



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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MARINE SECURITY ADVISORY: 03/2018

Subject: Industry Releasable Threat Assessment (IRTA)

Dear Shipowner/Operator/Master of Liberian flagged vessels

The attached IRTA was prepared by EU NAVFOR and Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and takes into account information, knowledge and intelligence of the two multi-national naval operations. It is current as of 15 February 2018.

The IRTA presents the common understanding of the current threat actors in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden (GoA), Gulf of Oman (GoO) and Western Indian Ocean, and offers the combined military perspective on assessed future maritime threats and trends. It is intended to inform risk management decision making for shipping operators responsible for merchant vessels that are transiting through these sea areas.

Year 2017 saw the greatest range and frequency of maritime activity since 2015, with incidents recorded in the GoA, Somali Basin and the Red Sea being attributed to the following:

- a. Somali based pirates
- b. Local Security Forces / ad hoc Militias
- c. Houthi aligned forces / other groups associated with the Yemen conflict
- d. Local fishing / Territorial Disputes
- e. Unknown Threat Groups.

The IRTA concludes that:

- i. recent incidents serve to highlight that piracy is not eradicated;
- ii. piracy attacks will likely remain sporadic and at a low level,
- iii. the best form of protection is to continue to implement BMP and the carriage of PAST (Private Armed Security Team), along with utilizing the Maritime Security Transit Corridor and registering with MSCHOA / UKMTO;
- iv. timely and accurate reporting from shipping is vital to enable both the response to incident, and the development and maintenance of an understanding of the threat environment; and
- v. cooperation between military and maritime industry stakeholders remains pivotal to the success of Counter Piracy and the Maritime Security effort protecting the free flow of commerce.

Owners, operators, CSOs are requested to review the IRTA and provide a copy to their Masters.

For more information, please contact the Security Department at telephone + 1 703 251 2405 email security@liscr.com.

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