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Appendix G  
GMISS 2008 Executive  
Summary





# Global Maritime Information Sharing Symposium 2008

*"...trust and cooperation cannot be surged. They must be built over time so that the strategic interests of the participants are continuously considered while mutual understanding and respect are promoted." Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sea Power.*

*"Overcoming cultural and policy barriers to information sharing requires changes in business practices and information security procedures." National MDA CONOPS.*

*"...we understand that our success depends on a strong foundation of partnership with our maritime stakeholders," Rear Adm. James Watson, Coast Guard Director of Prevention Policy.*

## Executive Summary

The inaugural Global Maritime Information Sharing Symposium (GMISS) was held on August 20-21, 2008 at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, New York and brought together a diverse mix of over 125 participants from maritime companies, associations, navies, coast guards and government agencies from around the world.

GMISS is designed to be an annual symposium over the next five years, sponsored in conjunction with the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) and under the auspices of the Commercial Outreach/Private Sector Working Groups of the National Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Stakeholder Board. It is dedicated to enhancing the information sharing relationships between the Maritime Industry and the U.S. Government (USG) through the coordination of the Office of Global Maritime Situational Awareness (OGMSA).

### *Why GMISS?*

The symposium supports the Maritime Administration in developing a coherent federal outreach and coordination effort. Leading up to this symposium, the U.S. Navy (USN) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) had expressed the need to expand their relationship with industry as set forth in the Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower. As government agencies have increasingly realized the benefits to be gained by partnering with the maritime industry however, there has been a flurry of "commercial outreach" and a deluge of information requests that are overwhelming industry and rapidly eroding its eagerness and ability to respond. The maritime community, both directly and through its various associations, has expressed frustration and confusion over the seemingly uncoordinated efforts in support of and demands being placed on maritime trade and security by government entities.

The GMISS was undertaken as an effort to harness this government energy for engagement and establish a means to coordinate a more cohesive dialogue between government and maritime industry representatives. GMISS is an opportunity to demonstrate that a USN/USCG/MARAD partnership can open the doors of communication to further advance the maritime strategy, and equally, begin to provide the coordination necessary to present a unified voice to the maritime community.

The long range (multi-year) objectives of the GMISS include:

- Coordinate the U.S. Government's maritime commercial outreach
- Implement industry/government working groups
- Highlight specific government relationships
- Promote regional involvement
- Engage a diverse range of stakeholders

Through an "issue-to-working-group" progression in this inaugural GMISS and reflecting the needs of this inaugural symposium's main sponsors (OGMSA, Department of Justice "COPS", USFF/NCAGS and MARAD), the broad topic that is open maritime data sharing was approached from three particular vantage points:

- Law Enforcement Information Sharing in the Maritime Environment (The Evolution of Fusion Centers and Information Sharing with Law Enforcement).
- Regional Blue Water Information Sharing (Increased understanding and liaison with commercial shipping).
- Industry and Maritime Information Sharing (Increased understanding and data sharing with the commercial maritime industry).

Symposium attendees were asked to formulate their thoughts around five core questions:

- How can the U.S. Government be more coherent in its approach to the Maritime Industry?
- What should be the model for information sharing between the U.S. Government and the Maritime Industry?
- What are the unexploited maritime information sharing opportunities that will benefit the flow of commerce and help trade?
- How do we leverage the national strategy for maritime domain awareness to further these efforts?
- Is there value in continuing an annual symposium such as GMISS as the center of focus for issues and innovations?

This combination of vantage points and core questions was focused in four working groups, each addressing a specific issue. These issues had been developed during OGMSA's work with such maritime associations as the World Shipping Council, the Cruise Line International Association (CLIA), and numerous individual industry representatives.

- Working Group A: Issue - Can Government Information Requests to Shipping Companies be Consolidated, Streamlined, Standardized or Reduced?
- Working Group B: Issue - What is the Law Enforcement/Industry Model for an International/Domestic Maritime Information Sharing Center?
- Working Group C: Issue - What does the Maritime Industry Want from the World's Navies and Coast Guards?
- Working Group D: Issue - How do we Create Economic Incentives for Maritime Information Sharing?

### *Working Group Findings*

Consolidated summary findings as generated from the symposium's four independent working groups can be summarized into the following eight categories and potential courses of action:



- Inventory: Establish baseline maritime information requirements (both government's and industry's).
- Cost/benefit: Determine the cost of providing information that is requested or required versus its intended and real benefits.
- Standardize: Standardize the requested information and the procedures for its exchange, globally.
- Portals/Hubs: Set up commercially-based "portals/hubs" through which maritime data can be centralized/exchanged.
- Incident Exchange: Set up a global incident information exchange for use by industry/navy/coast guards.
- Market: Market all the above broadly across industry/government/navy/coast guards to ensure broadest involvement from all possible stakeholders.
- Acta non verba: (i.e. these issues have been discussed enough, let's make them happen).

A summary of individual working group discoveries and action items can be found in the Attachment section of this report.

### *Conclusion*

The concept behind GMISS and its inaugural symposium appear to have been well received by both industry and government attendees as expressed by their subsequent comments and of greater importance, by the significant number of industry attendees volunteering to continue to participate in the working groups.

The symposium topics set forth through the symposium agenda, outlined via plenary and break-out presentations and then refined to issues through working groups also appear to be along the same lines as those being wrestled with at the various USG inter-agency MDA meetings of which OGMSA has been a part.

Further, a rough preliminary comparison of the GMISS outcomes with the materials from other USG commercial outreach symposium efforts (see attachments) indicates a parallel trend of issues being brought forth by industry participants regardless of venue including:

- The need for USG to speak a singular MDA message.
- The need for a coordination of USG maritime information requests of industry.
- The need for a single portal to send requested data to for subsequent internal USG distribution
- The need for a cost/benefit analysis of data being requested or required.
- The need for reciprocity on data requests.
- The need for action towards mutually beneficial solutions.

Regardless, while the momentum created by GMISS and other such events has been positive, post-symposium actions are of greater importance lest GMISS becomes yet another USG conference gathering data from industry but not making any changes as a result.

It is the crucial need for post-conference actions that prompted this report and its recommendations.

(The complete report is available at [www.gmsa.gov/gmiss](http://www.gmsa.gov/gmiss))

