

UKMTO Weekly Report

14 to 20 February 2021

Command Overview

1. Due to heightened military activity and increased political tensions in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea and the rise in pirate activity in the Gulf of Guinea the following quick reference 'Bridge cards' have been recently published. The cards are quick reference guides for masters and crews to adhere to when transiting the high risk areas.

- **IMSC Bridge Cards** - produced by the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) for use on board vessels transiting the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea region and intended to complement BMP 5 and existing Industry guidance. <https://bit.ly/37c34Cs>
- **OCIMF Bridge Cards** - produced by the Oil Companies Maritime Forum (OCIMF) for use on board vessels transiting the Gulf of Guinea region and intended to complement BMP West Africa and existing Industry guidance. <http://bit.ly/37a1UZG>

2. With current Global measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19 being increased and some countries introducing new lockdowns, UKMTO (Dubai) personnel have temporarily paused their visits to vessels alongside ports of the UAE. CSOs and Masters can continue to receive the latest Maritime Security Brief either by telephone or virtual via zoom by sending their request to Dubai-OiC@ukmto.org with a preferred date and time.

Warnings, Advisories and Notices

Details of all UKMTO Warnings, Advisories and Notices released this week or that remain in force can be found below.

Warnings

No Warnings issued this week.

Advisories

No Advisories issued this week.

Notices

Number	Category	Remarks
008/FEB/2021	Transiting the Strait of Hormuz	In force until further notice
010/FEB/2021	UKMTO (Dubai) Vessel Briefings	In force until further notice
011/FEB/2021	Military Live Firing Exercise	Cancel 191300UTC Feb 2021
012/FEB/2021	Military Operation	26 Feb to 5 Mar 2021
013/FEB/2021	Interim Telephone Number	In force until further notice
014/FEB/2021	Firing Exercise	Cancel 260700UTC Feb 2021



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UKMTO NOTICE 008/FEB/2021

1. UKMTO is issuing this Notice to global maritime operators in order to remind mariners and ship operators of the recommended procedures for transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

BMP5 remains the basis for merchant ship conduct, reporting and monitoring in the area. In addition vessels and companies will need to be aware of their own Flag State guidance. All vessels are strongly advised to remain within International Waters and, where practicable, should avoid transiting through Iranian TTW, including the areas claimed by Iran around the islands of:

- Abu Musa 250 52'N 550 02'E
- Greater Tunb 260 15'N 550 16'E
- Lesser Tunb 260 14'N 550 08'E

In the event of merchant vessels being hailed masters should respond with ship's name, flag state and confirm that they are proceeding in accordance with International Law. If contacted by Iranian authorities, it is recommended that masters contact UKMTO.

UKMTO recommends all merchant shipping maintain transmissions on AIS throughout the region to avoid mis-identification and to assist with merchant shipping monitoring.

2. Any queries regarding this UKMTO Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.

UKMTO NOTICE 010/FEB/2021

1. **Category:** UKMTO (Dubai) Vessel Briefings

2. **Description:** Industry can be reassured that UKMTO (Dubai) remains fully operational during the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, due to the current increase in UAE COVID-19 restrictions we have temporarily paused our face-to-face briefs.

Commercial shipping companies and ship's masters are still able to receive the latest UKMTO Maritime Security updates and briefs via telephone, teleconference (Zoom) or by e-mail using the following contact details contained within the Maritime Security Chart (Q6099) and/or directly from Dubai-OiC@ukmto.org +971 43094268/4462

3. A further Notice will be issued when normal service is resumed

UKMTO NOTICE 012/FEB/2021

1. **Category:** Military Operation

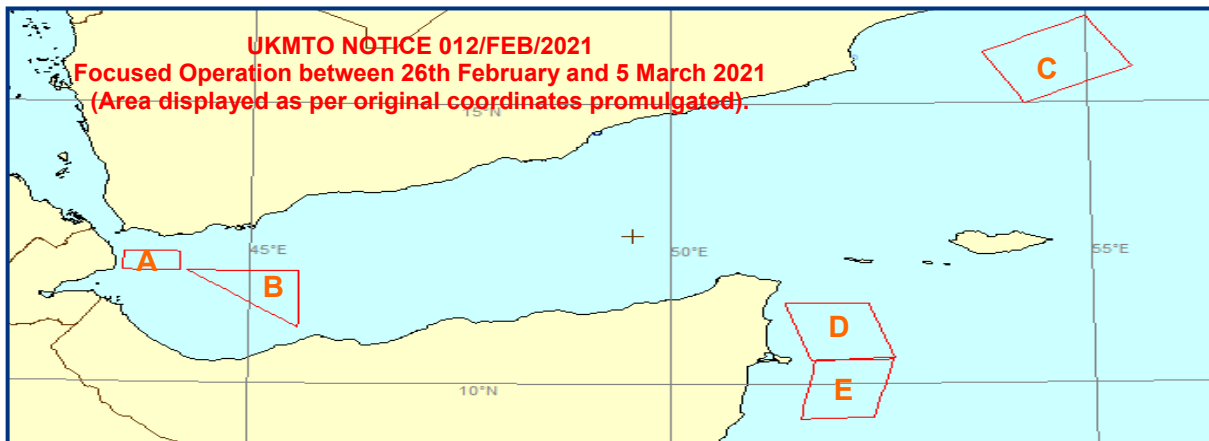
2. **Description:** Military Operation - released on behalf of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). A Maritime Security Operation (Focused Operation) will be conducted by Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 in the Gulf of Aden between 26 February and 05 March 2021. An increase of multinational naval units, aircraft and personnel will be operating under CTF 151 (Counter Piracy). Mariners are reminded to navigate with caution whilst transiting this area.

