



JAN 22, 2024

Escort operations as the Counter-Piracy Operation off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden (DEC 2023)

Record of Mission

1. Direct Escort

(1) Number of direct escort operations: 1

(2) Number of escorted vessels: 1

(Accumulated Total (AT) of 3,952 escorted vessels since the start of operations under Japan's Anti-Piracy Measures Law)

[Breakdown]

– Japanese-registered ships: 0 (AT: 26)

– Foreign ships operated by Japanese shipping companies: 0 (AT: 701)

(Foreign ships which carry Japanese nationals: 0 (AT: 51))

– Foreign ships other than above: 1 (AT: 3,225)

*The record above does not include the 1st - 41st escort operation performed as Maritime Security Activities.

2. Zone Defense

(1) Number of days: 19 days (AT: 2,672days)

(2) Number of commercial vessels confirmed: 146 vessels (AT: 33,044 vessels)

3. Action in Response to Incidents

Receiving 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.



A scene from an Anti-Piracy drill



JS "AKEBONO" crew members conducting maintenance of a ship-board helicopter