USCG Port Interagency Information Sharing

Interviews & Findings

Ms. Susan Henry
Information Sharing Executive Agent
USCG Headquarters
susan.j.henry@uscg.mil
About our project...
The U.S. Maritime Environment

- 95,000 miles of shoreline
- 3.5 million square miles of Exclusive Economic Zone
  - 200 miles out from the coast
- One of every six jobs is marine-related
- More than one-third of the gross national product originates in coastal areas
Port Interagency Information Sharing Assessments

Purpose:

- Document compliance with federal Information Sharing laws & mandates (annual performance measures).
- Promote CG best practices.
- Identify and forward recommended improvements to process owners.
- Respond to external inquiries with facts, examples and success stories.

Accomplishments:

- Completed visits to 16 Sectors and 21 critical ports;
- Interviewed 439 federal, state, local, public and private partners:
- Documented 831 best practices to date;
- Documented 817 recommendations to date.

Next Steps:

- Compile interview & survey findings;
- Complete and publish biennial report;
- Update partner organization listings;
- Submit success stories & leverage lessons learned.
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Why is this important?

• Coast Guard missions can’t be accomplished without federal, state, local, public, private and international partners – more true than ever since 9/11.


• Post-9/11 mandates have generated major growth in local, national and international partnerships, vital to CG & DHS missions.

• Self-assessment supports “One DHS” policy and Senior Guidance Team goals for closer collaboration, and documents Information Sharing improvements.
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What are we doing well?
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Best practices identified by federal, state & local govt partners:

Building on and expanding relationships of trust, from the executive level down:
- CG Sector Commanders meet regularly with their executive peers;
- Sector personnel are actively and consistently engaged in joint planning, prevention and response activities with federal and state partners.

Understanding and leveraging partner capabilities:
- Support each other’s marine patrol, response and training needs;
- Maintain & share directories of partners and their specific capabilities (routine & contingency).

Collocating whenever possible; for example:
- Piggybacking on new facilities already funded by partners, and intended for this purpose;
- Encouraging the physical collocation & consolidation of multiple “fusion” centers;
- Offering working space and logistical support to operational partners.
Best practices identified by industry:

Building CG knowledge of maritime industry in the ports:
- Supporting industry facility orientation & ship rider programs;
- Supporting industry Facility Security Officers’ needs;
- Hiring more CG civilian employees with local port expertise;
- Strong emphasis by Commandant, Areas & Districts on the importance of commerce.

Improving local & regional Response, Recovery & Resiliency:
- Collaborating with industry in Area Maritime Security Committees, Area Committees, Harbor Safety Committees, and local port industry alliances;
- Contributing to 5-year Strategic Plans to support and sustain the ports;
- Leading joint response & recovery plans and exercises to minimize impact of port closures on commerce.

Leading by Example:
- Selecting Captains of the Ports who understand and value industry partnerships.
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How could we improve?
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Recommended improvements:

Federal, state and local partners’ feedback –

• Understand what kinds of information are critical to govt partners, the essential timing, and what form and level of detail is needed;

• Strengthen orientation and training of Sector personnel in partners’ authorities, protocol and procedures;

• Strengthen AOR knowledge through extended military tours and expert civilian staffing, to overcome the perceived “constant turnover” and learning curve of military officers;

• Develop information sharing and security policy to overcome current obstructions.
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Recommended improvements:

Industry feedback —

- Strengthen maritime industry orientation for all CG personnel, in CG Academy, in pipeline training, and in the ports;

- Continue to invest in civilian staffing in the Sectors, in order to build local continuity and sustain critical port partner relationships;

- Provide usable unclassified threat-related alerts and warnings directly to industry Facility Security Officers, and include industry in exercise & incident planning;

- Develop information sharing policy that supports the safety and security of commerce, including ANOA and NAIS data.
Parallel studies...
DHS Private Sector Implementation Plan

Related focus areas – the Strategic View:

- **Focus Area I – Adopt “One DHS” with private sector information sharing:**
  - Increase DHS coordination in interagency-private sector information sharing.

- **Focus Area II – Enhance Strategic Communications Coordination:**
  - Improve existing methods of information sharing with critical infrastructure owners/operators.

- **Focus Area III – Strengthen Regionally-Focused Information Sharing:**
  - Provide fusion centers with a best practices guide for information sharing with partners;
  - Increase critical infrastructure owners/operators’ and others’ awareness of threats & risks to their sectors and regions.

- **Focus Area IV – Enhance Information Sharing & Accountability to get products & services to the private sector:**
  - Develop & document private sector standing information needs.
2012 Information Needs Study – the Tactical View:

- Threat awareness briefings & trends in suspected terrorism or crime;
- Real-time suspicious activity reporting & alerts of local incidents, LE response in progress;
- Real-time alerts & warnings of major incidents in progress; inclusion in incident planning and response;
- Timely TWIC-related gate information.
How to address NMSAC needs?

USCG can work within DHS to address, via –

• DHS Maritime Interagency Operations Centers policy, procedures & coordination capabilities;

• DHS MIOC coordination with neighboring State & Local Fusion Centers;

• AMSC coordination and inclusive practices;

• USCG coordination with DHS NPPD/IP regarding critical infrastructure;

• USCG coordination with CBP regarding TWIC-related information sharing.
Thank you for being our partners!
Questions?

See us at http://Homeport.uscg.mil/infosharing (Internet), or CG Portal, USCG Information Sharing (intranet),