

## Featured *MSP Perspective*:



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[RSISMSP@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:RSISMSP@ntu.edu.sg)

## Maritime Security Programme, RSIS

### Editorial Team

Jane Chan

Collin Koh Swee Lean

Lee YingHui



#### **Author**

Bernard Miranda

Adjunct Senior Fellow, Maritime Security Programme, RSIS, and first Director of the National Maritime Operations Group-SMCC from 2011 to 2015

#### **Synopsis**

In 2011 the Singapore Government established the National Maritime Security System to provide the dual focus of a Single Concept of Operations and a Unified Command to prepare for, prevent and respond to Maritime Security crises. Consisting of representatives from five agencies, this mechanism, thereafter re-named the Singapore Maritime Crisis Centre (SMCC), achieved its full operational capability in 2013. An exercise, codenamed HIGHCREST, is designated to re-validate the SMCC's ability and capability to deal with maritime crises by utilising the Whole-of-Government (WoG) approach. The purpose of this commentary charts the steady progress of the SMCC and the Challenges ahead.

#### **Building and Maintaining the Capability**

The core team in both entities that form the SMCC i.e. the Operations Group and Sense-making Group was formed in 2011 and achieved Initial Operational Capability during Exercise NORTHSTAR VIII that focused on the maritime threat domain. Building upon these initial capabilities, the core team then elevated itself to Full Operational Capability by demonstrating its ability to work with its counterpart land agencies in handling multiple threats both on land and at sea.

The achievements under such a relatively short time were no mean feat. The capabilities were attained through: 1) team forming and building to overcome the stovepipes; 2) commitment from agencies to fund and staff the posts from five different agencies; 3) setting-up the Crisis Command Centre and its systems; 4) unifying the management and leadership; and 5) having a National level Training and Exercises framework that validates the

capabilities and renews the commitment of Inter-Agency working and the WoG approach.

The SMCC will once again validate its capabilities this week by coordinating responses, as well as applying a myriad of capabilities to manage and lead operations against multiple threats at sea.

#### **Coordinating, Managing and Leading**

Dealing with maritime terrorist threats requires a phased and scalable approach in order to be effective. Coordination is done on a daily basis through working group meetings, inter-agency training and exercises and establishment of processes and procedures that are accepted by all agencies. Ownership is the key to operational and capability development, and therefore the assignments of Incident Managers ensure that every scenario can be dealt with decisively. The organization also need to be nimble enough to respond to unanticipated or unknown threats.

Ultimately, there is a requirement for leadership and clear lines of command and control. The SMCC provides the support mechanism to coordinate, manage and lead operations, swiftly and decisively using the concepts of a Unified Command and Single Concept of Operations.

#### **The Challenges Ahead**

In the ever changing threat environment, and in the face of the need to manage scarce resources, the SMCC must continue to demonstrate its ability to coordinate, manage and provide leadership support in dealing with maritime terrorist threats. In this regard, various agencies will need to continue to support the SMCC and sustain this inter-agency framework in order to maintain its operational edge.



UNITED STATES | 27 OCTOBER | CNN

## **US warship sails near islands claimed by China: official**

The United States sent a warship very close to one of China's artificial islands in the South China Sea on Tuesday, a potential challenge to Beijing's territorial claims in the contested waters.

[Full Report](#)

PAKISTAN-CHINA | 7 OCTOBER | DAWN

## **China to build four submarines in Karachi**

China will build in Karachi four of eight submarines that it is selling to Pakistan.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 9 OCTOBER | XINHUA

## **China completes construction of two large lighthouses in the South China Sea**

The Ministry of Transport held a completion ceremony for the construction of Huayang and Chigua Lighthouses on Huayang Reef of China's Nansha Islands, marking the start of the operation of the two lighthouses.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-JAPAN-UNITED STATES | 12 OCTOBER | THE TELEGRAPH (INDIA)

