

OPRF MARINT Monthly Report

December 2008



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Enclosure: Information by OPRF on the status of Hijacking incidents off Gulf of Aden and Somalia in 2008
(As of December 31, 2008)

This monthly report is edited/ summarized by publisher and staff writers based on published news resources.

Each resource is referenced with bracket below each title and is displayed as link URL on the last page of this report.

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Major Events in December 2008

Security: On the 2nd, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted resolution 1846. The resolution is aimed at extending for another year its action for Member States approved under previous resolution 1816 which was adopted on July 2, 2008. On the 16th, UNSC has unanimously approved an anti-piracy resolution 1851. The significant peculiarity of resolution 1851 is that, by changing “all necessary means” to be taken for a period of twelve months from the date of adoption of resolution 1846 into “all necessary measures that are appropriate in Somalia,” it has allowed countries to be able to conduct military operations on the land in Somalia to suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery. Also, resolution 1851 encourages all States and regional organizations fighting piracy and armed robbery at sea to establish an international cooperation mechanism to act as a common point of contact, and create a center in the region to coordinate information relevant to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

Based on such UNSC resolution, the activities of the naval ships dispatched by various countries, including, firstly, the European Union (EU) nations, are noticeable this month. In particular, it was remarkable that a chinese dispatching fleet departed for the waters off Somalia on the 16th.

The UNSC resolutions and status of the fleets dispatched from some nations among others are summarized in the Intelligence Assessment in part 2 in this monthly report.

Military: Having completed joint naval exercises with the Venezuelan Navy in the Caribbean Sea, Russian Navy's destroyer Admiral Chabanenko passed through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean during the night on the 5th. This became the first Russian or Soviet warship to enter the waterway since World War II, including the Soviet era.

Andrei Chang, an expert on Chinese military matters, quoted a source in the Ukrainian military industry as saying that China has been getting training for its navy's aircraft pilots at training facilities in the southern part of Ukraine since October 2006.

Diplomacy and International relations: On the 18th, the second Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations were held in Tokyo, which was attended by Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Hirofumi Nakasone, Japanese Minister of Defense Yasukazu Hamada, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Stephen Smith MP and Australian Minister for Defense the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP. The meetings were the second sessions since June 2007. As a “two plus two” partner of Japan, Australia is the second nation following the United States of America (USA). On the other hand, for Australia, Japan is, next to the USA and Britain, the third partner.

Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous: According to the Panama Maritime Administration, quoting Lloyd's register statistics, Panama Ship Register's fleet grew by 7.28 percent (%) in terms of vessel number, in the first 10 months of this year to a total of 8,159 vessels and by 7.25% in gross tonnage (gt), to 180.18m gt. As at the end of October the main users of the Panama flag by country were: Japan, 52%; Greece, 10%; South Korea, 7%; China, 7%; Hong Kong, 5% and Taiwan, 5%.

A freighter Auriga Leader (60,213 DWT), the world's first cargo ship partly propelled by solar power took off from a shipyard in the western city of Kobe on the 19th. The freighter was developed by shipping line Nippon Yusen K.K. and oil distributor Nippon Oil Corp. Equipped with 328 solar panels, the freighter can generate 40 kilowatts.

1. Information Digest

1.1 Security

December 2 “IBF extends ‘danger zone’ off Somalia” (Lloyd’s List, December 3, 2008)

On the 2nd, the International Bargaining Forum (IBF) has extended the ‘danger zone’ in the Somali waters, in which seafarers qualify for double pay which is equal to 100 percent (%) of their basic pay as special allowance money. Extra cash payments will be backdated to the date of the last IBF meeting, which took place in Hong Kong on November 21. Under the deal, seafarers on ships covered by IBF agreements will receive a bonus equal to 100% of their basic wage while the vessel is in transit the ‘danger zone.’ Also, normal death and disability compensation rates for seafarers will also double during this period. Seafarers serving on ships that chose not to use the Maritime Security Patrol Area have the right to refuse to make the transit and to be repatriated at owners’ expense.

The new high-risk area has been projected north and south of the existing area, to the Yemeni coast in the north and to the existing warlike operations area in the south, also encompassing the Island of Suqutra. The western border [of the extended high risk zone] runs from the coastline at the border of Djibouti and Somalia to Mayyun Island in the Bab El Mandeb Straits. The eastern border runs from Rhiy di-Irisal on Suqutra Island to the coastline at the border between Yemen and Oman.

French Seafarers on CMA CGM vessels will double their wages for traversing the Gulf of Aden, the French carrier, CMA CGM announced on the 3rd. (Fairplay Daily News)

December 2 “India Navy increases coastal patrols in Arabian Sea” (IT Examiner, December 2, 2008)

In the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks, the Indian Navy (IN) has increased patrols, acknowledging serious gaps in their maritime surveillance and security. Investigations after the attack show that the Mumbai attackers arrived by boat after hijacking a fishing trawler. Since the attacks, India has deployed 20 navy and coast guard ships, including submarines, to the Arabian Sea. Maritime surveillance airplanes and helicopters have also increased their patrols from bases in Mumbai, Goa, Daman, Porbunder, Jakhau and Okha. IN chief Adm. Sureesh Mehta said the naval movements were due to the over 50,000 fishing trawlers currently operating off India's west coast, however security analysts have offered that the deployment may also be intended to put pressure on Pakistan, as the ships were sent close to Pakistani waters.

December 2 “UNSC extends resolution for anti—piracy action for another year” (United Nations S/RES/1846 (2008), December 2, 2008)

On the 2nd, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted resolution 1846. The resolution is aimed at extending for another year its action for Member States approved under previous resolution 1816 which was adopted on July 2, 2008. (For details, see 2. Intelligence Assessment.)

December 3 “Reflagging is candidate to prevent piracy” (Lloyd’s List, December 3, 2008)

Some ship-owners at risk from Somali piracy are mulling a possible switch away from flags of convenience toward national registries of countries with credible naval assets. France, which has, on two occasions, undertaken military missions to rescue French citizens taken hostage by the Somalis, could be a strong candidate. The development is due to the situations, where escorting vessels by naval units in the Gulf of Aden has been discriminated according to the jurisdiction under which the ship is registered. Traditionally, the choice of flag brought with it an entitlement to the protection of that country’s navy. But the rise of flags of convenience, often operated by third-world countries with little by way of force projection capability, has eroded that relationship in recent decades. An executive with a leading maritime security company noted that reflagging to countries who abide to the original reasoning behind flag states will be increasingly likely. However, he pointed out that the legal picture is complicated, and a warship’s decision of whether it can intervene or not is not a function of flag alone. The nationality of the owner of the cargo and of the seafarers on board was also an issue. Moreover, security man continued: “If a British flagged vessel was being attacked, any British naval vessel in the area would respond. However, if the pirates had already got on board, there would little they could do. If they try to put a force on board, they risk hostages being killed.”

