



*Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)
Operations*

*Counter Piracy Operations, Challenges,
Shortfalls and Lessons Learned*

4 June 2009

*Cdr Alastair Clark RN
CMF ACOS (OPS)*

Overall Classification
UNCLASSIFIED



Combined Maritime Forces

- Coalition of the Willing
- Primary Missions:
 - Counter violent extremists and terrorist networks
 - Work with regional and coalition partners to improve overall maritime security and stability
- CTF 150
 - Established in support of Operation Enduring Freedom
- CTF 151
 - Counter-piracy
- CTF 152
 - Arabian Gulf maritime security



Non-Members with staff presence





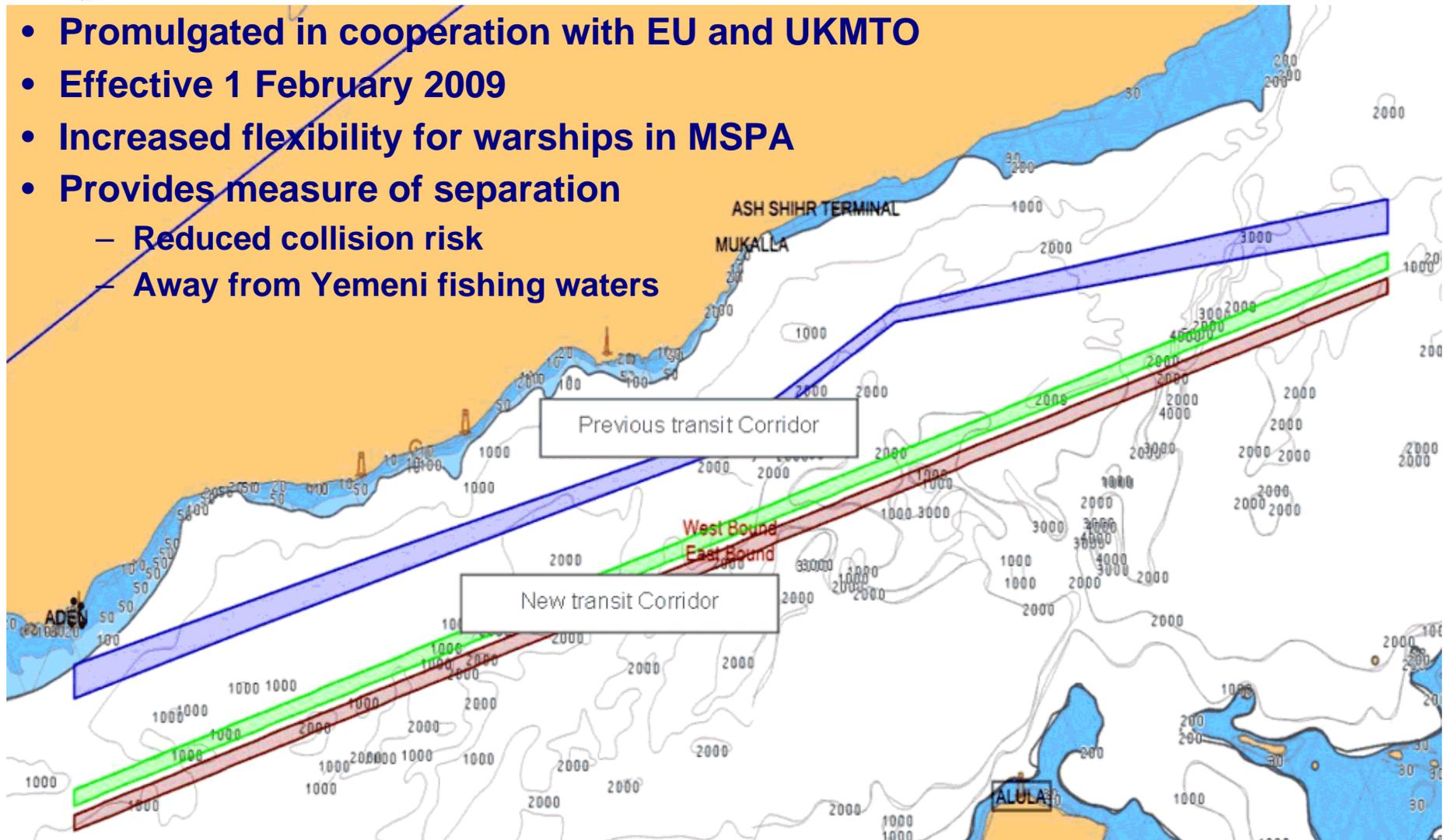
Combined Task Force (CTF) 151

- **CMF established CTF 151 as a mission based Task Force:**
 - 12 Jan 09 under a UNSCR counter-piracy mandate
- **CTF 151 is a mission specific CTF not geographically constrained**
- **Mandate based upon the range of counter-piracy UNSCRs**
- **Provides significant flexibility to the command to undertake operations**
- **Critical factors for mission success:**
 - International force participation with the coalition
 - Maritime merchant community participation and active self defense, and
 - Merchant marine active communication with UK MTO/US MARLO to maintain situational awareness



Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC)

- Promulgated in cooperation with EU and UKMTO
- Effective 1 February 2009
- Increased flexibility for warships in MSPA
- Provides measure of separation
 - Reduced collision risk
 - Away from Yemeni fishing waters





Countering Piracy - Military Aspects

- **Shared Awareness and Deconfliction Meeting (SHADE):**
 - CMF, EUNAVFOR, NATO, Russia, China, India and other participating nations
 - Information sharing (SHADE Meeting)
- **Current naval actions include:**
 - Presence / deterrence / surveillance of pirate activity
 - Providing warning to commercial shipping of potential pirate locations
 - Group transit plan for commercial shipping
 - Boarding suspected pirate vessels
 - Intervening against pirate attacks in progress
 - Providing surveillance / communications support after ships have been taken
 - Detention of pirates



Shared Awareness and Deconfliction Meeting (SHADE)

- **SHADE working well**
- **Now Co-chaired by CMF and EU**
- **26 May meeting attended by 22 nations**
 - CMF, NATO, EU represented
