



PIRACY REPORT JUNE 2017

Piracy and Acts of Armed Robbery of Ships

For Monthly Reports
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Analysis

- ❑ Nigeria and the Strait of Malacca are currently the areas with the highest geographical concentration of incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels. Venezuela; the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas off Malaysia; and Bangladesh all recorded high incidents in 2017.
- ❑ The Thai flagged tanker, C.P.41, was hijacked off Malaysia on 23 June 2017 and 1.5m litres of diesel was siphoned to a pirate tanker. The last tanker hijacking in Southeast Asia was reported more than a year ago. The product tanker, Hai Soon 12 was hijacked approximately 21nm South of Pulau Serutu, Indonesia in May 2016. The Indonesian Navy intercepted the Hai Soon 12 and arrested nine suspects. The arrests interrupted pirate operations in this area for more than a year.
- ❑ All tanker hijackings in Southeast Asia take place in the Malacca Straits and its approaches, with the hotspot to the east of Johore, Malaysia. C.P.41 was hijacked on the outer limit of this pattern.
- ❑ Authorities from Thailand, Malaysian and Singapore are cooperating in the hunt for the pirate ship.
- ❑ Two hostages escaped from Abu Sayyaf custody in June 2017. They were abducted in the Philippines in 2016 from the Bulk Carrier, MV Royal 16 in November 2016 and fishing boat, Ramona 2 in December 2016 respectively.
- ❑ The Product Tanker, Navig8 Providence reported an attack off Oman in June 2017. Six armed men in a skiff fired on the vessel while underway.
- ❑ Two incidents were reported at Puerto La Cruz anchorages in Venezuela in June 2017 bringing the total recorded robberies and attempted robberies in 2017 to seven.
- ❑ Authorities in St Vincent & the Grenadines decided not to prosecute the three men arrested for the violent assault and robbery on a British yacht, Deep Blue, in the Tobago Cays on 25 May 2016. Police failed to collect evidence. Two of the accused served previously time for a similar offence.
- ❑ Maersk reported that they were hit by the global ransomware attack known as Petya on 27 June 2017. Terminals in a number of ports were disrupted.

