

## **CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

### **Report of Working Group 3**

#### **1 General**

1.1 Working Group 3 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia met at IMO Headquarters from 26 to 27 February 2009 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jeffrey G. Lantz (United States). The agenda for the Working Group is at annex 1.

1.2 The Group was attended by representatives from the following Participants of the Contact Group:

BELGIUM  
CHINA  
DJIBOUTI  
EGYPT  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
GREECE  
ITALY  
JAPAN  
KENYA  
NETHERLANDS  
NORWAY  
OMAN  
PORTUGAL  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
SOMALIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
TURKEY  
UNITED KINGDOM  
UNITED STATES  
YEMEN  
LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES  
AFRICAN UNION  
EUROPEAN UNION  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)  
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

1.3 The session was also attended by representatives from the following observers:

ARGENTINA

BAHAMAS  
BRAZIL  
CYPRUS  
INDONESIA  
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)  
LIBERIA  
NIGERIA  
PANAMA  
PHILLIPINES  
SINGAPORE  
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MARINE INSURANCE (IUMI)  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)  
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF)  
BIMCO  
OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF)  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TANKER OWNERS (INTERTANKO)  
INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I ASSOCIATIONS (P&I CLUBS)  
SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL GAS TANKER AND TERMINAL  
OPERATORS LIMITED (SIGTTO)  
CRUISE LINES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (CLIA)  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRY CARGO SHIPOWNERS (INTERCARGO)

### **Introduction by Convening Government**

2 The United States welcomed the Participants and Observers to the Working Group. They further thanked the IMO Secretary-General for his opening remarks and thanked the IMO Secretariat for their hospitality and extensive support provided to Working Group 3. The United States explained how the Contact Group had established Working Group 3 and briefly outlined the proposed way forward for the session. Special recognition was given to the eleven industry organizations who had produced and supported the document entitled Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia.

### **Best Management Practices**

3 The representative from ICS, on behalf of the shipping industry, introduced the document Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia. He explained that this document had been drafted by the organizations listed, who represent the vast majority of shipowners and operators transiting the region to assist companies and ships in avoiding piracy attacks, deterring attacks and delaying successful attacks in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia (see annex 2). The primary objective of the document is to ensure the safety of crews and the security of ships and cargo operating in the area.

4 ICS and the other representatives of the shipping industry stressed that this document is region-specific and is complementary to guidance provided in MSC/Circ.623/Rev.3 which was issued by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in May 2002 and presently under review by an MSC Correspondence Group. The industry representatives were of the view that this document represents present Best Practices specific to the problems being experienced in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia and that it was not intended to be generic nor used as

an assessment tool in the context of the ISPS Code. ICS mentioned that it had been drafted in consultation with naval forces and units presently in the area.

5 ICS invited the Working Group to forward it to the Contact Group and also to the MSC.

6 In noting the document the Group welcomed the information produced on Best Management Practices and deeply appreciated the industry initiative and efforts in this regard. The Group was of the view that the information provided was very valuable to ships transiting the area and noted that it was being successfully implemented at present by most ships in the region. Several delegations pointed to the need for consistency with relevant IMO documents and the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

7 In discussing parts of the document, the Group noted that the MSC is presently revising MSC/Circ.623/Rev.3 and recommended that this document could provide a complementary region-specific annex to the MSC Circular.

8 Some delegations questioned the recommended priorities as in paragraph 6 of annex 2 for activating the Emergency Communication Plan/Call as stated in paragraph 6 and that these did not include Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCC's). Several delegations were also of the view that there should be a single point of contact for the Master, however it was again stressed by the supporters of the document that the guidance was very regional specific and only addressed problems presently being experienced in that region, including the important liaison between commercial ships and the various naval units and authorities operating in the area.

9 In this context, the Group noted that the registration with the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) of ships about to transit the area is vital to the successful liaison and close cooperation with the naval authorities and units patrolling the area and hence enhances the chances of a successful and safe transit.

10 After discussion the Group noted the document and agreed to forward it to the Contact Group for consideration. The Group further agreed to recommend the Contact Group forward the document to Working Group 1 for their information, as it contains some elements relevant to their mandate.

