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+1 304-394-5104

IMSN Anti-Piracy Defense Course

DNV certified Anti-Piracy Course offers blended version of eLearning and practical drills and exercises.

by Joseph Keefe

The increasing importance of training ship's crews in the various concepts related to compliance with anti-piracy laws and how to handle a possible pirate attack was recently underscored by a grim International Maritime Bureau (IMB) first quarter 2011 report which detailed the deaths of seven crewmembers during pirate attacks. Another 34 were injured and almost 350 were taken hostage on 18 hijacked vessels during the same period, said IMB. In response, the International Maritime Security Network's (IMSN) Anti-Piracy Defense Course may just be the economical first logical step for vessel owners and operators to stop the bleeding.

SECURITY = APPROVED TRAINING

Already approved and certified by Maine Maritime Academy, the IMSN course is also the first to offer an eLearning-based version certified by Det Norske Veritas (DNV), a worldwide leading certification body that offers the latest in management systems certification services, under its SeaSkill™ standard for maritime learning programs. Captain Timothy Nease (ret.), co-founder and CEO of IMSN, said "DNV's highly respected SeaSkill certification program is widely known for its stringent reviews and audits to continuously exceed excellence, so it's remarkable for IMSN to have the first course certification for maritime anti-piracy training."

Designed specifically for officers and crew of commercial vessels, the course provides students with various concepts related to compliance with anti-piracy laws and how to handle a possible pirate attack. The online, eLearning course complements hands on drills, defensive tactics and other exercises.

IMSN also offers the Vessel and Facility Persons with Specific Security Duties (V-FPSSD) which, in 2012, will be mandatory for all U.S.-flagged mariners with specific security duties under Standards of Certification, Training and Watchkeeping (SCTW). The course is offered in a traditional brick-and-mortar format, is also being developed into an online version.

THE ONLINE EXPERIENCE:

DNV-APPROVED, KEEFE-TESTED

In June 2011, *MarPro* Editor Joe Keefe took the new IMSN Anti-Piracy Defense Course in the online format. A veteran of other online training programs, including two USCG STCW-approved versions on Crisis Management and Human Behavior, as well as Crowd Management, Keefe was arguably the right mariner to evaluate IMSN's entry into the online training game. In a focused 3-hour session, he found the



IMSN co-founder Captain Timothy Nease.

course to be engaging, informative and a valuable tool for mariners who find themselves traversing pirated-infested waters. MarPro readers can view a DEMO of the course lesson format on IMSN's WEB site at:

http://learn.cpkn.ca/NonScorm/imsn_demo/index.html

Using a media-rich environment, the online Anti-Piracy course touches upon a wide array of subjects spread over 6 modules, including:

IMSN Anti-Piracy Curriculum

- What is Piracy?
- Statistics & Facts
- Recent Trends
- Modern Pirates
- Piracy Hotspots
- Is Piracy Terrorism?
- IMSN Approach to Piracy Defense
- Familiarization with Anti-Piracy Drills
- Familiarization with Defensive Tactics

Over the course of three hours, IMSN brings the student up-

Online IMSN Anti-Piracy Course certificate.

to-speed on standards set by the MSC, USCG and IMO, provides knowledge about piracy history, tactics and rationales, as well as knowledge needed to respond to an actual attack. The course, which includes assessments and testing, is also offered in the tradition brick-and-mortar environment at a location of your choice. Recently, IMSN personnel taught the Vessel Security Officer, Company Security Officer, and Anti-Piracy defense to Maine Maritime Academy students, officers, and crew during their annual training cruise.

IMSN IN ACTION: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

"Mariners' put their lives on the line daily by going to sea to move our commerce – into hostile waters, dealing with dangerous weather, safety issues and risks in foreign ports, while spending incredible amounts of time away from loved ones. The terror of piracy at sea adds to these perils," said Nease. He added that crewmembers, shipowners and operators must take protective measures of a training course to combat piracy. "Our initiative is all about saving lives," he continued.

IMSN specializes in the development of vessel and port



security plans including third-party due diligence and auditing, certified training that integrates the required understanding of new international law, the current ISPS code, SUA conventions, and SOLAS amendments. The company also provides equipment such as early-detection cameras, ballistic armor for safe rooms, the Triton Shield wall-of-water device and armed security teams to detect, deter and defend against maritime threats.

www.imsn.us/antipiracy/elearning.html

IMSN eLearning course screenshot.

