

The Yemen Conflict & the Implications for Maritime Security

**CPO Anne McGarva Royal Naval Reserve
Ops Room Manager UKMTO Dubai**

**On behalf of
Commander James Edwards Royal Navy
Maritime Security Advisor (Yemen)**

25 Apr 19

Scope

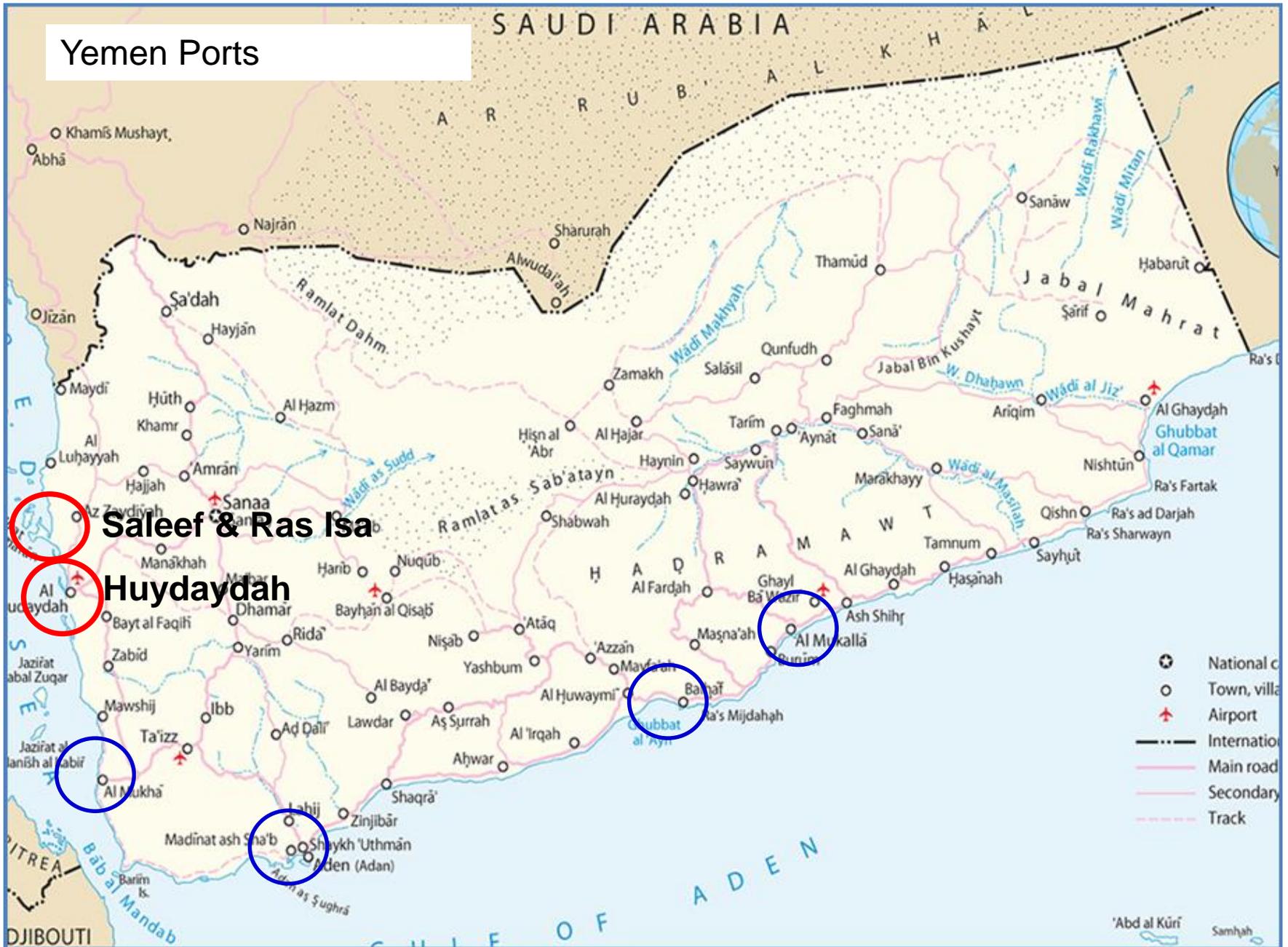
- Conflict History
- Current Situation
 - The Bab el Mendeb Traffic Separation Scheme (BeM TSS).
- Maritime Threats
- United Nations Vessel Verification & Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM)
- Humanitarian
- Summary

Conflict History - Key Events

- Jan/Feb 18 - indication that Saudi led Coalition (SLC), GOY and Houthi supporters willing to talk.
- Mar 18 - new UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths arrives to re-invigorate peace process.
- Dec 18 - truce called in Hudaydah, warring parties agree to a ceasefire and to withdraw from Hudaydah port.
- Apr 19 - with ongoing talks at a stalemate situation, the fragile ceasefire remain under threat of collapse.



