



International Maritime Security Construct

Vigilance, Surveillance, Assurance



Additional Countries Welcome



THE WHY...

- The region contains some of the most important choke points in the world - 17,000 ships each year transit the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb Strait and in to the Indian Ocean. One-sixth of the global oil production and one-third of the world's Liquefied Natural Gas transit the Strait of Hormuz.
- An increase in malign activity during 2019 threatened freedom of navigation through this critical waterway. A restriction of seaborne trade in the Middle East sends ripples throughout the world economy.

THE WHAT... The International Maritime Security Construct will:

Maintain freedom of navigation, international law, and free flow of commerce to support regional stability and security of the maritime commons.

THE HOW... OPERATION SENTINEL

International solution to an international problem. Six nations [as of Oct. 19] have joined the International Maritime Security Construct to uphold their commitment to the international rules-based system. Other nations have expressed an intention to join imminently. IMSC is complementary to other international maritime missions and existing reporting advice in the region, that hold a shared intent to promote maritime security.

Reassurance to the global merchant community. We are committed to ensuring legitimate mariners have unrestricted use of international waterways. We will maintain regular contact with the merchant vessel community and partner nations through regular maritime VHF safety calls, and by sharing of Maritime Domain Awareness information.

Credible deterrence of malign activity. We will maintain a persistent presence and vigilance in the area of operations. Large naval vessels (Sentinels) such as frigates and destroyers are providing overwatch of critical choke points; smaller naval vessels (Sentries) such as patrol craft and corvettes are patrolling between them; and airborne surveillance is monitoring the flow of traffic through the highest risk areas. This is underpinned by an international HQ and supporting infrastructure in Bahrain.

