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Ocean Updates

Houthi Red Sea Attacks Show No Sign of Abating, U.S. Admiral Says

The U.S.-led force in the Red Sea has shot down 19 drones and missiles launched by the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen in less than a month, but there's no sign that the militants are backing off, the commander of U.S. Navy forces in the Middle East said.

More than 1,500 international merchant ships have passed safely through the Red Sea since a coalition task force started operations on December 18, Vice Admiral Brad Cooper said Thursday. Cooper said the coalition is employing a "zone defence," with five vessels seeking to protect all ships in the waterway as opposed to providing individual escorts to a few. He said the task force is taking an active role, "maneuvering and communicating at sea."

Cooper's acknowledgment that the Houthi attacks aren't abating comes as the U.S. and allies are giving increasingly stern warnings of more aggressive action. On Wednesday, more than a dozen nations led by the U.S. issued a statement warning that the Houthis "will bear the responsibility of the consequences should they continue to threaten lives, the global economy and free flow of commerce in the region's critical waterways."

A UK official said Thursday that allied action against the Houthis in Yemen, where they are based, is likely if they don't heed that warning.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

Tension Grows amid Calls for UN to Step in to Stop Attacks on Ships

Calls from around the world are mounting for the United Nations to step in and address the ongoing attacks against commercial vessels transiting the Red Sea.

And at an emergency meeting convened on January 3 by the UN Security Council, governments including the UK and the U.S. warned that the Houthis and Iran would "face consequences" should the attacks persist.

Shortly before the council met, a joint statement from the governments of Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK and the U.S. warned the Houthi rebels directly against further attacks.

It read: “They are illegal, unacceptable and profoundly destabilizing. There is no lawful justification for targeting civilian shipping and naval vessels. They threaten innocent lives from all over the world and constitute a significant international problem that demands collective action.”

Furthermore, the joint statement said, the campaign waged by the Yemen-based, Iran-backed Houthi militia had included what the governments described as the “historic first use of anti-ship ballistic missiles” against commercial shipping.

It added that this was “a direct threat to the freedom of navigation that serves as the bedrock of global trade in one of the world’s most critical waterways.”

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

International Business/Government

Weather to Be Biggest Supply Chain Risk in 2024: Report

Extreme weather is predicted to be the biggest danger to supply chain operations in 2024.

In its 2024 risk report, everstream.ai said a US\$1 billion weather-caused event happens every three weeks, on average, in the United States. In the 1980s, these events occurred only every four months.

The report suggested that supply chain operations managers should minimize extreme weather risk by closely monitoring routes and shipments enroute for approaching disruption. Planning should include using predictive weather forecasts and disruptions alerts, along with predictive ETAs.

Read more in an [article from Inside Logistics](#).