December 3 “Italian warship prevents pirates from hijacking 5 merchant vessels” (AFP, December 3, 2008)

On the 3rd, the Italian destroyer, *Luigi Durand de la Penne*, prevented the pirates from hijacking five merchant shipping vessels in the Gulf of Aden, the NATO official said in a statement. Alerted by a distress call, the Italian navy destroyer put itself between the ships and a group of pirate fast boats, and used its helicopter to deter the pirate attack. This was probably the biggest multiple, coordinated attack they had ever seen, adding that more than 12 pirate boats were involved, perhaps as many as 20, the NATO official said.

December 3 “Danish warship rescues suspected pirates” (The New York Times, December 5, 2008)

Patrolling the Gulf of Aden on the 3rd, a Danish warship HDMS *Absalon* picked up the seven men about 90 miles off the coast of Yemen after a maritime patrol aircraft spotted them signaling in distress, the Danish Navy said on the 5th. Danish Special Forces from the *Absalon* found in the stricken speed-boat rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47 assault rifles -- familiar pirate weapons. Having rescued seven men, they confiscated the weapons, and sank the speedboats. The Danish warship handed them over to the Yemen coast guard on the 5th. The Danish Navy spokesman told these guys were in the shipwrecked situation when the Dutch navy found them, and they were not caught in an act of piracy.

December 7 “Somali pirates attack Hong Kong-flagged vessel off Tanzania” (Maritime Global Net, December 8, 2008)

On the 7th, a Maersk Line-owned, Hong Kong-flag multi purpose ship MV *Maersk Regensburg* (13,769 DWT) was chased and hit by gunfire by eight pirates on board the two high speed boats 450 nautical miles East of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The ship was hit by gunfire and a blaze started. However, the crew put out the fire, and the ship successfully out-ran the attacker. None of the 19 seafarers onboard were reported to have been hurt. An International Maritime Bureau (IMB) spokesman says that the attack shows the pirates are becoming bolder and extending their reach further from their base in Somalia.

December 7 “IMB instructs to keep lookout for piracy around eastern Malaysian island of Tioman” (Reuters, December 7, 2008)

On the 7th, the IMB instructed the ships navigating the area around the island of Tioman along the eastern coast of Malaysia to keep a lookout for the piracy attack. The warning came after pirates attacked a coal ship 10 nautical miles off the coast of the island of Tioman on the 1st. The vessel was bound for Thailand from Singapore. “There were four attacks in the same location, one of which was the hijacking. We believe it was made by the same group operating in the area. So we are warning ships to maintain piracy watch,” said Noel Choong, regional manager for the IMB’s Piracy Reporting Center (PRC) in Kuala Lumpur. He said the caution was for ships sailing the area 100 nautical miles off the island of Tioman.

December 8 “Somali pirates free Greek ship” (Trade Winds, December 9, 2008)

On the 8th, Somali pirates released a Panama-flagged bulk carrier owned by Greek shipping company, the MV *Captain Stephanos* (74,077 DWT). The vessel was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden on September 21 with 19 crew members, of which are 17 Filipinos, one Chinese and a Ukrainian. Their state of health is estimated as satisfactory. At the time of its seizure it was the largest ship to be taken by Somali pirates. There are no reports of what ransom, if any, was paid to secure the release of the ship and its 19 crew members.

December 8 “EU to launch anti-piracy mission off Somalia coast” (AP, December 8, 2008)

On the 8th, the European Union (EU) foreign ministers meeting agreed to launch anti-piracy task mission – Operation Atalanta – off Somalia. The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), which consists of six EU warships and three maritime reconnaissance aircraft, will patrol the area in the Gulf of Aden and escort cargo ships carrying relief aid to Somalia. (For details, see 2. Intelligence Assessment.)

December 10 “Somali pirates hijack two Yemeni fishing boats” (The Economic Times, December 11, 2008)

Somali pirates hijacked two Yemeni fishing boats and took 22 fishermen hostage in the Gulf of Aden on December 10, Yemen's interior ministry said. The pirates attacked the ships as they sailed off the

area near the southern port city of Aden. Before the pirates took control of the ships, seven fishermen escaped on a small boat to report the attacks to the Yemeni Coast Guard Authority in Aden.

【Related story】

“Yemeni vessels released” (Ecoterra International, December 25, 2008)

On the 27th, Somali pirates have released a Yemeni fishing boat, FV *Faluja*, along with ten fishermen held earlier in the Gulf of Aden, the Yemen coastguard has confirmed. Two Yemeni fishing boats, FV *Faluja* and FV *Al-Qana's*, were seized by Somali pirates on December 10. However, five fishermen remain so far with FV *Al-Qana's* in Somalia.

December 12 “Somali pirates free Greek tanker” (AFP, December 13, 2008)

On the 12th, Somali pirates released a chemical tanker MT *Action* (Panama-flagged, 9,064DWT) owned by the Greek shipping company. According to Andrew Mwangura, who heads the Kenyan chapter of East African Seafarers Assistance Program, of 20 crew members of the chemical tanker seized on October 10, three lost their lives “under questionable circumstances.”

December 13 “Indian Navy takes control of the piracy suspects” (Trade Winds, December 14, 2008)

According to the Indian defense ministry, the Indian navy missile destroyer, INS *Mysore*, prevented the hijacking of an Ethiopia-flagged multipurpose cargo ship MV *Gibe* (27,516 DWT) and captured a gang of 23 suspects for the piracy on the 13th. Pirates attacked the vessel 150 nautical miles east of Aden with a fire fight developing between the attackers and the armed merchant vessel's crew. A helicopter from the INS *Mysore* and machine gun fire from the destroyer forced a dhow named as *Salahaddin* to stop. An Indian marine commando unit boarded the dhow and captured a gang of 23 suspects, and seized a cache of weapons including rocket propelled grenades, AK-47s and other automatic rifles.



In this photograph released by the Indian Navy, Indian Marine Commandos board a suspected pirate ship as its surrendering crew (L) holds their hands above their heads in the Gulf of Aden on December 13, 2008.

