Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee (MDA ESC):

The MDA ESC is comprised of senior executive-level Principals designated by their respective departmental Executive Agents (EA) for MDA from cabinet-level departments (currently DOD, DOT, and DHS) and the designated maritime representative of the Intelligence Community (IC). The MDA ESC coordinates MDA policies, strategies, and initiatives. MDA ESC membership may change upon the consensus of the MDA ESC principals. The MDA ESC also provides forums, activities, and venues to engage the Global Maritime Community of Interest (GMCOI) to promote collaboration and information sharing to enhance MDA.

Maritime Domain Awareness Plan and supporting Strategies:

The National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan (NMDAP) supports Presidential Policy Directive 18 (PPD-18) and the National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS). The plan also strives to enhance ongoing MDA activities such as ocean/waterway surveillance and maritime intelligence integration in support of MDA objectives.

The NMDAP and its supporting documents (see below) are intended to be enduring; constantly evolving to inform and make the best use of changing capabilities, operational relationships, and policies. These documents also integrate maritime information for those with valid access throughout the Global Maritime Community of Interest (GMCOI). The shared common awareness between the intelligence, law enforcement, and operational communities is complex and has many policy and legal implications that must be addressed to promote risk management planning. This enables the entire maritime community to develop a shared understanding of the risks and opportunities of those who wish to harm or disrupt vessels, people, cargo, infrastructure, and resources within the maritime domain.

The following are the NMDAP and the supporting documents

- National Strategy for Maritime Security (Sep 2005) and supporting plans:
- National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan (NMDAAP) (Dec 2013)
    - FAQs
- Maritime Transportation System Security Recommendations (Oct 2005)
- Maritime Commerce Security Plan (Oct 2005)
- Domestic Outreach Plan (Oct 2005)
- International Outreach and Coordination Strategy (Nov 2005)
- Maritime Infrastructure Recovery Plan (Apr 2006)
- Maritime Operational Threat Response Plan (Oct 2006)

Additional Plans:

- National Security Strategy (May 2010)
- National Strategy for Counterterrorism (Jun 2011)
- National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security (Jan 2012)
- National Strategy for Information Sharing and Safeguarding (Dec 2012)
- National Strategy for the Arctic Region (May 2013)

Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Information Sharing

Information is a national asset that requires a responsible balancing act between information sharing and safeguarding. It is critical to interagency governance, coordination and unification efforts across a broad range of federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and international partners. An interagency MDA governance structure must provide sufficient direction in developing policy and standards to guide individual agencies and partners in sharing information and intelligence and working together to ensure continued alignment of efforts to achieve national MDA goals.

The following are maritime information sharing resources:

- Maritime Information Sharing Environment (MISE)
- Information Sharing Environment (ISE)
- National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)
- Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI)

Operational Guidance

- National Concept of Operations for Maritime Domain Awareness (Dec 2007)

U.S. Department of Transportation 2017 Maritime Domain Awareness Accomplishments

The Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Office of Maritime Security serves as the support staff for the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Executive Agent (EA). As such, the Office of Maritime Security supports and promotes creative initiatives to enhance maritime domain awareness to facilitate the safe and secure flow of commerce in accordance with the National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan of the National Strategy for Maritime Security.

We work collaboratively with industry, government agencies, academia, and international partners to develop and encourage best practices and innovative methods to protect our nation's ports, vessels, and mariners. We serve as a catalyst among diverse maritime interests to promote the sharing of appropriate information to enhance commerce, maritime security, and reliability of the maritime transportation system.

DOT's MDA coordination activities include participation in:

1. the Maritime Security Working Group of the National Security Council;
2. the Maritime Cybersecurity Working Group of the National Security Council;
3. the MDA Principals Executive Steering Committee (ESC);
4. the Maritime Security Communications with Industry (MSCI) Communications Core Group (C2G);
5. the National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office (NMIO) Interagency Advisory Group (NIAG);
6. the Canada-US (CANUS) Maritime Executive Roundtable;
7. the CANUS Maritime Stakeholders Conference;
8. the Five-Eyes MDA Working Group;
9. the Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR) Advisory Group
10. the International Maritime Organization Maritime Safety Committee
11. the interagency Counter Piracy Steering Group; and
12. various other interagency and international MDA bodies.

