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Meyer Institute Hosts NPS Maritime Domain Task Force



In January 2004, the Naval Postgraduate School commissioned the Maritime Domain Protection Task Force. This research and investigative Task Force was formed to address issues surrounding protection of the United States and its vessels and citizens against terrorist threats originating from the maritime domain. The task force's principle advocate, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, shaped initial efforts by focusing on the warfighter's perspective to dissuade, deter, pre-empt, interdict, or defeat threats and aggression as early and as far from U.S. borders as possible.

This multi-year effort will explore potential issues and define, design, and aid implementation of a national maritime domain protection system. The envisioned system will be based on a concept of multiple lines of defense and domains to be, coordinated through a national command and control system.

Due to the scope, complexity, and systems engineering orientation of the task force, the Meyer Institute is hosting the lead systems engineering and integrating team. The project has initially attracted over 30 faculty, students, and staff with experience in fields such as intelligence and information science, systems engineering, and meteorology; the team is reaching out to various agencies involved in developing homeland defense policy and capabilities against terrorist threats.

The task force is focusing on DoD's responsibilities and roles in homeland defense, while recognizing the need to integrate with national homeland security efforts. This will be accomplished through inter-agency cooperation and intelligence sharing, which will help form a common operational picture.

The MDP-TF has established a schedule to deliver, by October 2004, a vulnerability versus capability assessment and an initial description of the current national system. Concurrent efforts include work in system design, advance capabilities in maritime domain awareness, establishment of a classified maritime domain database and reference library, and creation of a classified maritime domain protection war gaming facility. This facility will provide a "test bed" for the development of local, state, federal, and DoD agencies' concepts of operations.

CAPT Jeff Kline, USN is the project lead. The systems engineering and integration effort is being led by Dr. Tom Huynh from the Department of Systems Engineering. The SE team has representatives from Information Sciences, Operations Research, and Systems Engineering Departments.

Certificates in Systems Analysis and Systems Engineering

The Meyer Institute of Systems Engineering has coordinated the delivery of two new certificate programs offered by the Naval Postgraduate School. The first is a certificate in systems analysis; the second in systems engineering. Each certificate requires the successful completion of four courses.

The process of earning each of the two certificates is designed to increase the technical and analytical skills of unrestricted line officers. The payoff will be immediate and apply directly to current operational jobs. Once a student has both certificates, he or she will have the option to complete the Master of Science in Systems Engineering degree in residence at NPS, and in less than the 18 month term of the standard resident program.

NPS is experimenting with different delivery modes for the certificates. Starting in the fall of 2003, the systems analysis certificate has been presented to a cohort of students in the San Diego fleet concentration area. The first course, Fundamentals of Naval Analysis, has been completed, and the second course, Combat Systems Simulation, is underway at this writing. Naval Tactical Analysis will be offered in the spring quarter, followed by Naval Systems Analysis in the summer. This mode of one course per quarter for four quarters is known on campus as the 'one by four' mode.

NPS plans a second offering in 2004 of the systems analysis certificate at a second fleet concentration area. This offering will be four courses completed in one quarter, or 'four by one'. The location and start-time of this offering are still under discussion.

Beginning in FY05, the systems engineering certificate will be offered to those students completing the systems analysis certificate. Systems Engineering courses include Project Management, Systems Engineering and Architecture, Cost Analysis, and Logistics Systems Engineering.

Details on the certificate system are available at <http://www.nps.navy.mil/seacert/> or from Professor Dave Olwell, Academic Associate, DSN 756-3583.

