



## GERMAN NAVY SHIPPING CENTRE



# Security Update Brief Persian Golf

(Timeframe 191200ZMAR – 261200ZMAR)

## General Situation:

The situation has barely changed since the last update on March 26, 2026. Israel and the USA continue to attack targets in Iran using stand-off weapons. Neighbouring states persist in their self-defence measures. Iran continues to target states in the Persian Gulf with ballistic missiles and drones.

The de facto blockade of the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) remains in effect. During the reporting period, there were no direct attacks on civilian vessels in this maritime area; however, the threat of attacks persists. Public news outlets, have reported the deployment of naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz, but these reports cannot be confirmed from our side.

Individual vessels appear to have left the Persian Gulf through Iranian territorial waters after coordinating with Iran and paying a fee. Such actions are discouraged, as it remains unclear how Iran classifies vessels with German links based on their relations with Israel or the USA.

Iran's attack on the Diego Garcia base suggests that the country possesses weapons with a longer range than previously assumed. However, precise information is not yet available.

AIS and GPS signals are heavily jammed, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, though these disruptions decreased during the reporting period. Due to these GPS interferences, the use of a Doppler log is required for entry into the port of Mina al Fahal.

## Operational Overview:

Since the beginning of the war, a total of 19 merchant vessels have been hit in the Persian Gulf, some suffering severe damage. Since the last situation update on March 19, 2026, no vessel has been directly targeted; ships were only struck and slightly damaged by debris from intercepted missiles or drones.

- SKYLIGHT (IMO 9330020): Chemical tanker (Palau). Hit on Feb 28 north of Khasab (OMN). 4 crew members injured; evacuation completed; vessel sank.
- MKD VYOM (IMO 9284386): Crude oil tanker (Marshall Islands). Hit on March 1 in the Gulf of Oman. Vessel is drifting and severely disabled; 1 confirmed fatality, unit evacuated. Heavy hull damage above the waterline and fire in the engine room.
- HERCULES STAR (IMO 9916135): Product tanker (Gibraltar). Hit on March 1, 20 nautical miles northwest of Dubai. Fire extinguished.
- STENA IMPERATIVE (IMO 9666077): Oil/chemical tanker (USA). Hit in the port of Muharrag (Bahrain). Fire extinguished; crew evacuated.
- GOLD OAK (IMO 9806342): Bulk carrier (Panama). Lateral hit on March 3 while at anchor in Fujairah (UAE).





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- SAFEEN PRESTIGE (IMO 9593517): Container ship (Malta). Hit on March 4; projectile passed through the vessel; fire broke out. Crew abandoned ship. Further attack on March 18, fire broke out; no crew on board (since March 4).
- SONANGOL NAMIBE (IMO 9325049): Crude oil tanker (Bahamas). Hit on March 4 at anchor in Iraqi waters; water ingress and ballast water leakage.
- MUSSAFAH 2 (IMO 9522051): Tug (UAE). Hit on March 6 while en route to salvage the SAFEEN PRESTIGE; struck by two missiles. 4 dead, 3 injured.
- ARABIA III (IMO 8771332): Drilling rig (Liberia). Hit on March 7; fire under control, one injured, crew reduced to minimum.
- MAYUREE NAREE (IMO 9323649): Bulk carrier (Thailand). Hit on March 11; fire under control, 3 missing.
- STAR GWYNETH (IMO 9301031): Bulk carrier (Marshall Islands). Hit on March 11; punctures in cargo hold and ballast tank, vessel is listing.
- ZEFYROS (IMO 9515917): Oil/chemical tanker (Malta). Hit on March 11 during STS (ship-to-ship transfer) with SAFESA VISHNU; fire, one fatality.
- SAFESA VISHNU (IMO 9327009): Crude oil tanker (Marshall Islands). Hit on March 11 during STS with ZEFYROS; fire.
- SOURCE BLESSING (IMO 9243198): Container ship (Liberia). Hit on March 12; fire extinguished (German link).

Additional reports concerning vessels with no or minimal damage: 5

There are currently no possibilities to escort vessels out of the area. According to information from other nations, several countries are working on options (escort operations) once the situation has stabilized.