2016 Incidents



2017 Incidents

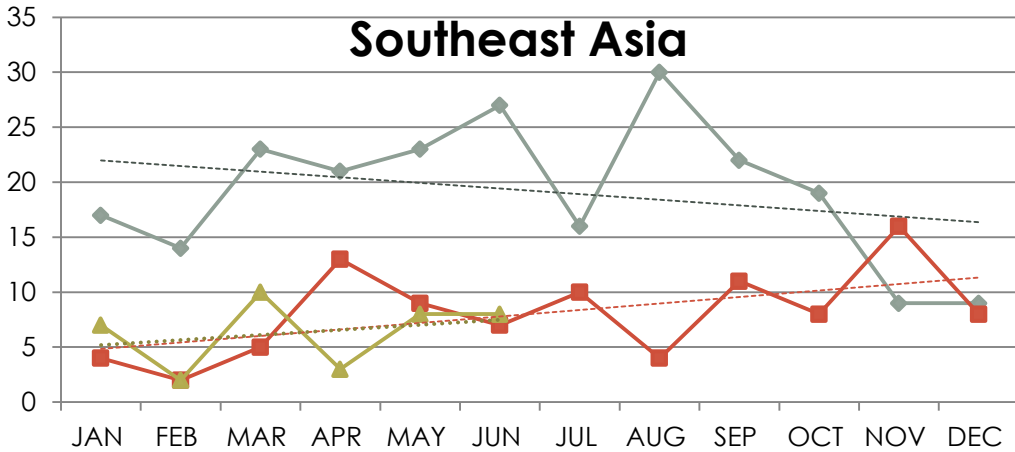


June 2017 Incidents

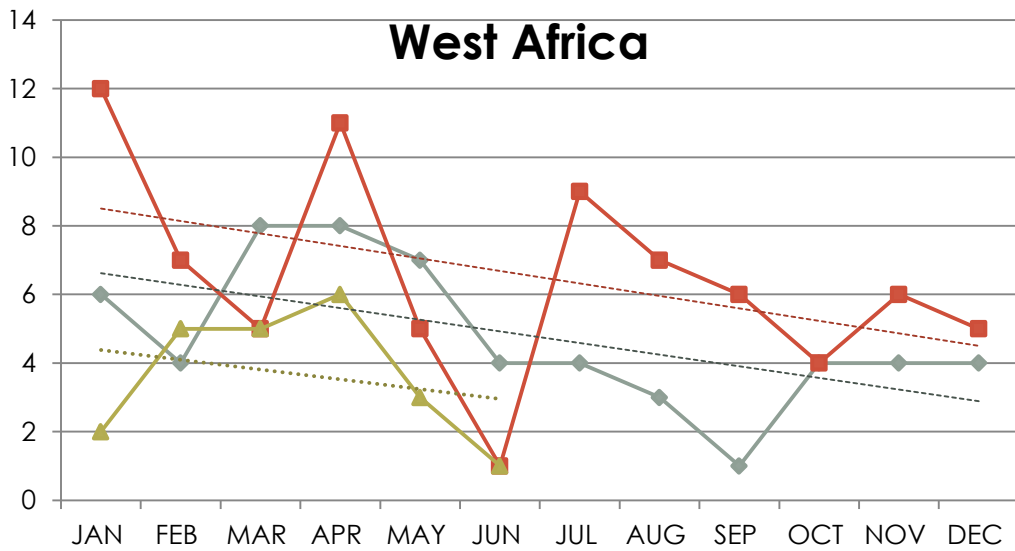


Incidents of Piracy and Robbery of Vessels: 2015 to 2017

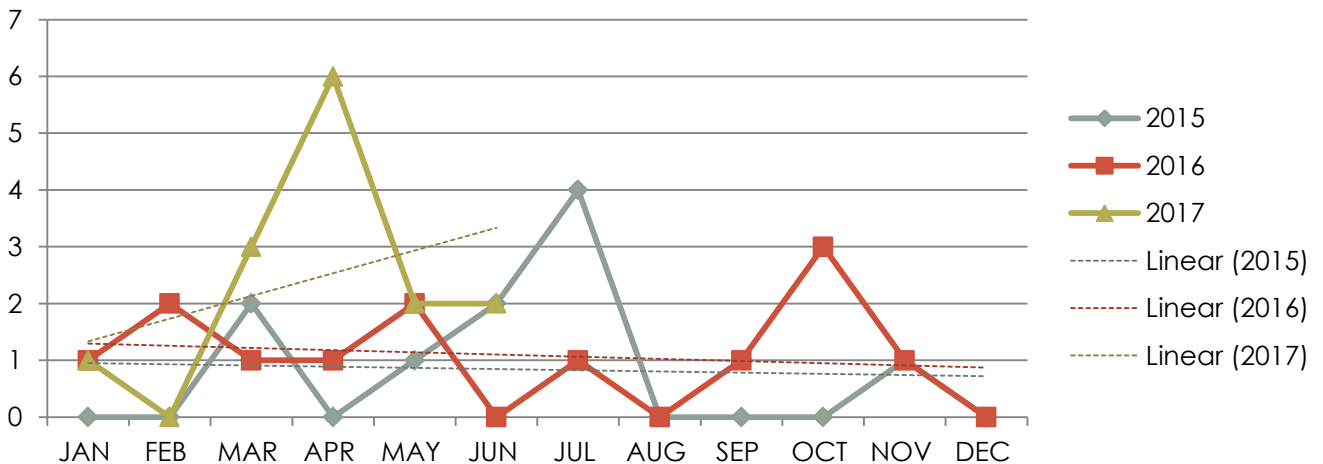
Southeast Asia



