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**SITREP: The NPS Maritime Defense and  
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(March 2009)**

Naval Postgraduate School (U.S.). Maritime Defense and Security Research Program

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“To dissuade and defeat threats as early and as far from U.S. borders as possible.”

# SITREP

THE NPS MARITIME DEFENSE AND SECURITY RESEARCH  
PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

[www.nps.edu/research/mdsr](http://www.nps.edu/research/mdsr)



Volume 37  
March 2009

Dear Readers,

**PLEASE** submit a short 200– to 300-word article introducing your organization’s Maritime Security and Defense-related mission and activities or add an event to our calendar. Contact Ms. Rita Painter at [rpainte@nps.edu](mailto:rpainte@nps.edu).

## HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

### National Maritime Awareness Technology Sub-Committee

The NMATS organizational meeting was held at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Monterey on 3-4 March. Co-chairs Dr. Bobby Junker, Director of C4ISR at the Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR), and Mr. Guy Thomas, Technical Advisor to the Office of Global Maritime Situational Awareness (OGMSA), Global Maritime and Air Intelligence Integration (GMAII), and the USCG/DHS MDA Executive Agent, led the meeting.

The main purpose of this meeting was to acquaint a broad cross section of the maritime community associated with technological efforts with the tasks assigned to the NMATS, its associated goals, and to develop the methodology to be used to achieve them.

Dr. Bobby Junker opened, noting that the definition of MDA remains a problem. It is very broad and still means different things to different people and organizations. He stressed that it is much more than tracking large ships that are emitting. It's more than Navy efforts, or even DoD / military efforts. Small, fast and quiet or 'dark' targets are also involved, as is the cargo, the crews and passengers, the vessels, ports, and associated 'intentions'. Melding National, inter-agency and international relationships and efforts are critical. No one can do it alone.

Leonard Ferrari, the NPS Provost, reflected on the school's long support of MDA efforts, and noted that NPS was willing to continue that support. Tim Phillips, the CTO at GMAII, reviewed the importance of MDA to the national and international maritime communities and described recent intelligence policy guidance. Guy Thomas described the purpose of the NMATS, its tasking and relationship to the MDA Stakeholder's Board in some detail.

CAPT Bud Wimmer, N3/5, briefed the CNO's Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA). Several organizations briefed their related activities. All agreed these several efforts were a good start but there remained a need for a "living", technically rigorous, central data base of all known MDA related technologies, from all sources, not just the Department of Defense. This was especially true before a useful, technically valid, assessment could be accomplished. The remainder of the meeting was a discussion of how to meet that need. It was agreed that a subset of the group would reconvene at ONR within the next two weeks to define the basic outline of the database as the next step.

NPS briefed its database capabilities and was asked to provide a rough cost figure for building and maintaining the data base outlined in the discussions to date.

## MARITIME CONFERENCE IN DUBAI, UAE

Contributed by MS. Wendy Walsh, NPS

The Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) in Bahrain hosted a Maritime Conference in Dubai UAE, January 24-25, 2009, . This was the second time I have attended this conference and felt it was certainly worth the long flight. The conference began on the 24<sup>th</sup> with a reception at the Madinat Jumeirah, Mina A' Salam Hotel. It was great to see a couple familiar faces from last year as well as to meet many new faces representing private shipping industry, security contractors, as well government and military working in the region. The primary topic of discussions was piracy; ways to combat it and mitigate it. Related to defeating piracy were discussions about information sharing and education. MARLO leadership and staff were very welcoming and approachable at the reception.

US Coast Guard CAPT Tom Hastings, MARLO Officer-in-Charge welcomed conference attendees at the conference January 25. The speakers were Commodore Tim Lowe, Royal Navy-United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Per Bigum Christensen- Royal Danish Navy, Commander, Combined Task Force 150, Rear Admiral Brian Salerno, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship, Captain Abdul Wahad Al Diwani, Director, Maritime Safety, Security, and Environment, Department of Transport, Abu Dhabi, Mr. Stephen Askins, Partner, Ince and Company and Mr. John Burnett, author of *Dangerous Waters: Modern Piracy and Terror on the High Seas*.

The first speaker spoke of CTF 151 is the newest CTF that operates in the Gulf of Aden and Somalia. Their emphasis is to address piracy. It was stated that this effort is only addressing the symptoms and to really address the problem of piracy, we need to address the laws of the land. There is a public perception of piracy that is portrayed by actors in popular media that doesn't accurately capture the criminals that they are.

In August of 2008 the Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) outlined steps that crews can take to prevent piracy, such as pulling up ladders, addressing security, communicating with MARLO and United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO) and being vigilant. There are three lines that must be pursued to address piracy; military, international/political and industry.

It was a theme through many of the presentations that the ultimate solution for this region's piracy is ashore in Somalia- to establish conditions that preclude criminal activity and create stability, security, economic, governance and rule of law. It was reported 2,310 ships pass through the Gulf of Aden annually, maybe less now due to the economy and while most traffic has moved into the corridor, they are still at risk for piracy. The new corridor is two way and 12 nautical miles wide. There can be more than 100-150 merchant vessels in the corridor at any time and one draw back may be the challenge of maneuvering to avoid piracy attacks.

In the past year they have apprehended 177 pirates, 63 were handed over, 107 were released after being disarmed, 2 died and 5 are still in custody. They seized weapons, 97 rifles, 17 RPGs and 10 other weapons. The actual risk of piracy is low (.06-.14%), a low risk with a high impact.

