



# MARITIME SECURITY CHART WEST AFRICA INCLUDING GULF OF GUINEA

1:8 500 000 (At the Equator)  
Mercator Projection

**VOLUNTARY REPORTING AREA NOTE**

**MARITIME SECURITY  
INCIDENT REPORTING CENTRE  
CONTACT MTISC-GoG**

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**PLEASE REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
USING THE BY EXCEPTION REPORT FORM**

**Maritime Security Planning Chart**  
This planning chart provides the mariner with Security of Navigation routing information to enable effective passage planning through an area of, or having the potential for, increased risk. Due to the likelihood of rapid escalation and complexity of security threats it is important that mariners use this chart in conjunction with Security Related Information to Mariners (SRIM) which can be found at [www.ukho.gov.uk/security](http://www.ukho.gov.uk/security). Any short term, safety critical information will be broadcast via navigation warnings.

**What is Security of Navigation?**  
Security of Navigation can be broadly described as methods for the mitigation of those man made threats which can influence or affect the safe or timely passage of merchant shipping as distinct from hazards posed by the natural environment of the sea. Examples of such threats are given, but not limited to, information provided on this chart (see Potential Threats to Security of Navigation).

**THE MARITIME TRADE INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE GULF OF GUINEA (MTISC-GoG)**  
The Maritime Trade Information Sharing Centre for the Gulf of Guinea (MTISC-GoG) develops, maintains and shares details from an accurate maritime domain picture of the waters off Africa's western seaboard in order to reduce the impact of maritime crime on the shipping industry.

To do this, MTISC-GoG collects information from multiple sources. The centre also administers a Voluntary Reporting scheme under which merchant vessels are encouraged to report positional information along with any information on incidents of suspicious activity while in a defined reporting area that stretches from Mauritania to Angola.

Through 24-hour manned monitoring of these vessels, MTISC-GoG shares updates and guidance on security risks and incidents with the shipping industry, law enforcement and merchant vessels directly. In the event of any maritime incident MTISC-GoG acts as a single point of contact in the region and is able to pass relevant data to the appropriate authority in a timely manner.

The centre is based in Accra, Ghana and is 24-hour manned by watch-keepers from both navy and merchant companies in the region. The centre is also supported by an Interpol Liaison Officer and a Merchant Navy Liaison Officer (MNLLO).

It is recommended that ship owners and operators refer to the MTISC-GoG website ([www.mtiscgog.org](http://www.mtiscgog.org)) in order to obtain the latest information on the maritime security situation in the region.

**POTENTIAL THREATS TO SECURITY OF NAVIGATION**  
This section is intended as assistance to the mariner rather than provide a strict definition of security threats within the maritime environment. Further information about specific threats will be promulgated by Security Related Information to Mariners or via navigation warning.

**Piracy / Armed Robbery**  
Regardless of location (and hence legal definition) piracy and armed robbery pose a significant threat to the mariner, the cargo and potentially the ship. Depending on the geographical location the nature of the threat may change and specific guidance and advice will be provided on planning charts or via Security Related Information to Mariners. Where possible such acts will also be promulgated by appropriate navigation warnings. (see SafetyNet box).

**Illegal Fishing and Smuggling**  
Vessels conducting illegal fishing or smuggling activities (including narcotics, weapons and people) may pose no immediate threat to the mariner but these activities have a significant negative impact upon the general maritime security situation. Masters are encouraged to report suspicious activities to the MTISC-GoG by email or telephone using the Incident Report and by giving as much detail of the suspicious activity as possible.

**SafetyNet broadcasts on Inmarsat C**  
NAVAREA II - Co-ordinator: FRANCE.  
NAVAREA VII - Co-ordinator: SOUTH AFRICA.

See Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS) Volume 5 (NP285) for full details, scheduled transmission times, etc.

Ships in the Maritime Trade Information Sharing Centre Gulf of Guinea Voluntary Reporting Area (MTISC-GoG VRA) should ensure that their Inmarsat C terminals are set to receive navigational warnings from both NAVAREA II and VII to be sure that they receive all of the relevant navigational warnings.

In addition ships should programme their Navtex receivers to receive navigation warnings from all appropriate Navtex stations.

**VOLUNTARY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**  
The Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) for MTISC-GoG exists to improve maritime security, provide valuable support to mariners and to maintain the freedom of navigation for all vessels in the waters off Africa's western seaboard.

Merchant vessels operating in the VRA are strongly encouraged to report to MTISC-GoG using the procedures set out below.

All information reported to MTISC-GoG is treated in strict commercial confidence.

**VESSEL REPORTING**  
Merchant vessels are strongly encouraged to report to MTISC-GoG by email ([info@mtiscgog.org](mailto:info@mtiscgog.org)) or telephone (+233 (0)302 718227 / (0)260 561633 / (0)248 060789) at the following times and intervals:

1. Initial Report (on entering the VRA to register with MTISC-GoG).

MTISC-GoG INITIAL REPORT	
1 Ship name	
2 Flag	
3 IMO Number	
4 INMARSAT Telephone number	
5 MMSI	
6 Time of report in UTC	
7 Ship Position	
8 Course	
9 Passage speed	
10 Freeboard	
11 Cargo	
12 Destination and Estimated Time of Arrival	
13 Name and contact details of Company Security Officer	
14 Nationality of Master and Crew	
15 Armed / unarmed security team embarked	

2. Daily Report at 0800 UTC (All reports should be in UTC).

MTISC-GoG DAILY REPORT	
1 Ship Name	
2 Ship call sign & IMO Number	
3 Time of report in UTC	
4 Ship Position	
5 Ship Course and Speed	
6 ETA point A/B IRTC (if applicable)	N/A
7 Sightings of Illegal Unlawful Unregulated (IUU) fishing or other assessed illegal activity Time, position, brief description of craft and activity witnessed.	

3. Final Report (upon departure from the VRA).

MTISC-GoG FINAL REPORT	
1 Ship Name	
2 Ship call sign & IMO Number	
3 Time of report in UTC	
4 Port or position when leaving GoG VRA	

4. Incident Report (the sighting of illegal/suspicious activity and/or under direct attack).

MTISC-GoG BY EXCEPTION REPORT	
1 Own Ship Name	
2 Own Ship call sign & IMO Number	
3 Time of report in UTC	
4 Own Ship Position	
5 Own Ship Course and Speed	
6 Sightings of Illegal Unlawful Unregulated (IUU) fishing or other assessed illegal activity Time, position, brief description of craft and activity witnessed.	

**ACTIVITY IN LAST 3 MONTHS (PLOT ON INSET PLAN)**

1. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
2. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
3. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
4. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
5. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
6. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
7. Location: Details:	Date/Time:
8. Location: Details:	Date/Time:

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