SHADE

Shared Awareness and De-confliction

54th Conference

Co-chaired by

25 – 26 November 2026

Eden Island, Seychelles

EVENT OVERVIEW

We are pleased to announce that the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA will co-chair the upcoming 54th SHADE (Shared Awareness and De-confliction) Conference in Eden Blue Hotel, Mahe Island (Seychelles) scheduled for the 25th and 26th of November 2026.

The main purpose of this conference is to gather professionals and esteemed experts engaged in Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The conference aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To facilitate the dissemination of relevant maritime security information and share potential threats and available means to tackle these
- To identify room for improvement in existing processes for coordinated response to maritime security events
- To foster the de-confliction of maritime security forces and activities to provide the region with efficient support
- To strengthen professional networks, exchange knowledge on maritime security advancements, and align objectives accordingly

OPERATIONS INFORMATION

A. COMBINED MARITIME FORCES (CMF):

The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a multinational maritime partnership, which exists to uphold the Rules-Based International Order (RBIO) by countering illicit non-state actors on the high seas and promoting security, stability, and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters, which encompass some of the world's most important shipping lanes. Headquartered in Bahrain with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) was established in 2001. The partnership focuses on maritime security, counter-piracy and training. CMF is a coalition of the willing and does not proscribe a specific level of participation from any member nation. The contribution from each country, therefore, varies depending on its ability to contribute assets and the availability

of those assets at any given time. The 43 nations that comprise CMF are not bound by either a fixed political or military mandate. CMF is a flexible organization. Contributions can vary from the provision of a liaison officer at CMF HQ in Bahrain to the deployment of warships or maritime reconnaissance aircraft. We can also call on warships not explicitly assigned to CMF to give Associated Support. This allows a warship to offer assistance to CMF whilst concurrently undertaking national tasking.

Mission and Strategy: CMF's main focus areas are counter-narcotics, counter-smuggling, suppressing piracy, encouraging regional cooperation and engaging with regional and other partners to strengthen relevant capabilities in order to improve overall security and stability. This includes promoting a safe maritime environment, free from illicit non-state actors. When requested, CMF assets at sea will also respond to environmental and humanitarian incidents.

Operational Structure: CMF's operational strategy is executed through several Combined Task Forces (CTFs), each with specific mandates:

- **CTF 150** is responsible for Maritime Security Operations outside the Arabian Gulf.
- **CTF 151** focuses specifically on Counter-Piracy efforts.
- **CTF 152** conducts Maritime Security Operations inside the Arabian Gulf.
- **CTF 153** oversees Red Sea Maritime Security.
- **CTF 154** is dedicated to Maritime Security Training.

These task forces work under a unified command structure but have the flexibility to respond dynamically to emerging threats and situations, ensuring they can operate effectively across a vast geographic area.

Collaboration and Impact: CMF's success is rooted in its collaborative approach, engaging not just the naval forces of member countries but also working closely with international organizations, non-member nations, and the commercial shipping sector. This broad cooperative framework enhances the collective ability to maintain open and secure sea lanes, crucial for global trade

and energy supplies.

Commitment to International Laws and Cooperation: The operations of CMF adhere strictly to international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). CMF also supports global efforts against piracy and armed robbery in regions that are critical to maritime trade. By doing so, CMF contributes significantly to the stability of these strategic maritime areas, fostering international security and economic development.

B. EUNAVFOR ATALANTA:

Operation ATALANTA is a critical maritime security operation under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union. Its primary mandate revolves around deterring, preventing, and repressing acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. Additionally, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA protects vessels of the World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping, ensuring the delivery of food aid and the safety of maritime routes in the region.

Mission and Scope: Initiated in December 2008, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA was established in response to a deteriorating security situation, in particular due to increased pirate activities, in the West Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Its operations extend beyond direct confrontations with pirate actions to include monitoring fishing activities off the coast of Somalia and supporting comprehensive efforts to improve maritime security and local state capacity.

Operational Achievements: Over the years, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has successfully reduced piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia from high-threat levels to more controlled situations through proactive patrolling and a robust presence. This operation has not only secured key international shipping lanes but also facilitated safer passage for humanitarian aid to Somalia by protecting the World Food Program vessels.

International Cooperation and Future Directions: Looking ahead, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA continues to adapt to the evolving maritime threat landscape, including emerging challenges like illicit weapons – and narcotics

trafficking. It collaborates closely with regional partners and international stakeholders to sustain peace and security in the maritime domains of interest.

C. EUNAVFOR ASPIDES:

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES is the European Union's latest maritime security operation, specifically launched to address the security crisis in the Red Sea region. The operation underscores the EU's commitment to maintaining regional stability and safeguarding critical maritime routes against emerging threats.

