

## MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.

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**TECHNICAL SERVICE CIRCULAR No. 02/2021, Date: 28/01/2021**

**Subject: "Maritime Security Update: US Maritime (US MARAD) updates its Gulf of Guinea, the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden, and Persian Gulf Security Advisories"**

### **1. Update on West Africa**

**1.1.** The US Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (US MARAD) has revised its advisory for the Gulf of Guinea (2021-002, <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/2021-002-gulf-guinea-piracyarmed-robberykidnapping-ransom>).

**1.2.** The advisory revision therefore reflects the growing international concern for maritime security in West Africa and more specifically, the Gulf of Guinea. The advisory includes guidance for vessels transiting this area to visit the new Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) and the NATO Shipping Centre website for additional information on threats and specific recommendations.

### **2. Red Sea/Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean**

**2.1.** The US Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (US MARAD) has also revised its respective advisory for the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean regions (2020-017, <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/2020-017-red-sea-gulf-aden-arabian-sea-and-indian-ocean-violence-due-regional-conflict-and>). The advisory warns that the conflict in Yemen continues to pose a risk to commercial vessels from threats which may come from a number of different sources.

**2.2.** The MARAD advisory recommends vessels operating in this area to review security measures, ensure their AIS is always transmitting (except in extraordinary circumstances, consistent with provisions of SOLAS), and monitor VHF Channel 16.

### **3. Persian Gulf**

**3.1.** US MARAD revised its advisory for the Persian Gulf region on 7 January 2021 (2021-001, <https://maritime.dot.gov/msci/2021-001-persian-gulf-strait-hormuz-gulf-oman-arabian-sea-red-sea-gulf-aden-and-indian-ocean>). Multiple maritime threats have been reported in these geographic areas. Vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman may also encounter GPS interference, bridge-to-bridge communications spoofing, and/or other communications jamming with little to no warning. Vessels have also reported bridge-to-bridge communications from unknown entities falsely claiming to be US or coalition warships.

**4.** US MARAD additionally warns that all vessels should be aware that US and other coalition naval forces may conduct maritime awareness calls, queries, and approaches to ensure the safety of vessels transiting the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, and Arabian Sea.

**5. M.A.C. SA** strongly recommends the close monitoring of respective administrative and industry guidance for all vessel operators managing ships operating within the concrete sea areas.

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PIRAEUS OFFICE:

110-112 Notara str., 185 35 Piraeus, Greece

Tel: +30 2104287112, Fax: +30 2104530310,

[www.mac.com.gr](http://www.mac.com.gr), e-mail: [mac-gr@otenet.gr](mailto:mac-gr@otenet.gr)

