

## **Concept Proposal: Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Community of Interest**

### **Concept**

This proposal would create a regularly convening, working-level maritime domain awareness (MDA) community of interest (COI), under the auspices of the Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) initiative. Doing so would advance the initiative's goals of more effectively and efficiently supporting Pacific Island Country (PIC) regional priorities and existing regional mechanisms as outlined in the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* through increased collaboration and de-confliction of efforts. The COI would meet virtually to share information about relevant events, publications, news, policy developments, and tools relevant to MDA and maritime security. The working group would also highlight opportunities to collaborate and/or de-conflict support to existing regional mechanisms and partners.

### **Participation**

With discussions strictly limited to unclassified information, participation would be open to the Partners and observers, with no set limit on numbers, as well as regional maritime officials and supporting private sector partners. While they will be more than-welcome to attend, burdening PIC officials with the expectation to attend another meeting would run counter to the purpose of this COI. Therefore, an operating principle is that they will not need to attend to benefit from the coordination that takes place, and that each meeting will produce a comprehensive update on the items and opportunities discussed.

### **Implementation Plan**

The U.S. MDA Executive Steering Committee, through the International MDA Working Group, proposes to organize and host the initial virtual bi-monthly sessions on the Zoom meeting platform, at times conducive to participation by regional stakeholders, accompanied by a bi-monthly electronic partnership update. To the greatest degree possible, this COI will be integrated into parallel efforts to support the region's MDA.

### **Resources Required**

The U.S. MDA Executive Steering Committee offers to organize the COI and initial monthly sessions, while welcoming support in the form of participation, feedback, and future responsibility for community management/meeting hosting.