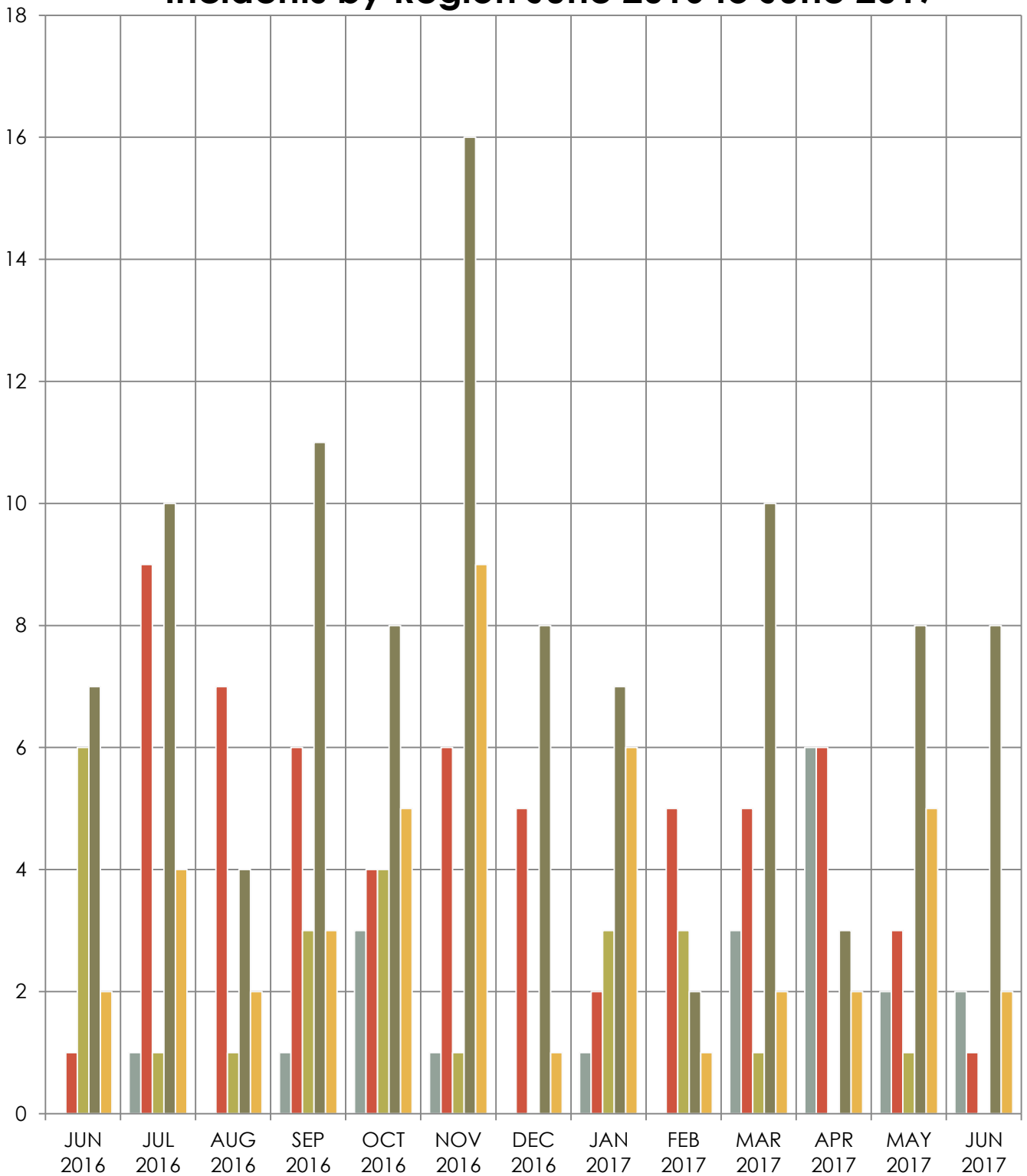
West Africa



East Africa, Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

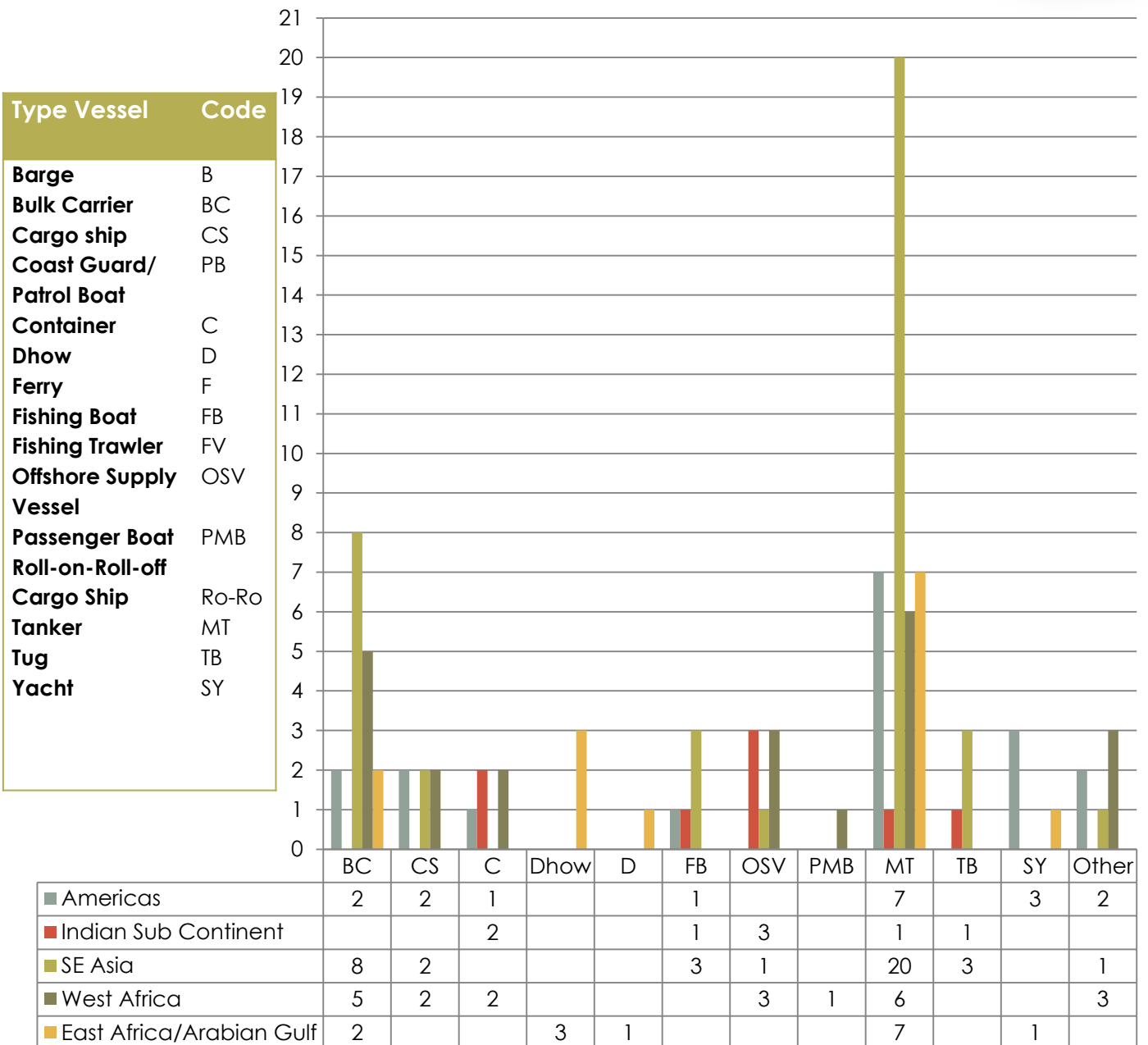


Incidents by Region June 2016 to June 2017



■ EAST AFRICA AND ARADIAN GULF ■ WEST AFRICA ■ INDIAN SUB CONT ■ SE ASIA ■ SOUTH AMERICA

