



National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS)

“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.”

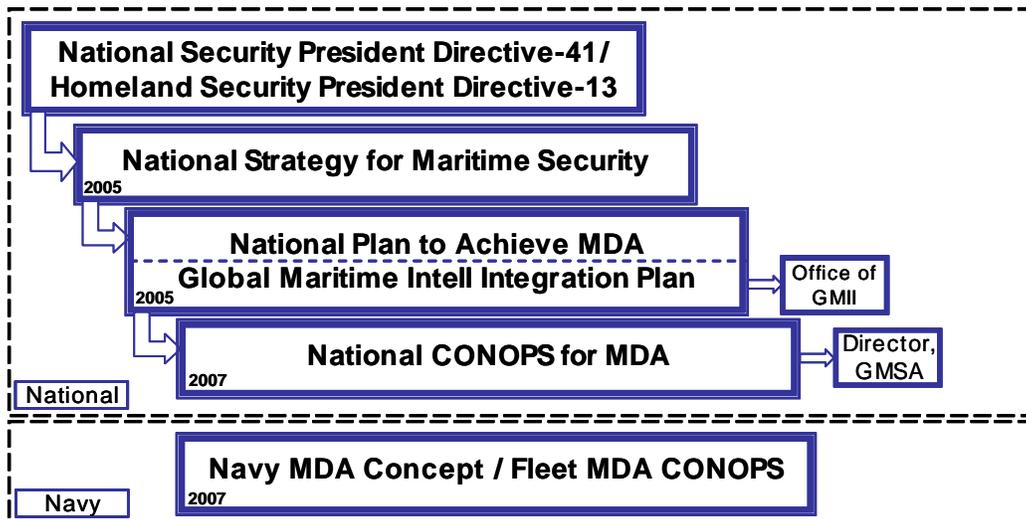
– ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations

The National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS) and its eight supporting plans direct all U.S. government departments and agencies with a stake in the maritime domain to improve their organic processes and capabilities and eliminate barriers to information-sharing in order to more fully safeguard vital U.S. national security interests in the maritime domain. The NSMS represents the first-ever comprehensive national strategy for maritime security. Three broad principles provide overarching guidance to this Strategy:

- **Preserving the freedom of the seas** is a top national priority...
 - The freedom of our seas and waterways is an essential global freedom, and helps ensure the smooth operation of the world’s economy.
 - The right of vessels to travel freely in international waters, engage in innocent and transit passage, and have access to ports is an essential element of national security.
- The United States must **facilitate and defend commerce** to ensure this uninterrupted flow of shipping...
 - The U.S. is prepared to maintain vital commerce and defense readiness in the aftermath of any terrorist attack, or other similarly disruptive incidents that occur within the maritime domain.
 - The response to such events will not result in an automatic shutdown of the marine transportation system.
 - The U.S. is prepared to selectively disengage only designated portions, and immediately implement contingency measures to ensure the public’s safety and continuity of commerce.
- The United States must **facilitate the movement of desirable goods and people** across our borders, while screening out dangerous people and material...

Greater security requires greater integration and cooperation...

- The NSMS aligns all Federal government maritime security programs and initiatives into a comprehensive and cohesive national effort.



Future Related Rhumb Lines Topics:

National MDA, Navy MDA, Global Maritime Situational Awareness (GMSA), Global Maritime Intelligence Integration (GMII), Global Maritime Partnerships (GMP), Global Fleet Stations Update