

## **MSCIO MARITIME SECURITY NOTICE**

### **MILITARY ACTIVITY**

**Military operations are ongoing in parts of the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, the North Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz.**

**Where transit is necessary, vessels should maximize their distance from naval forces and conduct a dynamic risk assessment in accordance with BMP-MS guidance.**

**Vessels are strongly advised to exercise heightened caution while transiting these areas, maintain an active listening watch on VHF Channel 16, and report any suspicious activity to MSCIO and UKMTO.**

### **UPDATE 12**

This note provides an update of the current maritime security environment affecting commercial shipping, based on information promulgated by maritime security reporting centers, military authorities and reports received directly from Masters.

It is divided into two key transit regions that are directly and indirectly affected:

- The Strait of Hormuz.
- The Strait of Bab el-Mandeb.

## **STRAIT OF HORMUZ (SoH)**

### **Arabian Gulf – Gulf of Oman – Northern Arabian Sea**

Military operations keep ongoing in the region and the maritime security environment in the Strait of Hormuz and adjacent waters remains highly deteriorated.

Vessels in the vicinity may still encounter explosions, missile launch activity, and unidentified aerial objects. Consequently, there is a risk of being affected by falling debris resulting from missile or drone interceptions, as well as the possibility that munitions may fail to detonate, resulting in unexploded ordnance (UXO) on board. Masters are advised to follow the post-incident and unexploded ordnance procedures outlined in [BMP-MS](#).

Due to the current high threat level, transit through the Strait of Hormuz remains NOT recommended. However, an unofficial corridor has been observed to be established between Qeshm and Larak islands, where a number of vessels have been noted transiting daily. At least 45 vessels used this corridor during the past week.

GNSS/AIS spoofing levels inside the Arabian Gulf, SoH and Gulf of Oman have decreased, however, intermittent disruptions are still reported. Additionally, intermittent disruptions affecting communications and radar systems have also been observed. Vessels are advised to verify their position using radar and visual means where possible, and to be prepared to rely on dead-reckoning navigation if necessary.

A significant clustering of merchant vessels remains anchored, loitering, or berthed in ports within the Arabian Gulf and in several western ports of the Gulf of Oman. Enhanced caution and vigilance are advised when transiting or loitering in these areas.

Since 28<sup>th</sup> February, when the military operations started, there have been 28 incidents related to commercial vessels as shown in “Annex A”. All these events are HIGHLY LIKELY to be attributed to Iranian hostile actions.

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It is advised for merchant vessels to:

- Avoid transiting the Strait of Hormuz until the security situation improves.
- Adhere to guidance issued by their Flag State or competent national authorities when considering transit.
- Perform enhanced risk assessment.
- Strictly adhere to BMP-MS.
- Monitor Ch16 VHF.
- Use AIS as per company policy.
- Whenever possible, increase distance from any naval forces to mitigate risk.
- Enhance radar and landmark procedures to support safe navigation, since GNSS are highly likely to be unreliable.

**BAB EL-MANDEB (BeM)**

**Red Sea - Gulf of Aden**

The potential for the resumption of hostile activity by Iranian-aligned Houthi forces against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and adjacent approaches remains active-

Recent developments indicate a shift from a latent threat to active participation in the conflict, with ballistic missile launches against Israel. Although these launches have been directed so far against land targets, the risk of potential targeting against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden cannot be excluded. Vessels transiting the area are advised to maintain enhanced vigilance and adhere to BMP-MS recommendations.

Current risk assessment is HIGH for affiliated to Israel or US interests vessels/shipping companies (incl. fleet), and MEDIUM for the rest.

Currently, no Houthi attacks have been reported in the maritime domain.

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Pending the deployment of additional military resources in support of OP ASPIDES, merchant vessels should anticipate:

- Higher exposure for vessels with US/Israel affiliations.
- Potential delays for vessels requesting close protection.

It is advised for merchant vessels to:

- Maintain navigation through international waters for as long as possible.
- Navigate closer to the African coastline where feasible.
- Maintain coordination with maritime security reporting centers, both MSCIO and UKMTO.
- Conduct a voyage-specific risk assessment and adhere to BMP-MS.
- Before transiting the area, take into consideration any direct or indirect affiliations between the vessel, its ownership, or its cargo and countries of interest.

Reports indicate GNSS/GPS disruption in the central Red Sea. Vessels may experience degradation or loss of satellite navigation signals. Masters are advised to exercise caution and verify position using alternative navigation methods.

