

{DRAFT} CONCEPT PAPER

ARF WORKSHOPS ON NATIONAL MARITIME SINGLE POINTS OF CONTACT

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Member countries of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) have undertaken various initiatives to enhance their maritime security. This involves either the integration of existing agencies or establishment of an interagency coordinating framework for maritime security. Regardless of the means and methods adopted by individual countries, the main objective is to have an awareness of all activities in sovereign waters to ensure the safety, economy, environment of the maritime domain, as well as securing the maritime borders.

1.2. Developing national capabilities and capacities are the first steps in addressing the region's maritime security concerns. Maritime security threats as well as the ill effects of marine environmental degradation often transcend boundaries and areas of national jurisdiction.

1.3. The development of cooperation and coordination mechanisms among nations through national maritime single points of contact best positions an aligned response to threats. While there is already a plethora of bilateral interaction among maritime security agencies of ASEAN and ARF countries, there is not an established framework to support the development of national maritime single points of contact.

1.4. At the 22nd ARF Ministerial Meeting, the Philippines, Australia and United gained approval to a concept paper to conduct of the Workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact (SPOC) that was in Cebu, Philippines, 28-29 April 2016 to address this gap. It was co-chaired by the host nation, represented by the Philippines' National Coast Watch Council Secretariat, Australia's Maritime Border Command, and U.S. Pacific Command. The Workshop was attended by 13 ARF members plus a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

1.5. The 2016 Workshop examined the SPOC concept, and was designed as an incremental step towards encouraging improved maritime law enforcement cooperation. The Workshop focused on national interagency cooperation rather than international cooperation. Further the Workshop took into account the sensitivities involved with regional maritime security information sharing, and acknowledged participating states' varying stages of interagency development.

1.6. The four objectives for the 2016 Workshop were:

- Promote transparency through the sharing of national best practices and experiences;
- Establish working level interaction among the personnel of the region's national maritime SPOC;
- Discuss and identify the elements of a future framework of cooperation on maritime security, including information sharing; and
- Identify specific activities that provide mutual support in developing capabilities and capacities of national maritime SPOC for cross-boundary and multilateral maritime security operations.

1.7. The 2016 Workshop concluded that the national maritime SPOC concept has merit and, in principle, should be pursued further. A consensus was reached that a follow-on activity should be proposed and planned for 2017 to further develop the SPOC idea. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to develop the interagency concept incrementally to achieve a broad level of participation and consensus.

2. OBJECTIVE. Objectives for potential Workshop in 2017-2018 include continued development of National Maritime Single Point of Contacts framework to support coordinated regional maritime domain awareness and maritime security operations.

2.1. The Workshop in 2017-2018 shall feature facilitated discussions that focus on identifying opportunities for enhancement of maritime security within the region through functional cooperation. Opportunities could include:

- Designing Frameworks for Interagency Collaboration;
- Applying Frameworks for Interagency Collaboration; and
- Connecting with Other Governments.

2.2. The proposed activities in both 2017 and 2018 are intended to further refine the national maritime SPOC concept, including defining information sharing protocols, and testing such understanding and protocols in scenario-based exercises.

3. TARGET DATES AND VENUES.

3.1. It is proposed that a follow-on ARF Workshop in intersessional year 2017-2018 could be hosted by Malaysia in the second half of the year, probably in Kuala Lumpur, given their progress in developing interagency cooperation, co-hosted and supported by the United States and Australia.

3.2. It is proposed that a follow-on ARF Workshop in intersessional year 2018 -2019 could possibly be hosted in a TBD location in the second half of the year, co-hosted and supported by the United States and Malaysia.

4. FOLLOW-ON ARF WORKSHOP in Intersessional Year 2017-2018

4.1. The proposed follow-on ARF Workshop in intersessional year 2017-2018 is intended to better frame the problem we are seeking to address with the development of maritime SPOCs. The Cebu Workshop highlighted that several states already have elements of a national maritime SPOC. Some are based on treaty, such as in accordance with the 1988 Vienna Drug Convention, while others as tethered to national policy. Regardless, the concept needs further examination to better define what is meant by a national maritime SPOC and what their responsibilities are. Some baselines will need to be established to provide a common understanding of what a national maritime SPOC may entail, and the minimum requirements for their operation. The Workshop would be used to share the experiences of participating agencies, and identify best practices and successful examples of national interagency arrangements, while noting that each state is uniquely organized.

