

**Commonwealth of Dominica****Office of the Maritime Administrator**

- TO:** ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS
- SUBJECT:** Reporting Incidents of Piracy and Armed Attacks
- REFERENCE:**
- (a) IMO Resolution A.683 (17)
  - (b) MSC/Circ.805 dated 6 June 1997
  - (c) ISF Publication "Pirates and Armed Robbers - A Masters' Guide"
- PURPOSE:** This Circular advises mariners that piracy and armed attacks on merchant ships have been reported in increasing numbers in the area of the South China Sea, including the Singapore Strait, Malacca Strait, Philip Channel, Gulf of Thailand, off West Africa and Brazil. This Circular also instructs Owners and Masters report such attacks to the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator in a timely manner.
- APPLICABILITY:** This Circular applies to all vessels under the Dominica International Registry.
- REQUIREMENTS:**
- 1.0 Reports**
- 1.1 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution A.683 (17) invites Governments, and neighboring States to increase and co-ordinate their actions and efforts to suppress and prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in or adjacent to their waters. To assist in quantifying the impact of acts of piracy, IMO Resolution A.683 (17) requests Flag States to report promptly, and in detail, to IMO all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships flying their flag.
- 1.2 Masters, therefore, are instructed to promptly report, by fax or e-mail within 48 hours of occurrence, all incidents of piracy and armed attacks on their merchant vessels to the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator, Dominica International Ship Registry, Inc., Fairhaven, MA. The DMRI fax number is: 508-992-7120; e-mail address as below.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to the Deputy Maritime Administrator  
Commonwealth of Dominica, 32 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 USA  
[registration@dominica-registry.com](mailto:registration@dominica-registry.com)

## 2.0 Information

2.1 The report should provide as much information as possible, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- Name of vessel,
- Gross Tonnage of vessel,
- Date and time (UTC) of incident,
- Geographic position by Latitude and Longitude,
- Anchored, berthed, or if under way heading, speed and ship's freeboard,
- Visibility,
- Method used by pirates to board vessel,
- Type of weapons used by pirates,
- Number of pirates involved and total time on board ship,
- Injury or Loss of Life, if any,
- Items stolen, if any,
- Details of incident including consequence to the crew even when there was no physical injury,
- Action taken by the crew,
- Whether the incident was reported to shore authorities,
- Action taken by authorities, and
- Any relevant information that might be useful to prevent future attacks.

2.2 Reports received by the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator in turn will be transmitted to:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commonwealth of Dominica
- Defense Mapping Agency, USA,
- International Maritime Organization, Maritime Safety Division
- International Maritime Bureau, Essex, UK,
- The International Shipping Federation, London.

## 3.0 Radio Messages

In accordance with MSC/Circ.805 dated 6 June 1997, the following guidance for the use of radio signals by ships under attack or threat of attack from pirates or armed robbers is provided.

3.1 Distress Messages

Recommendation ITU-R M.493-5 has been amended so as to include "Piracy/armed robbery attack" as a category of distress message for all classes of DSC equipment, and INMARSAT has added a piracy message to the INMARSAT-C menu for the GMDSS.

### 3.2 Pirates Detected Prior to Boarding of the Ship

Provided the ship has not been ordered by the pirates to maintain radio silence, contact should immediately be made with the Port State Marine Police on Channel 7 or Channel 12, or other appropriate means to Port State Authorities and/or with ships in the vicinity and shore authorities by sending a *piracy/armed robbery attack message* through INMARSAT or on any available DSC distress and safety frequency. Other methods available to make the pirates aware that they have been detected from reference (b) above also should be used.

### 3.3 Pirates Board Unnoticed

When pirates order a ship or armed robbers not to make any form of transmission informing shore authorities of the attack, and if it is determined that complying with the above recommendation may result in physical violence or death to the crew, such order should be complied with as the pirates may carry equipment capable of detecting all radio signals, including satellite communications.

## 4.0 Navigation Information Network

4.1.1 Owners, Operators and Masters are encouraged to take advantage of the availability of the no-cost data base listing attacks against commercial shipping in ports and on the high seas contained within the United States Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) Navigation Information Network (NAVINFONET) system. Owners, Operators and Masters may request a NAVINFONET Users Manual and Automated Notice to Mariners (ANMS) User Identification, to query a number of data files by commercial satellite and telephone system networks equipped with a modem.

4.2 Anti-Shipping Activity Messages (ASAM) data, by specific geographical area, are available in addition to a full menu of navigation aids such as:

- Chart Corrections,
- Broadcast Warnings,
- DMA List of Lights,
- Mobile Offshore Drilling Units Locations,
- Catalog Corrections, etc.

4.3 Requests for NAVINFONET Users Manual and ANMS User ID should be submitted directly to:

Director  
Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center  
Attn: MCC Mail Stop D-44  
4600 Sangamore Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816-5003 USA

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