

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 14-19

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: MARAD – GPS INTERFERENCE IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND RED SEAS

Date: 06 May 2019

This Marine Safety Advisory (MSA) supersedes MSA No. 28-18.

The United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) has issued the below US Maritime Advisory No. 2019-005 regarding Global Positioning System (GPS) interference in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator urges all RMI-flagged vessels transiting the designated areas listed in the below Advisory to exercise caution.

U.S. MARITIME ADVISORY 2019-005

Threat Type: GPS Interference

Geographic Area: Eastern Mediterranean and Red Seas

This revised Advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2018-014

1. Reference: U.S. Maritime Alerts 2018-004A, 2018-004B, 2018-008A.
2. Issue: Multiple instances of significant GPS interference continue to be reported by vessels and aircraft operating in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. These reports have been concentrated near Port Said, Egypt, the Suez Canal, and in the vicinity of the Republic of Cyprus. Instances of similar interference were also reported between Hadera, Israel and Beirut, Lebanon and near Jeddah Port, Saudi Arabia. This interference is resulting in lost or otherwise altered GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing and communications equipment.
3. Guidance: Exercise caution when transiting these areas. The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) and NATO Shipping Center websites contain information regarding effective navigation practices for vessels experiencing GPS interference. The information reaffirms safe navigation practices when

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

experiencing possible GPS disruption, provides useful details on reporting possible GPS disruption, and is intended to generate further discussions within the maritime community about other disruption mitigation practices and procedures. This guidance also recommends taking note of critical information such as the location (latitude/longitude), date/time, and duration of the outage/disruption, and providing photographs or screen shots of equipment failures during a disruption to facilitate analysis. The NAVCEN information is available at: <https://go.usa.gov/xQBau>.

4. Contact Information: GPS disruptions or anomalies should be immediately reported to the NAVCEN at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaw> or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24-hours a day. The NATO Shipping Center has requested that instances of GPS interference also be reported to them using the format on their Cyber Interference link: <https://shipping.nato.int/nsc/page10303037.aspx>
5. Cancellation: This message will automatically expire on October 27, 2019.