



Singapore Shipping Association

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SSA applauds Singapore's Maritime Security Initiatives

In today's shipping environment, the threat of terrorist attacks on ships operating around the world is real and of primary concern to every shipowner and operator. Ships operating through strategic and narrow stretches of waters are particularly vulnerable and can easily become accessible targets to these perpetrators. In this respect, the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) takes heed of security alerts from informed sources and quickly relays them to its members so that they can forewarn their ship masters on board to take urgent measures to prevent any potential attacks.

The SSA works closely with various government agencies such as the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), the Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and also the Information Sharing Center of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP - ISC) to be kept updated on the safety and security situation in the Strait of Malacca and Singapore.

The Maritime Security Committee in the SSA has also been reactivated to work closely with all these government agencies to explore collaborative avenues and to strengthen areas where the shipping community could be alerted to potential maritime security threats. The broadcasting of the SSA circular on possible terrorist attacks on tankers and merchant ships in the Malacca Strait to all its members on 4 March 2010 is but one of these on-going joint cooperative efforts.

The SSA is also pleased to welcome the announcement by Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean in parliament on 5 March 2010 that the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) will again be sending a Maritime Patrol Aircraft, a Landing Ship Tank with two Super Puma helicopters and 200 personnel to take part in counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden. The SAF will deploy under the multinational CTF 151, which is currently under the command of Rear Admiral Bernard Miranda, Republic of Singapore Navy.

The SSA President, Mr S. S. Teo said, "Singapore is a small nation and I am very proud as a Singaporean that our government is again able to commit our limited air, naval and military assets, especially our service men and women, to support the coalition forces stationed in the Middle East in their united international effort to prevent any potential pirate attacks against merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden."

Mr Teo added, "I salute them for their courageous acts and wish them all the best during their tour of duties."

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