11 The Group also invited the IMO Secretariat to forward the document as annex to the Maritime Safety Committee for their consideration with a view to being included as a possible regional annex to the revision of MSC/Circ.623/Rev.3. It was noted that the document should not prejudice the revision of the Circular. In addition some delegations were of the view that the information should be considered by the STW Sub-Committee in regard to training in the context of the review of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Convention, and the Group invited the attention of the MSC to this aspect also.

### **Outcome of the Djibouti Conference**

12 The Group noted a presentation given by the IMO Secretariat on the outcomes of the High level meeting in Djibouti, 26-29 January 2009, and in particular the Code of Conduct to repress acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships adopted by the meeting at its conclusion.

### **Effective Communications and the Outcome of Working Group 1 of the Contact Group**

13 The Group noted an oral report of the Chairman of Working Group 1 which had met 24-25 February 2009 at IMO and also noted areas of overlap and possible duplication between the Groups. The Chairman of Working Group 1 identified two issues that could come under the mandate of either Group. Accordingly, he asked Working Group 3 to consider these issues during the session.

14 The first issue was that clarity was needed on the potential provision of a single point of contact for ships transiting the region. After some discussion, the Group agreed that the present system of notifications via UK MTO, MSCHOA, and IMB PRC is working quite effectively and should not be changed at this time. Some delegations stressed the point that the order of priority such as mentioned in 6.2 was not relevant. The Group's conclusion was based upon unique value added by each organization's functions and that seamless communication presently exists via this mechanism.

15 The second issue was the need to reach ships that are not presently effectively implementing piracy counter-measures. The Group agreed that *inter alia* this was a fundamental reason for the creation of Working Group 3 and that this issue was addressed by the outcome of this session.

16 It was noted that the questions dealing with registration and notification could also come under the competency of Working Group 1.

#### **Activities of Working Groups 2 and 4**

17 The Group briefly discussed activities of other Working Groups. Some industry representatives commented that it was difficult to address this topic as Working Groups 2 and 4 had not yet held their first meetings. With regard the prosecution of pirates it was noted that close cooperation between industry, Flag States and the concerned judicial authorities should be encouraged. It was also noted that industry representatives played a prominent role in the preceding Working Group 1 session and that some industry representatives would be involved in the upcoming Working Group 2 meeting on 5 March 2009.

#### **Participation in Contact Group**

18 The representative of BIMCO supported by other representatives of the shipping industry were of the opinion that they could provide valuable input to the work of the Contact Group if they were invited to participate, particularly as the Contact Group will be considering industry practices and matters relevant to ship operations. In addition, it was noted that certain intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and States desired to join the Contact Group. Additionally, some delegations expressed the view that certain entities not represented at this session (*inter alia*, representatives of fishing interests) might also add value by joining in future deliberations. The United States, speaking as the *de facto* Secretariat for the Contact Group, described the process for joining and provided the relevant point of contact information for submitting letters of application as below:

Ms. Donna L. Hopkins  
United States Department of State  
[Hopkinsdl@state.gov](mailto:Hopkinsdl@state.gov)  
Phone: 202-647-0792  
Fax: 202-647-8998

### **Dissemination of Piracy Counter-Measure Guidance**

19 The Group considered a draft document on dissemination of piracy counter-measure guidance as proposed by the delegation of the United States. After discussion, the Group established an informal drafting Group to make appropriate amendments and agreed to the document as it appears at annex 3.

### **Next Steps**

20 The Group considered the topic of its next steps. It was noted that any decision on the future of the Group must be made by the Contact Group. The Group also discussed and noted some potential future parallel taskings between Working Groups 1 and 3. Some delegations stated that combining and improving interaction of the two Groups could be an appropriate and efficient mechanism to address these types of issues. During the discussion, there were no specific unresolved tasks identified for future sessions of Working Group 3 to consider.

### **Expression of Condolence**

20 The Group expressed its sympathy to the delegation of Turkey in respect of the victims of the accident involving a Turkish Airlines aircraft at Schiphol Airport Amsterdam on 25 February 2009.

