



GERMAN NAVY SHIPPING CENTRE



Security Update Brief Persian Golf

(Timeframe 040001ZMAR – 120700ZMAR)

General Situation:

The situation has remained largely unchanged since the last update on March 3, 2026. Israel and the U.S. continue to engage targets in Iran using stand-off weapons. As of March 12, 2026, neighbouring states have acted solely in self-defence after being targeted by ballistic missiles and drones. Additionally, a British military base on Cyprus was struck by a drone, two impacts were detected in Azerbaijan, and NATO defence systems intercepted several projectiles over Turkey. To date, only defensive measures have been employed in these instances.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz (SoH). They are attacking civilian vessels both within the strait and its approach routes if they are transiting or intend to do so. Attacks on civilian shipping outside this maritime area, as well as the use of naval mines in shipping lanes, have not been reported so far. Since March 3, only one to six ships have passed through the SoH daily (compared to approximately 130 previously).

AIS and GPS signals are being heavily jammed, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, with up to 600 interference incidents observed within a 24-hour period. Furthermore, electronic interference is affecting navigational and communication equipment

Operational Overview:

Since the commencement of hostilities, a total of 18 merchant vessels have been struck.

- SKYLIGHT (IMO 9330020): chemical tanker (Palau). Struck Feb 28 north of Khasab (OMN). 4 crew members injured; crew evacuated.
- MKD VYOM (IMO 9284386): crude oil tanker (Marshall Islands). Struck March 1 in the Gulf of Oman. Vessel is drifting and severely compromised. 1 fatality confirmed; unit evacuated. Significant hull damage above the waterline and engine room fire reported.
- HERCULES STAR (IMO 9916135): oil products tanker (Gibraltar). Struck March 1, 20nm NW of Dubai. Fire extinguished.
- OCEAN ELECTRA (IMO 9402782): oil products tanker (Liberia). Struck March 1 via drone attack.
- STENA IMPERATIVE (IMO 9666077): oil/chemical tanker (USA). Struck in the Port of Muharraq, Bahrain. Fire extinguished; crew evacuated.
- GOLD OAK (9806342): Bulk carrier (Panama). Sustained a lateral hit on March 3 while at anchor in Fujairah (United Arab Emirates).
- SAFEEN PRESTIGE (9593517): Container ship (Malta). Hit on March 4; projectile passed through the vessel, causing a fire. The crew has abandoned ship.
- SONANGOL NAMIBE (9325049): Crude oil tanker (Bahamas). Hit on March 4 while at anchor in Iraqi waters; resulting in water ingress and ballast water leakage.





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- MUSSAFAH 2 (9522051): Tugboat (United Arab Emirates). Hit on March 6 by two missiles while en route to salvage the SAFEEN PRESTIGE. 4 fatalities, 3 injured.
- ARABIA III (8771332): Jack-up rig (Liberia). Hit on March 7; fire under control, one person injured, crew reduced to a minimum.
- MAYUREE NAREE (9323649): Bulk carrier (Thailand). Hit on March 11; fire under control, a minimal crew (4) remains on board.
- STAR GWYNETH (9301031): Bulk carrier (Marshall Islands). Hit on March 11; holes in the cargo hold and ballast tank, vessel is listing.
- ZEFYROS (9515917): Oil and chemical tanker (Malta). Hit on March 11 during STS (ship-to-ship) operations with SAFESA VISHNU; fire, one fatality.
- SAFESA VISHNU (9327009): Crude oil tanker (Marshall Islands). Hit on March 11 during STS operations with ZEFYROS; fire.
- SOURCE BLESSING (9243198): Container ship (Liberia). Hit on March 12; fire extinguished (German interest/connection).

