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ASPIDES	MARITIME SECURITY OFF YEMEN COAST THREAT UPDATE (10 th WEEK of 2024)	10 0700 UTC - 11 0700 UTC MAR 2024
The ASPIDES 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. For reporting mistakes or updates, please contact MSChOA at postmaster@mschoa.org or call Tel: +33 298220220 or +33 298220170 .		

1/Maritime Security Events

INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
1	19-NOV-23	GALAXY LEADER	1450N 04155E	HIJACKED
2	22-NOV-23	ALMERAJ1	PUNTLAND	ARMED ROBBERY / HIJACKED
3	27-NOV-23	CENTRAL PARK	1417N 04205E	PIRATE ATTACK
4	27-NOV-23	MV	1445N 04148E	UAV INCIDENT
5	03-DEC-23	MV	1521N 04141E	THREATENING ON CH 16
6	03-DEC-23	MV	1358N 04218E	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT AND EXPERIENCED A FIRE ONBOARD
7	03-DEC-23	MV	1325N 04240E	UAV/MISSILE ATTACK
8	06-DEC-23	MV	1425N 04212E	UAV SIGHTING
9	09-DEC-23	MV	1401N 04155E	THREATENING ON CH 16
10	10-DEC-23	MV	1449N 04147E	UAV ATTACK - MISSED
11	10-DEC-23	MV	1452N 04146E	UAV ATTACK - MISSED
12	11-DEC-23	MV	1317N 04259E	UAV/MISSILE ATTACK
13	11-DEC-23	MV	1322N 04245E	UAV SIGHTING
14	13-DEC-23	MV	1447N 04158E	ATTEMPTED BOARDING
15	14-DEC-23	MV	1329N 04236E	MISSILE ATTACK - MISSED



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
16	15-DEC-23	MV	IVO BAB EL MANDEB	THREATENING ON CH 16
17	15-DEC-23	MV	1407N 04216E	MISSILE ATTACK
18	15-DEC-23	MV	1308N 04253E	EXPLOSION ONBOARD POSSIBLE HOUTH RELATED ATTACK
19	18-DEC-23	MV	1249N 04310E	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED. EXPLOSION NEAR VESSEL
20	18-DEC-23	MV	1310N 04304E	ATTEMPTED BOARDING
21	18-DEC-23	MV	1216N 04356E	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
22	18-DEC-23	MV	1319N 04247E	MISSILE/UAV ATTACK
23	23-DEC-23	MV	1440N 04153E	MISSILE/UAV ATTACK
24	25-DEC-23	MV	1524N 04147E	THREATENING ON CH 16
25	25-DEC-23	MV	50NM WEST OF HODEYDAH	UAV ATTACK - MISSED
26	25-DEC-23	MV	60NM SE OF HODEYDAH	UAV ATTACK - MISSED
27	31-DEC-23	MV	60NM NW OF HODEYDAH	SHOTS FROM SMALL BOATS
28	02-JAN-24	MV	33NM EAST OF ASSAB	3 EXPLOSIONS OBSERVED
29	04-JAN-24	MV	RED SEA	USV ATTACK
30	06-JAN-24	MV	50NM SOUTH MOCHA	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/USV PRESENCE
31	06-JAN-24	US WARSHIP	RED SEA	UAV - SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
32	09-JAN-24	MV	SOUTHERN RED SEA	UAS ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY WARSHIP



