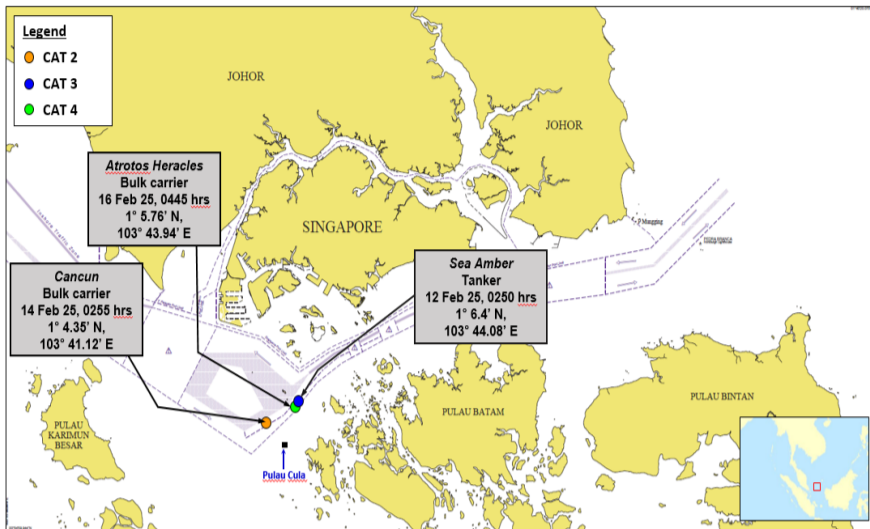


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one CAT 2¹ incident, one CAT 3² incident and one CAT 4³ incident) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All incidents occurred onboard ships while underway off Pulau Cula, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait (SS). The crew members were not injured in all three incidents. Engine spares were stolen in one incident, and nothing stolen in the other two incidents. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location		
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)		
	4.3 nm northeast of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	2.5 nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	3.5 nm northeast of Pulau Cula, Indonesia
Type of ship	Tanker	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	12 Feb at 0250 hrs	14 Feb at 0255 hrs	16 Feb at 0445 hrs
Number of perpetrators	4	4	3
Weapons	Knives	Gun and knives	Not armed
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 3	CAT 2	CAT 4
Items stolen	Engine spares	Nil	Nil

AREA OF CONCERN

With the three incidents in SS, a total of 15 incidents were reported in SOMS since January 2025. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting the concerned areas 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 of the Abu Sayaaf Group (ASG), and ensure the likelihood of the end of the group through surrender, arrest, and neutralization. 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, re-assessed the threat level and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE LOW' to 'LOW', meaning 'No information or monitored activities suggest an impending attack; hence incidents are not expected to occur'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory on 14 Feb 2025 for ships to **"exercise vigilance when transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas and report incidents to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)"**.
- Ships are also advised to maintain communication with the relevant authorities when transiting the area. The **Contact Details** of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown in **Picture 1**.



- Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
Tel : +63 967 276 1478
+63 969 467 3621
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email : hcgswm@yahoo.com
- Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**
Tel : +63 998 585 7941
+63 917 842 8402
VHF : Channel 16
Email : cgd_tawi@yahoo.com
- Philippine Navy – Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
Tel : +63 955 714 0153
VHF : Channel 16
Email : jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**
Tel : +60 89863181/016
Fax : +60 89863182
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
Email : blikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Picture 1

In the event that the ship master or crew is unable to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed, the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** can be contacted at the following link for reporting of incident.

Tel: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)
+63-966-217-9610 (mobile)
+63-977-792-8382 (mobile)
+63-909-929-1340 (mobile)
Email: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph

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.

Follow us on:	W: www.recaap.org	Twitter: https://twitter.com/recaapisc	LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre
Contact us at:	E: info@recaap.org	T: +65 6376 3063	F: +65 6376 3066

* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2025/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202025.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ **CAT (Category) 2** incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

² **CAT (Category) 3** incident is classified as "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.

³ **CAT (Category) 4** incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.