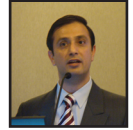


IN A NUTSHELL



Mr. Cyrus Mody

Piracy as seen by the International Maritime Bureau

Today, Maritime operations the world over revolves around communications and ETA's.

Owners want to know where their ship is, charterers and shippers want to know where their cargo is, agents want to know ETA's so they can commence the routine ship arrival checklists (clearance, immigration, surveys, repatriation of crew, stores, bunkers etc); for safety and security reasons coastal states want to know which ship is in their waters and which is approaching their waters and above all the crew like to remain in touch with loved ones at home and in some cases the last port of call.

The only section of the Maritime Industry which does not really bother about communications is the pirates and the armed robbers who attack and board ships at sea or at anchor or while alongside. This section of maritime industry is probably the most patient and flexible – waiting in the darkness for the right moment to board and steal or hijack and kidnap the crew.

Unfortunately in the hustle and bustle of ship routines and with minimum manning becoming the norm beefing up ship security when transiting areas of risk becomes more and more difficult for Masters to deal with. When attacked a lot depends on the right people / organisation being contacted not only to report the attack but also to enable the right

response to take effect.

It becomes extremely difficult for the Master to know the contact details of every responsible organisation in every port he visits.

However communications has made it possible for the Master to contact his DPA or CSO or the 24 hour Piracy Reporting Centre to report an incident and then deal with the situation at hand in the knowledge that those informed are contacting the right people / organisations.

The 24 hour Piracy reporting Centre (PRC) was set up in 1991 with the sole purpose of receiving reports from Masters involved in a piratical or armed robbery incident. The PRC remains the only single point of contact for a Master to report an incident of piracy / armed robbery from anywhere in the world and feel secure in the knowledge that the incident will be recorded, forwarded to the appropriate authorities without delay and be promulgated to all ships to raise awareness.

The main role and responsibility of the PRC is to contact the local law enforcement agencies – inform them of the incident and request assistance if the incident is under progress. Additionally the PRC also broadcasts the incident to all ships in the ocean region to warn Masters. This information helps the Masters to make an informed decision and to adjust ship routines to increase the security onboard.



ICC International Maritime Bureau

Helping business stay in business

Being a non governmental and non profit making organisation the PRC does not have any hidden agendas. It has nothing to gain or lose by hiding incidents reported to them. This transparency helps not only shipping but also helps governments to become aware of the increase or decrease of this crime in their waters.

Reporting to the PRC enables the wheels of change to slowly get into motion. The PRC reports to the IMO which helps all governments to know the risks either in their waters or in the waters adjoining them.

Today communication has enabled the Master to report as soon as he feels there is a developing threat to his ship and to the safety of his crew. These

communication facilities should be used to contact the right organisation.

Communication helps the Master to report an incident and communication helps the PRC to inform all those directly related / affected to the incident reported.

To all my fellow seafarers information is knowledge only if it is shared and used by all. Information remains information when it is kept selfishly within ones organization and is used only for benefit of that organization.

The PRC once again encourages all Masters to report any and all incidents of actual, attempted or even suspicious activity at sea, at anchor or at berth. The PRC will always respect a Masters need for anonymity if required.

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Contact details

Incidents anywhere in the world to be reported to
IMB PRC

Telephone: +603 2078 5763 / +603 2031 0014

Fax: +603 2078 5769

Email: piracy@icc-ccs.org / imbkl@icc-ccs.org

Web: www.icc-ccs.org

Additionally for the Gulf of Aden and East coast of Somalia contact

UKMTO

Telephone: +971 50 552 3215 or +971 50 552 6007

Fax +971 4 306 5710 / E-mail: ukmtodubai@eim.ae

Telex (51) 210473

MSCHOA:

Register at www.mschoa.org