ASEAN Regional Forum
Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security

Code for Unplanned Encounters Sea
Introduction

- Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea
  - Commonly referred to as ‘CUES’
  - Publication of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)
  - Endorsed by the Chiefs’ Symposium in Qingdao, China on 23 April 2014
Western Pacific Naval Symposium

**WPNS**
- First meeting held in 1988, original 13 members nations has now grown to 21 members and 4 observer nations.
- Biennial symposiums and precursor workshops
- Workshops held at middle manager level (Captain rank)

**WPNS Objectives**
- Increase naval cooperation, by providing a forum to discuss maritime issues, leading to common understanding and possibly agreements.
**Draft Development**

- Initially promulgated by the Australian Chief of Navy on behalf of WPNS in 1999. CUES has had various revisions over 14 years.

- 2013 review was conducted by a small team of 4 nations, and coordinated by Australia via email, before being circulated to all WPNS members in late 2013, prior to the January 2014 Workshop.

- 2013 review included: renaming the document; simplifying the legal sections; clarifying its application to ‘naval ships and aircraft’; updating the annex (tactical component); and reformatting the document with a modernised ‘new look’.
Purpose

- CUES provides navies safety procedures, a basic communications plan and basic manoeuvring instructions for naval ships and naval aircraft during unplanned encounters at sea.
Legal Considerations

- CUES is not legally binding – nations will use it voluntarily.
- Naval ships and naval aircraft enjoy sovereign immunity.
- CUES does not supersede international civil aviation rules or rules applicable under international agreements or treaties or international law.
- Safety Procedures include:
  - Actions to Avoid Collisions at Sea
  - Formations and Convoys
  - Safe Speeds and Distances
  - Radio Communication Procedures
Challenges Ahead

- Training
- Implementation
- Exercises and real life experiences
- Document review
Endorsement of CUES is a milestone achievement for WPNS.

Possible adoption by other non-WPNS navies, for example navies of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

Ultimate improvement to ‘good order at sea’.