



Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) 052

Issued: 23 APR 2026

Latest IRTA 16 Dec 25



For General Use. This threat bulletin has been released to the Shipping Industry.

1. **Foreword.** This Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) has been written in coordination between Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ATALANTA. It is intended to help shipping operators who are responsible for merchant and large commercial fishing vessels that pass through or operate in the Western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
2. **Purpose.** The purpose of an IRTB is to bring a specific incident or threat to the attention of the shipping industry.
3. **Incident.** Piracy Attack.
4. **Date.** 23 April 2026.
5. **Location.** The incident took place ~ 83NM SE of Eyl, Puntland (NE Somalia) 0623N 04948E
6. **Incident Description.** According to information received on April 23, two small vessels approached MV ELFREIDE. After warning shots from the security team on board, there was a fire response from the approaching ones. MV ELFREIDE increased speed northbound, close to the coast. The approaching vessels return to coast. No further information available up to now.
7. **Vessel's Details**

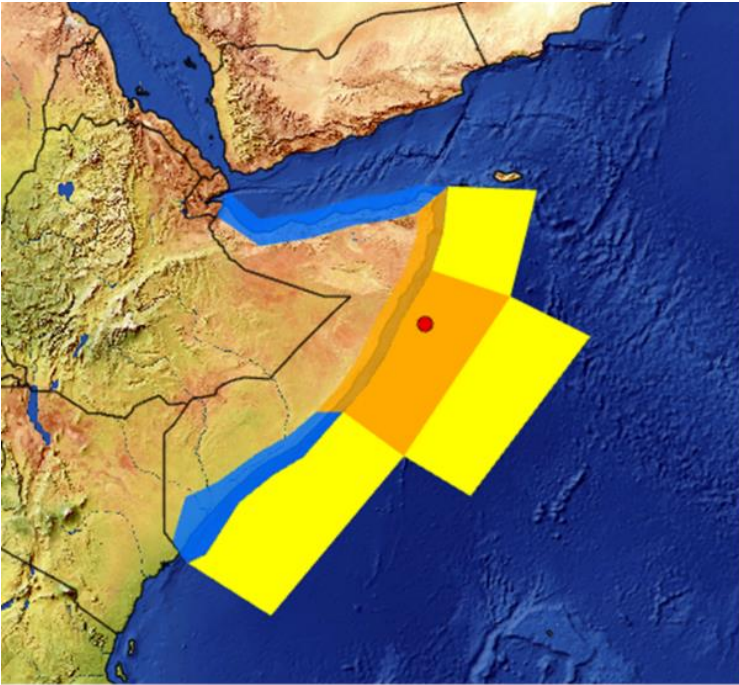
Merchant vessel - ELFRIEDE, General Cargo, Barbados flagged (IMO 9300946)



Figure 1. MV ELFRIEDE

8. **Assessment.** It is HIGHLY LIKELY that the event occurred due to the action of a PAG that is currently searching for a MV. Similar events may occur in the area, due to the favorable weather conditions.
9. **Recommendations.** Vessels are requested to remain vigilant and to adhere to BMP Maritime Security when transiting the Western Indian Ocean and the Somali waters. While these waters are routinely patrolled by CMF, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and other warships, the timely and comprehensive reporting of incidents and suspicious activity remains crucial to allow for a rapid incident response. We request that, where possible, and without endangering the vessel or crew, vessels obtain and report as much factual details as possible of incidents and suspicious activity to include logs, photographs, video, and radar footage. CSO's and masters are strongly recommended to register their vessels with MSCIO when entering the Voluntary Reporting Area and to report any incidents to UKMTO in accordance with BMP Maritime Security. This will enable a more rapid response to incidents and allow CMF and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA to monitor activity, enabling the most effective allocation of resources. CSOs are recommended to gather information on known Pattern of Life and Maritime Situation Awareness along the intended route and ports of call when conducting risk assessments for their fleets.

10. Threat Assessment for Piracy



| THREAT ASSESSMENT | BENIGN | LOW | MODERATE | SUBSTANTIAL | SEVERE | CRITICAL |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| YARDSTICK | An attack is HIGHLY UNLIKELY (10% – 20%) | An attack is UNLIKELY (>25% – 35%) | An attack is a REALISTIC POSSIBILITY (40% – <50%) | An attack is LIKELY / PROBABLE (55% – <75%) | An attack is HIGHLY LIKELY (80% – 90%) | An attack is ALMOST CERTAIN (>95%) |

11. Publication.

- a. Produced by CMF and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.
- b. Published by MSCIO.

12. Feedback.

Enquiries about the content of this bulletin should be directed to EUNAVFOR ATALANTA;

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