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National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC)

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This page provides information on the UK National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC).

For methods for informing NMIC about an incident see [HYPERLINK

Personal Data

Purpose

The National Maritime Information Centre was established under the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 to provide the UK with a comprehensive picture of potential threats to UK maritime security through the sharing of information. The importance of the NMIC was re-emphasised in the UK's National Strategy for Maritime Security.

It assists Government departments and agencies to counter the maritime threats and mitigate the maritime risks they face

The centre is independent and supported by contributions from the participating stakeholders and is accountable to the National Maritime Security Committee (Officials)

Stakeholders

The key Government departments that contribute within the NMIC are;

- UK Border Force
- National Crime Agency
- Royal Navy
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- HM Revenue & Customs
- Department for Transport

- Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office
- GCHQ
- Hampshire Police Special Branch
- SO15 (UK Counter Terrorism Command)
- MI5/SIS (Security Service / Secret Intelligence Service)
- Cabinet Office

Location

The NMIC is based at the QinetiQ Portsdown Hill Technology Site, Cosham, Hampshire

Roles

The NMIC primary remit is to serve as an information centre. The centre responds to tasking from Government departments and agencies who request information relating to a specific maritime interest.

It enables government and its stakeholders to understand and address the risks, to create a hostile environment for criminals and terrorists, and to seize opportunities in the maritime domain to enhance the UK's overall maritime development, safety, security and resilience.

Through the integrated picture a maritime domain awareness is gained, which is the understanding of activities and surrounding environmental circumstances in the maritime domain to support timely decision making in the fields of maritime security and safety

The specific roles are:

- To actively monitor maritime activity around the UK and areas of national interest
- To enable better understanding of maritime safety and security
- To provide a 'single voice' for maritime issues
- To learn from maritime safety and security exercises

These roles are achieved through the following mission statements:

- Produce Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA)¹
- Anticipate future threats and vulnerabilities
- Provide recommendations and advice to improve UK Maritime Situational Awareness
- Ensure the UK is informed and responds appropriately to maritime situational awareness situations
- Work in partnership with Government, industry and the public to ensure the UK maintains a balance of advantage in the Maritime Domain²
- Provide UK Government and business (where appropriate) with Maritime Information

¹ MSA = The understanding of activities carried out in the maritime domain, to support timely decision making in the fields of Maritime Security and Maritime Safety information

² Maritime Domain = All areas and things of, under, relating to, adjacent to, or bordering on a sea, or ocean including maritime-related activities, infrastructure, people, cargo and vessels and other conveyances

Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC)

The JMSC exists to increase awareness and understanding of maritime security threats across HMG. It is accountable for both the NMIC and JMOCC (Joint Maritime Operations Coordination Centre), to ensure informed decision making and deployment of UK assets. The JMSC is designed to act as a single point of entry to seek advice for HMG on behalf of all partner agencies working together to secure UK maritime interests.

MCA / NMIC Liaison & Information Exchange

The MCA fully supports the JMSC concept. Two Coastguard officers have been assigned to the NMIC on a full-time basis. They have complete operational access to all core Coastguard technology. They are part of the Specialist Operations Team and report to the Staff Officer for Specialist Operations.

Their role is to act as a link between the need of the NMIC and the MCA to enable a mutually beneficial relationship in securing the safety and prosperity of UK maritime interests. This is achieved by proportionately sharing and responding to requests for information held within the MCA network and engaging with other key stakeholders

For this purpose the Liaison Officers may contact Operations Centres regarding incidents, and other MCA departments to obtain information

These staff serve as Liaison Officers and are the single point of contact for the MCA departments for NMIC enquiries. The liaison officers are vetted to SC level

Responsibilities of NMIC Liaison Officers:

- Responding to requests for information from other Government departments
- Monitoring vessels through the various MCA and Coastguard databases
- Reviewing the DOR for incidents with a maritime security nature which may need to be passed onto other NMIC stakeholders
- Keeping up to date with international maritime security news
- The NMIC desk officer must be aware of all ongoing operations and incidents that the other desk officers are working on
- Recognise maritime critical sites nationally to understand domain and local risk
- Where appropriate provide up to date information and intelligence briefings to the wider MCA
- Attending all meetings where invitation allows, presenting themselves and the MCA in a helpful and informative manner
- Where necessary, represent HM Coastguard at external cross-Government meetings
- Fulfil an out of hours functions in case a NMIC stakeholder or HMCG officer needs information or advice for a maritime security incident.

What to Tell the NMIC/Liaison Officer

On occasions the NMOC, CGOCs, Coastal or other MCA departments may be in receipt of information not related to core MCA business but which may be of interest to one of the other NMIC partner organisations. This

information should be passed immediately to the NMIC/liaison officer (see contact table below)

Suspicious Activity

The NMIC/Coastguard Liaison Officer must be notified immediately, regardless of time of day, of any incidents involving suspicious activity

Examples of suspicious activities (not exhaustive) are:

- Vessel with unusually high quantities of fuel onboard
- More lifejackets than required for the type and size of vessel
- Vessel with above average number of crew for its size
- Any observations of mismatched data e.g. AIS vs. Visual observations
- Any activity which is considered to be outside the normal pattern of activity for the area
- Unusually slow moving RIBs (possible overloading)
- Unusual vessel movements late at night or early in the morning
- Incompetent seamanship, with inappropriate dress for sailing
- Unusual activity for the type of vessel e.g. Persons "apparently" fishing without lines or equipment
- Small vessels being loaded / unloaded with people at unusual times or unusual locations
- An unusual increase of persons or activities on the coast
- Yachts arriving from the Caribbean & Central America

How to Contact the NMOC LO

Email - nmic@mcga.gov.uk

Primary Tel No: Personal Data 157 (monitored 24 hours)

Secondary Tel No: See A&T - Full Time Officers - NMIC

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