Additional reports by ships with minimal damage or only sightings: 4





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Lfd. Nr.	Schiff	IMO	Status
1	SKYLIGHT	9330020	Attacked
2	HERCULES STAR	9295531	Attacked
3	MKD VYOM	9284386	Attacked
4	OCEAN ELECTRA	9591466	Attacked
5	STENA IMPERATIVE	9666077	Attacked
6	PELAGIA	9433626	Attacked
7	LIBRA TRADER	9562673	Attacked
8	GOLD OAK	9806342	Attacked
9	SAFEEN PRESTIGE	9593517	Attacked
10	SONANGOL NIAMBE	9325049	Attacked
11	MUSSAFAH II	9522051	Attacked
12	BORR ARABIA III	8771332	Attacked
13	ONE MAJESTY	9424912	Attacked
14	MAYUREE NAREE	9323649	Attacked
15	STAR GWYNETH	9301031	Attacked
16	SAFESEA VISHNU	9327009	Attacked
17	ZEPHYROS	9515917	Attacked
18	SOURCE BLESSING (DEU Bezug)	9243198	Attacked

Lfd. Nr.	Schiff	IMO	Status
1	SEA LA DONNA	9380532	Observed
2	MSC GRACE	9987366	Observed

Example: the attack on the ATHE NOVA (IMO 9188116) has proven to be a false report. Other "attacks" on vessels (e.g., PRIMA) claimed by the IRGC have also turned out to be false. These are likely intended to cause panic and confusion.

Currently, there are no possibilities to escort ships out of the area. According to reports from other nations, several countries are working on options—partly through joint efforts—to provide escorts once the situation has stabilized.

Infrastructure and Port Status

Drone attacks on March 2 and 4 targeted LNG facilities in Ras Laffan, Qatar; production has been suspended, and the operator has declared Force Majeure.

Between March 7 and 10, there were several attacks on offshore energy facilities off Al Jubail, during which the vessel ARABIA III was hit. On March 2 and 4, the Ras Tanura refinery was also targeted; oil production has been halted.

Attack on an oil refinery in Bahrain on March 9; fire is under control, oil deliveries have been suspended, and the operator has declared Force Majeure.

On March 11, several fuel storage tanks in the Port of Salalah, Oman, were hit, resulting in a large fire.

Port Status

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Ports operational; Fujairah Oil Tanker Terminal operating with restrictions; Ruwais at ISPS Level 2, all others at ISPS Level 1.

KUWAIT: All ports operational; Shuwaikh and Shuaiba at ISPS Level 2, all others at ISPS Level 1.





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OMAN: Ports partially restricted. Normal operations in: Sultan Qaboos, Muscat, Mina Al Fahal, Sohar, Qalhat LNG Terminal Sur, OMIFCO Terminal Sur, Salalah, and Duqm (restrictions for dangerous goods). All ports at ISPS Level 1. Salalah is currently not operational due to the fire.

SAUDI ARABIA: All ports operational; all ports at ISPS Level 1.

BAHRAIN: Gradual resumption of operations; restrictions due to pilot availability. All ports at ISPS Level 1.

QATAR: The ports of Hamad and Doha are operational. Al Ruwais only for small vessels. Mesaieed and Ras Laffan are operational, but no LNG production by QatarEnergy. Al Shaheen and Halul Island are currently not operational. All ports at ISPS Level 1.

