

3. SAFETY OF BRITISH MERCHANT SHIPS IN PERIODS OF PEACE, TENSION OR CONFLICT

Source: UK Ministry of Defence (NAVY).

Former Notice 3/16 is cancelled. Additions and amendments to the former Notice are indicated by sidelines.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 This notice describes the organisation by which the Royal Navy communicates with merchant vessels in periods of peace, tension and conflict. Such messages will normally relate to the safety and security of ships.
- 1.2 Participation in the procedures outlined in this Annual Notice is encouraged. Detailed reporting will be in accordance with Annex A.

2. UK MILITARY / CIVIL SHIPPING RELATIONS

- 2.1 Through the Shipping Defence Advisory Committee, the UK Ministry of Defence and its partners across Government (specifically the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Transport (DfT)) maintains regular and frequent dialogue with the UK Shipping Industry, particularly the UK Chamber of Shipping but also with individual companies and other groups. Within Government, the National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) provides a cross-Government forum for sharing maritime security information.
- 2.2 The Royal Navy Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) organisation provides the operational liaison and interaction between military commanders and the merchant shipping community.
- 2.3 The Royal Navy's Maritime Trade Information Centre (MTIC), based in Portsmouth UK provides the hub for the worldwide provision of all information pertinent to merchant vessels operating in designated Operational Areas, in particular but not exclusively the Indian Ocean High Risk Area and the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).

3. CURRENT OPERATIONS

- 3.1 In preserving maritime security, the Royal Navy maintains a Recognised Maritime Picture (RMP) of military and merchant vessels, and affords military commanders an understanding of all vessels passing through a particular area. This understanding allows military authorities to advise and assist merchant vessels when it is considered appropriate.
- 3.2 In response to the threat of terrorism, regional instability and also the threat from piracy, the Royal Navy has established a deployed MTO team in Dubai to provide direct face-to-face liaison with masters and operators. The MTIC administers the Merchant Vessel Voluntary Reporting Scheme, on behalf of UKMTO, for vessels transiting the Indian Ocean High Risk Area and provides advice on current military operations in the region. For counter piracy operations, the MTIC is the primary point of contact for shipping in the area. Further details on the Voluntary Reporting Scheme are provided in Best Management Practices (BMP) 4.
- 3.3 In addition to UK national activity, British forces frequently operate under NATO and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) commands. During a NATO operation, the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC), based in Northwood, is normally focal point for liaison with merchant shipping. In the Gulf of Aden, the Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa) (MS-HOA) administers the Group Transit Scheme through the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor (IRTC) and the protection of World Food Programme vessels on behalf of EUNAVFOR. Contact details for both these organisations are provided at Annex B.
- 3.4 Best Management Practices (BMP) 4, is published by Witherby Seamanship International (ISBN 978 1 85609 505 1) and can be downloaded for free from their website. BMP 4 can also be downloaded from the NSC and MSC-HOA websites. It provides advice to masters and operators on methods to deter piracy and protect vessels against attack. Vessels are encouraged to implement the procedures recommended in BMP 4 and also to participate in voluntary reporting schemes and other dialogues with military authorities in the area through the MTIC.
- 3.5 The World-Wide Navigation Warning Service (WWNWS) may be used to alert vessels to an area of risk through the promulgation of a Navigation Warning through appropriate NAVAREA Coordinators.

4. PASSAGE REPORTING

- 4.1 During periods of tension or conflict and to assist UK authorities to determine the whereabouts of merchant vessels within a specific area of operations, vessels may be asked to pass information voluntarily using the passage report format at Annex A. In return, vessels will receive advice on the security status within the area.
- 4.2 The initiation of the passage report procedure will be by the promulgation of the following message, disseminated as a Navigation Warning:

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MERCHANT VESSELS – A risk to merchant vessels exists in [area]. Vessels within, or intending to enter this area should contact their owners or national shipping authorities. Merchant vessels are encouraged to submit a report in accordance with ADMIRALTY Annual Notice to Mariners 3 Annex A to [contact details of military authority] when passing [lat/long] and subsequent daily position report requirements if any.

Note: The text of the Special Notice to merchant vessels message issued by the UK will be amended to reflect the prevailing circumstances.

5. ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- 5.1 The MTIC provides the primary liaison between military authorities and merchant vessels. This dialogue is supported by the UKHO range of Maritime Security Charts (the Q series of charts) and Security Related Information to Mariners (SRIM) which provides further details of High Risk Areas, Exclusion Zones, Voluntary Reporting Schemes and other advice.
- 5.2 Further details, including the UKHO range of Maritime Security Charts is available to order or download at the following webpage: <https://www.admiralty.co.uk/charts/planning-charts/maritime-security-charts>



ANNEX A TO ANNUAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 3

MERCHANT VESSEL VOLUNTARY REPORTING SCHEME

During periods of tension or conflict and to assist UK authorities to determine the whereabouts of merchant vessels in a specific Area of Operations, vessels may be asked to pass information voluntarily using the passage report below. In return vessels will receive advice on the security status within the region.

PASSAGE REPORT FORMAT (FORMAT ALPHA)

When sending a Passage Report to UK, NATO or EUNAVFOR Military authorities, the content and format is as follows, unless requested otherwise

1. The initial report should contain the following:
 1. Ship name
 2. Flag
 3. Callsign and IMO Number
 4. Inmarsat Telephone Number
 5. Time and position
 6. Course
 7. Passage speed
 8. Freeboard and Draft
 9. Cargo
 10. Destination and ETA
 11. Name and Contact Details of Company Security Officer
 12. Nationality and number of Master and Crew.
2. Subsequently vessels are requested to report the following daily at noon:
 1. Ship name
 2. Callsign and IMO number
 3. Time and position
 4. Course and speed
 5. Any other important information.
3. All timings are requested in UTC and the preferred method of communication is e-mail.
4. All information provided is treated in strictest commercial confidence.

ANNEX B TO ANNUAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 3

CONTACT DETAILS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS

UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) / Maritime Trade Information Centre (MTIC):

Tel: +44 (0) 2392 222060 or 00 971 50 552 3215

e-mail: watchkeepers@ukmto.org**NATO Shipping Centre (NSC):**

Tel: +44 (0) 1923 956 574

Fax: +44 (0) 1923 956 575

e-mail: info@shipping.nato.intNSC Website: www.shipping.nato.int**European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) / Maritime Security Centre – Horn Of Africa (MSC – HOA):**

Tel: +44 (0) 1923 958545 or +44 (0) 1923 958700

Fax: +44 (0) 1923 958520

e-mail: postmaster@mschoa.orgMSCHOA Website: www.mschoa.org**EUNAVFOR: (Media & Public Relations Office)**

Tel: +44 (0) 1923 958693 (UK office hours)

Mobile: +44 (0) 7762 784746 (silent hours and weekends)

e-mail: media@eunavfor.euEUNAVFOR Website: www.eunavfor.eu**Naval Coordination And Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) – BAHRAIN**

Tel: +973 1785 8240 (Emergency Reporting)

+973 1785 8240 or +973 1785 1023 (Helplines)

Fax: +973 1785 4647

e-mail: cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil**IMB Piracy Reporting Centre**

Tel: +603 2031 0014 (24 Hours Maritime Security Hotline)

+603 2078 5763 (Helpline)

Fax: +603 2078 5769

e-mail: piracy@icc-ccs.org / imbkl@icc-ccs.orgIMB PRC Website: www.icc-ccs.org