razor wire clear of mooring fairleads when at terminals so that it does not interfere with mooring operations or chafe mooring ropes.

Other physical barriers

Other barriers have proven effective – from hanging swinging obstacles over the gunwales to specifically designed overhanging protection that prevents boarding by climbing over the ship's rails.



Water spray and foam monitors

- The use of water spray and/or foam monitors is effective in deterring or delaying any attempt to illegally board a ship. The use of water can make it difficult for an unauthorised boat to remain alongside and makes it significantly more difficult to climb aboard.
- It is recommended hoses and foam monitors (delivering water) are fixed in position to cover likely access routes and are remotely operated. Manual activation is not recommended as this may place the operator in an exposed position.
- Improved water coverage may be achieved by using fire hoses in jet mode and using baffle plates fixed a short distance in front of the nozzle.
- Water cannons deliver water in a vertical sweeping arc and protect a greater part of the hull.
- Water spray rails with spray nozzles produce a water curtain covering larger areas.
- Foam can be used, but it must be in addition to a ship's standard firefighting equipment stock. Foam is disorientating and very slippery.
- The use of all available fire and general service pumps may be required to ensure all defences operate efficiently.
- Additional power may be required when using pumps; the supporting systems should be ready for immediate use.
- Practice, observation and drills are required to ensure the equipment provides effective coverage of vulnerable areas.



Enhanced bridge protection

The bridge is usually the focal point of an attack. In some situations, attackers direct their weapon fire at the bridge to intimidate the ship's crew to slow or stop the ship. If pirates board the ship, they usually make for the bridge to enable them to take control.

The following enhancements may be considered:

- Bridge windows are laminated but further protection against flying glass can be provided by the application of blast resistant film.
- Fabricated metal (steel/aluminium) plates for the side and rear bridge windows and the bridge wing door windows, which can be quickly secured in place in the event of an attack, can greatly reduce the risk of injury from fragmentation.
- Chain link fencing can be used to reduce the effects of an RPG.
- Sandbags can provide additional protection on the bridge wings. They should be regularly checked to ensure that they have not degraded.
- The vulnerability of bridge doors should be considered. Any physical barrier should not impede access to life saving appliances.



Control of access to accommodation and machinery spaces

It is important to control access routes to the accommodation and machinery spaces to deter or delay entry. Effort must be directed at denying access to these spaces.

- Escape routes must remain accessible to seafarers in the event of an emergency.
- Where the door or hatch is located on an escape route from a manned compartment, it is essential that it can be opened from the inside. Where the door or hatch is locked, it is essential that a means of opening the door from the inside is available.



- Doors and hatches providing access to the bridge, accommodation and machinery spaces should be properly secured to prevent them being opened from the outside.
- Once doors and hatches are secured, a designated and limited number are used for security patrols and routine access. The use of these doors or hatches should be controlled by the Officer of the Watch.
- Block external stairs or remove ladders on the accommodation block to prevent use and to restrict external access to the bridge.
- Doors and hatches that must be closed for watertight integrity should be fully dogged down in addition to any locks. Where possible, additional securing mechanisms, such as wire straps, may be used.
- Removable barriers should be used around pilot boarding points so that a ship does not need to de-rig large areas prior to arrival at ports.
- Pirates have been known to gain access through portholes and windows. The fitting of steel bars to portholes and windows will prevent this.
- Procedures for controlling access to accommodation, machinery spaces and storerooms should be briefed to the crew.
- The attackers must be denied access to ship propulsion.



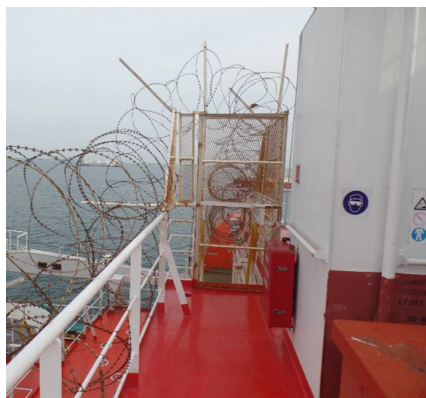
Safe muster points and/or citadels

The company risk assessment and planning process should identify the location of a safe muster point and/or a citadel within a ship. Experience shows these safe areas are effective.

Safe muster points

A safe muster point is:

- A designated area chosen to provide maximum physical protection to the crew and will be identified during the planning process.
- An area where crew not required on the bridge or the engine room control room will muster if the ship is under threat.
- A short-term safe haven, which will provide protection should the attackers commence firing weapons.



Citadels

A citadel is a designated area where, in the event of imminent boarding, all crew may seek protection. A citadel is designed and constructed to resist forced entry. The use of a citadel cannot guarantee a military or law enforcement response.

Well-constructed citadels with reliable communications (ideally satellite phone and VHF) must be supplied with food, water and sanitation. Control of propulsion and steering can offer effective protection during an attack. If citadels are used, they must complement, not replace, all other SPM.



The use of the citadel must be drilled and include a lockdown plan and procedures should define the conditions and supporting logistics for its use.

It is important to note that military forces are likely to apply the following criteria before boarding a ship:

- All the crew must be accounted for and confirmed in the citadel.
- Two-way communication with the citadel.

Citadel Management

The decision to send the crew to the citadel rests with the Master of the vessel. When considering the use of a citadel in the Gulf of Guinea it is important to consider how and when the crew exit the citadel and regain control of the vessel once the perpetrators have left. Experience has shown rescue forces are unlikely to arrive before the perpetrators have left the vessel or may not arrive at all.

Planning Considerations

- If military or law enforcement do not respond to an incident, is a plan in place for exiting the citadel?
- To aid situational awareness on the vessel:
 - A CCTV feed in the citadel can provide awareness of activity on the vessel.
 - Transmit the vessel's CCTV feed to Company HQ who can monitor and advise when safe to leave the citadel.
 - Ensure contact details for company, Flag State and MDAT-GoG are available in the citadel.

The Master should decide when to use the citadel.

Other measures

Closed circuit television

Once an attack is underway it may be difficult to assess whether the attackers have gained access to the ship. The use of closed circuit television (CCTV) coverage allows a degree of monitoring of the progress of the attack from a less exposed position. Some companies can monitor and record the CCTV from ashore, which will be of value when provided to the military. The following should be considered:

- CCTV cameras for coverage of vulnerable areas, particularly the poop deck and bridge.
- CCTV monitors located on the bridge and at the safe muster point/citadel.
- CCTV footage may provide useful evidence after an attack and should be retained.

Lighting

- Lighting is important. The ability to turn off all internal accommodation lights to deter pirates from entering or disorientate those who may already have entered. The following is recommended:

Underway

- At night, only navigation lights should be exhibited and remain on at all times.
- If fitted, search lights should be ready for immediate use.
- Once attackers have been identified or an attack commences, over side lighting, if fitted, should be switched on. This will dazzle the attackers and help the ship's crew to see them.

At anchor

- At anchor, lights should be left on as well-lit ships are less vulnerable to attack.
- Over side lighting should be kept on at all times during hours of darkness.

Deny the use of ship's tools and equipment

It is important to secure ship's tools or equipment that may be used to gain entry to the ship. Tools and equipment that may be of use to attackers should be stored in a secure location.

Protection of equipment stored on the upper deck

- Consideration should be given to providing ballistic protection to protect gas cylinders or containers of flammable liquids.
- Excess gas cylinders should be stored in a secure location or, if possible, landed prior to transit.

Ship-to-Ship operations

- For vessels involved in STS operations, attackers have boarded via the Yokohama fenders. When rigging or tending fenders, razor wire may well interfere with operational requirements.
- The use of a chain link fence, particularly if topped with razor wire, attached to the ship's side rails and supplemented by stanchions in the vicinity of the Yokohama fenders provides an effective deterrent to potential boarders. Care must be taken at the interface between the chain link fence and razor wire to ensure that the best possible protection is assured.
- The use of gratings, (particularly Glass Reinforced Plastic gratings for ease of fitting) may be secured in way of open panama or roller fairleads which will further deter any potential boarding.
- An additional deterrent in the vicinity of Yokohama fenders, and ship's fairleads could be the use of water spray.
- The hawse pipe should be properly secured to prevent unauthorised access. Use of the anchor wash may also provide a deterrent.
- The main engines should be kept at immediate notice so the Master has the option of getting underway in the event of an incident.
- Crew engaged in security duties should not be given other responsibilities.

Floating (Production) Storage & Offloading (F(P)SO) – Security Measures

F(P)SOs and vessels supporting offshore facilities are vulnerable.

F(P)SO Maritime Safety Zone

Procedures for establishing a vessel safety zone surrounding the F(P)SO that is monitored and continuously controlled for unauthorised vessel entry should be in place. These procedures should include communication checkpoints, means for vessel identification/validation prior approval for entry. UNCLOS article 60.5 should be referenced. Preferably, all vessels approaching within 2NM are monitored and then communicated with/challenged/validated prior to entering in 1NM of the Safety Zone.

There should be means to continuously monitor and detect vessels approaching the F(P)SO's Safety Zone. These may include:

- A proper radar watch.
- 360 degree CCTV coverage of F(P)SO surroundings with thermal imaging target detection/alarming for night time surveillance.
- Dedicated security vessel(s) for continuous patrol and surveillance.



F(P)SO Security Plan

The Security Plan should include:

- Management roles, responsibilities and clearly defined actions taken for threat level and escalation.
- Compliance with measures to enhance maritime security as detailed in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 (as amended) and Parts A/B of the ISPS Code.

F(P)SOs not required to comply with the SOLAS and ISPS Code requirements should still consider them when developing security plans.

F(P)SO Access Control

Procedures for controlling access should be established and should consider:

- Induction/familiarisation briefing.
- Designation and marking of areas restricted to authorised personnel.
- System for monitoring physical control and access barriers.
- Identity verification of F(P)SO personnel, contractors, vessel staff and visitors.
- Personnel safety and security requirement briefings.

F(P)SO Perimeter Detection Systems

Perimeter and access points from the water such as boat landings and stair towers, as well as vulnerable areas such as mooring chain fairleads, tanker hawser and marine hose connections and riser porches should be equipped with threat detection and deterrent equipment such as:

- 360 degree perimeter lighting.
- CCTV coverage with thermal imaging target detection/alarming.
- Electronic motion detection with visual and audible alarm.

- Depending on threat level – dedicated security person(s) posted to monitor and detect threats by sight and or through threat detection equipment.
- Search lighting (spotlights) capable of scanning 365 degrees of F(P)SO's surrounding waters. Spot light control can be locally but preferably controlled remotely.

F(P)SO Barriers

Perimeter

Vulnerable access points should be equipped with physical hard barriers such as:

- Security fencing and hard bars.
- Razor or concertina wire.

Accommodation, Control Room and Machinery Spaces

Hard barriers for access points including port holes/window glass may include:

- Doors without windows being internally secured.
- Personnel access points being limited to single point of entry and secured during night time operations.
- All windows/port holes secured to prevent access if glass can be broken.
- All cargo and machinery hatches locked internally and easy to unlock in an emergency.



F(P)SO Citadel

F(P)SOs should have a centralised, hardened safe haven (citadel). The citadel should be:

- A hardened room that prevents penetration by small firearms and forceful entry.
- Big enough to safely accommodate all personnel on board.
- Free of dangerous fire suppression systems (CO2).
- Equipped with internal and external communications.
- Supplied with water, medical and toilet facilities.
- Able to access security CCTV and F(P)SO Emergency Shut Down and emergency systems controls.

Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC)

PMSCs may offer security services and the provision of Security Escort Vessels (SEVs).

BMP does not recommend or endorse the general use of a PMSC or the use of SEVs. This is a decision taken by individual ship operators after carrying out a thorough risk assessment and in conjunction with permissions from the ship's Flag State, the hull and cargo insurance, P&I club and any littoral states.

Any decision to engage the services of a PMSC should consider:

- Coastal state legislation and law enforcement practices.
- The threat and risk environment.
- The output of the company risk assessment.
- Voyage plan requirements.
- Type of operations, e.g. seismic survey or cable laying.
- Levels of protection provided by navies, coastguards and maritime police.

Security Escort Vessels

BMP does not recommend or endorse the general use of SEVs to accompany merchant ships; this is a decision taken by individual ship operators.

A contract for the provision of SEVs must:

- Not prejudice the ship's insurance cover arrangements.
- Ensure the PMSC has insurance policies that are current and compliant with the requirements of the contract.
- Ensure the PMSC can legally operate the SEV in accordance with coastal state law.
- Ensure the SEV is fit for purpose.

Experience has shown some providers operate substandard SEVs. Therefore, any decision to engage the services of SEVs should consider the guidance above for PMSC as well ensuring the vessel operator:

- Has a robust quality assurance programme;
- A robust maintenance programme and;
- A record of inspection.

**Companies should check the credentials and licences/
permits of the PMSC.**

Operating with Security Escort Vessels

- The escort plan, RV position and communication arrangements should be agreed in advance.
- Planning should consider that SEVs may have operating restrictions.
- Regular communication should be maintained.
- The SEV will be positioned to defend the vessel at all times and be reactive to intercept any approaching suspicious craft.
- Authorisation to use force rests with the military detachment onboard the SEV.
- The Master/Bridge Crew can aid the SEV with early detection and warning.
- SEV should not enter any designated oil terminal exclusion zone.



Section 6

Reporting

All ships using the VRA are strongly encouraged to inform MDAT-GoG of their movement as this is essential to improve military situational awareness and their ability to respond. Once ships have commenced their passage it is important this reporting continues and the guidelines in this section and annex D are adopted to ensure common understanding.

MDAT-GoG

MDAT-GoG acts as the primary point of contact for merchant ships and their CSOs, providing liaison with military forces in the region. MDAT-GoG administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme, under which merchant ships are encouraged to send regular reports. These include:

1. Initial report (upon entering the VRA).
2. Daily reports (update on ship's position, course and speed).
3. Final reports (upon departure from VRA or arrival in port).
4. Reports of suspicious/irregular activity (when necessary).

MDAT-GoG is able to communicate with ships and CSOs directly, in order to disseminate Warnings and Advisories of incidents within the region:

- Warnings: Simple messages describing that an incident has occurred in a Lat/Long and with a time. This is normally accompanied by direct MDAT-GoG to-ship telephone calls to all ships within a nominated radius of the incident to give ships the earliest possible alert.
- Advisories: This is the next tier of alerts to ships, normally of sightings/ reports that are relevant within the region.

MDAT-GoG offers regular information to ships on its website <https://gog-mdat.org/home> and in a weekly report summarising the previous week's activity. MDAT-GoG can offer Masters and CSOs the opportunity to conduct drills and exercises to support their passage planning in the region. Companies interested in this can make contact on a dedicated exercise line; +33 298 221302.

Ships and their operators should submit vessel position reporting forms to MDAT-GoG.

The role of the seafarer in improving maritime safety and security in the region

Although some of the maritime threats and crimes committed do not directly endanger seafarers, there is the opportunity for them to contribute to maritime security.

Experience has shown that maritime security cannot be improved by the actions of law enforcement agencies and militaries alone; seafarers operating in the region can help.

Masters are encouraged to report suspicious activity and provide as much detail as possible. If it is possible to do so without compromising safety, photographs, video and radar plot data of suspicious activity are of enormous value to the responsible authorities. If there is any doubt as to whether the activity is suspicious, ships are encouraged to report.

Reporting suspicious activity to MDAT-GoG

MDAT-GoG and the Inter-regional Coordination Centre (ICC) can advise on the types of activity of interest to the regional maritime community. A guide to help identify suspicious activity is in annex C and the suspicious/irregular activity report is in annex D. Often, seafarers do not report suspicious activity as they may be concerned observations could lead to further investigations by Port States and possible delay to the ship. Suspicious activity/attack reports should be sent to MDAT-GoG at the earliest opportunity, to allow assistance to be sought.

MDAT-GoG will forward information received in an anonymised form to the most appropriate agency empowered to act. While suspicious activity may appear inconsequential, when added to other reports it may be extremely valuable.

Reporting specific vessel sightings and/or activity as requested to MDAT-GoG

MDAT-GoG may seek the assistance of vessels reporting to the centre to try to locate specific ships. These are usually vessels that cannot be found on electronic systems such as AIS. Sometimes the request for information will come directly from MDAT-GoG when, for example, a vessel may have been hijacked and its whereabouts unknown. On other occasions MDAT-GoG may be requested to assist in locating a vessel or seek further information on a vessel by INTERPOL, when an INTERPOL “Purple Notice” has been issued. When MDAT-GoG is seeking further information on a vessel it will contact vessels reporting to it in the VRA for support.

Section 7

Ships under attack

General

A ship may come under attack with little or no warning. Effective lookouts, both visual and radar, will help to ensure early detection.

Mother ships

Mother ships have been used in the GoG acting as a base to launch and resupply pirate skiff operations. Mother ships can vary in vessel type and have included offshore supply vessels, fishing vessels or other smaller merchant vessels. Caution must be taken when detecting merchant ships drifting in the area.

Piracy or armed robbery attacks

Pirates carrying weapons do not usually open fire until they are very close to the ship, e.g. within two cables.

Use whatever time is available, no matter how short, to activate any additional protective measures and plans. This will make it clear to the attackers that they have been seen, the ship is prepared and will resist attempts to board.

**In the event of a suspicious approach, or if in any doubt,
call MDAT-GoG without delay.**

Approach stage

Effective lookouts, using all available means, will aid in the early identification of an approaching threat. The nature and intention of the suspicious vessel will only become apparent as it approaches.

In all cases, the following steps should be taken:

- Sound the emergency alarm and make an attack announcement, in accordance with the ship's emergency communication plan.
- Make a mayday call on VHF Ch. 16. Send a distress message via the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) system and Inmarsat-C, as applicable.
- Activate the SSAS.
- If not already at full speed, increase to maximum to open the distance.
- Steer a straight course to achieve maximum speed quickly.
- Initiate the ship's emergency procedures.
- Activate the emergency communication plan.

