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# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)... A Navy Mission Enabler

*"To protect our nation and the global maritime commons, we need a better picture of illegal activities and transnational threats. We cannot stop them if we cannot find them."*

– ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations

### Navy Needs MDA...

- Full spectrum operations, including littoral, present unique challenges to afloat forces. Our ability to collect and process maritime information hasn't kept pace with the volume of contacts and activity that must be understood.
- Improved understanding of the patterns, trends and changes in the maritime domain enables Navy missions at each level of command: strategic, operational and tactical.

**"No nation, let alone a single agency, has the capability or capacity to achieve MDA unilaterally."**

- Navy MDA Concept

### Navy Vision for MDA...

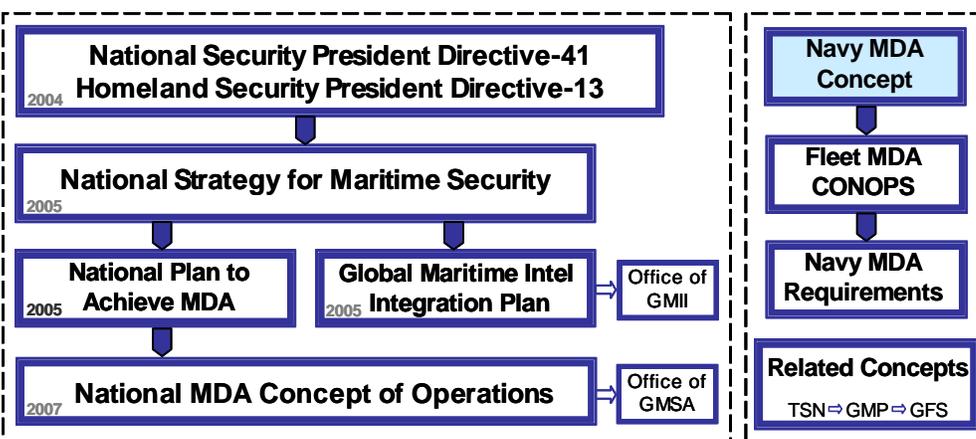
- Baseline awareness of the global maritime domain emerges by linking regional info exchange partnerships.
- Transparency in the global commons requires worldwide standards for broadcast of vessel position and ID.
- Performing Maritime Change Detection requires significant upgrades in automated data management.
- We must be able to alert our maritime partners of suspicious activity and potential threats, and facilitate and enable them alerting us.

### Enabling Navy Operations...

- Effective integration of capabilities supporting collection of information and intelligence, operations and communications is crucial to obtaining decision superiority.
- Navy promotes trust and supports Theater Security Cooperation through partnerships to improve MDA.
- Navy will share information and intelligence at respective classification levels with appropriate partners, champion efforts to push data to the lowest possible classification and actively pursue a culture of information sharing.
- Navy focus for MDA at the operational level is integral to the MHQ w/MOC concept; the centerpiece is a C2 system capable of sharing maritime info, integrating all-source data and displaying it as defined by the user.
- At the tactical level, MDA will give afloat operators access to needed information, regardless of source, associated with each contact in an integrated display and can readily share their situational awareness.

### MDA Prototype Architecture Spirals...

- SECNAV established a Cross Functional Team (CFT), led by OPNAV N6 and the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy, to field the first spiral of a MDA operational capability by August 2008.
- Spiral 1 focuses on NAVCENT and PACFLT; validated Navy MDA requirements will inform future spirals.



### Related Rhumb Lines- Future:

- Global Maritime Situational Awareness (GMSA)
- Global Maritime Intelligence Integration (GMII)
- Global Maritime Partnerships (GMP)
- Global Fleet Stations Update

### Related Rhumb Lines-Published:

- 21 Aug- MDA... National Perspective
- 7 Aug- National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS)
- 7 Mar- MHO with MOC