



From Dusk to Dawn Maritime Domain Awareness in SEA

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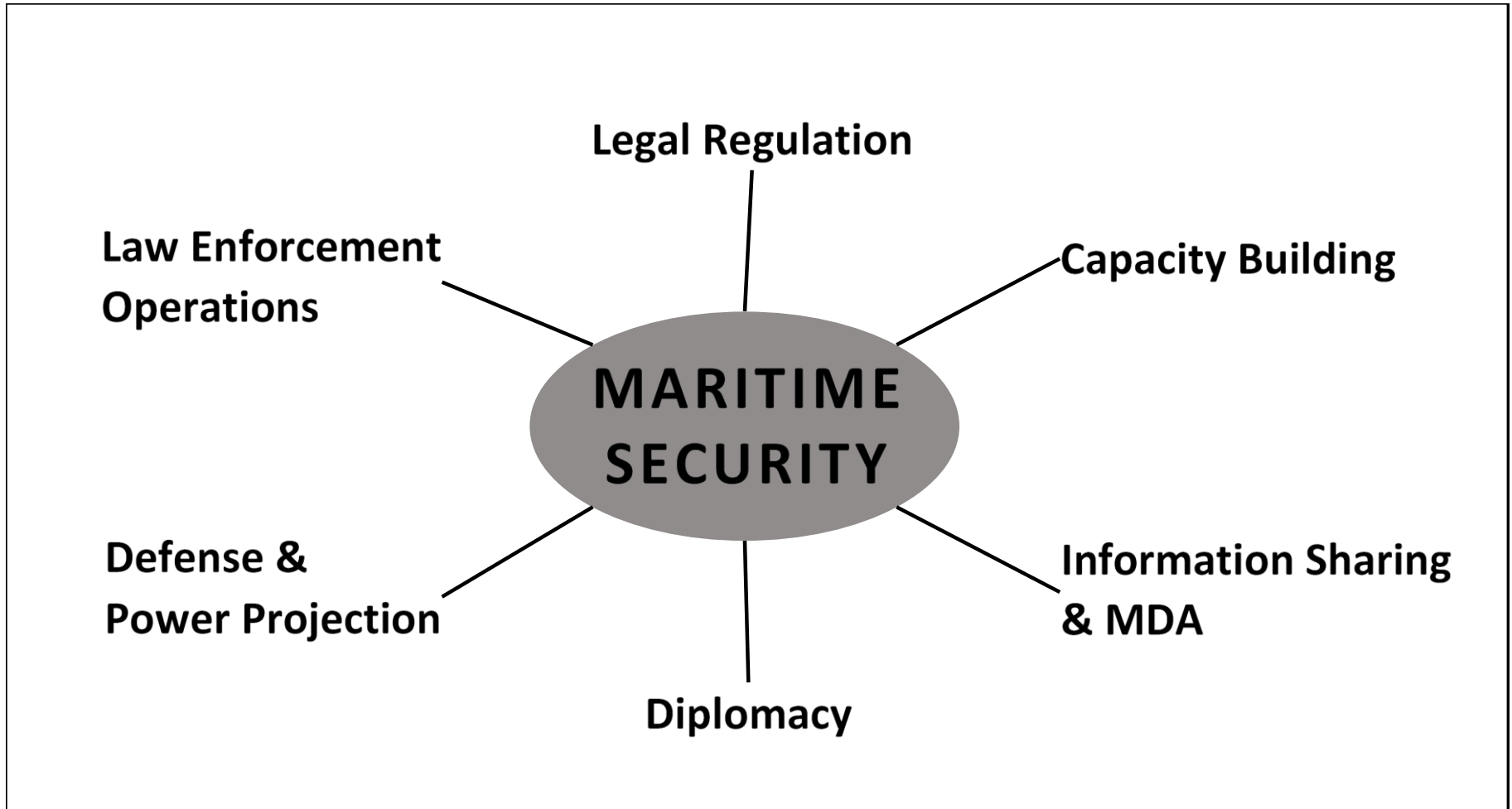
“Information sharing is the key to building **trust and provides a basis for **decisions** and **actions**.”**