Source: China Daily, December 17

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-12/17/content_7311735.htm

December 15 “Kenya moves to secure coastline” (Capital FM, December 15, 2008)

On the 15th, Kenyan Armed Force’s Chief of General Staff (CGS) Jeremiah Kianga said Kenya strengthened efforts of securing the Kenyan waters near the Somali coastline, as follows. “We shall sink pirates’ boats and ships if they try to cross into Kenyan waters,” said Mr. Kianga. “I want to assure security to all local and international users of the Indian Ocean in the Kenyan waters,” added the CGS. “We are expecting about 16 cruise ships at the port of Mombasa between December and March in 2009 and we want to ensure the safety of the incoming ships is given top priority,” Mr. Kianga said. Also, the CGS said the EUNAVFOR commenced escorting the first of the ships leaving Mombasa port on the 14th under the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). It was accompanied by the British frigate HMS *Northumberland*.

December 16 “UNSC approves new anti-piracy resolution” (United Nations S/RES/1851 (2008), December 16, 2008)

On the 16th, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously approved an anti-piracy resolution 1851. The significant peculiarity of resolution 1851 is that, by changing “all necessary means” to be taken for a period of twelve months from the date of adoption of resolution 1846 into “all necessary measures that are appropriate in Somalia,” it has allowed countries to be able to conduct military operations on the land in Somalia, for the purpose of suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery. (For details, see 2. Intelligence Assessment.)

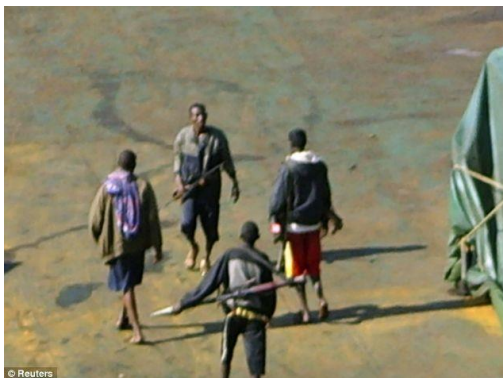
December 16 “Somali pirates seize two ships” (Bloomberg, December 17, 2008)

On the 16th, Somali pirates seized two ships in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia. According to Noel Choong, regional manager for the IMB’s Piracy Reporting Center (PRC) in Kuala Lumpur, an Antigua & Barbuda flagged general cargo ship MV *Bosphorus Prodigy* (3,062 GT) which is chartered by Turkey’s shipping company was hijacked by pirates armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades that arrived in two speedboats and boarded the vessel. The cargo vessel is with a crew of eight Ukrainians and three Turks. Also, the tug *Masindra 7*, which is flying a Malaysian flag and Malaysian owned, was hijacked while it was en route from Yemen to Malaysia. Crew members on board are 11 Indonesians.

December 17 “Chinese ship counter-attacks the pirates with incendiary bombs to deter hijacking” (ICC Commercial Crime Services, December 19 and Daily Mail, December 19, 2008)

On the 19th, China’s heavy-lift ship, MV *Zhen Hua 4* (26,100 DWT) of St. Vincent & Grenada flagging was boarded by pirates armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades who arrived in two speedboats, but made it escape from being hijacking. Despite efforts of the 30 Chinese crew members trying to deter boarding by the pirates by using water cannon and incendiary bombs, the nine pirates clambered aboard the ship. The Chinese crew then locked themselves in their accommodation area. The ICC International Maritime Bureau’s Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) received the distress call from the Chinese heavy lift vessel, which was

broadcast immediately to all the naval commands in the area. The Combined Task Force requested a Malaysian Naval vessel, KD *Mahawangsa*, which was closest to the distress position to respond. The Malaysian warship scrambled a helicopter, which fired warning shots at the skiff with pirates on board, lying near the *Zhen Hua 4*. The attackers withdrew and fled on board another skiff that was tied alongside the opposite side of the *Zhen Hua 4*. The Malaysian Navy reported seeing a suspected pirate ‘mother ship’ near the vessel. Another Combined Task Force vessel supported the actions taken by the Malaysian Naval vessel.



Source: Daily Mail, December 19, 2008

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1098125/Pictured-Desperate-Chinese-sailors-fight-Somali-pirates-beer-bottles-Molotov-cocktails.html>

Photograph explanation: From the upper left in the clockwise direction

- Standby to repel boarders: A Chinese sailor lights a Molotov cocktail before throwing it overboard at Somali pirates
- This picture released by the International Maritime Bureau's piracy center shows one of the Somali boats (circled in red) coming up behind the Chinese cargo ship
- Four of the nine pirates with a machine gun and rocket launcher wander about the deck of the Chinese cargo ship. To prevent the vessel falling into their hands, the sailors had locked themselves in their accommodation area
- One of the speedboats used by the Somalis to approach the cargo ship. Here it can be seen tied up alongside

December 19 “German parliament approves sending warships to Somalia” (Ecoterra International, December 21, 2008)

On the 19th, Germany’s lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, approved the deployment of a warship and troops to the Gulf of Aden by 491 votes to 55, with 12 abstentions. Centering around one frigate, the dispatching team will involve up to 1,400 German troops to participate in the EUNAVFOR mission, code-named Operation Atalanta.

【Related Story 1】

“ German warship begins anti-piracy mission” (AP, December 23, 2008)

On the 23rd, a German navy frigate, *Karlsruhe*, with some 240 sailors on board as well as speedboats and a helicopter, sailed out of Djibouti's harbor to take part in a European Union-led anti-piracy mission - Operation Atalanta. Its duties will include escorting ships carrying relief aid to Somalia, protecting merchant ships and deterring pirate attacks.



Karlsruhe

Source: The Local (Germany’s News in English), December 25, 2008

<http://www.thelocal.de/national/20081225-16365.html>

【Related Story 2】

“ German navy foils attempt by Somali pirates” (BBC News, December 25, 2008)

The German navy says its frigate *Karlsruhe* has foiled an attempt by pirates to hijack an Egyptian cargo vessel MV *Wadi al-Arab* in the Gulf of Aden on the 25th. The *Karlsruhe* launched a helicopter to protect the Egyptian cargo ship MV *Wadi al-Arab* from the pirates. Surrounding the pirates by a fast-speed boat with sailors on board, the German navy disarmed Somali attackers and confiscated their weapons. Six Somali pirates captured were immediately released on the orders of the German government. When attacked by the pirates, one crew member of the cargo vessel was injured and was treated on the *Karlsruhe*. A spokesman for the EU's Operation Atalanta told it would be only in case a German ship was attacked or German citizens were killed or injured that Germany would bring pirates to justice.