### Infrastructure and Port Status

On March 20th and 21st, the refinery in Mina Al-Ahmadi, Kuwait, was struck; the fire has been extinguished. No further attacks on port infrastructures have been reported. Nevertheless, several Gulf states continue to report further attacks of their territories today, March 26.

### Port Status

The following map shows the status of ports in the Persian Gulf. Below are brief supplementary details: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Vopak SPM remains out of service; ADNOC SPM and Fujairah Oil Tanker Terminal are partially operational.

IRAQ: Basra Oil Terminal and SPM Somo Terminal are out of service; other ports remain operational with reduced capacity.





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## Official Port Operational Status



### UAE

➤ All ports are currently operating. We have seen some port disruptions since the start of the conflict. All ports are ISPS 1, except for Petroleum Port Authorities, which are ISPS level 2 as a precautionary measure.

### KUWAIT

➤ All ports are operating normally. No stoppage of operations has been reported. Shuwaikh and Shuaiba Port are at ISPS Level 2. All other ports ISPS 1

### OMAN

➤ All ports are operating normally. Qalhat LNG terminal, Sur and Mina Al Fahal, Muscat, ISPS Level 3 as a precautionary measure. All other ports are ISPS Level 1.

### SAUDI ARABIA

➤ All port operational activities are functioning at full capacity.

### BAHRAIN

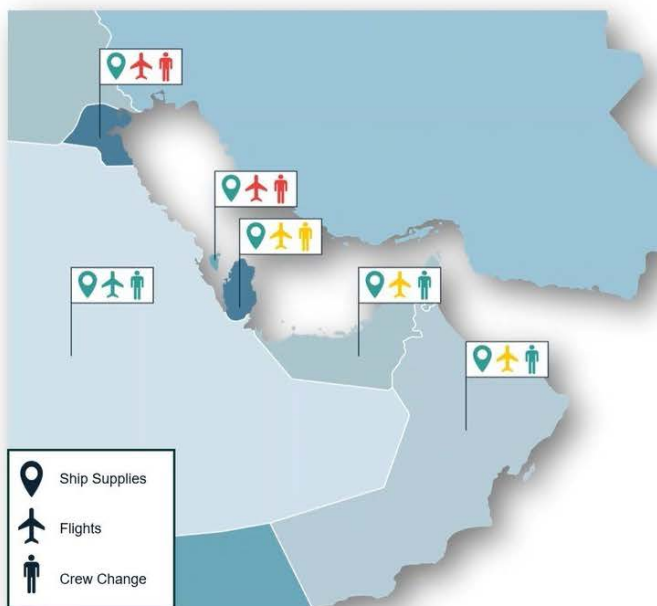
➤ All ports are operating normally; however, operations remain limited due to the restricted availability of pilots. BAPCO operations remain suspended.

### QATAR

➤ All ports are operational; however, activity levels are lower than pre-conflict. Al Ruwais Port is restricted to small craft only.  
➤ Qatar Energy has ceased production of LNG and associated products.  
➤ Al Shaheen Terminal and Halul Island Terminal - Operations suspended until further notice.

Additional information regarding crew changes and supply options for vessels:

## Vessel and Crew Husbandry Overview



### UAE

➤ Airport operations remain limited, airspace is open, crew changes and vessel husbandry are possible.

### KUWAIT

➤ Airspace is temporarily closed, crew changes are permitted only with prior approval and hotel-only movements, while vessel husbandry remains possible.

### OMAN

➤ Airspace remains open despite some suspended international routes, with crew changes and vessel husbandry continuing as normal.

### SAUDI ARABIA

➤ Airspace remains open with some international flight suspensions, and both crew changes and vessel husbandry remain possible.

### BAHRAIN

➤ Airspace is temporarily closed, crew changes are not possible, but vessel husbandry continues.

### QATAR

➤ Airport operations are limited, airspace is temporarily closed, crew changes are possible, and vessel husbandry remains operational.

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### Impact on German Interests (DEU)

According to AIS data and consultations with shipping companies, approximately 137 vessels with a German link are within the Area of Interest (see Annex), 51 of these are currently stranded in the Persian Gulf.

