Informal Information Sharing in the Maritime Domain

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Introduction

• Genesis of article came from GMISS 2009
• Wanted to examine what we do in Norfolk in light of comments made at last year’s meeting
• Informal group consisting of personnel from DHS, USCG, NMCO, NPD, and VFC met to discuss these issues
Informal Network

- Characteristics of MDA in Norfolk
  - Informal in nature
  - Personality driven model
  - Large reliance on informal networks to share information
  - Virginia AMSC plays a large role
Implications of Informal Network

- Personnel selection becomes important
  - Mission-centric
  - Systems thinkers
  - Non-parochial mind-set

- Relationships have to be fostered to continue success

- Informal network assists in emergency response
Formal Networks

• Information Sharing also occurs through formal systems
  – Virginia AMSC
  – Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)
  – Virginia Fusion Center (VFC)
  – InfraGard
  – DHS
Issues

- Too many portals-difficult to keep up with passwords, etc.
- Classification and Pseudo-Classification
  - Citizens as force multipliers
  - Enlisting the private sector
- How to leverage informal networks
  - Getting beyond personality and individuals
  - Single points of failure
  - Lack of succession and transition planning