Incidents 2017: Type of Ship Attacked

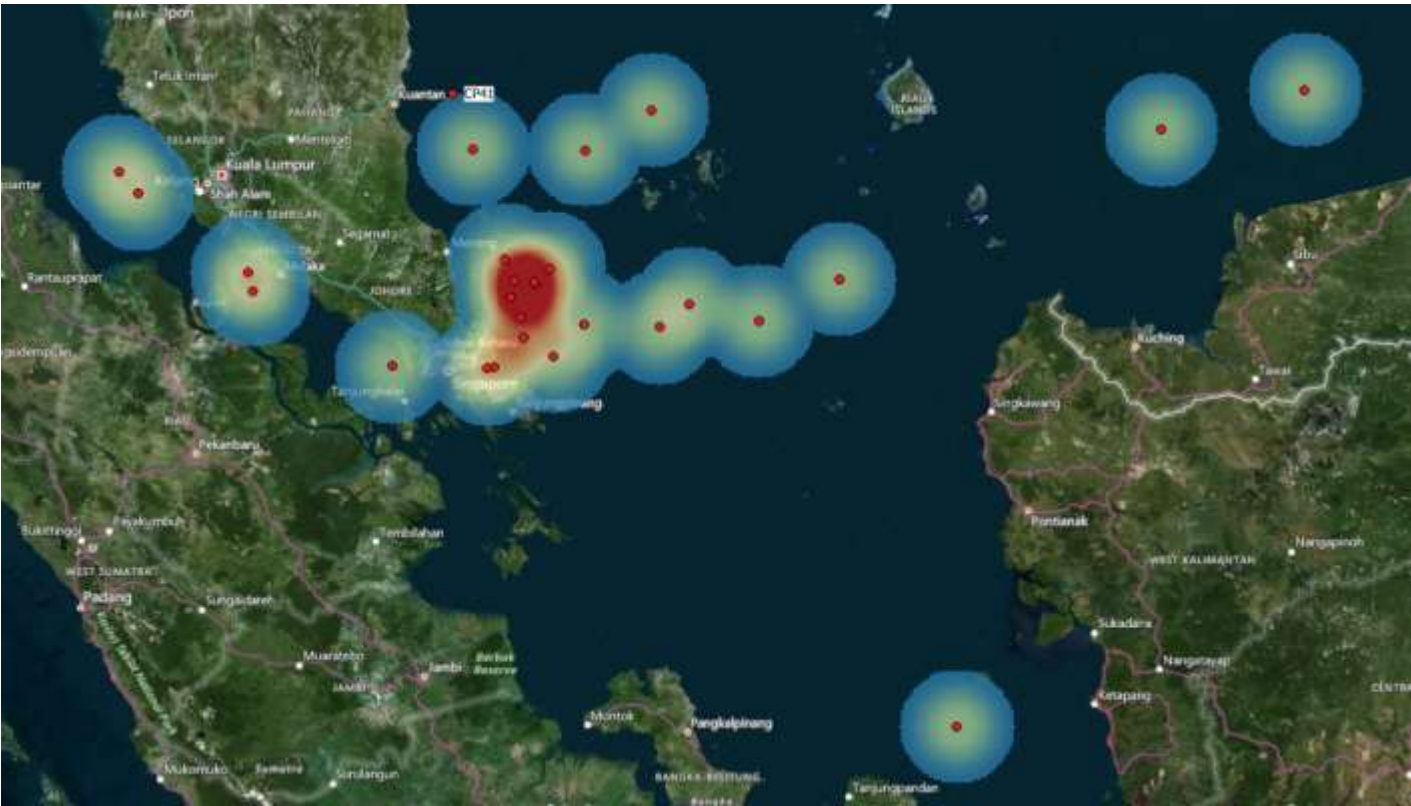


Southeast Asia



Eight incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported in Southeast Asia in June 2017. Four robberies and one attempted robbery were reported at Indonesian Anchorages and a robbery was reported at Batangas Inner Anchorage, Philippines. A tugboat was also robbed in the vicinity of the Sarangani Strait, Philippines while underway. A tanker was hijacked off Malaysia.

