

Information Bulletin July 2023



EMASoH in July – Bottom Lines Up Front

- The flagship of EMASoH, ITS Luigi Rizzo, hosted an event for several European ambassadors on board during a scheduled port visit to Doha, Qatar.
- AGENOR Force Commander RADM PANEBIANCO and Head of NCAGS attended the MIEVOM conference in Dubai, UAE, where they raised awareness on the EMASoH mission and the efforts of Operation AGENOR.
- A major Saudi Arabian shipping company visited the flagship of AGENOR while in Dubai, to attend a presentation from the EMASoH Staff about the principles of EMASoH and its methods of operating.
- During the port visit to Dubai, ITS Luigi Rizzo hosted another presentation to several merchant shipping companies, to inform them about EMASoH and the military pillar Operation AGENOR.
- The staff of Operation AGENOR is afloat, on board the flagship ITS Luigi Rizzo. Until August the 13th we can be reached via +39 0187024, DIAL 2 FOR ENGLISH and press: 7566903. After the 13th, we will use a new number: +971 2 657 4090.

Ambassadors event in Doha, Qatar



Figure 1. Force Commander RADM PANEBIANCO presenting EMASoH and AGENOR to attendees

During the scheduled port visit to Doha, the Italian ship ITS Luigi Rizzo - current flagship of EMASoH military Operation AGENOR - invited several ambassadors, defense attachés and officials onboard. Among them were representatives of countries participating in EMASoH, as well as delegates from other countries interested in the ongoing European-led Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz.

It was a unique opportunity for us to deliver information about EMASoH and its military pillar, Operation

AGENOR. The current Force Commander, Italian Rear Admiral Mauro PANEBIANCO introduced everyone to the fundamentals of the EMASoH initiative, Naval Coordination and Guidance to Shipping (NCAGS) and how EMASoH operates and contributes to the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and its approaches.

We had a high attendance of several key leaders of European countries. There were the ambassadors to Belgium, Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain and also deputy heads of missions and chargés d'affaires and defense attachés of: The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Germany, France and the European Union. The meeting was a valuable and fruitful one, and we look forward to similar events that we can host in the future.



Figure 2. Group picture during the Ambassadors event on the bridge of ITS Luigi Rizzo

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MIEVOM conference Dubai, UAE

On July 6th, EMASoH-AGENOR attended the Maritime Information Exchange Vessel Operators' Meeting (MIEVOM) conference at the Dubai International Seafarers Centre. The event, hosted by the UKMTO (Royal Navy), offered a chance to several stakeholders within the maritime sector to share their experience and knowledge of their endeavours in the maritime domain.



Figure 3. The Head of NCAGS explains about our Voluntary Reporting Scheme (VRS)

Two EMASoH key players spoke during the conference. Firstly, Rear Admiral Mauro Panebianco, Force Commander of Operation AGENOR, introduced the purpose and core principles of the Operation. The introduction was followed up by the Head of NCAGS (Naval Coordination and Guidance to Shipping). He went in-depth and explained the audience more about the EMASoH-AGENOR operating model, reassurance of merchant shipping and the importance of freedom of navigation in the Gulf region.

Presentation to major Saudi Arabian merchant shipping company

When an EMASoH asset has a port visit, we aim to continue our efforts by informing merchant shipping companies and maritime industry about our activities and purpose. During a port visit to Dubai in early July, we held an informative event on board of ITS Luigi Rizzo, in order to raise awareness and create understanding about our operation.

It was a great opportunity for us to have meaningful conversations with one of our stakeholders and gain valuable insights with regard to the freedom of navigation in our area of operation, as well as merchant vessel owner's general security concerns.



Figure 4. The Head of NCAGS explains about our Voluntary Reporting Scheme (VRS)

During another scheduled visit to Dubai, we will host another informative event for several major merchant shipping companies that operate in the Gulf area.

Activities in the Strait of Hormuz

In the month of July EMASoH continued to conduct its core activities by accompanying multiple merchant vessels during their passage through the Strait of Hormuz and performing EMMA calls (EMASoH Manoeuvres). EMASoH currently has several assets to use for this very purpose: the flagship, Italian frigate ITS Luigi Rizzo and its NH-90 helicopter, a French Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) and an Italian Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). Using these assets, we reassure merchant shipping and contribute to their safe passage of the Strait of Hormuz and its approaches.



Figure 5. The NH-90 helicopter during a night flight



Figure 6. An accompanied ship seen from ITS Luigi Rizzo

Website EMASoH/AGENOR

EMASoH/AGENOR recently got its own website. Explore our website where you can find all information combined, including our Voluntary Reporting Scheme, newsletters, press releases and pictures. The website will be continuously updated in the future.

Voluntary Reporting Scheme

We have an average of 27 ships reporting to us each day in the EMASoH Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).

Shipping companies are invited to participate to our Voluntary Reporting Scheme. Voluntary reporting improves the cooperation and guidance that EMASoH can provide to those ships. Voluntary reported ships are also prioritised for possible accompaniments with EMASoH's naval assets and reassuring calls with naval and aerial assets.

Before entering the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA), 48 hours in advance, or as soon as possible:

- ✓ **inform** EMASoH about the timing of your intended entry and exit of the VRA;
- ✓ **confirm** the planning 6 hours before entering and share possible changes to the journey planning;
- ✓ **report** any suspicious behaviour to the coast guard of the coastal state and to EMASoH.

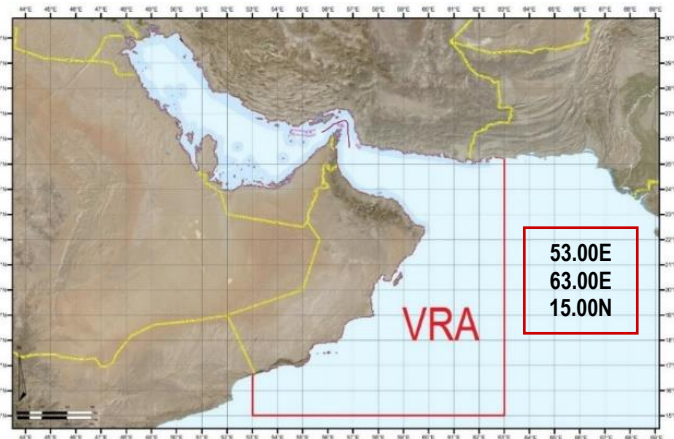


Figure 7: The EMASoH Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA)

Voluntary reporting to EMASoH via ctf474-emasoh.vra.fct@def.gouv.fr or phone: **+39 0187024 (DAIL 2 FOR ENGLISH) 7566903** (+971 2 657 4090 after August 13th)

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