



# EL EU OHQ EUNAVFOR « ASPIDES »



ASPIDES	MARITIME SECURITY IN INDIAN OCEAN (EXCEPT PIRACY) THREAT UPDATE	04 0700 UTC AUG - 05 0700 UTC SEP 2024
The ASPIDES Threat Update is issued to keep the maritime industry informed about recent events in the South Red Sea (SRS) and West Gulf of Aden (GOA). It includes updates on the situation, assessments and recommendations. For reporting mistakes or updates, please contact MSCHoA at <a href="mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org">postmaster@mschoa.org</a> or call Tel: <b>+33 298220220</b> or <b>+33 298220170</b> .		

## 1/ In Details.

- On **Aug 05**, one USV destroyed in the Red Sea and one UAV and one ASBM destroyed over the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 05**, three UAV destroyed over the GoA.
- On **Aug 06**, one UAV and two ASBM destroyed over the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 07**, a MV was claimed to be targeted by an attack in the Red Sea. No evidence.
- On **Aug 08**, a MV in BaM targeted by a RPG attack at 14:03 UTC and by a missile attack at 22:45 UTC. The vessel was not hit. No injuries and minor damage reported.
- On **Aug 08**, one UAV destroyed in the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 09**, two UAV destroyed in the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 09**, a MV in Red Sea targeted by a USV at 03:40 UTC and by a missile at 05:57 UTC. The vessel was not hit. No injuries or damage reported.
- On **Aug 12- 13**, a MV was targeted three times. There were explosions in the vicinity of the vessel and it has been hit with a USV but it's not exploded. No injuries or damage reported.
- On **Aug 13**, two vessels destroyed in the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 16**, one USV destroyed in the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 21**, a MV was targeted and hit in the Red Sea. No injuries reported.
- On **Aug 21**, a USV destroyed in the Red Sea.
- On **Aug 21**, a MV was targeted by missiles in the Red Sea. There were explosions in the vicinity of the vessel. No injuries or damage reported.
- On **Aug 22**, a MV was targeted by a USV attack. No injuries reported.
- On **Aug 22**, a MV was claimed to be hit by an attack in the GoA. The vessel was hit and damaged, crew evacuated, no casualties.
- On **Aug 22**, a MV was claimed to be hit by an attack in the Red Sea. The vessel was hit with minor damage, no casualties.
- On **Aug 23**, an abandoned MV was set on fire in the Red Sea. No injuries, crew evacuated on Aug 22.
- On **Aug 23**, an abandoned MV was claimed to be set on fire in the Red Sea. The vessel was set on fire.
- On **Aug 29**, a MV was claimed to be targeted in the Red Sea. No evidence.
- On **Aug 30**, a MV was claimed to be hit in the Red Sea. The vessel was attacked by missiles but it wasn't hit.
- On **Sep 02**, a MV was targeted by missiles. The vessel was hit, no casualties.
- On **Sep 02**, a MV was targeted by a UAV. The vessel was hit, no casualties.
- On **Sep 02**, a MV was claimed to be hit by an attack in the Red Sea. The vessel was hit with minor damage, no casualties.



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### 2/ AIS Statistics for missiles attacks (since 19<sup>th</sup> Feb)

- From the total missile attacks on MV with AIS OFF only 6% were successful.
- From the total missile attacks on MV with AIS ON 75% were successful.