【Related Story 3】

“ Germany calls on establishing Intl Court for pirates” (News 24.com, December 24, 2008)

Seeing off German frigate *Karlsruhe* joining a European Union (EU) anti-piracy mission on the 23rd, German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung called for an international court to be set up

to prosecute Somali pirates. He said, "We need an international authority. No one wants a 'Guantanamo on the sea!'"

Note: 'Guantanamo' means the US's detention facility for terrorist suspects based in Cuba.

December 20 "China announced its naval deployment to seas off Somalia" (Xinhua, December 20, 2008)

On the 20th, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman said that China will dispatch a naval task force consisting of three warships to the seas off the Gulf of Aden and Somalia to patrol these waters. According to the spokesman, their major task is to protect the safety of Chinese ships and crew on board as well as ships carrying humanitarian relief material for the international organizations such as the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). The Ministry of Defense said the taskforce would consist of two destroyers and a supply ship, and will leave Sanya of southern Hainan Province on December 26.

【Related Story】

" Chinese Navy sets sail for waters off Somalia" (Xinhua, December 26, 2006)

The Chinese Navy's three-ship fleet set sail to the Gulf of Aden off Somalia from Sanya base in Hainan Province on the 26th. The fleet is composed of two multi-purpose destroyers missile destroyers - DDG-169 *Wuhan* (6,500 DWT) and DDG-171 *Haikou* (6,500 DWT), and the supply ship *Weishanhu* (23,000 DWT). The task force, which carries about 800 crew members, including 70 soldiers from the Navy's special force, will be deployed there for three months. "The expedition will show China's active attitude in maintaining the world's peace and safety," Admiral Wu Shengli, commander of the Navy, told Xinhua at a send-off ceremony before the flotilla departed. "It could also embody the Navy's resolution and capacity to accomplish diversified military missions to deal with multiple threats to national security," the admiral said. The dispatched fleet will protect not only the China-flagged vessels and their crew members but also the vessels of other countries, in addition to the merchant ships with crew members of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan on request. (Chinese warships carried out the first escort mission against pirates on January 6, 2009.)



Sail for Escort Mission off Somalia

Source: Xinhua, December 26, 2006

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/special-reports/2008-12/27/content_1599922.htm



A helicopter of the Chinese naval fleet attends a landing exercise at night on Dec. 28, 2008, while the Chinese naval fleet heads for the Gulf of Aden.

Source: Xinhua, December 29, 2006

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/special-reports/2008-12/30/content_1602923.htm

December 20 “Iran sends warship to Gulf of Aden” (AFP, December 20, 2008)

An Iranian warship has entered the Gulf of Aden to protect Iranian vessels against pirates off the coast of Somalia, Iranian state radio said on the 20th, without further details. Hong-Kong-registered bulk cargo ship MV *Delight* chartered by the Iranian shipping company was hijacked off Somali coast on November 18. (Note: MV *Delight* was freed on January 10, 2009.)

December 21 “Swiss may send soldiers to guard ships off Somalia” (Reuters, December 21, 2008)

Switzerland’s President Pascal Couchepin (who is also interior minister) was quoted as saying on the 21st that Switzerland is considering sending soldiers to the waters off Somalia to protect a Swiss merchant fleet of approximately 35 ships from piracy. Although President Pascal Couchepin did not give details of the possible operation, Swiss weekly NZZ am Sonntag said the Swiss cabinet was considering whether Switzerland should take part in the EU patrol forces, and in return the EU would escort Swiss ships.

December 24 “Yemen to set up regional anti-piracy center” (AFP, December 25, 2008)

On the 24th, the Yemeni government said it is creating a regional anti-piracy center to battle the growing number of hijackings by Somali pirates in the area. According to a Yemeni transport ministry spokesman, the center will act as a hub for the exchange of information about piracy and for the coordination of multi-national naval forces. Yemeni government has already started work on building the center which should be completed in about six months, with 10 Red Sea and Gulf of Aden countries taking part.

1.2 Military

December 5“Russian Navy’s destroyer crosses Panama Canal for first time”(RIA Novosti, December 6, 2008)

Having completed joint naval exercises with the Venezuelan Navy in the Caribbean Sea, Russian Navy's destroyer *Admiral Chabanenko* passed through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean during the night on the 5th. This became the first Russian or Soviet warship to enter the waterway since World War II, including the Soviet era. The Panama Canal was shut to Soviet vessels during the Cold War. The Russian embassy in Panama said the Russian warship's trip through the canal demonstrates to the whole world that the Panama Canal really is a neutral waterway, and there is no other message than that. The Admiral Chabanenko would be docked at the Rodman Naval Station [which is now called the Balboa naval base] from December 6 to 11. The U.S. has not made any comments on the Russian warship's transiting the Panama Canal.



Admiral Chabanenko enters the Gatun Locks on the Panama Canal

Source: BREITBART.com, December 6, 2008

http://www.breitbart.com/image.php?id=iafp081207030342.9fq0zsm1&show_article=1&article_id=081207030342.9fq0zsm

【Related Story】

“ Russian PM: Russia seeks no military bases in the Caribbean Sea” (RIA Novosti, December 4, 2008)

On the 4th, the Russian Prime Minister (PM) Vladimir Putin said, although Russia seeks no permanent military bases in Venezuela or Cuba, they will be able to use these countries' ports to refuel and replenish supplies for their warships, if necessary. Putin also added, when they announced that Russian warships were visiting Venezuela, they received many requests from many countries for Russian warships to call at their ports, which PM Putin had not expected.

Moreover, regarding the Russian-Venezuelan naval exercises, VenRus-2008, in which they practiced deployment, coordinated tactical maneuvering, air defense, search, pursuit and the detention of a ship suspected of illegal activities, PM Putin called them “a success.”

December 5“Ukraine to help train China's navy pilots”(UPI Asia, December 5, 2008)

Andrei Chang, an expert on Chinese military matters, quoted a source in the Ukrainian military industry as saying that China has been getting training for its navy’s aircraft carrier pilots at training facilities in the southern part of Ukraine since October 2006, as below.

