# RECOMMENDATIONS TO SEAFARERS

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES can provide support to Motor Vessels (MVs) transiting its Area of Operation (AoO), which encompasses Red Sea (RS), Gulf of Aden (GOA), Arabian Sea (AS) and Arabian Gulf (AG). Recommendations below shall be adopted by all MVs, especially when supported by ASPIDES naval ships.

**In order to safeguard both the supported and the supporting ship' security, recommendations in bold should be considered as vital/essential, hence strictly observed.**
**Non adherence to these rules will lead to the non-granting or interruption of the support provided.**
All actions should be executed, keeping the safety of navigation as a priority.

## COMPANIES AND MVs SHOULD:

A. **BEFORE SAILING IN THE RS AND THE GOA:**
   1. **Register with MSCIO (Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean – https://reporting.mscio.eu/initialreport**).
   2. **If planning to request support, fill the dedicated form, according to the instructions available on the website** (https://mscio.eu/mscio-products/eunavfor-aspides/ ) **as soon as possible and at least 7 days before entering into the Red Sea or the Gulf of Aden.**
   3. Following most recent threats (see MSCIO website https://mscio.eu/ ), **conduct a thorough analysis of past port calls** made in Israeli ports, Med or RS, not at vessel-level, but at company level. Conduct a risk assessment of all vessels, and especially those that may have any previous US, UK, or Israel association. **If such an association is made, shipping companies are recommended to provide the information to MSCIO, prior to transiting the threat area.**
   4. Review/reduce public digital footprint of the concerned MVs; update registered ownership, management and operator data in vessel-tracking services, available to the public.
   5. Ensure reception of this guidance and adherence to it.
   6. Consider reviewing security plan with appropriate measures.
   7. Conduct drills onboard prior to approaching RS and the GOA, including an SSAS (Ship Security Alert System) test.
   8. If contacted by any organization not officially recognized, report back to your company security officer and validate the source before responding. Any response to be carefully considered.
   9. Vessels be advised to have BA charts from Maritime Security Chart Q-series on board in order to have security-related information for mariners in the stated geographical area at hand.

B. **THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE VOYAGE:**
   1. **Consider recommendations provided by Best Management Practices (BMP).**
   2. Note anything suspicious (e.g. approaching skiffs, suspicious hailing on VHF, explosions, etc.), and report it to postmaster@mscio.eu . Anonymity of vessel/crew is guaranteed.
   3. In all situations, an effective lookout and enhanced vigilance are paramount for ships' security. If a security team is onboard, consider using them to enhance vigilance.

C. **TRANSITING THE AREA OF CONCERN:**
1. In case of incidents (e.g. impacts, unmanned vehicles approaching, suspicious activities, etc.), report all details to MSCIO (postmaster@mscio.eu ), with recordings/pictures, if available.

D. **IN CASE OF ANY UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE AND/OR DEBRIS ON DECK:**
1. **Maintain a safe distance and cordon the area off.**
2. **Do not touch or try to dismantle any debris**.
3. Be aware that radio emissions may trigger the device.
4. Request assistance through MSCIO, by including pictures, if available, maintaining a safe standoff distance.

## HOW TO REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The MSCIO website is currently undergoing significant upgrade and improvements, for this reason, the requests for support can be sent to postmaster@mscio.eu (24/7) or made directly on the website (https://reporting.mscio.eu/supportrequest )**, as soon as possible and at least 7 days before entering into the RS and the GOA.**

ASPIDES webpage is available on the MSCIO website (https://mscio.eu/mscio-products/eunavfor-aspides/), where additional information can be found.