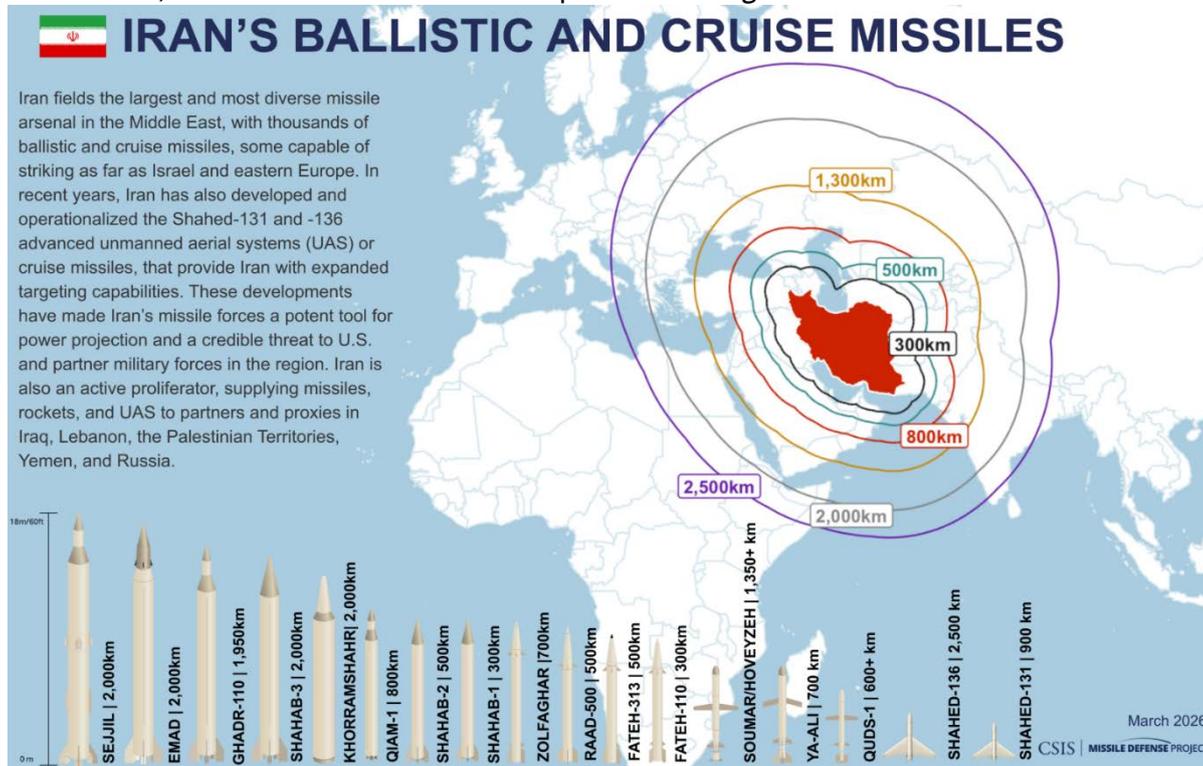
IRAQ: Ports operational. Basra Oil Terminal has suspended production. All oil terminals have suspended operations following the strike in Basra. ISPS Level 1.

Impact on German Interests (DEU)

According to AIS data and consultations with shipping companies, approximately 128 vessels with German connections are currently within the Area of Interest (see attachment). Passengers from the Mein Schiff 4 have almost entirely disembarked, and the remaining passengers from the Mein Schiff 5 are expected to fly home by the end of the week.

A container ship with German connections was reportedly hit on the morning of March 12. According to current reports, damage is clearly and the crew is unharmed.

The following graphic illustrates the range of various Iranian weapon systems. The Area of Interest (see attachment) was defined based on these operational ranges.



Source: [CSISI](#)
[Missile](#)
[Defense](#)
[Project](#)



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Assessment:

It is still assumed that Iran possesses a sufficient stockpile of missiles and drones, particularly for strikes in the Persian Gulf. The high number of attacks (6) over the past two days confirms this. While the regular Navy remains severely weakened and is nearly non-existent, the Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) appears to still have widespread access to small combat assets, drones or missiles.

Iranian attacks are presently also targeting the maritime infrastructure of Persian Gulf coastal states, extending as far as the Omani coast in the Arabian Sea. During these attacks, there is a risk that civilian vessels on-site may be collaterally damaged—either by Iranian strikes or by the defence measures of neighbouring states (e.g., falling debris containing residual explosives).

An elevated risk must also be assumed for roads and anchorages. The Houthi in Yemen have announced the resumption of attacks against shipping but have not yet implemented them.

Conclusion:

All vessels and crews are under direct threat. These crews and ships are unable to leave the region and are effectively stranded. Any attempt to transit the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) at this time is considered extremely dangerous. The German Maritime Security Centre (MSchLtg) continues to issue recommendations to German shipowners to avoid any passage. The threat of Houthi attacks in the Red Sea is now classified as high – a resumption of fire against commercial shipping is highly probable.

The threat potential for the Persian Gulf and adjacent regions must continue to be assessed within the overall context as:

MARITIM RISK LEVEL - CRITICAL





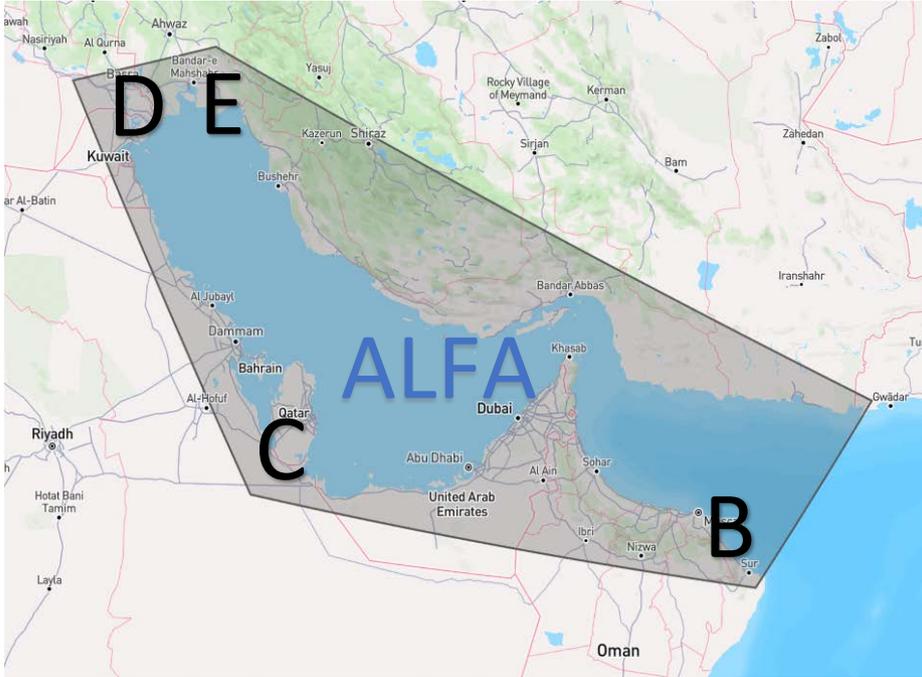
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Appendix

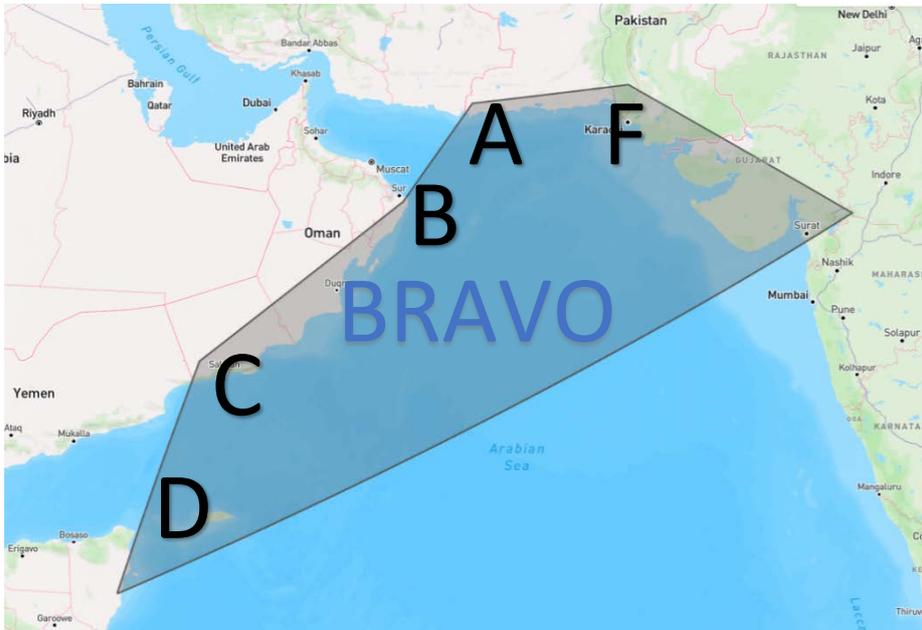
Area of Interest DEU NCAGS

Persian Gulf / Strait of Hormus / Golf of Oman:



- REF A: LAT: 25° 15' N LON: 61° 57' E
- REF B: LAT: 22° 18' N LON: 59° 37' E
- REF C: LAT: 23° 58' N LON: 50° 22' E
- REF D: LAT: 30° 31' N LON: 46° 50' E
- REF E: LAT: 31° 07' N LON: 49° 35' E

Arabian Sea NORTH:



- REF A: LAT: 25° 15' N LON: 61° 57' E
- REF B: LAT: 22° 18' N LON: 59° 37' E
- REF C: LAT: 17° 50' N LON: 53° 30' E
- REF D: LAT: 09° 59' N LON: 50° 48' E
- REF E: LAT: 21° 53' N LON: 74° 40' E
- REF F: LAT: 26° 03' N LON: 66° 39' E

