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Examples of basic anti piracy measures

Further to the recent introduction of a Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) by Coalition forces operating in the Gulf of Aden, the Joint War Committee of the International Underwriting Association (IUA) and Lloyd's Market Association (LMA) has published a circular to highlight some examples of basic anti piracy measures being recommended by defence service provider AEGIS.

AEGIS recommends that Shipowners ensure crew have a contact liaison number for use when attacked, preferably posted in the wheelhouse, so they can call for help. This should form part of a revised standard operating procedure which should also include emergency drills so the crew know how to react when confronted with a suspicious approach or an attack.

As soon as the vessel enters the area, contact should be made with naval units and other vessels. The human eye remains the best form of initial defence and so transiting vessels should employ a 24hr standing watch and all available radars should be used and constantly monitored.

Speed should be maintained and evasive manoeuvres used if necessary, experience has shown that high pressure fire hoses are very effective at repelling boarders.

Summary of possible measures:

- Use of coalition patrolled channel
- Revised operating procedures
- Emergency drills
- Have a contact number in the wheelhouse
- Contact naval units in the area
- Contact other vessels in the area
- Standing watch
- Constant radar watch
- Maintain speed
- Manoeuvring
- Use of fire hoses

Click here for the Joint War Committee circular

Click here for the AEIGIS website