

Strategic Insights


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Beached dhow allegedly involved in smuggling
[Source: Karsten von Hoesslin]

Contributors

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Read the article: *Countering Somali piracy: It takes two to tango* - on page 4

Tetsuo Kotani is a Special Research Fellow at the Okazaki Institute in Tokyo. His research focus is the U.S.-Japan alliance and maritime security. He will shortly publish a book on Japanese maritime security.

Read the article: *The Japan Coast Guard: Japan's "hidden navy?"* - on page 8

Timothy A. Martin is a doctoral candidate at Deakin University, Melbourne Australia. His research focuses on one aspect of non-traditional maritime security, enforcement of law at sea, and the way that security cooperation at sea between countries has changed in the current era.

Read the article:

"Drugs, ships and containers: How anti-terrorism benefits shipping security - on page 12

Karsten von Hoesslin is a Senior Analyst with Risk Intelligence as well as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. He examines piracy, organised crime, and insurgency issues. He holds a Masters in Strategic Studies and is a PhD candidate.

Read the article: *Smuggling in South East Asia: Dynamically fluid* - on page 17

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Introduction

GUY WILSON-ROBERTS
EDITOR

As piracy in the Indian Ocean off the Horn of Africa continues seemingly unabated, solutions have taken on a greater urgency for ship operators. Maritime Security Consultant Sjoerd J.J. Both opens this issue of Strategic Insights with recommendations for bolstering merchant vessel defences. Based on his experience as deputy commander CTF-151, Both sees the cooperation model established by naval deployments in the region as a blueprint for future Maritime Security Operations that could also be used to improve the situational awareness of merchant vessels.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force has an ongoing contribution to anti-piracy in the Indian Ocean, but it is Japan's coast guard that is the subject of the second article in this issue. Sometimes seen as Japan's "hidden navy", Tetsuo Kotani argues that the coast guard has strictly a policing function, although a broad range of responsibilities. It is under pressure, though, as maritime border disputes in the region are highlighting a number of shortfalls, particularly its legal framework.

In the third article, Timothy A. Martin looks at drug smuggling via shipping containers and other means and considers how the measures put in place in the name of anti-terrorism have benefitted maritime supply chain security. While there has been a steady increase in detection rates through these measures, drug traffickers remain resilient and adaptable. The sheer volume of container traffic, and the relatively low rates of inspections, means that legitimate maritime commercial activity remains under pressure from drug smuggling.

Karsten von Hoesslin considers smuggling in a particular context in the fourth article: South East Asia. With different smuggled commodities seen as particular priorities by the law enforcement agencies in the region, there is no common response to the risks so progress cannot be made until some common ground is found. Although not comparable to piracy and armed sea robbery in the region, and not a significant risk to merchant shipping, smuggling does have implications for intra-regional maritime traffic.



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