Mission and Strategic Objectives: Established by Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/583in February 2024, ASPIDES aims to protect freedom of navigation and international shipping lines. The operation's strategic missions includes escorting commercial vessels,providing maritime situational awareness, and intervening to prevent potential maritime incidents.

Operational Framework: ASPIDES operates within a vast area that includes high-risk zones such as the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the approaches to the Red Sea, as well as the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, the Strait of Hormuz and the Arab-Persian Gulf. The operation employs a variety of assets, including naval ships and aerial surveillance technologies, to monitor and respond to threats.

Collaborative Efforts: In line with the EU's integrated approach, ASPIDES works in close coordination with other EU missions and operations, regional maritime forces and international partners. This collaborative stance enhances the operation's capacity to achieve its objectives and contributes to the broader goal of regional maritime security.

Impact and Outlook: As a forward-looking mission, ASPIDES not only focuses on immediate threat mitigation but also on strengthening long-term security frameworks in partnership with regional stakeholders. By doing so, it plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the Red Sea corridor remains safe for international trade and navigation.

MAIN AGENDA (TIME GMT+4)

Date	Time	Session	Details	Lead	Format
25 Nov	**07:50-08:25**	**REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**			
	08:25-08:35	**Admin and Agenda**	Admin Instructions – Agenda Review	MoC	Presentation
	08:35-08:40	**Opening Remarks**	Declares 54 SHADE Open	Maj Gen Michael Rossete	Speech
	08:40-09:20	**Co-chairs welcome and Commanders' perspective**	• CMF/EUNAVFOR Commanders operational priorities • Regional concerns • Preliminary identification of overlaps and opportunities for de-confliction.	COM CMF/ ATALANTA OpCdr /	Speech// Presentation
	09:20-09:40	**OP. ASPIDES**	• CMF/EUNAVFOR Commanders operational priorities. • Regional concerns. • Preliminary identification of overlaps and opportunities for de-confliction.	ASPIDES OpCdr	Speech// Presentation
	09:40-09:55	**COFFEE BREAK**			
	09:55-10:55	**Current Threat Assessment and Intelligence Briefing**	To establish a threat picture, including recent events, emerging risks and warning indicators	• ATALANTA • CMF • ASPIDES • US NCAGS	Presentation (15 min each)
	10:55-11:15	**Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC)**	Perspectives from relevant regional and independent actors	MMDC Rep.	Presentation
	11:15-11:35	**PLA Navy**	Perspectives from relevant regional and independent actors	PLA N Rep.	Presentation
	11:35-11:55	**Indian Navy**	Perspectives from relevant regional and independent actors	Indian Navy Rep.	Presentation
	11:55-12:15	**DCoC JA WG3**	Perspective from relevant regional and independent actors	WG3 Chair	Presentation
		GROUP PHOTO			
	12:20-13:00	**LUNCH**			
	13:00-13:20	**M3 Concept**	Perspectives from relevant regional and independent actors	M3 Op CDR	Presentation
	13:20-13:40	**ALINDIEN**	Perspectives from relevant regional and independent actors	ALINDIEN	Presentation

	13:40-14:00	**Industry perspective**	Industry concerns and priorities for naval-commercial information exchange, including the SoH, Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb.	Industry Rep (ICS)	Presentation
	14:00-14:30	**Academia**	Challenge assumptions and consider the future role of multinational operations in an increasingly complex environment.	Dr. Christian Bueger et ali TBD	Panel
	14:30-14:45	**COFFEE BREAK**			
	14:45-15:35	**Information Sharing Working Group**	SIF. Update and way ahead	WG Chair and all	Panel
	15:35-15:50	**COFFEE BREAK**			
	15:50-16:30	**Counter Piracy Mechanism in the Region**	Patrol de-confliction, air operations, information sharing in real time (Mercury).	All	Round table
		Day 1 Summary - Adjournment	Confirm emerging recommendations, unresolved issues	DCOM	Speech
25 Nov	**19:00-21:00**	**Social Event (hosted)**			
26 Nov	**08:30-09:00**	**REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**			
	09:00-09:30	**Day 1 Recap**	Confirmation of key findings/recommendations on first day sessions	MoC	Presentation
	09:30-09:50	**MASS and Piracy**	MASS Code, ISPS Code and BMP MS. Piracy and coexisting regimes in Autonomous Age	ATALANTA Shipping Advisor	Presentation
	09:50-10:10	**IMO and regional initiatives**	IMO perspective. Comments on outcomes	Mr Jeremy Greenwood	Presentation
	10:10-10:30	**COFFEE BREAK**			
	10:30-10:50	**Agreed outcomes and Co-chairs closing remarks**	Conclusions and way ahead	Co-chairs	Speech
	10:50:11:00	**Closing Remarks**	Declares 54 SHADE closed	Maj Gen Michael Rossete (Sey CDF)	Speech