During calendar year 2017, DOT was instrumental in the following significant MDA initiatives:

1. The Maritime Security Communications with Industry (MSCI) Communications Core Group (C2G) established an improved, coordinated interagency approach to communicating with U.S. maritime industry stakeholders regarding maritime security threats, including the issuance of U.S. government maritime alerts and advisories. The new U.S. Maritime Advisory System, constituting the most significant update to U.S. government processes for issuing maritime security alerts and advisories since 1939, replaced State Department Special Warnings to Mariners, U.S. Coast Guard security-related Marine Safety Information Bulletins, and MARAD Advisories. It ensures prompt and accurate notifications to private sector maritime security stakeholders and promotes the continued resiliency of the maritime transportation system. Interagency coordination under this new system began in January 2017 in accordance with the Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR) Plan and its Protocols, and is governed by MOTR Annex II. MARAD has led the industry outreach/input portion of this effort and hosted two meetings with maritime industry stakeholders to ensure that the MSCI system was meeting their needs. To date, nine U.S. Maritime Alerts and six U.S. Maritime Advisories have been issued through this new interagency system. (Supported MDA Objectives: Organize stakeholders through governance, and continue to mitigate MDA Challenges – 4, 8, &17)

2. In 2017, the Communications Core Group (C2G) issued six U.S. Maritime Advisories and nine U.S. Maritime Alerts, providing threat information and guidance to U.S. maritime industry stakeholders. U.S. Maritime Advisories and Alerts are available at www.marad.dot.gov/msci (Supported MDA Objectives: Organize stakeholders through governance, and continue to mitigate MDA Challenges 4,8, &17)

3. MARAD, in cooperation with NMIO and Texas Maritime Academy co-hosted the Fifth Annual Company Security Officer Meeting/Industry NIAG in Galveston, TX. Participants included over 50 maritime security focused organizations based in the U.S., UK, Norway, Nigeria, and Marshall Islands. The keynote speaker for this event was Congressman Randy Webber (R-TX. 14th District) who serves on the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee. The focus of this meeting/NIAG was international maritime security information sharing.

4. In support of MARAD's efforts to provide outreach to MDA stakeholders, MARAD continues to maintain the mda.gov domain. The mda.gov domain is registered to DOT. All traffic to mda.gov is redirected to the Department of Defense (DOD) managed site at mise.mda.gov. No content is hosted on the DOT servers. DOD manages the content on the server and NMIO pays for the cost of the domain name. (Supported MDA Objective: Enhance collaboration through outreach)

5. MARAD's Office of Maritime Security regularly meets with the DOT Office of Intelligence, the MARAD Command Center, the MARAD Office of Ship Operations, and the DOT Crisis Management Center to provide outreach and education on MDA tools and resources. (Supported MDA Objective: Enhance collaboration through outreach)

6. Maintained an information sharing relationship with the Director of the International Maritime Security Operations Team within the UK Department for Transport. This relationship facilitates improved sharing of maritime security information with the UK, including via secure channels. (Supported MDA Objective: Enhance collaboration through outreach)

7. MARAD's Office of Maritime Security continues to maintain a comprehensive Company Security Officer contact database to facilitate the effective dissemination of maritime security alerts, advisories, and other maritime security information. (Supported MDA Objective: Enhance collaboration through outreach and continue to mitigate MDA Challenges 4 and 8)

8. MARAD, in cooperation with the Global MOTR Coordination Center, facilitated participation by a commercial maritime industry representative in the Annual MOTR Wargame for the first time in the history of this event. This participation highlighted the unique maritime security considerations and information needs of commercial mariners, explained the corporate structure through which maritime security information flows to commercial mariners, and validated the utility of the MSCI system to commercial maritime stakeholders.

9. MARAD's Office of Maritime Security (MAR-420) participated in the Senior Leadership Seminar of the International Maritime Exercise (IMX) on 2 May 2017, at U.S. Navy FIFTH Fleet Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain. The purpose of the seminar was to build and strengthen relationships among key stakeholders concerned with the free flow of commerce to enhance our collective understanding of the challenges associated with ensuring maritime security in the greater Middle East to include: critical assets at sea and

ashore, sea lines of communication, commercial shipping, and key choke points. Participants included representatives from over 20 international navies, several commercial maritime organizations, the Departments of State and Transportation as well as the Naval War College. During the FIFTH Fleet visit, MARAD liaised with Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and his senior staff, Combined Maritime Forces, Department of State's Political Advisor, and Commander Task Force FIFTY-FIVE/Destroyer Squadron FIFTY and their Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping element to introduce the application of the new interagency Maritime Security Communication with Industry System. (Supported MDA Objectives: Organize stakeholders through governance, and continue to mitigate MDA Challenges – 4, 8, &17)