

Industry and Public Sector Cooperation for Information Sharing



MIST

The Maritime Information Sharing Taskforce

is a two-way process for understanding and communicating the information sharing needs of local, private sector communities. Our goals are to:

- ▶ Create a structure for collaborative problem solving
- ▶ Capture best practices in information sharing
- ▶ Convey unique local issues to national policy makers

The MIST process consists of a series of local events held at individual ports across the United States. Each local event invites industry participants to identify incentives for sharing threat information, investigate ways to streamline government requests, and clarify their needs in sharing threat information. Industry and government participants also explore specific solutions for improving local collaboration.

MIST is centered at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and was established in the fall of 2008. MIST works in collaboration with:

- ▶ DOT-MARAD
- ▶ OGMSA
- ▶ GMAII
- ▶ DHS-USCG
- ▶ DHS-CBP
- ▶ DoD-MDA EA
- ▶ DoD- Dept. of the Navy
- ▶ DoD- ASD-HD&AS

Complete reports are available upon request

Honolulu, HI

“When you share threat information, it allows the private sector to focus their efforts more effectively”

Key Findings

Incentives motivate actions and should be aligned to stakeholder needs. Similar to our other sites, Honolulu called for improved logistics, better decision making and reduced financial impacts. A key differentiator for Honolulu was its ethos of mutual give and take (Aloha Spirit.) In addition, because over 98% of the state’s commerce goes through Honolulu ports, participants were highly aware of the economic consequences of any port interruptions.



Streamlining government is an important goal for industry. Local challenges include reducing redundancy, coordinating government efforts, making communication more effective and creating a unified voice for industry representation.

Threat Information needs to be readily accessible and relevant. Participants want a central repository for information and access to limited classified information. Threat information also needs to be tailored to the needs of industry. Industry needs information that is actionable, specific, trustworthy, customizable, and easy to use.

Successful local models for information sharing can help other ports learn best practices. Honolulu’s best practices included drills & exercises, the AMSC, and localized emails. Participants stressed the importance of clear roles and private sector participation. Participants also identified the AMSC as a key organization for sharing threat information and urged more industry participation in policy formulation. Finally, participants called for greater use of email and more consistency in messaging.

MDA challenges exist at all ports. In Honolulu, participants explored three challenges:

1. Security guard training needs to continue to be developed, to be standardized, and to be included as part of the contracting process.
2. Foreign sailors access to ports needs to be addressed because it negatively impacts the desirability of U.S. ports.
3. The private sector needs to be part of the process of designing the IOC.

Participant Recommendations

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| Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improve access to MDA information ▶ Provide information that is useful, usable, specific, & actionable ▶ Improve alert systems ▶ Update state communications grid, eliminate faxes ▶ Explore increased use and improve MarView |
| Process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increase local relationship building efforts ▶ Emphasize trust building with local personnel ▶ Improve relationships with unions, HHUG, HOST ▶ Increase the information sharing responsibilities and funding for the USCG and State DOT Harbors ▶ Include industry when planning exercises & the IOC |
| Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Connect with Civil Defense and create unified exercises ▶ Train government personnel in local cultural behaviors ▶ Create an action plan for moving forward ▶ Leverage MIST to help build a sustainable structure ▶ Improve consistency and realism of ICS exercises |