



Antigua and Barbuda Maritime Administration

2 March 2026

MARITIME SECURITY ADVISORY – 01/2026

SUBJECT: Escalated Security Risks in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman

REFERENCE: NA

TO: Ship-owners, Masters, Company Security Officers, and Ship Security Officers, Antigua and Barbuda-flagged ships.

1 INTRODUCTION

- .1 The maritime security situation in the Middle East has reached a critical threshold following military strikes and retaliatory actions involving regional and international forces as of February 28, 2026.
- .2 Commercial vessels transiting these waters face a high risk of:
 - **Kinetic Strikes:** Missile, projectile, and drone (UAV) attacks on merchant shipping.
 - **Illegal Seizures:** Boarding and detention by regional naval forces.
 - **Electronic Interference:** Sustained GPS/GNSS jamming, AIS spoofing, and contradictory VHF broadcasts claiming the "closure" of the Strait of Hormuz.
 - **Misidentification:** Heightened risk of being mistaken for a military target or an affiliated vessel of a target state.

2 SUBJECT

- .1 In accordance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, ADOMS hereby directs all Antigua and Barbuda-flagged vessels to adopt the following security levels:

Area	Recommended ISPS Level	Justification
Persian Gulf (Northern/Central)	Level 2	Heightened risk of drone activity and collateral damage from military operations.
Strait of Hormuz & Approaches	Level 3	Critical Risk. Imminent threat of seizure or projectile strike - avoidance recommended.
Gulf of Oman & North Arabian Sea	Level 2	Risk of misidentification and potential retaliatory strikes.

Note: Security Level 3 signifies that a security incident is likely or imminent. Vessels currently in or approaching the Strait of Hormuz must adopt further specific protective measures as specified in their approved Ship Security Plan (SSP).

2 Recommended Mitigation Measures

- **Standoff Distance:** Maintain a minimum distance of **30 nautical miles** from all military vessels.
- **Vigilance:** Maintain continuous bridge watchkeeping. Employ additional lookouts to spot small vessels or approaching aerial threats.
- **Communication:** Keep a continuous listening watch on VHF Channel 16. Treat any "closure" announcements from non-coalition sources with utmost caution; they are not currently legally binding but indicate high-risk zones.
- **Navigation:** If possible, consider remaining in neutral territorial waters or safe anchorages outside the high-risk zone until the situation stabilises.
- **Reporting:** Immediately notify UKMTO and MSCHOA of any suspicious activity, electronic interference, or kinetic incidents.

3 Reporting Contacts

- UKMTO: +44 2392 222060 / watchkeepers@ukmto.org

Issued by

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