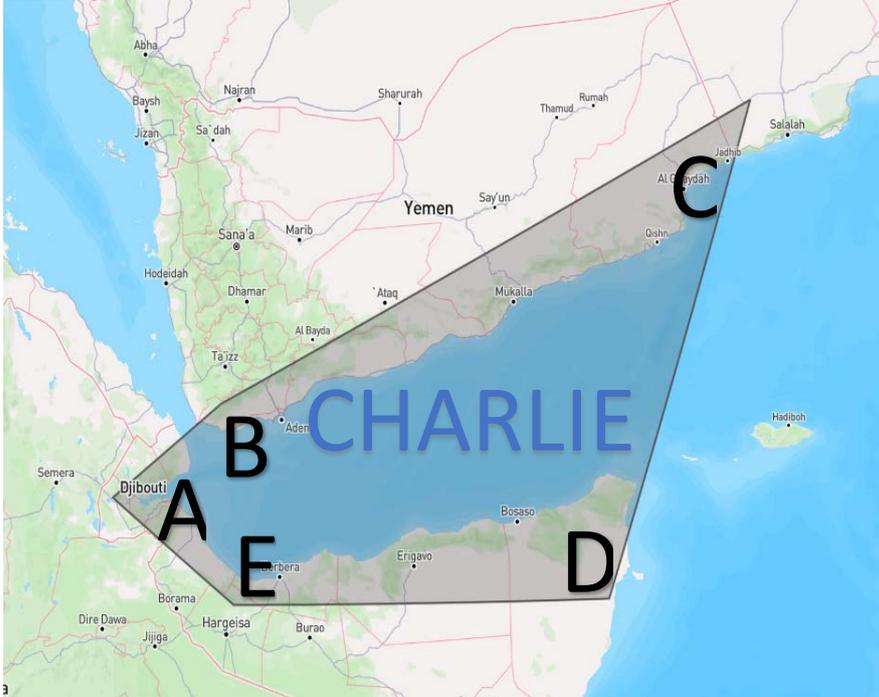




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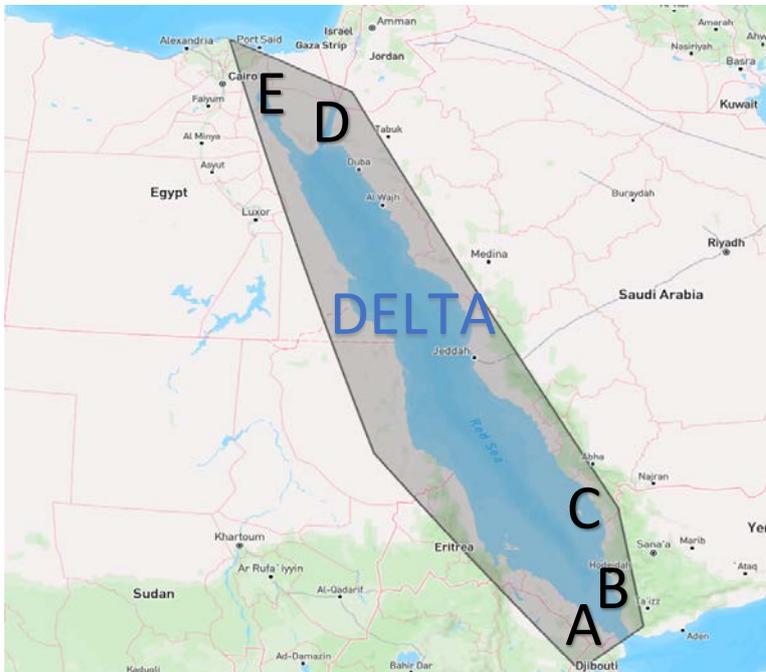


Gulf of Aden:



- REF A: LAT: 11° 37' N LON: 42° 05' E
- REF B: LAT: 12° 59' N LON: 43° 54' E
- REF C: LAT: 17° 50' N LON: 53° 30' E
- REF D: LAT: 09° 59' N LON: 50° 48' E
- REF E: LAT: 09° 55' N LON: 44° 07' E

Red Sea:



