

Job Description & Requirements: Cargo Ships Maritime Security Officer (MSO)

Position Overview

The Maritime Security Officer (MSO) is responsible for the execution of security operations aboard client cargo vessels. The primary objective is to safeguard the vessel, its crew, and its cargo against unauthorized boarding, piracy, and armed robbery. The MSO works under the direction of the Team Leader (TL) to implement defensive measures, maintain a secure environment, and mitigate psychological stress for the Master and crew during high-threat transits.

Key Roles & Responsibilities

Operational Defense & Hardening

- **Vessel Hardening:** Advise and assist the crew in implementing physical defenses according to Best Management Practices (BMP).
- **Risk Assessment:** Support the Team Leader in evaluating situational risks and identifying tactical firing positions.
- **Citadel Management:** Assist in designating a suitable Citadel location, perform regular inspections, and monitor its readiness.
- **Tactical Readiness:** Execute firearms zeroing, test firing, and routine maintenance of all security equipment.

Surveillance & Monitoring

- **Watchkeeping:** Conduct vigilant bridge and deck watches, utilizing VHF/UHF systems to report anomalies.
- **Drills & Training:** Support the TL and 2IC during Citadel drills, emergency exercises, and crew safety briefings.
- **Compliance:** Maintain strict adherence to IMO guidelines, ISPS Code requirements, and Company Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Medical & Incident Response

- **Emergency Care:** Provide advanced trauma first aid in the event of an incident or medical emergency.
 - **Reporting:** Deliver accurate written statements and situational reports following any security incident or deviation.
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Professional Competencies

- **Strategic Knowledge:** Thorough understanding of global maritime piracy trends, BMP protocols, and International Maritime Law (including self-defense principles).
- **Technical Proficiency:** Advanced skill in handling semi-automatic rifles/carbines and a firm grasp of ballistic capabilities.
- **Professional Conduct:** High level of discipline, physical fitness, and the ability to maintain composure under prolonged pressure.

- **Communication:** Fluent in English (written and spoken) with the ability to provide concise feedback within a strict chain of command.
 - **Adaptive Problem Solving:** Proactive approach to complex, fast-moving environments and the ability to manage unexpected disruptions.
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Authority & Autonomy

- **Threat Response:** Authorized to act upon professional judgment during imminent threats, guided by the Rules for the Use of Force (RUF).
 - **Ethical Oversight:** Authority to refuse instructions that are illegal, unethical, or compromise the safety of operations.
 - **Command Respect:** Full understanding of and respect for the Master's ultimate authority on board.
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Required Qualifications & Certifications

- **Experience:** Minimum of 12 years of verifiable military or law enforcement service.
- **Maritime Credits:** STCW95, SSO/PDSD, and MSO Course certification.
- **Firearms:** Current Firearms Competency Certificate (including live fire), issued within the last 12 months.
- **Medical:** Internationally accredited First Aid (FPOS/TCCC), valid Seafarers Medical, and Vaccination Card (Yellow Fever).
- **Documentation:** Valid Seaman's Book, Clean Criminal Record Check (max 12 months), and Negative Drug & Alcohol test.
- **Evaluations:** Positive Psychological Evaluation conducted within the last 12 months.