

June 21, 2019

E-MAIL SAFETY/SECURITY ADVISORY – 06/21/2019

MARINE SECURITY BULLETIN

Subj: OIL TANKERS ATTACKS IN THE GULF OF OMAN – GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference to Security Advisory of 13 June, 2019

Dear Owners/Operators/Company Security Officers/Masters

Subject: NEW SECURITY ADVISORY UPDATE – OIL TANKERS ATTACKED IN THE GULF OF OMAN

**Reference to Security Advisory of 13 June, 2019
Update as of 21 June, 2019**

This Advisory provides additional guidance and recommendations and supplements the referenced Advisory issued 13 June 2019 for vessels operating in the Straits of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman and Northern Persian Gulf. United States Navy Forces Central Command, Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping has issued the attached U.S. NAVCENT NCAGS Guidance to Shipping 2019-001.

Owners/Operators/Company Security Officers shall circulate this Advisory to their Liberian flag vessels. Master's and crew shall be instructed to remain vigilant, exercise extreme caution and implement necessary security measures while transiting the region.

In addition to the guidance in the attached, Owners/Operators/CSOs/Masters shall conduct voyage specific risk assessment prior to entering Straits of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman and Northern Persian Gulf and implement measures equivalent to Security Level II, follow **BMP5**; keep a constant lookout, secure all water tight doors and openings.

Masters, and CSO's are to report all incidents to the UKMTO, MSCHOA, CMF, and this Administration in accordance with existing procedures.

The Registry continues to closely monitor this situation, and please do contact the numbers below for any further information you may require.

Further information can be obtained from:

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Bahrain on VHF Channel 16, the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet Battle Watch via phone at +973- 1785-3879 or by email at CUSNC.BWC@ME.NAVY.MIL

UKMTO should also be contacted in the event of a security incident or suspicious activity at +442392 222060 or watchkeepers@ukmto.org

For more information please contact the Security Department at telephone + 1 703 790 3434, email security@liscr.com

In case of an afterhours emergency please contact the LISCR Duty Officer + 1 703 963 6216, email: dutyofficer@liscr.com

Issued on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner
Liberia Bureau of Maritime Affairs

Link: [U.S. NAVCENT NCAGS Guidance to Shipping 2019-001](#)

PDF Copy [U.S. NAVCENT NCAGS Guidance to Shipping 2019-00](#)

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Commander, United States Naval Forces Central Command Commander, United
States FIFTH Fleet

Commander, NAVCENT Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping

U.S. NAVCENT NCAGS Guidance to Shipping
2019-001

Date: 21 June 2019

From: Commander, NAVCENT Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS)

To: Vessel Owners and Operators, Ship's Masters, and Recognized Security Organizations

**SUBJECT: TANKER ATTACKS IN THE GULF OF OMAN INFORMATION AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

NAVIGATION AREA: Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Gulf, Northern Arabian Sea

BACKGROUND: Commercial Vessels have been attacked on two separate occasions, namely four (4) tankers were attacked in Fujairah Anchorage on 12 May 2019 and two (2) tankers were attacked while underway in the Gulf of Oman on 13 June .2019.

INCIDENT DETAILS: In the early morning hours of 13 June 2019, two (2) tankers were attacked while underway navigating in a south easterly direction in the Gulf of Oman. The FRONT ALTAIR (Marshall Islands) and the KOKUKA COURAGEOUS (Panama) both sustained severe damage from explosions on their hulls above the waterline causing crews of both vessels to abandon ship.

ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS: NAVCENT and the Office of Naval Intelligence assess with high confidence the limpet mines used in the attack on the M/V KOKUKA COURAGEOUS were of Iranian origin and design, based on exploitation , analysis and our understanding of the technical characteristics of world-wide limpet mines. Furthermore, the attack was almost certainly conducted by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN), based on historical Iranian press video ofIRGCN training with the same class of limpet mine and an IRGCN vessel being used to retrieve the unexploded mine after the attacks.

REPORTING: Commercial vessels operating in these areas are advised to report any incidents or suspicious activities to U.S. or Coalition Naval Vessels on VHF Channel 16. In addition:

a. United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization: UKMTO remains as the primary point of contact for merchant vessels and liaison with military forces within the region. UKMTO administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme (YRS), and all merchant vessels are encouraged to send regular reports, providing their position, speed and ETA to next port in accordance with Maritime Security Chart Q6099. UKMTO email is watchkeepers@ukmto.org. UKMTO emergency numbers are +44 (0) 239 222 2060 and +971 50 552 2315.

b. USNAVCENT NCAGS: US Flagged shipping, in addition, should include NCAGS on all reporting. All other flagged vessels are encouraged to also include NCAGS on all position reporting to cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil. NCAGS duty phone is +973 3904 9583 and office numbers are +973 1785 1023 / 1024 / 2983 / 0084.

c. USNAVCENT Maritime Operations Center (MOC): Any vessel under attack or under threat of attack are encouraged to contact the NAVCENT MOC battle watch directly at +973 1785 3879 and fleet watch at +973 1785 4577 .

GUIDANCE TO SHIPPING: All Vessel Masters and Operators should exercise increased vigilance and extreme caution while transiting the Northern Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Arabian Gulf. Vessels at anchor, operating in restricted maneuvering environments, or proceeding at slow speeds should be especially vigilant. Recommendations:

- a. Review Best Management Practices 5 (BMP5).
- b. Review U.S. Maritime Advisories 2019-004 / 2019-006.
- c. Review Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) 014, 015.
- d. Review Flag nation Security Advisories and Bulletins.
- e. Review Vessel Security Plan (VSP).
- f. Exercise internal and external emergency communications.
- g. Conduct Security Training / Drills or Exercises prior to entering at risk navigation areas.
- h. Ensure watch officers are trained to save Voyage Data Recorder (VDR / SVDR) data in the event of an attack or suspicious event.
- i. Ensure water tight integrity between engineering spaces are secured while operating in the area underway or at anchorage.
- j. Pay particular attention to any unknown small craft or boat with a close CPA, and treat any that approach to your vessel as suspicious and potentially dangerous.

RISK MITIGATION MEASURES: Vessels Masters and Company Security Officers are encouraged to assess risk in planning vessel voyages to include:

- a. Assess risk in any region where there has been an incident or where the threat has changed, avoiding close proximity to those areas when permissible by draft and safe navigation.
- b. Consider transit at higher speed through straits and near Iranian territorial waters where safe navigation and maneuvering permits.
- c. Consider implementing unmanned machinery spaces (UMS) through confined straits if navigationally safe to do so.
- d. Consider additional lookouts outside at night using night vision devices (if on board).
- e. Consider implementing increased Ship Security Level in accordance with the VSP.
- f. Consider implementing increased Bridge manning in accordance with the company Safety Management System (SMS).

REASSURANCE TO SHIPPING: Commander United States Naval Forces Central Command, Commander, United States FIFTH Fleet is committed to maintaining the freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce for all shipping regardless of cargo or flag State of origin. The U.S. Navy and Coalition

Forces are conducting increased security patrols and have additional forces in the Northern Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. All vessels have the inherent right to exercise self-defense. U.S.

Navy will respond aggressively and decisively to defend against attacks to its units and U.S. shipping.

Very Respectfully and Sincerely Yours,

James J. MALLOY
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy Commander
U.S. Naval Forces Central Command
U.S. FIFTH Fleet
U.S. NAVCENT NCAGS
