



# EL EU OHQ EUNAVFOR « ASPIDES »



<b>ASPIDES</b>	<b>MARITIME SECURITY OFF YEMEN COAST THREAT UPDATE</b> (14 <sup>th</sup> WEEK of 2024)	<b>04 0700 UTC - 05 0700 UTC APR 2024</b>
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 <a href="mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org">postmaster@mschoa.org</a> or call Tel: <b>+33 298220220</b> or <b>+33 298220170</b> .		

## 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
16	15-DEC-23	MV	IVO BAB EL MANDEB	THREATENING ON CH 16



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
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
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



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
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
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



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INCIDENT ID	DATE	NAME OF VESSEL	POSITION	TYPE OF ATTACK
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
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



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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	1321.19N 04257.64E	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 10NM FROM US WARSHIP	1 ASBM ATTACK - MISSED
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	2102N 06154E (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- CONSEQUENCE HANDLED SUCCESSFULLY
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
107	11-MAR-24	MV	1452.1N 04131.5E	MISSILE ATTACK - UNSUCCESSFUL
109	11-MAR-24	SV	13341146N 4277478E	ATTACK BY SO CALLED CG



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110	12-MAR-24	IT WARSHIP	RED SEA	2 UAV SHOT DOWN
112	12-MAR-24	US WARSHIP	RED SEA	MISSILE/UAV ATTACK – MISSILE MISSED/2 UAV SHOT DOWN
116	14-MAR-24	MV	142435N 0421114E	2 MISSILES OBSERVED
117	15-MAR-24	MV	151239N 0414425E	MISSILE ATTACK – HIT MV NO DAMAGE – VESSEL PROCEEDING TO NEXT POC- CONSEQUENCE HANDLED SUCCESSFULLY
118	15-MAR-24	MV	153030N 0413560E	MISSILE ATTACK - MISSED
119	15-MAR-24	MV	144740N 0414780E	MISSILE ATTACK - MISSED
120	16-MAR-24	US FORCES	RED SEA	2 UAV SHOT DOWN
121	17-MAR-24	MV	121500N 0461600E	MISSILE ATTACK - MISSED
122	20-MAR-24	FRA HELICOPTER	143700N 0414700E	1 UAV SHOT DOWN
123	20-MAR-24	US FORCES	RED SEA	1 USV DESTROYED
124	21-MAR-24	GER HELICOPTER	RED SEA	1 USV DESTROYED
125	21-MAR-24	FRA WARSHIP	RED SEA	3 ASBM SHOT DOWN
126	21-MAR-24	MV	145803N 0413805E	ATEMPTED HIJACK - UNSUCCESSFUL
127	22-MAR-24	USCENTCOM	RED SEA	4 ASBM DETECTED
128	23-MAR-24	MV	132002N 0425000E	MISSILE ATTACK (5 ASBM) – 1 HIT- FIRE HANDLED BY CREW AND RESUMED NORMAL TRANSIT
129	23-MAR-24	USCENTCOM	RED SEA	6 UAV – 5 CRASHED, 1 RTB
130	30-MAR24	USCENTCOM	RED SEA	2 UAS SHOT DOWN
131	01-APR-24	USCENTCOM	RED SEA	1 USV DESTROYED
132	01-APR-24	MV	171900N 0403280E	HAILING – GUN SHOT / NO INJURIES OR DAMAGE / SHIP CONTINUED NORMAL TRANSIT
133	03-APR-24	US WARSHIP	RED SEA	1 ASBM AND 2 UAS SHOT DOWN



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<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>	
ASBM	Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile
ASCM	Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
AST	Armed Security Team
FV	Fishing Vessel
MV	Merchant Vessel
OWA	One Way Attack
PoC	Port of Call
RTB	Return To Base
SV	Sailing Vessel
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
USCENTCOM	United States Central Command
USV	Unmanned Surface Vehicle
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time



