



**Weekly Report: 8 to 14 February 2023**



Pictured are UKMTO (Dubai) Team Leader Lt Cdr Dougie Bell RN and the day's visitor to the office, Mr Brian Province, Safety Manager of Maersk Line Limited, 14 Feb.

This was Brian's first return to our office for circa 4 years so there was a lot to catch up on including the latest significant event, namely removal of the High Risk Area (HRA) as of 1 January 2023.

Although the HRA was removed, this does not change matters with the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) for the Red Sea, Gulf and Northern Indian Ocean, administered by UKMTO.

All vessels transiting the VRA are most strongly encouraged to report in accordance with BMP5 Section 6, including MSCHOA.

**Warnings, Advisories and Notices**

Please see below a list of all recent and extant UKMTO warnings, advisories and notices. Full details

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/FEB/2023	<a href="#">Military Exercise</a>	Cancel this notice 281800UTC FEB 2023

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. Royal Navy autonomous minehunter 'Harrier' to trial uncrewed operations in the Gulf

An uncrewed boat that can search for and detect underwater threats has arrived in the Gulf, as the Royal Navy pushes towards autonomous mine-hunting operations. Harrier will work with host ship RFA Cardigan Bay on a series of demonstrations and trials, with her time in the region laying the foundation for future autonomous kit.

13 Feb 23 - Forces Net: <http://bit.ly/3K5PSDu>



*Harrier will face water temperatures of more than 30°C in the summer, very different from her previous home of Faslane, Scotland.*

*(Picture: Royal Navy).*

### 2. Türkiye extends mandate of naval forces' mission in Gulf of Aden

Türkiye's Parliament approved a motion on the extension of the mandate of the Turkish Armed Forces naval elements in the Gulf of Aden, offshore and off the coast of Somalia, the Arabian Sea and adjacent regions for one more year as of Friday 10 February 2023.

10 Feb 23 - Anadolu Agency: <http://bit.ly/3Xp6fyd>

### 3. IMO, EUNAVFOR: Shipping must be vigilant in Western Indian Ocean

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim and EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA Commander (OpCdr), Vice Admiral Núñez Torrente, agreed that shipping needs to maintain a high level of awareness in the Western Indian Ocean and follow Best Management Practices (BMP) to deter piracy. Since 1 January 2023, the designation of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA) put in place by the shipping industry has been rescinded, due to the improved piracy situation in the region.

8 Feb 23 - Safety4Sea: <http://bit.ly/3xqsOHW>

### 4. 43rd Chinese naval escort taskforce officially starts escort mission

The 42nd and 43rd Chinese naval escort task forces held a rotation ceremony in the Gulf of Aden on February 5. This marks that the 43rd Chinese naval escort taskforce officially took over the escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia from the 42nd taskforce. The 43rd taskforce is composed of the guided-missile destroyer Nanning, the guided-missile frigate Sanya and the comprehensive supply ship Weishanhu.

7 Feb 23 - China Military Online: <https://bit.ly/3K4JqW0>

7 Feb 23 - The Global Herald: <http://bit.ly/3XopTu8>

### 5. India sends legal message to Pirates

On 21 December 2022, the Indian Parliament (Upper House/ Rajya Sabha ) passed the much awaited 'Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill, 2022'. It is a dedicated maritime legislation to counter the threat of maritime piracy on the high seas. Upon assent by the Indian President, it would become an Act and the Indian courts would then be empowered to exercise universal jurisdiction over the offence of maritime piracy as enshrined in 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).

3 Feb 23 - Khmer Times: <https://bit.ly/3jUMhxo>

## Engagement and Visits

1. **Engagement.** Mr Brian Province, Safety Manager Maersk Line, visited the UKMTO Dubai office to discuss Maritime Security with OiC Lt Cdr Dougie Bell 14 Feb. The following day, Dougie visited the ABL Group's Dubai office in order to deliver a UKMTO (Dubai) presentation to a team of managers head-ed-up by Managing Director for the Middle East North Africa and India, Mr Wayne Neves.
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](mailto: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
08/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	ISABELLE G
08/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	MOUNT ATHOS
08/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	TEX
08/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	NZ HANGZHOU
09/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	TORM PHILPPINES
09/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	MATZ MAERSK
09/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	GULF TRADER
14/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	KAMOME VICTORIA
14/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	MXD XIAMEN
14/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	SHAN YING ZUO
14/02/2023	JEBEL ALI	BBC EUROPE

## UKMTO Dubai Contact Details

Job title & Name	Contact email	Telephone Numbers
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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](#)

[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)

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

[Maritime Global Security](#)

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

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

<b>UKMTO 24/7 contact</b>	<b>+44 2392 222060</b>	<b><a href="mailto:watchkeepers@ukmto.org">watchkeepers@ukmto.org</a></b>
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