



Joint Maritime Security Centre

Operational Mandate

Approved by the JMSC Joint Governance Board

23 June 2021

Introduction

1. The Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC) is the name given to UK's cross government organisation for maritime security. JMSC provides expert, independent advice and support to government (including the Devolved Administrations and Crown Dependencies) on maritime security, including maritime related threat, operational capability and response mechanisms.
2. The National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) and the Joint Maritime Operations Coordination Centre (JMOCC) are pillars within the JMSC.
3. NMIC is the multi-agency construct that enables joint operational activity, information sharing and collaboration. NMIC contributes to the UK's maritime domain awareness and understanding of maritime threats at home and overseas.
4. JMOCC provides 24/7 awareness of the UK's maritime asset distribution and ensures a coordinated and whole-system response to maritime security incidents at sea. JMOCC contributes to the integrity of UK waters and the mitigation of threats at sea by informing operational decision making. On behalf of government JMOCC also owns multi-agency CONOPs and delivers a joint exercising calendar.
5. JMSC is led by Director JMSC (D/JMSC) who is accountable to the Joint Governance Board (JGB).
6. The work of JMSC falls into four categories, as follows:
 - a. Business as Usual maritime (BAU) security focused operational activities
 - b. Supporting cross government development of maritime security strategy
 - c. JMSC transformation
 - d. International engagement



Business as Usual

7. JMSC's BAU activities and operational procedures will be assigned and defined through consultation with key stakeholders and the JMSC senior leadership team. The JGB will be invited to endorse these BAU activities.
8. BAU activities will be captured in the JMSC Business Plan and Programme Plan, which are owned and maintained by D/JMSC
9. **Maritime Domain Awareness**. JMSC will support current cross government efforts on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) by gathering, analysing, assessing and sharing information. Its core duties will include:
 - Monitoring and tracking global maritime activity and collating that data within a trusted environment.
 - Analysing and assessing information relating to maritime threats and risks.
 - Sharing information with partners in the UK and around the world, enabling better understanding of maritime security issues and ensuring that operational planning is fully informed by appropriate subject matter expertise.
 - Acting as a national focal point for regional maritime security partners.
 - Supporting government and industry decision making in times of need; and
 - Responding to Government Department, Devolved Administration and agency tasking to support their outputs on a case-by-case basis.
10. JMSC will support departments and agencies in the identification and prioritisation of gaps in UK MDA and help to identify and propose potential solutions to address them.
11.

Public Interest/Operational Sensitivity
12. **Operational Coordination**. JMSC will improve the coordination and utility of government maritime assets and capabilities to mitigate threats and improve operational outcomes. Its core duties will include:
 - supporting cross-government prioritisation of maritime security operational response and coordination. This will include contributing to the production of a UK maritime security risk assessment and prioritisation framework agreed in



- consultation with partners, including Devolved Administrations, which will guide the quick-time coordination of assets, particularly aerial surveillance platforms.
- a coordinating and planning (in lieu of a full Command and Control) function, able to advise individual agencies, operational commanders, and Government on options for optimal deployment of maritime security assets and contingency planning in advance of or during security events.
 - Owning and developing multi-agency CONOPS, playbooks and exercise programmes to develop capacity and improve interoperability.
 - Procurement and delivery of niche capabilities and assets to support at sea operations.
 - Providing advice on technology and systems to provide solutions to common strategic capability gaps across agencies.

JMSC does not have an operational command and control responsibility for incidents or planned operations.

Maritime Security Strategy

13. It is recognised that further efforts need to be made to further enhance the UK Government's understanding of the importance of maritime security and its links with national security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability, at home and abroad. Additionally, multiple requirements have been identified to develop and enhance UK MDA and the UK's maritime security capability.
14. To support this work JMSC will continue to:
 - a. Support HMG to convene cross-Government (including Devolved Administrations) activity to raise the profile and importance of Maritime Security within wider national security structures.
 - b. Support HMG strategy development, including the review of the UK National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS) and the Home Office Maritime Security Framework.
 - c. Continue to progress the agreed understanding of domestic Maritime Security roles, responsibilities and coordinating linkages for Departments, Devolved Administrations and agencies.
 - d. Build on the progress made in shaping the role for JMSC in the UK Maritime Security ecosystem in consultation with partners.
 - e. Support partner organisations in the development of maritime security capability.
 - f. Through close engagement with stakeholders, seek to identify solutions to capability gaps, particularly in maritime situational awareness, and explore solutions, including those that exploit emerging technologies



JMSC Transformation

15. JMSC has an important role to play in ensuring government is cognisant of the importance of maritime security, understands threats, and has the capabilities and frameworks in place to mitigate them. As an empowered and informed multi-agency construct JMSC should sit at the centre of an increasingly joined up UK maritime security architecture. This will assure better connectivity between disparate operational delivery agencies and will enable identification and exploitation of synergies and efficiencies in routine operational tasking and incident response. To support JMSC organisational development and growth JMSC will work with partners and the JGB to:
 - a. Agree with stakeholders and maintain a sustainable, long term governance and funding model for JMSC approved by the JGB.
 - b. Recruit new Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) required for JMSC to deliver its mandate.
 - c. Develop suitable organisational systems and processes to ensure proper commercial, financial and administrative probity.
 - d. Work to appropriate legislative, statutory and procedural parameters to ensure proper operational functionality.
16. JMSC transformational activity will be governed through the JMSC Programme Board, chaired by D/JMSC reporting through the JGB to the NMSC(O).

International Engagement

17. JMSC will continue to support the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in its delivery of policy and national security objectives.
18. JMSC will provide a senior representative to act as the UK's Governor for the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).
19. JMSC will undertake regional engagements in support of the FCDO, MoD, and other partners to act as an enabler for maritime security and maritime governance as required. This arrangement will be reviewed by D/JMSC and the JGB on an annual basis.