- (1) China first sent a large naval delegation, headed by the deputy chief of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, to visit the Ukrainian Navy Aviation Force training centers in Odessa and Sevastopol in October, 2006. The Chinese visited the Research Test and Flying Training Center at Nitka on the Crimean Peninsula, and the two sides discussed the possibility of Ukraine helping to train China’s navy aviation force and aircraft carrier pilots. Since then, Chinese engineers, pilots and naval technical experts have made frequent visits to Nitka.
- (2) The focus of much of China’s current military cooperation with Russia and Ukraine is on producing large aircraft and an aircraft carrier. Ukraine has provided China with a prototype of its T-10K shipborne fighter. By dissecting the T-10K - an earlier variant of the Su-33 fighter - China hopes to acquire the capability to independently develop its own shipborne fighters. The single T-10K that China purchased from Ukraine was originally based at the Nitka center, which is equipped with a range of simulators to train pilots in sky-jump take-offs, arresting landings and contingency responses. The training program is extremely harsh, and the most basic training would take at least six months.
- (3) China’s dealings with Ukraine reconfirm that the PLA Navy is moving forward on its aircraft carrier project. The Chinese carrier is apparently based on a Russian design; otherwise China would not be interested in Ukraine’s simulators. This means China’s aircraft carrier will very likely adopt the Russian methods of ski-jump take-off and landing.
- (4) The training at this base in Ukraine is followed by basic short distance take-off and landing training on the disabled ex-Soviet aircraft carrier *Varyag* (which is currently at its moorings in the Chinese port city of Dalian). Sources from the Ukrainian military industry have confirmed that the *Varyag* is unlikely to be restored to an operational aircraft carrier, and will most likely only be used as a training platform.

【Related Story】

Regarding the Chinese carrier, a spokesman of China’s Ministry of National Defense said in an interview on December 23 that Beijing would seriously consider building its first aircraft carrier. As for the China’s first carrier, Senior Colonel Huang Xueping said: “An aircraft carrier is a symbol of a country’s overall national strength. Evaluating globally the factors from various sources, we will seriously research into them to consider all the related issues.” Huang confirmed they were making studies. Concerning the need of having the aircraft carrier, he said, “China has a long shoreline and it is a sacred duty of the Chinese military force to secure its sovereignty and

interests.” However, he gave no timetable for launching such a vessel. (AP, December 23, 2008)

December 9 “Warships of the Russian Pacific Fleet head for India & Somalia” (RIA Novosti, December 9, 2008)

According to an official of the Russian Pacific Fleet, a task force (TF) from Russian Pacific Fleet left Vladivostok for a tour of duty in the Indian Ocean on the 9th. The TF, which comprises an *Udaloy* class missile destroyer *Admiral Vinogradov*, a tugboat, and two tankers, will pay a visit to India and participate in the joint naval exercises - INDRA-2009 - with the Indian Navy in January 2009. INDRA is a biennial Russian-Indian exercise aimed at practicing cooperation in enforcing maritime law and countering piracy, terrorism, and drug smuggling. INDRA-2009 is the fourth such exercise since 2003. The TF will also conduct joint exercises with another TF from Russian Northern Fleet, led by the *Pyotr Veliky* nuclear-powered missile cruiser, which will arrive in the Indian Ocean after cruising in the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Following the exercises, the *Admiral Vinogradov* will replace the missile destroyer *Neustrashimy* from Russian Northern Fleet which is now performing the anti-piracy mission off the Somali coast.

1.3 Diplomacy and International Relations

December 18 “Japan, Australia hold 2nd Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations” (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan HP, December 18, 2008)

On the 18th, the second Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations were held in Tokyo, which was attended by Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Hirofumi Nakasone, Japanese Minister of Defense Yasukazu Hamada, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Stephen Smith MP and Australian Minister for Defense the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP. The meetings were the second sessions since June 2007. As a “two plus two” partner of Japan, Australia is the second nation following the United States (US). On the other hand, for Australia, Japan is, next to the US and Britain, the third partner. According to the home page of the Japanese Foreign Ministry home page, an outline of the joint statement issued after the consultations is as follows.

1. Ministers shared the view that a close strategic relationship between Japan and Australia is of growing importance to both countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Ministers noted the importance of strong alliance ties with the US and comprehensive involvement in multilateral institutions for the international policies of both countries.
2. Defense Cooperation
 - (1) Ministers welcomed the updating of the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation in the Defense Ministerial meeting, as a platform for greater practical bilateral cooperation in areas such as peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and enhanced defense exchanges, as well as efforts to promote enhanced strategic dialogue between defense authorities.

- (2) Ministers decided to accelerate studies on logistics cooperation between Japan and Australia through the Working Group established in accordance with the decision of Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial meeting in May 2008.
- (3) Ministers affirmed Japan and Australia's continuing commitment to enhanced defense cooperation, including unit-to-unit exchanges, ship and aircraft visits and exercises, as confirmed by the Prime Ministers of Japan and Australia in their joint statement of June 2008.
- (4) Ministers welcomed the success of recent exchanges, including the first Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participation in Exercise KAKADU in July 2008; the visit to Australia in September 2008 of JMSDF P-3C for exercising; the first Japan Air Self-Defense Force U-4's visit to Australia; and Royal Australian Navy ship's and Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C's visits to Japan in October 2007.

Ministers welcomed enhanced trilateral security and defense cooperation under the SDCF, including the Pacific Global Air Mobility Seminar (PGAMS) held in Japan in February 2008; the first trilateral P-3C exercise, held in October 2007; and trilateral cooperation in ARF disaster relief exercises held in May 2008.

Notes: Japanese edition of Joint Statement on Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations in 2008:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/australia/2plus2/0812_ks.html

English edition of Joint Statement on Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations in 2008:

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/australia/2plus2joint08.html>

1.4 Shipping, Resources, Environment, and Miscellaneous

December 4 “Panama-flagged fleet growing” (Maritime Global Net, December 4, 2008)

According to the Panama Maritime Administration, quoting Lloyd's register statistics, Panama Ship Register's fleet grew by 7.28 percent (%) in terms of vessel number, in the first 10 months of this year to a total of 8,159 vessels and by 7.25% in gross tonnage (gt), to 180.18m gt. As at the end of October the main users of the Panama flag by country were: Japan, 52%; Greece, 10%; South Korea, 7%; China, 7%; Hong Kong, 5% and Taiwan, 5%.

December 19 “Japan launches first solar cargo ship” (AFP, December 19, 2008)

On the 19th, a freighter MV *Auriga Leader* (60,213 DWT), the world's first cargo ship partly propelled by solar power, took off from a shipyard in the western city of Kobe. The freighter was developed by shipping line Nippon Yusen K.K. and oil distributor Nippon Oil Corp. Equipped with 328 solar panels, the freighter can generate 40 kilowatts. It would initially cover only 0.2 percent of the ship's energy consumption for propulsion, but company officials said they hoped to raise the

ratio. The ship, which is capable of carrying 6,400 automobiles, will initially be operated to transport vehicles by the Toyota Motor Corporation.



