



NATIONAL MARITIME INTELLIGENCE-INTEGRATION OFFICE
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**NATIONAL MARITIME INTELLIGENCE-INTEGRATION OFFICE
ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NATIONAL VESSEL OF INTEREST LEXICON**

On August 11, 2016, Rear Adm. Bob Sharp, USN, Director of the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) and Chair of the National Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee, (MDA ESC) announced the latest tool for communicating potential maritime threats and coordinating rapid, appropriate responses to suspicious vessels in the maritime domain.

The MDA ESC has approved a National Vessel of Interest (VOI) Lexicon, which will be available for use by all U.S. maritime stakeholder federal departments, agencies, and law enforcement entities. The Lexicon enables quick synthesis of a large data set by instituting an easily and commonly understood categorization and naming convention.

Alerts using the VOI Lexicon's alphanumeric code provide a concise picture of the potential threat to the maritime communities, and enable enforcement agencies to help prevent, mitigate, or respond to a threat. NMIO will work closely with federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and law enforcement professionals to coordinate and promote the implementation of this tool.

Sharp stated, "This National Lexicon has already proven its effectiveness. It is a virtual copy of the NORAD/USNORTHCOM Vessel of Interest Lexicon, which has been used successfully and collaboratively since 2008 by the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and our Canadian counterpart agencies. This is a really positive move forward for the entire maritime community, and will provide an unprecedented level of communication and cooperation across our nation's maritime first responders.

"I'm very excited about the current efforts to have this important communications tool implemented on a very large scale. We are already working on a plan to expand this collaborative tool for enhanced maritime information sharing between the United States and our allies of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom."

NMIO was created to advance governmental collaboration and unity of effort as outlined in the *9/11 Commission Report*, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, and the National Strategy for Maritime Security. NMIO facilitates information sharing and collaboration across the Global Maritime Community of Interest, which consists of U.S. federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; maritime industry; academia; and foreign partners.

Learn more about NMIO online at <http://nmio.ise.gov/index.htm>.