

ATALANTA	<b>MARITIME SECURITY OFF YEMEN COAST THREAT UPDATE</b>	22 FEBRUARY 2024
<p>The ATALANTA Threat Update is issued to keep the maritime industry informed about recent events in the South Red Sea (SRS) and West Gulf of Aden (GOA). It includes updates on the situation, assessments and recommendations.</p> <p>For reporting mistakes or updates, please contact <a href="mailto:jocwatchkeeper@mschoa.org">jocwatchkeeper@mschoa.org</a> or call Tel: +34 956 470 534, Mob: +34661442365.</p>		

### 1/Maritime Security Events

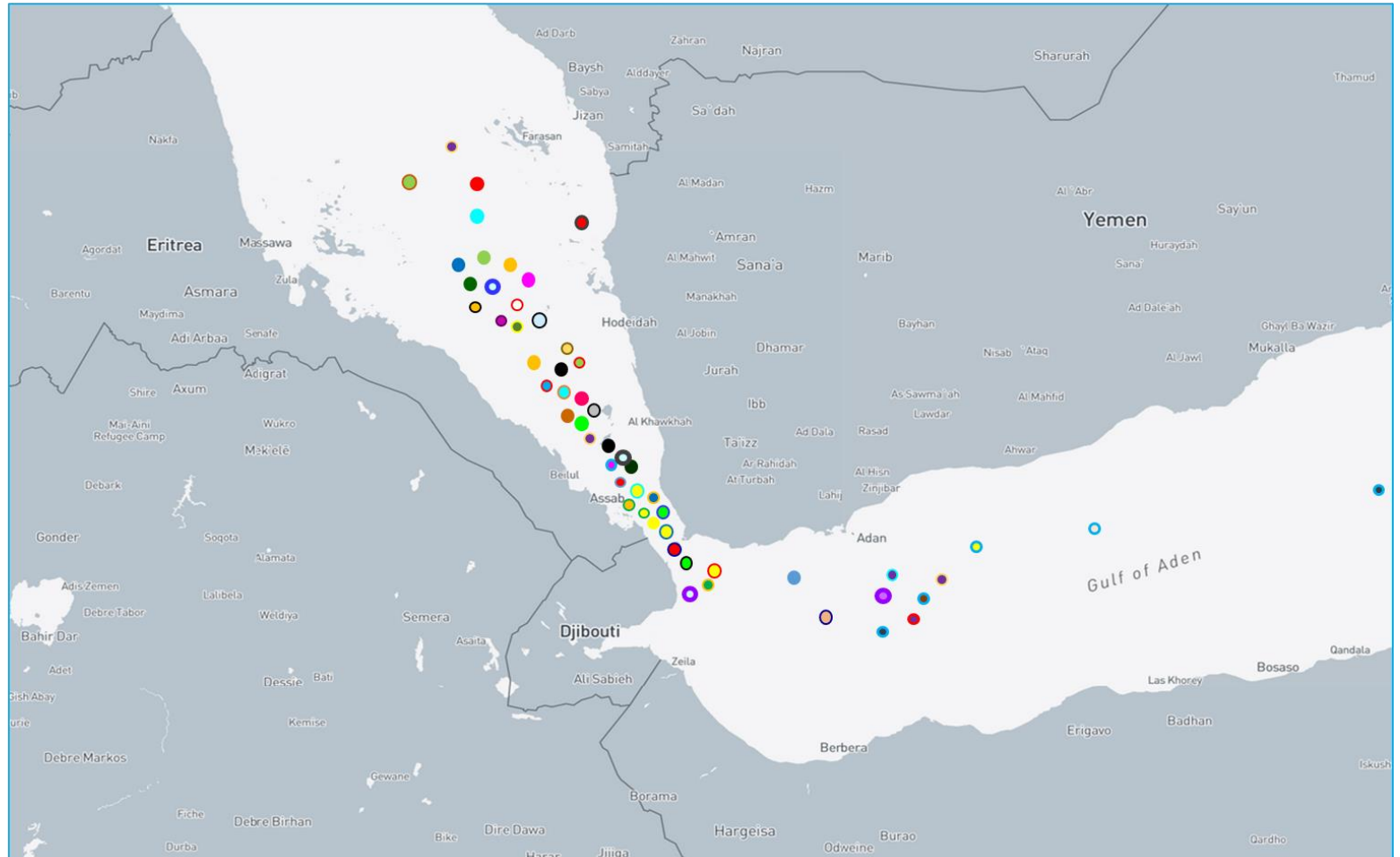
DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	MMSI	FLAG	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
19-nov-23	GALAXY LEADER	311408000	BAHAMAS	1450N 04155E	HIJACKED
22-nov-23	ALMERAJ1	422170620	IRAN	PUNTLAND	ARMED ROBBERY / HIJACKED
27-nov-23	CENTRAL PARK	636016933	LIBERIA	1417N 04205E	PIRATE ATTACK
27-nov-23	MSC AMBRA	352269000	PANAMA	1445N 04148E	DRONE INCIDENT
03-dec-23	NUMBER 9	373044000	PANAMA	1521N 04141E	THREATENING ON CH 16
03-dec-23	AOM SOPHIE II	374462000	PANAMA	1358N 04218E	MISSILE FIRE EXPERIENCE
03-dec-23	UNITY EXPLORER	311000552	BAHAMAS	1325N 04240E	MISSILE/DRONE
06-dec-23	DIANELLA	636020822	LIBERIA	1425N 04212E	DRONE SIGHTING
09-dec-23	M/T PANTA REI	352003147	PANAMA	1401N 04155E	THREATENING ON CH 16
10-dec-23	M/V CENTAURUS LEADER	565503000	SINGAPORE	1449N 04147E	DRONE ATTACK - MISSED
				1452N 04146E	DRONE ATTACK - MISSED
11-dec-23	STRINDA	259096000	NORWAY	1317N 04259E	DRONE/MISSILE ATTACK
11-dec-23	ICARIUS	538007770	MARSHALL IS.	1322N 04245E	DRONES SIGHTING
13-dec-23	ARDMORE ENCOUNTER	538005093	MARSHALL IS.	1447N 04158E	ATTEMPTED BOARDING