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
33	09-JAN-24	MV	SOUTHERN RED SEA	3 SUSPICIOUS SMALL VESSELS FIRED MISSILES
34	12-JAN-24	MV	GOA – 90NM SOUTH EAST OF ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK - MISSED MV BY 500 MTS
35	14-JAN-24	MV	BAB AL MANDAB ST.	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
36	15-JAN-24	MV	1223N 04644E	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV
37	16-JAN-24	MV	1341N 04235E	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
38	16-JAN-24	MV	1616N 04104E	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV
39	16-JAN-24	MV	1316N 04301E	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
40	17-JAN-24	MV	1159N 04535E	UAV ATTACK
41	18-JAN-24	MV	1324N 05007E	UAV SIGHTING
42	18-JAN-24	MV	115NM SOUTH EAST OAF ADEN	UAV ATTACK – MISSED
43	24-JAN-24	MV	1621N 04046E	UAV ATTACK – MISSED
44	24-JAN-24	MV	50 NM SOUTH AL MUKHA	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED
45	24-JAN-24	MV	50 NM SOUTH AL MUKHA	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED
46	26-JAN-24	MV	60 NM SOUTH WEST ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
47	26-JAN-24	MV	60 NM SOUTH EAST ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV
48	28-JAN-24	HMS WARSHIP	144 NM NWEST AL HODEYDAH	UAV ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY THE WARSHIP
49	30-JAN-24	MV	RED SEA	ASCM ATTACK - SHOT DOWN



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
50	31-JAN-24	MV	GULF OF ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK - SHOT DOWN
51	31-JAN-24	US WARSHIP	GULF OF ADEN	ASCM ATTACK - SHOT DOWN
52	31-JAN-24	US WARSHIP	GULF OF ADEN	3 UAV ATTACK - SHOT DOWN
53	01-FEB-24	US WARSHIP	57NM WEST OF HODEYDAH	ASCM ATTACK - SHOT DOWN
54	02-FEB-24	MV	1502N 04147E	UAV ATTACK - MISSED
55	06-FEB-24	MV	57NM WEST OF AL HODEYDAH	1 MISSILE ATTACK - MISSED BY 30M
56	06-FEB-24	MV	50NM SOUTH OF ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED. EXPLOSION APPROX. 50M FROM THE MV
57	06-FEB-24	US WARSHIP	WESTERN GULF OF ADEN	ASBM ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
58	12-FEB-24	MV	BAB AL MANDAB ST. 1245N 04315E	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV ON SB SIDE
59	13-FEB-24	US WARSHIP	SOUTH BAB	SIGHTING OF MISSILES SOUTH OF BAB
60	15-FEB-24	MV	GOA – 85NM EAST ADEN	MISSILE ATTACK – MISSED
61	16-FEB-24	MV	1404N 04216E	MISSILE ATTACK – HIT MV
62	18-FEB-24	MV RUBYMAR	35NM S OF AL MUKHA – BAM-S	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV. VESSEL WAS ABANDONED, NOW ADRIFT OFF YEMENI COASTS
63	19-FEB-24	MV	BAB AL MANDAB ST. 1232N 04636E	MISSILE ATTACK – MINOR DAMAGES
64	19-FEB-24	MV	90 NM W OF AL JIZAN	UAV SIGHTING



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
65	19-FEB-24	MV	60 NM N OF DIJBOUTI	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV
66	20-FEB-24	US WARSHIP	1557N 04117E	1 ASCM ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
67	20-FEB-24	FRA WARSHIP	1334N 04238E	2 UAVS PRESENCE –SHOT DOWN BY FRA WARSHIP
69	22-FEB-24	US WARSHIP & AIRPLANE	RED SEA	6 UAV PRESENCE - SHOT DOWN BY US CENTCOM FORCES
71	22-FEB-24	FRA WARSHIP	GULF OF ADEN	2 UAV PRESENCE – SHOT DOWN BY FRA WARSHIP
74	22-FEB-24	MV	1215N 04554E	1 MISSILE ATTACK - HIT MV. FIRE ONBOARD WAS PUT OUT. ONE PERSON INJURED. SHIP CONTINUED ITS VOYAGE.
78	24-FEB-24	MV	GULF OF ADEN	1 ASCM ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
80	25-FEB-24	MV	RED SEA	3 UAVs SIGHTING. 2 UAV SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
84	27-FEB-24	MV	1429N 04205E	UAV ATTACK - SHOT DOWN BY FSS WARSHIP
85	27-FEB-24	US WARSHIP	RED SEA	5 UAV SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
86	27-FEB-24	MV	1500N, 04157E	SHIP REPORT MISSILE WAS SIGHTED, EXPLODED IN THE WATER 3-5 NM FROM SHIP
88	29-FEB-24	US WARSHIP	SOUTH RED SEA	1 UAV SHOT DOWN BY US WARSHIP
89	01-MAR-24	US WARSHIP	RED SEA	1 ASBM ATTACK - MISSED
91	02-MAR-24	MV RUBYMAR	13-21.19N, 042- 57.64E	SUNK 02 0215 MAR 24 - (HIT BY MISSILE 18FEB24)
92	02-MAR-24	IT WARSHIP	RED SEA	1 UAV SHOT DOWN
93	03-MAR-24	MV	1453N, 04204E	1 ASBM ATTACK - MISSED



