Maritime Situational Awareness

ENHANCING SAFETY AND STABILITY ON THE WORLD’S SEAS

4.10.2024

The Volpe team developed and deployed a multinational, freely shared, unclassified, and low-cost vessel tracking system called the Maritime Situational Awareness (MDA) system. Volpe stepped up. Only a handful of commercial vessels were being tracked in 2005. The MSSIS network provides users with streaming and real-time information on global vessel traffic and situational awareness among nations. Maritime partnerships among nations in the U.S. and abroad were the cornerstone of MDA outreach and implementation.

Volpe’s contributions:

• Improved coordination of search and rescue efforts.
• Help build and strengthen navies and their maritime partnerships.
• Assist developing nations in sustainability of their maritime technology.
• Promotes greater collaboration and cooperation among nations.
• Increased situational awareness among nations.
• Reduced transit time and fuel consumption.
• Reduced theft and piracy.
• Increased efficiency of port operations.
• Dramatically enhanced navigation safety and traffic management.
• Assisted in speeding violation investigations.
• Enabled the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service to better monitor vessel traffic in whale migration zones along the United States Atlantic seaboard.
• Dramatically improved vessel traffic situational awareness along the U.S. Atlantic seaboard.
• Helped authorities find endangered North Atlantic right whales.
• Contributed to efforts to combat piracy, terrorism, illegal fishing, and the illegal trafficking of drugs.
• Promotes greater willingness among nations to jointly address regional and global issues.

In the first six months of 2023, the Volpe-developed SeaVision tracking and situational awareness (TA) system, which could be onboard vessels, track the history of ship and cargo movements, and beacons that vastly improved real-time vessel locations and traffic people and illegal drugs from countries on the western coast of Africa.

Volpe quickly built and deployed a real-time, flexible, cloud-based, and low-cost system in support of the United States Atlantic seaboard. The Volpe-developed SeaVision tracking and situational awareness (TA) system is used by NAVAF and its African counterparts.

On August 4, 2023, while navigating the United States Atlantic seaboard, a Volpe-developed TA system detected a vessel in distress. A real-time Communications, Traffic-Management and Information System (AIS) based data network, dramatically improved the real-time vessel locations and traffic people and illegal drugs from countries on the western coast of Africa.

A NEW TOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

…International cooperation, Regional fishing, and the smuggling of humans, drugs, and weapons.

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A full-time team of 25 PROFESSIONALS FROM OVER 80 NATIONS

Maritime Safety and Security Information System (MSSIS) 2002 – PRESENT

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