



INTERGRATED MARINE SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Intelligence update, April 8, 2009, Report Update

Pirates take US-flag box ship



Maersk Alabama

PIRATES hijacked today a US-flagged ship with a crew of 21 US citizens, both firsts.

The 1,098teu box ship Maersk Alabama is also the first ship tied to the Maritime Security Program fleet operated by the US Maritime Commission to be taken. It is managed by Maersk Line, the US subsidiary of Denmark's AP Møller-Maersk.

The container ship was seized in the Indian Ocean about 645km east of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, a US Navy spokesman told reporters.

It was taking containers from Salalah in Oman to Mombasa, Kenya, and other African ports, the insurance company Websters told Fairplay.

It was the sixth ship hijacked recently; a UK ship and Taiwanese vessel were seized earlier this week.

Rashid Abdi of the International Crisis Group, a Brussels think tank, told the BBC: "Now the weather has improved, they're back in business again."