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### 2/ In Details

- On **Mar 16**, between 04:50 UTC and 05:15 UTC, Houthis launched two UAV from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward the Red Sea. USCENTCOM forces successfully engaged and destroyed one UAV and the other is presumed to have crashed into the Red Sea. There are no reports of damage or injuries from ships in the vicinity.
- On **Mar 17**, at 00:24 UTC, an MV approximately 80nm SE of Aden, reported an explosion in close proximity to the vessel. No damage has been reported and the crew are reported safe. The vessel is proceeding to its next port of call.
- On **Mar 20**, at 07:10 UTC, a FRA HELICOPTER of a FS Warship shot down a Houthi UAV, launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen towards the Red Sea.
- On **Mar 20**, at 16:40 UTC, USCENTCOM forces successfully destroyed an USV, launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen towards the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported to U.S. or coalition ships.
- On **Mar 21**, at 05 :56 UTC, the organic helicopter of a GER Warship successfully engaged and destroyed one Houthi's USV in the Red Sea.
- On **Mar 21**, between 07:41 UTC and 08:37 UTC, a FRA Warship successfully engaged and shot down three Houthi's ASBM that were launched towards the Red Sea.
- On **Mar 21**, at 07:55 UTC, 145803N 0413805E, an MV reported that a small craft with four persons on board approached to within 1 cable. AST fired warning shots and the small craft returned fire. The small craft departed the area. The crew and vessel are reported safe and they are proceeding to the next POC.
- On **Mar 22**, between approximately 01:22 UTC and 20:10 UTC, Houthi fired four ASBM from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported by U.S., coalition, or commercial ships.
- On **Mar 23**, between 11:50 UTC and 14:35 UTC, Houthis launched five ASBM into the Red Sea in the vicinity of an M/V, located at 23 nm West of Mukha, Yemen. One of the missiles struck the vessel causing minor damage and a fire on board, that was successfully extinguished within 30 minutes by the crew. Vessel and crew reported safe and is continuing to next port of call.
- On **Mar 23**, between 03:50 UTC and 06:50 UTC, USCENTOM forces, engaged six Houthi UAV over the southern Red Sea. Five crashed into the Red Sea, and one flew inland into Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.
- On **Mar 30**, at 05:30 UTC, USCENTOCM forces engaged and destroyed two Houthi UAS.
- On **Apr 01**, USCENTCOM forces successfully destroyed a Houthi unmanned surface vessel (USV).
- On **Apr 01**, at 19:56 UTC, an MV reported that 150 nm NW of Hudaydah, it was hailed by an entity claiming to be Yemen navy, who required to turn ON its AIS. Shortly after hailing, a crew member reported that it heard suspected gun shots. The vessel continued its course.
- On **Apr 03**, between 00:49 and 07:00 UTC, USS forces, engaged- destroyed one ASBM and two UAS into the Red Sea.