## **Eye on China in Malabar war games**

The navies of India, the US and Japan begin a set of complex drills in the Bay of Bengal this week even as commanders of the US navy's Pacific Fleet have announced that they will shortly start "Freedom of Navigation" operations in the South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 14 OCTOBER | REUTERS

## **Taiwan to boost coast guard presence on island disputed with China**

Taiwan will increase its coast guard presence on a small island in the disputed South China Sea Spratlys, the coast guard chief said Wednesday, as rival China asserts its claims to the same chain.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 15 OCTOBER | NAVAL-TECHNOLOGY.COM

## **HMAS Hobart construction costs overrun by \$870m, says AWD Alliance**

The construction cost of the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) first vessel in the \$8bn air warfare destroyer (AWD) programme has crossed the estimates by \$870m, the consortium contracted for the project has stated.

[Full Report](#)

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SOUTH KOREA-UNITED STATES | 16 OCTOBER | YONHAP ENGLISH NEWS

### **S. Korea, U.S. capable of countering N. Korea's SLBMs: U.S. navy chief**

South Korea and the U.S. are capable of detecting and countering North Korea's sea-based ballistic missiles, the U.S. navy chief said Friday, stressing that if the North launches any provocations they will be met with a "proportional" response.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 17 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **Chinese general says will never recklessly resort to force in South China Sea**

China will never "recklessly" resort to the use of force in the South China Sea, a senior Chinese general said on Saturday, amid tensions over Beijing's building of islands in the disputed waters.

[Full Report](#)



INDIA | 18 OCTOBER | THE ECONOMIC TIMES

### **Navy signs Rs 5,000 crore pact with Russian shipbuilder Zvezdochka for Kilo class submarine refit**

The Indian Navy is looking to squeeze some more life out of its two decade old kilo class submarines, signing up a contract with Russia to extend the service life of the boats to 35 years.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 20 OCTOBER | YONHAP ENGLISH NEWS

### **Japan's defense chief vows transparency in new military policy**

In rare bilateral defense ministerial talks, Japan assured on Tuesday it won't be involved in any military operation in South Korea without Seoul's consent, according to the Defense Ministry.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 20 OCTOBER | NATIONAL DEFENSE MAGAZINE

### **Navy Shipbuilding Plan Falls Short in Asia-Pacific, Experts Say**

The Navy's most recent shipbuilding plan does not meet the capability requirements that are necessary to carry out combat missions in the Asia-Pacific, experts said Oct. 20.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-UNITED STATES | 21 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **U.S. navy delegation visits Chinese carrier amid maritime tensions**

Senior U.S. naval officers visited China's lone aircraft carrier this week, China's military said, as the two powers try to maintain military ties despite mounting tensions over Beijing's claims in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

KOREA | 25 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **South Korea fires warning shots at North patrol boat near border**

South Korean navy fired warning shots at a North Korean patrol boat near the rivals' disputed maritime border, where sailors on both sides have been killed in past exchanges of fire, the two sides said on Sunday.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 28 OCTOBER | BERNAMA

### **China's Presence At Luconia Shoals Being Monitored - Ismaili**

The Royal Malaysian Navy and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) will continue to monitor the presence of a Chinese Coast Guard vessel anchored at Luconia Shoals, about 84 nautical miles off Miri, said Sarawak Region Maritime Chief Enforcement First Admiral (M) Ismaili Bujang Pit.

[Full Report](#)

RUSSIA | 29 OCTOBER | NAVY TIMES

### **Russian bombers buzz carrier Reagan amid exercise**

The carrier Ronald Reagan scrambled four armed F/A-18 Hornets Tuesday to intercept two incoming Russian bombers in a startling low altitude pass by 7th Fleet's aircraft carrier.