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
			10NM FROM US WARSHIP	
94	04-MAR-24	MV	91 NM SE ADEN	2 EXPLOSIONS. CASUALTIES UNKNOWN
97	5-MAR-24	US WARSHIP	RED SEA	1 ASBM AND 3 UAV ATTACK - MISSILE AND UAV SHOT DOWN
99	5-MAR-24	MV	21 02 N 061 54 E (EAST OF THE COAST OF OMAN)	FAST CRAFT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR AND PURSUIT FOR ALMOST AN HOUR.
100	6-MAR-24	MV TRUE CONFIDENCE	50 NM SW OF ADEN	HAILED OVER VHF FOR 30 MINUTES BY ENTITY DECLARED TO BE YEMEN NAVY
101	6-MAR-24	MV TRUE CONFIDENCE	1149N 04438E	MISSILE ATTACK - HIT BY MISSILES. CREW EVACUATED THE MV
102	7-MAR-24	US WARSHIP	GULF OF ADEN	SHOT DOWN 3 UAV
103	8-MAR-24	MV	120442N 0452306E	2 ASBM ATTACK – MISSED. VESSEL & CREW SAFE
104	9-MAR-24	FRA WARSHIP & AIRCRAFT	GULF OF ADEN	4 UAV SHOT DOWN
105	9-MAR-24	US & COALITION WARSHIPS & AIRCRAFT	RED SEA & GULF OF ADEN	28 UAV SHOT DOWN



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ABBREVIATIONS	
ASBM	Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile
ASCM	Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
MV	Merchant Vessel
OWA	One Way Attack
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle



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2/ In Details

- On **Mar 01**, US CENTCOM report the Houthis launched one ASBM from Yemen into the Red Sea. There was no impact or damage to any vessels.
- On **Mar 02**, Italian Ministry of Defense reported that IT warship shot down 1 UAV in Red Sea.
- On **Mar 02**, US CENTCOM reported MV Rubymar, a Belize-flagged bulk carrier sank in the Red Sea after being struck by anti-ship ballistic missile on Feb 18.
- On **Mar 03**, Houthis launched an ASBM from Yemen territory with impact in position 1453N,04204E, 10 Nm from a US Warship.
- On **Mar 04**, a merchant vessel reported 1 explosion 750 meters approximately of the port quarter, and 1 explosion on the starboard side of the bridge. Casualties unknown, crew relocating to the citadel.
- On **Mar 05**, between the hours of 05 1200 UTC and 05 1400 UTC, CENTCOM forces shot down one ASBM and three OWA UAS launched from Houthi controlled areas of Yemen toward US WARSHIP in the Red Sea. There are no injuries or damage to the ship.
- On **Mar 05**, according to MSCHOA at 1420 UTC, a merchant vessel reported being suspiciously approached in position 2102N, 06154E (east of the coast of Oman). The vessel observed suspicious behavior by a fast craft and increased its speed to maximum. Nevertheless, it was pursued for almost an hour by the fast craft which only ceased pursuit after nightfall.