- REF A: LAT: 11° 37' N LON: 42° 05' E
- REF B: LAT: 12° 59' N LON: 43° 54' E
- REF C: LAT: 16° 50' N LON: 43° 12' E
- REF D: LAT: 29° 49' N LON: 35° 23' E
- REF E: LAT: 31° 31' N LON: 31° 17' E
- REF F: LAT: 18° 35' N LON: 36° 19' E

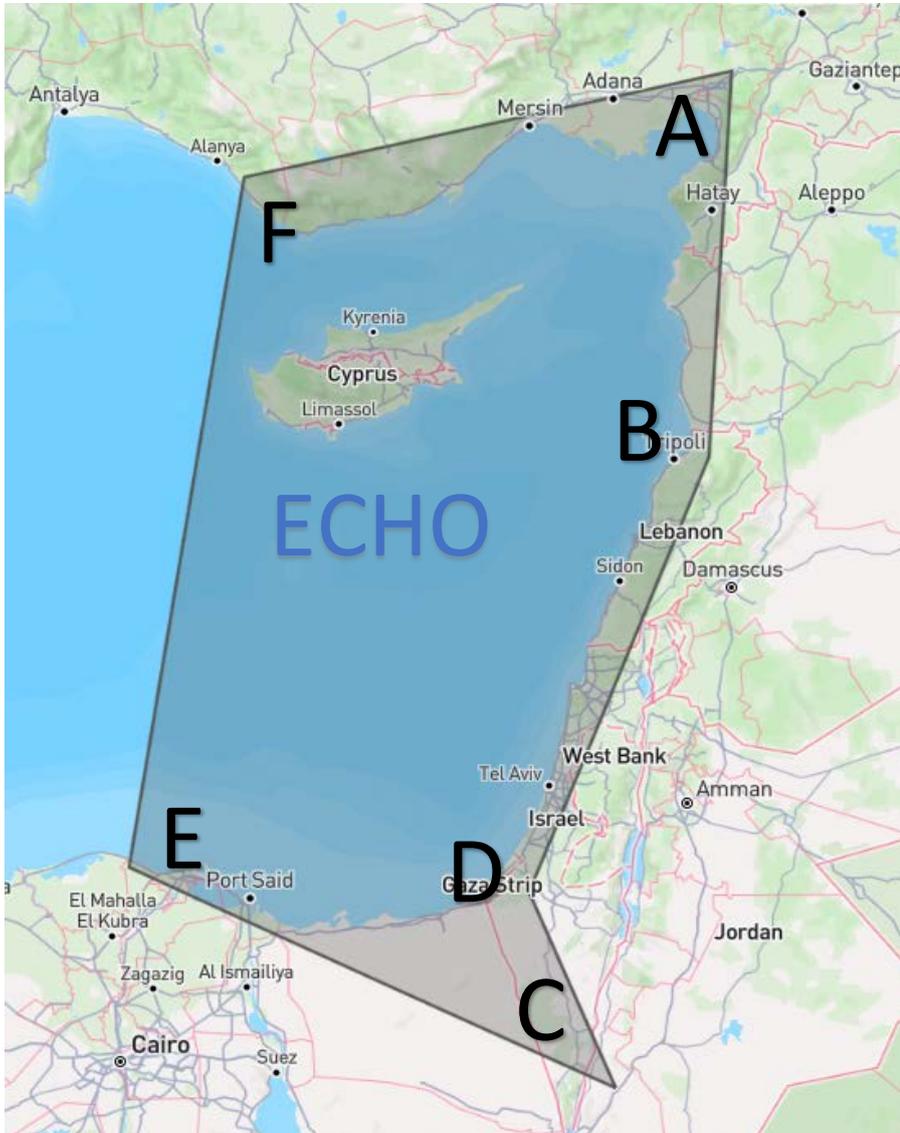
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- REF A: LAT: 37° 10' N LON: 36° 19' E
- REF B: LAT: 34° 27' N LON: 36° 07' E
- REF C: LAT: 31° 18' N LON: 34° 37' E
- REF D: LAT: 29° 49' N LON: 35° 23' E
- REF E: LAT: 31° 31' N LON: 31° 17' E
- REF F: LAT: 36° 25' N LON: 32° 13' E