(Committee on the "1000-Ship Navy", U.S. National Research Council 2008)

Overview

- **Does MDA deliver?**
- **How to organize MDA?**
- **Experience from South East Asia**
- **Lessons for Western Indian Ocean (WIO), Gulf of Guinea (GoG) and Mediterranean (Med)?**

Situating MDA



Source: Bueger, Christian. 2015. Organizing Maritime Domain Awareness. The South East Asian Experience, Cardiff: Cardiff University

"the effective **understanding** of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment".

(US Government 2005)

Challenges of MDA

- **Technical Challenges**
 - collecting
 - fusing
 - sharing
 - predicting anomalies
- **Socio-Political Challenges**
 - Among whom?
 - What to share?
 - How to understand?

Socio-Political Challenges of MDA

- **Who?**
 - **Number of Agencies**
 - **Trust & Organizational Interests/Cultures**
 - **Military/Civil Divide**
 - **State/Industry Divide**
 - **Inter-State Divides**
- **What?**
 - **Classified/Public data**
 - **Incidents/Other Info**
- **How?**
 - **Sense-making Tools**

South East Asia: 3 center system

Piracy Reporting Center (PRC) of International Maritime Board (IMB), Kuala Lumpur

Information Sharing Center (ISC) of Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery (ReCAAP), Singapore

Information Fusion Center (IFC) of Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore



Main Features of Centres

	IMB PRC	ReCAAP ISC	IFC
<i>Legal Status</i>	Non-governmental organization with observer status at IMO	Multi-lateral agreement and MoUs	Multi-bilateral agreements and MoUs
<i>Funding</i>	Voluntary contributions by insurance and shipping industry	Governments (core funding by Singapore)	Singapore Government (and other participating governments)
<i>Coverage</i>	Piracy globally	Piracy in SEA	Maritime security incidents in SEA
<i>Main objective</i>	Rapid operational response	Political consent	Operational coordination
<i>Main network</i>	Shipping Industry & Law Enforcement Agencies	Nominated governmental focus points (civil focus)	Cooperating national maritime security agencies (military focus)

Source: own figure.