- ❑ **3 June 2017** – The Bulk Carrier, MV Harvester was boarded from two boats by eight robbers while at anchor at buoy no 2, Belawan Port, Indonesia. Crew members were tied up while the robbers stole seven 25 litre cans of paint.¹ The Western Fleet Quick Response Team (WFQR) arrested two of the robbers on 4 June 2017. The suspects Bambang, 30, and another are both from Kampung Nelayan Seberang, a poor fishermen's village across the river from Belawan Port. One motorized boat, four 25 litres cans of paint and four rolls of cable were confiscated during the arrest.²
- ❑ **5 June 2017** – Tug 308 towing barge, SSL Barge 08 was boarded by 20 men armed with firearms, approaching in five motor bancas in the vicinity of the Sarangani Strait, Davao Occidental, Philippines. They stole several gallons of fuel, paint and half a sack of rice.³ The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) immediately reacted to the incident. While they were on the tug a motor banca with two unarmed robbers came alongside on the other side of the tug. They were arrested and handed to the Philippine National Police (PNP) for further investigation.⁴
- ❑ **7 June 2017** – The tanker, Akrotiri was anchored 8nm North of Tg Berakit, Bintan Islands, Indonesia when it was boarded by two robbers. They threatened the AB with a knife. The duty officer raised the alarm and the robbers fled with ship's properties.⁵



Tanker hijackings Southeast Asia since August 2013

- 23 June 2017** – The Thai flagged tanker C.P.41 was boarded at 21:00LT by six men armed with guns and knives approximately 33nm ENE of Kuantan, Malaysia. The tanker was en route from Singapore to Songkhla, Thailand at the time, transporting 3.8 million litres of diesel oil. The perpetrators who spoke Bahasa locked the crew in the engine room, while the ship’s engineer was forced to siphon 1.5 million litres of diesel to the pirate vessel. They destroyed the ship’s ship security alert system (SSAS) and stole valuables. The crew was released at 04:20LT on 24 June 2017.⁶

The Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordination Centre (THAI-MECC), the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and the Information Fusion Centre and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) are cooperating in the hunt for the pirate ship.⁷

All tanker hijackings in Southeast Asia take place in the Malacca Straits and its approaches, with the hotspot to the east of Johore, Malaysia. 30 hijackings were reported since August 2013. C.P. 41 was hijacked on the outer limit of this pattern. The last time a tanker was hijacked in Southeast Asia before the recent incident was in May 2016 when the Hai Soon 12 was hijacked off Pulau Serutu, Indonesia. The arrest of nine suspects interrupted pirate operations in this area.

According to Karsten von Hoesslin, his confidential informants confirmed that the pirate ship involved in the C.P.41 hijacking has been operating in and out of the Singapore EOPL for the past few years. It is a phantom ship that changes flags from Equatorial Guinea to Mongolia regularly. Stolen fuel is blended with fuel from a legit source for onward sale. The pirate kingpin and fixer operate from Singapore.⁸

Feedback Abu Sayyaf Hostages

- ❑ **6 June 2017** – Roy Borja Ramos escaped from Abu Sayyaf custody. Locals informed the military of a kidnap victim in Talipao Town, Philippines. Ramos was found in an abandoned house.⁹ Ramos was one of four fishermen kidnapped from the fishing boat, Ramona 2 in the Celebes Sea, Philippines on 20 December 2016.¹⁰
- ❑ **16 June 2017** – Hoang Vo the second mate of the MV Royal 16 escaped Abu Sayyaf custody as government forces approached the Abu Sayyaf base in Basilan Province.¹¹ The Bulk Carrier, MV Royal 16 was boarded by ten armed men on 11 November 2016 approximately 10nm NNE of Basilan Islands, Philippines. They kidnapped six crew members.¹²

East Africa and the Gulf of Oman



Two incidents were reported in East Africa and the Arabian Gulf - an attempted boarding at Mbaraki Terminal, Mombasa, Kenya and an attack on a product tanker off Oman.

