Joint Maritime Information Center

JMIC Advisory: 017-26 | November 18, 2026

Update to Blockade of Iranian Ports

Area of Concern:

The Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, and North Arabian Sea

JMIC# 017 - 26 Regional Threat Level: SEVERE

Blockade Activity

JMIC is sharing information on the following page for the awareness of owners, operators, and Mariners. Specifically, the appended U.S. NCAGS addendum provides updates regarding the U.S. enforcement of a naval blockade of all Iranian ports and coastlines that began on 14 July 2026 at 2000Z and was announced via JMIC Advisory Note 015-26.

The regional maritime security threat level remains **SEVERE** with further deliberate hostile activity likely under current conditions. Recent incidents in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz underscore the continued risk. Mariners should expect sustained naval presence, increased IRGC hailing and monitoring along transit routes, and possible attacks on AIS-transmitting vessels. Enhanced force protection measures, increased VHF hailing, and congestion near anchorage areas should also be anticipated.

Masters should consider:

- Compliance with direction of blockading forces
- The health and safety of their crews
- Continuous monitoring of VHF Channel 16
- Demonstrating clear transit intentions
- AIS transmission in accordance with company policy
- Reporting unusual activity to recognized reporting centers

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BLOCKADE OF IRANIAN PORTS (UPDATE AS OF 18 Nov 2026)

On 13 July 2026, the President of the United States announced a naval blockade against Iran. At 2000Z on 14 July 2026, U.S. Central Command began enforcement of a naval blockade of all Iranian ports and Iranian coastal areas. The blockaded area encompasses the entirety of the Iranian coastline to include but not limited to Iranian ports and oil terminals. The blockade applies to all vessel traffic, regardless of flag. Any vessel suspected of entering or departing the blockaded area without authorization is subject to interception, diversion, and capture. Non-compliant vessels may be legally compelled with force.

The blockade will not impede neutral transit passage through the Strait of Hormuz to or from non-Iranian destinations. Neutral vessels may still be subject to the right of visit and search to determine the presence of contraband cargo or to ensure they are not intending to breach the blockade. Humanitarian shipments including food, medical supplies, and other goods essential for survival of the civilian populations will be permitted, subject to inspection. The exemption process for humanitarian shipments is described below.

UPDATE

Any ship that receives cargo via a ship-to-ship transfer with a vessel subject to the blockade and carrying cargo loaded at an Iranian port or coastline may be considered to be evading the blockade, even if it has not entered Iranian ports or the Iranian coastline. Such ships may be stopped, boarded, diverted, captured, or directed to proceed to the Iranian port where the cargo originated. Ships that do not immediately comply with lawful directions from blockade and/or boarding forces may be subject to enforcement measures, including the use of force consistent with applicable law.

Action: Vessels subject to blockade enforcement should continue compliance with direction from blockading forces. Failure to immediately comply may result in rapid escalation to disabling or destructive fire. Masters are advised to take special caution not to endanger their crews during blockade enforcement actions.

Aircraft and ships traversing the identified area are advised to navigate with caution and avoid navigation within this zone, if possible. The blockade is being enforced strictly and rapidly. While the blockade is not intended to impede neutral or merchant shipping, vessels should make their intentions clear, particularly demonstrating that they are not intending to visit or depart from an Iranian port. If vessels do not comply with blockading forces immediately upon being contacted, they risk being fired upon. Vessels are free to navigate international waters. However, the issuance of this advisory is intended to provide notice that dangerous military operations are taking place within the blockaded area. Ships or aircraft traversing the area that threaten U.S.

naval forces may be subject to proportional measures in self-defense. Ships and aircraft should maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16 and be prepared to respond to any hails or queries from U.S. military forces.

In addition to the potential subjection to self-defense measures, aircraft and vessels may put themselves at risk from misidentification by forces hostile to the U.S. Recommend aircraft and ships keep clear of the designated blockade area. Vessels continuing to transit the blockade area should maintain a standoff of 30 nautical miles from U.S. units to reduce risk of being mistaken as a threat.

Contraband: In addition to enforcing the blockade, all Iranian vessels and vessels suspected of carrying contraband, are subject to belligerent right to visit and search. These vessels, regardless of location, are subject to visit, board, search, and seizure.

Contraband items are subject to capture at any place beyond neutral territory, if their destination is the territory belonging to, or occupied by, Iran. Contraband is defined as goods that are destined for an enemy and that may be susceptible to use in armed conflict.

UPDATE

Humanitarian Ship Vetting Process: US NAVCENT is providing instructions specifically for ships carrying bulk food, medical supplies or other goods essential for survival of the civilian population destined for discharge in Iran.

The U.S. Navy is currently enforcing a blockade for ALL ships, regardless of flag, destined for, or departing from any Iranian port. However, there is an exception for humanitarian shipments, as stated in JMIC Advisory Note: 003-26 (published May 2, 2026). The U.S. Navy will grant permission for transit of shipments through the blockade after thorough vetting.

This update lists the required information that ships, charterers, and operating companies must submit in order to request permission to cross the blockade area.

1. Vessel Name (include previous ship names, if applicable)
2. Vessel Contact Information (email, Captain phone, FBB, any other contact means)
3. IMO Number
4. Vessel Type
5. Flag
6. Ship location at time of request
7. Vessel/Group Owner
8. Operator Name, Contact Information and Business Address
9. Last Port of Call
10. Load Port(s) where humanitarian cargo was loaded
11. Discharge Port location (Iranian Port)
12. Discharge Port planned arrival date
13. Cargo Description
14. Bill of Lading (all pages)
15. Listing of All Crew
16. Scanned Passports of All Crew

Email above information to NAVCENT NCAGS: m-ba-navcent-ncags@us.navy.mil

Please be aware that review and approval of requests will consider ship location and planned arrival date at discharge port at the discretion of the U.S. Navy. Vessels approved to transit through the blockade remain subject to boarding and inspection.

An approval to pass through the blockade (either east or westbound), does not permit onload of ANY cargo outside of stores and fuel for a return voyage from an Iranian port. If violated, the ship will be subject to blockade enforcement action. **All ships are subject to monitoring to ensure compliance with the blockade.**