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## 3/ Abbreviations

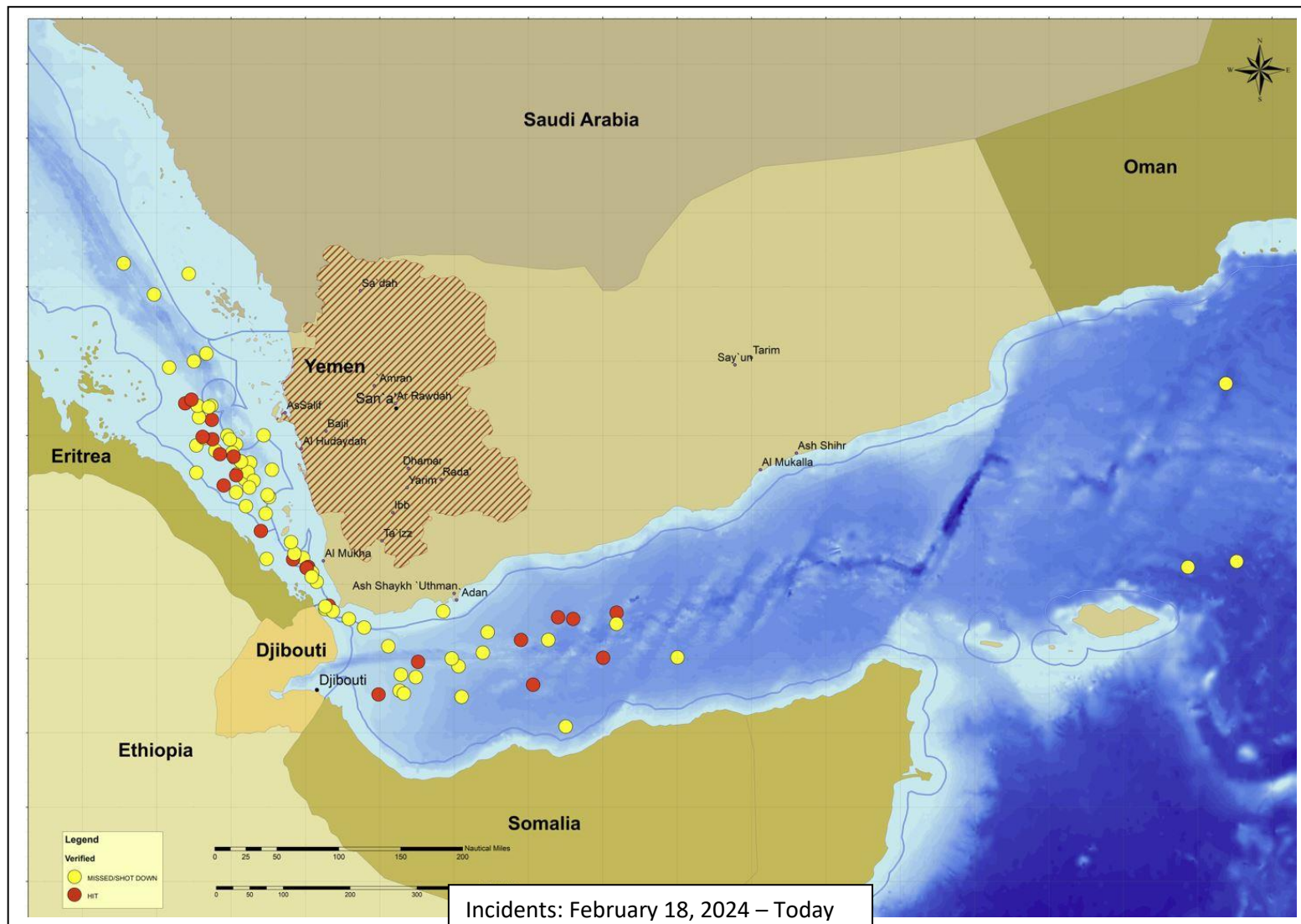
<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>	
ASBM	Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile
ASCM	Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
AST	Armed Security Team
FV	Fishing Vessel
MV	Merchant Vessel
OWA	One Way Attack
PoC	Port of Call
RTB	Return To Base
SV	Sailing Vessel
UAS	Uncrewed Aerial System
UAV	Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle
USCENTCOM	United States Central Command
USV	Uncrewed Surface Vehicle
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time