### **Action requested of the Contact Group**

21 The Contact Group is invited to consider the report of the Working Group in general and in particular to:

- .1 consider the document entitled Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia, supported by eleven shipping industry organizations, found at annex 2, and take action as appropriate ;
- .2 note that the Best Management Practices document was forwarded to the International Maritime Organization, Maritime Safety Committee to consider including it as a regional specific annex in the revision of MSC/Circ.623/Rev.3 (Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships) and also note that in this context, the IMO Secretariat has been requested to bring the document to the attention of the Maritime Safety Committee by distribution to the relevant IMO Member States and organizations;
- .3 consider the document entitled Dissemination of Piracy Counter-Measure Guidance, found at annex 3, and take action as appropriate;
- .4 provide the Best Management Practices document, found at annex 2, to Working Group 1 for their information; and

- .5 note the discussion of the future of Working Group 3, found at paragraph 20 and take those comments into consideration when determining next steps for the Working Groups of the Contact Group.

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**ANNEX 1**

**Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia  
Meeting of Working Group 3  
26 and 27 February 2009**

held at the  
**International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2009**

**09:30 Meeting Opens**

- Introduction
- Presentation by industry of Best Management Practices (BMP) document and WG 3 discussion
- Discussion and development of a BMP communication plan, taking into account the potential resources of IMO, Governments, non-Governmental organizations and others.
- Briefing from WG 1 on issues of interest to WG 3, including communication with commercial vessels, operational advice and other relevant matters under consideration by WG 1

**12:30-14:30 Lunch Break**

- Identification and discussion of characteristics for effective two-way communications for vessels operating in the region for the purpose of future WG 1 consideration
- Discussion of activities of other working groups and how industry can effectively provide input
- Consideration of next steps

**17:30 Adjournment**

**FRIDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2009**

**09:30 Meeting Resumes**

- Review of report of WG 3 meeting

**12:00 Adjournment**

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ANNEX 2

# **Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia**

**(February 2009)**

**In an effort to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia, these best management practices are supported by the following international industry representatives:-**

1. International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)
2. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
3. Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)
4. Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
5. Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO)
6. International Association of Dry Cargo Ship Owners (INTERCARGO)
7. International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (IGP&I)
8. Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)
9. International Union of Marine Insurers (IUMI)
10. Joint War Committee (JWC)
11. International Maritime Bureau (IMB)

## **SUGGESTED PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL PRACTICES FOR OWNERS, OPERATORS, MANAGERS AND MASTERS OF SHIPS TRANSITING THE GULF OF ADEN AND OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this document is to provide Best Management Practices (BMP) to assist companies and ships in avoiding piracy attacks, deterring attacks and delaying successful attacks in the Gulf of Aden (GoA) and off the Coast of Somalia. The organisations consulted on this document represent the vast majority of ship owners and operators transiting the region.
2. These organisations will encourage their members to utilise these BMP and will endeavour to promulgate these to other shipping interests as BMP for combating piracy in the region. This document complements guidance provided in the IMO MSC Circular 623.

### **TYPICAL ATTACK PROFILES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

1. During 2008 significantly increased pirate attacks on merchant ships occurred throughout the GoA and off the coast of Somalia. The majority were clustered around the northern side of the GoA but some attacks have occurred further off the east coast of Somalia.
2. Analysis of successful attacks indicates that the following common vulnerabilities are exploited by the pirates:
  - a. Low speed
  - b. Low freeboard
  - c. Inadequate planning and procedures
  - d. Visibly low state of alert and/or evident self protective measures
  - e. Where a slow response by the ship is evident
3. Commonly two or more small high speed (up to 25 knots) open boats/ "skiffs" are used in attacks often approaching from the port quarter and/or stern.
4. The use of a pirate "mother ship", which is a larger ship carrying personnel, equipment and smaller assault craft, has enabled the attacks to be successfully undertaken at a greater range from the shore.

5. Vigilance should be highest at first light and last light, as the majority of the attacks have taken place during these periods.
6. To date no successful attacks have occurred on ships at 15 knots or more.
7. The majority of attempted hijacks have been repelled by ship's crew who have planned and trained in advance of the passage and employed passive counter measures to good effect.

