SITREP: The NPS Maritime Defense and Security Research Program Newslette; v. 53 (February 2011)
Commentary Corner for First Responders

Having been a sworn law enforcement officer and professional firefighter for 28 years, I listened with interest to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano’s testimony to the House Committee on Homeland Security earlier this month. In it she stated, ‘The terrorist threat facing our country has evolved significantly in the last ten years -- and continues to evolve -- so that, in some ways, the threat facing us is at its most heightened state since those attacks.’

This sobering statement should remind my brethren with local first-responder agencies that, likely with little or no warning, they will be called upon to engage the enemy. Our point of reference continues to be September 11, 2001, a day that saw the single greatest loss of firefighters, police, and other emergency responders since the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the war against Japan. We must ensure that local emergency planners have personnel trained to the highest response level possible to overcome any attack against our homeland.

Since the “Attacks on America” there have been numerous terrorist attacks around the world. Incidents such as bombings of subway stations, trains, theaters, schools, or the coordinated, multi-day attack by heavily armed terrorists in Mumbai, India in November 2008 proves that our nation’s responders need the best integration and collaboration possible between local, state and federal authorities.

At a January 20, 2011 speech, Supervisory Special Agent Steven Merrill, who was the FBI’s Legal Attaché in India when the Mumbai attack occurred, stated that the five teams of two heavily-armed men each possessed one Improvised Explosive Device. Before commencing their shooting spree, the IEDs were inserted surreptitiously into five taxis, which transited the greater Mumbai area for many hours before they exploded, thereby expanding the crisis and making it appear to responders that there was an even more wide-scale attack. For the terrorists, this resulted in the desired effect of diverting important resources away from them.

For our nation’s responders in any local jurisdiction, the best advice is to train EVERY employee equipped with a portable radio to the highest possible skill level in the Incident Command System (ICS). Then plan and rehearse continuously and be prepared to GET BUSY!

For state and federal response planners: There is a clear need for integrated, authoritative (“One Voice”) coordination of mobilization efforts efficient communication with all on-scene personnel. AND: Since these skills are highly perishable, each agency ensure training with ICS is continuous!

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Dear Readers,

PLEASE submit a short 200-300-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.
The National Maritime Intelligence Center staff celebrated its second anniversary on January 14th, 2011, having been established by the Director of National Intelligence as an Intelligence Community Service of Common Concern through promulgation of Intelligence Community Directive 902 (Global Maritime & Air Intelligence Integration) on January 14th, 2009. As such, NMIC’s primary and unique function is to facilitate the integration of maritime information and intelligence collection and analysis in support of national policy and decision makers, Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) objectives, and Interagency operations, at all levels of the U.S. Government (USG). Activities and accomplishments since NMIC’s inception include direct support to the White House National Security Staff as the unified maritime voice of the Intelligence Community (IC); direct support to MDA governance as a principal member of the MDA Stakeholders Board Executive Steering Committee; facilitation of Office of Naval Intelligence and U.S. Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center direct intelligence feeds to the FBI’s maritime common operational picture (COP); development and implementation of the Single Integrated Look-Out (SILO) List for all vessels of domestic and international intelligence interest; and joint development of an MDA Information Portal with the U.S. Maritime Administration that will serve the whole of government, private sector and our foreign partners. Planned actions include work with DHS and other partners to further the FBI maritime COP with inclusion of state, local, tribal and territorial entities toward a holistic whole of government COP, and continued facilitation of enhancements to SILO while working to expand Vessel of Interest dissemination throughout the USG. NMIC’s engagement of, and collaborative efforts with the IC, Interagency, private sector, academia, and our foreign partners has resulted in increased unity of effort throughout the Global Maritime Community of Interest, and tangible improvements to information sharing in support of MDA objectives.
The LIBRARIAN’S CORNER— Greta Marlatt, gmarlatt@nps.edu

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NPS THESES


ARTICLES

NMIOTC Journal
November 2010, 2nd issue
Maritime Interdiction Operations

REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONS


NATO Parliamentary Assembly - Maritime Security: NATO and EU Roles and Co-Ordination
http://www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?SHORTCUT=2087

Future Events:

Mar 21-24  Future Unmanned Naval Systems Wargame Competition, Naval Postgraduate School

May 2-5  Maritime Security Conference, Kiel Germany http://www.cjoscoemaritimeconference.org
May 2-5  MORS Symposium on MDA, ASW Base in San Diego http://www.mors.org
May 4-5  9th Maritime & Transportation Security Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, MD http://www.maritimesecurityexpo.com

Jun 14-15  Maritime Domain Awareness Conference, Lisbon Portugal (LT Ben Anderson attending)
http://www.defenseconference.com/?p=224
Jun 20-23  79th MORS Symposium, at NPS http://www.mors.org
July 13-14  Singapore Maritime Security Conference , Singapore
July 25-29  Classified Advanced Technology Update at NPS http://www.nps.edu/catu/