MV Auriga Leader (60,213 DWT)

Source: The Yomiuri Shimbun, December 20, 2008

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20081220TDY02305.htm>

December 27 “HK shipping register sails into top five in the world” (China Economic Net, December 29, 2008)

The Hong Kong Shipping Register will have more than 1,360 ships whose total tonnage exceeds 39.86 million GT, making the register among the top five in the world, according to a statement from the Hong Kong government on the 27th.

2. Intelligence Assessment

Somali Piracy

~ Reactions of the United Nations, Countries and International Institutions ~

In December 2008, piracy incidents continue unabated in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. Four hijackings were noted in December 2008 only. The Gulf of Aden and the coast off Somalia accounted for 111 of the 293 piracy attacks recorded in 2008, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB). Also, there were 42 hijackings in this maritime area in 2008. According to information of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) in an enclosure, of 43 incidents reported, 15 vessels passed over the year without being released.

Under these circumstances, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted a resolution twice, and the European Union (EU) and China among others sent their warships to the area, which is making anti-piracy measures active. Following is a summary of the responses of the United Nations and the nations concerned.

1. Reactions of UNSC

(1) On the 2nd, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1846 [authorizing any nations the use of all necessary means] to combat piracy off Somalia. Resolution 1846 was jointly proposed by a total of 19 nations -- the United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom (UK), France, Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Japan, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and Ukraine.

The resolution is aimed at extending for another year its action for Member States approved under previous Resolution 1816 which was adopted on July 2, 2008. Taking note of the request from the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia to the UNSC, resolution 1846 stipulates that, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations (UN), in a manner consistent with such action permitted on the high seas with respect to piracy under relevant international law, the Member States, which TFG informs in advance to the UN Secretary General in cooperation with the TFG, shall take the actions to repress the acts of piracy and armed robbery off Somalia as follows. The actions include entering Somalia's territorial waters and allowing the participants to take all necessary measures in the waters for a period of twelve months from the date of this resolution.

Resolution 1846 welcomes actions taken by Canada, Denmark, France, India, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, UK, USA, and other regional organizations and international institutions as well as dispatching warships from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the EU in accordance with the Somalia-related Resolution 1816 among others. Moreover, it calls on other Member States and international organizations to participate in fighting against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

Further taking note of the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention), the resolution 1846 also urges States parties to the SUA Convention to fully implement their obligations under said Convention and cooperate with the Secretary-General of the UN and International Maritime Organization (IMO) to build judicial capacity for the successful prosecution of persons suspected of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

Note 1: As for Resolution 1846, refer to URL below:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/630/29/PDF/N0863029.pdf?OpenElement>

Note 2: The Japanese government has not approved TFG.

Note 3: SUA Convention was made in Rome, Italy, in 1988, and came into effect in March, 1992.

Japan joined the convention in 1998, and it came into force in Japan in July of the same year.

(2) On the 16th, the UNSC has unanimously approved an anti-piracy resolution 1851. The US-drafted resolution was co-sponsored by Belgium, France, Greece, Liberia and South Korea.

The significant peculiarity of Resolution 1851 is that it calls on Member States to assist the TFG, at its request and with notification to the Secretary-General, to strengthen its operational capacity to bring to justice those who are using Somali territory to plan, facilitate or undertake criminal acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea. In other words, by changing “all necessary means” to be taken for a period of twelve months from the date of adoption of resolution 1846 into its “all necessary measures that are appropriate in Somalia,” Resolution 1851 has allowed countries to be able to conduct military operations on the land in Somalia, for the purpose of suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery. Indonesia, which also suffers from piracy, was among critics of the plan as it feared the precedent it could set for chasing pirates on land. However, it voted in favor of the resolution.

Also, Resolution 1851 encourages all States and regional organizations fighting piracy and armed robbery at sea to establish an international cooperation mechanism to act as a common point of contact, and create a center in the region to coordinate information relevant to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

Furthermore, regarding the treatment of pirate suspects kept in custody, Resolution 1851 invites all States and regional organizations fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia “to conclude special agreements or arrangements with countries willing to take custody of pirates in order to embark law enforcement officials (‘shipriders’) from the latter countries, in particular countries in the region, to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of persons detained as a result of operations conducted under this resolution for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.” However, it is provided that the advance consent of the TFG is obtained for the exercise of third state jurisdiction by shipriders in Somali territorial waters and that such agreements or arrangements do not prejudice the effective implementation of the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention).

Note : As for Resolution 1851, please, refer to URL below:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/655/01/PDF/N0865501.pdf?OpenElement>

- (3) Acting under the two UNSC resolutions mentioned above, the Member States, which TFG informs in advance to the UN Secretary General in cooperation with the TFG, shall take “all necessary measures” to repress the acts of piracy and armed robbery not only in the “Somalia’s territorial waters” but also “on Somali land” for a period of twelve months. France chased hijackers fleeing into the Somali land by an armed helicopter on April 11, 2008 and kept them in custody. (See 1. 1 Security in OPRF Monthly Report, April 2008.) It is regarded with attention whether or not each Member State will pursue the pirate suspects as far as the inland of Somalia under this resolution.
- (4) Also, another peculiarity of these two resolutions is that it mentions judicial procedures against pirate suspects. The resolution 1846 urges Member States parties to SUA Convention to fully implement their obligations under said SUA Convention and cooperate with the Secretary-General of the UN and IMO to build judicial capacity for the successful prosecution of persons suspected of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia. Moreover, regarding the treatment of pirate suspects kept in custody, Resolution 1851 invites all States and regional organizations fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia to conclude special agreements or arrangements with countries willing to take custody of pirates in order to embark law enforcement officials from the latter countries, in particular countries in the region.

This is regarded to have been taken in consideration of the fact that patrolling activities of the naval vessels of the dispatching nations are intensified, and incidents of detaining the pirate suspects are increasing. The nations that had kept the pirate suspect in custody released them after disarming or delivered them to the government authorities of Somalia, Yemen, and Kenya among others. German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung emphasized the importance of establishing an international judicial court against piracy before a German navy frigate participated in the EU patrol mission. Also, international shipping world has been seeking to institutionalize the judicial procedures to prosecute the pirate suspects. It is an issue in the future how the judicial procedures against the pirate suspects mentioned in UNSC resolutions should be realized.

