



Joint Maritime Information Center

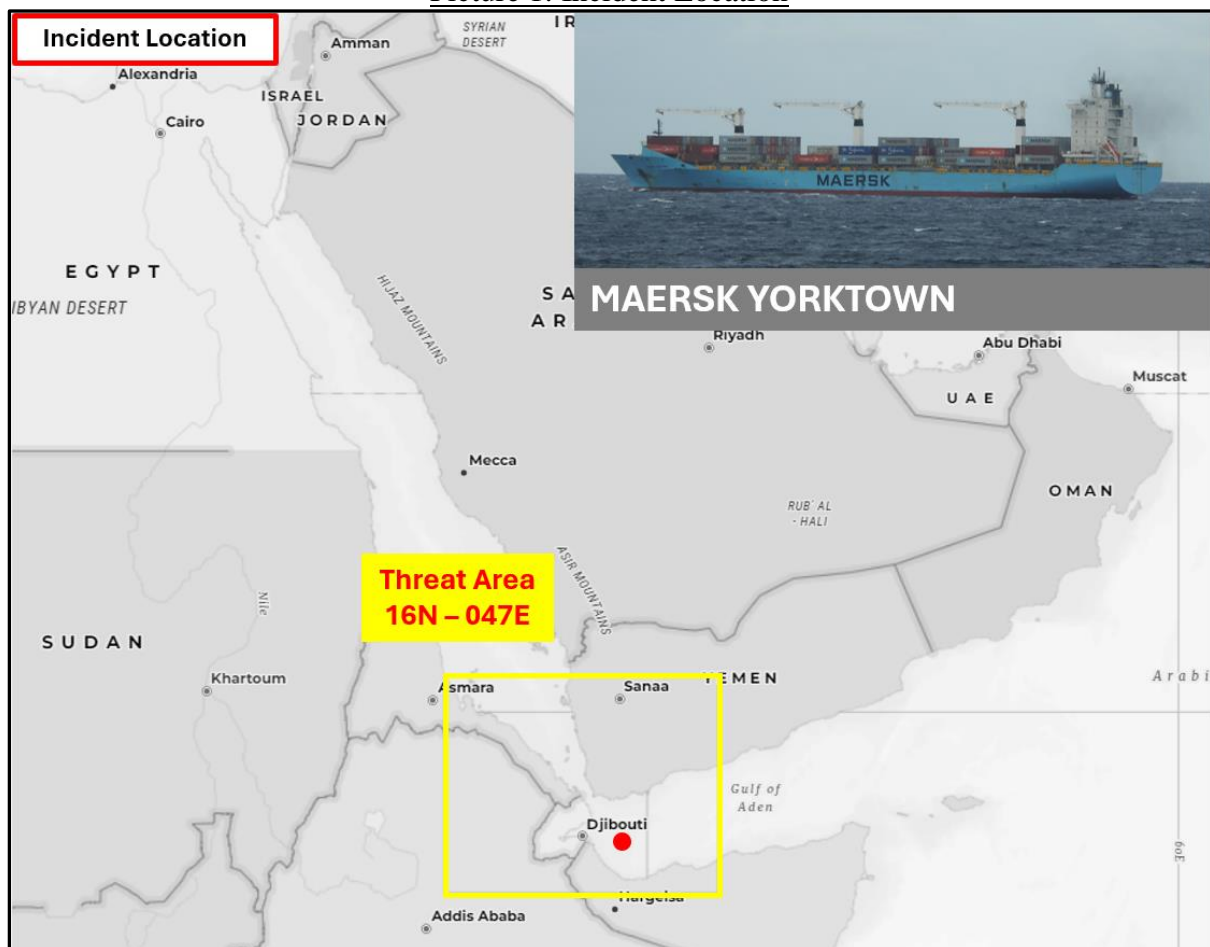


JMIC INFONOTE 24APR_02 – ATTEMPTED MISSILE ATTACK/TARGETING OF US-FLAGGED CARGO VESSEL, MAERSK YORKTOWN, 72NM ESE OFF THE PORT OF DJIBOUTI.

INCIDENT REPORT

1. There was a reported attempted missile attack on a US-flagged Cargo Vessel, MAERSK YORKTOWN (IMO: 9289192), while the vessel was transiting in the Gulf of Aden (GOA) approximately 72nm ESE of port of Djibouti on 24 Apr 24 at 0850 (UTC). Reference UKMTO Incident Warning 064. (See **Picture 1** for incident location).

Picture 1: Incident Location





2. The JMIC has confirmed that MAERSK YORKTOWN was targeted by a missile. MAERSK YORKTOWN was underway with AIS off since departure from Djibouti. Coalition warships in vicinity of the merchant vessel responded and intercepted the missile. The vessel and all crew on board are safe (no injury reported), and the vessel was last reported proceeding to next port of call.

3. JMIC assesses that MAERSK YORKTOWN was likely targeted due to US affiliation. *[Note: Houthi spokesperson stated previously in Jan 24 that its attacks were in response to the US-UK military actions in the region.]*

JMIC GUIDANCE

4. Freedom of navigation and the free flow of maritime commerce continue as a top priority within the wider region.

- a. The current threat assessment identifies vessels with an Israeli association at highest risk

5. **Vessels** intending to transit the threat area are recommended to:

- a. Exercise caution
- b. Conduct a risk assessment prior to entering the area
- c. Review security measures/incorporate appropriate vessel hardening measures into their security plans
- d. Ensure AIS is transmitting, consistent with provisions of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
 - i. Except when believed that continuing to operate AIS might compromise safety and security of the vessel
 - ii. If AIS is turned off, alter course and speed to minimize tracking by DR
 - iii. Do not loiter
- e. If contacted on VHF by “Yemeni Navy”:
 - i. Ignore the VHF call and continue passage if safe to do so
 - ii. Describe incident in movement reporting to UKMTO and NAVCENT NCAGS.
- f. Share instances of suspicious activity with UKMTO



- i. UAV sightings
- ii. Communications challenges

6. **Shipping Companies** are recommended to:

- a. Conduct threat & risk assessment of all their vessels and especially those that may have previous US, UK or Israel ownership or associations
- b. If an association is made, shipping companies are recommended to provide the information to UKMTO prior to transiting the threat area
- c. Ensure their managed vessels receive and follow the guidance for vessels
- d. Review digital footprint

Additional Resources on Incident:

UKMTO Reporting Visit: <https://www.ukmto.org>

Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org

Emergency Tel: +44 (0)2392 222060

Additional Resources on Industry Guidance:

BMP 5 – Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea:

<https://www.ics-shipping.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/bmp5-hi-res-min.pdf>

ATP – 02.1 NCAGS Guide to Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers:

https://shipping.nato.int/systems/file_download.ashx?pg=692&ver=2