

MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS SERVICE
NOTICE TO MARINERS**NOTICE TO MARINERS**

NTM: 04/2015

ISSUE DATE: 29th April 2015

Gulf Region – U.S. Navy Forces Special Warning

BA Charts: 2858, 2847, 2883, 2886, 3788, 3790, 2523, 3738, 3737, 3736

- AA:** All merchant vessels and maritime interests operating in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman are to be cognizant that on 29 April, M/V Maersk TIGRIS reported to UKMTO that multiple Iranian vessels intercepted M/V Maersk TIGRIS while transiting the Strait of Hormuz inside Iranian territorial waters within the internationally recognized traffic separation scheme.
- BB:** Background: At approximately 0905 Zulu, 28 April, while transiting in the international traffic separation scheme in the vicinity of 26°-39.43 'N and 056°-15.0 'E, M/V Maersk TIGRIS was approached by five Iranian patrol ships, hailed over VHF, and contacted over marine satellite telephone. The Master did not initially comply with the hails or the direction of the Iranian vessels. Subsequently, the Iranian vessels fired three warning shots across M/V Maersk TIGRIS's bow. The Master complied with Iranian direction and proceeded to a rendezvous 2 nm east of Juzirh-Ye Larak.
- CC:** Background: At approximately 0655 Zulu, 24 April, while transiting in international waters in the vicinity of 25°-42 'N and 055°-16 'E (approximately 17 nm off the coast of UAE and 15 nm off the coast of Abu Musa Island), M/V Maersk KENSINGTON was approached by four Iranian patrol ships and hailed over VHF. The Master did not respond to the hails. Subsequently, the Iranian vessels encircled M/V Maersk KENSINGTON and came to a position astern of the ship. At approximately 0720 Zulu, all Iranian vessels broke pursuit.
- DD:** Unusual activities or harassment 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.
- EE:** Coalition naval forces may conduct Maritime Awareness Calls, queries, and approaches in order to ensure the safety of vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman.
- FF:** All U.S. Flag 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.
- GG:** All vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz are advised to keep in international or Omani territorial waters to the maximum extent possible.

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 support the standards of marine operations recommended by recommended by IALA - the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities and IMCA - the International Marine Contractors Association.

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