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Source: UK Ministry of Defence (NAVY) & CINCFLEET

## 1 GENERAL

1.1 This notice describes the organisation by which official messages are passed to merchant vessels in periods of peace, tension, crisis and conflict. Such messages will normally relate to the safety and security of the vessels concerned and will usually be addressed to British flagged merchant vessels and those flying the flag of Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories and to any other vessels of UK economic or strategic benefit as decided by government authorities.

1.2 Participation in the procedures outlined in this Annual Notice is encouraged where activated. However, in extreme circumstances, the UK government may direct the introduction of mandatory naval supervision. Detailed reporting will be in accordance with Annex A.

## 2 UK MILITARY / CIVIL SHIPPING RELATIONS

2.1 The organisation for the protection of UK merchant shipping involves civil and military authorities, including the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), Commander in Chief Fleet of the Royal Navy (CINCFLEET), the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ), the UK Department for Transport (DfT), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the UK Chamber of Shipping and vessel owners.

2.2 The UK has adopted the Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) organisation which liaises between government, military and the merchant shipping community. This operates at national, shipping company and vessel level and includes measures for enhanced security.

2.3 Maritime Security (MSy) is one of the roles of the Royal Navy (RN) and the MOD takes a general interest in shipping at all times. During periods of tension, crisis and conflict, this interest is greatly magnified and CINCFLEET maintains a Recognised Maritime Picture (RMP) that includes merchant vessel positional data. This is as comprehensive as possible and is available to UK military headquarters, deployed headquarters and warships. An awareness of the whereabouts of shipping allows the military authorities to:

2.3.1 Advise on threat areas.

2.3.2 Provide advice, dialogue and issue guidance to avoid interference with military operations and to enhance security in the vicinity of threat areas.

2.3.3 Offer direct military assistance where possible or appropriate.

2.4 For these mutually beneficial reasons, the shipping industry and vessels are encouraged to participate in MTO. In an operations area, non-participating vessels may draw greater military attention and hence are more likely to be challenged with the subsequent potential for the disruption of a vessel's voyage.

2.5 The World-Wide Navigation Warning Service (WWNWS) will be used to alert vessels to an area of risk through the promulgation of a Navigation Warning. Additional communication methods and channels to make contact via vessels', owners' or charterers' may also be used where necessary.

2.6 MTO incorporates 2 distinct levels of operation:

### Normal Maritime Business

2.6.1 CINCFLEET will maintain the RMP using AIS data. Maritime security will be discussed routinely with the UK Chamber of Shipping, TRANSEC, FCO, Home Office and police. Any information arising will be promulgated through normal commercial channels.

### Tension, crisis or conflict

2.6.2 The appropriate level of MTO for a particular region in tension, crisis or conflict is subject to ongoing review within the MOD. In the first instance where the regional security status changes, this will be communicated on behalf of DfT to shipping as a Navigation Warning.

2.6.3 Establishment of a reporting cell in an Area of Interest (AOI), which may be a forward-deployed unit. MTO contact details can be found on the UK MTO website [www.rncom.mod.uk/templates/maritime\\_operations.cfm?id=902](http://www.rncom.mod.uk/templates/maritime_operations.cfm?id=902). Vessels can also contact the UK Chamber of Shipping via their owner.

2.6.4 To assist UK authorities to determine the whereabouts of merchant vessels and refining the RMP in a specific AOI, vessels are encouraged to pass their information voluntarily using a passage report (See Annex A). In return vessels will receive a brief on the security status within the region.

2.6.5 The initiation of the passage report procedure may be by the promulgation of the following message, which will be received as a navigation warning, e.g.:

Authority: Royal New Zealand Navy

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO MERCHANT VESSELS – An area of 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 should submit a report in accordance with Admiralty Annual Notice to Mariners 3 Annex A para 1 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 match the prevailing circumstances.*

2.6.6 If the situation deteriorates further the Secretary of State may implement naval supervision of shipping which may include mandatory routing.