- (5) Resolution 1851 encourages all States and regional organizations to establish international cooperation mechanism and to consider creating a center to coordinate information. Regarding this point, the Yemeni government said on December 24 it was creating a regional anti-piracy as a hub for the exchange of information about piracy and for the coordination of multi-national naval forces. Yemeni government is said to have already started work on building the center which should be completed in about six months, with 10 Red Sea and Gulf of Aden countries taking part.

Also, with regard to this, the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) based in Bahrain will take charge of anti-terrorism operations in the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The CMF has established Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151) specifically for counter-piracy operations on January 8, 2009. According to the CMF, CTF-151 will focus part of its assets solely on the counter-piracy mission under the auspice of CTF-150. Although more than 20 nations are participating in the CTF-150, some of them do not have the authority to conduct

counter-piracy missions. CTF-151 is expected to become an international framework of accepting warships dispatched from countries except the EU.

2. Reactions of countries and international institutions

(1) On the 8th, the EU foreign ministers meeting agreed to launch anti-piracy task mission – Operation Atalanta – off Somalia. The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), which consists of six EU warships and three maritime reconnaissance aircraft, will patrol the area in the Gulf of Aden and escort cargo ships carrying relief aid to Somalia, as the NATO vessels have done since the end of October. The EU has conducted 20 peacekeeping operations so far, but the new mission will be its first naval endeavor. According to an EU spokeswoman, EUNAVFOR will eventually take over the mission from the NATO flotilla. At least eight countries -- Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden -- will participate in EUNAVFOR, which with a headquarters in Northwood near London will be under British Admiral Phillip Jones for a year. The fleet will initially be led by Greek Admiral, with a Spaniard and then a Dutch officer taking over after three month terms.

Britain deploys one frigate to Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) which was dispatched to Somali waters in October 2008. If EUNAVFOR relieves NATO fleet, the war ship dispatched from the Royal Navy is regarded to belong to EUNAVFOR. In other areas, Britain also deploys naval vessels to multilateral joint task force – CTF-150 under the CMF based in Bahrain, which take charge of ant-terrorist operations in the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and in the Indian Ocean.

On the 19th, Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, approved the deployment of a warship and troops to the Gulf of Aden by 491 votes to 55, with 12 abstentions. Apart from this, Germany deploys another frigate to the CTF-150.

Note: Atalanta is a fleet-footed huntress in Greek mythology.

(2) China and other nations dispatching naval vessels

Except the EU nations, the other countries that are dispatching naval vessels to combat Somali pirates are as follows: Russia, India, Canada, Turkey, Malaysia (dispatching one warship, which is to be withdrawn in February 2009), Iran, and China. Apart from them, Switzerland (which is studying to send personnel, and has a merchant fleet of about 35 Swiss-registered vessels), Australia and Taiwan are reportedly studying to dispatch the vessels.

In particular, dispatching the Chinese naval vessels is noteworthy. China has recently sent two destroyers and one supply ship from Sanya base in Hainan Province on the 26th, which commenced escorting mission for the Chinese ships on January 6, 2009. The fleet is dispatched on three-month rotation for the time being, and is to deploy for a year, which is effective under the UN resolution. TFG of Somalia welcomes China's dispatching of naval vessels.

According to the Chinese government, a total of 1,265 Chinese merchant ships passed the waters in the Gulf of Aden, almost 3-4 ships a day on average. And 20 percent of the Chinese merchant ships passing the area were attacked by the pirates. Liberation Army Newspaper (hereafter newspaper) dated December 22 reports, based on the UN resolutions and SUA

Convention, China has the right and obligation to fight against Somali pirates. In addition, mentioning Article 8 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China, the newspaper points out that the law can be applied to foreigners, who commit crimes against the PRC state or against its citizens beyond the PRC territory. The newspaper also points out, according to article 9 of the same law, it is applicable to the crimes specified in international treaties to which the PRC is a signatory state or of which China is a member, and to the crimes over which the PRC exercises criminal jurisdiction within its treaty obligations. As China is a signatory state, China stresses that it certainly has jurisdiction over pirate crimes. Therefore, it is regarded with attention what kind of procedures China will take when the Chinese fleet has kept the pirate suspects in custody.

Another remarkable point over the Chinese dispatching of naval vessels is that sending warships may give a foothold for securing the permanent presence in the Indian Ocean. What kind of cooperative posture China will take with the navies of other nations in future or whether or not China will establish regular ports of visit in Seychelles and Pakistan in view of a long period of one year ahead remains undetermined. However, there is no mistaking that the deployment of Chinese naval vessels to Indian Ocean has the strategic significance beyond mere anti-piracy measures off Somalia. Including navigation of the warships during the turn-over of the fleet dispatched, China will establish a definite presence along the long sea lane vital to Beijing. In this process, if China could realize a strategy of so-called “String of Pearls,” it would be a matter that India and the United States, and even Japan could not overlook.



Chinese Strategy of so-called “String of Pearls”

Source: Eagle Speak, January 3, 2009

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_E-QOnTGFX_o/SV-njEYIFfI/AAAAAAAAAGMc/CGqeuax2LQ4/s1600-h/JOE2008_Page_32_Image_0001.jpg

Enclosure: Information by Ocean Policy Research Foundation on the Status of Hijacking Incidents off
Gulf of Aden and Somalia in 2008 (As of December 31, 2008)