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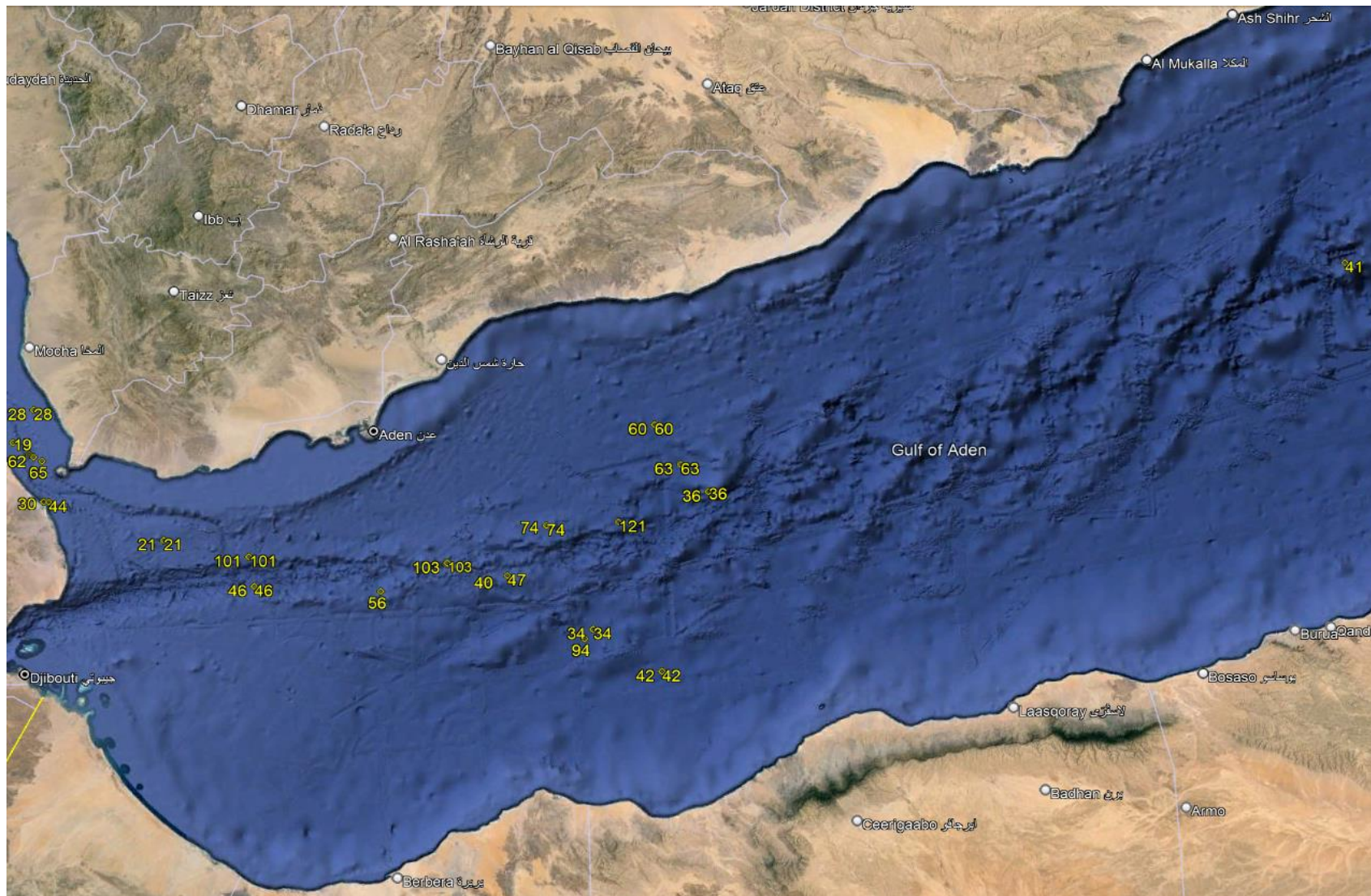
