



# Maritime Domain Awareness

- **Origins:**
  - Concept of MDA began to emerge in the mid-1990s
  - U.S. maritime community sought ways to better understand the maritime domain beyond vessel tracking.
  - 9/11 underscored need for greater interagency and international cooperation and information sharing to better protect international maritime interests.
- **Definition:** MDA is the effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact security, safety, the economy, or the environment.
- **Pillars of MDA:**
  - Promote Unity of Effort across the Global Maritime Community.
  - Foster Information Sharing and Safeguarding using enterprise architecture with partners.
  - Ensure Safe and Efficient Flow of Legitimate Commerce through the recognition that maritime and economic security are mutually reinforcing



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- **Proposed MDA Objectives with ASEAN**

- Help identify and organize maritime stakeholders within government, law enforcement, private industry, and academia.
- Cooperate to identify and mitigate the full spectrum of MDA challenges (Security, Safety, Economic, and Environmental)
- Improve existing domain awareness efforts by expanding enterprise-level access to data
- Enhance collaboration through continued outreach.

Effective MDA will enhance regional situational awareness of the maritime environment, promote greater communication, and reduce the threats to maritime safety and security for ASEAN and the broader Global Maritime Community of Interest.