## **RECOMMENDED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

### **1. Introduction**

- a. Whilst recognising the absolute discretion of the Master at all times to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, deter or delay piracy attacks in this region, this checklist of best practices is provided for ship owners and ship operators, Masters and their crews.
- b. Not all may be applicable for each ship, therefore as part of the risk analysis an assessment is recommended to determine which of the BMP will be most suitable for the ship. The following have however generally proved effective:

### **2. Prior to Transit – General Planning**

- a. General
  - i. The Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), is the planning and coordination authority for EU Forces in the Gulf of Aden and the area off the Coast of Somalia. UKMTO Dubai is the first point of contact for ships in the region. The day-to-day interface between Masters and the military is provided by UKMTO Dubai, who talk to the ships and liaise directly with MSCHOA and the naval commanders at sea. UKMTO requires regular updates on the position and intended movements of ships; they use this information to help the naval units maintain an accurate picture of shipping. (See Glossary at Annex A for further detail)
  - ii. Prior to transiting the high risk area, the owner and Master should carry out their own risk assessment to assess the likelihood and consequences of piracy attacks on the ship, based on the latest available information. The outcome of this risk assessment should identify measures for

prevention, mitigation and recovery and will mean combining statutory requirements with supplementary measures to combat piracy.

- iii. Company crisis management procedures should consider appropriate measures to meet the threat of piracy by adopting IMO and other industry recommended practices as appropriate to the particular circumstances and ship type.
- iv. Advanced notice of the passage plan is required by the naval authorities so that they can identify vulnerabilities and plan suitable protection. This is achieved through MSCHOA. The information provided will enable MSCHOA to plan suitable protection and track the ship's passage through the area.
- v. Whilst measures should be taken to prevent pirates boarding, the safety of crew and passengers is paramount.

b. Company Planning:

- i. It is strongly recommended that managers and/or the operations department register their ships and passage plan prior to transit of the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) with MSCHOA (<http://www.mschoa.org>).
- ii. Review the Ship Security Assessment (SSA) and implementation of the Ship Security Plan (SSP) as required by the International Ship and Port Facility Code (ISPS) to counter the piracy threat.
- iii. The Company Security Officer (CSO) is encouraged to see that a contingency plan for the high risk passage is in place, exercised, briefed and discussed with the Master and the Ship Security Officer (SSO).
- iv. Be aware of the particular high risk sea areas that have been promulgated.
- v. Carry out crew training prior to passage.
- vi. The use of additional private security guards is at the discretion of the company but the use of armed guards is not recommended.

- vii. Consider additional resources to enhance watch keeping numbers.

c. Ship's Master Planning:

- i. Once the ship's passage is registered with MSCHOA, Masters are advised to update their position and intended movements with UKMTO during the planning phase, preferably 3 – 4 days before entering either the GoA or passing the coast of Somalia.
- ii. Prior to transit of the region it is recommended that the crew should be thoroughly briefed.
- iii. The anti-piracy contingency plan has been shown to be most effective when implemented in advance; a drill is conducted prior to arrival in the area, the plan reviewed and all personnel briefed on their duties; including familiarity with the alarm signal signifying a piracy attack.
- iv. Masters are advised to also prepare an emergency communication plan, to include all essential emergency contact numbers and pre-prepared messages, which should be ready at hand or permanently displayed near the communications panel (e.g. telephone numbers of MSCHOA, IMB PRC, CSO etc – see Contact List at Annex B).
- v. Define the ship's AIS policy: SOLAS permits the Master the discretion to switch off AIS if he believes that its use increases the ship's vulnerability. However, in order to provide naval forces with tracking information within the GoA it is recommended that AIS transmission is continued but restricted to ship's identity, position, course, speed, navigational status and safety related information. Off the coast of Somalia the decision is again left to the Master's discretion, but current naval advice is to turn it off completely. This should be verified with MSCHOA.

