

## Maritime Domain Awareness

**ISSUE:** In order to improve maritime security, there is a need for increased identification and transparency in the operation of the marine transportation system including vessels, cargoes, infrastructure, and people. To facilitate the flow of commerce, while enhancing a safe and secure environment, the Maritime Administration is responsible for planning, developing, and executing maritime security related initiatives for the Department in coordination with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Administration, other modal Administrations and interagency partners including Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, and Department of Commerce.

**ACTION NEEDED:** None – For Information Only

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Maritime Administration was designated as the Department of Transportation Executive Agent (EA) for Maritime Domain Awareness by the Secretary of Transportation on March 31, 2008. Maritime Domain Awareness is defined in the National Plan to Achieve Maritime Awareness as the effective understanding of anything associated with the global maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment of the United States.

The Maritime Administration has taken action in the following four areas:

1. **Interagency Support**

The Maritime Administration provides a “full-time employee” as Chief of Staff in support of the Office of Global Maritime Situational Awareness.

2. **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Executive Steering Committee**

The Maritime Administration has the lead for the private sector subcommittee to respond to tasks from the MDA Executive Steering Committee.

3. **Maritime Safety and Security Information System (MSSIS)**

MSSIS is a vessel tracking viewer developed by DOT/VOLPE that utilizes the International Maritime Organization mandate for all vessels over 300GT to provide a signal with prescribed vessel information. MSSIS provides vessel information, including near-real time position.

4. **MarView**

In the 2005 transportation appropriations act, Congress tasked the Maritime Administration to be the “Information Advocate of the Marine Transportation System.” As a result, the Maritime Administration created MarView. MarView provides the ability to fuse data to create models and simulations for capacity planning, economic impact analysis, on-demand forecasting, and plans for mitigating and reacting to emergency situations.

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