Canada–United States Interagency Maritime Information Sharing Forum

Briefing to Global Maritime Information Sharing Symposium

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Maritime Nations

- 200,000 miles of coastline and 25,000 miles of navigable waterways
- 80% of all foreign trade enters Canada and US by sea
- 378 major ports & 60,000 ports of call/year to Canada and US
- 13,000,000 containers arrive per year
- Highly integrated multi-modal transportation networks spanning North America
- $675 Billion in bilateral trade is the largest in the world
North American Gas Pipeline Grid

Common Interests

World’s Largest Bilateral Trade Arrangement

- Canada is top export market for 35 U.S. States
- Canada-U.S. trade supports over 7 million American Jobs
- Canada is largest supplier of energy
- 92% of Canadian energy exports go to U.S. markets
Canus Maritime Stakeholders Conference - Challenges

- No single synchronizer/integrator to steer the overall information sharing efforts of the many Canadian and US organizations pursuing MDA
- Lack of awareness of legal authorities, mandates and jurisdictions of the numerous Canadian and US organizations involved in maritime security
- Absence of (or lack of awareness of) policy guidelines to define the threshold to share information cross-border and between organizations
- Lack of clearly defined and shared critical information requirements between key partners
- Lack of standardized collaboration processes and common lexicon
- Inability to readily access multi-domain, multi-agency and multi-classification level information due to numerous, complicated and often ad hoc network architectures
- Lack of an integrated “intelligence to warning to response” process to provide a comprehensive approach to coordination
- Collaboration with the private sector is vital but remains fragmented
CANUS Maritime Stakeholders Conference - Enablers

• Draw on our common interests to provide the impetus for collaboration (democratic values, history, culture, integrated economies, networked multi-modal transportation systems and shared critical infrastructure)
• Share best practices to develop organizational structures and integrated maritime operations and intelligence fusion centers where possible
• Build on current bi-national interagency Vessel of Interest lexicon to explore development of shared Watch Lists
• Expand network of existing liaison/exchange personnel
• Incorporate best practices such as “write for release” or “tear lines” to enable rapid dissemination across multiple releasability levels
• Capitalize on emerging technologies in Information Management and Knowledge Discovery
• Leverage existing secure conferencing procedures between the US and Cdn Defense Red Switch Networks to create a dedicated CANUS interagency maritime conferencing procedure
• Leverage interest to develop a CANUS MDA governance structure
Purpose & Objectives

**Purpose:** To enhance national and bi-national MDA objectives and activities through increased collaboration and improved awareness between the governments of Canada and the United States.

**Objectives:**

1. Identify the common interest issues that exist between Canada and the United States related to Maritime Domain Awareness.

2. Discuss a proposed way ahead (structure, governance, periodicity of meeting) to address these common interests.