### Assessment:

It is still assumed that Iran possesses sufficient missiles and drones, particularly for attacks in the Persian Gulf. The threat to shipping remains, even though no vessels were directly attacked during the last reporting period.

Iran's regular navy remains crippled and is barely operational. However, the Revolutionary Guard appears to still possess widespread access to small combat craft, drones, and missiles. Iranian attacks are currently 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 ships in the vicinity could be accidentally damaged—either by Iranian strikes or by the defence measures of neighbouring states (e.g., falling debris with residual explosives). These risks must also be taken into account on shipping routes and at anchorages.

The Houthi in Yemen have announced a resumption of attacks against shipping but have not yet implemented them. Nevertheless, they confirm that attacks in the Red Sea could be resumed as soon as the Houthi deem them necessary.

### Conclusion:

All vessels and crews are under direct threat. Both crews and ships are unable to leave the region and are currently stranded. Attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) at this time must be considered highly dangerous. The German Maritime Security Centre (MSchLtg) continues to issue a recommendation to German shipowners to avoid any such attempts. The risk of Houthi attacks in the Red Sea is now assessed as high—a resumption of strikes against merchant shipping is considered imminent.

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

**MARITIM RISK LEVEL - CRITICAL**





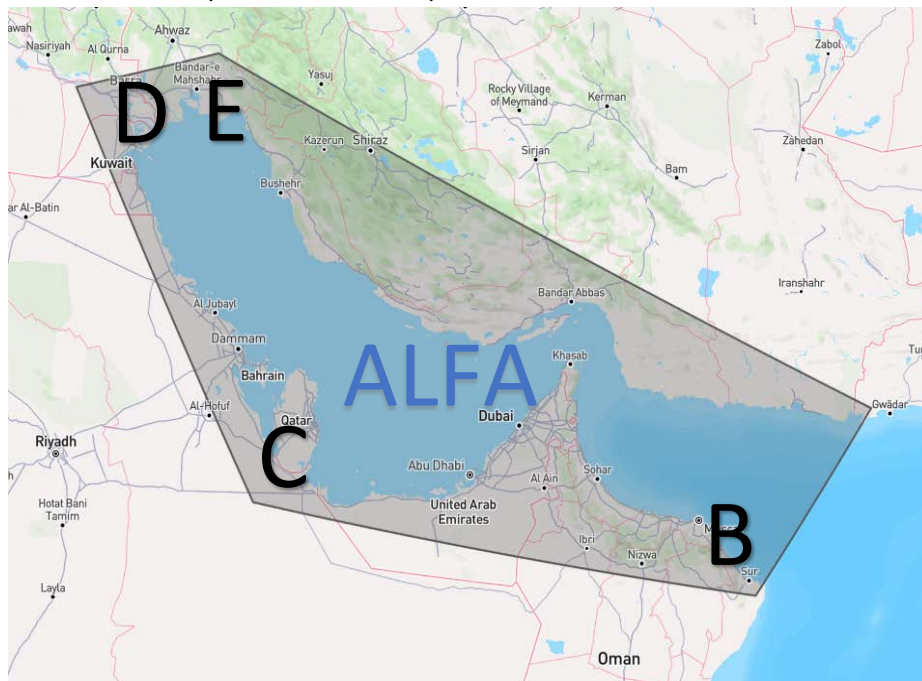
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## Appendix