3. Focused Ops Area coordinates:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A. 1220N 04330E | B. 1100N 04535E | C 1632N 05500E |
| 1200N 04330E | 1200N 04535E | 1555N 05345E |
| 1200N 04410E | 1200N 04415E | 1500N 05415E |
| 1220N 04410E | 1100N 04535E | 1538N 05533E |
| D. 1126N 05121E | E. 1025N 05142E | |
| 1126N 05220E | 1026N 05237E | |
| 1028N 05237E | 0934N 05223E | |
| 1025N 05139E | 0922N 05131E | |



UKMTO NOTICE 012/FEB/2021 - Continued



3. Source: CTF 151

4. Any queries regarding this Notice ring +44 2392222060 only for further information.

UKMTO NOTICE 013/FEB/2021

1. **Category:** Interim Telephone Number

2. **Description:** Due to Essential Maintenance the normal UKMTO contact number is not available. Please use the following number until further notification: action due to planned maintenance:

+44 (0) 2392 212193.

3. A further notice will be issued when normal service is restored.

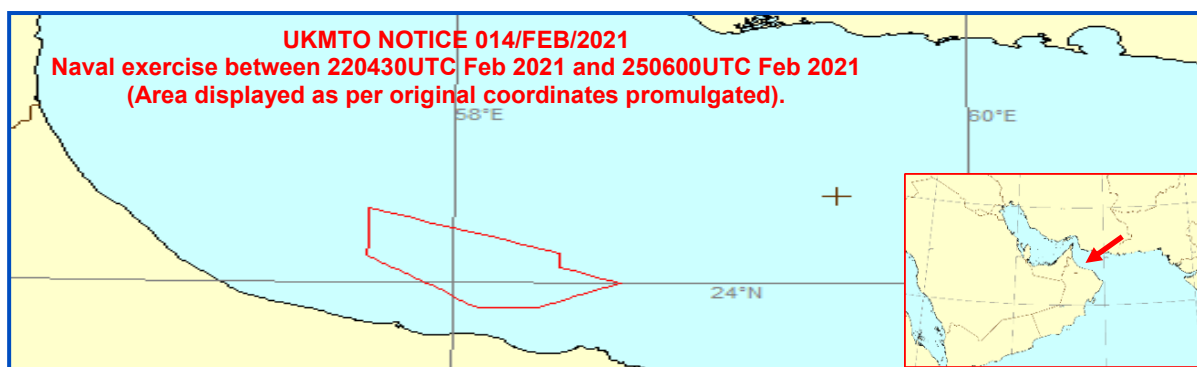
UKMTO NOTICE 014/FEB/2021

1. **Category:** FIRING EXERCISE

2. **Description:** A Naval exercise with surface to air gunnery firing will be carried out between 220430UTC FEB 2021 and 250600UTC FEB 2021 in the following area:

A. 2425.0N 05740.0E	B. 2418.0N 05740.0E	C. 2409.0N 05740.0E
D. 2351.3N 05806.0E	E. 2351.5N 05820.0E	F. 2400.0N 05839.0E
G. 2405.0N 05825.0E	H. 2410.0N 05825.0E	

3. Ships and Craft are to keep well clear of assigned danger area on above specified schedule. All vessels in the vicinity are to stay vigilant and to report any incidents to UKMTO. All vessels are requested to inform UKMTO if any interference is noted on Radios/Radars/GPS.



VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN TRANSITING THE AREA

4. Source: <https://paknavy.gov.pk/061-21>

For further information or queries regarding UKMTO Warnings, Advisories or Notices call: 0044 2392 222060. 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.



Maritime Security Briefing

Date	Location	Vessel
No briefings took place this week.		

Liaisons and Visits

No visits took place this week.

If anyone wishes to contact our Dubai office, arrange a visit or request a briefing on Maritime Security via the telephone, please contact Lt Cdr Sam Yee by telephone: +971 (0)501898389 or email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org

Future Events

Date	Event	Host/Location
22 February 2021	Shared Awareness Meeting	IFC Singapore/Virtual
23 February 2021	IMSC Stakeholder Conference	IMSC/Virtual

Open Source Media Articles

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

- a. 20 Feb 21 - ESPS Galicia rejoins Operation ATALANTA full-speed (EUNAVFOR): <http://bit.ly/3uhlc6X>
- b. 19 Feb 21 - EUNAVFOR Somalia - Operation ATALANTA holds change of command ceremony at Rota Naval Base (EUNAVFOR): <http://bit.ly/3bgSg7i>
- c. 17 Feb 21 - HMS MONTROSE seizes over \$15 million worth of narcotics in Arabian Sea (CMF): <http://bit.ly/3bnjb1w> and (ForcesNet): <http://bit.ly/3dFuvZN>
- d. 17 Feb 21 - Listen: Pirates of the Gulf of Guinea (S&P Global): <http://bit.ly/3k8t0nK>
- e. 16 Feb 21 - US Navy Seizes Weapons from Dhows off Somalia (MarineLink): <https://bit.ly/3dtng6M>
- f. 15 Feb 21 - Chief Customer Officer Cathrine Armour explains how the UKHO has adapted and evolved with the continued digitalisation of the maritime industry. (gCaptain): <http://bit.ly/3qEWCM3>

Additional sources of Information

www.ukmto.org

[MSCHOA](#)

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

[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)

[IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)

www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI

[NATO Maritime Command \(MARCOM\)](#)

www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org

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



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