



11th NMIOTC Annual Conference 2020

"Interagency and Whole of Society Solutions to Maritime Security Challenges

by Ms Wendi Brown, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army Reserve

The 11th NMIOTC Annual Conference was held on September 29th, 2020 at the NMIOTC premises in Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. This year was unique because COVID-19 kept many of the speakers and participants from attending the conference. However, the conference still featured a wide variety of speakers who delivered valuable knowledge and information about maritime overall security challenges. Wendi O. Brown, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army Reserve, provided this article; her email is 1wendibrown@gmail.com

The Conference had four keynote speakers:

The first keynote speaker was Admiral Karl L. Schultz, the Commandant U.S. Coast Guard. You can find Admiral's speech in this issue on page 6. In his speech he emphasized the US Coast Guard's role in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its responsibility to respond to maritime partners in distress. The US Coast Guard values partners and strives to continue joint operations, their efforts resulting in 600 smugglers brought to US justice system. It handles state actors and works on a global basis, addressing the immigration problem as well as various drug campaigns. Finally, ADM Schultz highlighted the fact that the US Coast Guard is not global police for fishing or drugs but instead aims to create partnerships to promote transparency including partnering with African maritime ships.

The second keynote speaker was Vice Admiral Keith Blount CB OBE RN, Commandant of NATO's Allied Maritime Command. You can also find the Admiral's speech in this issue on page 10. His speech highlighted the major impact of COVID on military activities and explored ways in which competitors are looking for opportunities exploit military vulnerabilities caused by the pandemic. Admiral Blount discussed a particularly successful NATO operation, "Operation Sea Garden", focusing on three achievements:

- a. Commitment to excellence and getting the job done right
- b. Cooperation among interagency missions and international organizations
- c. Forward thinking: Understand the need for cyber security, development and use of AI, and analysis of big data.

The third Keynote speaker was Rear Admiral Jean-Michel Martinet, Deputy Operations Commander European Naval

Force Mediterranean. Admiral Martinet discussed the Force's Core task, the arms embargo of Libya (CIAT), and the specific authorizing UN Security Council Resolutions which established the Arms embargo, authorized boarding and diversions, and extended the UNSCR 2292 mandate to 5 June 2021. He also highlighted the secondary effects of the embargo: the contribution to the disruption of human trafficking business model, the training and monitoring Libyan Coast Guard & Navy, and the gathering of information on oil smuggling.

The fourth Keynote speaker was Mr. Wayne Raabe, Director of Interagency Partnering – U.S. European Command. In his speech "Threats to European Maritime Security must be countered through a Whole of Government Approach," Mr. Raabe discussed the effects of transnational maritime threats:

- a. The Territorial Disputes and Armed Conflicts (South China Sea disputes cost 4.74 Trillion annually in maritime trade)
- b. The Proliferation of Weapons (497% increase in explosive-precursor liquid chemicals seized in international customs from 2011-2014)
- c. Piracy and the Armed Robbery (1690 actual and attempted armed attacks at sea 2010-2014)
- d. Natural Disasters and Climate Change (50 cm sea-level rise)
- e. Pollution and the Environmental Impact (11.6 billion/year damage to marine ecosystems from plastic waste, 50% of the last 22 major oil spills have occurred in EU waters)
- f. The Terrorism and Other Intentional Unlawful Acts (201 completed, failed and foiled terrorist attacks in the EU in 2014)
- g. The Organized Crime and Trafficking (1.9 trillion/year estimated value of organized crime activities)

The solution to handle the above issues and concerns is the U.S. doing collaboration or joint alliance with Allies and Partners. It is far more effective to work through partnerships than independent thinkers.

The Conference had twelve speakers:

1st Lecture: EU Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP) by Captain Efstathios Kyriakidis, BR Chief Operation Coordination European Union Military Staff. He discussed the main goals of CMP (Enhanced Maritime situational awareness, Naval presence and outreach, A maritime security enabler), the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) Pilot Case (Support and strengthen the EU Strategy on the GoG, Support the Yaoundé Code of Conduct) and the CMP GoG Task Force Responsibilities. These responsibilities include: ensuring overall coordination, coordinating EU and MS actions to implement the CMP GoG, completing maritime security analysis with POL/STRAT assessments, share the results with all MS and relevant partners, monitoring the implementation plan of the CMP in GoG, reporting to PSC on the implementation of the plan, and holding strategic meetings with maritime industry.

