

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

Source: UK Ministry of Defence (NAVY).

Former Notice 3/19 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 (SDAC), 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 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) as defined by the Maritime Shipping Industry on the UKHO Maritime Security Chart Q6099.
- 2.4 The Maritime Domain Awareness Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GOG) is a virtual reporting mechanism supporting the interregional architecture defined by the Yaoundé code of conduct. All merchant vessels within the VRA are encouraged to report to it. The MDAT-GOG where the key output is to assist in the maintenance of a coherent maritime situational awareness picture in the Central and Western Africa maritime space, with the ability to inform and support industry, contributing to the safety of the mariner. More information and the reporting formats for the VRA can be found on the UKHO Maritime Security Chart, Q6114. (See link at para 5.2).

3. CURRENT OPERATIONS

- 3.1 To preserve Freedom of Navigation (FON), the Royal Navy maintains a Recognised Maritime Picture (RMP) of military and merchant vessels, that 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 or necessary.
- 3.2 In response to the threat of terrorism, regional instability and also the threat from piracy, the Royal Navy has established a deployed UKMTO team in Dubai to provide direct face-to-face engagement with masters and the commercial shipping industry. 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) 5 and the UKHO MSC Q6099. (See link at para 5.2).
- 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](#). Mariners should be aware that in response to the highlighted risk in these waters the Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MSTC) was established and incorporates the IRTC, the TSS in the Strait of Bab el Mendeb and West and South of Hanish Al Kubra. UKHO MSC Q6099 and The Mariner's Handbook (NP100) contain further information.
- 3.4 Best Management Practices (BMP) 5 is published and hard copies are available, whilst soft copies can be downloaded for free from www.maritimoglobalsecurity.org. BMP 5 provides advice to masters and operators on methods to protect vessels against attack from a range of maritime security threats. Vessels are encouraged to implement the procedures recommended in BMP 5 and to participate in voluntary reporting schemes and other dialogues with military authorities in the area through the MTIC.
- 3.5 Global Counter Piracy Guidance (GCPG) is published by Witherby Seamanship International; hard copies are available whilst soft copies can be downloaded for free from www.maritimoglobalsecurity.org. It is also available to download from the NSC and MSC-HOA websites. GCPG has been produced to aid shipping companies, masters and mariners to prepare against piracy as well as other maritime security threats.
- 3.6 The World-Wide Navigation Warning Service (WWNWS) may be requested to alert vessels to an area of risk through the promulgation of a Navigation Warning through appropriate NAVAREA Coordinators.

3

4. PASSAGE REPORTING

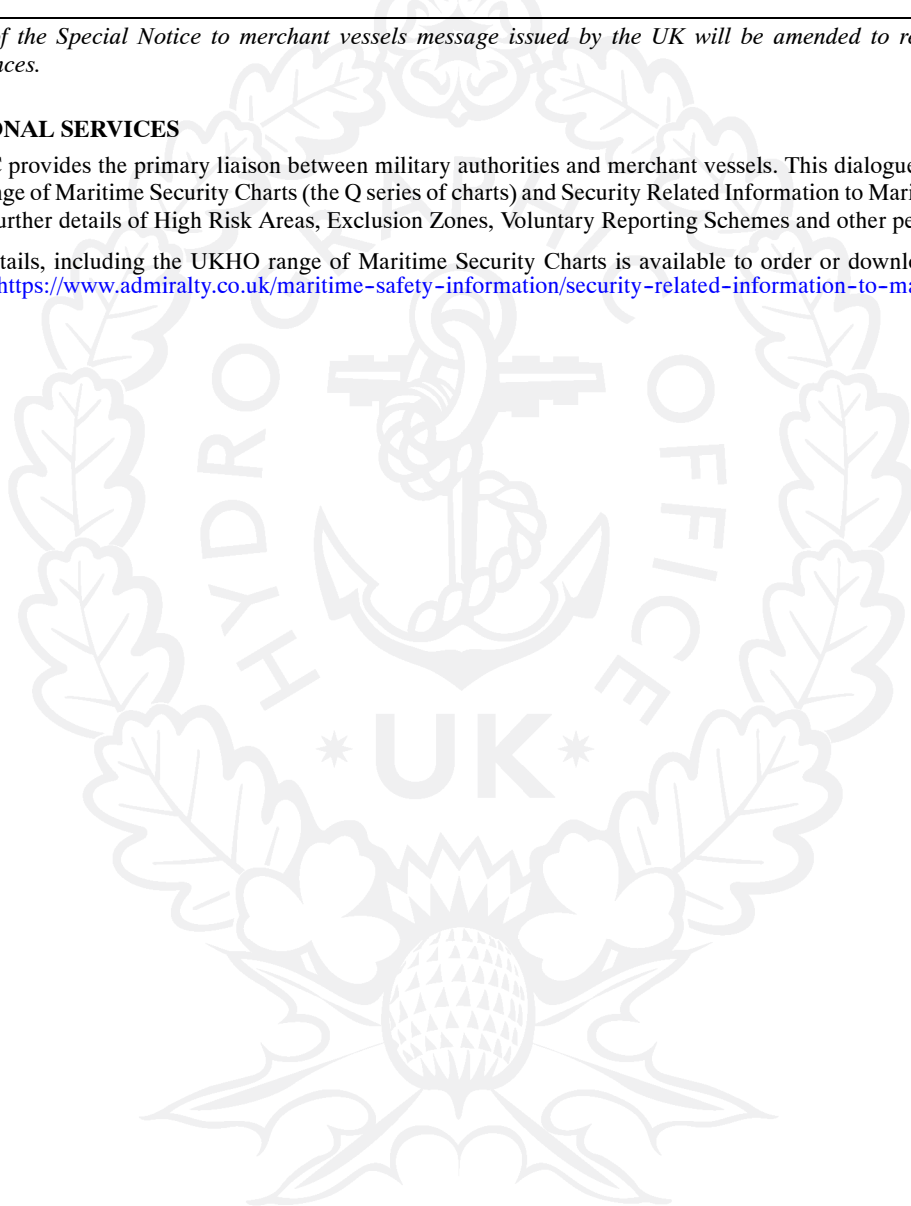
- 4.1 During periods of tension or conflict and to assist UK authorities to determine the whereabouts of merchant vessels within a specific area of operations, vessels may be asked to pass information voluntarily using the passage report format at [Annex A](#). In return, vessels will receive advice 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 (SRIMs) which provides further details of High Risk Areas, Exclusion Zones, Voluntary Reporting Schemes and other pertinent 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/maritime-safety-information/security-related-information-to-mariners>



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 reports below. In return vessels will receive advice on the security status within the region.

6. 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.

- 6.1 The initial report should contain the following:
 1. Ship name
 2. Flag
 3. 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
 13. Armed/unarmed security team embarked.
- 6.2 Subsequent reports, vessels are requested to report daily at 0800 UTC:
 1. Ship name
 2. Callsign and IMO number
 3. Time of report in UTC (normally 0800)
 4. Ship position
 5. Course and speed
 6. Any other important information.
 7. ETA point A/B IRTC if applicable.
- 6.3 All timings are requested in UTC and the preferred method of communication is e-mail.
- 6.4 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: +33 (0) 298 220 220 or +33 (0) 298 220 170

Fax: +33 (0) 298 220 171

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

Tel: +34 (0) 956470570 (ES office hours)

Mobile: +34 661438969 (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 (Watchkeepers)

+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 Anti-Piracy Helpline)

+603 2078 5763

Fax: +603 2078 5769

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