Activities of Japanese P-3C Patrol Aircraft
Dispatched for Anti-Piracy Operations
(December 2009)
(Provisional Translation)

1. Record of Mission (1 December - 31 December)
   • Number of flights: 20 flights
     (Accumulated total since June 2009: 126 flights)
   • Flight hours: approximately 150 hours
     (Accumulated total since June 2009: approximately 990 hours)
   • Number of visually confirmed commercial ships: approximately 1400 ships
     (Accumulated total since June 2009: approximately 8700 ships)
   • Number of times information was provided to Japanese destroyers, foreign warships, and/or commercial ships: approximately 180 times
     (Accumulated total since June 2009: approximately 820 times)

2. Instances of when Japanese P-3Cs provided information to other nations’ warships and/or commercial ships

(1) On 11 December, a Japanese P-3C was engaged in patrol operations when it detected a suspicious small-sized anchored boat with contents including a ladder-like item (photograph 1, 2). This information was provided to foreign warships and commercial ships sailing nearby, and a Canadian ship-based helicopter and a Portuguese warship that received information rushed to the suspected boat. The P-3C visually confirmed that the ladder had been disposed of and a cover concealing it was folded (photograph 3). This incident was already officially announced on 12 December.

*Latter on, the Portuguese warship conducted an on-board investigation of the boat in question. However, no items such as weapons were found, so the boat was released.

(2) In addition to the above case, the following incidents occurred in December.
• On 7 December, a Japanese P-3C was engaged in patrol operations when it received a report from a German warship that a commercial ship was allegedly being attacked by pirates. The P-3C rushed to the site, but a foreign warship had already been corresponding with the pirates, so returned to patrol operations.

• On 29 December, a Japanese P-3C was engaged in patrol operations when it confirmed the location of “ST. JAMES PARK,” a U.K.-registered commercial ship hijacked by pirates on 28 December. The P-3C reported the information about the hijacked ship to relevant organizations and countries.
Photograph 1

Ladder-like item
Outboard engine-like item

Photograph 2

Folded cover

Photograph 3