 - China, Russia and India all attended
 - Seychelles and Interpol represented for the first time
 - Industry represented for the first time – representative from Oil Companies International Maritime Forum (OCIMF)
- **SHADE very firmly established – next meetings 7 Jul and 11 Aug**



SHADE - Recommendations

- **Sound decisions taken on practical military co-ordination and deconfliction**
 - CTF 151 will continue to coordinate assets within the IRTC using 4 Whiskey grid
 - Rotation of this coordination to be considered in future
 - MERCURY (FEXWEB replacement) to be main means of disseminating unclassified information
 - SHADE-T and MERCURY technical teams working together to establish whether cooperation/integration is possible
 - Consideration given to align convoy times to Group Transit times
 - Longer term aim to reduce convoy assets to allow maximum concentration of assets on the IRTC
 - Working on developing common Link picture
- **CMF and EU briefed the SHADE outcome to the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in New York on 29 May 2009**



Pirates Adaptive TTPs

- Greater use of Mother Ships
- 'Stepping Stone' piracy – taking yacht, then fishing boat, then larger Merchant Ship
- Increase in crew size to control more vessels
- Opportunist attacks day and night
- Younger pirates becoming involved
- Very adaptive to ROE – warning shots becoming less effective
- Ditching weapons and pirate paraphernalia prior to boarding to destroy evidence



Potential Requirements

- **Equipment Shortfalls & Capability Gaps**
 - ISR – vast areas and scarce assets (with higher priorities)
 - Communications equipment between participating nations/organizations
 - Tracking devices for released pirate skiffs
 - Temporary holding facilities for captured pirates
 - Non lethal self defense for Merchant Shipping
 - Non lethal weapons to prevent piracy attacks
 - Non lethal/destructive methods to stop pirate skiffs ignoring warning shots
 - Required to maintain skiff integrity for 'Catch and Release'
 - Evidence recording equipment
 - Maintenance of evidence trail between different participating organizations/nations
- **Technical Challenges**
 - Shared Link architecture between all participants
 - Common Operational Picture – being addressed by SHADE-T/Mercury?
 - Shared database between all participants on Suspected Pirates