14-dec-23	MAERSK GIBRALTAR	477636200	HONG KONG	1329N 04236E	POSSIBLE MISSILE ATTACK MISSED
15-dec-23	MSC ALANYA	636021123	LIBERIA	IVO BAB EL MANDEB	THREATENING ON CH 16
15-dec-23	AL JASRAH	636093137	LIBERIA	1407N 04216E	POSSIBLE MISSILE ATTACK
15-dec-23	MSC PALATIUM III	636018562	LIBERIA	1308N 04253E	EXPLOSION ONBOARD POSSIBLE HOUTHIS RELATED ATTACK
18-dec-23	MSC CLARA	374766000	PANAMA	1249N 04310E	EXPLOSION NEAR VESSEL
18-dec-23	MAGIC VELA	538009445	MARSHALL IS.	1310N 04304E	ATTEMPTED BOARDING
18-dec-23	GREEN TRADER	538006444	MARSHALL IS.	1216N 04356E	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
18-dec-23	SWAN ATLANTIC	319113500	CAYMAN IS.	1319N 04247E	MISSILE/DRONE ATTACK
23-dec-23	MT BLAAMANEN	258012000	NORWAY	1440N 04153E	MISSILE/DRONE ATTACK
25-dec-23	MV MARIONA	677085700	TANZANIA	1524N 04147E	THREATENING ON CH 16
25-dec-23	NAVIG8 MONTIEL	636022835	LIBERIA	50NM WEST OF HODEYDAH	DRONE ATTACK - MISSED
25-dec-23	MSC UNITED VIII	636012807	LIBERIA	60NM SE OF HODEYDAH	DRONE ATTACK - MISSED
31-dec-23	MAERSK HANGZHOU	563042200	SINGAPORE	60NM NW OF HODEYDAH	SHOTS FROM SMALL BOATS
02-jan-24	CMA/CJM TAGE	229988000	MALTA	33NM EAST OF ASSAB	3 EXPLOSIONS OBSERVED
04-jan-24	-	-	-	RED SEA	USV WITH EXPLOSIVES LAUNCHED BY HOUTHIS
06-jan-24	RONG LIN WAN	563026200	SINGAPORE	50NM SOUTH MOCHA	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH INCLUDING USV
06-jan-24	USS LABOON	-	-	RED SEA	UAV SHOT DOWN
09-jan-24	CARAVOS HARMONY	538004825	MARSHALL IS.	SOUTHERN RED SEA	UAS LAUNCHED BY HOUTHIS. SHOT DOWN BY WARSHIPS
09-jan-24	FEDERAL MASAMUNNE	563138700	SINGAPORE	SOUTHERN RED SEA	3 SUSPICIOUS SMALL VESSELS FIRED MISSILES

