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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, see page 197.

## 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, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) 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 safety and 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 and LRIT 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 or Notice to Mariners.

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/Maritime\\_Operations/UK\\_Trade\\_Operations.aspx](http://www.rncom.mod.uk/Maritime_Operations/UK_Trade_Operations.aspx). 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 on page 197). 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 / CIVIL MILITARY CO-OPERATION

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

e-mail: [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 measures 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 non-classified 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 operates a Merchant Vessel Voluntary Reporting Scheme throughout the area and offers advice on current military in the region. For counter piracy operations UKMTO is the primary point of contact for shipping in the area. Details of the merchant vessel voluntary reporting scheme are at Annex B to this Notice on page 198. Contact can be made by the following means:

Tel: 00 971 50 552 3215

Fax: 00 971 4 309 4254

e-mail: [ukmto@eim.ae](mailto:ukmto@eim.ae)

Further information can also be obtained from the following websites:

[www.mschoa.org](http://www.mschoa.org)

[www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)

4.2 NATO operations: Operation Active Endeavour. Operation Active Endeavour's mission is to conduct counter-smuggling and counter-terrorism 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

e-mail: [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

4.3 NATO operations: Operation OCEAN SHIELD. Operation OCEAN SHIELD's mission is to conduct escort of World Food Programme ships and counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin. It commenced on 17 August 2009, as the follow on operation from Operation Allied Protector which ended the day before. This operation, which spells an extension by NATO of counter piracy operations, entails a variety of military tasks as detailed on their website (link below) but aim to deter and disrupt pirate activities and provide protection to merchant ships through support of self protection measures as listed in Best Management Practice 3, a copy of which is downloadable from their website.

Tel: +44 1923 956574

Fax: +44 1923 956575

e-mail: [info@shipping.nato.int](mailto:info@shipping.nato.int)

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

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  
e-mail 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 10°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 10°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:

1. Vessels name
2. Flag
3. IMO Number
4. Inmarsat Telephone Number
5. Time and position
6. Course
7. Passage Speed
8. Freeboard
9. Cargo
10. Destination and ETA
11. Name and Contact Details of Company Security Officer
12. Nationality of master and Crew

4. Subsequently, vessels are requested to report their noon position and speed, actual departure times and estimated arrival time at ports of destination when outward-bound from the defined area. All timings are requested in UTC and the preferred method of communications is email. Vessels are also requested to increase their frequency of reporting to 6 hourly when transiting the Gulf of Aden.

5. Contact details for UKMTO Dubai are as follows:

Tel: 00 971 50 552 3215

Fax: 00 971 4 309 4254

e-mail: [ukmto@eim.ae](mailto:ukmto@eim.ae)

6. The information provided is treated in strictest commercial confidence and is only used within coalition military circles. Naval assets in the area and Northwood Headquarters in UK are kept advised.

7. Vessels are encouraged to implement Best Management Practices 3 within the Voluntary Reporting Area.

If further advice or guidance is required please do not hesitate to contact the UKMTO team in Dubai.

Authority: Royal New Zealand Navy