2nd Lecture: Beyond Great Power Competition? Maritime Security and the Shifting Paradigm of Global Challenges by Professor James Henry Bergeron, Political Advisor to the Commander Allied Maritime Command. Professor Bergeron noted that great power competition is based on being transactional (conducting business buying/selling). With great power competition it is essential to focus on global cyber threats. A New Organizing Paradigm may be coming, meaning that being competitive will not be business as usual; all must adjust and adapt to global needs and challenges.

3rd Lecture: Maritime Security Challenges in the South by Colonel Ghislain Lancrenon, Deputy Director of NSD-S Hub. He mentioned that the NATO Strategic Direction-South Hub (NSD-S) will assemble, analyze, and promote information sharing that contributes to NATO comprehensive regional understanding, situational awareness and decision making. His speech focused on these points: explanation and description of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the dynamics in the Horn of Africa, the importance of understanding the environment and having awareness of the variety and heterogeneity of international actors, enhancing force interoperability by taking advantage of NATO expertise on education and centers of excellence, capacity building and information sharing, the criticality of regional diplomacy to the enhancement of cooperation, the collaboration and coordination necessary to increase maritime security, and finally that a more holistic approach in close cooperation and coordination between stakeholders is paramount in mitigating maritime threats and vital to national, regional and global approaches, especially in a pandemic situation.

4th Lecture: EU Navies Capability Challenges by Mr. Eric Girard, Head of Unit Maritime Domain at the Capability, Armament and Planning Directorate, EDA. The EU Capabilities Development Priorities include the enabling capability for cyber responsive operation, information superiority, space-based information and communication services, ground combat capabilities, enhanced logistics and medical supporting capabilities, under water control contributing to resilience at sea, and air mobility.

5th Lecture: Maritime Security and Inter-Agencies Italian Navy Initiatives by Commander Francesco Loiero, Head of Doctrine & Standardization Office of the Italian Navy General Staff. His point was that the virtual regional maritime traffic center is a model to create virtual networks that provide, through an internet portal, unclassified information on regional and trans-regional maritime traffic by connecting operational centers of adhering navies.

6th Lecture: Security Environment out to 2035 from the Central Eastern Europe perspective by Major Radoslaw Zielinski, Doctrine and Training Centre of the Polish Armed Forces. He explained the three phases toward training the Polish Armed Forces: Phase 1: Analysis of the Security Environment (Geopolitics, Economy, Society, Urbanization, Technology, and Natural Environment); Phase 2: Analysis of the Operational Environment; and Phase 3: The Use of Polish Armed Forces.

7th Lecture: Working in the Three Levels of Cooperation to Counter Maritime Security Threats by Mr. Christopher Kremidas-Courtney, Adjunct Lecturer, Institute for Security Governance (ISG), Principal, Hybrid Threat Solutions LLC. During his speech, Mr Kremidas stated that the interoperability consists of the following three factors:

- a. The Whole of Government: agencies and ministries from national to local level work together and share information
- b. The Whole of Society: valuable for its ability to provide unique capabilities and information sources in addition to building support among the population for the effort
- c. The Comprehension Approach: actors work together with a shared sense of responsibility and openness, taking into account and respecting each other's strengths, mandates, roles, and decision-making autonomy

8th Lecture: An Update in Maritime Security Threats the Maritime Risk Management Approach by Mr. Nick Georgopoulos, Chief Business Development Officer, Diaplous. The Global Maritime Ecosystem consists of the following systems: Maritime Logistics Chains, Ship systems, port systems, and application of technology, Shipowners, port operators, authorities, financing, technology companies, shipyards, and ship managers are the primary stakeholders in the Global Maritime Ecosystem. Maritime Threats in the 21st century consist of piracy, armed robbery, terrorism, cyber, refugees, and illegal activities such as trafficking, drugs, and smuggling.

