



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Navy Maritime Domain Awareness – Maintaining Our Momentum

*“Leveraging partner capacity is a critical component of our efforts to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness. It is as important to our success as the expansion and full integration of our own information-based capabilities. Exercises and operational games are essential to ensuring that our strategic concepts are sound and our efforts synchronized with those of our foreign partners.”*

**– Vice Adm. Jack Dorsett, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance**

The Navy is expanding its focus on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) as a key enabler of the [Maritime Strategy](#) by forging new and robust information sharing relationships with partner nations, and maintaining the positive momentum achieved during [International Seapower Symposium 19](#). MDA initiatives improve information sharing and cooperation between inter-service, inter-agency, international and industry stakeholders. Navy MDA, under the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance (OPNAV N2/N6) is leading these efforts.

### Strengthening partnerships at International Seapower Symposium 19

- International Seapower Symposium (ISS) 19 drew attendance from 102 nations, 90 of which were represented at the head-of-service level. This magnitude of participation and agreement on key security issues indicates global recognition of the value of cooperation in the maritime domain.
- The path to increased MDA starts with component command/numbered fleet engagement with partner nations at the regional level. Trans-regional and global MDA will be achieved by expanding and linking regional networks.
- Following the symposium, [CNO](#) obtained consensus that a game with international participation, informed by the results of the panel discussions, would help guide the synchronized way ahead.

### Facilitating information sharing and cooperation through gaming

- The [Naval War College’s McCarty Little Hall](#) gaming center provides an ideal venue for joint, inter-agency and international partners to engage and work through MDA scenarios, challenges, and solutions.
- In the fall of 2009, the CNO sponsored a MDA game specifically focused on assessing the accuracy of the newly drafted Navy MDA Concept and Concept of Operations. Participants assessed information sharing requirements against three real world mission scenarios and fostered interaction among participants representing 30 stakeholder organizations, increasing cooperation between non-traditional groups.
- This year, CNO is sponsoring two games beginning with the MDA Operational Game in July, followed shortly thereafter by the Global Maritime Partnerships Game in October. These events are designed to build upon the mutual trust and cooperation we share with international partners. The results of these games will inform evolving MDA capability and provide input for International Seapower Symposium 20 in 2011.
- Navy MDA is executing an aggressive two-year plan. Key tenets are to prioritize and close maritime security gaps, maintain momentum ISS 19 initiatives, and institutionalize MDA concepts into Navy operational practices.

### Key Messages

- Navy MDA has successfully transitioned responsibility from N3/N5 to the Deputy CNO for Information Dominance, OPNAV N2/N6.
- MDA gaming provides a forum to discover, assess and validate information sharing requirements.
- Non-traditional partnerships and working relationships improve with information sharing.
- MDA is increased by regionally linked networks.

### Facts & Figures

- 150 of the 190 United Nations countries are coastal nations.
- 90% of the world’s cargo moves by sea containers.
- 95% of U.S. trade is moved by sea.
- The top 50 seaports in the U.S. account for 90% of all U.S. cargo tonnage.
- The vast majority of the world’s population lives within a few hundred miles of the oceans.