[Full Report](#)



INDONESIA-JAPAN-MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE | 6 OCTOBER | THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

## Hydrographic Survey of Malacca Strait Underway

A hydrographic survey of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) has been launched this week by the three littoral States - Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore - and the Malacca Straits Council of Japan.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 1 OCTOBER | ABC NEWS

## HMAS Canberra put through its paces off far north Queensland to prepare for cyclone season

Australia's largest and newest warship, HMAS Canberra, is wrapping up its first amphibious training exercise.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-INDONESIA | 3 OCTOBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

## India, Indonesia to hold maritime exercise

In a bid to boost naval ties, India and Indonesia will be holding the first Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise from October 17-18 in the Andaman Sea.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 6 OCTOBER | THE SUN DAILY

## Two ships transferring fuel illegally detained

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained two ships on Monday for allegedly illegally transferring fuel in Pengerang waters.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA | 8 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA POST

## Indonesia, Australia agree on fisheries cooperation

In line with its plan to synchronize maritime law enforcement policies with its neighbors Indonesia has secured the support of Australia to protect the country from incursions by foreign fishermen who illegally enter the country's vast territorial waters.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 8 OCTOBER | THE MALAY MAIL ONLINE

## Malaysia to lend amphibious aircraft to help Indonesia combat fires fuelling haze, defence minister says

Malaysia has already agreed to mobilise their assets to Indonesia to help deal with the haze issue which is plaguing Southeast Asian countries, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said today.

[Full Report](#)

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INDIA | 10 OCTOBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

### Relief for shipping cos as Indian coast is piracy-free

From December 1, there will be relief for ship-owners who have been paying exorbitant "war-risk" insurance premiums for ships transiting across the piracy-prone Arabian Sea.

[Full Report](#)



AUSTRALIA | 13 OCTOBER | PSNEWS ONLINE

### ABF names newest patrol boat

The Australian Border Force (ABF) has named the newest vessel in the Cape Class patrol fleet Cape York.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 13 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA POST

### The quandary that comes with illegal poachers

The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry arrested several weeks ago a Vietnamese fishing boat for allegedly operating illegally in the Indonesian Exclusive Economic Zone, around Natuna, Riau Islands.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 15 OCTOBER | FREE MALAYSIA TODAY

### MMEA foils bid by six pirates to rob oil tanker

The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) through quick action foiled an attempt by six pirates to rob an oil tanker, off Tanjung Piai, Pontian early today.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 21 OCTOBER | BERNAMA

### MMEA To Intensify Operations In Straits Of Melaka

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency Agensi (MMEA) is determined to further intensify enforcement operations to combat illegal activities in the Straits of Melaka, a major route for the shipping industry.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 23 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### Indonesian Navy to use warships to evacuate smog victims

Indonesian Navy has prepared two Landing Platform Dock (LPD) type vessels, a floating hospital KRI Dr Suharso-990 and KRI Banda Aceh-593, to evacuate smog victims in Sumatera and Kalimantan (Borneo).

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 26 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA POST

### Navy: Bogus piracy reports common in Malacca Strait

The Indonesian Navy is frequently confronted with bogus piracy reports in the Malacca Strait, most of which turn out to be related to insurance fraud or business competition.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA-UNITED STATES | 29 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### Bakamla, United States Coast Guard explore areas of cooperation

Chief of the Indonesia sea security agency (Bakamla) Vice Admiral Desi Albert Mamahit discussed possible areas of cooperation with United States Coast Guard Commander Admiral Paul F. Zunkunft in Washington.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 30 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA GLOBE

### Indonesia to Fight Illegal Fishing With New Google App

The Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Ministry, in cooperation with Global Fishing Watch, will launch an application called "Google Global Fishing Watch" to help Indonesia ward off poachers.

