

UKMTO ADVISORY

003-26 Update 001 - ADVISORY

Report Date:

28 Feb 2026

Report Time:

0700UTC

Issue Date:

28 Feb 2026

Source

Verified

UKMTO is aware of significant military activity in the following areas; Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz. Mariners should note the potential for elevated electronic interference, including disruption to AIS and other navigational or communications systems.

Update 001: UKMTO continues to monitor the maritime security situation amid significant military activity in the region and has received multiple reports from Company Security Officers (CSOs) of vessels operating in the Arabian Gulf stating that VHF Channel 16 broadcasts have claimed that the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) has been closed. These reports cannot be independently verified at this time.

Mariners are advised that VHF broadcasts or statements indicating closure of the Strait of Hormuz are not legally binding and do not constitute a lawful restriction on navigation under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), unless implemented and enforced in accordance with applicable legal frameworks.

There are indications of ongoing military operations in the wider region. While military forces may establish advisory or warning zones to reduce the risk of inadvertent engagement, this is not intended to impede neutral or merchant shipping, and vessels remain free to navigate international waters.

JMIC Guidance to Mariners:

- Vessels are advised to transit with caution and conduct enhanced risk assessments.
- Maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 16 and be prepared to respond to hails.
- Be alert to the risk of misidentification and the potential effects of electronic interference.
- Where practicable, vessels may consider increasing distance from military units to reduce risk.
- Report suspicious activity, kinetic activity, electronic interference, or abnormal VHF communications to UKMTO or MSCIO

The situation remains extremely dynamic, UKMTO will continue to monitor and issue further updates as information becomes available.

Vessels are advised to transit with caution and report any suspicious activity, kinetic activity, or electronic interference to UKMTO.

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