

# Informal Information Sharing in the Maritime Domain

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# Introduction

- Genesis of article came from GMISS 2009
- Wanted to examine what we do in Norfolk in light of comments made at last year's meeting
- Informal group consisting of personnel from DHS, USCG, NMCO, NPD, and VFC met to discuss these issues

# Informal Network

- Characteristics of MDA in Norfolk
  - Informal in nature
  - Personality driven model
  - Large reliance on informal networks to share information
  - Virginia AMSC plays a large role

# Implications of Informal Network

- Personnel selection becomes important
  - Mission-centric
  - Systems thinkers
  - Non-parochial mind-set
- Relationships have to be fostered to continue success
- Informal network assists in emergency response

# Formal Networks

- Information Sharing also occurs through formal systems
  - Virginia AMSC
  - Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)
  - Virginia Fusion Center (VFC)
  - InfraGard
  - DHS

# Issues

- Too many portals-difficult to keep up with passwords, etc.
- Classification and Pseudo-Classification
  - Citizens as force multipliers
  - Enlisting the private sector
- How to leverage informal networks
  - Getting beyond personality and individuals
  - Single points of failure
  - Lack of succession and transition planning