



United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION TO MARINERS Q6110/2016/001

OPERATION SEA GUARDIAN

Following the July 2016 Warsaw Summit, NATO's Secretary General announced that in response to the evolving security threats in the Mediterranean Sea, NATO's counter-terrorism mission, Operation Active Endeavour has been transformed into a more comprehensive maritime security mission called Operation Sea Guardian. The Area of Operation (AoO) is the Mediterranean Sea and Strait of Gibraltar and approaches (outside the territorial waters of regional nations).

Operation Sea Guardian has three core missions:

- Maritime situational awareness
- Counter-terrorism
- Capacity building

Additional tasking could be required and may include, upholding freedom of navigation, conducting interdiction tasks, countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and protection of critical infrastructure.

A combination of NATO surface, sub-surface and maritime patrol aircraft from various nations are patrolling the AoO and are contributing information to assist in the maintenance of an accurate and comprehensive maritime picture to identify any security concerns. NATO units may hail transiting merchant ships on VHF Ch16 to confirm identification and activities.

Merchant ships are requested to support Operation Sea Guardian by reporting any suspicious or threatening activity to the NATO Shipping Centre as follows:

- Email – info@shipping.nato.int
- Tel - +44 (0) 192 395 6574

An updated version of Maritime Security Chart, Q6110, Mediterranean Sea, will be produced in the near future.