The State of American Maritime Domain Awareness

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INITIATIVES

- Deepwater

- Rescue 21

- AIS

ANOA

Fusion Centers

JHOC

American Definitions

- **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** is the effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment of the United States

    - The purpose of MDA is to facilitate timely, accurate, and informed decision-making.

- The **Maritime Domain** is all areas and things of, on, under, relating to, adjacent to, or bordering on a sea, ocean, or other navigable waterway, including all maritime-related activities, infrastructure, people, cargo, vessels, and other conveyances

- Identified as a vital part of maritime security, for which there is no definition…

- If your definition is "everything" then is it meaningful?

Area Fusion
Centers

- Vessel

- Cargo

Maritime
Stakeholders

- People

- Long Range
Tracking

- AIS

- Rescue 21
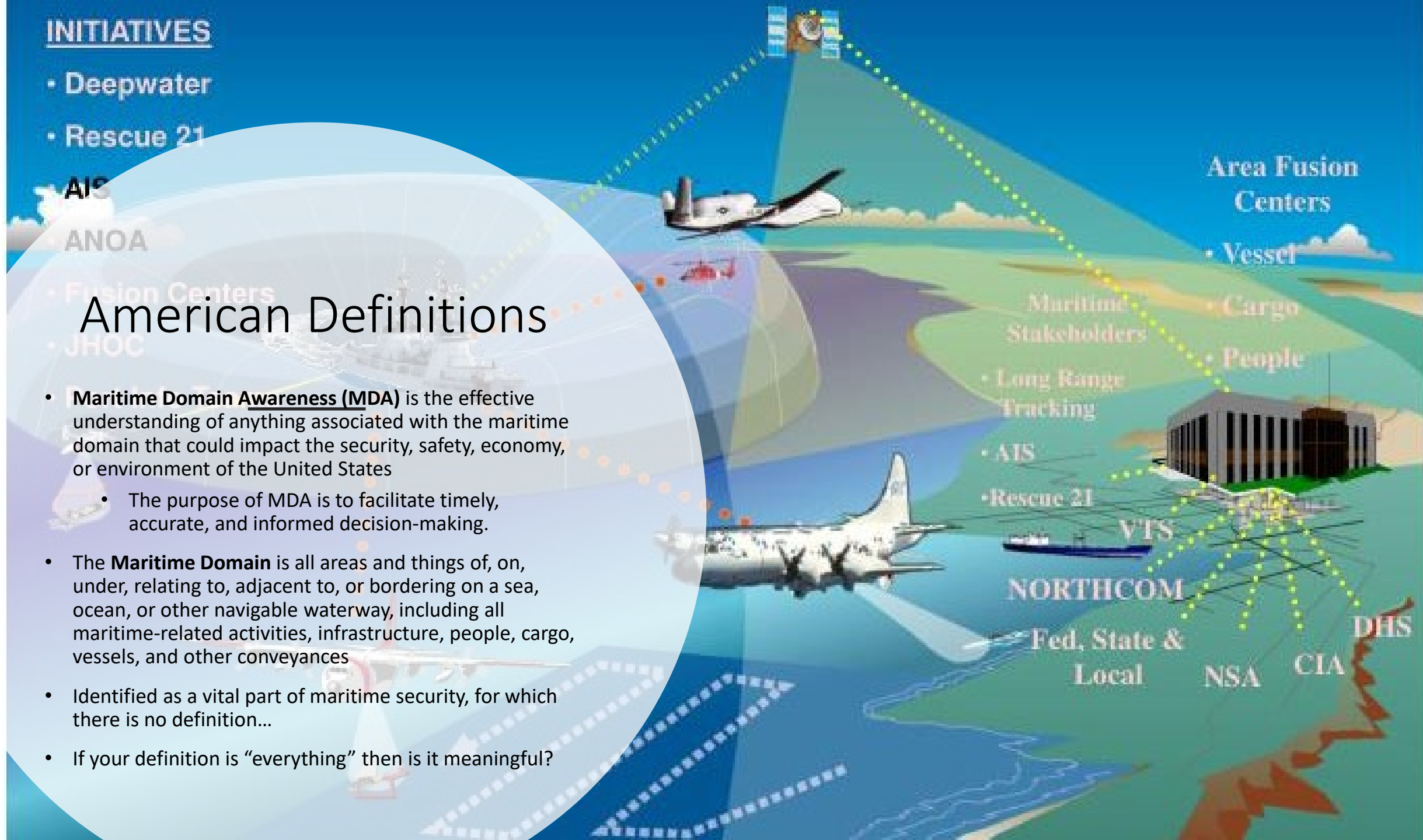
VTS

NORTHCOM

Fed, State &
Local   NSA   CIA   DHS

US Views on MDA

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- Early efforts shaped by 9/11

- National Strategy for Maritime Security
    - Components include National Plan to Achieve Domain Awareness (2005), Global Maritime Intelligence Integration Plan
        - Created Senior Steering Group for MDA, co-chairs Defense and Homeland Security
    - Superseded by National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan (2013) which consolidated both into one strategy

Global MDA Goals

- Prevent terrorist attacks and criminal, harmful, or hostile acts across the maritime domain by state and non-state actors

- Protect population centers and critical infrastructure

- Minimize damage to, and expedite recovery of, the maritime transportation system and related infrastructure in the wake of man-made or natural disasters

- Maintain unimpeded access to global resources and markets

- Safeguard the oceans and their resources.

Multilateral Action

- National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO)
  - Global Maritime Community of Interest (GMCOI)

- US-Canada
  - Deep operational coordination, shiprider agreements, information sharing

- Bahrain
  - International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC)

- Indo-Pacific
  - Representative at IFC-IOR in Delhi
  - Less formal representation at Singapore's Changi IFC

Internal Challenges

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- Large bureaucracy
- Huge amount of data
- Classification issues
- Unity of effort

Data as a Solution and a Problem

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- Need to strike a balance between sharing and safeguarding

- Management philosophy
    - Enterprise-level access to data
    - Web-centric, cloud-based
    - Common data standards
    - Defined access policy

- Data overload
    - Machine learning/artificial intelligence solutions

Is MDA Just Ships?

- No!

- Vessels, cargo, people, organizations, infrastructure, environment are all part of MDA

Where is MDA Going?

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- Increasingly cheap

- Bespoke, subscription service

- Space-based

- Private companies and individuals are approaching, and sometimes surpassing, the capabilities of governments