



UKMTO



INFORMATION

MERCHANT VESSEL VOLUNTARY REPORTING SCHEME

The UK Royal Navy's Maritime Trade Organisation (MTO) has been established in the Middle East since late 2001 as an extension of Royal Navy operations in the region. Although the MTO team focus is in support of UK flag and UK interest shipping in the area it is available to provide support across the entire maritime industry including shipping of all flag registry and ownership. The team will remain in the Region for the foreseeable future.

In November 2002 the voluntary reporting scheme for UK interest shipping was extended to cover the Red Sea, Indian Ocean north of 5S as well as the Arabian Gulf. On a voluntary basis only, ships (of any flag or ownership) are invited to report to the Maritime Trade Operations team on passing the following reference points:

- a. Suez for vessels entering or leaving the Region via the Red Sea
- b. 5S for ships entering or leaving the Region via the Indian Ocean (SOUTH)
- c. 78E for ships entering or leaving the Region via the Indian Ocean (EAST)

The initial report should contain the following;

Ship Name

IRCS (International Radio Call Sign)

Flag

IMO number

MMSI

Inmarsat telephone number including satellite prefix

Telex and fax number

Email address

Name of Company having day-to-day management

Type of Ship

Date/time of current position course and speed

Itinerary in the region with route way points and destination port(s)

British personnel onboard (if any)

Subsequently, ships are requested to report their noon positions and speed, actual departure times and estimated arrival times at ports and destination when outward bound from the defined area. All timings are requested in **UTC** and the preferred method of communication is e-mail.

Contact numbers/details for UKMTO as follows:

E-mail	ukmto@eim.ae
Telephone	CO +971 50 552 3215
	2IC +971 50 552 6007
Fax	+971 4 306 5710
Telex	(51) 210473

The information provided is treated in strict commercial confidence and is only used within coalition military circles. Royal Navy assets in the region and Northwood Headquarters in UK are kept advised.

If further advice or guidance is required please do not hesitate to contact the UKMTO Team. Alternatively, RFA WAVEKNIGHT is also operating in the region and can be contacted as follows:

E-mail	432-ops@a.dii.mod.uk
Telephone	0044 207 807 8657



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UK Maritime Trade Operations

Operational Summary

1. UKMTO was deployed to the Middle East in October 2001 as part of the UK response to the September 11 attacks in the USA.
2. The primary role was to provide reassurance to the maritime community in the Persian Gulf and in the UK and to work towards restoring 'normality' in the industry in the face of crippling increases in War Risk Insurance Premiums (WRPs) and general nervousness regarding the prevailing security situation.
3. Activities included regular meetings with senior executives of shipping companies in the Region and provision of impartial information on security issues in the region.
4. UKMTO has continued to provide a point of contact for the industry assisting management decision making, by providing timely, informed, considered and impartial advice.
5. Close co-operation with deployed military Commands and units in the region has kept UKMTO in a central position from which to project industry-related issues and concerns particularly in the context of
 - a. Shipping operations in Iraq
 - b. Maritime Crime concerns in the Northern Persian Gulf
 - c. Maritime Crime concerns in the Horn of Africa/Red Sea region
6. Meeting with senior officers and managers across the region and conducting fact finding/briefing visits (including Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Yemen and Singapore), UKMTO has established itself as a core information base for industry contact as the "Regional Authority of Choice".
7. UKMTO runs regular industry briefings involving senior managers and officers from regional Commands and visiting warships to present information pertinent to day-to-day maritime issues in the region.
8. UK or UK Dependent territory vessels calling at the major UAE ports are visited (on an opportunity basis) by a member of the team and given a general situational briefing (as part of the reassurance mission).
9. UKMTO provides data to Coalition forces on merchant vessel movements and traffic flows
10. UKMTO is responsible for merchant ship position report management under the Voluntary Reporting Scheme (formerly the responsibility of the on-station RFA vessel). To further enhance the quality of this 'white picture' input, companies, regardless of ownership or flag registry, are invited to participate in the voluntary reporting scheme and UKMTO currently receives between 200 and 220 ship position reports daily.
11. Since April 2007 UKMTO has moved its focus towards Anti Piracy and Maritime Security Operations. The Unit is has been successfully used in a number of recent Pirate Hijackings to help the companies involved resolve the incident and see the safe return of Crew and Vessel.

Presentations on Piracy and Maritime Security (in our region) are given to organisations and conferences by the Unit Commander. For more information please contact the UKMTO team by e-mail ukmto@eim.ae or phone +971 50 552 3215.