Understanding Evolving Threats in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden
## Regional Threats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Area of Operations</th>
<th>Maritime Tactics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ansar Allah (Houthi Rebels)</td>
<td>Separatist Insurgency / Guerrilla Movement</td>
<td>Southern Red Sea Western</td>
<td>Missiles Mines WBIED</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gulf of Aden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Qaeda Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>Jihadist Globalist Terrorist Network</td>
<td>Southern Red Sea Gulf of</td>
<td>(S)WBIED (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Islamic State (Affiliates)</td>
<td>Jihadist Terrorist Network</td>
<td>Northern Somalia</td>
<td>Logistic support Smuggling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali Pirate (Criminal) Networks</td>
<td>Criminal Network</td>
<td>Puntland Galmudug</td>
<td>Hijack / Ransom Smuggling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Shabaab</td>
<td>Jihadist Terrorist Nationalist Movement</td>
<td>Southern and Central Somalia</td>
<td>Logistic support Taxes collection Smuggling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASWJ/ ISCAP</td>
<td>Jihadist Globalist Terrorist Movement</td>
<td>Cabo Delgado (Mozambique)</td>
<td>Logistic support Attacks from the sea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THREAT ASSESSMENTS

Piracy Related

- LOW
- Attack is UNLIKELY

Conflict Related

- LOW
- MODERATE (flag / owner / interest)

Terrorism Related

- LOW
- Attack is UNLIKELY

Uncertainty yardstick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENIGN</th>
<th>LOW (0-30%)</th>
<th>MODERATE (31-60%)</th>
<th>HIGH (61-90%)</th>
<th>CRITICAL (&gt;90%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Threat</td>
<td>0-30%</td>
<td>31-60%</td>
<td>61-90%</td>
<td>&gt;90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COUNTERING PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

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Decades of **Humanitarian Crisis:**
- Conflicts and Jihadist threat
- Climate Crisis
- Lack of government structures

Converging with:
- Locust plague
- COVID-19

In a Context of:
- Political Crisis
- Economical Crisis
- End of AMISOM / start of ATMIS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSE Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Attack</td>
<td><strong>Terrorism.</strong> The threat of or the use of violence in the pursuit of political, religious, ideological or social aims or objectives.</td>
<td>Claimed by an organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown.</td>
<td>Not claimed by any organization/non state actor. Nature of the attack unknown but assessed to be other than Terrorism, Conflict related or Piracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Suspicious Approach</td>
<td>Sudden changes in course towards the ship and aggressive behavior. Approaches by vessels with a CPA inside a specific range (i.e. less than 1 nm) unless obviously involved in fishing, with a clear intention to attack and/or weapons clearly displayed as a show of force/threat against a merchant vessel (seen but not fired).</td>
<td>Related to declared conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Attempted Boarding</td>
<td>An act where the suspected pirates failed to get onboard and gain control of the vessel or members of the crew. Boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approach boat, weapons showing in the direction of the vessel in order to coerce compliance (weapons seen but not fired) coming alongside or a determined approach by a vessel previously observed as being involved in piracy but thwarted by BMP measures, PCASP, weather, or lack of equipment etc.</td>
<td>Categorization related to BMP/IMO Code of Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Boarding</td>
<td>A boarding in which the attackers have boarded the ship but have NOT taken control.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Category</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Piracy Attack / Armed Robbery Attempt (depending the incident took place in or out of the TTW)</td>
<td>Ship has been subjected to an aggressive approach by unidentified craft AND weapons have been discharged. Also, paraphernalia/tripwires related to piracy, hooks, ladders, etc. have been reported.</td>
<td>Piracy should be understood as defined by article 101 of UNCLOS, as well as categories included in BMP5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hijack</td>
<td>Attackers have illegally boarded and taken control of a vessel against the crew’s will.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Pirated</td>
<td>A pirated vessel is a vessel subject to an act that falls under the UNCLOS Article 101 definition of piracy.</td>
<td>Armed robbery at sea should be understood as defined by Resolution A.1025 (26) (Annex paragraph 2.2) on IMO’s Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Armed Robbery at Sea</td>
<td>Any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed by private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State’s internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea.</td>
<td>Weapon Smuggling, Narcotics Smuggling, Cargo Smuggling (to include charcoal and sugar), Illegal Movement of People (both smuggling and trafficking), Theft, Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated Fishing, Local / Fishing Dispute, Other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Other Maritime Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSE: Suspicious/Irregular Activity</td>
<td>Activity inconsistent with known patterns of behavior adopted in the area, or circumstances prevailing in the area, which cannot be definitively classified in other categories, but still has an impact on maritime security.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not MSE</td>
<td>Any reported event that is subsequently deemed lawful or the reporting is assessed to be inaccurate / false. Conforms to assessed Pattern of Life (PoL).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maritime Events 2020 until 2022

- Conflict Related
- Piracy - Attack
- Piracy - Pirated
- Suspicious Activity
- Not MSE
- OMC Illegal movement of People
- OMC Narcotics Smuggling
- OMC Weapons Smuggling
- OMC Cargo Smuggling
- OMC Other
- OMC Fishing/Local Dispute
- Terrorism

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AOO Main INCIDENTS 2020 until 2022

- MV AEGEAN II 15 Aug 20
- NAVAL AREA 05 Feb 20
- MV RWABEE 02 Jan 22
- MV ANATOLIAN 13 Aug 21
- KSA MV 10 Mar 20
- MT POLA 03 Jan 21
- MV MERCER STREET 29 Jul 21

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COUNTERING PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA
No events does not mean no Threat
Risk of false safety Perception!

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Suspicious Activities 2020 until 2022

Last three (03) years

- 30 in 2020
- 6 in 2021
- 1 in 2022

COUNTERING PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA
Kingpings still in Somalia. “Business” just swifted

Smuggling Arms / Human / Narcotics / Charcoal trafficking

Self protection, BMP’s, Military presence
Evolving THREAT SCENARIO

MT MERCER STREET ATTACK
29JUL21

• Suicide Drone Attack
• 2 persons killed

BAB EL MANDEB

• Overspill from conflict in YEMEN
• Increased sightings of skiffs & Drones
Understanding Evolving Threats in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden

Thank you

CAPT (FRA-N) Marc REINA