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*Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)  
Operations*

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

*4 June 2009*

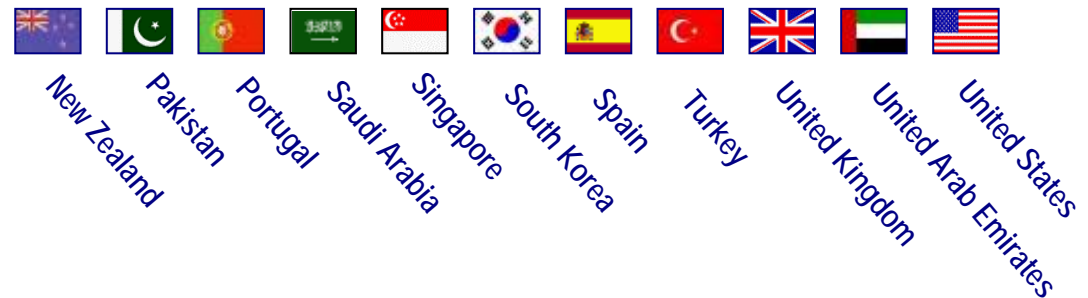
*Cdr Alastair Clark RN  
CMF ACOS (OPS)*

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*

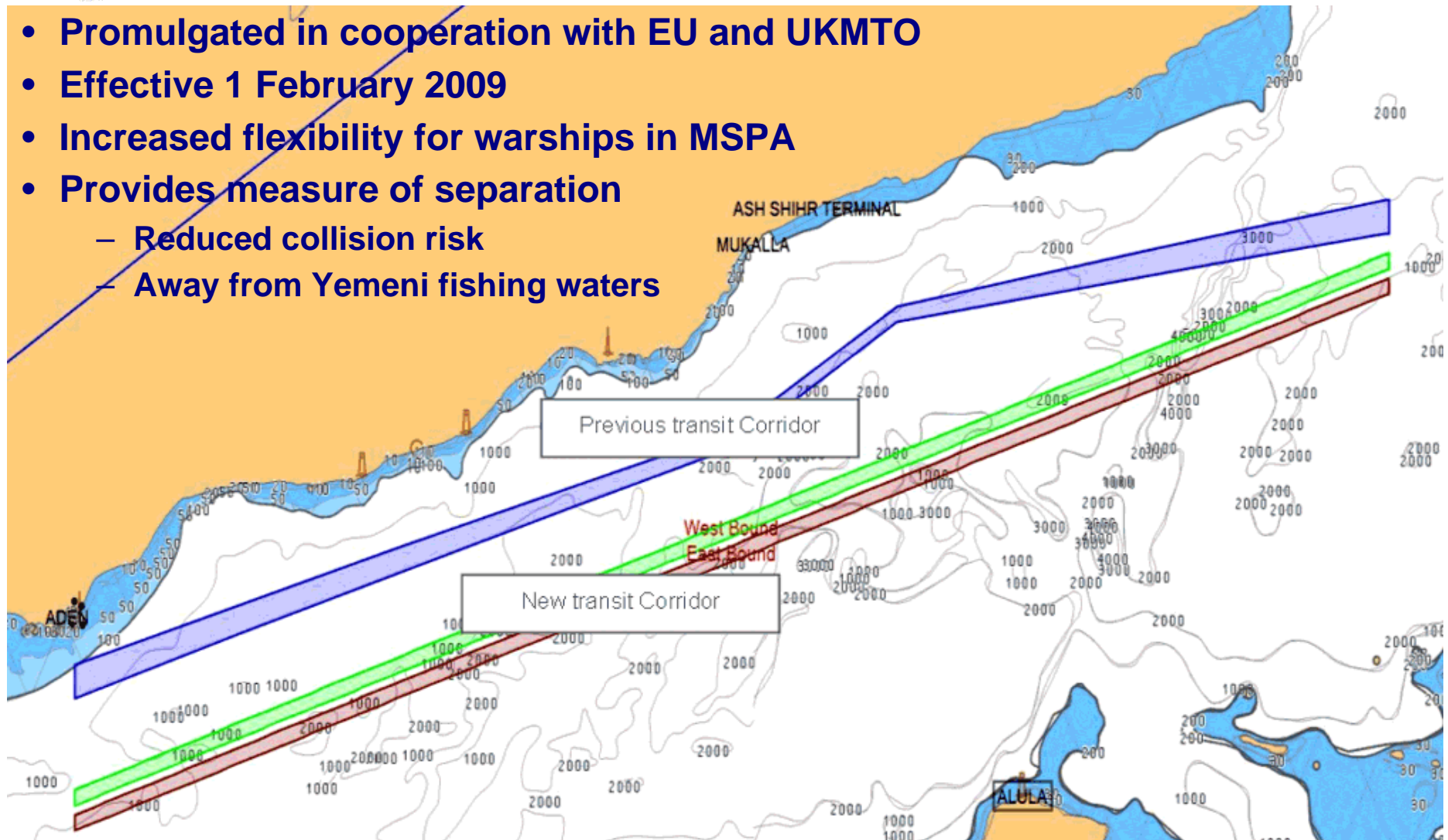
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- **CMF established CTF 151 as a mission based Task Force:**
  - 12 Jan 09 under a UNSCR counter-piracy mandate
- **CTF 151 is a mission specific CTF not geographically constrained**
- **Mandate based upon the range of counter-piracy UNSCRs**
- **Provides 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*

