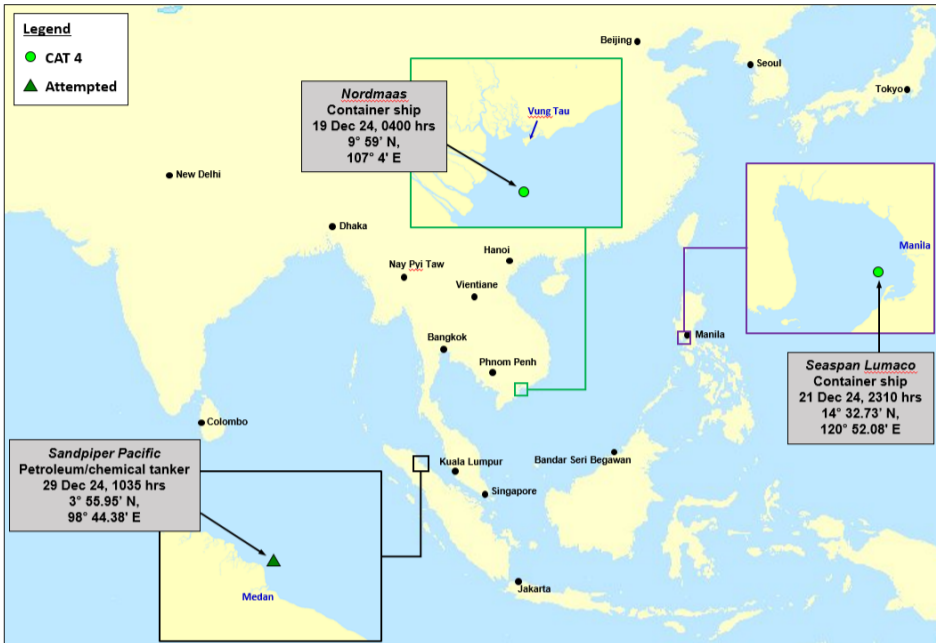


### OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (two CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents and one attempted incident<sup>2</sup>) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The two CAT 4 incidents occurred onboard container ships while anchored at Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam and at South Harbor Anchorage, Philippines; and the attempted incident occurred to a petroleum/chemical tanker while anchored at Medan Anchorage, Indonesia. Details of the incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location		
	Vietnam	Philippines	Indonesia
	Vung Tau Anchorage, Ho Chi Minh City	4 NM west off South Harbor Anchorage, Manila	Medan Customary Anchorage
Type of ship	Container ship	Container ship	Petroleum/chemical tanker
Date/Time	19 Dec 24 at 0400 hrs	21 Dec 24 at 2310 hrs	29 Dec 24 at 1035 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Not known	4	3
Weapons	Not stated	Not armed	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	Attempted
Items stolen	Paint	Nil	Nil

### AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when anchoring or transiting areas of concern, including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the littoral 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; both produced by the ReCAAP ISC.

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Contact us at:	E: <a href="mailto:info@recaap.org">info@recaap.org</a>	T: +65 6376 3063	F: +65 6376 3066

\* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2024/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202024.pdf> for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.

<sup>2</sup> Attempted incident refers to incident whereby the pirates/robbers tried but failed in their attempt to board the ship.