4.2. The Workshop in intersessional year 2017-2018 would further develop case studies and definitions of cooperative protocols, procedures, and national authorities that support a national maritime SPOC, with an emphasis on those that facilitate information sharing between agencies. In particular, the Workshop could address issues such as the type of information to be shared, when to share it, to whom, and how. Although the focus would still be on interagency information sharing within a national jurisdiction, it would also develop a better understanding of how states share information regionally/internationally and seek to identify protocols that are currently in use for this purpose. It is acknowledged that sensitivities exist with respect to information sharing, but it is hoped that improved understanding of practical examples of existing cross-boundary cooperation might assist to demonstrate the utility of building shared maritime situational awareness. It would further demonstrate the potential utility of national maritime SPOCs in facilitating information exchange.

4.3. Moreover, the workshop in intersessional year 2017-2018 would allow participating agencies to identify their most challenging barriers to developing an effective maritime SPOC and would provide recommendations regarding solutions.

5. FOLLOW-ON ARF WORKSHOP in Intersessional year 2018-2019

5.1. A follow-on formal Workshop in Intersessional year 2018-2019 could seek to implement discussions by testing the identified best practices and protocols for information sharing using a series of table-top exercises (TTX). The TTX would employ maritime security threat scenarios, such as piracy/armed robbery at sea, human trafficking, IUU fishing, and narcotics smuggling. In each case the exercise would test what information might be shared, how information might be shared, with whom, and the timeliness of information sharing. The TTX would try to identify enablers and impediments to timely information sharing.

6. OUTPUT. The two Workshops seek to develop a concept paper that provides draft definitions for the national maritime SPOC concept and protocols for information sharing. These two products could be presented to the formal ARF process for adoption by the ARF, via the ISM and SOM process.

7. PARTICIPANTS. Participants to the Workshop shall be headed by a senior official at the policy level and such number of participants from the operational level. It is proposed that the Workshops target personnel a nation's interagency to include foreign ministry, navies, coast guards or maritime administration, maritime police, justice ministry, maritime coordination agency, maritime security policymakers, academic institutions and shipping industry.

7.1. Participants that are experienced and in government positions associated with maritime security responses are critical to the success of the event.

7.2. Following the principle of ASEAN Centrality in the work of the ARF, all ten (10) ASEAN nations' must be represented in the Workshops.

7.3. Recognizing the inherent differences in the structures and authorities of existing national organizations, maritime security concerns in the region could include safety, law enforcement, and/or economic security issues.

7.4. Further recognizing the differences in the mandates, organizational structures, and capabilities of maritime agencies in the region, each national government will identify the most appropriate entities to participate in the Workshop.

7.5. Nations will be invited to submit proposals for presentations during a plenary session on MDA and threat response collaboration case studies or best practices, including on the following topics:

- Legal and regulatory frameworks and authorities
- Strategic alignment, governance, and policy coordination
- Resource sharing and programmatic coordination
- Information fusion and sharing
- Operational and response coordination

8. WORKSHOP LOGISTICS. Malaysia, Australia and the United States intend to shoulder the cost of the meeting venue. The other cost of participation shall be borne by each national delegation.

9. CO-SPONSORSHIP. The Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Australian Maritime Border Command and U.S. Department of State / U.S. Pacific Command will co-sponsor the Workshops.

10. POINTS OF CONTACT. Any inquiries regarding the Workshop concept and other related information may be addressed to:

- 10.1. Mr. Jerry R. Boster, Maritime Strategy Policy Lead, U.S. Pacific Command
Office Address: HQ USPACOM, J56, Box 64015, Camp H.M. Smith, HI 96860-4015
Email Address: jerry.boster@pacom.mil
Telephone numbers: +1-808-477-9460

- 10.2. Mr. Niall Kerr, First Secretary (Malaysia, Philippines & Brunei) Australian Border Force,
Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
Email Address: niall.kerr@dfat.gov.au
Telephone numbers: O: +60 (0)3 2146 5738 | M: +60 (0)12 315 1923