



## **Fusion Centres in Selected Countries**

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A ‘fusion centre’ is an effective mechanism to exchange information and intelligence, maximize resources, streamline operations, and improve the ability to fight crime and terrorism by analyzing data from a variety of sources. The paper reviews the efforts made by countries relevant to Canada in establishing maritime domain security, including Australia, the European Union (EU) and its Member States, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US). It also considers the influence of international efforts in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The terrorist attack of 9/11 forced a dramatic change in how the US organized itself to protect its citizens and borders. For the maritime domain, the concept of persistent awareness replaced sea power as just one element of an international conflict. The agenda was greatly broadened to include maritime terrorism, piracy and armed robbery and transnational criminal activities (e.g., drug smuggling, small arms and light weapons trafficking, human trafficking, cargo theft, etc.).

Like Canada, all jurisdictions considered in this paper are members of the IMO, and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Only the EU and certain Member States, the UK and the US, in addition to Canada are members of NATO. Despite this distinction, post 9/11 the international community responded forcefully, to counter the threat of maritime terrorism. Evidence of this is seen in the speed with which international law in the area of maritime and transportation security was established and practiced.