Yemen Ports

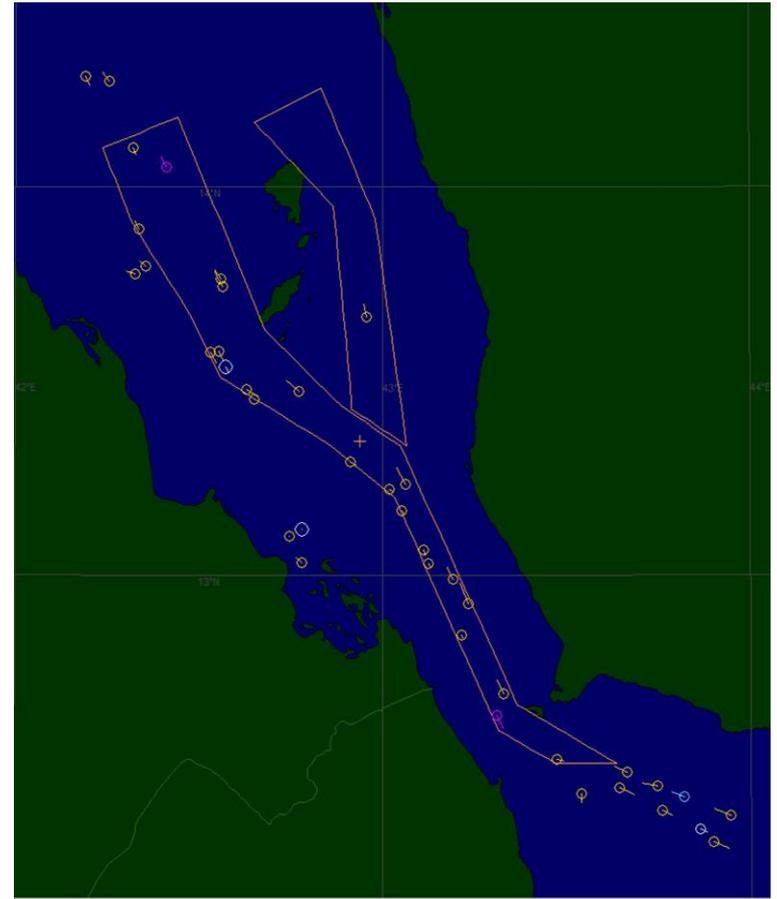


Current Situation

- Stockholm Agreement (Dec 18)
 - Agreement on the city and port of Hudaydah.
 - Agreement on the ports of Saleef and Ras Isa.
- United Nations Mission Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA)
 - Deployment of 75 monitors in progress;
 - Ceasefire holding;
 - Road to strategically Red Sea Mills important demined and WFP have access
- United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanisim (UNVIM)
 - Currently present in Hudaydah Port and developing SoPs for activities related to container ships;
 - Djibouti will still be used for fuel & bulk cargoes.

Guidance for transiting the Bab el Mandeb (BeM) traffic separation scheme (TSS)

- 6 Sep 17 - CMF released additional guidance to transit the BeM with the establishment of a Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MSTC).
- Current guidance recommends vessels use the western TSS to transit the BeM, and staying west of the Hanish Islands.
- UKMTO monitoring of the Eastern TSS between 24 Nov 18 to 23 Apr 19 identified a total of 133 vessels.



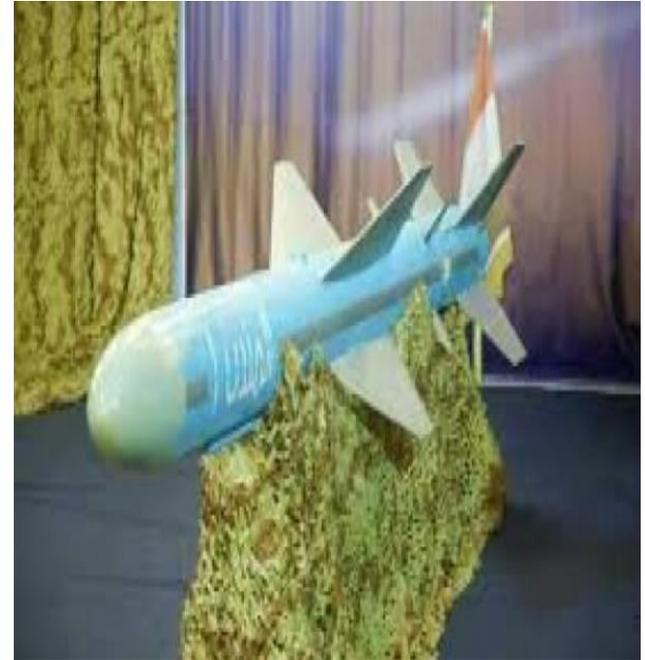
UN Vessel Verification and Inspection

- Since May 16, UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) provides a structure and process for commercial ships to gain access to Southern Red Sea ports.
- Recognise need to maintain confidence in the shipping industry whilst acknowledging security concerns of KSA (UNSCR 2216).
- Process UNVIM - Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Cell (EHOC) - SLC warships.
- The Port controls the order in which the ships are called to berth. The International community has no role in this.
- WFP ships are exempt this process.

