The Importance of Maritime Interdiction Operations

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What is MIO?

• Traditional: Activities by naval forces to divert, disrupt, delay, or destroy the enemy’s surface military potential before it can be used effectively against friendly forces.
• Long history associated with blockades, embargoes, and commerce raiding.
• Non-wartime examples include anti-piracy and anti-slavery campaigns.
Growing Importance of MIO post Cold War

• Protection of U.S. homeland
  – Migrants
  – Drugs

• Post-Cold War role of MIO in support of U.N. sanctions regimes
  – Haiti
  – Balkans
  – Iraq
MIOs Have Become Large, Extended Activities

– Iraq Sanctions Enforcement – 12 years
  • 42,000 ships queried
  • 3,000 boarded
  • 2,200 diverted

– OIF MIO
  • 5,000 ships queried
  • 2,600 boarded
  • 400 diverted
MIOs and GWOT

- Deny terrorists use of the maritime environment
- Deny use of the maritime environment for proliferation
- Enable partner nations to counter terrorists and their infrastructure in the maritime environment
- Counter state and non-state support to terrorism
GWOT is a Long War

- Use of sea lanes by terrorists for movement of people and material is inevitable
- Reality of Extended MIO imbedded in Fleet Ops
- Requirement is for interdiction without delay
Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

- So San Case – DPRK freighter with a cargo of Scuds for Yemen
- PSI is a voluntary association of some 12 nations organized for the purpose of halting traffic in WMD
- Expanded training activities
Requirements for MIO

• Flexible force packages
• MDA
• Networks
• Sensors and data management systems
• Vessel Boarding, Search and Seizure Capabilities
Maritime Domain Awareness

• MDA is the effective understanding of anything associated with the global maritime environment that could impact the security, safety, economy or environment of the United States

• Vital to E-MIO
• Supports HLS
• Enables PSI

The Key is Actionable Intelligence
Requirements for Effective MDA

• The ability to collect, fuse, analyze, display, and disseminate actionable information and intelligence to operational commanders and decision makers.
• “cue, surveil, identify, engage and assess potential threats in real time.” (NSHD/CS)
Requirements for Effective MDA (Continued)

- All-source information
- Comprehensive Common Operating Picture (COP)
- High speed, high bandwidth communications
- Distributed, networked operations
- National Plan to Achieve Maritime Domain Awareness.
Additional Capabilities for MIO

• Sensors
• Platforms
• Computational analysis, modeling and simulation
• Offensive and defense support to VBSS