



SAFETY ALERT No. 18-05

Breach of Security/Robbery attempt at Bahia De Barcelona Anchorage, Jose (Venezuela)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 2 to the attention of interested parties¹.

2. Description of incident

- 2.1. A security breach was observed on an oil tanker anchored at Bahia De Barcelona Anchorage, Jose terminal Venezuela, in laden condition waiting for the cargo documents and pre-departure underwater Inspection.
- 2.2. The patrolling deck crew noticed four (4) unknown people on the deck near the starboard quarter around 2212(LT) hours. The OOW was informed immediately and the general alarm was raised. An announcement followed and all crew mustered on the Bridge.
- 2.3. It was noticed by the ship staff that the intruders had broken into the paint locker on the starboard quarter. Prior to the break-in, the paint locker was secured with a padlock. The ship staff tried to intimidate the intruders by shouting, flashing lights and use of the ship's whistle. Due to this action, the intruders panicked and jumped overboard. They escaped in a small boat and managed to steal one coil of loose messenger rope lying on the poop deck.
- 2.4. A thorough search of the vessel was conducted. No breach observed on the vessel, with the exception of a broken padlock to the paint locker and the security seal of the emergency generator room.

¹ This Safety Alert is provided by the Bahamas Maritime Authority with the aim of highlighting incidents, lessons learnt and to increase awareness, which may help avoid similar incidents occurring elsewhere. Any queries on the content of the information provided should be referred to the party providing the information

3. Causal Factors

- 3.1. The security situation was not adequately assessed and additional anti-piracy measures were not properly implemented.
- 3.2. Proper anti-piracy lookout was not maintained using all available means including night vision binoculars. Even though radar was in use, the lookout was not effective.
- 3.3. Searchlights were not being used effectively knowing that the vicinity of the vessel is dark with poor visibility.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1. It is recommended for the Ship Security Officer(s) to frequently evaluate the situation, review security measures and strengthen security patrol on noticing any changes in the security situation.
- 4.2. All vessels are recommended to review the illumination arrangements surrounding the vessel and consider its adequacy aligned to the developing security situation.
- 4.3. Prior to entering a high-risk area, it is recommended that preparations are made to support the requirement for increased vigilance by increasing the number of lookouts, alternating security patrol routes around the vessel and consider more frequent rotation of watch personnel to increase alertness.
- 4.4. Discuss the importance of keeping an effective lookout onboard and calling for additional resources in good time prior to arrival in high-risk areas.

5. Validity

- 5.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

6. Revision History

Rev.0 (06 April 2018) – First issue