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- **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)*

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- **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*

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- **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*

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- 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*

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- **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*

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# *SHADE – April Meeting*

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- Explaining the 4 Whiskey Grid

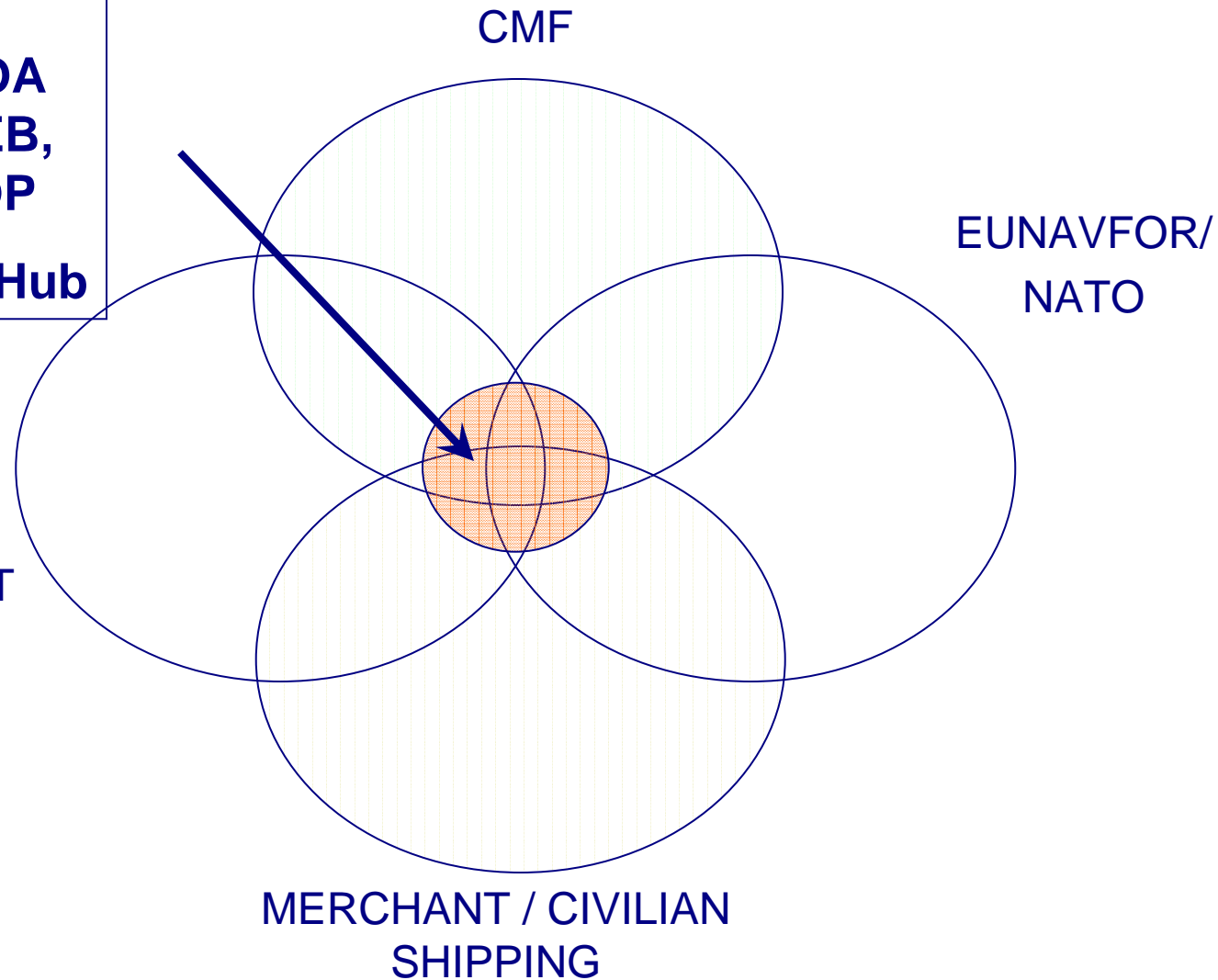




# *Counter-Piracy Information Sharing / Coordination*

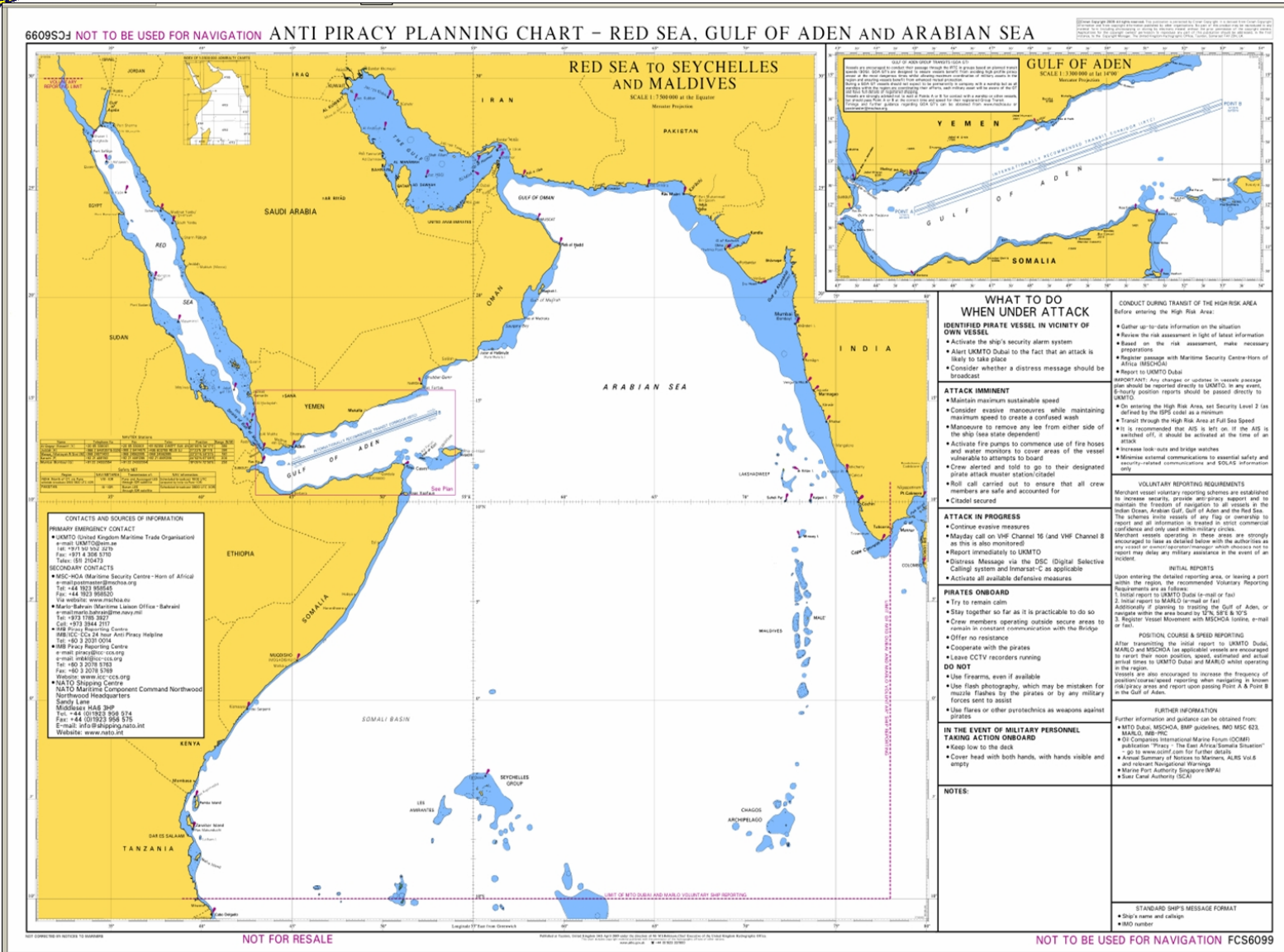
**UKMTO /  
MARLO/MSA HOA  
Website, FEXWEB,  
SHADE-T, C-COP  
Communications Hub**

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





# Anti Piracy Planning Chart





# Summary

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- 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