## 3/Attack Heat Map







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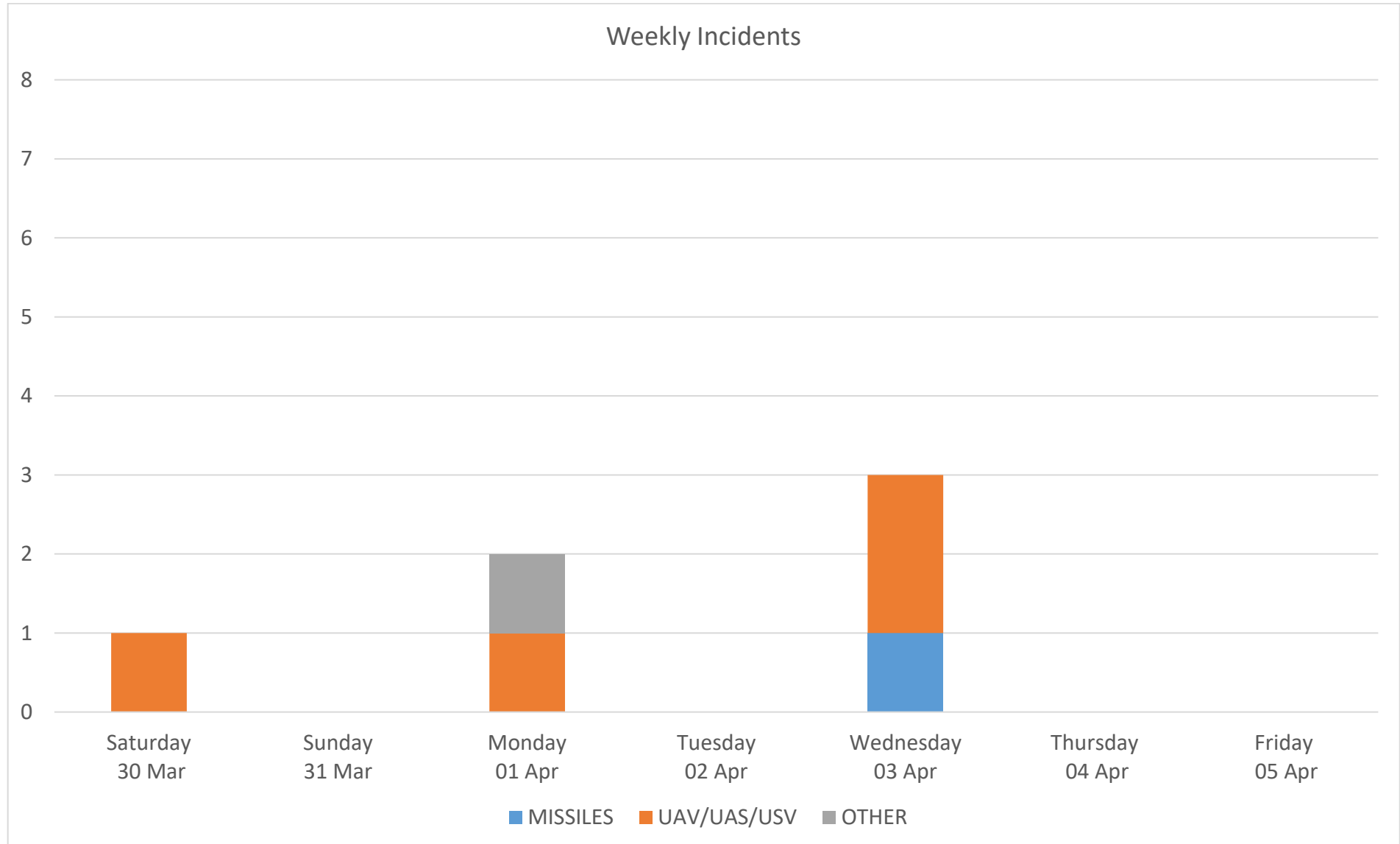