- ❑ **1 June 2017:** – The Product Tanker, Navig8 Providence reported an attack 106nm East of Muscat, Oman. Six armed men approached in a skiff and fired on the vessel while underway. The crew retreated to the citadel and the master commenced evasive maneuvers. The skiff moved away as the onboard security team fired warning shots.¹³

West Africa



A watchman spotted a robber as he was about to board the bulk carrier, Annou Max at Freetown Anchorage, Sierra Leone on 6 June 2016. He fled empty handed after the alarm was raised.¹⁴

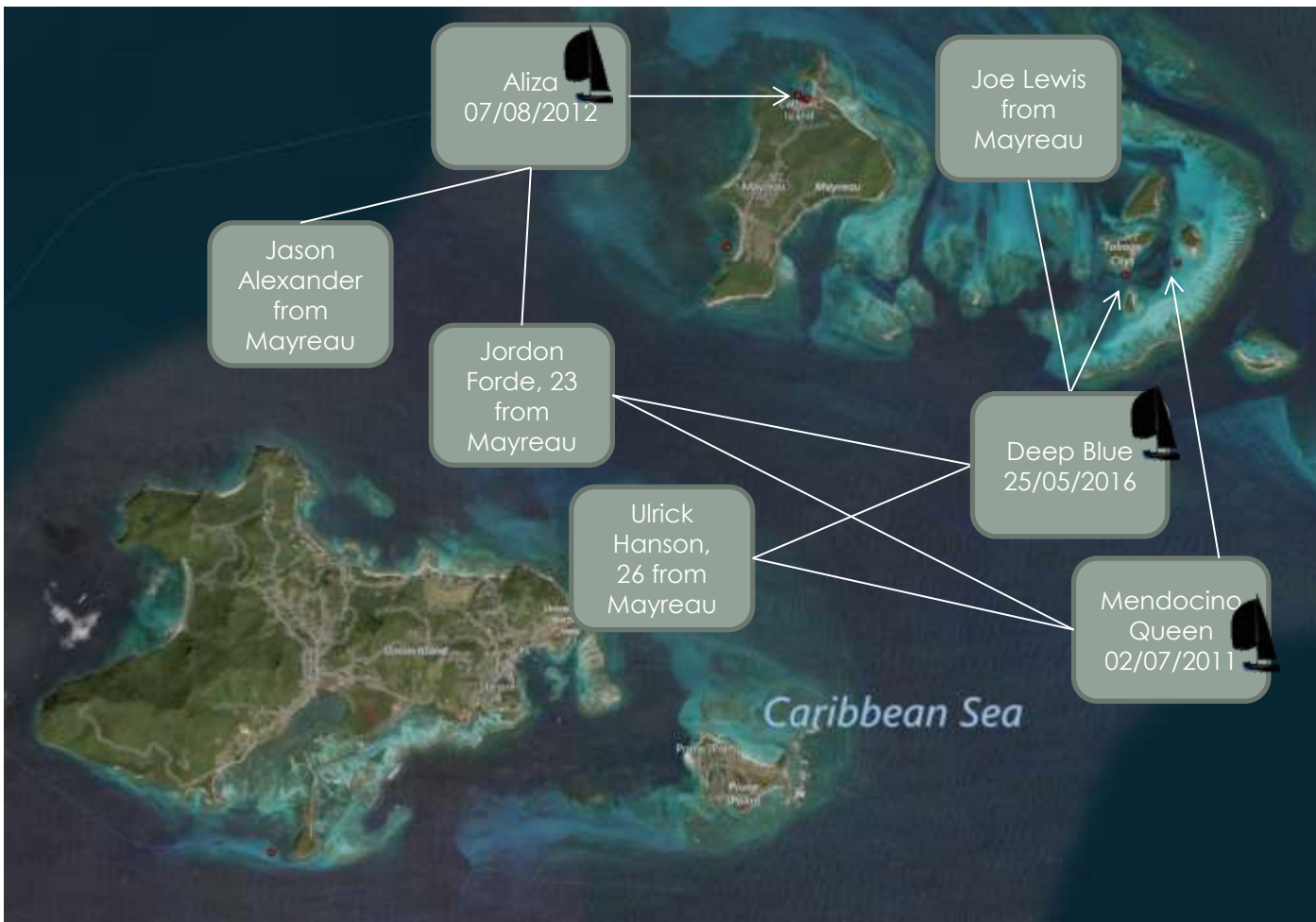
Americas



Two more incidents were reported at Puerto La Cruz anchorages in Venezuela, in June 2017, which brings the total incidents since September 2017 to ten. Both incidents were against tankers. Tankers were targeted in seven of the ten cases. All attacks took place between 22:00LT and 4:30LT. Ship stores were stolen. No loss of property was reported in the last two cases. The AB was assaulted by eight robbers during one of the attempted robberies in June 2016.¹⁵

It was reported on 22 June 2017 that three men arrested for the violent assault and robbery on a British yacht, Deep Blue¹⁶ in the Tobago Cays, St Vincent & the Grenadines on 25 May 2016, will not be prosecuted for the offence as the police failed to collect evidence from the scene. The men are Ulrick Hanson, Jordon Forde and Joe Lewis, all of Mayreau.¹⁷

Two masked men, one armed with a gun and the other with a knife boarded the yacht of Christopher Mennem and his wife Sandra, and demanded money. Chris Mennem was hit several times with a torch on the head. The intruders took EC\$500 (US\$185) from Mennem's wallet but refused to except that this was all the money on board. Sandra Mennem gave them old cell phones and they took the handheld radio. It was reclaimed in a tussle as they left the boat. Chris Mennem sustained head and face injuries and fractured ribs.¹⁸ A third suspect waited in a stolen fishing boat used as a getaway vessel.¹⁹



