



Weekly Report: 18 to 24 January 2023

Set against a stable start to 2023; the team at UKMTO (Dubai) completed a round of stakeholder engagements in Bahrain at the end of last week, alongside ships' briefings locally. Predominantly, the Bahrain regional engagement was with Coordinating/ Responding authorities working out of the Naval Support Activities facilities in Bahrain, including meetings with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) new Deputy Commander, Commodore Philip Dennis Royal Navy and Commander task Force 150 (CTF 150) new Commander, Captain James Byron Royal Navy. The CMF is a multinational maritime partnership (of 34 full member nations), which exists to uphold the rules based international order by countering illicit non-state actors on the high seas and promoting security, stability and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters, encompassing some of the worlds most important shipping lanes. CTF 150's role is specifically focussed upon maritime security in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. Most recently Command of CTF 150 passed from the Royal Saudi Naval Forces to the Royal Navy in a ceremony on 18 Jan. For further details see <https://bit.ly/3J46qve>

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
003/DEC/2022	Military Exercise	Cancel this notice 311800UTC JAN 2023

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

UKMTO 24/7 contact	+44 2392 222060	watchkeepers@ukmto.org
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Open Source Media Articles

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

1. Royal Navy takes command of key Middle East security force

The Royal Navy has taken up the reins of Combined Task Force 150; tasking international warships and aircraft to patrol the Indian Ocean and waters of the Middle East to deter terrorism and illicit activities which support it, such as drugs smuggling. This is the eleventh time the Royal Navy has taken command of the Task Force. The force has proven to be particularly successful in the fight against the illegal drugs trade. Since July 2022, and under the recent command of the Royal Saudi Naval Force, there have been six busts: capturing more than eleven tonnes of hashish, three tonnes of heroin, two tonnes of methamphetamines and three tonnes of opium – taking over £150m drugs off the streets.

20 Jan 23 - Royal Navy: <https://bit.ly/3J46qve>

2. Royal Navy takes command of anti-drug smuggling and illegal trafficking task force in Middle East

20 Jan 23 - Forces Net: <http://bit.ly/3HylSid>

3. Singapore's 2022 piracy incidents hit 7-year high: watchdog

Sea robbery and piracy related incidents in the Singapore Strait rose to a seven-year high in 2022 but in contrast, the possibility of attacks by the Abu Sayyaf Group has declined considerably in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, prompting a moderation of threat assessment there, an international watchdog monitoring the trend said late Jan 17. It is an area of concern that around 65% of all incidents in Asia last year were in the Singapore Straits, according to ReCAAP, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia. Its share was 60% in 2021, the data showed.

19 Jan 23 - Hellenic Shipping News: <http://bit.ly/3H2wR1x>

4. The Lloyd's List Podcast: Where have all the pirates gone?

Shipping's persistent piracy problem has all but disappeared off the radar. Attacks are still happening, but according to the International Maritime Bureau's latest annual report maritime piracy and armed robbery attacks have reached their lowest recorded levels in 30 years. There were five attempted hijacks of ships recorded in 2022, only two of them were successful and only one of them saw pirates fire weapons. Compare that to the relative recent heyday of the Somali piracy scourge where hijack attempts were happening daily and in 2011 alone the 237 attacks cost the industry \$8.3bn in ransom and insurance costs — it seems the piracy risk has subsided.

20 Jan 23 - Lloyd's List: <http://bit.ly/3D2UdD1>

5. Royal Saudi Navy Transfers Command of Middle East Task Force to UK Royal Navy

18 Jan 23 - Combined Maritime Forces (CMF): <http://bit.ly/3ZTsNcL>

6. Insecurity: Pirates Shift From Nigerian Waters To Asia

As piracy shifts from Nigeria to Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh and other waters, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has called for sustained efforts to maintain the progress seen in 2022 in the Gulf of Guinea, BAYO AKOMOLAFE. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has called for efforts to be sustained worldwide as piracy and armed robbery attacks reached their lowest recorded level in almost three decades in the Gulf of Guinea.

18 Jan 23 - New Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/3ZTJGUE>

7. Belgium Takes Lead Of Operation Agenor For The Second Time

The Belgian government on January 13 gave its green light to a Belgian command of Operation Agenor, the maritime pillar of the European-led Maritime Awareness Mission in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH). "Agenor" is a maritime surveillance operation which aims to strengthen Europe's ability to assess the situation and monitor maritime activity, and to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Arabian Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Belgium will command Operation Agenor for a period of approximately five months (from mid-January to early June 2023), during which it will provide the commander and part of the staff. The Belgian contribution will consist of seven staff officers and non-commissioned officers operating from the Abu Dhabi's Force Head Quarter (FHQ).

17 Jan 23 - Naval News: <http://bit.ly/3ZZ9ej9>

Engagement and Visits

1. **Engagement.** The UKMTO Dubai office was delighted to host Mr Andre Orsini from CMA CGM, as the Regional Officer for Group Security in the Middle East, Gulf and Indian Ocean on Tue 23 Jan. The UKMTO (Dubai) team looks forward to visiting the European Maritime Awareness Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH) Force Head Quarters at the naval base in Abu Dhabi on 25 Jan.

2. **UKMTO (Dubai) Office - Visits, Briefings & Maritime Security Briefings.** To contact our Dubai office, arrange an office visit, request a briefing on UKMTO or request a regional Maritime Security Brief please contact Lt Cdr Dougie Bell RN by telephone: +971 (0)501 898 389 or email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org. Please note that any emails received between 13:00UTC on Friday afternoon and 04:00UTC on Monday morning, may not be actioned before 04:00UTC on Monday.

3. **Urgent and Short-Notice Briefing Requirements.** Security Officers and Masters should contact the Duty UKMTO Officer on: +971 (0)50 559 3983 who will be able to arrange urgent and/ or short-notice briefings that fall outside of the above times.

Maritime Security Briefs

Date	Location	Vessel
18/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	BBC DIAMOND
18/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	AAL MELBOURNE
19/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	MAC JAKARTA
19/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	SANTA VALENTINA
24/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	CO NAGOYA
24/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	HEILAN BRIGHT
24/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	SHENG AN HAI
24/01/2023	JEBEL ALI	MAERSK ABERDEEN

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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 \(MENAS\)](#)

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