

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations

Weekly Report: 12 - 18 Dec 2021

UKMTO would like to congratulate Chris Scothern on award of the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of his services to the Merchant Navy and maritime sector.

As UKMTO Merchant Navy Liaison Officer between Feb 2019 and Jun 2021 his work involved advising & liaising with military forces, reassuring merchant shipping transiting the vital choke points in the region and promoting freedom of navigation.

In Nov 2019 he additionally became the Industry Liaison Officer for the International Maritime Security Construct extending the role to include Combined Maritime Forces Bahrain in Nov 2020. His work on the IMSC Bridge Card Guidance has provided valuable practical security



Chris Scothern receiving his medal from Robert Courts MP at Trinity House, London.

Warnings, Advisories and Notices

Please see below a list of all recent and extant UKMTO warnings, advisories and notices. Full details can be found on the website UKMTO. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

Warnings		
No Warnings were issued this week.		
Advisories		
Number	Category	Remarks
No Advisories were issued this week.		
Notices		
Number	Category	Remarks
008/FEB/2021	Transiting the Strait of Hormuz	In force until further notice
006/NOV/2021	Military Exercise	311800UTCDEC21
002/DEC/2021	Live Firing	202359UTCDEC21

For further information or queries regarding UKMTO warnings, advisories or notices call: +44 2392 222060.

UKMTO 24/7 contact

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watchkeepers@ukmto.org

Open Source Media Articles

UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of these open source media articles.

a. “How to better control and manage risks by division and a three step analysis”

When we talk or hear about the Shipping industry everyone knows that it is the first world industry that correlates nations and continents. “No Shipping – No Shopping” as it goes. A primary concern to the stakeholders is that ships carrying the cargoes around the globe are safe within the context of every voyage.

18 Dec 21 - Hellenic Shipping News: <https://bit.ly/3IZPzXX>

b. US Navy rescues drug smugglers from burning ship off Oman

U.S. Navy personnel rescued five mariners Dec. 15 after a fire caused an explosion aboard their vessel, which was smuggling illicit drugs while transiting the Gulf of Oman.

17 Dec 21 - Arab News: <https://bit.ly/3yCjuR3>

16 Dec 21 - America's Navy: <https://bit.ly/32eeLc8>

16 Dec 21 - DW Akademie: <https://bit.ly/3GNXS7p>

c. EU NAVFOR Somalia signs memorandum of understanding with regional centres in the western Indian Ocean

As part of the wider EU effort to strengthen regional resources, EU NAVFOR is working with regional partners, including the Indian Ocean Commission, to strengthen a sustainable security architecture. In close partnership with regional states, the EU has been developing a comprehensive approach to address maritime threats in the Western Indian Ocean to increase Maritime Domain Awareness through capacity building and information exchange.

16 Dec 21 - EU Naval Force -Somalia: <https://bit.ly/3Femshf>

d. Iran, Oman hold joint military exercises in Strait of Hormuz, Sea of Oman

The Iranian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman have held a joint military drill in Iran’s territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman. The exercise, backed by helicopters from both countries and Iranian drones, was held in the presence of the heads of the joint military friendship commissions of the two countries and their members in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman.

16 Dec 21 - Press TV: <https://bit.ly/3yCdtDX>

16 Dec 21 - Times of Oman: <https://bit.ly/3E3K9aK>

e. Shipping groups launch seafarer quarantine network as omicron spread threatens border restrictions

Leading shipping groups representing shipowners, seafarers’ unions, and maritime employers have partnered up to establish their own international network of approved quarantine facilities to help ensure seafarers can safely join ships amid the spread of the Omicron variant.

16 dec 21 - gCaptain: <https://bit.ly/3yEak6S>

13 Dec 21 - gCaptain: <https://bit.ly/3q4bHrv>

f. EU NAVFOR Somalia completes the 38th Force rotation in Djibouti

On Tuesday, 14th December 2021, in Djibouti, EU NAVFOR Force Commander, Rear Admiral (L.H.) Alejandro Cuerda handed back command of Operation Atalanta Forces to the Operation Commander, Vice Admiral José M. Núñez Torrente. Over the last four months, Rear Admiral Cuerda commanded warships, maritime patrol aircraft and autonomous vessel protection detachments on board World Food Programme vessels to contribute to the free flow of commerce through the Indian Ocean and to protect the delivery of humanitarian aid into Somalia.

15 Dec 21 - EU Naval Force - Somalia: <https://bit.ly/3FaGXeB>

g. Pakistan seeks to tackle global supply crisis with its shipping fleet

Pakistan has said it is working to boost the capacity of its shipping fleet to draw on its strategic geographical position and help tackle the effects of a global supply chain crisis. Pakistan is in negotiations "through a public-private mechanism to create joint ventures to expand into container shipping."

15 Dec 21 - TRT world: <https://bit.ly/3Fc4pZi>

h. Monitoring IUU off Somalia

Pillaging of maritime resources is widely seen as the touch paper that lit the piracy fuse off the Horn of Africa. With it now well under control the multi-nation naval force is able to devote more resource-wise to

Engagement and Visits

On Thursday 16 Dec 2021 we were visited by Dr Olli Pekka Suorsa Assistant Professor from Rabdan Academy in Abu Dhabi.

To contact our Dubai office, arrange a visit or request a briefing please contact Lt Cdr Sam Yee by telephone: +971 (0)501 898 389 or email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org

Maritime Security Briefs

Company Security Officers and Masters wishing to receive the latest regional maritime security brief should contact Lt Cdr Sam Yee email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org

No vessels were briefed this week.

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Additional Sources of Information

[United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations \(UKMTO\)](#)

[Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa \(MSCHOA\)](#)

[International Maritime Security Construct \(IMSC\)](#)

[International Maritime Bureau \(IMB\) Live Piracy Reports](#)

[United States Dept of Transportation Maritime Administration](#)

[Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)

[Maritime Global Security](#)

[Oil Companies International Marine Forum \(OCIMF\)](#)

[Middle East Navigation Aids Service \(MENAS\)](#)

[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)