Maritime Threats

Missiles

- 1 Oct 16 - Missile attack, allegedly fired from land by the Houthis at the MV SWIFT, a UAE chartered catamaran vessel.
- 9-12 Oct 16 - Missiles launched against US Warships on separate occasions over the period. Counter-measures taken.
- 25 Mar 18 - Saudi tanker reportedly attacked by Houthi RPG in TTW off Hodeidah.



Maritime Threats

Missiles

- 3 Apr 18 - VLCC ABQAIQ allegedly struck by missile, causing minor damage.
- 10 May 18 - Turkish bulk carrier INCE INEBOLU damaged, SLC report that it was struck by missile/rocket 70nm west of Saleef.
- 25 Jul 18 - VLCC ARSAN attacked in Southern Red Sea, allegedly struck by missile/rocket; suspension of KSA oil shipments through BAM until 4 Aug.
- 10 Nov 18 – Houthis alleged to have launched a missile into the Red Sea from vicinity of Hudaydah. Target unclear, no reports of any vessel being struck.



Maritime Threats

Water-Borne IED (WBIED)

- 30 Jan 17 - SLC report WBIED attack on RSNF HMS MADINAH (killing two RSNF personnel and injuring three)
- 25 Apr 17 - WBIED exploded at the entrance to Jizan harbour (KSA) after being engaged by Saudi Border Guards.
- 12 Aug 17 - WBIED targeting Al Mukah port reportedly intercepted and destroyed.
- 14 Sep 18 - SLC report finding a WBIED west of Hajjah coast on Al-Fasht Island.
- 30 Sep 18 - SLC report intercepting and destroying 2 x WBIED targeting Jizan Port.



Similar WBIED found Hajjah coast in August 2018
Source: Twitter Yemen Observer @YemeniObserv



Maritime Threats

Sea Mines

- 9 Mar 17 - Yemen Coast Guard Vessel Sana'a sank after reportedly making contact with a mine (two crew killed).
- 8 May 17 - Saudi forces report presence of mines off Maydi.
- Oct 18 - Houthi forces claim to have manufactured their own sea mines for use against SLC forces.
- 26 Nov 18 - SLC spokesperson states that SLC forces have discovered and destroyed 86 naval mines since the beginning of military operations.



The Houthi's are...

- targeting marine infrastructure and vessels linked to the Saudi Led Coalition (SLC) with whom they are currently in conflict with.
- however media savvy, they are aware that targeting merchant vessels will significantly harm their cause internationally and may;-
 - result in further international condemnation.
 - result in the potential application of economic sanctions against key members of the organisation and escalation in military hostilities against them by the SLC.
 - escalate the humanitarian situation in Yemen further.

Humanitarian



**24m
people**

require humanitarian assistance in Yemen. That is over **80 % of the population** and an **increase of 9%** since January 2018.



**20m
people**

require food assistance, This is nearly **65% of the total population** in Yemen and is an **18% increase** compared to last year.



**240,000
people**

are at **high risk of death** due to a lack of access to food. This is the first time that Yemen has faced this level of severity.

Humanitarian

- Imports: As of 31 March, commercial and humanitarian imports via sea ports and overland have met 85% of monthly food and 55% of monthly fuel requirements.
- Economy: The Yemeni Riyal is trading at around YER/\$ 550 this week. Food prices remain high. Despite reducing slightly this week the price of wheat flour in the North remains 33% higher than this time last year.
- Cholera : 165,576 suspected cases reported 1 Jan - 14 Apr 19. Since the beginning of 2019 the outbreak has affected 21 of 23 governorates and 286 of the 333 districts in Yemen.

Summary

- Building and maintaining commercial shipping confidence remains key to feeding Yemen.
 - Demand for commercial access to Red Sea Ports has increased month on month this year.
- Balancing the requirement for necessary Maritime Security whilst ensuring Commercial/ Humanitarian access.
 - During February and March 2019, WFP has delivered 1000 containers of food aid to Hydaydah and recovered 1000 empty containers.
- Although a risk to commercial shipping still exists, especially from misidentification, it is thought that the risk of a maritime incidents in the Southern Red Sea (SRS) is unlikely while the ceasefire negotiations are ongoing.
- Credible threats to maritime security in the Red Sea continue to exist, such as missiles (sea or land based), Water Borne Improvised Explosive Device (WBIED) and sea mines.

Feedback?