### **3. Prior to Transit Voyage Planning**

a. Masters having registered their ship with MSCHOA should report to UKMTO before entering the GoA or passing the coast of Somalia.

b. Inside the GoA

i. EUNAVFOR strongly recommends that ships conduct their passage within the IRTC. Westbound ships should bias themselves to the northern portion of the corridor, and eastbound ships to the southern portion. Group Transit (GT) guidance within the GoA for times and speeds are on the MSCHOA web site, if a GT is contemplated.

ii. Ships should avoid entering Yemeni Territorial Waters (TTWs) while on transit. This is for reasons of customary international law, as it is not possible for international military forces (non Yemeni) to be able to protect ships that are attacked inside Yemeni TTW.

iii. Ships may be asked to make adjustments to passage plans to conform to MSCHOA routing advice.

iv. During GTs ships should not expect to be permanently in the company of a warship. But all warships in the GoA, whether part of EUNAVFOR or coordinating with them, will be aware of the GoA GTs and will have access to the full details of vulnerable shipping.

v. MSCHOA strongly recommends Masters make every effort to plan transit periods of highest risk areas of the GoA for night passage (MSCHOA will advise ships). Very few successful attacks have occurred at night.

c. Outside the GoA

i. Ships transiting South and East of the Coast of Somalia to ports outside of East Africa should consider navigating to the east of Madagascar or (for guidance) maintain a distance of more than 600 nautical miles from the coastline.

ii. Masters should still update UKMTO in the usual manner with their ship course and details.

#### **4. Prior to Transit – Defensive Measures**

- a. Taking into account the manning levels, ensure that ship routines are adjusted sufficiently in advance to ensure well-rested and well-briefed crew are on watch and ensure sufficient watch keepers are available.
- b. Consider minimising external communications (radios, handsets and AIS information) to essential safety and security related communication and SOLAS information only, during transit of the GoA and passing the Coast of Somalia.
- c. Increase readiness and redundancy by running additional auxiliary machinery, including generators and steering motors.
- d. Increase lookouts / bridge manning.
- e. Man the Engine Room.
- f. Secure and control access to bridge, engine room, steering gear room, and crew quarters.
- g. In case of emergency, warships can be contacted on VHF Ch. 16 (Backup Ch.08).
- h. Check all ladders and outboard equipment are stowed or up on deck.
- i. If the ship has a comparatively low freeboard consider the possibility of extending the width of the gunwales to prevent grappling hooks from gaining hold.
- j. It is recommended a piracy attack muster point or "citadel" is designated and lock down procedures rehearsed in order to delay access to control of the ship and buy time. Ideally this should be away from external bulkheads and portholes
- k. Consider the use of dummies at the rails to simulate additional lookouts. However if ship design creates lookout black spots and the security assessment identifies this risk then it may have to be covered by manpower.
- l. It is suggested fire pumps and/or hoses should be pressurised and ready for discharge overboard in highest risk quarters.

- m. Consider the use of razor wire/physical barriers around stern/lowest points of access, commensurate with crew safety and escape.
- n. Consider the use of passive defence equipment.
- o. Consider providing night vision optics for use during the hours of darkness.
- p. Operate CCTV (if fitted).

#### **5. In Transit – Operations**

- a. All ships inside the GoA are strongly urged to use the IRTC and follow MSCHOA GT advice and timings as promulgated on the MSCHOA web site.
- b. If you intend to follow a GT through the IRTC: Transit at the group transit speed but remain aware of the ship's limitations. (Current advice for example is that if your maximum speed is 16 knots, consider joining a 14 knot GT and keep those 2 knots in reserve.)
- c. If you do not intend to follow a GT through the IRTC: Maintain full sea speed through the high risk area. (Current advice is that if the maximum speed of the ship is more than 18 knots, then do not slow down for a GT, maintain speed).
- d. Ships should comply with the International Rules for Prevention of Collision at Sea at all times; navigation lights should not be turned off at night. Follow the guidance given by Flag State Authority (e.g. for UK ships Marine Guidance Notice 298).
- e. Provide deck lighting only as required for safety. Lighting in the shadow zones around the ship's hull may extend the area of visibility for lookouts, but only where consistent with safe navigation. (Current naval advice is to transit with navigation lights only.)
- f. Keep photographs of pirate "mother ships" on the bridge. Report immediately if sighted. Report all sightings of suspect mother ships to UKMTO and the IMB PRC. (See Annex C for an example of a Piracy Report for passing such information or any other attack or sighting)

- g. The Master should try to make as early an assessment of a threat as possible. As soon as the Master feels that a threat is developing he should immediately call the UKMTO.
- h. Keep a good lookout for suspicious craft, especially from astern. Note that most attacks to date have occurred from the port quarter.
- i. Protect the crew from exposure to undue risk. Only essential work on deck should occur in transit of the high risk area.
- j. Use light, alarm bells and crew activity to alert suspected pirates that they have been detected.
- k. A variety of other additional commercially available non-lethal defensive measures are available that could be considered; however these should be assessed by companies on their merits and on the particular characteristics of the ship concerned.

