

Somali Pirate Tactics



Recommended Counter-Piracy Measures

- Implement Best Management Practices before entering High Risk Waters
 - Copy of latest BMP available at:
<http://www.mschoa.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- All US-flag ships operating in high risk waters shall comply w/ USCG Maritime Security (MARSEC) Directive 104-6 (current version)
 - Entire text is found at:
<http://homeport.uscg.mil/piracy>

When Under Attack

- **IMMEDIATELY** contact UKMTO
 - PHONE: +971 50 552 3215
 - EMAIL: ukmto@eim.ae
- **ACTIVATE** the ship security alert system (SSAS)
- **BROADCAST** attacks on all available radio circuits

(Source: MARAD ADVISORY 2010-6)



Implementing Best Management Practices is the most effective method of deterring pirates.

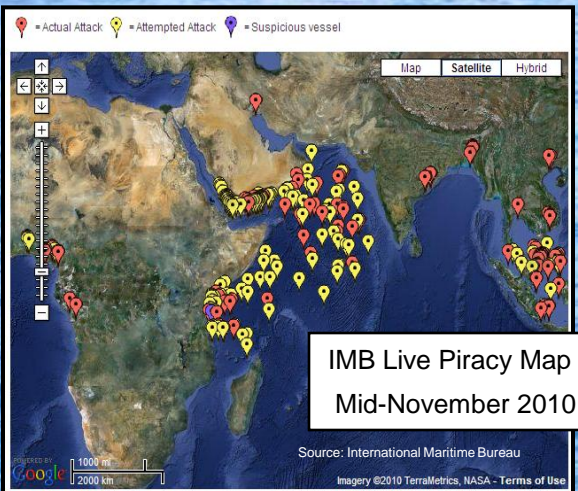
Current Maritime Administration Advisories

- **2010-09**, Issued 5 October 2010
 - *Risk to Vessels Transiting High Risk Waters*
- **2010-06**, Issued 29 March 2010
 - *Guidance to Vessels Transiting High Risk Waters*
- **2010-03**, Issued 9 March 2010
 - *Vessels Transiting the Bab-Al-Mandab, Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden Along the Coast of Yemen*

Check for changes or updates at
<http://www.marad.dot.gov/>

Important Points of Contact

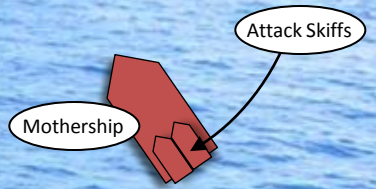
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (**MSCHOA**)
 - Tele: + 44 (0) 1923 958545
 - Email: postmaster@mschoa.org
- US Maritime Liaison Office (**MARLO**)
 - Tele: + 973-973-3927
 - Email: marlo.bahrain@me.navy.mil
- UK Maritime Trade Operations (**UKMTO**)
 - Tele: +971-50-552-3215
 - Email: ukmto@eim.ae
- Int'l Maritime Bureau 24-hour Piracy Reporting Center (**IMB**)
 - Tel: + 60 3 2078 5763
 - Email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org or piracy@icc-ccs.org



Current Information

- Suspected Somali pirates are attacking / hijacking vessels in Indian Ocean, off Seychelles, Madagascar & West Maldives. Pirates use hijacked ocean going vessels, “motherships”, to operate far from Somali coast. Smaller skiffs are launched from the “motherships” to attack merchant vessels. Pirates are heavily armed with automatic weapons and RPGs.
- IMB advises to maintain listening watch on CH 16, CH 8 and CH 72 to hear the Maritime Advisory Calls from warships in the area who will make general security broadcasts and in turn also listen to merchant ships calling them. Masters are also advised to monitor the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) broadcast and Warnings via Inmarsat C EGC Safety Net.

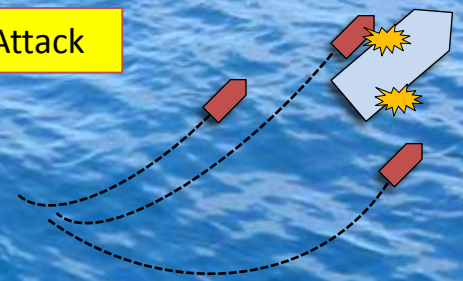
Selecting a Target for Hijacking



Pirates are using motherships loaded with attack skiffs, to intercept shipping. Attack skiffs are off-loaded to conduct the attack. Some hijacked vessels are converted to motherships. Basic criteria for ideal target:

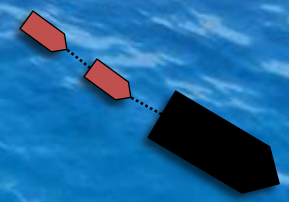
- **Low Freeboard**
- **Slow Speed (under 14 Kts)**
- **No Protection**

The Attack



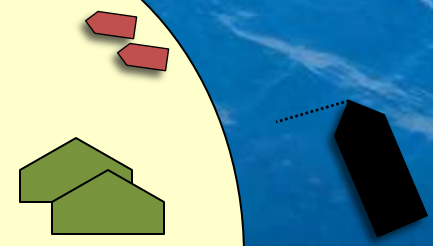
Attack skiffs flank the targeted merchant vessel, shooting automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades. The intimidated crew slows for boarding.

Boarding a Hijacked Vessel



Pirates use grappling hooks and modified ladders to climb aboard and secure the crew. Attack skiffs are towed by the hijacked merchant vessel. The hijacked vessel is then directed to a pirate anchorage area off the Somali coast.

Negotiating a Ransom for a Hijacked Vessel



Negotiations begin almost immediately with the ship owner or shipping company using Somali negotiators. Seamen aboard hijacked ships are frequently threatened with bodily harm but are rarely actually mistreated. Ships are released when the ransom is delivered and counted.