



Weekly Report: 13 July to 19 July 2022

The relatively stable period has continued over the past week for UKMTO (Dubai).

Briefing activity for the Dubai team in particular has been low as a direct function of members of the team taking annual leave, with another being delayed in the UK by the Covid infection (now safely passed).

With only a single brief on the brand new STENA ESTELLE being conducted as she transits on her delivery cruise, we anticipate being able to return to more normal levels of briefing activity next week.

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](https://www.ukmto.org). UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

Warnings		
Number	Category	Remarks
No new Warnings were issued this week		

Advisories		
Number	Category	Remarks
No new Advisories were issued this week		

Notices		
Number	Category	Remarks
001/JUL/2022	Live Firing	Remains extant. Cancel notice 291800UTCJUL2022

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

Open Source Media Articles

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

1. US, GCC leaders reaffirm cooperation to counter threats to Gulf region security

JEDDAH — Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and US have agreed on enhancing defense, security and intelligence cooperation to protect the Gulf region's security and stability as well as the freedom of maritime navigation. In a joint statement following their summit in Jeddah on Saturday, the leaders also voiced their support for all diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions. *"The GCC welcomes the US' reaffirmation that it will always work with the GCC to deter and confront all external threats against the [GCC's] security and against vital maritime routes particularly the straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb,"* reads the statement. They also voiced firm determination to cement cooperation and coordination to develop defense capabilities and to counter threats posed by growing use of drones and winged missiles and supplying terrorist militias and armed groups with weapons.

16 Jul 22 - Saudi Gazette: <https://bit.ly/3yTTgtZ>

2. The US and changing geopolitics of the Red Sea

A great power scramble for the Red Sea region is witnessed as recent geopolitical events have boosted the strategic relevance of the region. Two recent developments underscore the resurgent geopolitics of the Red Sea which is caught between great power politics and regional rivalries. The United States (US) decision to establish a new multinational task force to focus on preventing the smuggling of arms and narcotics in and around the waters of Yemen; and the Iranian decision to bolster its presence in the Red Sea region point to opposite trends that may intensify the geopolitics of the Red Sea. The establishment of the Combined Task Force (CTF) 153 by the US to *"focus on international maritime security and capacity-building efforts in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb, and the Gulf of Aden"* seeks to balance regional recalibrations with the US' own interests in the region. The CTF-153 will be part of the Combined Maritime Forces which is headquartered in Manama, Bahrain. It will complement the efforts of the three task forces (CTF 150, 151, and 152) that are already operating under the rubric of the CMF. The establishment of the CTF-153 and the overall expansion of the geographic expanse of the CMF will be useful to ensure maritime security and counter security threats, mostly non-traditional, in the strategically important waters of the Western Indian Ocean. The establishment of the quadrilateral group of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the US, known as I2U2, opens up opportunities for these states to work together in the Red Sea region. Importantly, the Indian Navy carried out exercises in the Red Sea last year as well as this year.

16 Jul 22 - Observer Research Foundation: <https://bit.ly/3RKlbUJ>

3. Maritime Piracy and Armed Robbery at Lowest Level in Decades

The International Chamber of Commerce's International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has received the lowest number of reported piracy and armed robbery incidents for the first half of any year since 1994. IMB's latest global piracy report details 58 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, down from 68 incidents during the same period last year. In the first six months of 2022, IMB's Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) reported 55 vessels boarded, two attempted attacks and one vessel hijacked. IMB Director Michael Howlett said: "Not only is this good news for the seafarers and the shipping industry it is positive news for trade which promotes economic growth. But the areas of risk shift and the shipping community must remain vigilant. We encourage governments and responding authorities to continue their patrols which create a deterrent effect."

15 Jul 22 - Homeland Security Today: <https://bit.ly/3ocZ1hD>

Engagement and Visits

1. No engagement visits took place this week.
2. **UKMTO (Dubai) Office Visits.** To contact our Dubai office, arrange a visit or request a briefing please contact Lt Cdr Dougie Bell by telephone: +971 (0)501 898 389 or email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org.
3. **Maritime Security Briefs.** Company Security Officers and Masters wishing to receive the latest regional maritime security brief should contact Lt Cdr Dougie Bell email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org.

Maritime Security Briefs

Date	Location	Vessel
19 Jul 22	Jebel Ali	STENA ESTELLE

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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](#)

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