- On **Mar 06**, according to UKMTO at 06 0001 UTC, MV TRUE CONFIDENCE was hailed over VHF for 30 minutes, by an entity declaring itself to be the Yemeni Navy, ordering the merchant vessel to alter course, in the vicinity of 50 nm SW of Aden. According to MSCHOA at 0840 UTC, MV TRUE CONFIDENCE was under attack in position 1149N, 04438E. The merchant vessel was reportedly attacked, probably by missiles, about 54 nm SW of Aden, Yemen. Coalition warships contributed to the rescue and salvage operation. Some of the crew were evacuated in lifeboats. The missile attack, resulted in three fatalities, four injuries and significant damage to the ship. The crew abandoned the ship and coalition warships, including Indian warship KOLKATA responded in supporting the evacuation. In the evening of Mar 06, the bulk carrier was reported adrift with ongoing fire onboard.
- On **Mar 07**, USCENTCOM forces shot down three UAV launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden.
- On **Mar 08**, at 08 1314 UTC, 2 ASBM were launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward a merchant ship, while been 50 nm South Southeast of Aden (120442N 0452306E). The vessel, reported two explosion 200 meters from the starboard of the vessel. Vessel was not hit; vessel and crew are reported as safe and are proceeding to the next port of call.
- On **Mar 09**, between 09 0101 UTC and 09 0339 UTC, FRA Warship and aircraft shot down 4 OWA UAV, launched from Houthi controlled areas of Yemen toward the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- On **Mar 09**, between 09 0100 UTC and 09 0520 UTC, US & Coalition Warships and aircrafts shot down 28 OWA UAV, launched from Houthi controlled areas of Yemen toward the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.



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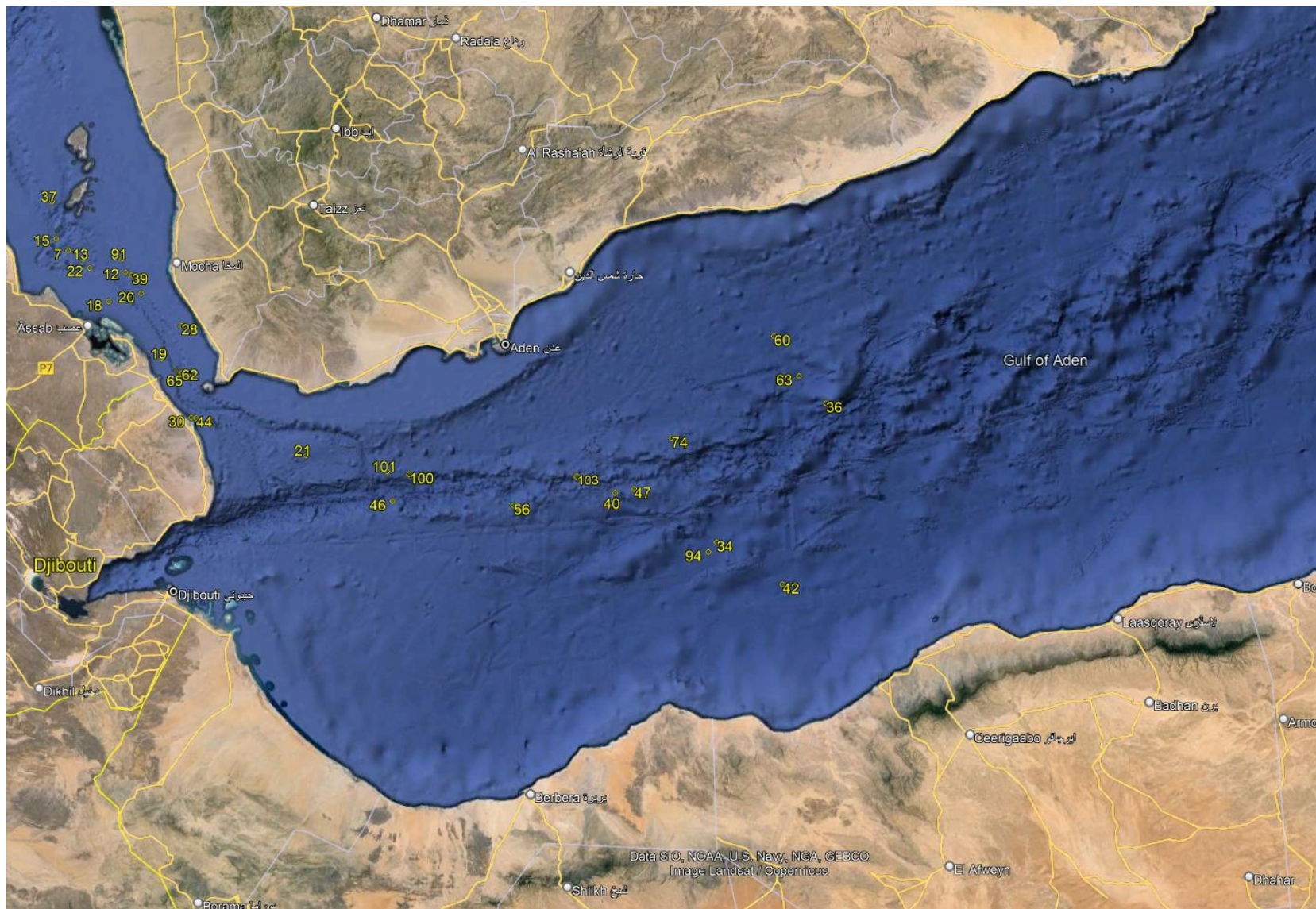


