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# NJOHSP

## EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

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### Al-Qa'ida: Exploring Vulnerabilities in US Maritime Sector

***Recent al-Qa'ida propaganda exposes the group's view that the US maritime sector is an appealing target.*** Since last fall, al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have highlighted in their English-language media limited port and cargo security throughout the United States—stressing to followers the negative economic consequences to the US of an attack on this sector.

- In the October edition of AQIS's *Resurgence* magazine, the group emphasized its intent to target oil tankers, calculating that attacks would increase oil prices as well as shipping and maritime premiums. The cover story "*Besiege Them!*" reads, "paralyze international trade for the enemy states, or at the very least, increase its costs, by targeting their cargo ships...any of their ships are legitimate targets."
- In December, AQAP's *Inspire* magazine dedicated a column on vulnerabilities associated with cargo containers, asking, "Can the Americans check all the cargos from all over the world?"
- ***Current intelligence reveals no specific threats to Port New York/New Jersey, the third-largest in the US with approximately \$200 billion in annual economic activity.*** According to a US Government Accountability Office report published this year, less than one percent of the twelve million containers that entered the US in 2013 were treated as high risk.

#### Contact Information

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