

Maritime Security Advisor (Yemen)

MIEVOM Conference 06 July 23



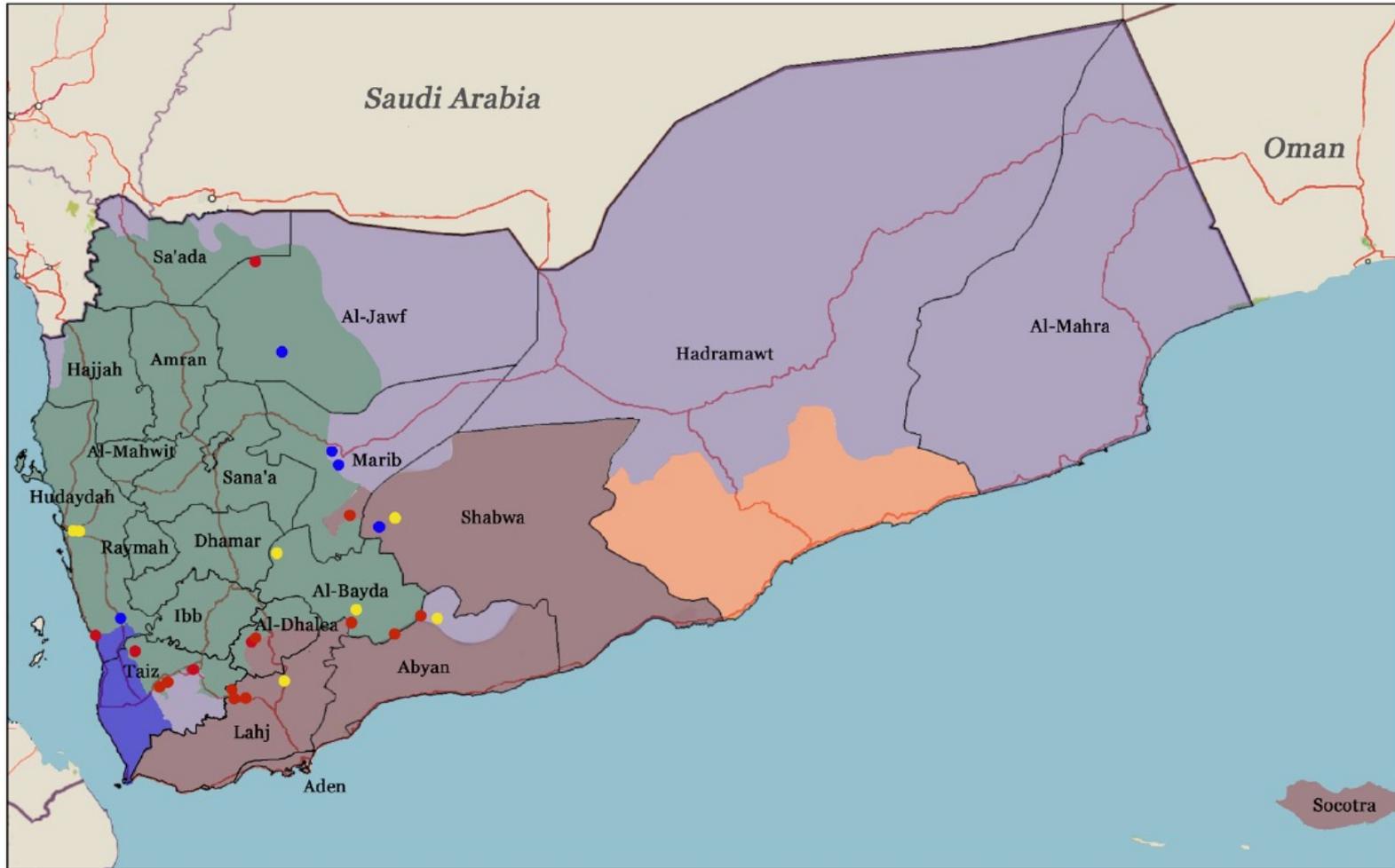
Commander Peter Davis CEng MIET Royal Navy

