



**Information Letter 002 2011**

to

**all Owners, Managing Owners, operating ships and crew under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda;  
all Masters and Officers serving on board vessels sailing under the flag Antigua and Barbuda**

**Enhancing counter piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia through the voluntary provision of LRIT data of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships transiting these areas to European Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR)**

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Antigua and Barbuda activated, until further notice, the process of providing the LRIT data directly to the EUNAVFOR for ships flying its flag and transiting the high risk zone for piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.

The objective of this exercise is to minimise the risk of hijack by enhancing the domain awareness for EUNAVFOR of all ships transiting the area. This complements the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Procedures and should improve deterrence through the timely communication of pertinent counter piracy updates to all ships in the area and enable effective response where there are incidents of attacks.

Since the LRIT data is automatically transmitted to the EUNAVFOR they will immediately cross reference this data against ships that have registered with the UKMTO as part of the Best Management Practice (BMP-Version 3) and will notify this Flag State Administration where ships are deficient in adopting the provisions of the BMP.

**This Administration will subsequently notify the shipowners of the implicit failing of their ships to adopt the BMP to minimise the risk of attack from pirates for them to action as necessary.**

All addressees are reminded that it is strongly recommended that all ships that intend on transiting these areas should register with the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) via their website at [www.mschoa.eu](http://www.mschoa.eu)

An electronic copy of the Best Management Practice is attached to this document for reference.

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