LOCATION DETAILS

Venue and Address:

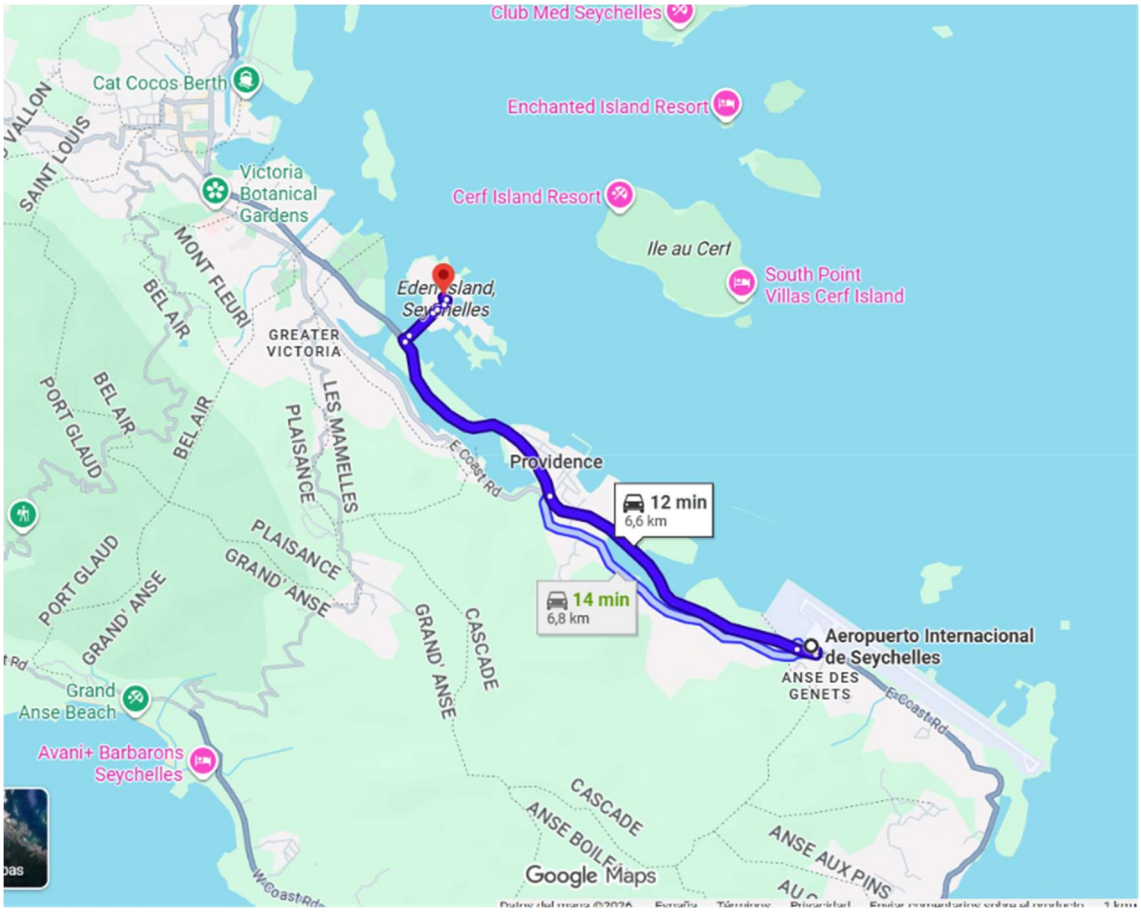
Eden Blue Hote (Mahe, Seychelles)

How to Get There:

- **By Plane:** Seychelles International Airport is the main global gateway to the islands, located on Mahé Island about 11 km southeast of Victoria. From the airport, attendees can take a taxi to the hotel

Map and Directions: Please click on the map below to access detailed directions to the venue on Google Maps.

Note: Participants are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements.



ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS

Dress Code

Required Attire: Civilian dress code for security reasons. All participants must wear business casual throughout the event.

Catering Requirements

- **Day 1:** Welcome coffee, coffee break with biscuits, lunch and social event
- **Day 2:** Welcome coffee, coffee break with biscuits

WORKING GROUP

Information Sharing Working Group

Chair: UKMTO

Focus Areas:

- Communication channels and protocols between shipping and maritime security organizations
- Industry reporting procedures improvement
- Single Information Framework (SIF) dissemination and reporting formats

CONTACTS

Event Coordination:

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General Inquiries: For any immediate questions or additional information needs, please contact the event coordinators via the emails provided.