#### **6. If Attacked by Pirates**

- a. Follow the ship's pre-prepared contingency plan.
- b. Activate the Emergency Communication Plan/Call in order of priority:
  - i. The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Dubai.
  - ii. The Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA).
  - iii. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB).
- c. Activate the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS), which will alert your Company Security Officer and flag state.
- d. If the Master has exercised his right to turn off the Automatic Identification System (AIS) during transit of the piracy area, this should be turned on once the ship comes under pirate attack.
- e. Sound emergency alarm and make a PA announcement 'Pirate attack' in accordance with the ship's emergency plan.
- f. Make 'Mayday' call on VHF Ch. 16 (and backup Ch. 08, which is monitored by naval shipsship). Send a distress message via the DSC (Digital Selective Calling) system and Inmarsat-C as applicable. Establish telephone communication with UKMTO.
- g. Prevent skiffs closing on the ship by altering course and increasing speed where possible. Pirates have great difficulty boarding a ship that is:

- i. Making way at over 15 knots.
  - ii. Manoeuvring - it is suggested that as early as possible Masters carry out continuous small zigzag manoeuvres whilst maintaining speed. Consider increasing the pirates' exposure to wind/waves and using bow wave and stern wash to restrict pirate craft coming alongside.
- h. Activate fire pump defensive measures.
- i. Muster all remaining crew in defined safe muster area/citadel.
- j. Maximise ship speed. Evidence to date from failed attacks is that the pirates will give up if unable to board within 30 - 45 minutes. If you can buy time until the military forces can arrive, this often leads the pirates to abort their attack<sup>1</sup>.

#### **7. If Boarded by Pirates**

- a. Before pirates gain access to the bridge, inform UKMTO, MSCHOA and if time permits the Company.
- b. Offer no resistance; this could lead to unnecessary violence and harm to crew.
- c. If the bridge/engine room is to be evacuated, then the main engine should be stopped, all way taken off if possible and the ship navigated clear of other ships.
- d. Remain calm and co-operate fully with the pirates.
- e. Ensure all crew, other than bridge team, stay together in one location.
- f. If in a locked down "citadel" ensure internal protection/cover is available in case the pirates attempt to force entry. Keep clear of entry point/doors and portholes/windows – do not resist entry.

#### **8. In the Event of Military Action**

- a. Crew should be advised NOT to use cameras with flash at any time when any military action is underway

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<sup>1</sup> This is why early registration with MSCHOA, use of Group Transit timings and updating your position with UKMTO are all essential: it gives a better probability that naval support will be nearby if the pirates attack.

- b. In the event that naval personnel take action onboard the ship, all personnel should keep low to the deck, cover their head with both hands (always ensuring that hands are visible and not holding anything) and make no sudden movements unless directed to by friendly forces.
- c. Be prepared to answer questions on identity and status onboard
- d. Be aware that English is not the working language of all naval units in the region.

## **UPDATING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

1. It is anticipated that these BMP will be periodically updated based upon operational experience and lessons learned. The parties to this document will endeavour to meet regularly to update these BMP and to circulate revisions to their respective members and other interested organisations.
2. If in doubt, consult the MSCHOA website where additional relevant information will always be posted (noting that this may not be endorsed by all of the above-listed organisations).

## **ANNEX A: GLOSSARY**

The roles and inter-relationship of the coordinating bodies involved.

### **EUNAVFOR**

EUNAVFOR is the main coordinating authority which operates the Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa). All information and contact details are to be found within the MSCHOA website.

### **MSC (HOA) Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa)**

MSCHOA was set up by the European Union (EU) as part of a European Security and Defence Policy initiative to combat piracy in the Horn of Africa. This work commenced with the establishment of EU NAVCO in September 2008. This Coordination Cell working in Brussels established links with a broad cross section of the maritime community and provided coordination with EU forces operating in the region. In November 2008, the Council of the European Union took a major step further by setting up a naval mission – EU NAVFOR ATALANTA – to improve maritime security off the Somali coast by preventing and deterring pirate attacks and by helping to safeguard merchant shipping in the region.

