

## Piracy decline due to various participating armed forces

According to Jason Marriott-Watson of the maritime security company ISPS Group, there are significant risks for shipping operators and owners who use armed Maritime Security companies for anti-piracy tasks, *defenceWeb* reports.

Speaking at the Maritime and Coastal Security Africa 2012 conference held in Cape Town last week, Marriott-Watson said that despite the recent decline in piracy statistics, piracy off the Horn of Africa is not going away.

Much of the decline in Pirate activities, Marriott-Watson says, can be attributed to embarked armed vessel protection teams and the 27-nation Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). However, he says, one of the prime causes of the reduction in pirate activity are Kenyan military forces who recently seized the Somalia port city of Kismayo from al Qaeda-linked al-Shabab militants, *defenceWeb* says.

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