Representative IRTC Patrol Areas





SHADE – April Meeting

- Explaining the 4 Whiskey Grid

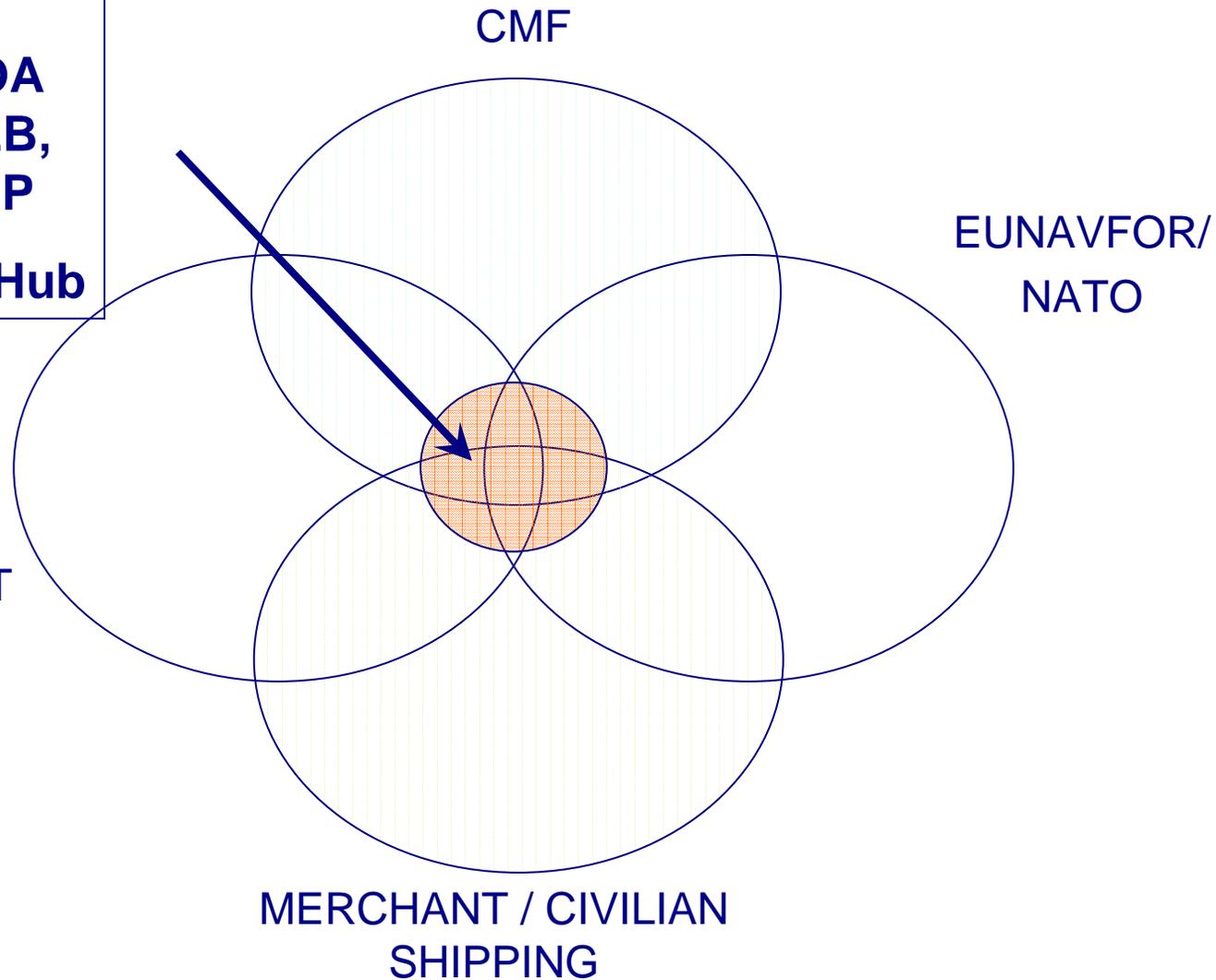




Counter-Piracy Information Sharing / Coordination

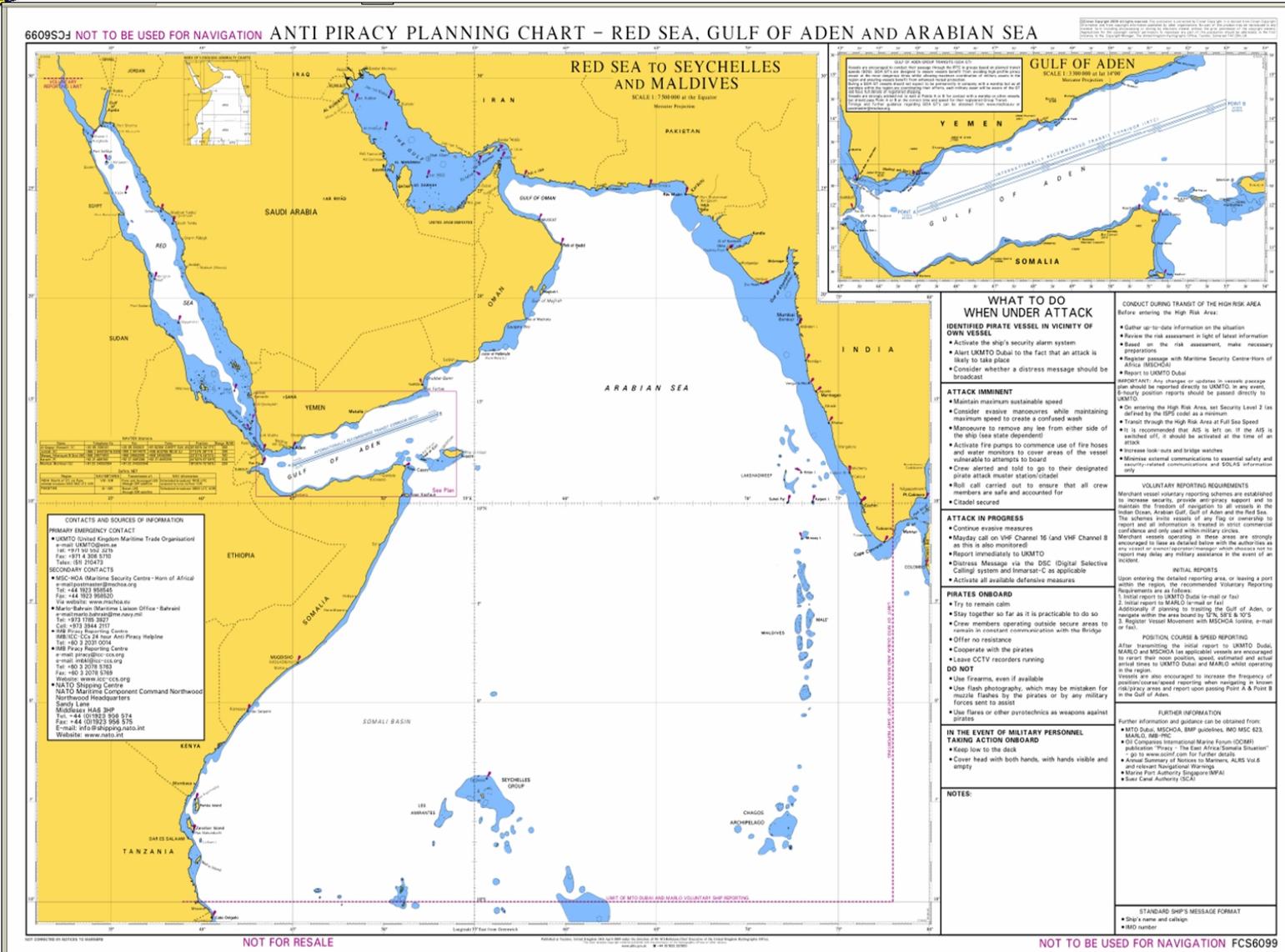
**UKMTO /
MARLO/MSC HOA
Website, FEXWEB,
SHADE-T, C-COP
Communications Hub**

**INDEPENDENT
NAVIES
(RUS, CHN,
MAL, IND etc)**





Anti Piracy Planning Chart





Summary

- SHADE working well, achieving practical results
- Further SHADE Development in progress
- SHADE attendance open to all nations with an interest

More generally ;

- Force Flow always an issue ; need nations to continue to consider what they can provide in fight against piracy
- Is escorting the most effective use of assets?
- Working closer with Industry
- Basic assumptions still stand, until the solution is reached ashore, counter-piracy must focus on three interrelated elements
 - Improved security and defensive efforts by the shipping industry
 - International naval presence to deter / disrupt / defeat pirate attempts
 - International legal framework for resolving piracy cases