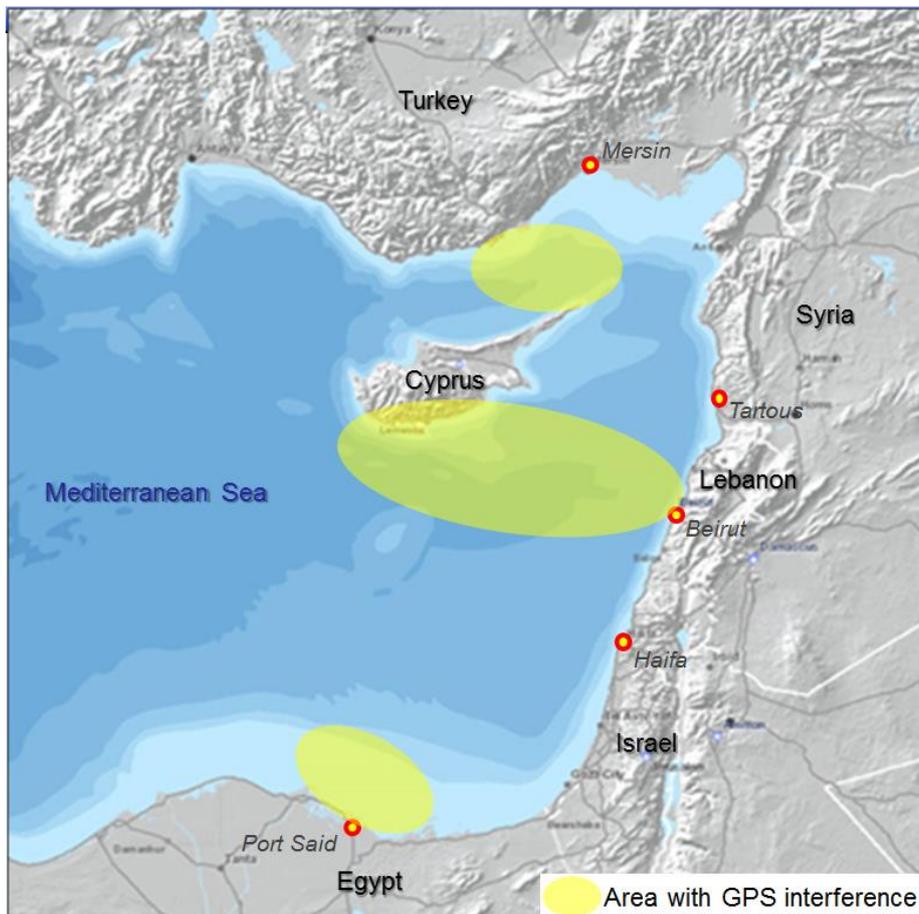


ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCES ASSESMENT

The eastern Mediterranean is extremely busy militarily. There are numerous warships operating in the region all with high powered transmitting devices. This undoubtedly results in a challenging electromagnetic environment and to some degree, mutual interference is expected. Furthermore, adjacent band interference and mobile phone networks such as 4G LTE likely compound the problem by causing additional interference or anomalies. While reporting to date has shown no serious impact to shipping, MARCOM N2 continues to monitor the region and assess the problems it may pose.

In July 18, the NATO Shipping Centre Published a report on Cyber Interference requesting additional reporting from industry should they experience interference during transit of the Mediterranean. Following this request a number reports have been received by HQ MARCOM that has proven helpful in gaining an understanding of the problem and potential difficulties experienced by commercial vessels at sea.

These reports included interference that resulted in the loss of GPS signal and systems requiring GPS input such as ECDIS and GMDSS. Despite these losses masters were able to switch to reversonianary methods of navigation and suffered no lasting impact to transit time or operations. The location of these interferences have been varied, to include south of Mersin (Turkey), south of Cyprus up to the coast of Lebanon, and the approaches of Port Said (Egypt) – see figure below.



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HQ MARCOM greatly appreciates reporting provided by the commercial industry and would request they continue to forward these reports as interference is experienced. In addition to these reports, also please forward anything you deem as suspicious while conducting your business in the Mediterranean. HQ MARCOM will provide collective feedback on all reporting received on a regular basis.

As of October 18 Information was shared with the United States Maritime Administration, and used in the revised U.S. Maritime Advisory version 2018-014.

This Maritime Alert now includes all areas where GPS jamming was reported by commercial vessels for the benefit of all. Please continue to provide your reporting.