12-jan-24	KHALISSA	352003056	Panama	GOA – 90nm South East of ADEN	A MISSILES LAUNCHED MISSED M/V BY 500 mts
14-jan-24	ORCHID RISING	352892000	Panama	BAB AL MANDAB ST.	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
15-jan-24	GIBRALTAR EAGLE	538006171	Marshall Islands	1223N 04644E	HIT BY MISSILE
16-jan-24	ZOGRAFIA	248185000	Malta	1341N 04235E	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
				1616N 04104E	HIT BY MISSILE
16-jan-24	PANDA	538009966	Marshall Islands	1316N 04301E	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
17-jan-24	GENCO PICARDY	538002841	Marshall Islands	1159N 04535E	DRONE ATTACK
18-jan-24	GENCO PICARDY	538002841	Marshall Islands	1324N 05007E	DRONE SIGHTINGS
18-jan-24	CHEM RANGER	583004628	Marshall Islands	115NM SOUTH EAST OAF ADEN	DRONE ATTACK – MISSED
24-jan-24	TOMAHAWK	636017853	Liberia	1621N 04046E	DRONE ATTACK – MISSED
24-jan-24	MAERSK DETROIT	338474000	USA	50 nm South Al Mukha	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED
	MAERSK CHESAPEAK	338775000	USA		
26-jan-24	UNKNOWN VESSEL	-	-	60 nm SOUTH WEST ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK- SHOT DOWN BY USS CARNEY
26-jan-24	MARLIN LUANDA	538007848	Marshall Islands	60 nm SOUTH EAST ADEN	HIT BY MISSILE
28-jan-24	HMS DIAMOND			144 nm NWest AL HODEYDAH	UAV LAUNCHED TOWARDS FRIGATE. WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE FRIGATE
30-jan-24	-	-	-	RED SEA	One anti-ship cruise missile shot down
31-jan-24	MV KOI	-	-	GULF OF ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK – SHOT DOWN
31-jan-24	USS CARNEY	-	-	GULF OF ADEN	1 ANTI-SHIP CRUISE MISSILES AND 3 UAV:s SHOT DOWN
01-feb-24	USS warship	-	-	57NM west of HODEYDAH	1 ANTI-SHIP CRUISE MISSILES SHOT DOWN
02-feb-24	DAFFODIL	403127000	Saudi Arabia	1502N 04147E	DRONE ATTACK – MISSED
06-feb-24	MORNING TIDE	314617000	Barbados	57NM West of AL HODEYDAH	A MISSILES LAUNCHED MISSED M/V BY 30m
06-feb-24	STAR NASIA	538002633	Marshall Islands	50NM South of ADEN	EXPLOSION OBSERVED APPROX. 50m FROM THE M/V
06-feb-24	USS LABOON	-	-	Western GULF OF ADEN	1 ANTI-SHIP BALLISTIC MISSILE SHOT DOWN
12-feb-24	M/V STAR IRIS	538002041	Marshall Islands	BAB AL MANDAB ST. 1245N 04315E	MISSILE ATTACK HIT ON SB SIDE
13-feb-24	USS warship	-	-	South BAB	SIGHTING OF MISSILES SOUTH OF BAB
15-feb-24	MV LYCAVITOS	9368857	Barbados	GOA – 85nm East Aden	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED
16-feb-24	MV POLLUX	9243320	Panama	1404N 04216E	HIT BY MISSILE
18-feb-24	MV RUBYMAR	9138898	Belize	35NM S of Al Mukha – BAM-S	HIT BY MISSILE FLOODING CONFIRMED. VESSEL WAS ABANDONED
19-feb-24	MV SEA CHAMPION	9299915	Greece	BAB AL MANDAB ST. 1232.N 04636E	MISSILE ATTACK – MINOR DAMAGES
19-feb-24	MV ANYA	212539000	Cyprus	90 NM W of AL JIZAN	DRONE SIGHTINGS
19-feb-24	MV NAVIS FORTUNA	538009155	Marshall Islands	60 NM N OF DIJBOUTI	HIT BY MISSILE

20-feb-24	USS LABOON	-	-	1557N 04117E	SHOT DOWN 1 ASCM
20-feb-24	FS ALSACE	-	-	1334N 04238E	SHOT DOWN 2 UAV's
22-feb-24	ISLANDER	9136565	Palau	1215N 04554E	HIT BY MISSILE. FIRE ON BOARD. ONE PERSON INJURED.

