

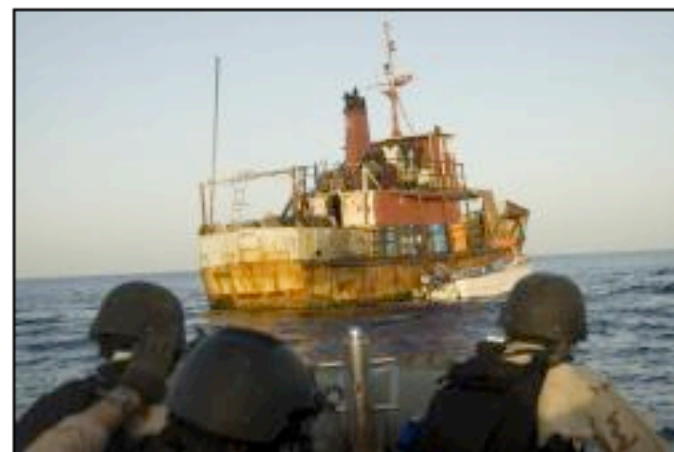


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Fairplay Daily News

Anti-piracy system targets lags



FLAG STATES and marine insurers are backing an emergency alert system that developers say can cut the reaction time to piracy from hours to minutes.

The Ship Security Reporting System was developed by the UK marine security and tracking specialist Pole Star at the request of flags and the naval commanders operating in the Gulf of Aden.

The system immediately alerts naval forces when a Ship Security Alert System message is sent from a ship under attack. It becomes fully operational in the first week of January.

Faster responses seen

Tests suggest that a helicopter could fly to an attack reported in progress within 30 minutes; current response time varies up to hours. It sends copy of the SSAS alert to the flag state, the shipowner's security officer, EU-NAVFOR and MSC-HOA, along with ship-specific data, speed, location and course.

The Marshall Islands register has circulated a marine notice to owners recommending the system, while Liberia, Singapore and several Gulf countries are still evaluating it.

Also, the insurer Hiscox is bundling a year's subscription to the system with new marine kidnap and ransom policies – either on a per-transit basis or fleet basis – starting today.

The system costs \$500 per ship per year and requires no new hardware installation.

This story was originally published in [Sea-Sentinel](#) [Safety At Sea](#)