### 3. NATO MILITARY / CIVIL SHIPPING RELATIONS

3.1 NATO Maritime Component Commanders Headquarters: The focal point for shipping during a NATO operation is the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) based at the NATO Headquarters in Northwood, London. Its mission is to collect and process shipping details to develop and maintain an accurate maritime plot and provide guidance and advice. During operations and exercises, merchant vessels will additionally be provided with a freephone number to contact the NSC. Routine contact details are as follows:

Tel: +44 1923 956574

Fax: +44 1923 956575

Email: [info@shipping.nato.int](mailto:info@shipping.nato.int)

NSC website: [www.shipping.nato.int](http://www.shipping.nato.int)

3.2 Naval Co-operation And Guidance to Shipping (NCAGS) is a NATO policy that underpins the UK MTO measure described in this Notice. In a NATO operation, planning for NCAGS will similarly involve consultation with government, shipping companies and vessels.

3.3 ATP-2 Vol II is the NATO publication which provides information to vessel owners, masters and officers regarding the interaction between naval forces and commercial shipping. In particular this publication serves as a handbook for the world-wide application of NCAGS principals and procedures that exist to enhance safety of shipping in time of tension, crisis and conflict. This unclassified publication is available for download via the NSC website.

### 4. CURRENT OPERATIONS

4.1 UK Operations: Red Sea, Horn of Africa and the Gulf. The UK currently has a MTO team deployed which receives position reports and offers advice on current military operations in the region. Details of the merchant vessel voluntary reporting scheme are at Annex B to this Notice. Further information can also be obtained from the website: [www.ukho.gov.uk/mto](http://www.ukho.gov.uk/mto) and contact can be made by the following means:

Tel: 00 971 50 552 3215

Fax: 00 971 4 306 5710

Email: [ukmto@eim.ae](mailto:ukmto@eim.ae)

4.2 NATO operations: Operation Active Endeavour. Operation Active Endeavour's mission is to conduct naval operations in the Mediterranean and to actively demonstrate NATO resolve and solidarity. Operation Active Endeavour is one of the measures resulting in NATO's decision to implement Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, expanding the options available in the campaign against terrorism.

Tel: +44 1923 956574

Fax: +44 1923 956575

Email: [info@shipping.nato.int](mailto:info@shipping.nato.int)

NSC website: [www.shipping.nato.int](http://www.shipping.nato.int)

Authority: Royal New Zealand Navy

ANNEX A TO UK ANNUAL NOTICES TO MARINERS No. 3  
EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES TO SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION**1. PASSAGE REPORT (FORMAT ALPHA)**

When sending a passage report the content and format is as follows and should be returned to the military authority as per the initiating navigation warning.

Vessels name  
 International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)  
 Flag  
 No. of Crew  
 Master – Nationality  
 Nationalities  
 IMO number  
 Draft  
 MMSI  
 Inmarsat telephone number  
 Telex and fax number  
 Email address  
 Current position (at time UTC), course and planned passage speed  
 Waypoints of track through AOI  
 Next port of call and ETA (UTC)  
 Last port of call  
 Name and address of ship owner/operator/charterer  
 Agent Name and email address Next Port

**2 DAILY POSITION REPORT**

To be sent when requested by military authorities, but usually once every 24 hours after the initial passage report.

Vessels name  
 IMO number  
 Current position (at time UTC), course, speed  
 Any change to itinerary

## ANNEX B TO UK ANNUAL NOTICES TO MARINERS No. 3

## UK Maritime Trade Operations – Dubai

## INFORMATION

## MERCHANT VESSEL VOLUNTARY REPORTING SCHEME

1 The UK Royal Navy's (RN) Maritime Trade Organisation (MTO) team was established in October 2001. Although its focus is in support of UK flag and UK interest shipping, it works closely with coalition forces and is available to provide support across the entire maritime industry including real time advice to shipping of all flag registry and ownership.

2 The voluntary reporting scheme covers the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean north of latitude 5°S as well as the Gulf region. On a voluntary basis only, vessels of any flag or ownership are encouraged to report to the MTO team in Dubai on passing the following reference points:

- a. Suez for vessels entering or leaving the area via the Red Sea.
- b. Latitude 5°S for vessels entering or leaving the area via the Indian Ocean (South).
- c. Longitude 78°E for vessels entering or leaving the area via the Indian Ocean (East).

3 The initial report should contain the following:

Vessels name

International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)

Flag

IMO number

MMSI

Inmarsat telephone number

Telex and fax number

Email address

Current course, speed (including time of readings)

Next port of call and Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)

Last port of call

Company having day-to-day management of the vessel

Itinerary in the region with route way points

Authority: Royal New Zealand Navy