Functions of Centres

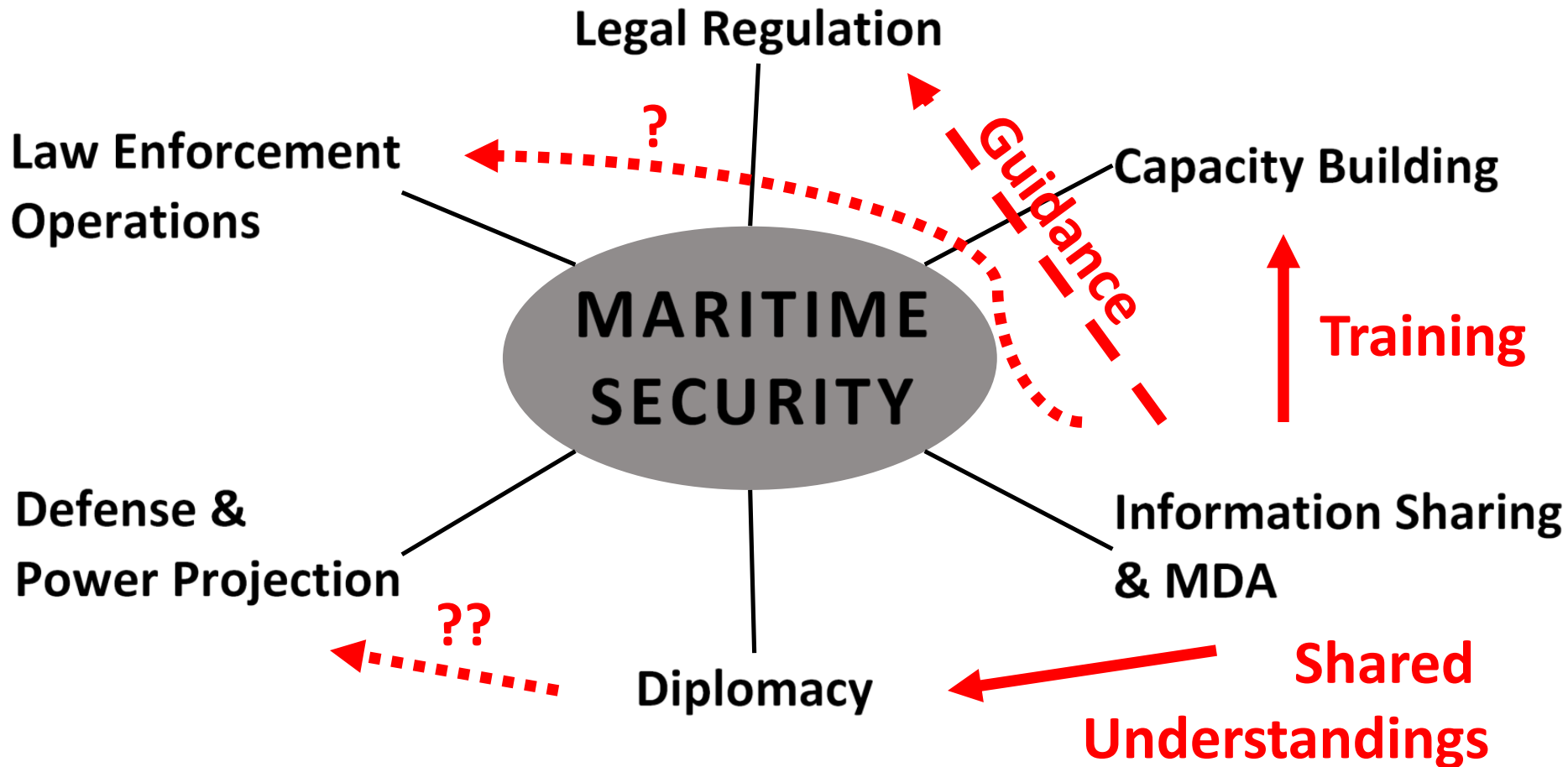
	Industry	Media	Civil	Military	Governments
<i>PRC</i>	+++	++	+	+	-
<i>ISC</i>	-	+++	++	+	+++
<i>IFC</i>	+	-	+	+++	+

	Incident responses	Alerts & Earlywarning	Strategic Coordination	Best Practices	Symbolic
<i>PRC</i>	+++	+++	+	-	++
<i>ISC</i>	-	+	++	+++	+++
<i>IFC</i>	+++	+++	+++	+++	+

South East Asia: 3 center system

- **IMB Piracy Reporting Center**
 - **Private**
 - **Piracy-focused**
 - **Public**
- **ReCAAP Information Sharing Center**
 - **multi-lateral (treaty-based)**
 - **Piracy**
 - **Verification mechanism**
- **Information Fusion Center (IFC) Singapore**
 - **multi-bi-lateral (MoU based)**
 - **Multi-issue, multi sensemaking**

South East Asia: Impact of MDA




South East Asia: Features of System

- **Functional Division of Labor**
- **Overlap ensures functionality**
- **Forum-shopping ensures everyone is included (e.g. Taiwan, Indonesia)**
- **Balance between littoral ownership & international engagement**
- **Based on Singapore as a financial, political and academic “hub”**

→ **And yes, it is an enabler**

Lessons for other regions

- **Not one, but how many centers?**
- **Find right equation between functional diversity, forum shopping and efficiency**
- **Better balance littoral ownership & international engagement**
- **Identify hubs:**
 - **Honest political brokers**
 - **(Academic) sense-making communities**
- **Facilitate region-to-region learning**



<http://piracy-studies.org>

A Research Portal for Maritime Security

<http://www.lessonsfrompiracy.net>

Lessons Learned Repository of the Contact
Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia
(CGPCS)

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