



JAN 22, 2024

Information Gathering Activities by the SDF Necessary for Ensuring the Safety of Japan -Related Vessels in the Middle East (DEC 2023)

1. Status of Activity Area

No abnormalities were confirmed during information gathering activities in the areas where the SDF operated.

As part of counter-piracy operations, having received information that “RUEN”, a Bulgarian cargo ship, was hijacked by someone in the Arabian Sea on December 16, JS “AKEBONO” from our counter-piracy enforcement conducted surveillance and information gathering activities. We provided the information gathered to the Combined Task Force 151, which is in charge of counter-piracy missions. Surveillance was first conducted by JS “AKEBONO” and was later taken over by SPS “VICTORIA”. JS “AKEBONO” returned to its duties after surveillance activities were handed over to the Spanish navy.

2. JS AKEBONO (Deployment Surface Force for Counter-Piracy Enforcement)

- (1) Area of Activity: the high seas of the Gulf of Oman and the high seas of the northern Arabian sea
- (2) Number of confirmed vessels: 467 ships (Accumulated Total (AT): 89,438 ships)

3. P-3C (Deployment Air Force for Counter-Piracy Enforcement)

- (1) Area of Activity: the high seas of Gulf of Aden and the high seas of the western part of the northern Arabian Sea
- (2) Number of confirmed vessels: 975 ships (AT: 81,444 ships)



A JS “AKEBONO” crew member on duty



P-3C crew members identifying navigating vessels