

# Republic of the Marshall Islands

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

11495 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-1506  
TELEPHONE: +1-703-620-4880 FAX: +1-703-476-8522  
EMAIL: marsec@register-iri.com WEBSITE: www.register-iri.com

### SHIP SECURITY ADVISORY No. 02-26

**To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officers, Recognized Security Organizations**

**Subject: MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE ARABIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN STRAIT OF HORMUZ, AND ARABIAN SEA – IMMEDIATE ELEVATION OF SHIP SECURITY LEVEL**

**Date: 28 February 2026**

#### 1.0 SITUATION

Significant military operations involving the United States (US), Israel, and Iranian forces have commenced as of 28 February 2026 in the following areas (collectively, the "High-threat Areas"):

- Arabian/Persian Gulf;
- Gulf of Oman;
- North Arabian Sea;
- Strait of Hormuz (SoH); and
- Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb (BeM), and
- Gulf of Aden (GoA).

The US Maritime Administration (MARAD) has issued MSCI Alert [2026-001A](#) and the United Kingdom Marine Trade Operations (UKMTO) has issued Advisory [003-26 \(Update 001\)](#) confirming the elevated threat environment. Multiple Company Security Officers (CSOs) have reported unverified VHF Channel 16 broadcasts claiming closure of the SoH. **Such broadcasts are not legally binding and do not constitute a lawful restriction on navigation under UNCLOS.**

The situation is extremely dynamic. Electronic interference, including disruption to Automatic Identification System (AIS), Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), and other navigational and communications systems, has been reported throughout the region. Risk of vessel misidentification by hostile forces is elevated.

This SSA is evaluated annually by the RMI Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.

## 2.0 SHIP SECURITY LEVEL DIRECTIVE

Effective immediately, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") hereby directs that all RMI-flagged vessels operating in or intending to transit the High-threat Areas – including the **Red Sea, BeM, GoA, Arabian/Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, SoH, North Arabian Sea, and the waters and ports of Israel** – shall immediately implement Ship Security Level 3 (or equivalent port facility security measures upon arrival).

This is a **flag requirement** pursuant to the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and RMI Marine Notice [2-011-16](#).

## 3.0 IMMEDIATE ACTIONS REQUIRED

Pending issuance of a comprehensive Ship Security Advisory (SSA) by the Administrator, vessels operating in or transiting toward the High-threat Areas shall:

- implement Ship Security Level 3 measures immediately and notify the Administrator at [marsec@register-iri.com](mailto:marsec@register-iri.com) or +1-571-441-1885;
- maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF Channel 16 and be prepared to respond to hails from coalition military forces;
- maintain a standoff of at least 30 nautical miles from US Navy units to reduce the risk of misidentification as a threat;
- conduct enhanced bridge watches and heightened lookout for kinetic threats including small boat operations, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), unmanned surface vehicles (USVs), and anti-ship missiles;
- be alert to degraded Global Positioning System (GPS)/GNSS reliability and elevated electronic interference throughout the region; monitor for AIS and navigational system anomalies and employ alternative positioning methods;
- register with UKMTO and submit regular position reports (see [MARSEC-210](#) for contact information);
- conduct an immediate threat and risk assessment and evaluate whether transit should be deferred pending further guidance; and
- contact coalition forces (UKMTO, Maritime Security Centre – Indian Ocean (MSCIO), US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)/Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS)) for the latest situational awareness prior to entering the High-threat Areas.

#### 4.0 FURTHER GUIDANCE

A comprehensive SSA with updated threat assessments, mitigation measures, and applicable references will be distributed to all RMI-flagged vessels shortly. Operators are strongly encouraged to monitor the Administrator's [Maritime Security webpage](#) and subscribe to UKMTO advisories for real-time updates.

#### 5.0 INCIDENT REPORTING

All security incidents and suspicious activity must be reported to the Administrator immediately at: [marsec@register-iri.com](mailto:marsec@register-iri.com), [dutyofficer@register-iri.com](mailto:dutyofficer@register-iri.com), and/or +1-571-441-1885.

Refer to [MARSEC-210](#) for all relevant coalition force and reporting authority contact information.

**References:** MARAD MSC I Alert [2026-001A](#) (28 Feb 2026); UKMTO Advisory [003-26](#) Update 001 (28 Feb 2026); RMI Marine Notice [2-011-16](#); SSA No. [01-26](#) (Threats to Shipping in the Red Sea Region).