

# Email Message Received by MaritimeSecurity.com

## Pirate Attack on U.S. Research Vessel Near Somalia

Vessel attacked with RPGs (rocket propelled grenade) and AK-47s.

This vessel survived after following the Ship Security Plan™ written and implemented by staff of MaritimeSecurity.com who provided "on location" anti-piracy and anti-terrorism training to vessel's crew during voyage from Greece to Djibouti, Africa in August 2001.

The anti-piracy training ended on 22 August 2001; the ship was attacked one week later on 31 August 2001.

### Actual text of email:

Date: 31 August 2001

Email from R/V <client> to <maritimesecurity.com>:

Just a quick note to let you all know that around 10:45am today we had a piracy incident just 15 miles off the Somali Coast while on CTD station.

I was in the science office at the time, which has no intercom system, and was notified by \*\*\* that there was a small boat approaching the ship. I looked out the window and saw a small, open craft with 4-6 armed men, possibly in military attire approaching fast on the starboard stern. Apparently it had surveilled us on our last CTD station but was only registered by the bridge as another fishing boat towing an outboard craft and not as a threat. We were ordered to our rooms by the Captain. Since our berth is on "A" deck in a direct line to the bridge and Captain's cabin, we decided to lock the room and stay on "B" deck in an out-of-the-way room with \*\*\* and \*\*\*.

While we were in the room, the security watch amassed on deck and charged the hoses. The men in the small boat fired upon the Ewing. Our security watch fled inside, locking all the outside doors. Apparently the small boat again fired on the ship, actually hitting the hull, and then fired a rocket which skipped across the water and did not detonate. Three men had AK-47's, two had RPG-3's. The Captain released us from our cabins a short time later, and then reinstated the call to quarters when it was determined that the craft was pursuing us. My roommate and I returned to our room on "A" deck with a small axe that \*\*\* had given us, and locked the door. The small boat came within 3/4 mile on our port side, but after nearly an hour of pursuit, gave up. We were released from our rooms around 12:30pm.

We put out a mayday, which was not answered, since there are no other vessels in the area. The US Navy Base in Bahrain has no ships in this part of the world currently, and so was unable to help. The French Navy Base in Djibouti offered a helicopter for medivac assistance and wants to debrief the captain when we reach port on September 12th. We are currently headed for "friendlier" waters off of Yemen, only 30 miles from here, to start CTD casting again. I'll send updates as I hear them.

End of message