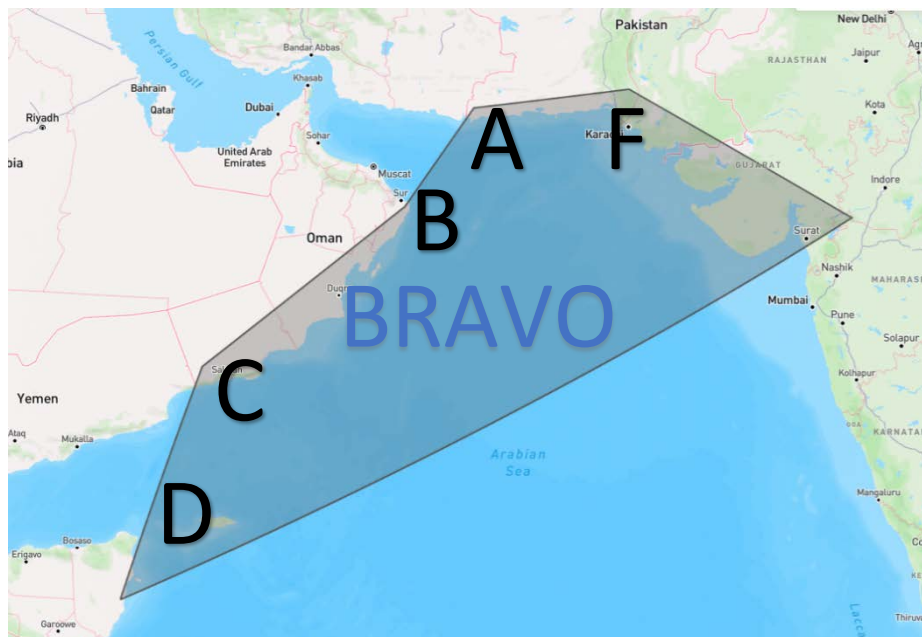
### Area of Interest DEU NCAGS

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

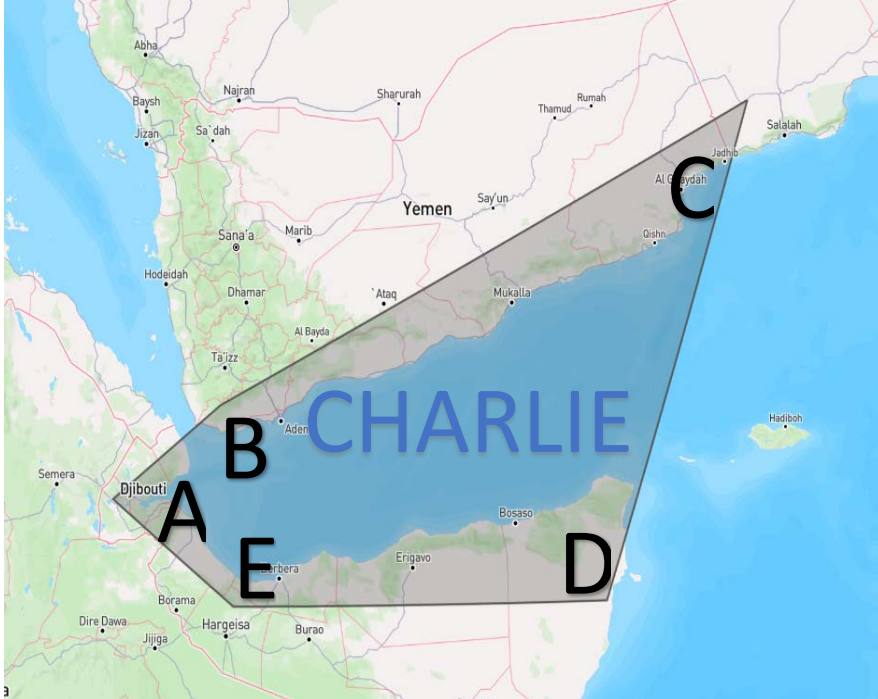




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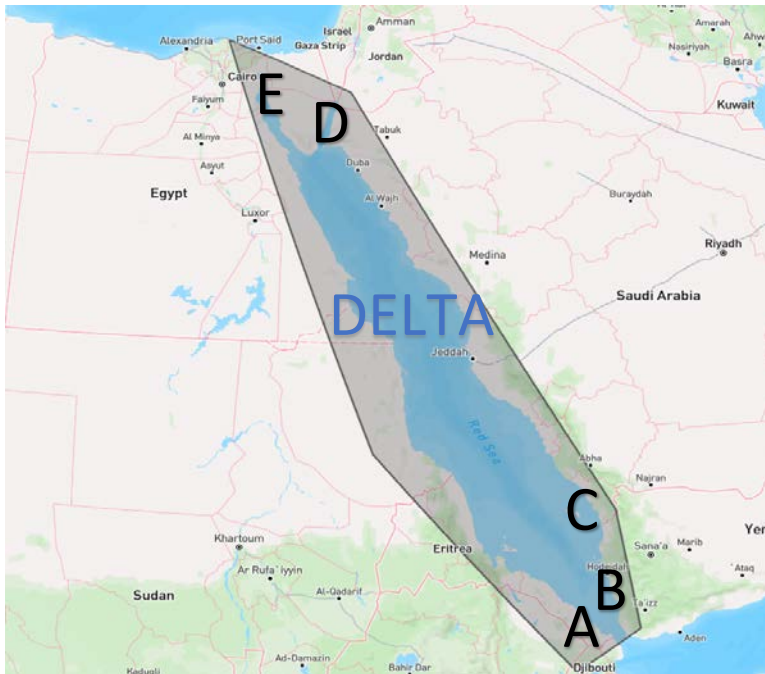


