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Royal Australian Navy
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EUNAVFOR
Regional Threat Update
Western Indian Ocean and Red Sea
Agenda

• Introduction

• Regional Update

• Illicit Maritime Activities: Summary
  • Piracy
  • Narcotics Smuggling
  • Weapon Smuggling
  • Conflict Related Maritime Events
  • Human Trafficking & Charcoal Smuggling
  • IUU Fishing
  • Threat Summary
Regional Update

- The region is critical to the global economy, with huge economic potential, and incredible biodiversity.

- An area of growing strategic competition & contest, with proxies & grey-zone activity a growing theme.

- Conflict and crime flourish in fragile states, adding to a range of extant maritime security threats.
Somalia

• Decades of humanitarian crisis, conflicts & terrorist threat, exacerbated by drought & governance challenges

• With improving Somali Government capabilities, intolerance of local populace, and presence of international forces; risk of Piracy has reduced.

• Piracy suppressed but not eradicated - causal factors remain, & facilitators focused on other lucrative activity

• BMP & naval forces remain a meaningful deterrent

• Remains a critical node for wider illicit activity, presenting multiple maritime security threats
Piracy and Piracy-Related incidents (2009~2022) (Source: CMF)

Current situation in Somalia

- Continuing severe drought
- Displaced people due to domestic instability
- War against Al-Shabaab intensifies
- Indian Ocean HRA Removal
- There are no indicators regarding the reoccurrence of Somali piracy.

Assessment

- Somali piracy continues to be suppressed and remain LOW level due to the following reasons
  - Combined effort of CMF, EUNAVFOR and other naval forces;
  - Continued implementation of BMP5 by MVs;
  - Adoption by former pirates of lower risk criminal activities such as smuggling.
  - Increasing capability of Somali forces and intolerance of piracy from local populace; every day Piracy is becoming high risks as compare to benefits.

- However, piracy has not been eradicated and the threat may increase as a result of multiple factors
  - The shipping industry ceases to fully implement BMP5
  - There is a significant decrease in the presence of warships and local maritime security forces in the area;
  - The continued deterioration in the security, economic and political situation, coupled with the increase in poverty due to famine, droughts, floods and locust infestations demands a continuous vigilance IOT avoid giving any Target of opportunity
Yemen

- Yemeni conflict accelerated arms proliferation, involving small arms and light weapons & more complex systems

- Expiration of the truce has resulted in a new wave of violence. Oil tankers involved in exporting oil from Yemen have been threatened with drone strikes

- Surge in human trafficking, illegal migration & wider illicit smuggling

- FSO Safer: A potential economic & environmental disaster
Weapon Smuggling

- Trafficking poses a significant security threat, involving firearms, explosive materials, more complex weapons, components and precursors as well as uncrewed systems.

- Arms trans-shipped in Omani / Somali waters to smaller boats, with the cargo delivered to ports on the south coast of Yemen, & smuggled overland or, through the Bab-el-Mandab.
Conflict Related Threats

Southern Red Sea/ BAM/ GoA:
- UAS/ USVs
- Mines
- ASCM

Arabian Gulf:
- UAS

UAS Threat:
- Increase in the prevalence and sophistication of UAS.
- The availability of systems to non-state actors is increasing.
- Threat to MVs is low however moderate for vessels operating within TTW of Yemen especially the one exporting oil from Yemen.
### Conflict Related Incidents - 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S No</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>02 Jan</td>
<td>Yemen TTW</td>
<td>MV RWABEE (UAE Flagged) attacked and sized under HOUTHI control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>IVO Hodeydhah Port</td>
<td>SLC reported they have destroyed explosive laden boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>28 Feb</td>
<td>Yemen North-West region</td>
<td>Yemen’s Army destroyed 02 x explosive laden boat in RS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Mar</td>
<td>Red Sea</td>
<td>As per KSA statement Houthis fired at least one missile in to Red Sea. Missile did not land near any shipping lane. Not confirmed through any other source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Yemen TTW</td>
<td>SV LAKOTA approached by two armed boats. 1 person boarded and asked for money. Left crew unharmed when no money was given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>SOH, Four Island Iran</td>
<td>Greek-Flagged Suezmax Oil Tanker, MV PRUDENT WARRIOR and MV DELTA POSEIDON detained and sized by IRGCN in response to detention of MV LANA by Greece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Al-Dhabba Port Yemen</td>
<td>02 x UAVs exploded close to Oil Tanker NISSOS KEA, Marshal Island flagged, whilst connected to a single buoy mooring loading crude oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>09 Nov</td>
<td>Qena, Yemen</td>
<td>02 x UAS shot down by the local air defence of Quena port, which were attempting strike on a Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged UAE affiliated general purpose tanker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>15 Nov</td>
<td>GOO</td>
<td>Suspected USV/ UAV hit MV PACIFIC ZIRCON and damage hull. Likely due Liberia Flagged vessel from company with ownership links to Israel.</td>
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Narcotics

Amount of synthetic narcotics seizures Jan 2013 - Oct 2022

Narcotics main routes

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<tr>
<th>NARCOTIC</th>
<th>PRICE USD/Kg</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamine</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>50,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashish</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDMA (Ecstasy)</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captagon</td>
<td>2.24/pill; 1KG=14931.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tramadol</td>
<td>3.52/pill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) 2022
Human Trafficking & Charcoal Smuggling

- Notable increase in irregular migration from Somalia & Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, across the Gulf of Aden to reach Yemen.

- Conditions across the Gulf of Aden from Djibouti / Somalia to Yemen are severe, conservatively estimated to have a mortality rate of 5%.

- The charcoal ban has been relatively effective: In 2013 the charcoal trade was $360m. This diminished to $150m in 2018. Current assessment is that charcoal trade makes less than $8m PA.
IUU FISHING

- In the Western Indian Ocean IUU is most acutely felt where a lack of legislation and regulations exist and/or nations are unable to enforce them. Somalia, Yemen and Mozambique have been identified as 3 focal areas where these conditions exist and sufficient data exists to provide an understanding of the scale of the problem.

- The heat map clearly depicts the cluster of fishing areas in Somali, Yemen and Mozambique EEZ.

Source: Global Fishing Watch
IUU FISHING

- Illicit activity in the Indian Ocean is interconnected
- IUU exacerbates poverty
- Losses to Western Indian Ocean Nations from IUU are estimated at $206-504 million annually
Summary

- Maritime Security Threats are often inter-connected

- The spill-over of conflicts in Somalia, Yemen & Mozambique creates a permissive environment for wider illicit activity

- The narcotics trade is adaptable, resilient & regionally networked - & holds back economic & social development

- Less traditional threats include cyber threats, climate change impacts - & bureaucratic failures to share information
### Threat Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **Piracy**                | • Suppressed But Not Eradicated  
                            | • Overall Threat LOW                                                        |
| **Narcotics Smuggling**   | • Seasonal Impacts, Adaptable & Resilient  
                            | • Increasing Threat                                                         |
| **Conflict Related**      | • Increasing Threat in RED SEA  
                            | • Threat to MVs low, moderate for vessels operating within TTW of Yemen especially the one exporting oil from Yemen |
| **Weapon Smuggling**      | • Conflict Related, Increased Proliferation  
                            | • Increasing Threat                                                         |
Questions?