Report the attack immediately to MDAT-GoG by telephone +33 298 228888 and email watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org

- Ensure the AIS is switched on.
- Activate water spray.
- Ensure that all external doors and, where possible, internal public rooms and cabins are fully secured.
- All crew not required on the bridge or in the engine room should muster at the safe muster point or citadel as instructed by the Master.
- When sea and navigational conditions allow, consider altering course to increase an approaching skiff's exposure to wind/waves.
- Sound the ship's whistle/foghorn continuously to demonstrate to any potential attacker that the ship is aware of the attack and is reacting to it.
- Check Vessel Data Recorder (VDR) is recording and the data saved.



Attack stage

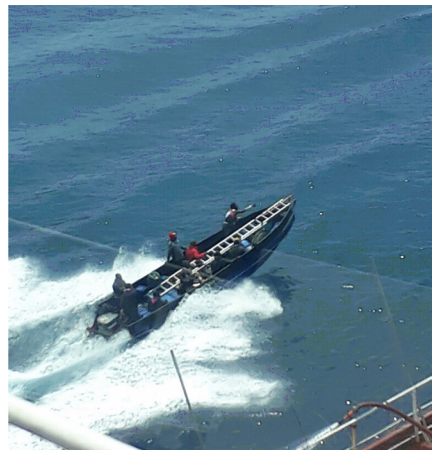
As the attackers get close to the ship, the following steps should be taken:

- Reconfirm all ship's crew are in the safe muster point or citadel as instructed by the Master.
- Report the attack immediately to **MDAT-GoG +33 298 228888** by telephone.
- As the attackers close in on the ship, Masters should commence small alterations of helm whilst maintaining speed to deter skiffs from lying alongside the ship in preparation for a boarding attempt. These manoeuvres will create additional wash to impede the operation of the skiffs.
- Large amounts of helm are not recommended, as these are likely to significantly reduce a ship's speed.
- SEV if present, will conduct themselves as governed by their rules of engagement.

Actions on illegal boarding

If the ship is boarded, the following actions should be taken:

- Take all way off the ship and then stop the engines.
- Muster the crew in the citadel or safe muster point.
- Use all available means to establish communications from the citadel with MDAT-GoG and company to confirm all crew are accounted for and in the citadel or safe muster point.
- Stay in the citadel until conditions force you to leave or as advised by the military or company.
- If any member of the crew is captured it should be considered that the attackers have full control of the ship.



If control of the ship is lost

All movement should be calm, slow and very deliberate. Crew members should keep their hands visible always and comply fully. This will greatly reduce the risk of violence.

Experience has shown that the pirates will be aggressive, highly agitated and possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- DO be patient.**
- DO keep mentally active/occupied.**
- DO keep track of time.**
- DO reduce stress where possible by remaining physically active.**
- DO remain calm and retain dignity.**
- DO be positive (remember, authorities are working tirelessly to release you).**
- DO remember to leave any CCTV or audio recording devices running.**
- DO exactly what the attackers ask and comply with their instruction.**
- DO eat and drink when offered.**
- DO take essential medical supplies if moved ashore.**

- DO NOT take photographs.**
- DO NOT attempt to engage attackers.**
- DO NOT make movements which could be misinterpreted as being aggressive.**
- DO NOT be confrontational.**
- DO NOT resist.**

Kidnap and ransom

One reason for attacking a ship off West Africa is to remove the crew ashore for ransom.

Each company or organisation should have measures in place to cover the eventualities of kidnap. The following principles serve as guidelines to surviving a kidnapping.

If kidnapped

- DO NOT offer resistance.**
- DO NOT argue with pirates or your colleagues.**
- DO NOT take photographs.**
- DO NOT hide valuables.**
- DO NOT react emotionally.**
- DO NOT take drugs or alcohol.**
- DO NOT bargain with pirates for personal privileges.**

In the event of military intervention

On receipt of information involving an attack or attempted attack on a vessel or offshore platform, the MDAT-GoG/Regional reporting Centres/IMB PRC will immediately inform all relevant regional and national Maritime Operation Centres who may respond if the incident is within their area of jurisdiction and authority.

Reporting Centres do not have inherent response capability or the ability or mandate to coordinate any response activity, especially inside a nation's territorial waters. This is the responsibility of the national authority with jurisdiction in the area. On the high seas, activities may be coordinated by national authorities. For this reason, reporting any suspicious/attempted or actual approach/attacks immediately to MDAT-GoG/Regional reporting Centres/IMB PRC, using all available means, is important.

Advance warning of military or law enforcement intervention may be difficult without detection and may add pressure on the crew. If the onset of military or law enforcement action is suspected, the following should be considered:

Brief and prepare the ship's crew to cooperate fully during any military action onboard and instruct the crew as follows:

- DO keep low to the deck and cover head with both hands.**
- DO keep hands visible.**
- DO be prepared to be challenged on your identity.**
- DO cooperate fully with military forces.**

DO NOT make movements that could be interpreted as aggressive.

DO NOT take photographs.

DO NOT get involved in activity with military forces unless specifically instructed to.

Post incident actions and reporting

A difficult period may follow an attack, as companies, Master and crew recover from the ordeal. It is important that seafarers receive timely and proper medical assessments and care, both physical and mental, following an attack or hostage situation. Companies should have emergency management plans in place to manage the effects of an attack from any of the identified threats on one of their ships. These plans should include the management of a long, drawn-out hostage negotiation situation, including support for the families of the kidnapped crew.

To give the investigating authorities the best chance of apprehending the perpetrators, it is important that evidence is preserved in the correct manner. Companies, Masters and crew should refer to IMO *Guidelines on Preservation and Collection of Evidence* A28/Res. 1091 and other industry guidance.

Following any attack or suspicious activity, and after initial reporting of the event, it is vital that a detailed report is completed. A copy of the report should be sent to the company, the Flag State and appropriate authorities. It is important that any report is detailed and comprehensive. This will assist with full analysis and trends in threat activity.

Without supporting evidence, including witness statements from those affected by the incident, suspects are unlikely to be prosecuted.

Protection of evidence

The collection and protection of evidence is critical.

The Master and crew can protect a crime scene until the nominated law enforcement agency arrives by following these basic principles:

- Preserve the crime scene and all evidence if possible.
- Avoid contaminating or interfering with all possible evidence – if in doubt, do not touch and leave items in place.

- Do not clean up the area, including hosing it down. Do not throw anything away, no matter how unimportant it may seem.
- Take initial statements from the crew.
- Take photographs of the crime scene from multiple viewpoints.
- Protect VDR for future evidence.
- Make a list of items taken (e.g. mobile phones with numbers).
- Facilitate access to the crime scene and relevant documentation for law enforcement authorities.
- Make crew available for interview by law enforcement authorities.

Investigation

The quality of the evidence provided and the availability of the crew to testify will significantly help any investigation or prosecution that follows.

Following any attack or incident, the investigating authority will be determined by external factors including:

- Flag State.
- Ownership.
- Crew nationality.

Thorough investigation using all available evidence is critical.

The lead law enforcement agency will talk to the Master and crew to understand the sequence and circumstances of the event.

In a post hostage situation, law enforcement authorities may ask to conduct post-release crew debriefs and to collect evidence for investigations and prosecutions following captivity.

Seafarers should always be treated with respect and as victims of crime.

Advice

INTERPOL has a secure website to provide support to ship operators who have had their ships hijacked. INTERPOL's Maritime Task Force can assist in taking the appropriate steps to preserve the integrity of the evidence left behind at the crime scene. INTERPOL has a Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC) that supports any of the 188 member countries faced with a crisis or requiring urgent operational assistance. The CCC operates in all four of

INTERPOL's official languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) and is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is recommended that ship operators contact INTERPOL as soon as possible and certainly within three days of a hijacking of their ship.

INTERPOL may also be consulted to discuss recommended practices for the preservation of evidence that could be useful to law enforcement agents pursuing an investigation. Contact details are: os-ccc@interpol.int; +33 472 44 7676.

Seafarer welfare

Seafarers and their families often have difficulty in expressing the need for assistance or even recognising that they need assistance following exposure to a security threat. The company should monitor the health, both physical and mental, of those exposed to piracy and other maritime security threats and, if necessary, provide independent support and other assistance, as may be appropriate. There are a range of humanitarian programmes aimed at assisting seafarers and their families affected by piracy or maritime crime, including the International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network and The Mission to Seafarers. See www.seafarerswelfare.org and www.missiontoseafarers.org

After care of seafarers suffering violent attack is important and should not be neglected.

Annex A

Contact details

Emergency contacts

MDAT-GoG

Email	watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org
Telephone (24hrs)	+33 298 228888
Website	https://gog-mdat.org/home

International Maritime Bureau (IMB)

Email	piracy@icc-ccs.org
Telephone	+60 3 2031 0014
Fax	+60 3 2078 5769
Telex	MA34199 IMBPC1
Website	www.icc-ccs.org

Useful contacts

INTERPOL Command and Coordination Centre

Email	os-ccc@interpol.int
Telephone (24hrs)	+33 472 44 76 76
Website	www.interpol.int

Yaoundé Principal Centres

ICC

Email	info@icc-gog.org
Telephone	+237 696281947
	+237 222217529
	<i>(From Monday to Friday, 0830 hours to 1800 (local))</i>

ANGOLA

Luanda Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)

Email kangamiala@hotmail.com

Telephone +244 2 2239 1399

+ 244 2 2233 0430

LIBERIA

Monrovia Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (RMRCC)

INMARSAT C Terminals # 580-460173-111

AOR-E INMARSAT C Terminals # 580-460199-019

AOR-W International Fax # (+231) 2430-0011

International Landline # (+231) 770-092229

International Cellular & SMS # (+231) 573-0144

VHF-DSC Radio

Monrovia covers the territorial waters of Liberia and her four neighbouring countries - Guinea, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Cote d'Ivoire.

MOROCCO

Rabat Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)

Email mrcc.rabat@mpm.gov.mg

Telephone Emergency + 212 5 37 625877

Other + 212 5 37 625897

Rabat covers the territorial waters of Morocco, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Cape Verde

NIGERIA

Lagos Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (RMRCC)/C4I Centre

Email rmrccnigeria@yahoo.com

Telephone (24hrs) [+234 \(1\) 730 6618](tel:+23417306618), [+234 \(1\) 7053794383](tel:+23417053794383)

The RMRCC Lagos covers nine countries (Benin, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, São Tomé & Príncipe and Togo). The RMRCC is collocated with the Nigerian Deep Blue Project C4I Centre.

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)

Email mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za

Telephone [+ 27 21 938 3300](tel:+27219383300) / [+ 27 21 938 3309](tel:+27219383309)

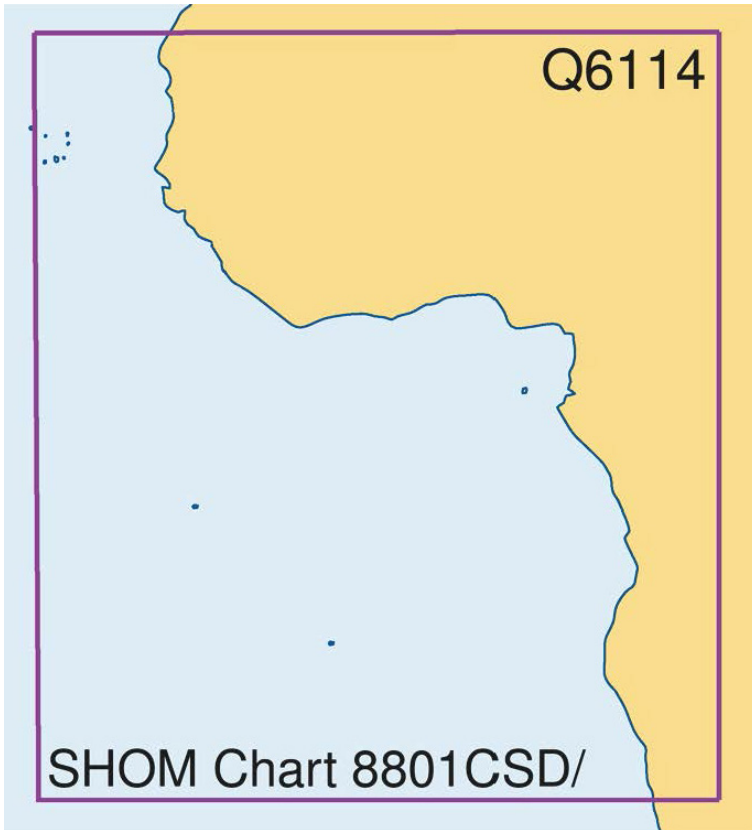
International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)

Email iswan@iswan.org.uk

Telephone [+44\(0\) 300 012 4279](tel:+4403000124279)

Website www.seafarerswelfare.org

Maritime security charts



Maritime security charts contain safety-critical information to assist bridge crews in the planning of safe passages through high risk areas. All information has been gathered by the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) ensuring each chart has the most accurate, up-to-date and verified information available.

The Security Chart for West Africa is the latest version of UKHO Chart Q6114 or SHOM Chart 8801CSD.

Each maritime security chart includes:

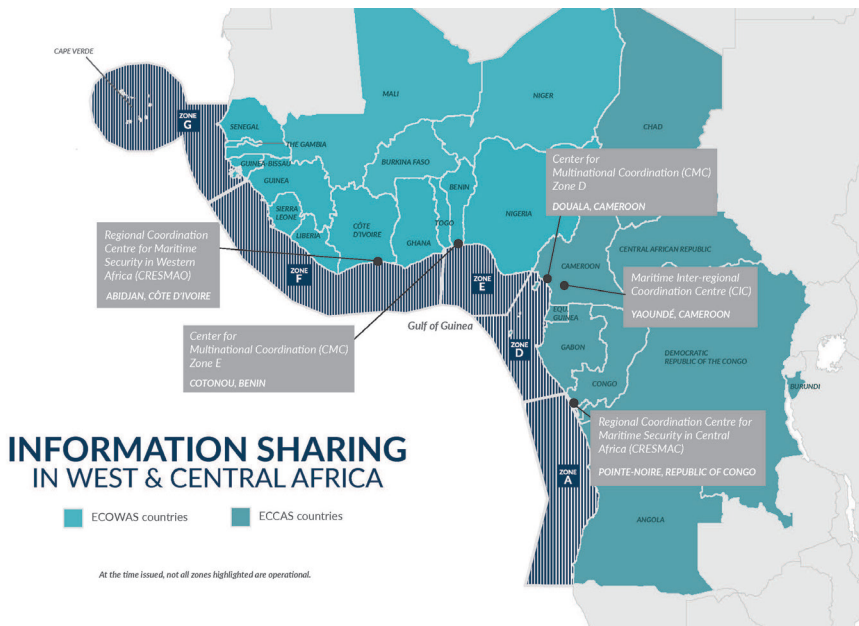
- Information about dangers to the security of navigation. This information, when used alongside official navigational charts, can help to ensure the safety of ships, crew and cargo.
- General security advice, self-protective measures, security procedures and regional contacts, as well as routeing and reporting requirements implemented by military or security forces.

Yaoundé Code of Conduct (CoC)

The Yaoundé CoC is an agreement between nations from West and Central Africa with an intention to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of transnational organised crime in the maritime domain, maritime terrorism, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and other illegal activities.

Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Safety & Security Space

The Economic Community, ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC agreed on a MoU to implement the regional maritime strategy within the Central and African common maritime space. This agreement created a number of Maritime Zones covering the overseen by an Interregional Coordination Centre in Cameroon responsible for cooperation, coordination, pooling, and interoperability of community assets.



Map courtesy of one earth FUTURE

Annex C

Common understanding

It is important to have a common understanding when reporting attacks and suspicious activity.

The following are guidelines to assist in assessing what is an attack or what constitutes suspicious activity:

Attacks

- The use of violence against the ship, its crew or cargo, or any attempt to use violence.
- Unauthorised attempts to board the ship where the Master suspects the persons are pirates or other unauthorised persons.
- If weapons are fired.
- An actual boarding, whether successful in gaining control of the ship or not.
- Attempts to overcome the SPM using:
 - Ladders
 - Grappling hooks or other boarding equipment

Suspicious activity

- The number of crew onboard an approaching skiff relative to its size.
- The Closest Point of Approach.
- The existence of unusual and non-fishing equipment onboard, e.g. ladders, climbing hooks or large amounts of fuel.
- One vessel towing multiple skiffs or has skiffs onboard.
- The type of vessel is unusual for the current location.
- Small boats operating at high speed.
- If a vessel appears unmanned.
- The vessel is not transmitting on AIS.
- Skiffs operating far from the coast.
- Vessels fishing outside of normal fishing zones.
- Windows of vessel covered or blanked out.
- Skiffs rafted up.
- No lights during hours of darkness.
- Skiffs with two or more outboard motors.
- Skiffs stopped in the water, no evidence of fishing.

- Packages hanging outboard of a vessel.
- Excessive communications antennas.

This is not an exhaustive list. Other events, activity and vessels may be deemed suspicious by the Master of a merchant ship having due regard to their own seagoing experiences within the region and information shared amongst the maritime community.

If in doubt, contact MDAT-GoG & REPORT!

Annex D

MDAT-GoG reporting forms

MDAT-GoG vessel position reporting forms

Once a ship has transmitted an initial report on entering the VRA, MDAT-GoG will request daily reports be transmitted. Upon reaching port/anchorage or upon exiting the VRA, MDAT-GoG will request a final report. The following forms are provided below and can be requested by email to watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org

- Initial report.
- Daily report.
- Final report.
- Suspicious/irregular activity report.
- Follow Up Report.

MDAT-GoG vessel position reporting form – initial report

1	Ship Name
2	Flag
3	Call sign and IMO Number
4	INMARSAT Telephone Number
5	MMSI Number
6	Time
7	Position
8	Course
9	Speed
10	Maximum Speed
11	Freeboard
12	Cargo
13	Destination and estimated time of arrival
14	Name and contact details of the CSO
15	Nationality of Master and crew
16	Will Security Services be used?