3/Attack Heat Map





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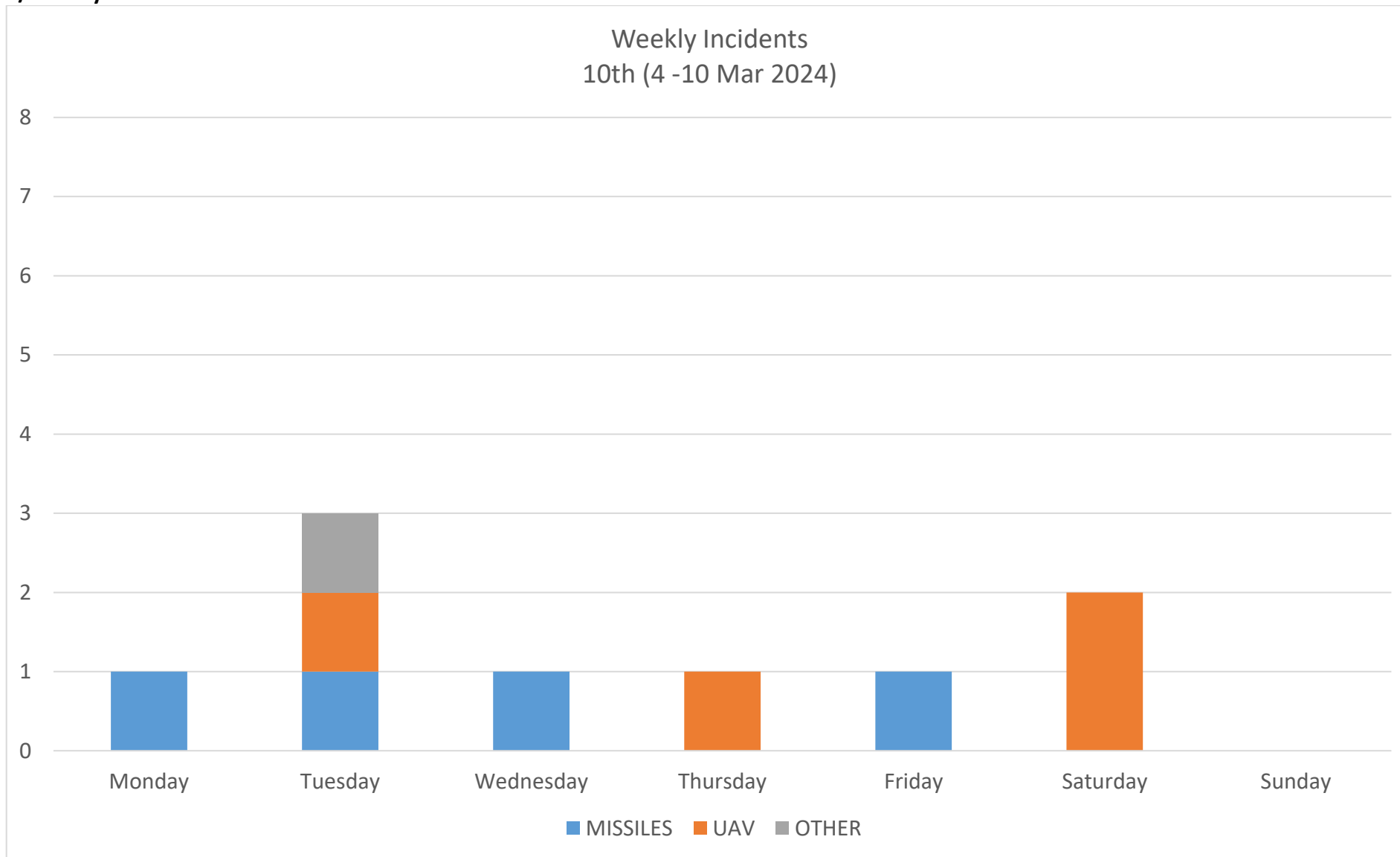