Hijacked	Date	Date released (Days held)	Crew (killed)	Vessel	Flag State
<i>Svitzer Korsakov</i>	2.1	3.18(46)	6	Tug Boat	St.Vincent & Grenadines
<i>Brum Ocean</i>	4.1	4.1(1)	34	Fishing vessel	Yemen
<i>Playa De Bakio</i>	4.2	4.25(23)	26	Fishing vessel	Canary Islands
<i>Le Ponant</i>	4.4	4.11(7)	30	Passenger Vessel	France
<i>Al-Khaleej</i>	4.21	4.21(1)	16		UAE
<i>Victoria</i>	5.17	5.23(6)	21	General Cargo	Jordan
<i>Amiya Scan</i>	5.25	6.24(30)	9	General Cargo	Antigua & Barbuda
<i>Lehmann Timber</i>	5.28	7.7(40)	15	General Cargo	Gibraltar
<i>Rockall</i>	6.23		3		
<i>Stella Maris *</i>	7.20	10.9 (81)	20	Bulk Carrier	Panama
<i>Yenagoa Ocean</i>	8.5		8	Tug/Supply Vessel	Panama
<i>Thor Star</i>	8.12	10.16 (64)	28	Bulk Carrier	Thailand
<i>Bunga Melati Dua</i>	8.19	9.29 (40)	39 (1)	Chemical Tanker	Malaysia
<i>Iran Deyanat</i>	8.21	10.10 (49)	29	Bulk Carrier	Iran
<i>BBC Trinidad</i>	8.21	9.11 (20)	13	Bulk Carrier	Antigua & Barbuda
<i>Irene *</i>	8.21	10.8 (47)	19	Tanker	Panama
<i>Bunga Melati Lima</i>	8.29	9.27 (28)	41	Chemical Tanker	Malaysia
<i>Carre D'as IV</i>	9.2	9.15 (13)	3	Yacht	Venezuela
<i>Al Mansourah</i>	9.3	9.27 (24)	25	Bulk Carrier	Egypt
<i>Bright Ruby</i>	9.10	10.16 (36)	21	Bulk Carrier	South Korea
<i>Stolt Valor *</i>	9.15	11.16 (62)	22	Chemical Tanker	Hong Kong
<i>Great Creation</i>	9.17	11.19 (63)	25	Bulk Carrier	Hong Kong
<i>Centauri</i>	9.18	11.27 (70)	25	Bulk Carrier	Marta
<i>Captain Stefanos</i>	9.21	12.8 (78)	19	Bulk Carrier	Bahamas
<i>Faina **</i>	9.25		21(1)	Ro-Ro vessel	Belize
<i>Genoius</i>	9.26	11.20 (54)	19	Chemical Tanker	Liberia
<i>Wail</i>	10.9	10.14 (5)	11	General Cargo	Panama
<i>Action</i>	10.10	12.12 (63)	20 (3)	Chemical Tanker	Panama
<i>African Sanderling *</i>	10.15		21	Bulk Carrier	Panama
<i>Yasa Neslihan</i>	10.29		20	Bulk Carrier	Marshall Island
<i>CEC Future</i>	11.7		13	General Cargo	Bahamas
<i>Stolt Strength</i>	11.10		23	Chemical Tanker	Philippines
<i>Karagol</i>	11.12		14	Chemical Tanker	Turkey
<i>Tian Yu.8 *</i>	11.13		24	Fishing Boat	China

Hijacked	Date	Date released (Days held)	Crew (killed)	Vessel	Flag State
<i>Sirius Star</i> ***	11.15		25	Crude Oil Tanker	Liberia
<i>Chemstar Venus</i> *	11.15		23	Chemical Tanker	Panama
<i>Delight</i>	11.18		25	Bulk Carrier	Hong Kong
<i>Amani</i>	11.25	11.30 (5)	7	General Cargo	Yemen
<i>Biscaglia</i>	11.28		28	Chemical Tanker	Liberia
<i>Faluja</i>	12.10	12.27 (17)	10	Fishing Boat	Yemen
<i>Al-Qana's</i>	12.10		5	Fishing Boat	Yemen
<i>Masindra 7</i>	12.16		11	Tug Boat	Malaysia
<i>Bosphorus Prodigy</i>	12.16		11	General Cargo	Antigua & Barbuda

Sources: "Piracy And Armed Robbery Against Ships: 1 January – 30 September 2008," ICC International Maritime Bureau, October 2008, pp.51-65., and Hans Tino Hansen, "Somalia Piracy Background Briefing," Version 1.3, RiskIntelligence, October 13, pp.4-5. In addition to the above-listed sources, we have also used data from other sources of information for compiling this table.

According to the IMB, Gulf of Aden and the coast off Somalia accounted for 111 piracy attacks recorded in 2008. Of them, 42 were hijackings. As of December 31, 14 vessels are still held. For reference, in the chart above, number of hijacking is counted 43, and 15 vessels are still held, as it is citing information from another source. As statistics is made on reporting basis, there is no denying the fact that the numbers slightly differ, depending upon the sources adopted.

Note 1: Blanks in the columns of Type of Vessel and Flag State show no data are available.

Remarks *: [*] in the column of the ship name hijacked indicates the vessel is Japanese-related.

MV *Stella Maris* and *Irene* are related to Koyo Kaiun Shipping Company, and MV *African Sanderling* is to Nagashiki Steamship Company. MT *Stolt Valor* is also related to the Japanese shipping company. MT *Chemstar Venus* is related to the Iino Marine Service Company. FV *Tian Yu.8* (Tuna fishing boat) belongs to China's Tianjin Ocean Fishing Company, and the captain of the ship is Japanese.

Remarks **: MV *Faina* carries 33 Russian T-72 tanks and a substantial quantity of ammunition which are regarded to be bound for Kenya. Efforts for a peaceful release continue without significant progress.

Remarks ***: MT *Sirius Star* is a very large crude carrier (VLCC) (318,000 DWT). When hijacked, it was loaded with two million barrels of crude oil. MT *Sirius Star* was the largest ship ever Somali pirates have seized, and the farthest out to sea they have successfully struck on the high seas more than 450 nautical miles southeast of Mombassa, Kenya. The tanker was released on January 9, 2009. The ransom was said to be three million US dollars.

Links

AFP	http://www.afp.com/home/
AP	http://www.ap.org/
BBC News	http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/
Bloomberg	http://www.bloomberg.com/
BREITBART.com	http://www.breitbart.com/
Capital FM	http://www.capitalradio.co.uk/
China Daily	http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/
China Economic Net	http://en.ce.cn/
Daily Mail Online	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html
Daily Yomiuri Online	http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/
Eagle Speak	http://www.eaglespeak.us/
Ecoterra International	http://www.businesspatrol.com/country-links/ecoterra-international,9870.html
Fairplay Daily News	http://www.lrfairplay.com/
ICC Commercial Crime Services	http://www.icc-ccs.org/
IT Examiner	http://www.itexaminer.com/
Lloyd's List	http://www.lloydslist.com/ll/home/index.htm
Maritime Global Net	http://www.mgn.com/
News 24.com	http://www.news24.com/
Reuters	http://www.reuters.com/
RIA Novosti	http://en.rian.ru/
The Economic Times	http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/
The Local (Germany's News in English)	http://www.thelocal.de/
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan HP	http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html
The New York Times	http://www.nytimes.com/
Trade Winds	http://www.tradewinds.no/
United Nations Security Council Resolution 2008	http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions08.htm
UPI Asia	http://www.upiasia.com/
Xinhua	http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/

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