MDAT-GoG vessel position reporting form – daily/transit position report

1	Ship Name
2	Ship's Call Sign and IMO Number
3	Time of Report in UTC
4	Ship's Position
5	Ship's Course and Speed
6	Any other important information*
7	Date/time leaving VRA if applicable

**Preferred time for transmitting the daily report is 1200UTC.*

**Other important information could be change of destination or ETA etc.*

MDAT-GoG vessel position reporting form – final report

1	Ship's name
2	Ship's Call Sign and IMO Number
3	Time of Report in UTC
4	Port or anchorage position when leaving the voluntary reporting area

MDAT-GoG suspicious/irregular activity report

1	Own ship's name
2	Own ship's Call Sign and IMO Number
3	Time of Report in UTC
4	Own ship's Position
5	Own ship's Course and Speed
6	Sighting of suspicious activity. Time, position, brief description of craft and activity witnessed

Note: Where possible include any imagery to aid military appreciation.

Threats to Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea are complex and often result in harm to seafarers. Masters are encouraged to report any signs of suspicious activity.

Follow-up report to MDAT-GoG and IMB PRC

Following any attack or suspicious activity, it is vital that a detailed report of the event is provided to MDAT-GoG and the IMB. The appropriate and relevant information from an incident will be used to support INTERPOL and regional law enforcement investigations.

General Details

1	Name of Ship:
2	IMO No:
3	Flag:
4	Call Sign:
5	Type of Ship:
6	Tonnages: GRT: NRT: DWT:
7	Owner (Address & Contact Details):
8	Manager (Address & Contact Details):
9	Last Port/Next Port:
10	Cargo Details (Type/Quantity):

Details of Incident

1	Date & Time of Incident: LT UTC
2	Position: Lat: (N/S) Long: (E/W)
3	Nearest Land Mark/Location:
4	Port/Town/Anchorage Area:
5	Country/Nearest Country:
6	Status (Berth/Anchored/Steaming):
7	Own Ship's Speed:
8	Ship's Freeboard During Attack:
9	Weather During Attack (Rain/Fog/Mist/Clear/etc, Wind (Speed and Direction), Sea/Swell Height):
10	Types of Attack (Boarded/Attempted/Other):
11	Consequences for Crew, Ship and Cargo: Any Crew Injured/Killed: Items/Cash Stolen:
12	Area of the Ship Attacked:
13	Last Observed Movements of Suspect Craft:
14	Type of Suspicious vessel (Fishing Vessel, Merchant Vessel):
15	Description of Suspicious vessel (Colour, Name, Distinguishing Features):
16	Course and Speed of Suspicious vessel when sighted:

Details of Attackers (if applicable)

17	Number of Attackers:
18	Dress/Physical Appearance:
19	Language Spoken:
20	Weapons Used:
21	Distinctive Details:
22	Craft Used:
23	Method of Approach:
24	Duration of Attack:
25	Aggressive/Violent:

Further Details

1	Action Taken by Master and Crew and its effectiveness:
2	Was Incident Reported to the Coastal Authority? If so to whom?
3	Preferred Communications with Reporting Ship: Appropriate Coast Radio Station/HF/MF/VHF/INMARSAT IDS (Plus Ocean Region Code)/ MMSI
4	Action Taken by the Authorities:
5	Number of Crew/Nationality:
6	Please Attach with this Report – A Brief Description/Full Report/Master – Crew Statement of the Attack/Photographs taken if any.
7	Details of Ship Protection Measures.

Other maritime security threats

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

IUU fishing is a significant problem in West Africa. Illegal catches have a detrimental effect on economic development and fish stocks. IUU threatens to contaminate the supply chain and potentially prevent the legitimate export of products to the international market.

IUU fishing in the VRA involves extensive use of fraudulently issued licenses, as well as blatant unlicensed fishing and illegal trans-shipping between purse seiners and reefers at sea.

It is important for the mariner to understand how the fishing vessels that have been involved in criminal activity directly affect seafarers on other vessels. Fishing vessels have, on a number of occasions, been used to facilitate attacks on other vessels. It is also recognised that fishing vessels are occasionally used in smuggling activities and have been involved in the receipt of stolen bunker fuel by at sea STS.

For mariners to understand what suspicious fishing vessel activity is, it is important to be familiar with normal fishing activity. More information on normal fishing activity is available on the MDAT-GoG website.

Trafficking in narcotics

Trafficking of narcotics refers to the global illicit trade of illegal drugs. Maritime routes through the waters off Africa's western seaboard are used as a staging post to traffic cocaine and heroin between the sites of production to the main consumer markets. West Africa is regarded as an important waypoint for traffickers because of inconsistent law enforcement and the increasing production of illegal drugs within the region itself.

Narcotics transiting the VRA are often transported without the knowledge of the ship's owner, operator or Master on internationally trading vessels, in sealed containers that are supposed to be carrying legitimate cargo. Container vessels may unknowingly transport cocaine from producers in South America to Western and Southern Africa, from there it is transported to consumers in Europe. Recent seizures of heroin at port and at sea in West Africa are indicative of the growing use of maritime trafficking routes between production sites in Central and South-East Asia and markets in North America. While transshipment of some narcotics has been reduced by successful intervention and legal action, the movement of large quantities of cocaine gives authorities cause for concern with an increase in quantities seized from shipping containers in West Africa.

Illegal drugs are also moved by much smaller vessels for transshipment or cross decking to other craft for onward conveyance.

The responsibility to disrupt drug trafficking operations in West Africa rests with law enforcement in the region. The shipping industry can support interdiction efforts by remaining alert to and reporting suspicious activity to the MDAT-GoG who are able to inform the appropriate authorities.

Human smuggling, trafficking and Stowaways

The smuggling and trafficking of persons are distinct crimes, but closely linked. Human or migrant smuggling involves the illegal movement of willing and thus complicit persons over an international border. Trafficking of persons does not necessarily involve the crossing of an international border and, unlike human smuggling, involves an element of force, coercion or fraud; people being trafficked are the victims, rather than complicit in the crime. Should a person be smuggled into a country they can become a victim of trafficking through subsequent exploitation.

The trafficking or smuggling of illegal migrants along maritime routes often involves the use of unsafe and crowded vessels, which drastically increases the risk of an incident at sea. Guidance from the IMO is that the shipping industry should be ready to provide all possible assistance to persons in distress at sea, so that they can be rescued and receive fair treatment once safely ashore. This principle is enshrined in international law.

Annex F

Additional guidance for vessels engaged in fishing

This guidance for vessels engaged in fishing has been provided by the following national fishing industry associations:

- **OPAGAC** – Organizacion de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores.
- **ANABAC** – Asociacion Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores.

Recommendations to vessels in fishing zones

- Do not start fishing operations when the radar indicates the presence of unidentified boats.
- If polyester skiffs of a type typically used by pirates are sighted, move away from them at full speed, sailing into the wind and sea to make their navigation more difficult.
- Avoid stopping at night. Be alert and maintain bridge, deck and engine- room watch.
- During fishing operations, when the vessel is more vulnerable, be alert and maintain radar watch to give maximum notice to your crew and the state authorities if an attack is in progress.
- While navigating at night, use only the mandatory navigation and safety lights to prevent the glow of lighting attracting pirates, who are sometimes in boats without radar and are waiting.
- If the vessel is drifting while fishing at night, keep guard at the bridge on deck and in the engine room. Use only mandatory navigation and safety lights.
- The engine must be ready for an immediate start-up.
- Keep away from unidentified ships.
- Use VHF as little as possible to avoid being heard by pirates and to make location more difficult.
- Activate the AIS when maritime patrol aircraft are operating in the area to facilitate identification and tracking.

Identification

- Managers are strongly recommended to register their fishing vessels with MDAT-GoG for the whole period of activity off the West Coast of Africa. This should include communicating a full list of the crewmen on board and their vessels' intentions, if possible.
- Carry out training prior to passage or fishing operations in the area.

- Whenever fishing vessels are equipped with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) devices, their manager should provide MDAT-GoG with access to VMS data.
- Fishing vessels should always identify themselves upon request from aircraft or ships from any international or national anti-piracy operation.
- Military, merchant and fishing vessels should respond without delay to any identification request made by a fishing vessel being approached (to facilitate early action to make escape possible, especially if the vessel is fishing).

In case of attack

- In case of an attack or sighting a suspicious craft, warn the authorities (MDAT-GoG, CRESMAC and CRESMAO) and the rest of the fleet.
- Communicate the contact details of the second Master of the vessel (who is on land) whose knowledge of the vessel could contribute to the success of a military intervention.
- Recommendations **only for Purse Seiners**:
 - Evacuate all crew from the deck and the crow's nest.
 - If pirates have taken control of the vessel and the purse seine is spread out, encourage the pirates to allow the nets to be recovered. If recovery of the purse seine is allowed, follow the instructions for its stowage and explain the functioning of the gear to avoid misunderstanding.

Annex G

Additional advice for leisure craft, including yachts

Leisure craft should make early contact in advance with the naval/military authorities to determine if the VRA area is safe to transit; regional activity has indicated attacks occur on both large and small vessels. Transit close to areas of conflict should be avoided. Close contact should be maintained with MDAT-GoG throughout any voyage.

See the International Sailing Federation (www.sailing.org) for the most up-to-date information.

Definitions and abbreviations

Definitions

The following terms/definitions to categorise attacks and suspicious incidents that are reported from shipping inside the VRA may be useful and ensures the consistent identification of patterns and trends.

Armed robbery The Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships, highlights armed robbery against ships consists of:

- Any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea.
- Any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above.

Hijack A hijack is where attackers have boarded and taken control of a ship against the crew's will. Hijackers will not always have the same motive (armed robbery, cargo theft or kidnapping).

Illegal boarding An illegal boarding is where attackers have boarded a ship but HAVE NOT taken control. Command remains with the Master. The most obvious example of this is the citadel scenario.

Maritime Safety Zone A safety zone is an area extending out from any part of an offshore oil and gas installation (typically 500m) and is established automatically around all installations which project above the sea at any state of the tide. These safety zones are 500m radius from a central point.

Piracy This is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101). However, for the purposes of these BMP, it is important to provide clear, practical, working guidance to the industry to enable accurate and consistent assessment of suspicious activity and piracy attacks.

The following may assist in assessing a piracy attack. A piracy attack may include but is not limited to:

- The use of violence against the ship or its personnel, or any attempt to use violence.
- Attempt(s) to illegally board the ship where the Master suspects the persons are pirates.
- An actual boarding, whether successful in gaining control of the ship or not.
- Attempts to overcome the SPM by the use of:
 - Ladders.

- Grappling hooks.
- Weapons deliberately used against or at the ship.

Suspicious or aggressive approach Action taken by another craft may be deemed suspicious if any of the following occur (the list is not exhaustive):

- A definite course alteration towards a ship associated with a rapid increase in speed by the suspected craft, which cannot be accounted for by the prevailing conditions.
- Small craft sailing on the same course and speed for an uncommon period and distance, not in keeping with normal fishing or other circumstances prevailing in the area.
- Sudden changes in course towards the ship and aggressive behaviour.

UNCLOS 60.5

The breadth of the safety zones shall be determined by the coastal State, taking into account applicable international standards. Such zones shall be designed to ensure that they are reasonably related to the nature and function of the artificial islands, installations or structures, and shall not exceed a distance of 500 metres around them, measured from each point of their outer edge, except as authorized by generally accepted international standards or as recommended by the competent international organization. Due notice shall be given of the extent of safety zones.

UNCLOS 101

Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed: (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft; (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).

Abbreviations

AIS	Automatic Identification System
CRESMAC	Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Central Africa (Pointe Noire)
CRESMAO	Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa (Abidjan)
CSO	Company Security Officer
DSC	Digital Selective Calling
DSV	Diving Support Vessel

EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FPSO	Floating Production Storage & Offloading
FSO	Floating Storage & Offloading
GCC	Gulf of Guinea Commission
GoG	Gulf of Guinea
ICC	Interregional Coordination Centre
IMB	International Maritime Bureau
IMO	International Maritime Organization
JWC	Joint War Committee
MSC	Maritime Safety Committee
MDAT-GoG	Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea
MODU	Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit
MOU	Mobile Offshore Unit
PAG	Pirate Action Group
PCASP	Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel
PMSC	Private Maritime Security Company
ROV	Remotely operated underwater vehicle
RUF	Rules for the Use of Force
SPM	Ship Protection Measures
SAA	Secure Anchorage Area
SEV	Security Escort Vessel
SSA	Ship Security Assessment
SSAS	Ship Security Alert System
SSO	Ship Security Officer
SSP	Ship Security Plan
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VDR	Vessel Data Recorder
VHP	Vessel Hardening Plan
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VPD	Vessel Protection Detachment
VRA	Voluntary Reporting Area

Supporting organisations

BMP WA Signatories



BIMCO

BIMCO is the world's largest international shipping association, with around 2,000 members in more than 120 countries, representing 56% of the world's tonnage. Its global membership includes shipowners, operators, managers, brokers and agents. A non-profit organisation, BIMCO's mission is to be at the forefront of global developments in shipping, providing expert knowledge and practical advice to safeguard and add value to its members' businesses.

www.bimco.org



CDI

The Chemical Distribution Institute (CDI) was established in 1994 as a not for profit Foundation and provides ship and terminal inspection data in an electronic report format to its members. The main objectives of CDI are to continuously improve the safety and quality performance of chemical marine transportation and storage; Through cooperation with industry and centres of education, drive the development of industry best practice in marine transportation and storage of chemical products; To provide information and advice on industry best practice and international legislation for marine transportation and storage of chemical products; To provide chemical companies with cost effective systems for risk assessment, thus assisting their commitment to Responsible Care and the Code of Distribution Management Practice.

www.cdi.org.uk



CLIA

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the world's largest cruise industry trade association, providing a unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community. CLIA supports policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy and sustainable cruise ship environment for the more than 25 million passengers who cruise annually and is dedicated to promote the cruise travel experience. The organisation's mission is to be the unified global organisation that helps its members succeed by advocating, educating and promoting for the common interests of the cruise community.

www.cruising.org



International
Chamber of Shipping

ICS

The **International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)** is the international trade association for merchant ship operators. ICS represents the collective views of the international industry from different nations, sectors and trades. ICS membership comprises national shipowners' associations representing over 80% of the world's merchant fleet. A major focus of ICS activity is the IMO, the United Nations agency with responsibility for the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment. ICS is heavily involved in a wide variety of areas including any technical, legal and operational matters affecting merchant ships. ICS is unique in that it represents the global interests of all the different trades in the industry: bulk carrier, tanker, container, and passenger ship operators

www.ics-shipping.org



IFSMA

The **International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA)** was formed in 1974 by Eight National Shipmasters' Associations to unite the World's serving Shipmasters into a single professional co-ordinated body. It is a non-profit making apolitical organisation dedicated solely to the interest of the serving Shipmaster. The Federation is formed of around 11,000 Shipmasters from sixty Countries either through their National Associations or as Individual Members. In 1975, IFSMA was granted Consultative Status as a non-governmental organisation at IMO which enables the Federation to represent the views and protect the interests of the serving Shipmasters.

www.ifsma.org



IGP&I Clubs

Thirteen principal underwriting associations "the Clubs" comprise the **International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I)**. They provide liability cover (protection and indemnity) for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage. The Clubs are mutual insurance associations providing cover for their members against third party liabilities relating to the use and operation of ships, including loss of life, pollution by oil and hazardous substances, wreck removal, collision and damage to property. Clubs also provide services to their members on claims handling, legal issues and loss prevention, and often play a leading role in coordinating the response to, and management of, maritime casualties.

www.igpandi.org



IMCA

The **International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA)** is a leading trade association representing the vast majority of contractors and the associated supply chain in the offshore marine construction industry worldwide. It has a membership of 800 companies including contractors, suppliers, oil & gas companies, marine renewable energy companies and numerous non- governmental organisations (NGOs).

www.imca-int.com



INTERCARGO

The **International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO)** is representing the interests of quality dry cargo shipowners. INTERCARGO convened for the first time in 1980 in London and has been participating with consultative status at the IMO since 1993.

INTERCARGO provides the forum where dry bulk shipowners, managers and operators are informed about, discuss and share concerns on key topics and regulatory challenges, especially in relation to safety, the environment and operational excellence. The Association takes forward its Members' positions to the IMO, as well as to other shipping and international industry fora, having free and fair competition as a principle.

INTERCARGO is committed to safety and quality in ship operations, with a focus on operational efficiency and the protection of the marine environment.

www.intercargo.org



InterManager

InterManager is the international trade association for the ship management industry established in 1991. It is the voice of ship management and the only organisation dedicated to representing the ship management and crew management industry. In today's global shipping industry InterManager works for the needs of like-minded companies in the ship and crew management sector, who all have the welfare of seafarers at their hearts. InterManager acts as a forum to share best practices and bring about positive change. An internationally-recognised organisation, InterManager represents its members at international level, lobbying on their behalf to ensure their views are taken into account within the worldwide maritime industry.

[**www.intermanager.org**](http://www.intermanager.org)



IMEC

The **International Maritime Employers' Council Ltd (IMEC)** is the only international employers' organisation dedicated to maritime industrial relations. With offices in the UK and the Philippines, IMEC has a membership of over 235 shipowners and managers, covering some 8,000 ships with CBAs, which IMEC negotiates on behalf of its members within the International Bargaining Forum (IBF).

IMEC is also heavily involved in maritime training. The IMEC Enhanced cadet programme in the Philippines currently has over 700 young people under training.

[**www.imec.org.uk**](http://www.imec.org.uk)



ITF

The **International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)** is an international trade union federation of transport workers' unions. Any independent trade union with members in the transport industry is eligible for membership of the ITF. The ITF has been helping seafarers since 1896 and today represents the interests of seafarers worldwide, of whom over 880,000 are members of ITF affiliated unions. The ITF is working to improve conditions for seafarers of all nationalities and to ensure adequate regulation of the shipping industry to protect the interests and rights of the workers. The ITF helps crews regardless of their nationality or the flag of their ship.

www.itfseafarers.org

www.itfglobal.org



INTERTANKO

INTERTANKO

INTERTANKO is the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, a forum where the industry meets, policies are discussed and best practices developed. INTERTANKO has been the voice of independent tanker owners since 1970, ensuring that the liquid energy that keeps the world turning is shipped safely, responsibly and competitively.

www.intertanko.com



IPTA

The **International Parcel Tankers Association (IPTA)** was formed in 1987 to represent the interests of the specialised chemical/parcel tanker fleet and has since developed into an established representative body for ship owners operating IMO classified chemical/parcel tankers, being recognised

as a focal point through which regulatory authorities and trade organisations may liaise with such owners. IPTA was granted consultative status as a Non- Governmental Organisation to the IMO in 1997 and is wholly supportive of the IMO as the only body to introduce and monitor compliance with international maritime legislation.

www.ipta.org.uk



ISWAN

The **International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)** is an international NGO and UK registered charity set up to promote the welfare of seafarers worldwide. It is a membership organisation with ship owners, unions and welfare organisation as members. ISWAN works with a range of bodies including P&I Clubs, shipping companies, ports, and governments. Its focus is the wellbeing of the 1.5 million seafarers around the world.