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4/Weekly Attack Chart

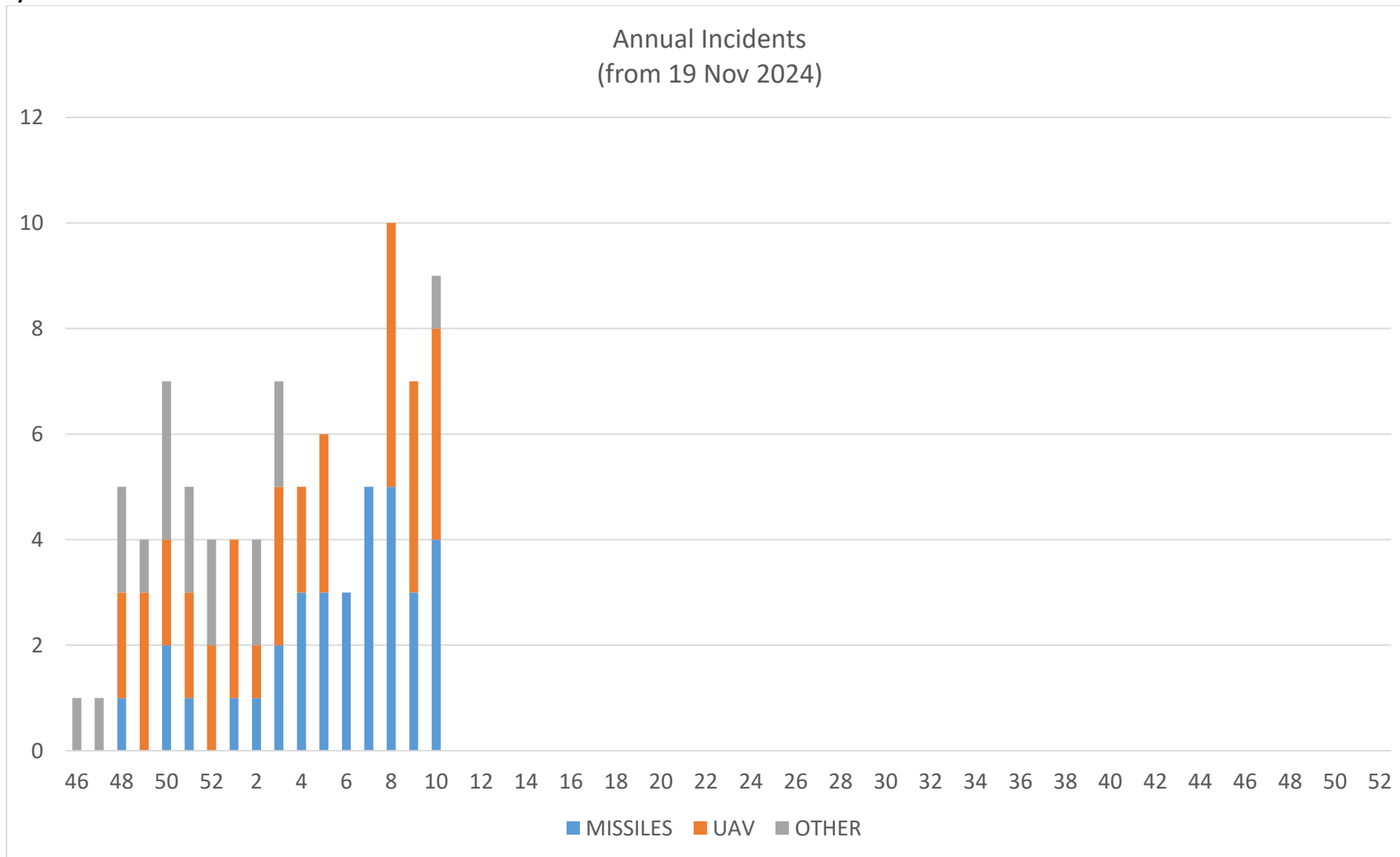




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5/Annual Attack Chart





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6/Assessment

Most probable scenario - updated on 11 Mar 2024

Houthis intent was to target "Israeli-linked" ships, and they have extended their list of targets, as a result of the airstrikes conducted by the United States and the United Kingdom starting 11th January, to include U.S. and UK-affiliated vessels.

The increasing number of ships being targeted, with 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 based on outdated information regarding ship ownership in certain instances.

Houthis' attack is expected to predominantly involve UAVs and missiles without exclude the use of USVs or even other aerial assets besides UAVs. 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 **as in the MV TRUE CONFIDENCE attack**. The direct boarding attempts, observed in previous instances, might not be repeated, given the robust U.S. kinetic response and the robust presence of EUNAVFOR ASPIDES. Nevertheless, the resurgence of skiffs harassing merchant navy ships in the vicinity of the BAM indicates a potential resurgence of the boarding approach.

UAV and missile attacks occur along the primary navigation route off the coast of Yemen, spanning the South Red Sea and the Bab el Mandeb (BAM). In recent days, the Gulf of Aden has become a focal point for such attacks and will probably remain so. Skiff harassment will predominantly be concentrated in the vicinity of the BAM.



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Recommendations - updated on 11 Mar 2024

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

Ships sailing off the Yemen coast in the Red Sea and West GOA:

- **Register with MSCHOA (Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa – mschoa.org)**
- Taking into account the risk balance between Safety and Security, consider minimizing information in the AIS data fields or have it switched off.
- Prefer night transit in the South Red Sea to avoid identification by skiffs or other supporting assets.
- 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 drills onboard prior reaching the Yemen coasts.
- Utilize random alternation of speed and heading, to evade potential attacks, insofar as safety allows.
- Update and sanitize registered ownership, management and operator data available in vessel-tracking services available to the public.
- **Consider ballasting, taking into account protection and speed considerations.**
- **Drill ISPS system in SSAS mode.**

For U.S. flag and U.S. owned commercial vessels:

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. There continues to be a high degree of risk to commercial vessels transiting the Southern Red Sea between 12N and 16N. (ref. US Maritime Alert 2024-001B).