

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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SHIP SECURITY ADVISORY NO. 05-19

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officers, Recognized Security Organizations

Subject: GUIDANCE TO VESSELS OPERATING IN OR NEAR THE PERSIAN GULF, STRAIT OF HORMUZ, AND GULF OF OMAN

Date: 10 May 2019

Reference: United States (U.S.) Maritime Administration Advisory [#2019-004](#), *Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, and Arabian Sea Naval Activity*

United States (U.S.) Maritime Administration Advisory [#2019-006](#), *Reporting indicates heightened Iranian readiness to conduct offensive operations against U.S. forces and interests.*

Operators of Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) flagged vessels transiting the subject areas are requested to forward this Ship Security Advisory (SSA) to their ships by the most expeditious means. This Advisory supersedes SSA No. 04-19.

Issues

1. Reporting indicates heightened Iranian readiness to conduct offensive operations against U.S. forces and interests.
2. Since early May 2019, there is an increased possibility that Iran and/or its regional proxies could take action against U.S. and partner interests, including oil production infrastructure, after recently threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz. Iran or its proxies could respond by targeting commercial vessels, including oil tankers, or U.S. military vessels in the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, or the Persian Gulf.
3. Multiple countries routinely conduct naval exercises and operations in these waters. This Advisory supplements information and navigation warnings routinely provided by other sources.

Guidance

If hailed by non-coalition naval forces, RMI flagged commercial vessels navigating these waters should provide vessel name, flag State, and affirm that they are exercising navigation rights in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This SSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

- a) If non-coalition naval forces seek to board an RMI flagged commercial vessel navigating these waters, the ship's Master should, if the safety of the ship and crew would not be compromised, decline permission to board by noting that the vessel is exercising navigation rights in accordance with international law.
- b) If non-coalition naval forces attempt to board an RMI flagged commercial vessel, the crew should immediately contact the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet Battle Watch. The crew should not forcibly resist the boarding party. Refraining from forcible resistance in no way indicates consent or agreement that such a boarding is consistent with international law.
- c) All vessels should be aware that coalition naval forces may conduct maritime awareness calls, queries, and approaches to ensure the safety of vessels transiting the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman. RMI flagged commercial vessels approaching coalition naval forces are advised to maintain radio contact on Very High Frequency (VHF) Channel 16.
- d) The new [Maritime Global Security website](#) offers industry issued best practices and guidance to mariners by geographic region and provides contact and subscription information for regional maritime security reporting centers. Vessels operating in this area are also advised to establish contact with the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Office (UKMTO). UKMTO advisories, warnings, and contact info are available at <http://www.ukmto.org/>

Contact Information

RMI-flagged vessels are advised to report any incidents immediately to coalition naval vessels on VHF Channel 16, the 5th Fleet Battle Watch via phone at +973-1785-3879, and email details to: CUSNC.BWC@ME.NAVY.MIL

RMI flagged commercial vessels bound for the Strait of Hormuz in either direction are encouraged to contact the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping Watch at least two days prior to transit at: CUSNC.NCAGS_BW@ME.NAVY.MIL or +973-3904-9583.

All suspicious activities and events must be reported by RMI flagged commercial vessels to the RMI Maritime Administrator at dutyofficer@register-iri.com and shipsecurity@register-iri.com.

Supplemental information may also be found on the [RMI Maritime Security web page](#).