9th Lecture: Exploring the Legal Framework for the Enhancement of Interagency and Whole Society Solutions to Maritime Security Challenges: Transboundary Cooperation on Natural Resource Management of Marine Areas Affected by Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons by Mr. Grant Dawson, Lawyer/diplomat, Legal Adviser (Acting) Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. He stated that there are several current legal frameworks that states must take advantage of in order to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment. Remedial Legal strategies include making adjustments to amendments and protocols, modifying practices, and customizing international law.

10th Lecture: SAURON Multidimensional situational awareness-based solution to port security challenges: The Port of Piraeus (PPA) pilot demonstration by Ms. Eleni-Maria Kalogeraki PhD, University of Piraeus, Dept of Informatics and Mr. Ioannis Papagiannopoulos PhD, PFSO-DPSO – DManager of Security and Environmental Protection Dept Piraeus Port Authority. Ms. Kalogeraki discussed the key role that PPA plays in Europe and Greece. SAURON responds to how port operators can identify cyber, physical or combined threats in their infrastructure, the goal of SAURON being to provide a multidimensional yet installation-specific Situational Awareness platform to help port operators anticipate and withstand potential cyber, physical or combined threats to their freight and cargo business and to the safety of their employees, visitors, passengers and citizens in the vicinity. The SAURON project uses the SAURON Holistic Situation Awareness concept – Physical, Hybrid, and Cyber Situational Awareness.

11th Lecture: Stakeholders Management in Maritime Security by Dr. Nikitas Nikitakos, Professor, Dept. of Shipping Trade and Transport, University of the Aegean. Dr. Nikitakos presented the five major steps in the stakeholder management process: Identify the Stakeholder, Analyze Stakeholder, Plan Stakeholder Management, Manage Stakeholder Engagement, and Control Stakeholder Engagement. Stakeholders (external and internal) include port, terminal, legal, crew, labor, incident management, education, training, and more.

12th Lecture: Maritime security threats in the Western Indian Ocean: Threat Escalation and Whole of Government Approaches by Professor Francois Very PhD, Research Coordinator Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA). Whole-of-Government public services, agencies, and organizations must collaborate to achieve shared goals. Integrated government responses to critical and challenging issues are achieved through policy development,

program management, and service delivery. Threats range from “soft” to “hard,” which include terrorism, insurgency, and hybrid threats. Finally, the Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean uses in the matrix approach, which consist of four categories: Marine Environment, Economic Development, National Security, and Human Security.

CLOSING REMARKS

To sum up we can say that with four keynote speakers and twelve powerful lectures from established maritime global experts and academic professionals, the conference covered every critical maritime security area.

As a young captain in the U.S. Army Reserves, Lieutenant Colonel Brown was called up to work at the Pentagon on the Crisis Action Team after 9/11. For her outstanding efforts, she received Army Staff Identification Badge and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. As a major, Wendi Brown completed two consecutive combat tours in Afghanistan, which lasted for 18 long months. For her exceptional efforts in combat, she received the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Non-Article 5 NATO Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and NATO Afghanistan Service Medal (ISAF-International Security Assistance Force). As a lieutenant colonel, she worked at the U.S. European Command in Germany, joint operations environment, to monitor terrorist activities for 51 countries and territories including Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and Israel to ensure stability throughout NATO and European Union. Also, Lieutenant Colonel Brown, completed logistical support to a global NATO communication network contingency operation to ensure computer and internet interoperability among NATO countries in case of terrorist or enemy network attacks against critical infrastructure. In the following assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Wendi Brown worked at the U.S. Africa Command, another joint operations environment, to monitor terrorist activities on the African continent. While working full-time, Lieutenant Colonel Brown earned her first Master of Science in Cybersecurity, graduating summa cum laude; an educational curriculum coordinated and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense. Four years later, she earned her second Master of Science in Cybersecurity. The graduate degree was Master of Science in Cybersecurity with Specialization in Cyber Intelligence, graduating summa cum laude; an educational curriculum coordinated and endorsed by the U.S. National Security Agency and U.S. Homeland Defense.