A menu of piracy tactics was provided as well as list of recommendations for shippers to deter piracy (a complete outline of these lists are available in the full trip report). Environmental and safety issues of the region were also presented. The legal aspects of security measures was addressed specifically mentioned was who pays and the risk of armed security forces. I was surprised that the use of armed security was rejected by many speakers and attendees alike, this was a contrast to what I heard last year.

The conference closing speaker spoke on the human impact of piracy for crews held hostage. He emphasized that it's important that we don't forget about the real victims of piracy, those who endure being held hostage. We need to ensure that we are providing the needed support so that affected crews are able to be resilient to piracy.

This article conveys just the surface of the presentations provided, for a full trip report of this conference please contact [wdwalsh@nps.edu](mailto:wdwalsh@nps.edu).

## The LIBRARIAN'S CORNER— Greta Marlatt, [gmarlatt@nps.edu](mailto:gmarlatt@nps.edu)

### Recent NPS Theses and Reports

Axe, David. "Defeating Somali Pirates on Land: The Kenya Connection." *US Naval Institute Proceedings*, March 2009, v. 135, no. 3, p. 68-69

Erickson, Andrew S. and Justin D. Mikolay. "[Welcome China to the Fight Against Pirates.](#)" *US Naval Institute Proceedings*, March 2009, v. 135, no. 3, p. 34-41.

House Armed Services Committee Hearing on [Combating Piracy on the High Seas](#) [March 5, 2009]

[Information Resources on Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea](#) [International Maritime Organization (IMO)]

International Maritime Organization (IMO) page on [Maritime Security](#)

International Maritime Organization (IMO) - [Reports on Piracy and armed robbery against ships](#)

Khalifa, Daisy R. "Piracy Policy Collective: New U.S. Plans Take Global Approach to Combating Somali Pirates." *Seapower*, March 2009, v. 52, no. 3, p. 20-22.

Maritime Knowledge Centre – [SeaLibrary Online](#)

["Maritime Piracy: Implications for Maritime Energy Security"](#) *Journal of Energy Security*, February 2009

Shaw, John E. "[Guarding the High Ocean: Towards a New National-Security Space Strategy through an Analysis of US Maritime Strategy.](#)" *Air & Space Power Journal*, Spring 2009, v. 23, no. 1, p. 55-65.

First BAHRAIN Maritime Liaison Office Newsletter of the year. It contains relevant and significant information regarding the MARLO mission of safety and security at sea. The MARLO Newsletter and other MARLO information can be found at website

<http://www.cusnc.navy.mil/marlo>.

For additional information, email [marlo.bahrain@me.navy.mil](mailto:marlo.bahrain@me.navy.mil)

### New GAO Report of Interest

**Maritime Security: Vessel Tracking Systems Provide Key Information, but the Need for Duplicate Data Should Be Reviewed. GAO-09-337, March 17.**

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09337.pdf>

#### Why GAO Did This Study

U.S. ports, waterways, and coastal approaches are part of a system handling more than \$700 billion in merchandise annually. With the many possible threats—including transportation and detonation of weapons of mass destruction, suicide attacks against vessels, and others—in the maritime domain, awareness of such threats could give the Coast Guard advance notice to help detect, deter, interdict, and defeat them and protect the U.S. homeland and economy. GAO was asked to review the Coast Guard's efforts to achieve awareness about activity in the maritime domain. This report addresses: the extent to which the Coast Guard (1) has vessel tracking systems in place, (2) can use these systems to track vessels that may be threats, and (3) has coordinated the development and implementation of these systems. To answer these questions, GAO analyzed relevant statutes, regulations, and plans for vessel tracking systems, com-

## Future Events:

- **April**

27-30 7th Annual Maritime Homeland Security Summit in Jacksonville, FL

<http://www.maritimehssummit.com/ShowEvent.aspx?id=152706>

- **May**

12-14: International MD Exhibition & Conference for the Asian Market <http://www.asdevents.com/event.asp?ID=281>

- **June**

16-18: 12TH ANNUAL WORLDWIDE GALE USER CONFERENCE, Aurora CO

23-24: MARSEC Conference, Washington DC

- **July**

15-17 NPS-TDSI Summer 2009 meeting in Singapore (see below)

27-31 Classified Advanced Technology Update Short Course, NPS [www.nps.edu/catu](http://www.nps.edu/catu)

29-31: Globalization and Maritime Security Workshop 2008, Washington DC

If you require additional info on any of these events, please email:  
[rpainte@nps.edu](mailto:rpainte@nps.edu)

### *Maritime Security Research Collaboration*

A Security Workshop will take place in Singapore, 15-17 July, 2009. This Workshop is the 7<sup>th</sup> in a series of Security meetings organized by Temasek Defence Systems Institute (TDSI), Singapore, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), USA, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), USA. Maritime Security is one of seven research areas to be covered in this Workshop.

The objective of this Workshop is to solidify collaborative research projects in the seven research areas. The product of this Workshop is a research plan, which contains specific research projects related to those research areas, researchers to collaborate in those projects, and specific roadmaps to the realization of the projects.

You are cordially invited you to participate in this Workshop. Your contribution will help make this Workshop fruitful. Detailed information will be sent to you upon receiving your reply.

If you wish to participate, please contact Dr. Tom Huynh at [thuynh@nps.edu](mailto:thuynh@nps.edu) as soon as possible.