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BUILDING A **SAFE AND RESILIENT CANADA**



Fusion Centres in Selected Countries

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Purpose



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1. Describe fusion centres
2. Identify selected countries
3. Highlight key maritime domain awareness challenges
4. List shared characteristics and challenges of fusion centres
5. Review enablers of maritime domain awareness
6. Conclusions





In the literature, the term ‘fusion centre’ is used interchangeably with:

- Information sharing centre
- Intelligence sharing centre
- Information-intelligence office
- Information sharing hub.

The term ‘fusion centre’ is defined as ‘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.’

US Department of Justice. *Fusion Center Guidelines: Developing and Sharing Information and Intelligence in a New Era*, 2008: 8:3.



Paper focused on the governance of maritime security fusion centres in:

- Australia
- European Union
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- United Kingdom
- United States

Influence of the UN specialized agencies of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) efforts was reviewed

Key Maritime Domain Awareness Challenges



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- Maritime challenges go beyond the traditional defence scenario of interstate conflict
 - Maritime security threats include illegal movement of drugs, human beings, and arms, such as the irregular migrants from Africa to Europe
- Challenges are not exclusively of a military nature, and neither military nor a combination of civilian capabilities alone can deliver effective maritime surveillance
 - Requires strong and enduring partnerships between civilian and military authorities



Shared Characteristics and Challenges of Fusion Centres



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Shared Characteristics:

- Intelligence-led and risk-based approach to operations
- Integration of information based on interagency cooperation
- Strong dependence on inter-regional and international cooperation

Shared Challenges:

- Governance
- Information sharing
- Legal and performance issues



Enablers of Maritime Domain Awareness



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- Consolidated Legal and Policy Strategies
- Information Sharing
 - Connecting the dots and Bridging voids
- Data/Information Standards
 - IMO, such as Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT)
- Surveillance and Technology
 - Interoperability of technologies between nation states or multinational organizations
- Commercial Interests
 - More than 90% of world trade is shipped by sea, communications cables on the seabed carry 95% of the world's cyberspace traffic, there is little dispute for the need to keep sea lanes safe
- Inter-Organizational Relationships
 - Need for maritime security cooperation and governance is not well understood
 - Like-minded states, such as Canada and US, converge on the collective need to ensure access to the maritime commons and adopt a collaborative approach to preserve the safety and security on the high seas





Maritime security depends on the ability to build a comprehensive awareness of maritime activity

- Each fusion centre is heavily dependent on regional and international cooperation
- Technological developments, such as intercontinental network connections from satellite systems, over-the-horizon radar, and near-shore and harbour acoustics are incorporated into most countries' layered approach to increase security
- Governments and the military possess valuable data for inputs into the shared maritime situational awareness, but are unable to capture all of the needed data alone
- All regimes recognize the need to create economies of scale, whenever possible, which has led to whole-of-government approaches and joint task force approaches for operations

For further information



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