

Maritime Security

The role of OCIMF



Maritime security is a global necessity. Whether in the Middle East, Asia, the Gulf of Guinea or Latin America, significant threats challenge the safety and security of seafarers and potentially the environment.

How does OCIMF help members with maritime security?

Somalia-based piracy has been a major concern for OCIMF for many years, but as global events affect the maritime domain, seafarers are faced with more threats than ever before. While attacks by pirates have reduced in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden, other areas such as the Red Sea and Gulf of Oman have seen an increase. A significant commitment of naval resources from many nations operate in the hot spots, but it is not possible to protect all shipping. It remains extremely important that all shipping, including energy shipping, takes every measure possible to threat and risk assess and protect seafarers from maritime threats.



Best Management Practices

OCIMF, supported by several other organisations, has advocated the implementation of Best Management Practice (BMP) guidance in relation to piracy and other maritime security threats off the coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea. BMP has been a very successful brand covering important issues to be considered from pre-transit threat and risk assessment and voyage planning to self-protection measures and post-incident reporting. Primarily developed to offer the minimum precautions necessary to protect seafarers from piracy, it has been useful in many other circumstances.

OCIMF engagement with governments and naval forces

The importance of working closely with governments and navies on maritime security issues is widely recognised. This is why OCIMF member companies support efforts to engage with officials at every level. The provision of Merchant Navy Liaison Officers (MNLO) to work with UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) in Dubai and our close relationship with the MDAT - GoG (Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea) are practical examples of support. OCIMF is a recognised industry member of the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) meetings, where all the naval forces involved in counter-piracy co-ordinate their operations to maximise coverage and efficiency. Our membership of the political forums of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and the G7 Friends of the Gulf of Guinea (G7 ++ FOGG) enables us to put concerns to those who coordinate political, military and other efforts to ensure the safety of the maritime community.

In addition to participation in formal meetings, OCIMF works directly with EUNAVFOR, UKMTO, NATO, Combined Maritime Forces, Regional Cooperation Against Armed Robbery and Piracy (ReCAAP), the Singapore Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and national government departments in several countries on maritime security issues. Maritime security is also high on the agenda of international bodies like the International Maritime Organization (IMO), where OCIMF actively participates in all the relevant sessions.

What are the benefits?

Maritime security is delivered by a complex interaction of national governments, their armed forces and international organisations like the IMO, the EU and NATO. This makes it a difficult area for individual companies to address. OCIMF builds important relationships with organisations that have operational responsibility for providing maritime security, to ensure the protection of seafarers is the highest priority. In particular, OCIMF can play a valuable role as:

- An effective single point of contact on behalf of the energy shipping industry.
- A powerful voice representing its international membership at the highest levels of governments and international organisations.
- A source for global advice.

OCIMF recognises maritime security is a long-term problem for the shipping industry. OCIMF is currently supporting projects to improve the design of energy ships and produce guidelines for seafarers to improve their safety and welfare.

For further information on OCIMF's efforts to improve maritime security, visit www.ocimf.org or email enquiries@ocimf.org.

Maritime security publications

Ship Security – Hull Vulnerability Study, 2019 (OCIMF)

BMP5, 2018 (OCIMF and other industry associations)

Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers, 2018 (OCIMF and other industry associations)

The Guidelines on Cyber Security Onboard Ships, 2018 (OCIMF and other industry associations)

Guidelines to Harden Vessels, 2018 (OCIMF)

Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, 2016 (OCIMF and other industry associations)

Ship Security – Bridge Vulnerability Study, 2014 (OCIMF)

Guidance for Oil Terminal Operators on the IMO International Ship And Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, 2003 (OCIMF)

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships, 1st Edition, 2000 (OCIMF)

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