Jordon Forde can be linked to two previous incidents on yachts, and Ulrick Hanson to one. Forde was arrested and confessed to the robbery on the yacht Aliza, on 7 August 2012.²⁰ The captain, who chartered the vessel was on land having dinner at the time. Some of the money stolen was recovered from a family member of Forde. He received a jail sentence of 9 months. The co-accused, Jason Alexander, received six months.

In a third incident on the yacht Mendocino Queen on 2 July 2011 the crew were also assaulted.²¹ Except for these three incidents several other incidents in the Tobago Keys have the same pattern. Yachts were approached at night often when the owners went ashore for dinner. The robbers were armed and wore masks. Crew were often assaulted.

The Mayreau harbour patrol boat is often not in operation due to a lack of funds to buy fuel. The operation and repairs of the patrol boat are highly dependant on contributions from residents and businesses of Mayreau and the Marine Park.²²

Cyber Attack

Maersk, the world's largest shipping company confirmed that they were hit by the global ransomware attack known as Petya, on 27 June 2017. APM Terminals in a number of ports were disrupted and a number of systems had to be shut down to contain the situation.²³ One in seven containers worldwide is transported by Maersk. Other entities such as Maersk Oil, Maersk Drilling and Maersk Tankers were not affected. All Maersk systems were back online after five days.²⁴

When a computer is infected, the ransomware encrypts files and demands a ransom in Bitcoin, in exchange for a digital key to unlock the files.

The ransomware was named Petya because of a superficial resemblance to an older piece of ransomware also called Petya. It appears to have the Ukraine as the main target. Experts seem to think that the payment system of the ransomware is amateurish. A single Bitcoin address as well as a single email address were created for all victims. The email address has since been suspended by the provider. It is possible that it is a piece of malware disguised as ransomware.

It is important to make regular backups of essential information. In the case of Petya it would be of no value to pay the ransom as the email address is no longer functioning.²⁵

End Notes

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