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Navy Maritime Domain Awareness

"MDA on a global scale is beyond the capacity of any single nation. Collaboration to achieve MDA and attain maritime safety and security regionally provides a framework for cooperation that is applicable to common challenges globally."
– Rear Adm. Stewart O'Bryan, Director, Maritime Domain Awareness

Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) provides commanders with the ability to make informed, timely and accurate decisions and enables the six core capabilities as articulated in the Maritime Strategy, *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*. The Navy is part of a broader U.S. government effort to advance the National Plan to Achieve Maritime Domain Awareness.

Understanding Navy Maritime Domain Awareness

- MDA is the collective understanding that results when mission-relevant information has been gathered, shared, fused and analyzed then disseminated to analysts, planners, watchstanders, and decision-makers at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.
- Effective MDA results in more than just vessel tracking, track history, and anomaly detection. It provides an understanding of the links between separate pieces of information that improves understanding of regions, key areas, and activities.

Interoperability and Partnering

Broad cooperation and information sharing within the Navy, between agencies, between nations and with industry is essential to enhance the understanding necessary to identify potentially dangerous developments as early as possible, and to more effectively detect and track established threats.

- The Navy must focus on interoperability with global maritime partners to optimize contributions to the national MDA effort and to benefit from the MDA information-sharing environment.
- The Navy must inform the interagency effort to align to technical standards that are essential to achieving the necessary level of interoperability.
- The Navy must work with partners to ease the legal, policy, contractual, and classification restrictions on sharing information where possible, while at the same time, ensuring appropriate protections for information assurance, privacy and competitiveness.
- The very nature of participation and sharing in MDA builds trust and confidence with partners, improves cooperation on common issues and challenges, and ultimately achieves regional and global maritime safety and security.

Operational MDA

Together, Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs) and Regional Operational Centers (ROCs) will provide an effective sharing environment focused at the operational level and supporting the strategic level.

- MOCs support fleet commanders and serve as the Navy's operational level command and control node.
- For the Navy Regional Commanders, ROCs are the central point for command, control and communications that monitor and direct regional and installation activities during normal and crisis operations. They provide an understanding of ports and Navy infrastructure ashore, both within the U.S. and U.S. installations abroad.

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
- Maritime Domain Awareness provides commanders with the data, information and analyses to enable decision superiority. - Maritime Domain Awareness is a critical enabler to maintaining maritime safety and security. - Maritime Domain Awareness requires interoperability and partnering between agencies, nations and industry.	- Automatic Identification System (AIS) provides basic shipping information, mandated by the International Maritime Organization for ships more than 300 gross tons and all passenger ships. - There are multiple regional partnerships and information sharing networks using AIS data to provide regional maritime pictures.