[Full Report](#)





CHINA | 30 OCTOBER | XINHUA

## China publishes new ocean development index

China released its annual ocean development index (ODI) report on Friday at an international forum held in the east port city of Qingdao, Shandong Province. China releases its annual ocean development index (ODI) report on Friday at an international forum held in the east port city of Qingdao, Shandong Province.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND-AUSTRALIA | 1 OCTOBER | SEATRADE  
MARITIME NEWS

## Maersk Line to launch first direct Thailand-Australia service

Maersk Line will add a new call at Thailand's Laem Chabang port on its Boomerang service starting 4 October, directly linking to main Australian ports such as Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

[Full Report](#)

US-BELGIUM-EGYPT | 6 OCTOBER | THE CAIRO POST

## US-Belgian Coalition wins tender to dredge new shipping lane in East Port Said

A U.S.-Belgian Dredging Coalition has won an international tender to dredge a new 9.5 kilometer-long shipping lane in East Port Said to facilitate international trade maritime navigation, officials from the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 7 OCTOBER | BANGKOK POST

## Rumour control: 'Forget the Kra Canal'

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Tuesday dismissed the latest round of rumours that the government

plans to dig a canal across the Kra Isthmus.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA | 7 OCTOBER | LLOYD'S LOADING LIST

## TPP 'will create major opportunities for supply chain providers'

The 'final agreement' this week on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal will create major opportunities for supply chain providers and some key south-east Asian economies, according to logistic analysts at the fourth annual Global Logistics and Supply Chain Symposium in Malaysia (GLCS LogiSYM Malaysia 2015).

[Full Report](#)

CHINA- SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE | 12 OCTOBER |  
SPLASH 24/7

## China signs \$800m deepwater port project in Sao Tome

Sao Tome and Principe government has signed a memorandum of understanding with China to an \$800m deepsea port in the African island country.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 15 OCTOBER | THE BUSINESS TIMES

### **MPA-led group aims to boost maritime listings on SGX**

The Maritime Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) is taking the lead in a tripartite working group recently formalised to promote maritime listings on the Singapore Exchange (SGX).

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-AFRICA | 20 OCTOBER | FINANCIAL EXPRESS

### **Indo-Africa summit to focus on maritime economic issues**

When the heads of states of the African region meet Indian leaders in New Delhi next week, 'Blue Economy' will be one of the major areas where India will be focusing.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 22 OCTOBER | THE ECONOMIC TIMES

### **Government plans Rs 5000-crore mega port in Tamil Nadu to reduce dependence on Colombo, Singapore ports**

To reduce India's dependence on Colombo and Singapore ports for handling cargo traffic, the Narendra Modi government is planning to build a mega transshipment hub at a cost of over Rs 5,000 crore, expected to come up near Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 23 OCTOBER | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

### **Singapore exploring two-tiered terminals for new mega-port in Tuas**

Land-constrained Singapore is exploring concepts such as two-tiered terminals for the new 65m teu facility it is building in the far west of the island.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 24 OCTOBER | CHINA DAILY

### **China issues first shipping index abroad**

The Ningbo Containerized Freight Index (NCFI) by the Ningbo Shipping, debuted Friday on the website of London's Baltic Exchange, China's first such index abroad, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 27 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Activists protest proposed deepsea port**

About 1,000 people staged a protest to oppose the development of the Pak Bara deepsea port on Thailand's Andaman Sea coastline.

[Full Report](#)



VIETNAM | 28 OCTOBER | VIET NAM NEWS

### **Tien Sa Port set for major upgrade**

Da Nang Port, the largest in central Viet Nam, will invest VND1 trillion (US\$47.6 million) for the second phase upgrade of Tien Sa Port in the second quarter next year.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 30 OCTOBER | THE SUN DAILY

### **Malaysia Shipping Master Plan to be completed by end 2015**

The Malaysia Shipping Master Plan (MSMP) will be completed by year-end and discussed in the Cabinet, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai today.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 30 OCTOBER | SPLASH 24/7

### **Samsung Heavy cancels plans for a Southeast Asian Yard**

Amid straitened times on home soil Korean mega yard Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) has canned long held plans to open a shipyard in Southeast Asia.

[Full Report](#)