



Maritime Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (MSI)



The U.S. conducts 95% of commercial trade via maritime conveyances, and the U.S. maritime responsibility includes 164,000 Americans employed in water transportation and ports; 200,000 foreign sailors; 7,000,000 cruise passengers; and 134,000,000 ferry passengers. Consequently, it is important to educate port and private safety officials to understand the critical role they play in identifying and reporting suspicious activity to federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement. The Maritime Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (MSI) is a partnership between the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) and the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (NSI), in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the US Coast Guard (USCG), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The MSI training strategy is a multifaceted approach designed to improve the capability of maritime stakeholders to identify, report, evaluate, and share pre-incident terrorism indicators to prevent future acts of terrorism. The program's purpose is to empower port and private safety officials to understand the critical role they play in identifying and reporting suspicious activity to federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement. To improve the capability of our public and private sector partners, the MSI partnership developed a maritime-sector specific training program for the sector's workers, security personnel, and executives. As the NMIO/NSI partnership moves forward, community outreach will help in addressing concerns of citizens and advocates by demonstrating that agencies engaged in the SAR process have adopted and maintain appropriate privacy and civil liberties safeguards.

The delivery of the new training module is in the form of a short training program accessible via training portals and hard-copy CDs or DVDs. During 2013, NMIO, NSI, DHS, the USCG, and FBI partnered and visited 10 selected U.S. port facilities to increase NSI awareness and capture "best practices" regarding the SAR program in each port. An interim report resulted from these first 10 port visits, and an additional 10 port visits are scheduled for 2014. One goal for the port visits is to enhance information sharing between state and major urban area fusion centers and port authorities that will lead to increased and more efficient suspicious activity reporting. This combined training effort will serve to educate those professions within the maritime industry that have a great potential for being exposed to indicators and behaviors associated with criminal and/or terrorist activity.

For a better understanding of NMIO and its mission, visit <http://nmio.ise.gov>. Also, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/> for more information about the NSI and current training opportunities.



NMIO

National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office



NSI

Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative



DHS

Department of Homeland Security



USCG

United States Coast Guard



FBI

Federal Bureau of Investigations