ISWAN supports seafarers and their families who are affected by piracy and its 24 hour multilingual helpline, SeafarerHelp, is free for seafarers to call from anywhere in the world.

www.seafarerswelfare.org

Joint Hull
committee

Joint War Committee

Joint Hull Committee and Joint War Committee

The **Joint Hull and Joint War Committees** comprise elected underwriting representatives from both the Lloyd's and IUA company markets, representing the interests of those who write marine hull and war business in the London market.

Both sets of underwriters are impacted by piracy issues and support the mitigation of the exposures they face through the owners' use of BMP. The actions of owners and charterers will inform underwriters' approach to risk and coverage.



The Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers is the largest provider of port-based welfare services, providing 200 port chaplains and 121 seafarers' centres across 50 countries. In addition to its services of free Wi-Fi, respite and transportation, all chaplains are trained in post-trauma counselling and are able to provide immediate support post attack or release, as well as connect with relevant professional services in a seafarer's home country. The Mission to Seafarers runs family support networks in the Philippines, Myanmar, Ukraine and India offering access to education, training and medical and legal services. The Mission to Seafarers is pleased to support the creation of BMP5 and the associated resources and commends their use to all maritime personnel.

www.missiontoseafarers.org



OCIMF

The **Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)** is a voluntary association of oil companies with an interest in the shipment and terminalling of crude oil, oil products, petrochemicals and gas. OCIMF focuses exclusively on preventing harm to people and the environment by promoting best practice in the design, construction and operation of tankers, barges and offshore vessels and their interfaces with terminals.

www.ocimf.org



Sailors' Society

Sailors' Society is the world's oldest maritime welfare organisation caring for seafarers and their families across the globe.

The charity works in ports across 30 countries and has projects ranging from medical centres to building boats to get children safely to school.

Its renowned Crisis Response Network helping victims of trauma at sea is run across Asia, Europe and Africa with plans to extend further.

Trained chaplains offer 24-hour support to victims of piracy, kidnapping and natural disasters and come alongside survivors and loved ones with psychological and financial help for as long as needed.

www.sailors-society.org



SIGTTO

The **Society for International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO)** is the international body established for the exchange of technical information and experience, between members of the industry, to enhance the safety and operational reliability of gas tankers and terminals.

To this end the Society publishes studies, and produces information papers and works of reference, for the guidance of industry members. It maintains working relationships with other industry bodies, governmental and intergovernmental agencies, including the IMO, to better promote the safety and integrity of gas transportation and storage schemes.

www.sigtto.org



WSC

The **World Shipping Council (WSC)** is the trade association that represents the international liner shipping industry. WSC's member lines operate containerships, roll-on/roll-off vessels, and car carrier vessels that account for approximately 90 percent of the global liner vessel capacity. Collectively, these services transport about 60 percent of the value of global seaborne trade, or more than US\$ 4 trillion worth of goods annually. WSC's goal is to provide a coordinated voice for the liner shipping industry in its work with policymakers and other industry groups to develop actionable solutions for some of the world's most challenging transportation problems. WSC serves as a non- governmental organisation at the IMO.

www.worldshipping.org

Naval/military/governmental organisations



CISMAR

CISMAR is the Integrated Maritime Security Center of Brazil. It aims to contribute to the safety of maritime traffic of interest to Brazil, meet commitments related to Naval Control of Maritime Traffic and the Naval Doctrine Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping assumed by the country, in addition to increasing maritime situational awareness.

Contact:

Email: cismar-secom@marinha.mil.br

Telephone: +55 21 2104 6353/6337

Website: <https://www.marinha.mil.br/cismar/>



IFC

INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE

The **Information Fusion Centre (IFC)**, based in Singapore, serves as the regional Maritime Security (MARSEC) information-sharing hub covering most of the Indo-Pacific region. With an integrated team comprising International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from more than 19 navies and coast guard; and personnel from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), the IFC facilitates MARSEC information sharing and collaboration between its partners to cue operational responses. Its linkages with more than 90 Operational Centres (OPCENS) from navies, enforcement and maritime agencies in more than 40 countries, as well as linkages with the shipping industry, provide IFC with maritime situational awareness and enables collaboration beyond its Area of Interest.

The IFC collates and analyses MARSEC information to produce accurate, timely and actionable products, which enables its partners to respond to MARSEC incidents in good time. It also provides practical and useful information on MARSEC trends, incidents and best practices to the shipping industry.

Contacts

Email: ifc_do@defence.gov.sg

Telephone: +65 9626 8965 (hotline), +65 6594 5728 (office)

Website: <https://www.ifc.org.sg>



ICC International Maritime Bureau

IMB PRC

Established in 1992, the **IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC)** is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation which provides the shipping industry with a free 24-hour service to report any piracy or armed robbery attack occurring anywhere in the world.

As a trusted point of contact for shipmasters and ship owners, all reported attacks are immediately relayed to the most relevant government response agency seeking their support to render assistance to the ship in distress. Inmarsat Safetynet broadcasts to ships and alerts to CSOs via email are also sent out which help alert other seafarers and save lives at sea.

www.icc-ccs.org/piracy-reporting-centre



INTERPOL

INTERPOL

INTERPOL has a dedicated unit for maritime piracy that works with the police, navy and private sector in member countries, and can provide support to ship operators who have had their ships hijacked. INTERPOL's Maritime Security sub-Directorate (MTS) can be consulted on the recommended practices and action to be taken to help preserve the integrity of any evidence left behind following a pirate attack that could be useful to law enforcement agents pursuing an investigation.

MTS can be contacted on tel +33 472 44 72 33 or via email dIMTSOPSupport@interpol.int during business hours (GMT 08H00 – 17H00).

Outside of normal business hours, contact can be made via INTERPOL's Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC). The CCC is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and supports INTERPOL's 190 member countries faced with a crisis situation or requiring urgent operational assistance. The CCC operates in all four of Interpol's official languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic). Contact details are: tel +33 472 44 7676; email os-ccc@interpol.int.

It is recommended that ship operators contact INTERPOL within three days of a hijacking of their ship.



MDAT-GoG

Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) is a cooperation centre between the Royal Navy (UKMTO) and the French Navy (MICA-Center) in support of the Yaoundé Process. This centre has been in operation since June 2016. The primary output from the MDAT-GoG is to contribute by maintaining coherent maritime situational awareness in the central and western African Maritime areas, with the ability to inform and support industry. It contributes to the safety and security of the Mariner in the regional maritime domain.



NIMASA

The **Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)** is committed to the enthronement of global best practices in the provision of maritime services in Nigeria. Our areas of focus include effective Maritime Safety Administration, Maritime Labour Regulation, Marine Pollution Prevention and Control, Search and Rescue, Cabotage enforcement, Shipping Development and Ship Registration, Training and Certification of Seafarers, and Maritime Capacity Development. Using modern tools that guarantee efficiency and effectiveness, we are determined to develop indigenous capacity and eliminate all hindrance.



ICC-Gulf of Guinea-Yaoundé

The **Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC)** is the coordination and information-sharing structure which connects the Regional Maritime Security Centre for Central Africa (**CRESMAC**) and the Regional Maritime Security Centre for Western Africa (**CRESMAO**).

MDAT-GoG
+33 298 228888

BMP5

Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea



Produced and supported by:



BMP5

Best Management Practices to Deter
Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in
the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean
and Arabian Sea

Version 5 published June 2018

Authors: BIMCO, ICS, IGP&I Clubs, INTERTANKO and OCIMF

Legal Notice

BMP5 has been developed purely as guidance to be used at the user's own risk. No responsibility is accepted by the Authors, their Members or by any person, firm, corporation or organisation for the accuracy of any information in BMP5 or any omission from BMP5 or for any consequence whatsoever resulting directly or indirectly from applying or relying upon guidance contained in BMP5 even if caused by a failure to exercise reasonable care.

Copyright notice

The Authors of BMP5 have provided BMP5 free of charge. All information, data and text contained in BMP5 whether in whole or in part may be reproduced or copied without any payment, individual application or written license provided that:

- It is used only for non-commercial purposes; and
- The content is not modified

Exceptions:

The permission granted above permits the photographs to be used within the whole or part of BMP5. The permission does not extend to using the photographs separately outside of BMP5 as these photographs belong to a third party. Authorisation to use the photographs separately from BMP5 must first be obtained from the copyright holders, details of whom may be obtained from the Authors.

Logos and trademarks are excluded from the general permission above other than when they are used as an integral part of BMP5.

Published by

Witherby Publishing Group Ltd
4 Dunlop Square
Livingston, Edinburgh, EH54 8SB
Scotland, UK

Tel No: +44 (0) 1506 463 227

Fax No: +44 (0) 1506 468 999

Email: info@emailws.com

Web: www.witherbys.com

Contents

The fundamental requirements of BMP		iv
Section 1	Introduction	1
Section 2	The threat	4
Section 3	Threat and risk assessment	6
Section 4	Planning	8
Section 5	Ship Protection Measures	11
Section 6	Reporting	21
Section 7	Ships under attack	23
Annex A	Contact details	33
Annex B	Maritime security charts	35
Annex C	Common understanding	36
Annex D	UKMTO reporting forms	38
Annex E	Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa reporting forms	40
Annex F	Additional guidance for vessels engaged in fishing	47
Annex G	Additional advice for leisure craft, including yachts	49
Annex H	Definitions and abbreviations	50
Annex I	Supporting organisations	53
Annex J	Voyage reference card	69

The fundamental requirements of BMP

Understand the threat

- Maritime threats are dynamic.
- Obtaining current threat information is critical for risk assessment and decision making.

Conduct risk assessments

- Companies must conduct risk assessments.
- Identify ship protection measures.

Implement ship protection measures

- Harden the ship.
- Brief and train the crew.
- Enhanced lookout.
- Follow Flag State and military guidance.

Report

- Report to UKMTO and register with MSCHOA.
- Report incidents and suspicious activity.
- Send distress signal when attacked.

Cooperate

- Cooperate with other shipping and military forces.
- Cooperate with law enforcement to preserve evidence.
- Cooperate with welfare providers.

Section 1

Introduction

Seafarers have encountered different security threats when operating ships in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea.

The purpose of this publication is to help ships plan their voyage and to detect, avoid, deter, delay and report attacks. Experience has shown application of the recommendations in this publication makes a significant difference to the safety of seafarers.

Piracy-specific Best Management Practice (BMP), international navies and capacity building ashore have helped to suppress piracy. However, Somali piracy has not been eradicated and remains a threat.

The BMP contained in this publication mitigates the risk from piracy and other maritime security threats.

Regional instability has introduced other maritime security threats, which include:

- Deliberate targeting of ships by extremist groups.
- Collateral damage arising from regional conflict.

BMP piracy measures are effective, but differences in attack methods from other threats may require other forms of mitigation. For example, attacks carried out by extremists may be more determined, as they may be willing to risk their lives.

The consequences of not adopting effective security measures can be severe. Some pirates have subjected hostages to violence and other ill treatment and periods of captivity for some hijacked seafarers have lasted for several years. Other attacks have demonstrated an intent to damage ships and endanger life.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (www.ukmto.org) and Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (www.mschoa.org) websites should be consulted for advice. See annex A for contact details.

This BMP complements piracy guidance in the latest International Maritime Organization (IMO) MSC Circulars (see www.imo.org) and advice on the Maritime Security Transit Corridor.

Nothing in this BMP detracts from the Master's overriding authority and responsibility to protect their crew, ship and cargo.

Geographical area

The geography of the region is diverse and ranges from narrow choke points such as the Bab el Mandeb (BAM) Straits and the Strait of Hormuz to the wide-open ocean of the Somali basin. Each area presents different challenges and threats will vary.

Attacks on ships and seafarers have taken place throughout the region. Threats are dynamic; information should be sought from the organisations listed in annex A.

Voluntary Reporting Area

The UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) is identified on maritime security charts such as UKHO Q6099. Ships entering and operating within the VRA are encouraged to register with the UKMTO. Registration establishes direct contact between the reporting ship and UKMTO.

MSCHOA vessel registration area

The MSCHOA vessel registration area is designed to inform military counter piracy forces of the transit of merchant ships in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. The MSCHOA vessel registration area is defined on maritime security chart Q6099.

High Risk Area

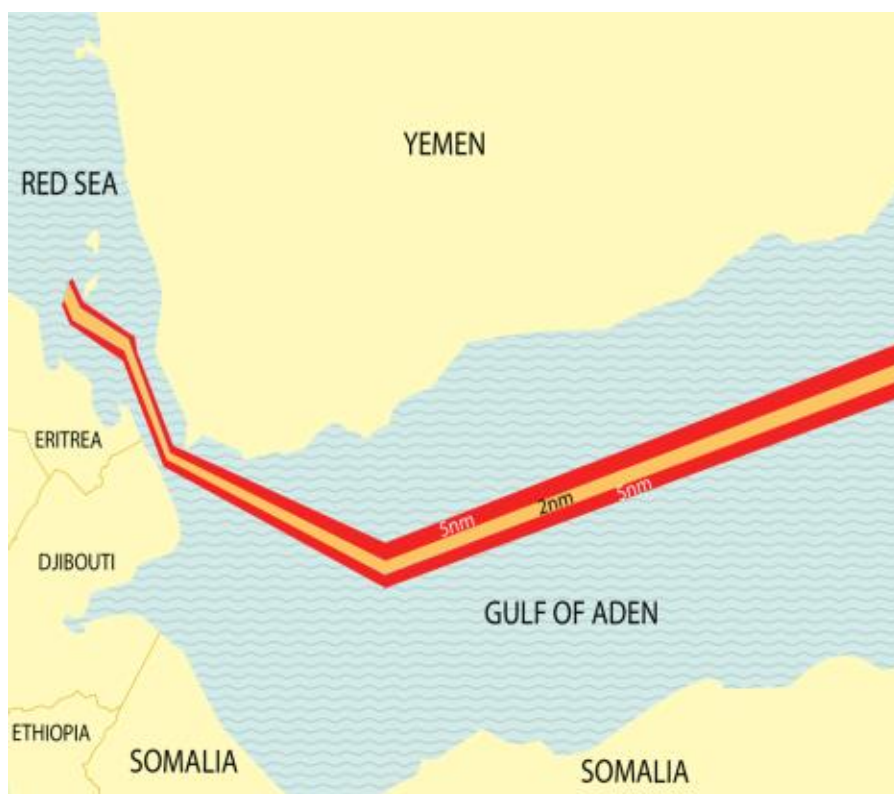
A High Risk Area (HRA) is an industry defined area within the VRA where it is considered that a higher risk of attack exists, and additional security requirements may be necessary. The HRA is outlined on maritime security chart Q6099. It is important the latest information on current threats is used when planning routes through the HRA. Ships should be prepared to deviate from their planned route at short notice to avoid threats highlighted by navigation warnings or by military forces.

Maritime Security Transit Corridor

The Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MSTC) is a military established corridor upon which naval forces focus their presence and surveillance efforts. The MSTC is shown on maritime security chart Q6099 and the figure below and consists of:

- The Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC).
 - The IRTC is not a Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) but an established transit corridor in the Gulf of Aden where naval forces focus their counter piracy patrols. Within the IRTC, group transits and national convoys may be offered.
- The BAM TSS and the TSS West of the Hanish Islands.
- A two-way route directly connecting the IRTC and the BAM TSS.

It is recommended that ships use the MSTC to benefit from the military presence and surveillance.



Joint War Committee listed area

The insurance community may list an area of perceived enhanced risk in the region. Ships entering the area would need to notify their insurers and additional insurance premiums may apply. The Joint War Committee (JWC) comprises underwriting representatives from both Lloyd's and the International Underwriting Association representing the interests of those who write marine hull war business in the London market. The geographic limits of the JWC listed area can be found on their website: www.lmalloyds.com/lma/jointwar.

Section 2

The threat

As well as piracy, regional instability has introduced new security threats including the use of:

- Anti-ship missiles.
- Sea mines.
- Water-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (WBIED).

Piracy

Pirates operate in Pirate Action Groups (PAG) who operate several different boat configurations, typically using small high speed (up to 25 knots) open boats or skiffs.

PAG boat configurations include:

- Skiffs only.
- Open whalers carrying significant quantities of fuel and often towing one or more attack skiffs.
- Motherships, which include merchant ships and fishing vessels but, more commonly, dhows.

Where motherships are used the crew are often held onboard as hostages. Motherships are used to carry pirates, stores, fuel and attack skiffs to enable pirates to operate over a much larger area and are significantly less affected by the weather. Attack skiffs are often towed behind motherships. Where the size of the mothership allows, skiffs may be carried onboard and camouflaged.

Pirates may use small arms fire and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) to intimidate Masters of ships to reduce speed or stop to allow them to board. The bridge and accommodation tend to be the main targets for these weapons.

Pirates use long lightweight ladders, knotted climbing ropes or long hooked poles to climb up the side of the ship. Once onboard they will make their way to the bridge to try to take control of the ship. When on the bridge they will demand the ship slows/stops to enable other pirates to board.

Attacks can take place at any time – day or night – however experience shows attacks at dawn and dusk are more likely.

The intent of Somali pirates is to hijack the ship and hold the crew for ransom. The usual practice is to keep the crew onboard as negotiations progress, keeping both the crew and the ship together. Seafarers have occasionally been separated by nationality and taken ashore. It is in the interests of the pirates to keep their captives alive, although cases of intimidation and torture have occurred.