### **UKMTO – (UK) Maritime Trade Operations**

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) office in Dubai acts as a point of contact for industry liaison with the Combined Military Forces (CMF). UKMTO Dubai also administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme, under which merchant ships are encouraged to send daily reports, providing their position and ETA at their next port whilst transiting the region bound by Suez, 78°E and 5°S. UKMTO Dubai subsequently tracks ships, and the positional information is passed to CMF and EU headquarters. Emerging and relevant information affecting commercial traffic can then be passed directly to ships, rather than by company offices, improving responsiveness to any incident and saving time.

For further information, or to join the Voluntary Reporting Scheme, please contact MTO Dubai: [ukmtodubai@eim.ae](mailto:ukmtodubai@eim.ae)

**ANNEX B: USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

UKMTO Email Telephone Cell Fax Telex	<a href="mailto:UKMTO@eim.ae">UKMTO@eim.ae</a> +971 50 552 3215  +971 4 306 5710 (51) 210473
MSCHOA Via Website for reporting Telephone Fax Email	<a href="http://www.mschoa.org">www.mschoa.org</a> +44 (0) 1923 958545 +44 (0) 1923 958520 <a href="mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org">postmaster@mschoa.org</a>
IMB PRC Email Telephone Cell Fax Telex	<a href="mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org">piracy@icc-ccs.org</a> +60 3 2078 5763  +60 3 2078 5769 MA34199 IMBPC1

## **ANNEX C: FOLLOW UP REPORT – PIRACY ATTACK**

1. Ship's name and call sign, IMO number
2. Reference initial PIRACY ALERT
3. Position of incident/Latitude/Longitude/Name of the area
4. Details of incident:
  - method of attack
  - description/number of suspect craft
  - number and brief description of pirates
  - what kind of weapons did the pirates carry
  - any other information (e.g. language spoken)
  - injuries to crew and passengers
  - damage to ship (which part of the ship was attacked?)
  - action taken by the Master and crew
  - was incident reported to the coastal authority and to whom?
  - action taken by the Coastal State.
5. Last observed movements of pirates / suspect craft
6. Assistance required
7. Preferred communications with reporting ship: Appropriate Coast Radio Station /HF/MF/VHF/Inmarsat IDs (plus ocean region code)/MMSI
8. Date/time of report (UTC)

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## ANNEX 3

### Dissemination of Piracy Counter-Measure Guidance

#### Introduction

Taking into account the efforts made by governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and States on combating piracy and armed robbery phenomenon off the coast of Somalia, it is still apparent that a number of ships are not receiving or implementing counter measures or following tactical guidance. Consequently, there is an urgent need to identify mechanisms for the widest possible dissemination of counter-piracy guidance. The dissemination of this information is designed to broadly reach the maritime community at large, including the audience not currently being reached.

#### Action of Participants

The Participants in Working Group 3 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia are encouraged to provide appropriate assistance, ensuring the widest practicable dissemination of piracy counter-measure guidance.

#### Action of Others

Governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and States that are not Participants in Working Group 3 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia are encouraged to take the same actions, with respect to dissemination of piracy counter-measure guidance, as the Participants.

#### Resources and Mechanisms

Below is an indicative list of the types of resources and mechanisms for dissemination of piracy counter-measure guidance.

#### Dissemination Resources for Piracy Counter-Measure Guidance:

- International Maritime Organization
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- World Food Programme
- International Labour Organization
- Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia
- Flag State authorities
- Port State authorities
- International Association of Ports and Harbors
- Suez Canal Authority
- Shipowner Non-governmental organizations
- Charterer Non-governmental organizations
- Maritime labor organizations
- P & I Clubs
- Insurance providers
- Shipping agencies

Maritime training schools  
Maritime Security Centre- Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA)  
Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and subordinate task forces  
Seafarer chaplains  
Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and shipowner associations  
Specialized media sources

Dissemination Mechanisms for Piracy Counter-Measure Guidance:

Press releases  
News articles  
NAVTEX messages  
ISPS related training  
Posters  
Pamphlets  
Directives  
Websites  
E-mail communications

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