



NATIONAL MARITIME INTELLIGENCE-INTEGRATION OFFICE
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**NATIONAL MARITIME INTELLIGENCE-INTEGRATION OFFICE
ANNOUNCES ANNUAL AWARD OF MDA EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR FUSION
CENTERS**

November 5, 2019. The National Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Executive Steering Committee (ESC), comprised of the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Transportation, in collaboration with the National Fusion Center Association, presented its annual MDA ESC Award for MDA Excellence to the Texas Fusion Center during the 2019 National Fusion Center Association's Annual Training Event in Alexandria, Virginia.

On behalf of Rear Admiral Kelly Aeschbach USN, the Chair of MDA ESC, Lieutenant General Karen Gibson USA, Deputy Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, presented the award to Mr. Dale Avant, Director, Texas Fusion Center.

“The National Fusion Center Association is pleased to partner with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence – National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office (NMIO) on this award, now in its fourth year. Teamwork and collaboration are at the heart of maritime intelligence successes. We are honored that the Texas Fusion Center was selected for this recognition based upon the impact of their Maritime Intelligence Analysis Program,” stated Mr. Mike Sena, President, National Fusion Center Association.

The MDA ESC recognized the Texas Fusion Center, which distinguished itself for superior service in launching its new maritime intelligence analysis program in 2018-19. The Center advanced the maritime domain awareness of the United States by providing outstanding intelligence support to federal, state, local law enforcement agencies as well as private and public maritime organizations along the Texas coastline and internal waterways. Their efforts lead to several successful prosecutions and the effective interdiction of illicit shipments of people and cargo prior to their arrival on our shores.

The Director of National Intelligence, in cooperation with Navy and Coast Guard, created NMIO in 2009 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 our international partners. Learn more about NMIO online at <http://nmio.ise.gov/index.htm>.