

# UKMTO

## Weekly Report

### 6 - 12 Jan 18

#### IN THIS ISSUE

## Command Overview

1. This week UKMTO issued two Advisories, 001/JAN/2018 and 002/JAN/2018, see page 3 for details.
2. On 06 JAN 2018 UKMTO received information from three separate merchant vessels, in an area in the Southern Red Sea, that they were approached to up to 1 cable by up to three rigid grey hulled boats with weapons, manned with up to 6 persons on each. None of the merchant vessels were attacked. See Advisory 001/JAN/2018 for further details. Subsequent reports indicate that a warship from the Saudi led coalition engaged the skiffs. All vessels and crew are SAFE.
3. On 09 JAN 2018 a Merchant Vessel in the Bab el Mandeb Straits was approached by 2 skiffs, each with 5 POB on each with their faces obscured. After some suspicious manoeuvres, skiffs aborted their approach at 3 cables, possibly due to rough seas. See Advisory 002/JAN/2018 for further details. Vessel and crew are SAFE.
4. UKMTO are aware of numerous media reports concerning the potential threat to shipping by the Houthis' in the Southern Red sea area. We have seen nothing to corroborate these reports and the notice UKMTO issued in August 2017 presently remains extant. See page 4 for further details.
5. It has been reported by the International Maritime Bureau that piracy activity is at a 22 year low. See article (a) for further detail.
7. Open Source Media Article of interest. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting:
  - a. 10 Jan 2017 – Maritime Piracy Activity is at a 22-year low - <http://bit.ly/2mBCWd7>



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**ATTACKED, BOARDED OR HI-JACKED**

- (1) **Attacked**  
No incidents to report.
- (2) **Boarded**  
No incidents to report.
- (3) **Hijacked**  
No confirmed incidents

**Vessels & persons under pirate control**

Details of Vessel	No. Vessels held	No. Souls held	Date Taken
Merchant Vessels	0		
Dhows/Fishing Vessels	0	0	0
Dhow		8	26/03/15
Total	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	

**FUTURE EVENTS**

Date	Event	Location
17/18 Apr 18	SHADE	Bahrain
22 Apr 18	MIEVOM	Dubai

**LIAISON AND VISITS**

No visits or visitors to UKMTO this week.

Should anyone wish to visit our office in Dubai please contact Lt Cdr Beaton E-mail: [dubai-oic@ukmto.org](mailto:dubai-oic@ukmto.org)

**ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

[NATO Maritime Command \(MARCOM\)](#)  
[MSCHOA](#)  
[Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)  
[Middle East Navigation Aids Service \(MENAS\)](#)  
[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)  
[IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)  
[www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI](http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI)  
[www.ukmto.org](http://www.ukmto.org)

**SHIPS BRIEFED**

Date	Location	Vessel
07/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	CAPE KORTIA
07/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	UACC HARMONY
08/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	EMIRATES Wafa
08/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	KOTA KAMIL
08/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	HYUNDAI DRIVE
09/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	UACC IBN AL HAITHAM
09/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	JAG RATAN
09/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	EUGEN MAERSK
09/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	COMMON SPIRIT
09/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	GRETKE OLDENDORFF
09/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	OEL EMIRATES
10/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	MIGHTY SERVANT 1
10/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	SOUTHERN IBIS
10/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	ATLANTIC MIRAGE
10/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	MSC LUCY
10/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	ARCTIC FLOUNDER
10/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	FYLA
11/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	GULF HORIZON
11/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	MSC VIGO
11/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	CRETE I
11/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	AFRICAN EAGLE
11/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	BW KRONBORG
12/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	MSC CANDICE
12/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	SIMA GENESIS
12/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	MSC TRIESTE
12/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	PACIFIC VOYAGER
12/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	CMA CGM FIDELIO
12/01/2018	JEBEL ALI	TAI PROFIT

**WARNINS**

No warnings issued this week.

