

MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.
"CONNECTING YOUR BUSINESS TO THE MARITIME RESOURCES YOU NEED"



TECHNICAL SERVICE CIRCULAR No. 14/2021, Date: 28/09/2021
Subject: "U.S. MARAD Maritime Security Revised Advisory (2021-009)"

Summary: The current T.S.C. reports upon the issuance by U.S. MARAD of a revised advisory to US flagged commercial vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean.

Background

1. The U.S. MARAD, in continuing to closely monitor international developments within the field of maritime security, issued a revised advisory to US flagged commercial vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean^[1].
2. As per the recently revised advisory U.S. MARAD warns that regional conflict, heightened military activity, and increased political tensions continue to pose threats to merchant vessels operating in these geographical areas. It further states that threats may come from a number of different sources including, but not limited to, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), limpet mines, explosive boats, and pirates. With little or no warning, vessels operating in these areas may also encounter navigation or communication disruptions, such as GPS interference, AIS spoofing, and bridge-to-bridge communications spoofing.
3. On a policy level the U.S. Administration underlines that while some recent incidents may have targeted specific merchant vessels due to their association with certain countries, individuals, or companies, not all were, and the potential remains for miscalculation or misidentification that could lead to aggressive actions against non-associated merchant vessels.
4. MARAD recommends vessels operating in this area to review their security measures, ensure their AIS is transmitting at all times (except in extraordinary circumstances, consistent with the provisions of SOLAS), and monitor VHF Channel 16. In addition to the above, it is strongly suggested to a/ conduct a pre-voyage risk assessment and incorporate appropriate protective measures into their vessel security plans, b/ take advice from available industry guidances, and c/ consider recommended risk mitigating measures published by BIMCO, ICS, Intertanko, Intercargo and OCIMF in January 2021.

Service Offered by M.A.C.

5. M.A.C. S.A. within the existing framework for detailed monitoring of international legal and governmental developments on maritime security will continue to provide both to International Registries and individual entrepreneurs state of the art guidance and focused advice towards securing efficient and sustainable maritime operations.

[1] 2021-009-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threats to Commercial Vessels, <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/2021-009-persian-gulf-strait-hormuz-gulf-oman-arabian-sea-gulf-aden-bab-al-mandeb-strait-red>



MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.

"SIMPLIFYING YOUR MARITIME NEEDS"

Tel: +30 2104287112 | **Email:** mac-gr@otenet.gr

Address: Notara Str. 110-112, Piraeus, 18535, Greece

Web: www.mac.com.gr