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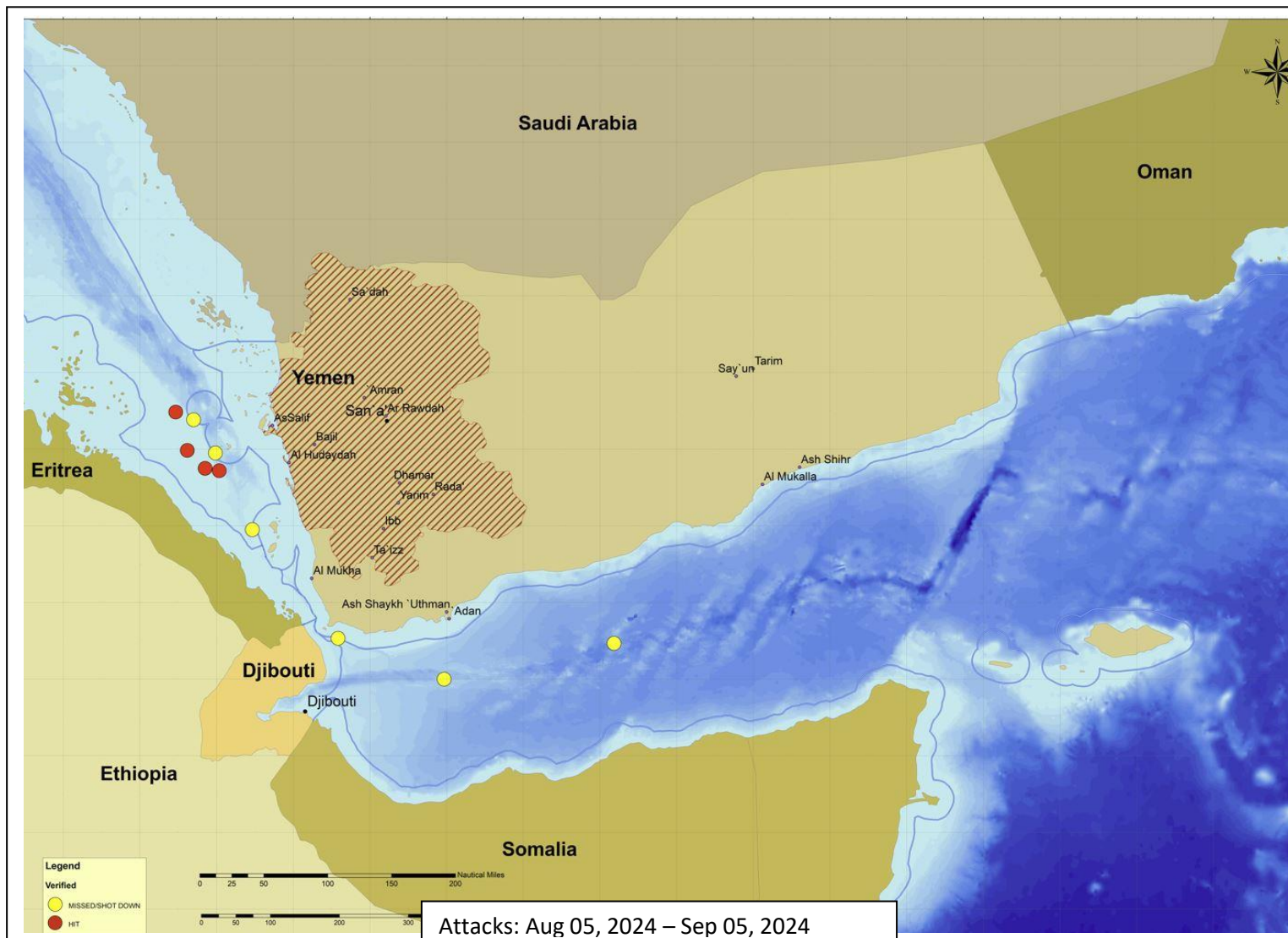


## 4/ Incident maps involving MV





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### 5/Assessment

#### Most probable scenario - updated on Jul 03, 2024

Initially, the threat of targeting was against "Israeli-linked" ships, however it has been extended to U.S. and UK-affiliated vessels too.

Nevertheless, the number of ships being targeted, with no evidence of a link with any of these countries, underscores the notion that any ship is susceptible to targeting in the area. Additionally, there are indications that outdated information might be used regarding ship ownership in certain instances.

The attacks are expected to predominantly involve missiles and UAVs, with USVs becoming an emerging threat. The attack sequence may commence with a VHF communication, instructing the vessel to alter its course towards a harbor. Failure to comply could result in a kinetic assault. The direct boarding attempts, observed in previous instances, have not been observed recently given the robust presence of EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and other like-minded Operations. Nevertheless, the presence of skiffs harassing merchant navy ships in the vicinity of Red Sea (RS), Bab el Mandeb (BAM) and Gulf of Aden (GoA), indicates a potential resurgence of the boarding approach.

UAV, USV and missile attacks occur along the primary navigation route off the coast of Yemen, with the highest risk area spanning approximately 200 nm northbound and eastbound of BaM, towards the South Red Sea and GoA accordingly, as shown on the maps.

The occasional increase of confirmed attacks in the RS, BAM and GoA proves the fact that Houthis still hold the capacity to launch such attacks.

Looking at the wide Indian ocean, the capture of a merchant vessel in the international waters near Hormuz, the fourth of its kind being currently hold hostage, shows that the threat of hijacking is still present in this part of the ocean. Masters and shipping companies are therefore advised to adhere to the recommendations laid out in Best Management Practices (BMP).



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### 6/Recommendations

For recommendations to seafarers, please follow the link: <https://on-shore.mschoa.org/eu-navfor-aspides/>