## 2/Attack chart

Pos	Event	Pos	Event
●	Galaxy Leader	●	ZOGRAFIA (2 times)
●	Central Park	●	PANDA
●	MSC Ambra	●	DESH ABHIMAAN
●	Number 9	●	GENCO PICARDY
●	AOM Sohpie II	●	CHEM RANGER
●	Unity Explorer	●	MAERSK DETROIT
●	Drone shot down	●	UNKNOWN M/V
●	Panta Rei	●	MARLIN LUANDA
●	Centaurus Leader	●	DAFFODIL
●	Drone hit Strinda	●	M/V MORNING TIDE
●	Drones over Icarus	●	M/V STAR NASIA
●	Ardmore Encounter	●	M/V STAR IRIS
●	Maersk Gibraltar	●	M/V LYCAVYTOS
●	MSC Alanya	●	M/V POLLUX
●	Al Jasrah	●	M/V RUBYMAR
●	MSC Palatium III	●	M/V SEA CHAMPION
●	MSC CLARA	●	MV ANYA
●	MAGIC VELA	●	MV NAVIS FORTUNA
●	GREEN TRADER	●	ASCM SHOT DOWN
●	SWAN ATLANTIC	●	UAV SHOT DOWN
●	MT BLAAMANEN	●	ISLANDER
●	NAVIG8 MONTIEL		
●	MSC UNITED VIII		
●	MAERSK HANGZHOU		
●	CMA CGM TAGE		
●	RONG LIN WAN		
●	USV LAUNCHED		
●	UAV SHOT DOWN		
●	UAV SHOT DOWN		
●	UAV AND MISSILES FIRED		
●	KHALISSA		
●	ORCHID RISING		
●	GIBRALTAR EAGLE		





### 3/Last cases

On Feb 15, at 1335 UTC, M/V LYCAVITOS reported an attack conducted with a missile that exploded 100mts from the ship that reported minor damages.

On Feb 16, MV POLLUX reported was attacked by 3 missiles, minimal damage, no smoke and no injuries in position 14 04N - 042 16E with 2 skiffs approaching port side.

On Feb 18, MV RUBYMAR hit by missile, partially sunk was abandoned by the crew, in BAM 35NM S of Al Mukha.

On Feb 19, MV SEA CHAMPION reported an attack at 1130 UTC conducted with a missile that exploded 50mts starboard side reporting minor damages.

On FEB 19, MV ANYA was sighting by 2 drones, 90NM W of Al Jizan.

On FEB 19, MV NAVIS FORTUNA reported was attacked by drone, minimal damage and no injuries, 60NM N of Djibouti.

On FEB 20, USS LABOON shot down 1 ASCM in position 15 57N – 041 17E.

On FEB 20, FS ALSACE shot down 2 UAV's in position 13 34N – 042 38E.

On FEB 22, ISLANDER hit by 2 missiles, fire on board, one person injured in position 12 15N – 045 54E.

### 4/Assessment

#### Most probable scenario – updated on the 19JAN 2024

The Houthis are anticipated to persist in targeting vessels associated with Israeli interests along the Yemeni coast, particularly in the southern Red Sea and the western part of the Gulf of Aden. The term "Israel interest" encompasses the ship's flag, owner, operator, and cargo. Recent developments may also prompt them to focus on ships from other nations, notably the US and UK. However, the specific connections they will exploit between these ships and these nations remain unclear.

Moreover, the increasing number of ships being targeted, despite no apparent evidence of a link with any of these countries, underscores the notion that any ship is susceptible to Houthi targeting. Additionally, there are indications that the Houthis might be capitalizing on outdated information regarding ship ownership in certain instances.

Houthis' attack is expected to predominantly involve drones and missiles. The attack sequence may commence with a VHF communication instructing the vessel to alter its course towards a harbor under Houthi control. Failure to comply could result in a kinetic assault. The direct boarding attempts, observed in previous instances, might not be repeated, given the robust U.S. kinetic response to the Maersk Hangzhou boarding attempt. Nevertheless, the resurgence of skiffs harassing merchant navy ships in the vicinity of the BAM indicates the potential reimplementation of the boarding approach.

Drone and missile attacks shall frequently occur along the primary navigation route off the coast of Yemen, spanning the South Red Sea and the Bab el Mandeb (BAM). Additionally, in recent days, the BAM itself has become a focal point for such attacks and will probably remains so. Skiff harassment will predominantly concentrated in the vicinity of the BAM.

### Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the current situation and may not guarantee success. These suggestions will be updated as necessary.

For Israeli-related ships sailing off the Yemen coast in the Red Sea and West GOA :

- Taking into account the risk balance between Safety and Security, consider minimizing information in the AIS data fields.
- Prefer night transit in the South Red Sea to avoid identification by skiffs or other supporting assets.

For all ships sailing off Yemen coasts:

- Choose routes far from the Yemeni coast (particularly avoiding the traffic separation scheme east of the Hanish Islands) and make a wide detour around the southern islands of the Red Sea.
- Only essential crew should remain on the navigation deck.
- Crewmembers should stay as far away as possible from the outside walls of the ship.
- Conduct a fire drill before reaching the Yemen coasts to check safety equipment.
- Register with MSCHOA (Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa).

US CENTCOM recommends that U.S. flag and U.S. owned commercial vessels remain North of 18N in the Red Sea or East of 46E in the Gulf of Aden until further notice (ref. US Maritime Alert 2024-001B).