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GULF OF ADEN: Pole position

Pole Star has reported that the *Ship Security Reporting System (SSRS)*, the 'first industry-driven initiative with the potential to cut the response time of naval forces to pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden', went live in the Gulf of Aden in the first week of January.

It is now mandatory for all ships to be equipped with the *Ship Security Alert System (SSAS)*, which will send distress messages to the Company Security Officer (CSO) and the flag in the event of an incident.

With SSRS, however, ships under attack will also be directly connected to Task Forces via the relevant Naval Co-ordination Centres.

Pole Star believes that this direct communication 'can reduce the time taken to report a pirate attack to naval authorities from hours to as little as 30 minutes'.

'SSRS is designed to work with existing SSAS systems, requiring no hardware installation and minimal software intervention. Users need only add the address of MSC-HOA to their SSAS alerts,' commented Pole Star. 'The costs (\$500 per ship per year) are borne by the ship owner since they benefit from reduced risk.'