

Circular From NORTH**Date: 16 October 2017**

Gulf of Aden, Indian Navy Thwarts Pirate Attack on Bulk Carrier

Background Info

The Indian Navy says it has foiled an attack by pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden.

A Navy spokesman said the 82,000 dead-weight tonne (dwt) bulk carrier MV JAG AMAR came under attack shortly after mid-day on 6 October, 2017.

The Indian-flagged bulker sent a distress call and an Indian Navy vessel in the area responded by sending a helicopter and an armed boarding party in a rigid-inflatable.

Reports say 12 pirates surrendered to the Indian forces.

A Navy spokesperson said an AK 47, ammunition, grapnels, ropes, fuel drums and ladders were recovered during the operation.

No one was injured and the bulk carrier was able to continue to Jubail in Saudi Arabia.

Assessment and Analysis

There is an ongoing threat to shipping in the Gulf of Aden and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, in part from pirates operating out of Somalia.

It is not clear where the pirates who attacked the Indian bulk carrier were from.

The US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which aims to protect shipping from terrorism and piracy, issued a statement in June 2017 saying it was stepping up its activities in the region.

“Recent attacks against merchant shipping in the Gulf of Aden and Bab-el-Mandeb have highlighted that there are still risks associated with transits through these waters,” said the statement.

It cited two incidents, in October 2016 and May 2017, in which an LNG carrier and an oil tanker came under attack. Both attacks were thought to be linked to Yemen’s ongoing civil war.

Source of Information: North of England P&I Club