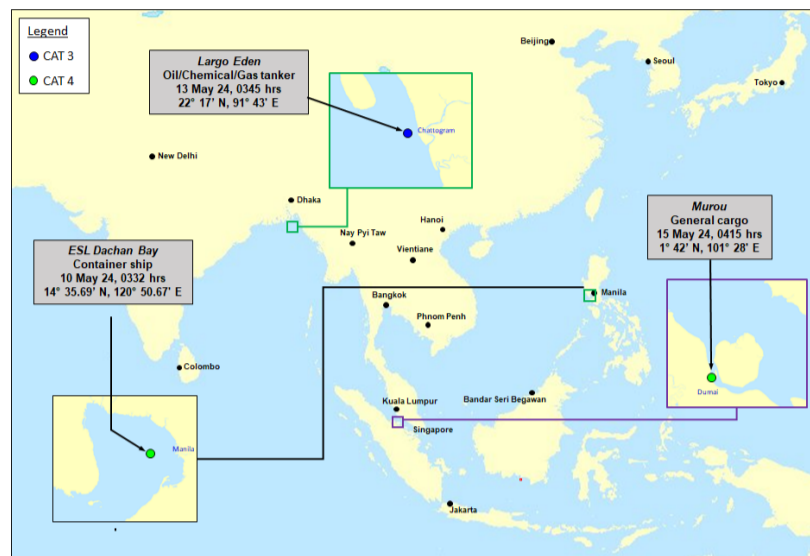


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one CAT 3¹ incident and two CAT 4² incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 3 incident occurred onboard a tanker while anchored at Chattogram Anchorage area, Bangladesh on 13 May, while the two CAT 4 incidents occurred onboard a container ship while anchored at Manila Anchorage area, the Philippines on 10 May, and a general cargo ship while anchored at Dumai Anchorage, Indonesia on 15 May. The crew members were not injured in all the three incidents. Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Locations		
	Philippines Manila International Container Terminal (1 incident)	Bangladesh Chattogram Anchorage (1 incident)	Indonesia Dumai Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Container ship	Oil/Chemical/Gas tanker	General cargo ship
Date/Time	10 May at 0332 hrs	13 May at 0345 hrs	15 May at 0415 hrs
Number of perpetrators	2 men	6 men	3 men
Weapons	Not known	Not known	Not known
Treatment of crew	No injuries	Shore watchmen were found tied and unable to move. No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 3	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship stores	Unsecured items	Nothing was stolen

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance and maintain lookout while anchored at ports and anchorages; and the coastal States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

The efforts by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi through the conduct of continuous military operations led to the dismantling of the support base and neutralising the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago. Against this backdrop, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts that have vital involvement in the maritime security of the Sulu-Celebes Seas, reviewed the threat situation and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE' to 'MODERATE LOW', which implies that 'Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to the vessel and crew in case of an attack'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes seas by the PCG, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory for ships to "exercise vigilance & adopt necessary preventive measures while transiting the area".

- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance and report** all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The **Contact Details** of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown in Picture 1.



Picture 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, referring to the Poster on the *Contact Details for Reporting of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

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* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ **CAT (Category) 3** incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. Although the crew can be subjected to duress or threat during the incident, they are not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, nothing is stolen. In cases where losses are reported, stores and engine spares are commonly stolen items.

² **CAT (Category) 4** incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.