**ADVISORIES**

**001/JAN/2018**

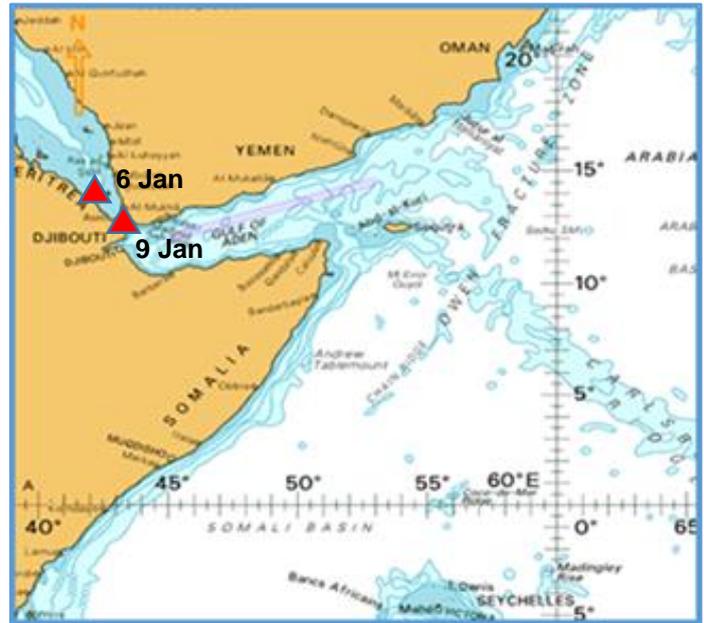
**Category:** Sighting.

**Description:** In the last 12 hrs UKMTO has received information from three separate merchant vessels in an area centred on position: 14.46.N 041.58E, Southern Red Sea. Merchant vessels were approached up to 1 cable by up to three 7-10M rigid grey hulled boats with weapons, manned by up to 6 persons on each. None of the merchant vessels were attacked however all ships are advised to maintain a high state of vigilance as they transit the area.

**002/JAN/2018**

**Category:** Suspicious Approach

**Description:** Between 0815Z AND 0830Z, On the 09 JAN 2018 a MV in position 12 31.00N 043 29.10E (Bab el Mandeb Strait) was approached by 2 skiffs. 5 POB on each with faces obscured. Skiffs aborted approach at 3 cables (apparently due to rough seas). Vessel is SAFE.



**NOTES**

Any queries regarding these Advisory Notices ring: 0044 2392 222060 only, for further information.

**THESE ADVISORIES** are not classified as a Maritime Security Events and have not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to Inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

## NOTICE

### RELEASED ON BEHALF OF UK GOVERNMENT'S DfT

#### UKMTO NOTICE 001/AUG/2017

1. **Category: Notice**
2. **Description: Guidance on transits through the Bab el Mandeb and associated waters.**

The following information from the UK government relates to transits through the Bab El Mandeb (BeM) and associated waters. It replaces previous guidance UKMTO Notice 001 July 2017 (which refers to CMF advice dated 16 July 2017) and UKMTO Notice 002 July 2017.

Recent attacks against merchant shipping in the Gulf of Aden and Bab El Mandeb have highlighted the risks associated with transiting these waters. Daylight attacks by small boats were conducted against two tankers in the southern approaches to the BeM. The method of these attacks has seen two or more skiffs approaching at high speed. In each case, one or more have fired small arms and Rocket Propelled Grenades and carried explosives. In both attacks, the skiffs carrying explosives detonated at a distance from the target vessel, but the presumed intent was to detonate the explosives against the hull. The assessment of the attacks against merchant vessels in the southern approaches to the BeM indicates that due to the low levels of sophistication, the exposure to the threat is greater in daylight hours. However, an attack during the hours of darkness cannot be excluded.

The risk of the conflict in Yemen spilling into the maritime domain also continues to exist in the area to the North of the BeM and around the Hanish Islands. Even though we do not expect merchant vessels to be targeted by the forces fighting in Yemen, the threat of collateral damage to commercial shipping is present and should not be ignored. This threat is assessed as greater in the hours of darkness (when attackers may be more likely to misidentify their targets) to the North of the Traffic Separation Scheme to the West of the Hanish Islands.

Therefore, operating in these waters requires thorough planning and the use of all available information. The maritime threat environment is dynamic; the risks will not remain constant for subsequent visits. It is essential therefore, that Masters, Ship Security Officers and Company Security Officers carry out detailed Risk Assessments for each voyage to the region and for each activity within the region.

All vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden and Bab El Mandeb should follow the guidance of BMP4 to the maximum extent possible and consider the use of embarked armed security. Recent attacks in 2017 serve to emphasise the importance of robustly following this guidance.