## Gulf of Aden:



- 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

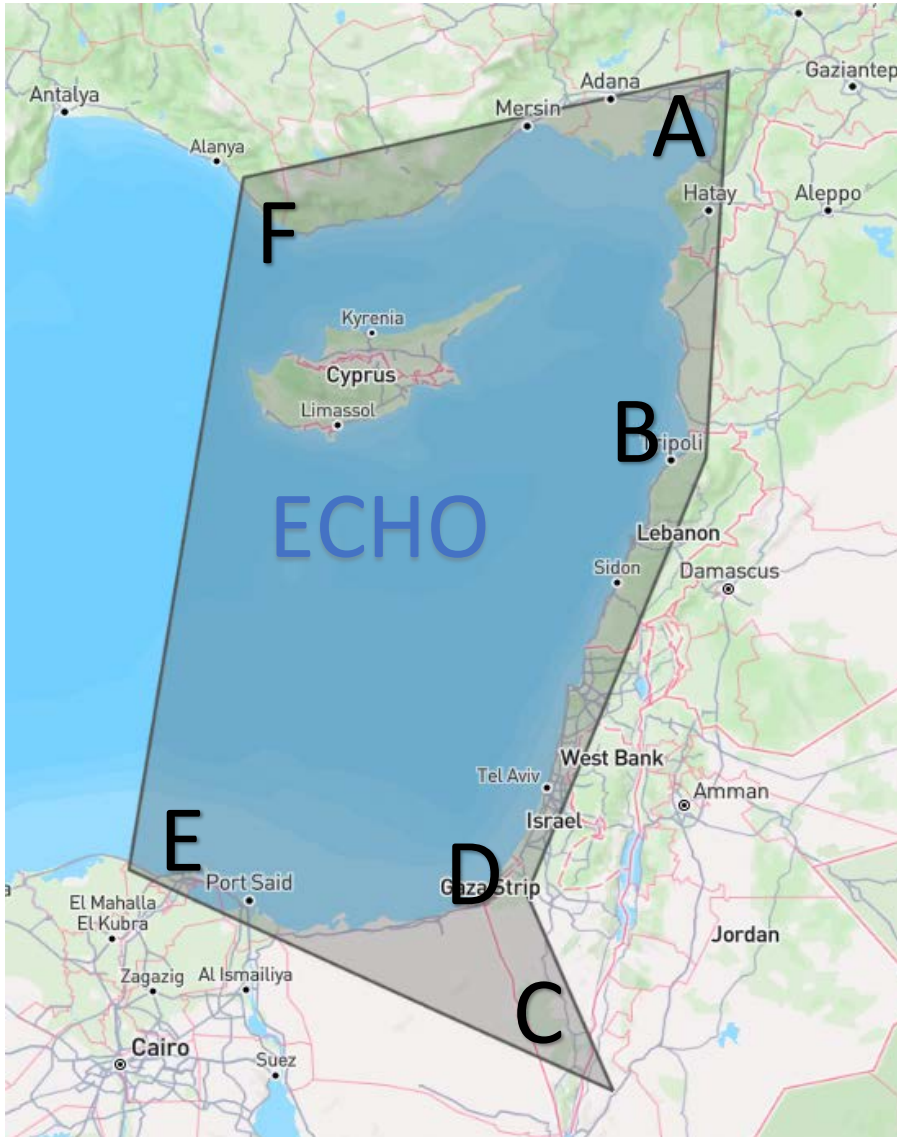
## Mediterranean Sea EAST:

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## GERMAN NAVY SHIPPING CENTRE



- 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

