MIEVOM 28 NOV 2017
CMF Threat brief

Commander Brian Jensen Royal Danish Navy
Chief N2 Combined Maritime Forces
Agenda

• Regional Overview
• Piracy
• Houthi Threat
• Terrorism
• Smuggling
• Maritime Crime
Regional Overview

• Maritime domain
  – Highly complex
  – Highly active

• Regional Instability
  – Al Shabab in Somalia

• Yemen Conflict
  – Dispute between Houthis & SLC

• Smuggling
  – Income generation
Piracy

- **Spike in 2017**
- **Pirated**
  - Aris 13
  - Al Kausar
- **Attacked**
  - OS-35
  - MT Al Heera
  - MT Costina
  - MV Ever Dynamic / Galerna III
Threat = Capability and Intent

**Capability**
- Pirate networks
- Motherships / Skiffs
- Weapons
- Pirate paraphernalia
- Launch sites

**INTENT**
- Financial imperative
- Domestic situation in Somalia
  - Fishing
  - Smuggling
- Deterrent presence of CMF / EU forces
- Local security provision (PMPF)
- Likelihood of success
Observed Piracy Tripwires

- Suspicious crew composition
  - Crew greater than five
  - Excessive quantity of provisions
  - Crew armed with AK-47, RPGs, and handguns

- Suspicious item observations
  - No visible fishing gear
  - Grappling hooks and ladders
  - Several skiffs on deck, in tow, or alongside

- Suspicious operational activity
  - No lights during darkness
  - Transfers of fuel and stores between vessels
  - Larger vessels (mother-ships) not transmitting AIS
Houthi Threat

• Southern Red Sea
  – Mines
  – Explosive Boats
  – Coastal Defence Cruise Missiles
Terrorism

- Recent Activity
  - MV Muskie
- Means
  - Small Arms
  - Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG)
  - Explosive Boats
Smuggling

- **NARCOTICS / WEAPONS**
  - Source of regional instability
  - Funds terrorism

- **CHARCOAL**
  - Causes environmental devastation
  - Funds Al-Shabaab
Maritime Crime

Recent activity

• 28 Sep: MV Arabian Sun
  – Attacked off Nishtun

• 06 Oct: Iranian FVs
  – Engaged by PMPF

• 21 Oct: Iran ship seized
  – Seized by Yemeni authorities

• 24 Oct: Dhow Sameer
  – Attacked by unknown vessel
Summary(1)

• Piracy:
  – Precipitous decline, but inattention to root causes guarantees enduring threat
  – Suppressed not eliminated (7 x piracy events in 2017)

• Yemen Conflict:
  – Houthi forces have conducted multiple attacks on ships in southern Red Sea
  – Conflict restricted, but risk of collateral damage

• Terrorism:
  – Extremist groups maintain intent to attack shipping; leverage smuggling networks for funding, personnel, and material support
  – Ungoverned and under-governed spaces create maritime security threats
Summary(2)

• Smuggling:
  – Traffickers capitalize on inexpensive and anonymous medium of maritime conveyance

• Maritime Crime:
  – Protection of natural resources
  – Local militias / Government authorities
Questions