

MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS SERVICE
NOTICE TO MARINERS**NOTICE TO MARINERS**

NTM: 03/2015

ISSUE DATE: 27th April 2015

Gulf Region – U.S. Navy Forces Special Warning

BA Charts: 2858, 2847, 2883, 2886, 3788, 3790, 2523, 3738, 3737, 3736

- AA:** All operators of U.S. Flag, U.S. controlled vessels, U.S. Merchant Mariners and other maritime interests operating in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman are to be cognizant of foreign navy operations which may interfere with commercial shipping operations. This includes approaches, hails, and maneuvers which may be interpreted as harassing in nature.
- BB:** Background: At approximately 0655 Zulu, 24 April, while operating in international waters in the vicinity of 25°-42' N and 055°-16' E (approximately 17 nm off the coast of UAE and 15 nm off the coast of Abu Musa Island), M/V Maersk KENSINGTON was approached by four Iranian patrol ships and hailed over VHF. The Master did not respond to the hails. Subsequently, the Iranian vessels encircled M/V Maersk KENSINGTON and came to a position astern of the ship. At approximately 0720 Zulu, all Iranian vessels broke pursuit.
- CC:** Unusual activities or harassment observed by mariners within this region should be reported to Coalition naval vessels using Channel 16, via e-mail at cusnc.bwc@me.navy.mil or by phone 011-973-1785-3879.
- DD:** Coalition naval forces may conduct Maritime Awareness Calls, queries, and approaches in order to ensure the safety of U.S. Flag vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman.
- EE:** All U.S. Flag vessels approaching coalition naval forces are advised to maintain radio contact on bridge-to-bridge channel 16. This notice is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Source: U.S. Naval Forces / MENAS Bahrain

MENAS MARITIME OPERATIONS CENTRE

Mariners are requested to inform the Middle East Navigation Aids Service, P. O. Box 66, Manama, Bahrain immediately on the discovery of new dangers, or suspected dangers to navigation and changes or defects in aids to navigation noticed in Sub-Navarea IX - Gulf and its Approaches.

MENAS is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Service

All MENAS service users are requested to pass on valid navigational hazard information to the MENAS MARITIME OPERATIONS CENTRE in Bahrain using communications methods:

Tel: ++973 17828541 Fax: ++973 17727765 Email info@menas.com.bh

MENAS is committed to maritime safety in the region and support the standards of marine operations recommended by recommended by IALA - the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities and IMCA - the International Marine Contractors Association.

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