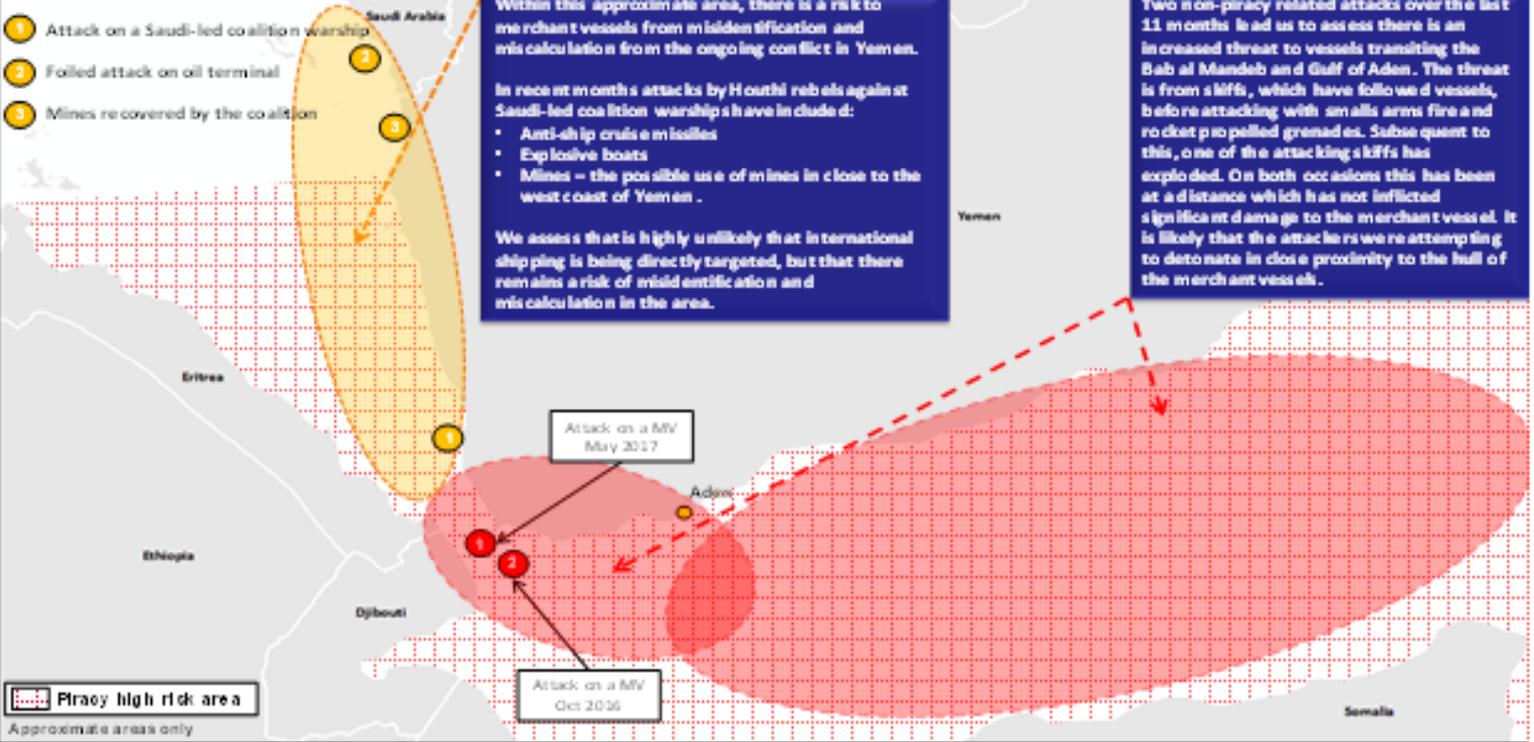
This information is aimed to help inform effective mitigating actions and has been developed through cooperation between Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and UKMTO. The use of BMP4, armed security, shifting transit times, or any other defensive measures remain the sole decision of the vessel operator based on its own dedicated risk assessment and the requirements of the flag state.

3. **Cancel UKMTO Notice 001/JUL/2017 & UKMTO Notice 002/JUL/2017**
4. **Any queries regarding this UKMTO Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.**

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## THE THREAT IN THE BAB EL MANDEB

### ATTACKS IN THE BAB EL MANDEB



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