



SPECIAL WARNING MESSAGES QUERY RESULTS

Warning Number: 123

123

SOMALIA

1. DUE TO CONTINUING CONDITIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND LAWLESSNESS IN SOMALIA AND WATERS OFF ITS COAST, MARINERS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID THE PORT OF MUQDISHO (MOGADISHU) AND TO REMAIN AT LEAST 200 NAUTICAL MILES DISTANT FROM THE SOMALI COAST. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE AN EMBASSY IN SOMALIA AND CANNOT PROVIDE SERVICES TO US CITIZENS.
2. RECENT VESSEL HIJACKINGS OFF THE EAST COAST OF SOMALIA DEMONSTRATE THAT PIRATES ARE ABLE TO CONDUCT AT SEA HIJACKINGS FROM AS FAR SOUTH AS KISMAAYO (CHISIMAYU) (00-22S), THOUGH VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO TRANSIT NO CLOSER THAN 02-00S, TO AS FAR NORTH AS EYL (08-00N), AND OUT TO A DISTANCE OF 170 MILES. THE FIRST KNOWN ATTEMPT TO HIJACK A CRUISE VESSEL OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER 2005. ALL MERCHANT VESSELS TRANSITING THE COAST OF SOMALIA, NO MATTER HOW FAR OFFSHORE, SHOULD INCREASE ANTI-PIRACY PRECAUTIONS AND MAINTAIN A HEIGHTENED STATE OF VIGILANCE. PIRATES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE USED PREVIOUSLY HIJACKED SHIPS AS BASES FOR FURTHER ATTACKS.
3. ANOTHER REPORTED PIRATE TACTIC HAS BEEN TO ISSUE A FALSE DISTRESS CALL TO LURE A SHIP CLOSE INSHORE. THEREFORE, CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN RESPONDING TO DISTRESS CALLS KEEPING IN MIND IT MAY BE A TACTIC TO LURE A VESSEL INTO A TRAP.
4. VICTIMIZED VESSELS HAVE REPORTED TWO TO THREE (2-3) SPEEDBOATS MEASURING SIX TO NINE METERS (6-9M) IN LENGTH. EACH VESSEL HAS A CREW OF THREE TO SIX (3-6) ARMED MEN WITH AK-47S AND SHOULDER LAUNCHED ROCKETS, WHICH ARE OPENING FIRE ON VESSELS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IN ORDER TO INTIMIDATE THEM INTO STOPPING.
5. TO DATE, VESSELS THAT INCREASE SPEED AND TAKE EVASIVE MANEUVERS AVOID BOARDING WHILE THOSE THAT SLOW DOWN ARE BOARDED, TAKEN TO THE SOMALI COASTLINE, AND RELEASED AFTER SUCCESSFUL RANSOM PAYMENT, OFTEN AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS OF AS MUCH AS 11 WEEKS.
6. CANCEL SPECIAL WARNING NUMBER 111.

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