Anti-ship missiles

Anti-ship missiles are long range, accurate and powerful weapons and have been used against military ships in the region. Their use against merchant ships associated with regional conflict cannot be discounted. Other ships may be hit if the missile controller targets the wrong ship or the missile homes in on an unintended target.

Sea mines

Sea mines have been used to deter and deny access to key ports in Yemen. These mines are usually tethered or anchored but may break free from moorings and drift into shipping lanes. Transiting merchant ships are not a target and it is recommended ships use the MSTC when passing through the area.

Water-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices

WBIED attacks have been used against warships and merchant ships in the southern Red Sea/BAM/western area of the Gulf of Aden.

Incidents have highlighted attacks by different groups operating in the region:

- WBIED used in the regional conflict have been aimed at harming those associated with the conflict. These boats have been unmanned and operated remotely.
- WBIED used by extremists have been aimed at merchant ships. These boats have been manned.

An attack involving a WBIED is likely to involve one or more speed boats operated by a number of individuals approaching and firing both small arms and RPGs. Masters should recognise the intent of these attacks is to cause damage and not necessarily to board the ship. Mitigation measures to prevent the speed boat making contact with the ship's hull are limited.

Section 3

Threat and risk assessment

Threat assessment

The threat assessment must include all regional security threats.

As part of every ship risk assessment prior to transit through the HRA the latest military threat advice must be obtained from UKMTO www.ukmto.org and threat assessments from MSCHOA www.mschoa.org (see annex A).



A **threat** is formed of capability, intent and opportunity.

Capability means attackers have the physical means to conduct an attack. Intent is demonstrated by continued attacks. Opportunity is what is mitigated by the company, ship and crew through application of the measures described in this guidance. In addition to the information provided in this guidance, supplementary information about the characteristics of the threat, specific or new tactics, and regional background factors may be sought from regional reporting centres and organisations as listed in annex A.

If one side of the triangle is removed, then risk is minimised. The company/Master cannot influence either capability or intent, therefore BMP measures focus on minimising the opportunity.

Risk assessment

Risk assessment is an integral part of voyage planning within a safety management system. The risk assessment should identify measures for prevention, mitigation and recovery, which will mean combining statutory regulations with supplementary measures. Companies should also take account of these measures for ships transiting the VRA even if they do not enter the HRA.

Further guidance on risk assessments can be found in the *Global Counter Piracy Guidance* at www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org.

The risk assessment must consider but may not be limited to:

- Requirements of the Flag State, company, charterers and insurers.
- The threat assessment and geographical areas of increased risk.
- Background factors shaping the situation, e.g. traffic patterns and local patterns of life, including fishing vessel activity.
- Cooperation with military. An understanding of presence should be obtained from UKMTO.
- The embarkation of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP).
- The ship's characteristics, vulnerabilities and inherent capabilities, including citadel and/or safe muster points to withstand the threat (freeboard, speed, general arrangement, etc.).
- The ship's and company's procedures (drills, watch rosters, chain of command, decision making processes, etc.).

All voyages in this region require thorough advanced planning using all available information. The maritime threats are dynamic, and it is therefore essential that a detailed threat and risk assessment is completed for each voyage and activity within the region.

Section 4

Planning

Company planning

Together with the following, the output of the risk assessment will help develop the ship's voyage plan:

- Regular review of the threat and risk assessments. Plans should be updated as necessary.
- Review of the Ship Security Assessment (SSA), Ship Security Plan (SSP) and Vessel Hardening Plan (VHP).
- Guidance to the Master about the recommended route, updated plans and requirements for group transits and national convoys.
- Company mandated Ship Protection Measures (SPM).
- Due diligence of Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSCs) for the possible use of PCASP.
- Companies should consider the placement of hidden position transmitting devices as one of the first actions of hijackers is to disable all visible communication and tracking devices and aerials.
- Review of company manning requirements. Consider disembarking of non-essential crew.
- Crew training plans.

Information security

To avoid critical voyage information falling into the wrong hands the following is advised:

- Communications with external parties should be kept to a minimum, with close attention paid to organising rendezvous points and waiting positions.
- Email correspondence to agents, charterers and chandlers should be controlled and information within the email kept concise, containing the minimum that is contractually required.

Ship Master's Planning

Security is a key part of any voyage plan.

Prior to entering the Voluntary Reporting Area

- Obtain the latest threat information.
- Check the latest NAVAREA warnings and alerts.
- Implement VRA/MSCHOA vessel registration and reporting requirements as highlighted in section 6 and annexes D and E.
- If used, confirm PCASP embarkation plan.
- Confirm propulsion can operate at full speed.

Prior to entering the High Risk Area

- Implement security measures in accordance with the SSP.

Brief crew and conduct drills

The crew should be fully briefed on the preparations and drills should be conducted with the SPM in place. The plan should be reviewed and all crew briefed on their duties, including familiarity with the alarm that signals an attack, an all-clear situation and the appropriate response to each. The drills should test:

- The SPM, including testing the security of all access points.
- Lock down conditions, including crew safety considerations.
- The bridge team's security knowledge.
- The crew's understanding of any different actions required in the event of a pirate attack compared to other types of attack.

Other considerations

- Prepare and test an emergency communication plan. Masters are advised to prepare an emergency communication plan, to include all essential emergency contact numbers (see annex A) and prepared messages, which should be at hand or permanently displayed near all external communications stations including safe muster point and/or the citadel. Communication devices and the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) should be tested.
- Define the ship's Automatic Identification System (AIS) policy. It is recommended that AIS should remain switched on throughout passages through the VRA and HRA, to ensure militaries can track the ship, but restrict data to ship's identity, position, course, speed, navigational status and safety related information.
- Reschedule planned maintenance on voyage critical equipment for transit of an HRA.

On entering the High Risk Area

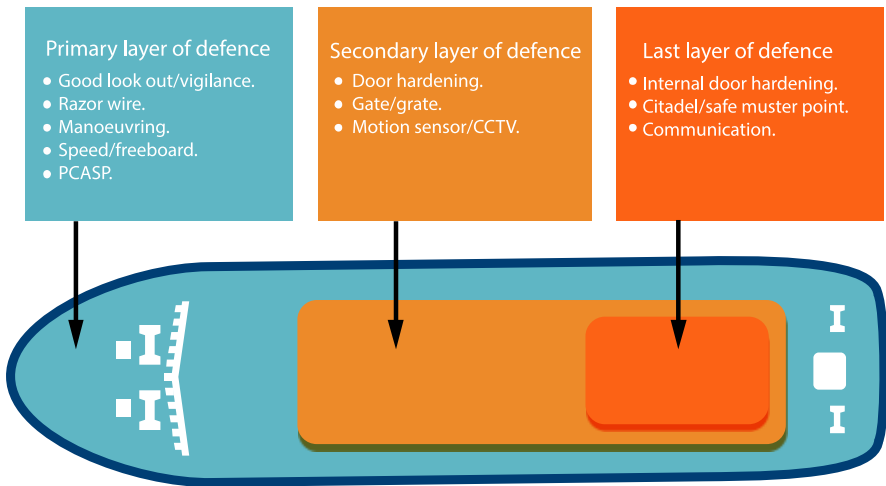
- Submit ship reports as highlighted in section 6 and annexes D and E.
- Monitor latest threat information.
- Ensure all access points are limited and controlled.
- Avoid drifting, waiting, anchoring and slow steaming, particularly in the MSTC.
- Minimise use of VHF and use email or a secure satellite telephone instead. Where possible only answer known or legitimate callers on the VHF, bearing in mind that imposters are possible.

Section 5

Ship Protection Measures

This section highlights proven SPM that provide layered protection. The BMP is based on regional experience of attacks and will continue to evolve as methods change.

The implementation of SPM will be identified during the voyage planning process. Companies may wish to consider making further alterations to the ship beyond the scope of this BMP, and/or providing additional equipment and/or personnel as a means of further reducing the risk of attack.



Watch keeping and enhanced vigilance

The Master should implement the following actions to assist in raising vigilance on board.

- Provide additional, fully-briefed lookouts.
- Maintain an all-round lookout from an elevated position.
- Consider shorter rotation of the watch period to maximise alertness of the lookouts.
- Maintain sufficient binoculars for the enhanced bridge team, preferably anti-glare.
- Consider the use of thermal imagery optics and night vision aids as they provide a reliable all-weather, day and night surveillance capability.
- Maintain a careful radar watch and monitor all navigational warnings and communications, particularly VHF and GMDSS alerts.
- Consider placing well-constructed dummies at strategic locations around the ship to give the impression of greater numbers of crew on watch.

- Consider using CCTV and fixed search lights for better monitoring. Fixed search lights can deter approaches from the stern.
- Mount anti-piracy mirrors on the bridge wings to make looking aft easier.

An effective lookout is the most effective method of ship protection. It can help identify a suspicious approach or attack early on, which allows defences to be deployed.

Manoeuvring

The Master and officers should practice manoeuvring the ship to ensure familiarity with the ship's handling characteristics. The Master should also practice avoidance manoeuvres while maintaining the best possible speed. Experience has shown that such action can defeat even a lengthy and determined attack as creation of hydrostatic pressure can have a better defensive impact than speed.

Avoidance manoeuvres should only be practiced when it is safe to do so.

Alarms

The ship's alarms inform the ship's crew that an attack is underway and warn the attacker that the ship is aware and is reacting. In addition, continuous sounding of the ship's whistle may distract the attackers.

It is important that:

- The alarms are distinctive to avoid confusion.
- Crew members are familiar with each alarm, especially those warning of an attack and indicating 'all clear'.
- All alarms are backed up by an announcement over the accommodation and deck PA system, where fitted.
- Drills are carried out to ensure that the alarm is heard throughout the ship. The drill will confirm the time necessary for all crew to move to a position of safety.



Physical barriers

Physical barriers are intended to make it as difficult as possible for attackers to gain access to ships by increasing the difficulty of the climb for those trying to illegally board. When planning the placement of barriers special consideration should be given to ships with sunken poop decks.

Razor wire

Also known as barbed tape. It creates an effective barrier if properly rigged and secured. The quality of razor wire varies considerably and lower quality razor wire is less effective. The following is recommended:

- Use a high tensile concertina razor wire with coil diameters of 730mm or 980mm. This is difficult to cut with hand tools.
- Use a double roll. If this is not possible, place a single high-quality roll outboard of the ship's structure.
- Secure razor wire to the ship properly, to prevent attackers pulling the wire off. For example, attach at least every third wire ring to ship's railings and rig a steel cable through its core.
- Use personal protective equipment and wire hooks to move and install razor wire.
- Obtain razor wire in short sections, e.g. 10m, so that it is easier and safer to move.
- Keep razor wire clear of mooring fairleads when at terminals so that it does not interfere with mooring operations.



Other physical barriers

Other barriers have proven effective – from hanging swinging obstacles over the gunnels to specifically designed overhanging protection that prevents illegal boarding by climbing over the ship's rails.



Water spray and foam monitors

- The use of water spray and/or foam monitors is effective in deterring or delaying any attempt to illegally board a ship. The use of water can make it difficult for an unauthorised boat to remain alongside and makes it significantly more difficult to climb aboard.
- It is recommended hoses and foam monitors (delivering water) are fixed in position to cover likely access routes and are remotely operated. Manual activation is not recommended as this may place the operator in an exposed position.
- Improved water coverage may be achieved by using fire hoses in jet mode and using baffle plates fixed a short distance in front of the nozzle.
- Water cannons deliver water in a vertical sweeping arc and protect a greater part of the hull.
- Water spray rails with spray nozzles produce a water curtain covering larger areas.
- Foam can be used, but it must be in addition to a ship's standard fire fighting equipment stock. Foam is disorientating and very slippery.
- The use of all available fire and general service pumps may be required to ensure all defences operate efficiently.
- Additional power may be required when using pumps; the supporting systems should be ready for immediate use.
- Practice, observation and drills are required to ensure the equipment provides effective coverage of vulnerable areas.



Enhanced bridge protection

The bridge is usually the focal point of an attack. In some situations, attackers direct their weapon fire at the bridge to intimidate the ship's crew to slow or stop the ship. If pirates board the ship, they usually make for the bridge to enable them to take control.

The following enhancements may be considered:

- Bridge windows are laminated but further protection against flying glass can be provided by the application of blast resistant film.
- Fabricated metal (steel/aluminium) plates for the side and rear bridge windows and the bridge wing door windows, which can be quickly secured in place in the event of an attack can greatly reduce the risk of injury from fragmentation.
- Chain link fencing can be used to reduce the effects of an RPG.
- Sandbags can provide additional protection on the bridge wings. They should be regularly checked to ensure that they have not degraded.



Control of access to accommodation and machinery spaces

It is important to control access routes to the accommodation and machinery spaces to deter or delay entry. Effort must be directed at denying access to these spaces.



- Escape routes must remain accessible to seafarers in the event of an emergency.
- Where the door or hatch is located on an escape route from a manned compartment, it is essential it can be opened from the inside. Where the door or hatch is locked it is essential a means of opening the door from the inside is available.

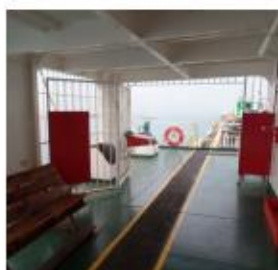


- Doors and hatches providing access to the bridge, accommodation and machinery spaces should be properly secured to prevent them being opened from the outside.
- Once doors and hatches are secured, a designated and limited number are used for security patrols and routine access. The use of these doors or hatches should be controlled by the Officer of the Watch.
- Block external stairs or remove ladders on the accommodation block to prevent use and to restrict external access to the bridge.
- Doors and hatches that must be closed for watertight integrity should be fully dogged down in addition to any locks. Where possible, additional securing mechanisms, such as wire strops, may be used.
- Removable barriers should be used around pilot boarding points so that a ship does not need to de-rig large areas prior to arrival at ports.
- Pirates have been known to gain access through portholes and windows. The fitting of steel bars to portholes and windows will prevent this.
- Procedures for controlling access to accommodation, machinery spaces and store rooms should be briefed to the crew.
- The attackers must be denied access to ship propulsion.



Safe muster points and/or citadels

The company risk assessment and planning process should identify the location of a safe muster point and/or a citadel within a ship.



Safe muster points

A safe muster point is a designated area chosen to provide maximum physical protection to the crew and will be identified during the planning process.

If the threat assessment identifies risks that may result in a breach of hull on or below the waterline then a safe muster point above the waterline must be identified. In many ships, the central stairway may provide a safe location as it is protected by the accommodation block and is above the waterline.

To minimise the effect of an explosion, consideration should be given to the likely path of the blast. The safe muster point should be selected with this in mind.

Citadels

A citadel is a designated area where, in the event of imminent boarding, all crew may seek protection. A citadel is designed and constructed to resist forced entry. The use of a citadel cannot guarantee a military or law enforcement response.

Well-constructed citadels with reliable communications (ideally satellite phone and VHF) must be supplied with food, water and sanitation. Control of propulsion and steering can offer effective protection during an attack. If citadels are used, they must complement, not replace, all other SPM.



The use of the citadel must be drilled and the SSP should define the conditions and supporting logistics for its use.

It is important to note that military forces are likely to apply the following criteria before boarding a ship:

- All the crew must be accounted for and confirmed in the citadel.
- Two-way communication with the citadel.

The Master should decide when to use the citadel.

Other measures

Closed circuit television

Once an attack is underway it may be difficult to assess whether the attackers have gained access to the ship. The use of CCTV coverage allows a degree of monitoring of the progress of the attack from a less exposed position. Some companies can monitor and record the CCTV from ashore, which will be of value when provided to the military. The following should be considered:



- CCTV cameras for coverage of vulnerable areas, particularly the poop deck and bridge.
- CCTV monitors located on the bridge and at the safe muster point/citadel.
- CCTV footage may provide useful evidence after an attack and should be retained.

Lighting

Lighting is important and the following is recommended:

- Weather deck lighting around the accommodation block and rear facing lighting on the poop deck to demonstrate awareness.
- If fitted, search lights ready for immediate use.
- Once attackers have been identified or an attack commences, over side lighting, if fitted, should be switched on. This will dazzle the attackers and help the ship's crew to see them.
- At night, only navigation lights should be exhibited.
- Navigation lights should not be switched off at night as this a contravention of international regulations and the risk of collision is higher than that of being attacked.
- At anchor, deck lights should be left on as well-lit ships are less vulnerable to attack.
- The ability to turn off all internal accommodation lights to deter pirates from entering or disorientate those who may already have entered.

Deny the use of ship's tools and equipment

It is important to secure ship's tools or equipment that may be used to gain entry to the ship. Tools and equipment that may be of use to attackers should be stored in a secure location.

Protection of equipment stored on the upper deck

- Consideration should be given to providing ballistic protection to protect gas cylinders or containers of flammable liquids.
- Excess gas cylinders should be stored in a secure location or, if possible, landed prior to transit.

Private Maritime Security Companies

This section provides guidance on the employment of PMSCs. PMSCs may offer armed or unarmed services. Further guidance on the use of armed services (PCASP) is given below.

BMP does not recommend or endorse the general use of PMSCs onboard merchant ships; this is a decision taken by individual ship operators where permitted by the ship's Flag State and any littoral states. However, the use of experienced and competent unarmed PMSCs can be a valuable protective measure, particularly where there may be the requirement to interface and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies, naval forces and coast guards.

Any decision to engage the services of a PMSC should consider:

- The current threat and risk environment.
- The output of the company risk assessment.
- Voyage plan requirements.
- Ship speed.
- Freeboard.
- Type of operations, e.g. seismic survey or cable laying.
- Levels of protection provided by navies, coastguards and maritime police.

Some Flag States do not allow the deployment of PMSC.

It is recommended that shipping companies only employ PMSCs who are accredited to the current ISO 28007-1:2015 *Guidelines for Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) providing privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP) on board ships*.

A PMSC contract must:

- Be between the technical manager and the PMSC.
- Not prejudice the ship's insurance cover arrangements.
- Ensure the PMSC has insurance policies that are current and compliant with the requirements of the contract.
- Clearly identify the procedure for the use of force.
- Confirm the Master's overriding authority.

Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel

Any decision to engage the services of PCASP should consider the guidance above for PMSC as well as the following.

BMP does not recommend or endorse the general use of PCASP onboard merchant ships; this is a decision taken by individual ship operators where permitted by the ship's Flag State and any littoral states.

Companies must check the credentials and licenses/permits of the PMSC, and where appropriate the PCASP, to ensure they have been issued by an appropriate authority and are operating legally against identified threats.

Some Flag States do not allow the deployment of PCASP. Some Flag States provide military Vessel Protection Detachments (VPDs) instead of PCASP. A VPD may be provided by another State, subject to Flag State approval. In some cases, the deployment of either PCASP or VPDs must be reported and acknowledged by the Flag State and reported when entering the VRA (see section 6 and annexes D and E).

Master's overriding authority

If private security contractors are embarked, there must be a clear understanding of the overriding authority of the Master.

The Rules for the Use of Force (RUF) under which the PCASP operate must be acceptable to the Flag State and the company.

The Master and PCASP should:

- Clearly understand and acknowledge the RUF as outlined in the contract.
- Have documentation authorising the carriage of weapons and ammunition.
- Ensure all incidents involving the use of weapons and armed force are reported at the earliest instance to the Flag State and the Chief Security Officer (CSO).

The PCASP must:

- Act in accordance with the agreed RUF, which should provide for a graduated, reasonable, proportionate and demonstrably necessary escalation in the application of force in defence of crew on the ship.

PCASP should only be used as an additional layer of mitigation and protections and not as an alternative to other measures. The decision to carry PCASP is an output of the company risk assessment and a ship that traverses the HRA without PCASP on board can be considered in full compliance with the BMP. The ship's crew must not handle or use firearms.

Section 6

Reporting

All ships are strongly encouraged to inform military organisations of their movement as this is essential to improve military situational awareness and their ability to respond. Once ships have commenced their passage it is important this reporting continues and the guidelines in this section and annexes C, D and E are adopted to ensure common understanding. The two principal military organisations to contact are the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) and Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA).

UKMTO

UKMTO acts as the primary point of contact for merchant ships and their CSOs, providing liaison with military forces in the region. UKMTO administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme, under which merchant ships are encouraged to send regular reports. These include:

1. Initial report (upon entering the VRA).
2. Daily reports (update on ship's position, course and speed).
3. Final reports (upon departure from VRA or arrival in port).
4. Reports of suspicious/irregular activity (when necessary).

UKMTO is able to communicate with ships and CSOs directly, in order to disseminate Warnings and Advisories of incidents within the region:

- Warnings: Simple messages describing that an incident has occurred in a Lat/Long and with a time. This is normally accompanied by direct UKMTO-to-ship telephone calls to all ships within a nominated radius of the incident to give ships the earliest possible alert.
- Advisories: This is the next tier of alerts to ships, normally of sightings/reports that are relevant within the region.

UKMTO offers regular information to ships on its website www.ukmto.org and in a weekly report summarising the previous week's activity. UKMTO is also able to offer Masters and CSOs the opportunity to conduct drills and exercises to support their passage planning in the region. Companies that are interested can contact UKMTO +44(0)2392 222060 or watchkeepers@ukmto.org.

Ships and their operators should complete both UKMTO vessel position reporting forms and register with MSCHOA.

MSCHOA

The MSCHOA is the planning and coordination centre for the EU Naval Forces (EU NAVFOR). MSCHOA encourages companies to register their ships' movements before entering the HRA and if participating in the group transit system via their website www.mschoa.org.

When departing the VRA, ships should be aware of adjacent regional reporting requirements, e.g.: NATO Shipping Centre (Mediterranean – Chart Q6010) and ReCAAP Information Sharing Center/Singapore Information Fusion Center (SE Asia – Chart Q6012).

EU NAVFOR and the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) produce Industry Releasable Threat Assessments (IRTAs) to aid risk management for companies. The threat assessments use military knowledge and intelligence to present a common understanding of the threats and trends in the region. The IRTAs are complimented by Industry Releasable Threat Bulletins (IRTBs), which cover specific events. These documents are an important resource and should be considered as part of the threat and risk assessment process.

The role of the seafarer in improving maritime safety and security in the region

Although some of the maritime threats and crimes committed do not directly endanger seafarers there is the opportunity for them to contribute to maritime security.

Experience has shown that maritime security cannot be improved by the actions of law enforcement agencies and militaries alone; seafarers operating in the region can help. This is more important in the seas off the coast of Somalia and Yemen where navies, coastguards and law enforcement agencies have limited resources.

Masters are encouraged to report suspicious activity and provide as much detail as possible. If it is possible to do so without compromising safety, photographs, video and radar plot data of suspicious activity are of enormous value to the responsible authorities. If there is any doubt as to whether the activity is suspicious, ships are encouraged to report.

Reporting suspicious activity to UKMTO

UKMTO can advise on the types of activity of interest to the regional maritime community. A guide to help identify suspicious activity is in annex C and the suspicious/irregular activity report is in annex D. Often, seafarers do not report suspicious activity as they may be concerned observations could lead to further investigations by Port States and possible delay to the ship. UKMTO will forward information received in an anonymised form to the most appropriate agency empowered to act. While suspicious activity may appear inconsequential, when added to other reports it may be extremely valuable.

Section 7

Ships under attack

General

A ship may come under attack with little or no warning. Effective lookouts, both visual and radar, will help to ensure early detection.

Piracy attack

Pirates carrying weapons do not usually open fire until they are very close to the ship, e.g. within two cables.

Use whatever time available, no matter how short, to activate any additional protective measures and plans. This will make it clear to the attackers that they have been seen, the ship is prepared and will resist attempts to board.

In the event of a suspicious approach, or if in any doubt, call UKMTO without delay.

Approach stage

Effective lookouts may aid in identifying the nature of the attack, the threat profile of a piracy or other attack may initially look similar and it will not be until the attackers are close that the nature of the attack becomes apparent. In all cases, the following steps should be taken:

- If not already at full speed, increase to maximum to open the distance.
- Steer a straight course to maintain a maximum speed.
- Initiate the ship's emergency procedures.
- Activate the emergency communication plan.
- Sound the emergency alarm and make an attack announcement, in accordance with the ship's emergency communication plan.
- Make a mayday call on VHF Ch. 16. Send a distress message via the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) system and Inmarsat-C, as applicable.
- Activate the SSAS.
- Report the attack immediately to UKMTO (+44 2392 222060) by telephone.
- Ensure the AIS is switched on.

- Activate water spray.
- Ensure that all external doors and, where possible, internal public rooms and cabins are fully secured.
- All crew not required on the bridge or in the engine room should muster at the safe muster point or citadel as instructed by the Master.
- When sea conditions allow, consider altering course to increase an approaching skiff's exposure to wind/waves.
- Sound the ship's whistle/foghorn continuously to demonstrate to any potential attacker that the ship is aware of the attack and is reacting to it.
- Check Vessel Data Recorder (VDR) is recording.
- PCASP, if present, will take agreed actions to warn off attackers.



Attack stage

As the attackers get close the following steps should be taken:

- Reconfirm all ship's crew are in the safe muster point or citadel as instructed by the Master.
- Ensure the SSAS has been activated.
- If not actioned, report the attack immediately to **UKMTO (+44 2392 222060)** by telephone.
- As the attackers close in on the ship, Masters should commence small alterations of helm whilst maintaining speed to deter skiffs from lying alongside the ship in preparation for a boarding attempt. These manoeuvres will create additional wash to impede the operation of the skiffs.
- Large amounts of helm are not recommended, as these are likely to significantly reduce a ship's speed.
- Check VDR data is being saved.
- PCASP, if present, will conduct themselves as governed by the RUF.

Actions on illegal boarding

If the ship is illegally boarded the following actions should be taken:

- Take all way off the ship and then stop the engines.
- All remaining crew members to proceed to the citadel or safe muster point locking all internal doors on route.
- PCASP, if present, will follow procedures agreed with company and Master.
- Ensure all crew are present in the citadel or safe muster point. This includes the Master, bridge team and PCASP.

- Establish communications from the citadel with UKMTO and your company and confirm all crew are accounted for and in the citadel or safe muster point.
- Stay in the citadel until conditions force you to leave or advised by the military.
- If any member of the crew is captured it should be considered that the pirates have full control of the ship.

If control of the ship is lost

- All movement should be calm, slow and very deliberate. Crew members should keep their hands visible always and comply fully. This will greatly reduce the risk of violence.

Experience has shown that the pirates will be aggressive, highly agitated and possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

DO be patient.

DO keep mentally active/occupied.

DO keep track of time.

DO reduce stress where possible by remaining physically active.

DO remain calm and retain dignity.

DO be positive (remember, authorities are working tirelessly to release you).

DO remember to leave any CCTV or audio recording devices running.

DO exactly what the attackers ask and comply with their instruction.

DO NOT take photographs.

DO NOT attempt to engage attackers.

DO NOT make movements which could be misinterpreted as being aggressive.

DO NOT be confrontational.

DO NOT resist.

Hijack – hostage situation

The model of pirate action off Somalia is to hijack the ship and hold the crew for ransom. It should be remembered it is in the interests of the pirates to keep the ship and crew safe.

Each company or organisation should have a policy in place to cover the eventualities of kidnap and ransom. The following principles serve as guidelines to surviving a kidnapping.

- DO** remain calm and maintain self-control.
- DO** be humble and respectful to the pirates.
- DO** look out for your colleagues' well-being.
- DO** stay together as a team, where possible.
- DO** accept the new pirate leadership.
- DO** maintain the hierarchy of rank.
- DO** try to establish normal communication with the pirates.
- DO** maintain personal hygiene.
- DO** save water and essentials.
- DO** be positive – many people are working to release you.
- DO** be patient and maintain routines (including your spiritual needs, as permitted by pirates).
- DO** try to keep your breathing regular.
- DO** meditate and keep mentally active.
- DO** respect religion: yours, your colleagues' and the pirates'.

- DO NOT** offer resistance.
- DO NOT** argue with pirates or your colleagues.
- DO NOT** take photographs.
- DO NOT** hide valuables.
- DO NOT** react emotionally.
- DO NOT** take drugs or alcohol.
- DO NOT** bargain with pirates for personal privileges.

In the event of military intervention

Brief and prepare the ship's crew to cooperate fully during any military action onboard and instruct crew as follows.

DO keep low to the deck and cover head with both hands.

DO keep hands visible.

DO be prepared to be challenged on your identity.

DO cooperate fully with military forces.

DO NOT make movements that could be interpreted as aggressive.

DO NOT take photographs.

DO NOT get involved in activity with military forces unless specifically instructed to.

Attack from other threats

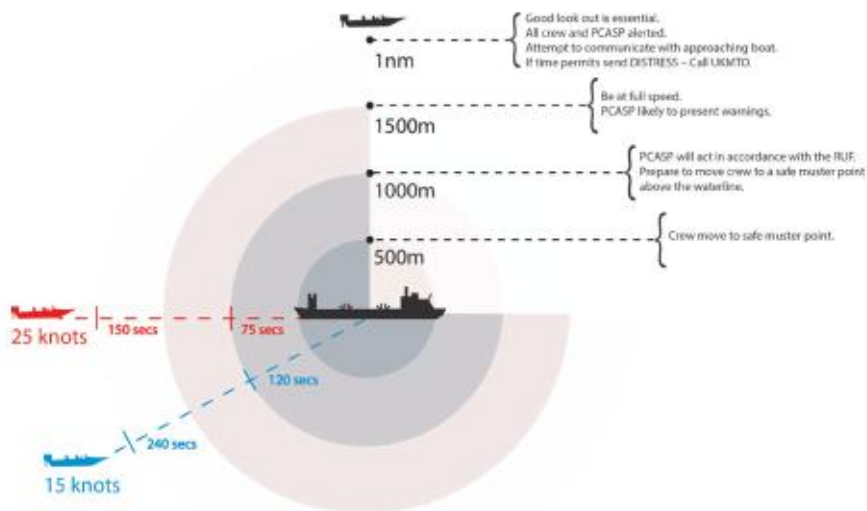
- **Anti-ship missiles** In the event or warning of a missile attack military advice should be followed. If no warning is received there will be no time to take any mitigations beyond a PA warning to the crew if a missile is spotted. It is unlikely merchant ships will be the intended target; Masters should be aware of the ship plot in their immediate vicinity and, if sea room allows, keep clear of naval and associated ships.
- **Sea mines** Ships should avoid all published or identified mine danger areas and maintain close liaison with military authorities. If operating close to mine danger areas, Masters should be aware tethered mines may break free and drift into shipping lanes. Ships should manoeuvre clear of floating objects and the forward area of the ship should be kept clear of crew. Effective lookouts are essential. Specific advice on self protective measures when operating in mine danger areas can be obtained from UKMTO.
- **WBIED attack** In the early stages of the attack it may not be possible to differentiate between a piracy or WBIED attack. Initial actions as highlighted in this guidance for the approach stage of a piracy attack should be followed. Military threat assessments may indicate areas where one type of attack is more likely than another. A speed boat with multiple people onboard is unlikely to be a WBIED as these are usually unmanned or have a solitary occupant.

WBIED attacks may result in a breach of the ship's hull. The use of the safe muster point is recommended before entering a citadel located below the waterline.



Courtesy of the US Naval Institute

If a WBIED is anticipated, the time to react is very short. The figure below gives an example of possible reaction times.



The threat and risk assessment will identify areas where these threats occur which, if successful, may result in an explosion (commonly referred to as a blast). The Master should communicate to the crew prior to entering a threat area what position to take if a blast threat is detected. The Master may consider telling the crew to:

- Lie flat on the deck, as this may minimise exposure and may reduce the impact on the body from the blast.
- Adopt a brace position (arms/legs bent, hands holding onto something solid and feet firmly planted on the deck) to protect personnel from shock waves.
- Move away from a particular area, such as the port side, starboard side, poop deck or engine room.

Post a WBIED attack

- Ensure all crew and PCASP are accounted for.
- Send distress signal.
- Survey area where the blast occurred.
- Implement damage control.
- Call CSO and UKMTD.

Post incident actions and reporting

The period following an attack will be difficult as companies, Master and crew recover from the ordeal. It is important that seafarers receive timely and proper medical assessments, both physical and mental, and care following an attack or hostage situation. Companies should have emergency management plans in place to manage the effects from an attack from any of the identified threats on one of their ships. These plans should include the management of a long, drawn-out hostage negotiation situation, including support for the families of the kidnapped crew.

To give the investigating authorities the best chance of apprehending the perpetrators, it is important that evidence is preserved in the correct manner. Companies, Masters and crew should refer to IMO *Guidelines on Preservation and Collection of Evidence* A28/ Res. 1091 and other industry guidance.

Following any attack or suspicious activity, and after initial reporting of the event, it is vital that a detailed report is completed. A copy of the report should be sent to the company, the Flag State and appropriate authorities. It is important that any report is detailed and comprehensive. This will assist with full analysis and trends in threat activity.

Without supporting evidence, including witness statements from those affected by the incident, suspects are unlikely to be prosecuted.

Protection of evidence

The collection and protection of evidence is critical.

The Master and crew can protect a crime scene until the nominated law enforcement agency arrives by following these basic principles:

- Preserve the crime scene and all evidence if possible.
- Avoid contaminating or interfering with all possible evidence – if in doubt, do not touch and leave items in place.
- Do not clean up the area, including hosing it down. Do not throw anything away, no matter how unimportant it may seem.
- Take initial statements from the crew.
- Take photographs of the crime scene from multiple viewpoints.
- Protect VDR for future evidence.
- Make a list of items taken (e.g. mobile phones with numbers).
- Facilitate access to the crime scene and relevant documentation for law enforcement authorities.
- Make crew available for interview by law enforcement authorities.

Investigation

Thorough investigation using all available evidence is critical.

The quality of the evidence provided and the availability of the crew to testify will significantly help any investigation or prosecution that follows.

Following any attack or incident the investigating authority will be determined by external factors including:

- Flag State.
- Ownership.
- Crew nationality.

Seafarers should always be treated with respect and as victims of crime.

The lead law enforcement agency will talk to the Master and crew to understand the sequence and circumstances of the event.

In a post hostage situation, law enforcement authorities may ask to conduct post-release crew debriefs and to collect evidence for investigations and prosecutions following captivity.

Advice

INTERPOL has a secure website to provide support to ship operators who have had their ships hijacked. INTERPOL's Maritime Task Force can assist in taking the appropriate steps to preserve the integrity of the evidence left behind at the crime scene. INTERPOL has a Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC) that supports any of the 188-member countries faced with a crisis or requiring urgent operational assistance. The CCC operates in all four of INTERPOL's official languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) and is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is recommended that ship operators contact INTERPOL within three days of a hijacking of their ship.

INTERPOL may also be consulted to discuss the recommended practices for the preservation of evidence that could be useful to law enforcement agents pursuing an investigation. Contact details are: email os-ccc@interpol.int; telephone +33 472 44 7676.

Seafarer welfare

Seafarers and their families often have difficulty in expressing the need for assistance or even recognising that they need assistance following exposure to a security threat. The company should monitor the health, both physical and mental, of those exposed to piracy and other maritime security threats and if necessary provide independent support and other assistance, as may be appropriate. There is a range of humanitarian programmes aimed at assisting seafarers and their families effected by piracy or maritime crime, including the International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network and The Mission to Seafarers. See www.seafarerswelfare.org and www.missiontoseafarers.org.