Agenda

- ▶ Political / Military Update
- ▶ Maritime Security Update
 - ▶ Drones / Future Risks to Tankers calling into Yemen Ports
- ▶ Yemen Coastguard (YCG) Development
 - ▶ MY KALIZMA
- ▶ FSO SAFER update
- ▶ Questions

Current Status – Political / Military

Yemen Zones of Control (June 21-27, 2023)



- | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Yemeni government-affiliated forces | Houthi forces | STC-affiliated forces | Hadrami Elite forces |
| Tareq Saleh's National Resistance forces | Conflict area | Drone attack | Landmine/IED |

Current Status – **Maritime Security**

➤ Recent Drone Activity:

- ▶ 19 & 20 October - Uncorroborated media reports with the GoY claiming two attacks on oil tankers anchored at the ports of Dhabah and Radhom (near Balhaf)
- ▶ 21 October - Ash-Shihr (Dhabah): UAV attack ivo of a VLCC.
 - ▶ No damage to vessel / No harm to crew.
 - ▶ The Houthis described the attack as ‘warning strikes’ to prevent the ‘looting’ of Yemeni oil.
- ▶ 10 November - Qena: warning messages passed to a vessel inc reports of drones. The vessel is reported to have sailed.
- ▶ 21 November - Ash-Shihr (Dhabah): UAV attack ivo a VLCC.
 - ▶ No damage to vessel / No harm to crew.

➤ The economic war – starve the GoY of income from oil exports.

- No oil exports since 21 Nov 22



Current Status – Maritime Security

SEA MINES



WBIEDs



Zero activity reported since December 2021

Other Activity



March 23 - HMS LANCASTER seized anti-tank weapons and ballistic missile components being smuggled in international waters in the Gulf of Oman.

Threat Assessment [Unchanged]

- The degree of risk to international shipping using the Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MSTC) is directly related to the political situation in Yemen. So long as the conflict in Yemen continues, there remains a risk, albeit **low**, of collateral damage through mis-identification.
- While it is possible that international shipping may be targeted, it is assessed that currently the Houthis will not deliberately target international shipping.
- Risk of Piracy assessed as **low**.
- Maritime activity by Yemen-based terrorist organisations in Gulf of Aden and Southern Red Sea is assessed as being **low**.

Red Sea transits

- ▶ Reports of piracy / suspicious approaches.
- ▶ YCG has a presence in the Red Sea, ivo the Zubayr islands, and will approach vessels behaving suspiciously.
- ▶ YCG under Houthi control operate out of Hodeida
- ▶ Vessels operating in/around Hodeida are still required to obtain approval from the Aden office of the Maritime Approvals Authority NOT the Hodeida Office.

Yemen Coast Guard

Recent Activity in Aden:

- ▶ YCG Ops centre in Aden set-up complete
- ▶ Classrooms ready for use. Post Eid UNODC mentors working with YCG to commence course.
- ▶ ADEN vessel refit in Djibouti complete.



Yemen Coast Guard

ADEN Vessel Re-Fit



Yemen Coast Guard - MY Kalizma



MY Kalizma



YCG Patrol Vessel

- ▶ 28 April 23 – MY Kalizma observed in Yemen TTW close to Al Mahra (Nishtun).
- ▶ Contacted by YCG patrol vessel via VHF. No response.
- ▶ YCG fired upon as they approached the vessel.

FSO SAFER

- VLCC, EuroNav NAUTICA, was purchased on 9th March
- The vessel is currently in Djibouti where it has been fitted ready for onward transit to the Hodeida port area.
- Dutch salvage company, SMITS is onboard preparing the SAFER for oil transfer
- The total budget for the first phase of the project has increased to \$129M due to global factors resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



FSO SAFER

- ▶ Calm Buoy installation



Questions?