



## **SUEZ CANAL ACTS AS FINAL CHECK POINT FOR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE ANTI-PIRACY AUDIT**

New anti-piracy audit provides Best Management Practice reassurance for shore based management teams on crew and vessel preparedness before entering Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean Region.

**Merchant Maritime Warfare Centre – [www.mmwc.org](http://www.mmwc.org)**

**6th April 2010** - The Merchant Maritime Warfare Centre (MMWC), a UK based maritime anti-piracy organisation, announces today that it is launching their new Crew Competence and Vessel Hardening Audit in the Suez Canal.

Conducted between Port Said and Port Suez, the Crew Competence and Vessel Hardening Audit is the first 'off the shelf' anti-piracy assessment of its kind. Acting as a final qualifying exercise for shore based management teams, the service provides a timely, independent and evidential report that will determine their crew's threat level during their impending high risk transit.

"More and more shipping companies are relying on Best Management Practice to safeguard their vessels and crew against pirate attacks", says Nick Davis, Chairman of MMWC. "But individual interpretation of Best Management Practice can leave some ships more vulnerable than others so to have a minimum standards check just before entering the high risk area will give not only peace of mind to shore based management teams but provide documentation of their adherence to Best Management Practice that can be shared with underwriters and other interested parties."

Requiring no additional port calls, the audit takes approximately 14 hours to complete during which time an MMWC assessor embarks your vessel with a full portfolio of MMWC resources including a handbook, DVD and bridge cards for masters to use during transit. Shipping companies also have the option to take the MMWC Ship Support Service at a reduced fee for the transit through the Gulf of Aden and the entire Indian Ocean Region.

The assessor identifies and highlights to the master any vulnerability in vessel hardening, crew training and knowledge. They will review, implement and rehearse standard and emergency operating procedures as well as provide the latest intelligence and threat level for their onward voyage.

"The audit report delivered to the shore based teams goes beyond simply ticking a few boxes", adds Nick. "It brings together the latest Best Management Practice advice; MMWC's unrivalled intelligence capabilities; vessel hardening and crew training experience; meteorological and tidal patterns as well as small vessel handling knowledge. This means that shore based management

teams can accurately assess the risk without having to piece all these facets of information together themselves.”

To book an audit visit [www.mmwc.org/audit](http://www.mmwc.org/audit) or call +44 (0) 845 26 99 801.

### **About MMWC**

The Merchant Maritime Warfare Centre (MMWC) was established in 2009 by maritime piracy expert Nick Davis and a committed group of ex-military and security professionals.

MMWC’s primary aim is to empower the maritime industry against violent crime and in particular, the increasingly prevalent problem of piracy, through the research, development and delivery of comprehensive information, effective non-lethal countermeasures and training.

Strongly advocating existing industry Best Management Practice, MMWC’s approach is to augment this initiative with structure and deliver through affordable and relevant training.

MMWC has developed partnerships at all levels of the merchant maritime industry, and is engaged with military and maritime insurance organisations in order to create a recognised authority on merchant maritime security and ultimately a Code of Practice, for merchant maritime security.

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