Annex A

Contact details

Emergency contacts

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations

Email	watchkeepers@ukmto.org
Telephone (24hrs)	+44 2392 222060
Website	www.ukmto.org

Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa

Email	postmaster@mschoa.org
Telephone	+44 1923 958545 +44 1923 958700
Fax	+44 1923 958520
Website	www.mschoa.org

US Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping

Email	cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil
Telephone (24hrs)	+973 3904 9583
Telephone (office)	+973 1785 1023

Useful contacts

International Maritime Bureau (IMB)

Email	piracy@icc-ccs.org
Telephone	+60 3 2031 0014
Fax	+60 3 2078 5769
Telex	MA34199 IMBPC1
Website	www.icc-ccs.org

INTERPOL

Email	os-ccc@interpol.int
Telephone (24hrs)	+33 472 44 76 76
Website	www.interpol.int

Adjacent regional reporting centres

Mediterranean

NATO Shipping Centre

Email	info@shipping.nato.int
Telephone (24hrs)	+44 1923 956574
Fax	+44 1923 956575
Website	www.shipping.nato.int

South East Asia

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

Email	info@recaap.org
Telephone	+65 6376 3063
Fax No	+65 6376 3066

Singapore Information Fusion Centre

Email	ifc_do@defence.gov.sg
Telephone	+65 9626 8965 (24/7) +65 6594 5728
Fax No	+65 6594 5734

Maritime security charts



Maritime security charts contain safety-critical information to assist bridge crews in the planning of safe passages through high risk areas. All information has been gathered by the UKHO through work with NATO and other government organisations, ensuring each chart has the most accurate, up-to-date and verified information available.

Each maritime security chart includes:

- Information about dangers to the security of navigation including piracy, terrorism, embargoes, mine warfare, exclusion zones, blockades and illegal fishing. This information, when used alongside official navigational charts, can help to ensure the safety of ships, crew and cargo.
- General security advice, self-protective measures, security procedures and regional contacts, as well as routeing and reporting requirements implemented by military or security forces.

Annex C

Common understanding

It is important to have a common understanding when reporting attacks and suspicious activity.

The following are guidelines to assist in assessing what is an attack or what constitutes suspicious activity.

Attacks

- The use of violence against the ship, its crew or cargo, or any attempt to use violence.
- Unauthorised attempts to board the ship where the Master suspects the persons are pirates or other unauthorised persons.
- If weapons or RPGs are fired.
- Attempts to place a WBIED against the hull.
- Sighting of missile firing.
- An actual boarding, whether successful in gaining control of the ship or not.
- Attempts to overcome the SPM using:
 - Ladders.
 - Grappling hooks.
 - Weapons deliberately used against or at the ship.

Suspicious activity

- The number of crew onboard relative to its size.
- The Closest Point of Approach.
- The existence of unusual and non-fishing equipment onboard, e.g. ladders, climbing hooks or large amounts of fuel.
- One vessel towing multiple skiffs or has skiffs onboard.
- The type of vessel is unusual for the current location.
- Small boats operating at high speed.
- If a vessel appears unmanned.
- The vessel is not transmitting on AIS.
- The vessel is not flying a Flag.
- Vessel is flying two or more flags simultaneously.
- Skiffs operating far from the coast.
- Vessels fishing outside of normal fishing zones.
- Windows of vessel covered or blanked out.

- Dhows/skiffs rafted up.
- No lights during hours of darkness.
- Skiffs with two or more outboard motors.
- Dhows/skiffs stopped in the water, no evidence of fishing.
- Vessels loitering East of Socotra, South of the Makran Coast or in the vicinity of Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Pemba, Salalah, Ras Fartek or the IRTC.
- Packages hanging outboard of a vessel.
- Excessive communications antennas.

This is not an exhaustive list. Other events, activity and vessels may be deemed suspicious by the Master of a merchant ship having due regard to their own seagoing experiences within the region and information shared amongst the maritime community.

If in doubt, report and contact UKMTO.

Annex D

UKMTO reporting forms

UKMTO vessel position reporting forms

Once a ship has transmitted an initial report on entering the VRA, UKMTO will request daily reports be transmitted. Upon reaching port or upon exiting the VRA, UKMTO will request a final report. The following forms are provided below and are available at www.ukmto.org:

- Initial report.
- Daily report.
- Final report.
- Suspicious/irregular activity report.

UKMTO vessel position reporting form - initial report

1	Ship Name
2	Flag
3	IMO Number
4	INMARSAT Telephone Number
5	Time and Position
6	Course
7	Passage Speed
8	Freeboard
9	Cargo
10	Destination and Estimated Time of Arrival
11	Name and contact details of Company Security Officer
12	Nationality of Master and Crew
13	Armed/unarmed security team embarked

UKMTO vessel position reporting form – daily/transit position report

1	Ship Name
2	Ship's Call Sign and IMO Number
3	Time of Report in UTC
4	Ship's Position
5	Ship's Course and Speed
6	Any other important information*
7	ETA point A/B IRTC (if applicable)

**Other important information could be change of destination or ETA, number of UK crew on board, etc.*

UKMTO vessel position reporting form - final report

1	Ship's name
2	Ship's Call Sign and IMO Number
3	Time of Report in UTC
4	Port or position when leaving the voluntary reporting area

UKMTO suspicious/irregular activity report

1	Ship's name
2	Ship's Call Sign and IMO Number
3	Time of Report in UTC
4	Ship's Position
5	Ship's Course and Speed
6	Sighting of suspicious activity. Time, position, brief description of craft and activity witnessed

Note: Where possible include any imagery to aid military appreciation.

Follow-up report to UKMTO and MSCHOA

Following any attack or suspicious activity, it is vital that a detailed report of the event is provided to UKMTO and MSCHOA. It is helpful to provide a copy of the report to the IMB.

Annex E

Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa reporting forms

MSCHOA vessel registration and incident reporting

Registration with MSCHOA ensures a ship is monitored by military counter piracy forces during its transit of the HRA. In addition, regular threat assessment updates, warnings and the latest self-protection information are made available to shipping companies and Masters who register.

Registration is required within the MSCHOA Vessel Registration Area as highlighted on UKHO Chart Q6099.

The form to 'Register a Vessel's Movements' is available on the MSCHOA website and UKHO Chart Q6099. The following should be noted:

- There are two principal methods to register your ship's movement with MSCHOA.
 - **Online** at www.mschoa.org (note you will need to register with MSCHOA for access, this can be done following the register tab on the website).
 - **Offline**. A downloadable form is available from www.mschoa.org or it can be requested from postmaster@mschoa.org. This form was updated in March 2018 to make offline registration simpler for ships with sporadic internet connectivity to register.

If the above options are not possible a ship can be registered by sending an email with the subject heading **MSCHOA Vessel Registration** to postmaster@mschoa.org with the information in the table below. Items marked with an * are mandatory.

Vessel Details

Ship Name *	Flag State *
IMO Number *	MMSI Number *
Call Sign *	Ship's Master
Primary Email *	Secondary Email
Ship contact number *	Ship contact email *
Owner name	Operator name
Operator address	DPA name
DPA telephone	DPA email

Movement Details

Entry Point to MSCHOA vessel registration area * (78°E/10°S/23°N/Suez/Port)	Entry Date/Time to MSCHOA vessel registration area * (DD/MM/YYYY) (HH) (MM)
Exit Point from MSCHOA vessel registration area * (78°E/10°S/23°N/Suez/Port)	Exit Date/Time to MSCHOA vessel registration area * (DD/MM/YYYY) (HH) (MM)
Do you intend to transit the IRTC?	
ETA to IRTC (times are in UTC/ Zulu time) *	
Direction * (East/West)	
Do you intend to join a group transit?	Do you intend to join a National Convoy?
	Which National Convoy are you joining? *
Crew numbers and nationalities	Draught
Freeboard of lowest accessible deck in Metres(M) *	Planned Transit Speed *
Vessel's Maximum Speed *	Cargo (Crude Oil/Clean Oil/Arms/ Chemicals/ Gas/Passengers/Bulk Cargo/ Containers/Fishing/Ballast/ Others ... Please Specify)
	Hazardous cargo
Next Port of Call	Last Port of Call
Number of Armed Security personnel on board?	Nationality of armed security team?

Follow-up report to MSCHOA and UKMTO

Following any attack or suspicious activity, it is vital that a detailed report of the event is provided to UKMTO and MSCHOA. It is also helpful to provide a copy of the report to the IMB.

Incident report; vessel particulars/details

It is recognised that during an incident time may be short and crew will be under a number of pressures and stresses. Those lines marked with an * are those that, in extremis, are the key requirements that must be reported. Without this data responses cannot be planned or mounted and assessments will be incomplete and may be inaccurate.

INCIDENT REPORTING PART ONE – VESSEL DETAILS				
Line		Responses / Inclusions		Format
(a)	(b)			(d)
IDENTITY	1.1	A*	SHIP NAME	PLAIN TEXT
		B*	IMO NUMBER	PLAIN TEXT
		C	FLAG	PLAIN TEXT
		D	CALL SIGN	PLAIN TEXT
		E	OWNER NAME & CONTACT DETAILS	PLAIN TEXT
		F	Company Security Officer / Designated Person Assure CONTACT DETAILS	PLAIN TEXT
CREW / CARGO	1.2	A	CREW NUMBER	PLAIN TEXT
		B	CREW NATIONALITIES	PLAIN TEXT
		C	CAPTAIN / MASTER NATIONALITY	PLAIN TEXT
		D	CARGO	PLAIN TEXT
		E	CARGO SIZE / QUANTITY	PLAIN TEXT
ROUTE / SCHEDULE	1.3	A	LAST PORT OF CALL (LPOC)	PLAIN TEXT
		B	LAST PORT OF CALL DATE	PLAIN TEXT
		C	NEXT PORT OF CALL (NPOC)	PLAIN TEXT
		D	NEXT PORT OF CALL DATE	PLAIN TEXT
		E	SEA DAYS SINCE LAST PORT	PLAIN TEXT

INCIDENT REPORTING PART TWO – INCIDENT DETAILS				
Line		Responses / Inclusions		Format
(a)	(b)			(d)
DETAILS	2.1*	TIME OF REPORT		DTG
	2.2	A*	INCIDENT LOCATION	LAT / LONG
		B*	SPEED AND HEADING AT TIME OF INCIDENT	PLAIN TEXT
	2.3	A*	INCIDENT START TIME	DTG
		B*	INCIDENT END TIME	DTG
		C	WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING EVENT	PLAIN TEXT
INCIDENT	2.4	A*	SIGHTING / APPROACH / COMMUNICATION / ATTACK / BOARDING	SELECT
		B	AREA(S) OF VESSEL TARGETED	PLAIN TEXT
SUSPECTS	2.5	A*	NUMBER OF SUSPECT CRAFT	NUMBER
		B	NUMBER OF SUSPECT INDIVIDUALS	NUMBER
		C	NOT KNOWN / CIVILIAN DRESS / UNIFORMS / MIX	SELECT
		D	ETHNICITY / LANGUAGES	PLAIN TEXT
WEAPONS	2.6	A*	NONE SEEN / SIGHTED / SHOTS FIRED	SELECT
		B	PISTOLS / RIFLES / MACHINE GUNS / GRENADE LAUNCHERS	SELECT
LADDERS	2.7	A	NONE SEEN / SUSPECTED / SIGHTED / USED	SELECT
		B	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	PLAIN TEXT
CRAFT	2.8	A*	TYPE: WHALER / DHOW / FISHING VESSEL / MERCHANT VESSEL	SELECT
		B	DESCRIPTION OF VESSEL (COLOUR, NAME, FEATURES)	PLAIN TEXT

YOUR VESSEL	2.9	A*	CITADEL / SECURE AREA	YES / NO
		B*	NO SECURITY TEAM / UNARMED TEAM / ARMED TEAM	SELECT
		C	HEIGHT OF FREEBOARD AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT	PLAIN TEXT
		D	SELF PROTECTION MEASURES IN PLACE BEFORE INCIDENT	PLAIN TEXT
		E	DEFENCE MEASURES EMPLOYED	YES / NO
		F	OTHER	PLAIN TEXT
YOUR RESPONSE	2.10	A*	ALARM SOUNDED	YES / NO
		B*	CREW MUSTERED IN CITADEL	YES / NO
		C*	INCREASED SPEED / EVASIVE MANOEUVRES	SELECT
		D*	DESCRIPTION	SELECT
		E	PAST SHOWED WEAPONS / WARNING SHOTS / AIMED SHOTS / NO PAST	PLAIN TEXT
		F	WAS INCIDENT REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES? IF SO TO WHOM?	PLAIN TEXT
STATUS	2.11	A*	INCIDENT FINISHED / ONGOING	SELECT
		B	INCIDENT ENDED BY SUSPECTS / OWN VESSEL	YES / NO
		C	DETAIL	YES / NO

INCIDENT REPORTING PART THREE – STATUS AND SUPPORT REQUESTS				
Line		Responses / Inclusions		Format
(a)	(b)			(d)
STATUS	3.1	A*	VESSEL SAFE / UNSAFE / UNDER ATTACK / BOARDED	SELECT
		B	VESSEL UNDERWAY / VESSEL STATIC	SELECT
		C*	UNDER OWN POWER / SUPPORTED / WITHOUT POWER	SELECT
		D	NO DAMAGE / MINOR DAMAGE / MAJOR DAMAGE	SELECT
DAMAGE / MEDICAL	3.2	A*	DAMAGE DETAILS	PLAIN TEXT
		B	CREW AT STATIONS / CREW IN CITADEL / CREW OFF SHIP	SELECT
		C	CREW INJURIES	NUMBER
		D	INJURY DETAILS	PLAIN TEXT
		E	CREW FATALITIES	NUMBER
		F	FATALITY DETAILS	PLAIN TEXT
INTENTIONS	3.3	A*	CONTINUE AS PLANNED / RE-ROUTING	SELECT
		B*	REPAIR DAMAGE / ABANDON SHIP / SURRENDER CONTROL	PLAIN TEXT
		C	CURRENT SPEED	PLAIN TEXT
		D	CURRENT HEADING	PLAIN TEXT
		E	OTHER	PLAIN TEXT

IMAGERY	3.4	A	WAS THE INCIDENT RECORDED?	YES / NO
		B	CCTV FOOTAGE / PHOTOGRAPHS	SELECT
		C	IMAGERY ATTACHED (IF AVAILABLE PLEASE ATTACH)	YES / NO
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	3.5	A	ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH MAY ASSIST?	PLAIN TEXT
		B	PLEASE ATTACH WITH THIS REPORT – A BRIEF DESCRIPTION / FULL REPORT / MASTER – CREW STATEMENT OF THE ATTACK	PLAIN TEXT

Annex F

Additional guidance for vessels engaged in fishing

This guidance for vessels engaged in fishing has been provided by the following national fishing industry associations:

- **OPAGAC** – Organizacion de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores.
- **ANABAC** – Asociacion Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores.

Recommendations to vessels in fishing zones

- Non-Somali fishing vessels should avoid operating or transiting within 200nm of the coast of Somalia, irrespective of whether they have been issued with licenses to do so.
- Do not start fishing operations when the radar indicates the presence of unidentified boats.
- If polyester skiffs of a type typically used by pirates are sighted, move away from them at full speed, sailing into the wind and sea to make their navigation more difficult.
- Avoid stopping at night. Be alert and maintain bridge, deck and engine-room watch.
- During fishing operations, when the vessel is more vulnerable, be alert and maintain radar watch to give maximum notice to your crew and the state authorities if an attack is in progress.
- While navigating at night, use only the mandatory navigation and safety lights to prevent the glow of lighting attracting pirates, who are sometimes in boats without radar and are waiting.
- If the vessel is drifting while fishing at night, keep guard at the bridge on deck and in the engine room. Use only mandatory navigation and safety lights.
- The engine must be ready for an immediate start-up.
- Keep away from unidentified ships.
- Use VHF as little as possible to avoid being heard by pirates and to make location more difficult.
- Activate the AIS when maritime patrol aircraft are operating in the area to facilitate identification and tracking.

Identification

- Managers are strongly recommended to register their fishing vessels with MSCHOA for the whole period of activity off the coast of Somalia. This should include communicating a full list of the crewmen on board and their vessels' intentions, if possible.
- Carry out training prior to passage or fishing operations in the area.
- Whenever fishing vessels are equipped with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) devices, their manager should provide MSCHOA with access to VMS data.
- Fishing vessels should always identify themselves upon request from aircraft or ships from any international or national anti-piracy operation.
- Military, merchant and fishing vessels should respond without delay to any identification request made by a fishing vessel being approached (to facilitate early action to make escape possible, especially if the vessel is fishing).

In case of attack

- In case of an attack or sighting a suspicious craft, warn the authorities (UKMTO and MSCHOA) and the rest of the fleet.
- Communicate the contact details of the second Master of the vessel (who is on land) whose knowledge of the vessel could contribute to the success of a military intervention.
- Recommendations **only for Purse Seiners**:
 - Evacuate all crew from the deck and the crew's nest.
 - If pirates have taken control of the vessel and the purse seine is spread out, encourage the pirates to allow the nets to be recovered. If recovery of the purse seine is allowed, follow the instructions for its stowage and explain the functioning of the gear to avoid misunderstanding.

Annex G

Additional advice for leisure craft, including yachts

Leisure craft should make early contact in advance with the naval/military authorities to determine if the VRA area is safe to transit; regional activity has indicated attacks occur on both large and small vessels. Transit close to areas of conflict should be avoided. Close contact should be maintained with UKMTO throughout any voyage.

See the MSCHOA (www.mschoa.org) and the International Sailing Federation (www.sailing.org) for the most up-to-date information.

Definitions and abbreviations

Definitions

The following definitions to term and categorise attacks and suspicious incidents that are reported from shipping inside the VRA may help. This ensures the consistent identification of patterns and trends.

Armed robbery The Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships, highlights armed robbery against ships consists of:

- Any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea.
- Any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above.

Attack An attack, as opposed to an approach, is where a ship has been subjected to an aggressive approach by an unidentified craft AND weapons have been discharged.

Hijack A hijack is where attackers have illegally boarded and taken control of a ship against the crew's will. Hijackers will not always have the same objective (armed robbery, cargo theft or kidnapping).

Illegal boarding An illegal boarding is where attackers have boarded a ship but HAVE NOT taken control. Command remains with the Master. The most obvious example of this is the citadel scenario.

Piracy Piracy is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101). However, for the purposes of these BMP, it is important to provide clear, practical, working guidance to the industry to enable accurate and consistent assessment of suspicious activity and piracy attacks.

