

M.E.B.A.-Crewed Ship Harassed by Russians

A report this week revealed that the Russian military harassed a U.S.-flag, M.E.B.A.-crewed Pure Car/Truck Carrier in the lead-up to an annual international exercise in Baltic waters. News of the incident, which occurred in late May, had been held close to the vest by the Government until this week when *Defense News* issued the first public report. The M/V GREEN RIDGE was carrying military vehicles and storage containers bound for Pabrade, Lithuania as part of Exercise Saber Strike when Russian helicopters and a naval ship began aggressive behavior against the unarmed U.S.-flag PC/TC. "We are aware of an alleged situation on May 25, involving a contracted, U.S.-flagged vessel and Russian military ship and aircraft," a statement from the U.S. Transportation Command read.

A memo obtained by *Defense News* said the GREEN RIDGE Captain "characterized the harassment as intense and threatening. The vessel was followed to the Lithuanian border."

Saber Strike involves U.S. and NATO troops and facilitates cooperation between the U.S., Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and other Allied and partner nations to improve joint operational capability in a variety of missions.



Equipment being loaded aboard the GREEN RIDGE for the Saber Strike Exercise.