



MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS SERVICE NOTICE TO MARINERS

NOTICE TO MARINERS

NTM: 26/2016

ISSUED DATE: 13th October 2016

Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region – U.S. Navy Forces Special Warning

- AA:** All merchant vessels and maritime interests operating in the waters of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are to be cognizant of the current status of terrorist operations in vicinity of Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. As a result of the continued political instability and ongoing insurgency in Yemen, belligerent forces in the vicinity of the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb have enhanced their maritime and surveillance and demonstrated the capability for engagement of surface vessels within the area. Most likely targets are assessed to be military vessels; however, merchant vessels transiting the Strait may face increased risk from collateral damage.
- BB:** On 1 Oct, 2016 the Swift HSV-2, a UAE flagged vessel, was attacked in vicinity of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait off the Yemen Mocha coastline. The attack was conducted by belligerents operating in Yemen who targeted the vessel and launched missiles or rockets which damaged Swift. Swift was towed away to Eritrea with no casualties reported.
- CC:** On 9 Oct, 2016, a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer operating north of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait was fired upon from the western Yemeni coastline. The missile attack failed with no damage to the ship or injuries to the crew.
- DD:** Conditions in Yemen have increased the potential for maritime attacks by extremist groups not unlike those implicated in these attacks. Recommend vessels operating in restricted waters be especially vigilant and remain as far west and south of Yemen as practicable including using the Western Traffic Separation Scheme in the northern Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, maintaining best speed, and transit the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait during daylight hours. Masters can expect to see an increased coalition warship presence in the Bab-el-Mandeb straits as a precaution.
- EE:** Any unusual activities or hostile or potentially hostile action observed by mariners within this region should be reported to Coalition naval vessels using Channel 16, via e-mail at cusnc.bwc@me.navy.mil or by phone 011-973-1785-3879.
- FF:** Additionally, communications required by the U.S. Coast Guard MARSEC 104-6 directive state that Masters should remain in contact with the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) and the U.S. Naval Cooperation and Guidance of Shipping (NCAGS) at cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil to the maximum extent possible.
- GG:** Coalition naval forces can be expected to conduct Maritime Awareness Calls, queries, and approaches in order to ensure the safety of vessels transiting the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.



HH: All U.S. flagged vessels approaching Coalition naval forces are advised to maintain radio contact on bridge-to-bridge channel 16. This notice is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Source: U.S. Naval Forces / MENAS Bahrain

Mariners are requested to inform the Middle East Navigation Aids Service, P. O. Box 66, Manama, Bahrain immediately on the discovery of new dangers, or suspected dangers to navigation and changes or defects in aids to navigation noticed in Sub-Navarea IX - Gulf and its Approaches.

MENAS is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Service

All MENAS service users are requested to pass on valid navigational hazard information to the MENAS MARITIME OPERATIONS CENTRE in Bahrain using communications methods:

Tel: ++973 17828541 Fax: ++973 17727765 Email info@menas.com.bh

MENAS is committed to maritime safety in the region and MENAS support the standards of marine operations recommended by IMCA, the International Marine Contractors Association.

As part of our process of continual improvement of services to the maritime community, we are continually amending / updating our mailing lists. Please reply to this mail address should you require any additional email addresses added to the direct NAVTEX and/or Gulf Notices to Mariners circulation lists.

Please also find latest navigational situation information at menas.org Users are requested to provide suggestions for Service enhancements, navigational hazard feedback and complaints through menas.org

www.menas.org