The following may assist in assessing what is a piracy attack. A piracy attack may include but is not limited to:

- The use of violence against the ship or its personnel, or any attempt to use violence.
- Attempt(s) to illegally board the ship where the Master suspects the persons are pirates.
- An actual boarding whether successful in gaining control of the ship or not.
- Attempts to overcome the SPM by the use of:
 - Ladders.
 - Grappling hooks.
 - Weapons deliberately used against or at the ship.

Suspicious or aggressive approach Action taken by another craft may be deemed suspicious if any of the following occur (the list is not exhaustive):

- A definite course alteration towards a ship associated with a rapid increase in speed by the suspected craft, which cannot be accounted for by the prevailing conditions.
- Small craft sailing on the same course and speed for an uncommon period and distance, not in keeping with normal fishing or other circumstances prevailing in the area.
- Sudden changes in course towards the ship and aggressive behaviour.

Abbreviations

AIS	Automatic Identification System
BAM	Bab el Mandeb
CMF	Combined Maritime Forces
CSO	Chief Security Officer
DSC	Digital Selective Calling
EU NAVFOR	European Union Naval Force
HRA	High Risk Area
IMB	International Maritime Bureau
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IRTA	Industry Releasable Threat Assessment
IRTB	Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin
IRTC	Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor
JWC	Joint War Committee
MSC	Maritime Safety Committee
MSCHOA	Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa
MSTC	Maritime Security Transit Corridor
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
PAG	Pirate Action Group
PCASP	Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel
PMSC	Private Maritime Security Company
RECAAP	Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade

RUF	Rules for the Use of Force
SPM	Ship Protection Measures
SSA	Ship Security Assessment
SSAS	Ship Security Alert System
SSP	Ship Security Plan
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme
UKMTO	United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations
VDR	Vessel Data Recorder
VHP	Vessel Hardening Plan
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VPD	Vessel Protection Detachment
VRA	Voluntary Reporting Area
WBIED	Water-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices

Supporting organisations

I.1 BMP5 Signatories



BIMCO

BIMCO is the world's largest international shipping association, with around 2,000 members in more than 120 countries, representing 56% of the world's tonnage. Our global membership includes shipowners, operators, managers, brokers and agents. A non-profit organisation, BIMCO's mission is to be at the forefront of global developments in shipping, providing expert knowledge and practical advice to safeguard and add value to members' businesses.

www.bimco.org



CDI

The Chemical Distribution Institute (CDI) was established in 1994 as a not for profit Foundation and provides ship and terminal inspection data in an electronic report format to its members. The main objectives of CDI is to continuously improve the safety and quality performance of chemical marine transportation and storage; Through cooperation with industry and centres of education, drive the development of industry best practice in marine transportation and storage of chemical products; To provide information and advice on industry best practice and international legislation for marine transportation and storage of chemical products; To provide chemical companies with cost effective systems for risk assessment, thus assisting their commitment to Responsible Care and the Code of Distribution Management Practice.

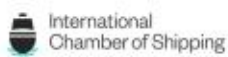
www.cdi.org.uk



CLIA

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the world's largest cruise industry trade association, providing a unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community. CLIA supports policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy and sustainable cruise ship environment for the more than 25 million passengers who cruise annually and is dedicated to promote the cruise travel experience. The organization's mission is to be the unified global organization that helps its members succeed by advocating, educating and promoting for the common interests of the cruise community.

www.cruising.org



ICS International Chamber of Shipping

The **International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)** is the international trade association for merchant ship operators. ICS represents the collective views of the international industry from different nations, sectors and trades. ICS membership comprises national shipowners' associations representing over 80% of the world's merchant fleet. A major focus of ICS activity is the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations agency with responsibility for the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment. ICS is heavily involved in a wide variety of areas including any technical, legal and operational matters affecting merchant ships. ICS is unique in that it represents the global interests of all the different trades in the industry: bulk carrier, tanker, container, and passenger ship operators

www.ics-shipping.org



IFSMA

The **International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA)** was formed in 1974 by Eight National Shipmasters' Associations to unite the World's serving Shipmasters into a single professional co-ordinated body. It is a non-profit making apolitical organisation dedicated solely to the interest of the serving Shipmaster. The Federation is formed of around 11,000 Shipmasters from sixty Countries either through their National Associations or as Individual Members. In 1975, IFSMA was granted Consultative Status as a non governmental organisation at IMO which enables the Federation to represent the views and protect the interests of the serving Shipmasters.

www.ifsma.org



IGP&I Clubs

Thirteen principal underwriting associations “the Clubs” comprise the **International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I)**. They provide liability cover (protection and indemnity) for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage. The Clubs are mutual insurance associations providing cover for their members against third party liabilities relating to the use and operation of ships, including loss of life, pollution by oil and hazardous substances, wreck removal, collision and damage to property. Clubs also provide services to their members on claims handling, legal issues and loss prevention, and often play a leading role in coordinating the response to, and management of, maritime casualties.

www.igpandi.org



IMCA

The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) is a leading trade association representing the vast majority of contractors and the associated supply chain in the offshore marine construction industry worldwide. We have a membership of 800 companies including contractors, suppliers, oil & gas companies, marine renewable energy companies and numerous non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

www.imca-int.com



INTERCARGO

The **International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO)**, established in 1980 in London and granted IMO NGO consultative status since 1993, is a voluntary non-profit association representing the interests of dry cargo vessel owners.

INTERCARGO provides the forum where quality dry bulk shipowners, managers and operators are informed about, discuss and share concerns on key topics and regulatory challenges, especially in relation to safety, the environment and operational excellence.

INTERCARGO promotes best practices and represents dry cargo shipping interests at IMO, other industry fora and the broader business context, basing its strategies on the principle of free and fair competition.

www.intercargo.org



InterManager

InterManager is the international trade association for the ship management industry established in 1991. It is the voice of ship management and the only organisation dedicated to representing the ship management and crew management industry. In today's global shipping industry InterManager works for the needs of like-minded companies in the ship and crew management sector, who all have the welfare of seafarers at their hearts. InterManager acts as a forum to share best practices and bring about positive change. An internationally-recognised organisation, InterManager represents its members at international level, lobbying on their behalf to ensure their views are taken into account within the worldwide maritime industry.

www.intermanager.org



**International Maritime Employers'
Council Ltd (IMEC)**

IMEC is the only international employers' organisation dedicated to maritime industrial relations. With offices in the UK and the Philippines, IMEC has a membership of over 235 shipowners and managers, covering some 8,000 ships with CBA's, which IMEC negotiates on behalf of its members within the International Bargaining Forum (IBF).

IMEC is also heavily involved in maritime training. The IMEC Enhanced cadet programme in the Philippines currently has over 700 young people under training.

www.imec.org.uk



International Transport Workers' Federation

The **International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)** is an international trade union federation of transport workers' unions. Any independent trade union with members in the transport industry is eligible for membership of the ITF. The ITF has been helping seafarers since 1896 and today represents the interests of seafarers worldwide, of whom over 880,000 are members of ITF affiliated unions. The ITF is working to improve conditions for seafarers of all nationalities and to ensure adequate regulation of the shipping industry to protect the interests and rights of the workers. The ITF helps crews regardless of their nationality or the flag of their ship.

www.itfseafarers.org

www.itfglobal.org



INTERTANKO

INTERTANKO is the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, a forum where the industry meets, policies are discussed and best practices developed. INTERTANKO has been the voice of independent tanker owners since 1970, ensuring that the liquid energy that keeps the world turning is shipped safely, responsibly and competitively.

www.intertanko.com



IPTA

The **International Parcel Tankers Association (IPTA)** was formed in 1987 to represent the interests of the specialised chemical/parcel tanker fleet and has since developed into an established representative body for ship owners operating IMO classified chemical/parcel tankers, being recognised as a focal point through which regulatory authorities and trade organisations may liaise with such owners. IPTA was granted consultative status as a Non-Governmental Organisation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1997 and is wholly supportive of the IMO as the only body to introduce and monitor compliance with international maritime legislation.

www.ipta.org.uk



ISWAN

The **International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)** is an international NGO and UK registered charity set up to promote the welfare of seafarers worldwide. We are a membership organisation with ship owners, unions and welfare organisation as members. We work with a range of bodies including P&I Clubs, shipping companies, ports, and governments. Our focus is the wellbeing of the 1.5 million seafarers around the world.

We support seafarers and their families who are affected by piracy and our 24 hour multilingual helpline, SeafarerHelp, is free for seafarers to call from anywhere in the world.

www.seafarerswelfare.org



Joint War Committee

Joint Hull Committee and Joint War Committee

The **Joint Hull and Joint War Committees** comprise elected underwriting representatives from both the Lloyd's and IUA company markets, representing the interests of those who write marine hull and war business in the London market.

Both sets of underwriters are impacted by piracy issues and support the mitigation of the exposures they face through the owners' use of BMP. The actions of owners and charterers will inform underwriters' approach to risk and coverage.



The Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers is the largest provider of port-based welfare services, providing 200 port chaplains and 121 seafarers' centres across 50 countries. In addition to our services of free Wi-Fi, respite and transportation, all chaplains are trained in post-trauma counselling and are able to provide immediate support post attack or release, as well as connect with relevant professional services in a seafarer's home country. We run family support networks in the Philippines, Myanmar, Ukraine and India offering access to education, training and medical and legal services. The Mission to Seafarers is pleased to support the creation of BMP5 and the associated resources and commends their use to all maritime personnel.

www.missiontoseafarers.org



OCIMF

The **Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)** is a voluntary association of oil companies (the 'members') who have an interest in the shipment and terminalling of crude oil, oil products, petrochemicals and gas. OCIMF's mission is to be the foremost authority on the safe and environmentally responsible operation of oil tankers, terminals and offshore support vessels, promoting continuous improvement in standards of design and operation.

www.ocimf.org



Sailors' Society

Sailors' Society is the world's oldest maritime welfare organisation caring for seafarers and their families across the globe.

The charity works in ports across 30 countries and has projects ranging from medical centres to building boats to get children safely to school.

Our renowned Crisis Response Network helping victims of trauma at sea is run across Asia, Europe and Africa with plans to extend further.

Trained chaplains offer 24-hour support to victims of piracy, kidnapping and natural disasters and come alongside survivors and loved ones with psychological and financial help for as long as needed.

www.sailors-society.org



SIGTTO

The **Society for International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO)** is the international body established for the exchange of technical information and experience, between members of the industry, to enhance the safety and operational reliability of gas tankers and terminals.

To this end the Society publishes studies, and produces information papers and works of reference, for the guidance of industry members. It maintains working relationships with other industry bodies, governmental and intergovernmental agencies, including the International Maritime Organization, to better promote the safety and integrity of gas transportation and storage schemes.

www.sigtto.org



World Shipping Council

The **World Shipping Council (WSC)** is the trade association that represents the international liner shipping industry. WSC's member lines operate containerships, roll-on/roll-off vessels, and car carrier vessels that account for approximately 90 percent of the global liner vessel capacity. Collectively, these services transport about 60 percent of the value of global seaborne trade, or more than US\$ 4 trillion worth of goods annually. WSC's goal is to provide a coordinated voice for the liner shipping industry in its work with policymakers and other industry groups to develop actionable solutions for some of the world's most challenging transportation problems. WSC serves as a non-governmental organization at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

www.worldshipping.org



CGPCS

The **Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)** was established on 14 January 2009, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1851. This ad hoc international forum brings together more than 60 countries, regional and international organisations, all working together towards the prevention of piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The CGPCS coordinates political, military and non-governmental efforts to combat piracy, ensures that pirates are brought to justice and support local governments to develop sustainable maritime security capabilities. The group's approach focuses on informality, inclusion and multi-stakeholder representation and is an attempt to find innovative solutions outside of formal international organisations.



Combined Maritime Forces

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is an enduring global maritime partnership of 32 willing nations aligned in common purpose to conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in order to provide security and stability in the maritime environment. CMF operates three Combined Task Forces (CTF) across the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Somali Basin, Northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf. CTF150 is responsible for maritime security and counter-terrorism, CTF151 is responsible for deterring, disrupting and suppressing piracy and CTF152 is responsible for maritime security and counter-terrorism specifically in the Arabian Gulf. Visit www.combinedmaritimeforces.com or e-mail us at cmf_info@me.navy.mil.



EU NAVFOR



MSCHOA

Piracy and other maritime security issues have continued to be a threat to mariners who transit the Southern Red Sea, Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. The mission of the **European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR)** is (1) to PROTECT World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping and (2) to deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea. This requires (3) the enhancement of cooperation and coordination with an increasingly wide range of maritime actors to uphold freedom of navigation across a broad maritime security architecture. EU NAVFOR is also tasked with (4) monitoring fishing activities off the coast of Somalia. Thus, acting as a catalyst for action, EU NAVFOR continues to promote solutions to regional maritime security issues, thereby contributing to the EU's much wider security, capacity-building and capability-building work in this strategically important location.

The **Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)** is an integral part of EU NAVFOR, sitting functionally within the Operational Headquarters and staffed by military and civilian EU NAVFOR personnel. The MSCHOA provides a service to mariners in the Gulf of Aden, the Somali Basin and off the Horn of Africa. It is a Coordination Centre dedicated to safeguarding legitimate freedom of navigation in light of the risk of attack against merchant shipping in the region, in support of the UN Security Council's Resolutions (UNSCR) 1816 and subsequent reviews. EU NAVFOR and CMF are committed to ensuring that mariners have the most up to date regular threat assessments and incident specific bulletins, published by the MSCHOA. Through close dialogue with shipping companies, ships' masters and other interested parties, MSCHOA builds up a picture of vulnerable shipping in these waters and their approaches. The MSCHOA can then act as a focal point sharing information to provide support and protection to maritime traffic. There is a clear need to protect ships and their crews from illegitimate and dangerous attacks, safeguarding a key global trade route.

<http://eunavfor.eu>

www.mschoa.org



IMB Piracy Reporting Centre

Established in 1992, **IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC)** provides the shipping industry with a free 24-hour service to report any piracy or armed robbery incidents occurring anywhere in the world.

The IMB PRC is an independent and non-governmental agency aimed at raising awareness of areas at risk of these attacks. As a trusted point of contact for shipmasters reporting incidents to the IMB PRC from anywhere in the world, the IMB PRC immediately relays all incidents to the local law enforcement requesting assistance. Information is also immediately broadcast to all vessels via Inmarsat Safety Net to provide and increase awareness.

www.icc-ccs.org/piracy-reporting-centre



Information Fusion Centre

The **Information Fusion Centre (IFC)**, based in Singapore, serves as the regional Maritime Security (MARSEC) information-sharing hub. It has linkages with more than 70 regional and extra-regional Operational Centres (OPCENs) from navies and law enforcement agencies in 39 countries, as well as linkages with the shipping industry. It is also the only centre in the Asia-Pacific with International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from 16 countries.

The IFC collates and analyses relevant information to produce accurate, timely and actionable products, which enable its partners to respond to MARSEC incidents in good time. It also provides practical and useful information on MARSEC trends, incidents and best practices to the shipping industry. IFC also administers the Voluntary Community Reporting (VCR) for merchant vessels to report anomalies and incidents, enabling community contribution to Safe and Secure Seas for All.



INTERPOL

INTERPOL has a dedicated unit for maritime piracy that works with the police, navy and private sector in member countries, and can provide support to ship operators who have had their ships hijacked. INTERPOL's Maritime Security sub-Directorate (MTS) can be consulted on the recommended practices and action to be taken to help preserve the integrity of any evidence left behind following a pirate attack that could be useful to law enforcement agents pursuing an investigation.

MTS can be contacted on tel +33 472 44 72 33 or via email dIMTSOPSupport@interpol.int during business hours (GMT 08H00 – 17H00).

Outside of normal business hours, contact can be made via INTERPOL's Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC). The CCC is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and supports INTERPOL's 190 member countries faced with a crisis situation or requiring urgent operational assistance. The CCC operates in all four of Interpol's official languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic). Contact details are: tel +33 472 44 7676; email os-ccc@interpol.int.

It is recommended that ship operators contact INTERPOL within 3 days of a hijacking of their ship.



NCAGS

The **Naval Cooperation & Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS)** mission is to facilitate the exchange of information between the United States Navy, Combined Maritime Forces, and the commercial maritime community in the United States Central Command's (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility. NCAGS operates as a conduit for information focused on the safety and security of shipping and is committed to assisting all members of the commercial maritime community. To help combat piracy, NCAGS serves as a secondary emergency point of contact for mariners in distress (after UKMTO) and also disseminates transit guidance to the maritime industry. NCAGS disseminates guidance to merchant shippers via briefings, website, email, and duty phone concerning Naval Exercises, Boardings, Aids to Navigation, Environmental Issues, MEDEVAC Assistance, Security and Augments, Regional Search and Rescue Centres.



UKMTMO

UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTMO) capability acts as the primary point of contact for merchant vessels and liaison with military forces within the region. UKMTMO also administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme, under which merchant vessels are encouraged to send regular reports, providing their position/speed and ETA at the next port of call, in accordance with the Maritime Security Chart Q6099.

Emerging and time relevant information impacting commercial traffic can then be passed directly to vessels at sea, and responding assets accordingly, therefore improving the collective responsiveness to an incident. For further information on UKMTMO please contact:

Emergency Telephone Numbers: +44 (0)2392 222060 or +971 5055 23215

e-mail: watchkeepers@ukmto.org Web: www.ukmto.org

Voyage reference card

Understand the threat

- Get threat information.
- Review guidance.
- Review Rules for the Use of Force.

Assess the risk

- Conduct risk assessment.
- Identify ship protection measures.

Protect the ship and crew

- Harden the ship.
- Test critical equipment.
- Brief/train the crew.
- Extra lookout/radar watch.
- Control access.
- Follow military advice.

Do NOT be alone

- Report to UKMTO.
- Register with MSCHOA.
- Report suspicious activity.
- Report incidents.
- Send DISTRESS if attacked.

UKMTO

+44 (0) 2392 222060
watchkeepers@ukmto.org

MSCHOA

+44 1923 958545
www.mschoa.org

Cooperate with:

- Other shipping and military forces.
- Local law enforcement.
- Welfare providers.