**Be aware the environment in the region is dynamic in the region and may change with limited notice.**

**It is encouraged to maintain a high level of situational awareness and monitor official channels.**

Vessels are advised to transit with caution, be prepared to implement BMP-MS, and report any suspicious activity or electronic interference to MSCIO and UKMTO:

- **MSCIO:** [postmaster@mscio.eu](mailto:postmaster@mscio.eu) / +33 (0) 298 220 220 / +33 (0) 298 220 170

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- **UKMTO:** [watchkeepers@ukmto.org](mailto:watchkeepers@ukmto.org) / +44 (0) 2392 222060

EUNVAFOR ATALANTA continues to closely monitor developments in the region.

More detailed information can be found in:

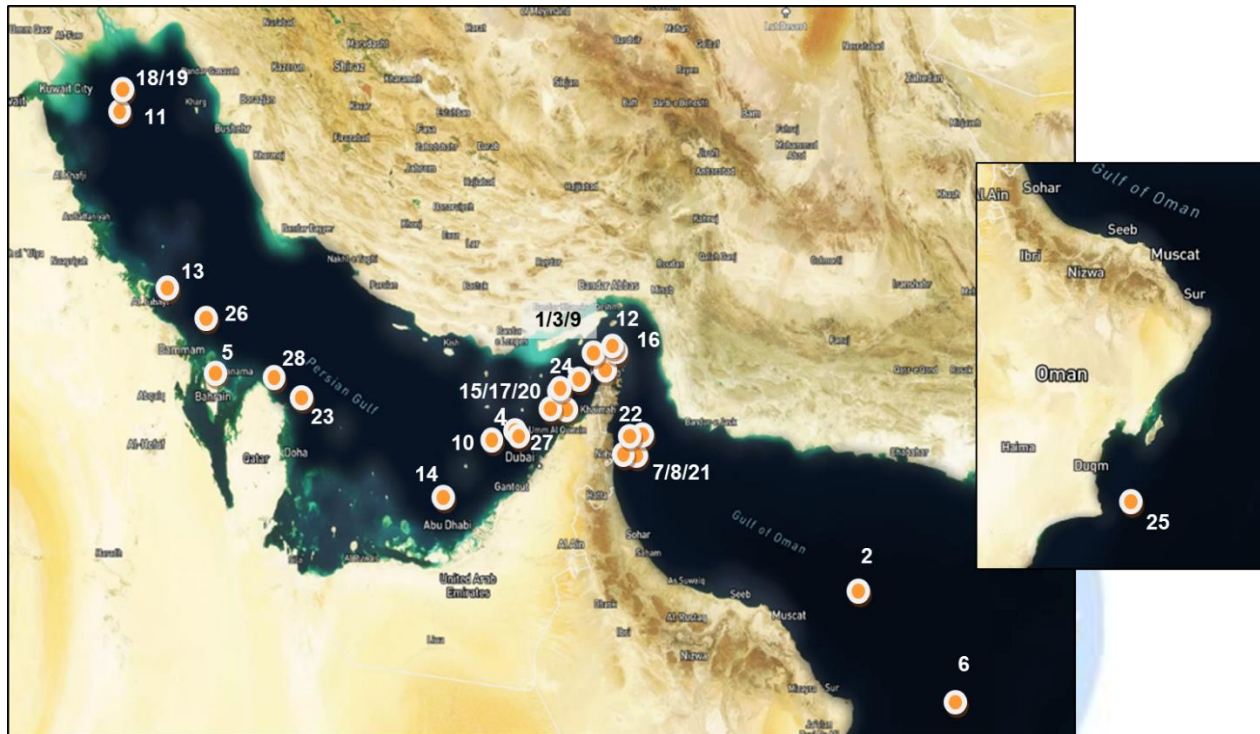
[MSCIO EU | Advisories](#)



**ANNEX A**

**OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS**

**SOH REGION**



<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
28	31MAR	26-12N 051-34E	A tanker was struck by two projectiles. One caused a fire which has since been extinguished. The other remains unexploded within the vessels engine room and is being investigated by the relevant authorities.
27	30MAR	25-30N 054-52E	A tanker has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile approximately 27Nm from Dubai, causing a fire on board. The crew is reported to be safe.
26	30MAR	26-45N 050-30E	A merchant vessel has reported two projectile impacts in close proximity while underway, approximately 30 NM northeast of Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The crew is reported to be safe, and no structural damage has been identified at this stage.
25	28MAR	19-22N 058-35E	A ship has reportedly been struck by an UAV that did not explode, when she was 40NM SE from Duqm (Oman). The crew is reported to be safe and the ship

