

UKMTO ADVISORY

003-26 Update 002 - ADVISORY

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UKMTO is aware of significant military activity in the following areas; Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz. Mariners should note the potential for elevated electronic interference, including disruption to AIS and other navigational or communications systems.

Update 002: The maritime security environment across the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea, Bab al Mandab (BAM), and the Strait of Hormuz remains highly volatile, with ongoing regional military activity contributing to elevated threat to commercial shipping.

There is significant military presence and activity across the region. Mariners should be aware of the increased risk of miscalculation or misidentification, particularly in proximity to military units and other sensitive maritime facilities and infrastructure, as well as the potential for VHF hailing and directed communications.

Broader regional instability continues to present threats beyond the Strait of Hormuz, including in areas such as the Bab al Mandab, where tensions remain elevated.

Claims regarding the closure of the Strait of Hormuz continue to circulate via open source reporting and VHF communications. No official closure of the Strait of Hormuz has been formally communicated to the maritime industry through recognised maritime safety channels, including NAVAREA warnings or IMO recognised Maritime Safety Information broadcasts. VHF communications indicating transit restrictions do not constitute a legally recognised suspension of transit passage under international maritime law, including UNCLOS.

In addition, multiple reports indicate significant GNSS and electronic interference across the Arabian Gulf, with potential impacts to positioning, navigation, and communications systems, including AIS and VHF. Interference may be intermittent and unpredictable.

JMIC Guidance to Mariners:

- Maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF Channel 16.
- Ensure AIS transmission in accordance with company policy.
- Strictly adhere to established Traffic Separation Schemes and recognised transit corridors.
- Expect potential VHF hailing from military units and be prepared to respond professionally.
- Conduct enhanced risk assessments prior to transit, taking into account regional military activity and insurance considerations.
- Immediately report unusual activity, suspicious approaches, electronic interference, or incidents to UKMTO or other recognised reporting centres.

The situation continues to be monitored closely. Further updates will be issued as information becomes available.