

EXTERNAL INFORMATION SHARING IN SUPPORT OF NATO COUNTER-PIRACY OPERATIONS

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Counter Piracy (CP) operations are being conducted off the Horn of Africa and in the Indian Ocean by many separate naval forces operating under a variety of command arrangements. NATO's involvement began in late 2008 under a UN remit to protect humanitarian assistance vessels and expanded during 2009 to become Operation OCEAN SHIELD (OOS) with the task to combat piracy and build regional capacity to combat piracy.

Upon initial NATO involvement, DSACT observed considerable confusion, duplication of effort and poor coordination among CP forces. Out this concern arose a JALLC task with the following analysis requirements:

- *Within the framework of OOS, identify what information is and should be shared, as well as how, between NATO and external entities.*
- *Examine the conduct of sharing information with external entities in that context and with respect to existing Policy, doctrine, and directives of NATO.*
- *Recommend courses of action to facilitate information sharing to enable coherent planning and execution of NATO maritime operations in which cooperation with external entities is necessary.*



Alleged pirates captured by crew of the Portuguese frigate NRP ALVARES CABRAL while assigned to TF 508, NATO's Counter-piracy Force operating off the Horn of Africa.

MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The JALLC Counter-piracy Information Sharing Team meets with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force liaison office in Djibouti.

JALLC found considerable improvement in information sharing since CP operations began. There is a clear sense of professionalism and dedicated effort to overcome barriers to sharing among the CP forces. A key finding of this report is the need for improved shared situational awareness through information assurance and an enhanced ability to exchange information. Additionally, NATO commanders need to clearly articulate information exchange requirements, ensuring a consistent approach to what needs to be shared, with whom, and how often.

Although much of the required information to be exchanged is unclassified, there is a need to share classified information. Similar observations in other NATO theatres of operation have resulted in recent changes to NATO's security policy that ease the process of releasing and sharing classified information; these processes have so far remained relatively unutilized in OCEAN SHIELD.

NATO has not articulated a clear policy on the handling and sharing of criminal evidence and personal information, largely due to differing policies of member nations, limiting sharing with international organizations like INTERPOL.

Finally, it was well recognized that Merchant Mariners need information available from CP forces. However, misunderstandings about what type of information is needed and how it can best be conveyed hampers the exchange.





NATO
OTAN



PROJECT EXECUTION

Research was conducted from August 2010 to June 2011 at multiple locations including Portugal, Middle East, Africa, NATO HQ, SHAPE, and HQ SACT.

The team collected data—including mission documents and orders—from all headquarters involved in, or associated merchant liaison organizations and Interpol.

The project team reviewed and discussed work initiated by NATO Centres of Excellence (COE), such as the COE for Combined and Joint Operations from the Sea, and the NATO Maritime Interdiction Training Centre (NMIOTC). In addition, the project team used information from previous JALLC analysis projects that had examined information sharing in Afghanistan and in Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOR.

PROJECT TEAM

LCDR DOUG MCNICHOL, ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Lieutenant Commander McNichol has been an analyst officer at JALLC since July 2008. He has trained in both anti-submarine and mine warfare and has served as Combat Officer of HMCS IROQUOIS and Executive Officer of HMCS ANTICOSTI. LCDR McNichol has extensive joint experience, having served with the Canadian Deployable Joint Headquarters, 2000–2004, and with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces Command HQ, 2005–2008. He has deployed twice with the United Nations, UNTAC in Cambodia 1992, and UNMEE in Eritrea 2000, as well as the Canadian Command Element with USCENTCOM 2001-2002, the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Egypt 2004-2005, and most recently as the JALLC Permanent Representative at HQ ISAF in 2008.

LTC MAREK PRZYMANOWSKI, POLISH AIR FORCE

LTC Marek Przymanowski has been an analyst officer at JALLC since August 2010. He has air defence experience; was trained in ground-based air defence systems such as SA-2/SA-3. He has occupied a number of positions from Fire Control Officer through High Frequency Platoon Commander to finish as Deputy Technical Commander of GBAD Squadron. He has Joint/NATO experience, working in CAOC-2 Kalkar, as GBAD planner from 2000-2003, and Multinational Corp North-East, AOCC Exercise & Training Officer 2004-2006. He has served in Command and Reporting Centre in Poznan as COS, and before assignment to JALLC, worked in the Office of the Chief of General Staff Assistant for Air Force Affairs – Poland.

MR. DAVID ROSS, ANALYST

Mr. Ross is a contractor augmenting the JALLC peacetime establishment as a military analyst. He has a master's degree in computer science and an undergraduate degree in mathematics. A retired US Air Force colonel, he spent 28 years as an active duty officer, serving at all levels of command. He has extensive military and civilian experience in project management, C2 systems, capability development and intelligence support. He has worked closely with policy and doctrine at both the operational and strategic levels. Prior to joining JALLC, Mr. Ross served as a military advisor to Bosnia and Herzegovina for one year and to Albania for three years. Overall, he has 19 years experience working in NATO, joint, and coalition environments.

NATO LLDB ITEMS

Item 1195 – Articulating Information Exchange Requirements
Item 1196 – Information and Intelligence Sharing with non-NATO Entities
Item 1197 – Sharing Evidence with Interpol



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All JALLC Reports, the LL Portal, and NATO LLDB Items may be found in their entirety under the *Products* section on the NS WAN:

<http://www.jallc.nato.int>

Non-classified reports and LLDB Items, Project Snapshots, the Joint Analysis Handbook and Lessons Learned Handbook can be found on JALLC's Internet the same [address](#).

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