



**Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) 052**  
**UPDATE Number 2 : Issued: 29 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. **In this case there are four subsequent events that occurred between 23 Apr and 28 Apr 26.**
3. **Incident.**  
Event 1 MV ELFRIEDE - Piracy Attack.  
Event 2 – FV FAHAD 4 (TBV) – Armed Robbery at Sea  
Event 3 – MV SWARD – Piracy Attack  
**Event 4 – MV MINERVA PISCES – Suspicious Activity**
4. **Date.**  
Event 1 - 23 April 2026  
Event 2 – 25 April 2026  
Event 3 – 26 April 2026  
**Event 4 – 28 April 2026**
5. **Location.**  
Event 1 - The incident took place ~ 83NM SE of Eyl, Puntland (NE Somalia) 0623N 04948E  
Event 2 – The incident took place ~ approx. 10 NM off the coast of DHINOWDA Town  
Event 3 – The incident took place ~ ivo GARACAD, outside TTW.  
**Event 4 – The incident took place 471NM SE of GARACAD**

## 6. Incident Description

Event 1 - 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 attacking vessels. MV "ELFREIDE" increased speed northbound, close to the coast. The approaching vessels returned to coast. No further information is available.

Event 2 - According to information received on April 26, 11 pirates hijacked a dhow who transported dry goods. The reported dhow is likely the FAHAD 4, however it is still under investigation. LKP of FAHAD 4 is on 23 April 26 in posn 05118.5N 04843.7E.

Event 3 – According to information received on 26 April 26, MV SWARD was hijacked near GODOBJIRAN area while en route BERBERA-MOMBASA.

**Event 4 – According to information received on 28 April 26, a suspicious dhow crossed MV MINERVA PISCES in posn 03-15N 056-24E from starboard to port at a CPA of approx 1.2NM.**

**A skiff was then sighted ahead, and later approached from the starboard bow to a distance of approx 400m. The skiff showed intent to board amidships but disengaged and moved astern after PAST on board MV displayed weapons. All crew are safe and accounted for. MV continue sailing towards the next port of call.**

## 7. Vessel's Details

Event 1 - Merchant vessel - "ELFRIEDE" General Cargo, Barbados flagged (IMO 9300946)

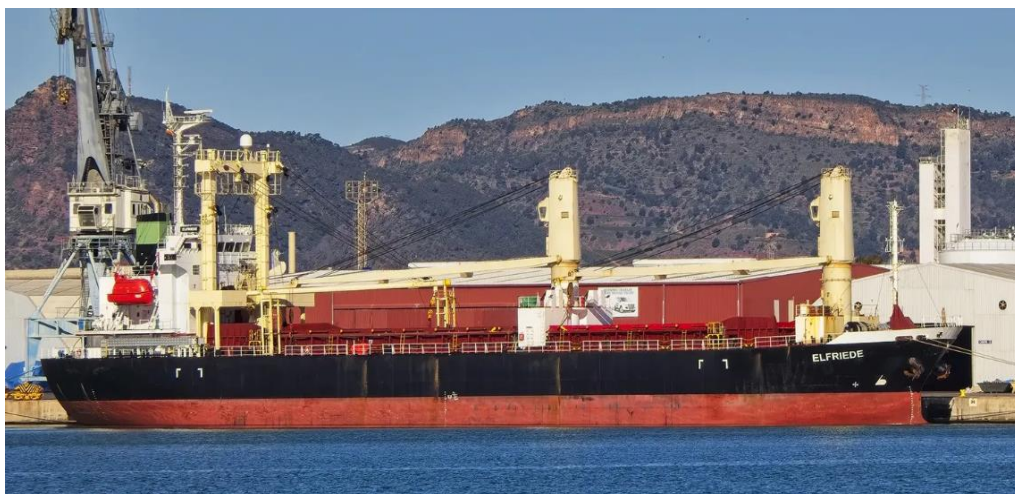


Figure 1. MV ELFRIEDE

Event 2 – Cargo Dhow FAHAD 4 (TBV) , UAE flagged (MMSI 470007178)



*Figure 2. CD FAHAD 4*

Event 3 – MV SWARD , Syrian flagged (IMO:9174244, MMSI: 341338002)



*Figure 3. MV SWARD*

**Event 4 – MV MINERVA PISCES , Maltese flagged (IMO: 9410179, MMSI: 229094000)**

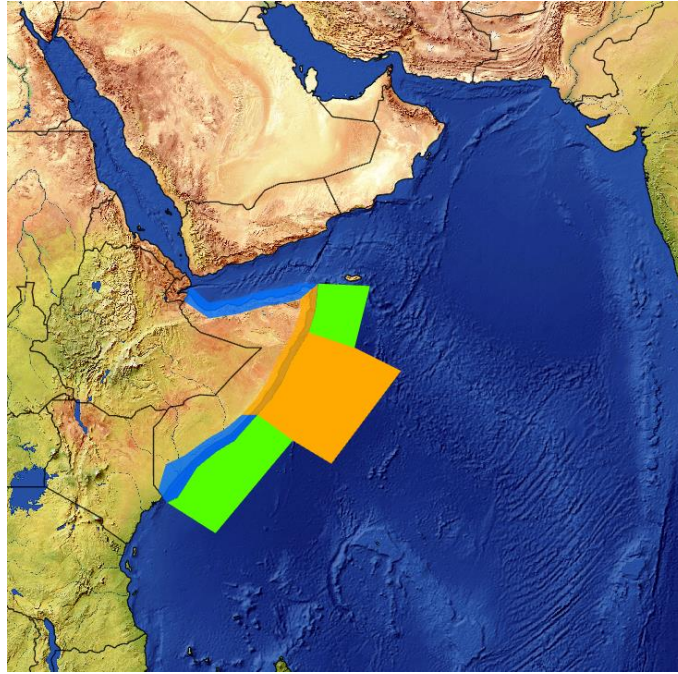


*Figure 4. MV MINERVA PISCES*

8. **Assessment.** It is HIGHLY LIKELY that events 1 and 3 are related and attributed to the same PAG. It is HIGHLY LIKELY the this PAG will not try to perform further attacks to other MVs as now managed to hijack a MV. **The fourth event (MV MINERVA PISCES) is probably associated with the hijack of the cargo Dhow FAHAD 4 (Event 2) and indicates that another PAG might be active in the vicinity of the location where the event occurred, using the Dhow as a mother ship.** As the weather is still favorable for PAG activities, the TA for piracy is as described on para 10.
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 <b>HIGHLY UNLIKELY</b> (10% – 20%)	An attack is <b>UNLIKELY</b> (>25% – 35%)	An attack is a <b>REALISTIC POSSIBILITY</b> (40% – <50%)	An attack is <b>LIKELY / PROBABLE</b> (55% – <75%)	An attack is <b>HIGHLY LIKELY</b> (80% – 90%)	An attack is <b>ALMOST CERTAIN</b> (>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;

### EUNAVFOR ATALANTA:

- (1) **Tel:** 0033 (0) 298 220 220 // 0033 298 220 170.
- (2) **Website:** [www.msicio.eu](http://www.msicio.eu)
- (3) **Email:** [postmaster@msicio.eu](mailto:postmaster@msicio.eu)

- (4) **CMF:**

- (5) **Tel:** 813 439 3523 / 813 529 3831
- (6) **Website:** [www.combinedmaritimeforces.com](http://www.combinedmaritimeforces.com)
- (7) **Email:** [UKMCC-BWCGroup@mod.gov.uk](mailto:UKMCC-BWCGroup@mod.gov.uk)