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			suffered only minor damage in the funnel. A specialist team is proceeding to handle the unexploded warhead.
24	21MAR	25-32N 055-15E	A bulk carrier has reported an explosion from an unknown projectile in close proximity of the vessel while at anchor approximately 15NM north of Sharjah, UAE. The crew is reportedly safe.
23	19MAR	RAS LAFFAN ANCHORAGE	MSCIO received a report of an incident 4NM east of Ras Laffan, Qatar. It has been reported that a vessel has been hit by an unknown projectile. The impact was due to falling debris, resulting in minor damage to the vessel. The crew is reported to be safe.
22	18MAR	25-21N 56-31E	A vessel has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile, causing a fire on board, approximately 10NM from Khor Fakkan (UAE). age of Khawr Fakkan UAE.
21	16MAR	25-03N 056-46E	A Tanker vessel has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile approximately 23NM from the coast of United Arab Emirates. Further investigations indicate that the vessel was affected by falling debris in the vicinity. The crew is reported safe and the vessel sustained only minor damage.
20	12MAR	25-37N 055-00E	A container ship has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile approximately 35 NM north of Jebel Ali, causing a small fire on board. The crew is reported to be safe.
18/19 <sup>1</sup>	11MAR	29-35N 048-48E	A tanker has reported an attack on a vessel close to her in the northern Arabian Gulf. The crew of the reporting vessel is safe. The CSO of the second tanker involved has confirmed the vessel was struck and the attack has caused a fire onboard. All members of the crew have been evacuated.
17	11MAR	26-00N 055-47E	A merchant vessel has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile, causing damage to the hull, approximately 50 NM northwest of Dubai, UAE. The crew is reported to be safe.
16	11MAR	26-33N 056-29E	A merchant vessel has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, causing a fire onboard.
15	11MAR	25-54N 055-30E	A container vessel has reported an impact from an unknown projectile at the stern, approximately 25 NM

<sup>1</sup> Same incident, 2 ships involved.

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			northwest of Ras Al Khaimah. The crew is reported safe and the extent of any damage is currently being assessed by the crew.
14	10MAR	25-05N 054-16E	A merchant vessel has reported a loud blast followed by a water splash in close proximity to the vessel while anchored, possibly caused by an aerial object, approximately 40 NM north of Abu Dhabi.
13	07MAR	27-12N 049-43E	Third party reports possible UAV attack on oil rig. Fire contained and personnel evacuated.
12	06MAR	26-27N 056-25E	A tug has reportedly been struck while operating in the Strait of Hormuz.
11	04MAR	29-33N 048-50E	A tanker at anchor 30NM southeast Mubarak al Kabeer (Kuwait) reported an explosion on its port side. A small craft was observed departing the area shortly after the blast. Water ingress has been reported. All crew are reported safe.
10	04MAR	25-03N 054-29E	A container drifting 20NM west of Dubai reported witnessing a splash from an unknown projectile in close proximity to the vessel. No damage to the vessel has been reported.
9	04MAR	26-25N 056-21E	A container vessel has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile while initiating transit eastbound through the Strait of Hormuz.
8	03MAR	25-11N 056-32E	An oil tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile. A loud explosion was heard and observed on the starboard side. No fire was reported and no major structural damage to the hull was observed.
7	03MAR	25-10N 056-30E	A bulk carrier at Fujairah Anchorage reported an impact on the side of the superstructure. No fire or water ingress was reported and all crew members are safe.
6	03MAR	23-20N 061-01E	A bulk carrier drifting in the Arabian Sea reported a loud explosion in close proximity to the vessel followed by smoke. No damage was reported.
5	02MAR	26-11 N 050-40E	An oil tanker alongside in Port Salman, Bahrain, was hit by unidentified projectiles, resulting in a fire. All crew members were safe. One shipyard worker was killed and two others were injured.
4	01MAR	25-34N 054-45E	An unidentified projectile detonated in close proximity to a bulk carrier, approximately 35 NM west of Sharjah,

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			United Arab Emirates. No damages to hull or crew reported.
3	01MAR	24-19N 058-20E	An oil tanker was hit by an unknown projectile, 45 NM north of Muscat, in the Gulf of Oman. One fatality was reported. The vessel is currently drifting approximately 60 NM off the coast of Muscat. Further information confirms the vessel was struck by an unmanned surface vessel (USV). The crew has been safely evacuated ashore.
2	01MAR	26-13N 055-55E	An oil tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile, approximately 17 NM northwest of Mina Saqr, United Arab Emirates, causing a fire onboard. The fire was extinguished and the vessel continued its voyage.
1	01MAR	26-17N 056-15E	An oil tanker was struck while at anchor in the waiting area off Khasab, Oman. The impact resulted in a fire onboard and the crew was evacuated. Four crew members sustained injuries. The fire has since been extinguished



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