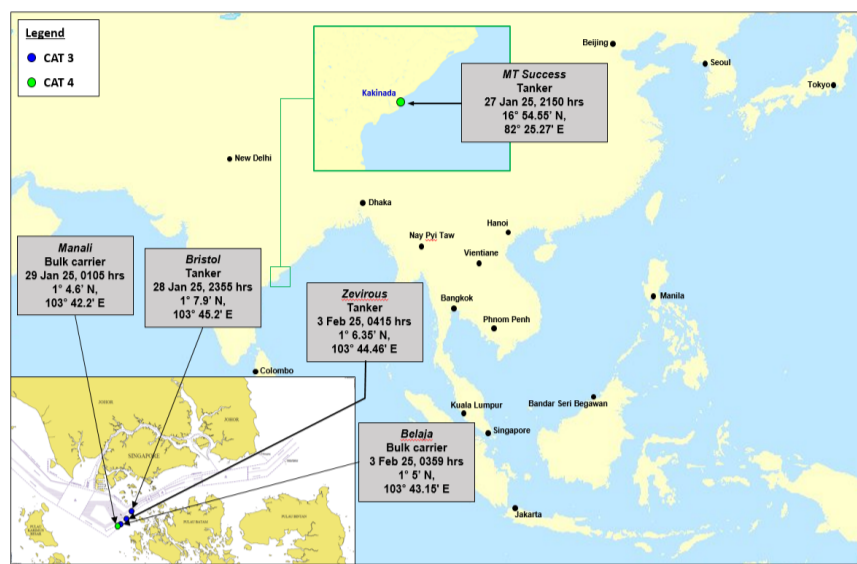


OVERVIEW

Five incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (three CAT 3¹ incidents and two CAT 4² incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred onboard a tanker while anchored at OPL Kakinada, India and four incidents occurred on board ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait (SS). The crew members were not injured in all the incidents. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location				
	India	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)			
	OPL Kakinada	1.4 nm west of Helen Mar Reef, Indonesia	2.1 nm north of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	2.64 nm north of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	2.3 nm northeast of Pulau Cula, Indonesia
Type of ship	Tanker	Tanker	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Tanker
Date/Time	27 Jan 2025 at 2150 hrs	28 Jan 2025 at 2355 hrs	29 Jan 2025 at 0105 hrs	3 Feb 2025 at 0359 hrs	3 Feb 2025 at 0415 hrs
Number of perpetrators	2	2	1	4	6
Weapons	Not stated	Knives	Not stated	Knives & gun-like object	Knives
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 3	CAT 4	CAT 3	CAT 3
Items stolen	Unsecured items	Nil	Engine spares	Engine spares	Engine spares

AREA OF CONCERN

With the four incidents in SS, a total of 11 incidents were reported in SOMS since January 2025. Concerned with the increase and continued occurrence of incidents in SOMS, the ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert on 3 Feb 2025, to alert the maritime community and warns a possibility of further incidents. The Centre also urges the littoral States to increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported by ships, strengthen coordination and promote information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved to arrest the perpetrators. Ships are also advised to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern, and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State.

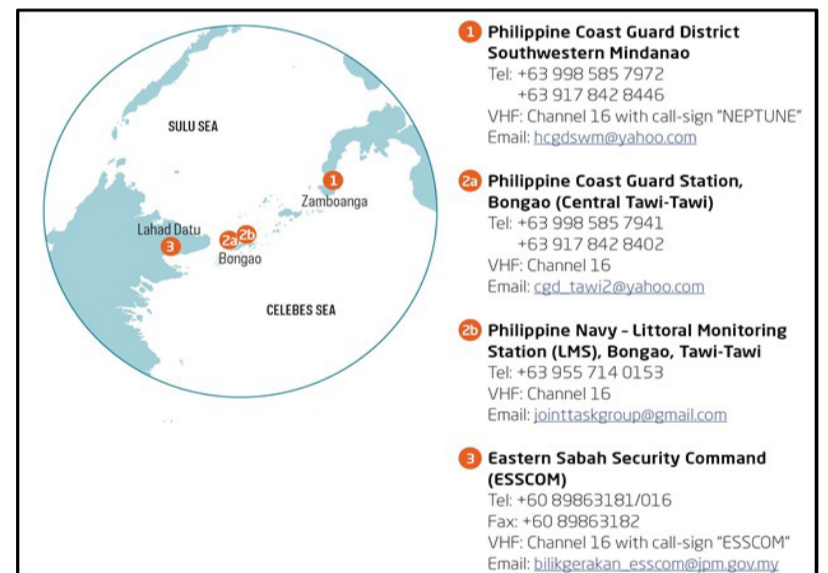
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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: 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) 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.

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.