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## 4/Weekly Attack Chart

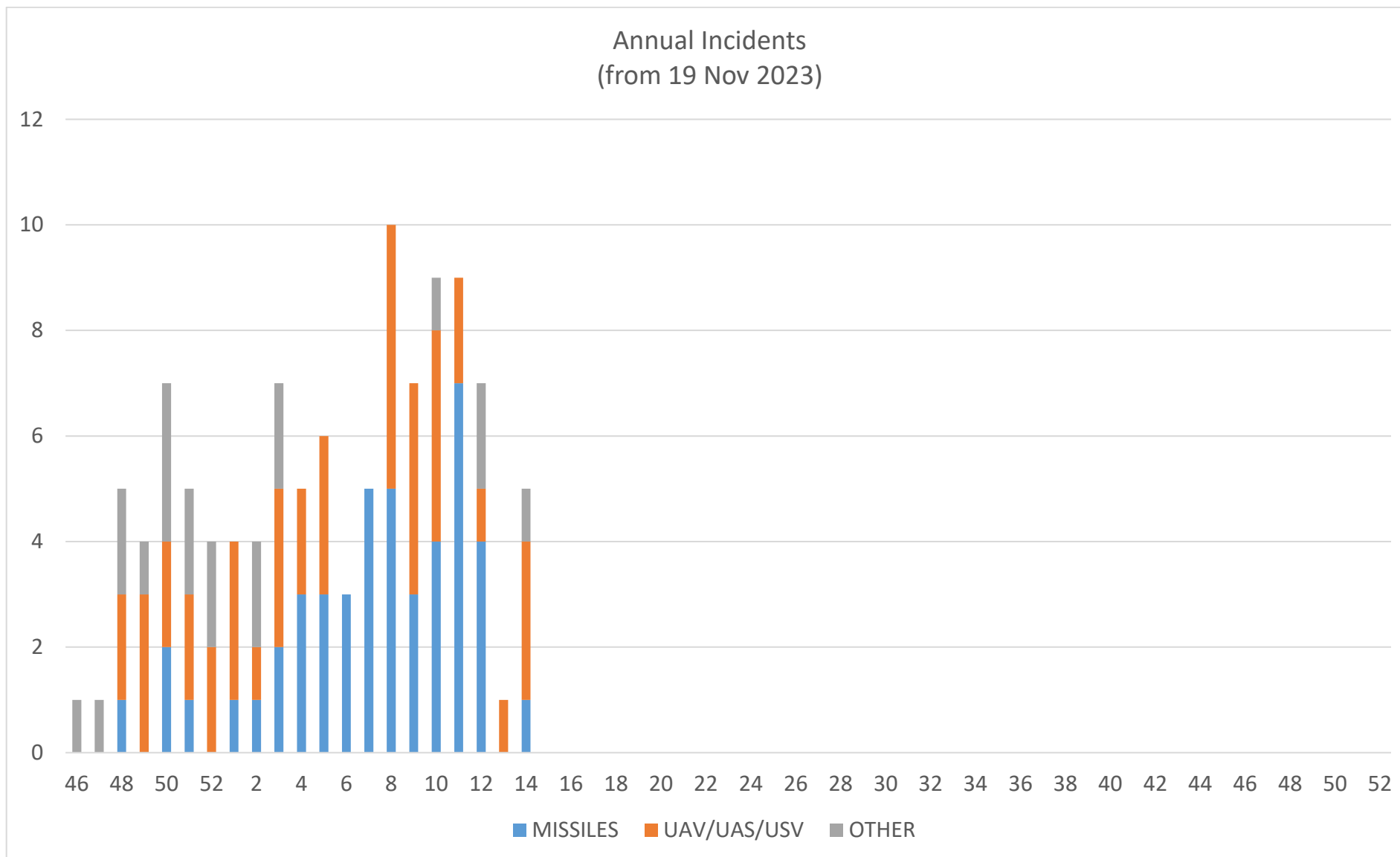




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## 5/Annual Attack Chart





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### 6/Assessment

#### Most probable scenario - updated on 16 Mar 2024

Houthi 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.

Houthi's 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 04 Apr 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 Gulf of Aden should consider :

#### **Registering and requesting protection :**

- Register with MSCHOA (Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa – [mschoa.org](https://mschoa.org) )
- If planning to ask for close protection, contact MSCHOA watchkeeper and fill the dedicated form

#### **Sailing with additional precautions :**

- Taking into account the risk balance between Safety and Security :
  - consider minimizing information in the AIS data fields or have it switched off when sailing West of meridian 48E or South of parallel 18N. Around 80% of vessels that have been hit had AIS on.
  - Prefer night transit in the South Red Sea to avoid identification by skiffs or other supporting assets. Consider switching off navigation lights.
  - Alter course and speed. Targeting can be estimated using last course and speed as reported by AIS or other sources.
- 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.
- Report anything suspicious (e.g. approaching skiffs, suspicious hailing on VHF, explosions, etc) to [postmaster@mschoa.org](mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org)  
anonymity of vessel and crew is guaranteed.

#### **Using communication systems with care :**

- Do not use VHF for communications with protecting ships but refer to direct chat systems, e-mails, satellite comms or Interco.
- Ignore VHF calls and e-mails from ‘Yemeni Navy’ or ‘Humanitarian Operations Command center’ and report them to MSCHOA ([postmaster@mschoa.org](mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org)) and UKMTO.
- Ignore orders / phone calls not coming from protecting ships, as the coordination with other security providers in the area is executed by Aspides authorities.
- Make sure that the publicly available data on commercially-provided systems e.g. MarineTraffic are updated.

#### **Preparing internal security measures :**

- Consider reviewing security plan with appropriate measures.
- 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 to approaching Yemen coasts including an SSAS test.
- Utilize random alternation of speed and heading, to evade potential attacks, insofar as safety allows.



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- Update and sanitize registered ownership, management and operator data available in vessel-tracking services available to the public.
- Consider ballasting to submerge engine room areas for protection against impacts and de-ballasting when necessary.
- In case of close protection any actions conducted by private maritime security companies (ISO 28007 A I: 2015) have to be coordinated with the commanding officer of Aspides asset who has a clearer view of tactical situation.

### ***Reporting in case of incident :***

- In the case of an incident, unmanned vehicles or suspicious activities report all available details to MSCHoA ([postmaster@mschoa.org](mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org)) and UKMTO, with recordings/pictures if possible

**U.S.-flagged commercial vessels** operating in these areas are advised to remain as far as possible from Yemen's territorial sea without compromising navigational safety. Crewmembers should be especially vigilant when at anchor, operating in restricted maneuvering conditions, or proceeding at slow speeds. - Coordinate voyage planning with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) and consider their recommendations and guidance whenever possible. NAVCENT NCAGS stands a 24-hour watch and has the latest information on the current maritime security threats and the operational environment in this region. (According US Marine Advisory 2024-001)



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