

EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA
SHADE MED Working Groups on Operations and CIS OUTCOME
OHQ Rome – 15 March 2016

Mr. GOUSSOT (CMPD/EEAS) opened the session of the Working Groups and provided introductory remarks underlining the importance of identifying common denominators, useful to all actors present in the Mediterranean basin, through the open and stimulating environment provided by the SHADE MED initiative.

1. WORKING GROUP ON OPERATIONS

a. Executive Summary

The WG provided an opportunity to exchange views about information exchange among actors operating in ENFM Area of Operations (AOO).

All representatives acknowledged that relevant information is already shared at tactical level to a certain extent, but mainly peer to peer when needed. The proposal to feed an UNCLAS common chat open to IMRCC, NGOs and White Shipping (to enhance situational awareness, de-confliction, promote aviation safety and improve effectiveness of rescue operations) was welcomed by all participants.

b. Discussion

- ENFM representative opened the Working Group and made the following comments:
 - Situational awareness is vital for de-confliction and mutual support at tactical level;
 - There is the possibility to establish a common UNCLAS chat set by ENFM, in line with a Maritime Security Centre wider project to be set in the Joint Operation Centre;
 - Aviation safety and effectiveness in Rescue activities are common denominators of ENFM, Operation MARE SICURO, Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR and Operation TRITON, even if SAR is not an explicit task to some of them.
- ITA Navy representative stated that the info sharing was already happening at satisfactory level but mainly point to point among actors. He agreed about the possibility to establish a common UNCLAS platform (taking the “Mercury System” as an example) where any actor can place info on a voluntary basis, including Civilian Organisations (Owner Shipping Association) involved in Migration Phenomena. Even if PSNs of military units are generally classified, as they are perishable, they could be released.
- MARCOM representative mentioned the overarching need for a wider than tactical “experience sharing” (Observations/Lessons) focused on the Maritime Security Operation (MARCOM specific interest) perspective. They agreed with the UNCLAS info sharing but they remarked that care should be taken when vetting of data regarding Military Operations over UNCLAS systems.

- The FRONTEX representative was requested by the chairman to provide an insight about FRONTEX different Organizational Elements (HQs in Warsaw, Pratica di Mare and Catania). He also provided, as asked by MARCOM reps, an overview of the JORA (Joint Operation Reporting Application) System that uses an internet based software to share all the info between FRONTEX assets.

c. Conclusion and way ahead

- ENFM OHQ will perform a study to establish a common UNCLAS chat in line with a Maritime Security Centre wider project to be set in the Joint Operation Centre; the subject will be shared with all Non-military Organizations (including Owner Shipping Association) involved in Migration Phenomena;
- All representatives will determine their organizations' views on info sharing in ENFM AOO and report suggestions for improvement in the next meeting;
- All participants expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the establishment of such an initiative.

d. Participants

- ENFM OHQ CJ3, CJ6, CJ9, IT Coast Guard LNO
- MARCOM: OF-4 McRAE (CJ3) and OF-4 ANGHELONE (CJ9)
- FRONTEX: Mr. GANEA (Ops division - Sea border sector)
- ITA Navy: OF-3 FAGNANI (IT Navy OPS/PLAN Department)

2. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

a. Executive Summary

The Working Group analysed all aspects related to the implementation of a network for information exchanging and particularly technical pre-requisites to be taken into account in order to facilitate the setting up of a platform enabling UNCLAS information sharing.

b. Discussion

- After the welcoming address to all participants, ENFM representative illustrated the OHQ network architecture and the characteristics of the ICT systems already in use, particularly with regards to the Service-oriented infrastructure for MARitime Traffic (SMART), very similar to MERCURY system, already in use in Op. ATALANTA able to provide mainly three main services: chat, common operating picture and document posting. With some improvements, already developed by ENFM CJ6 in a technical requirement, the SMART is now ready to replicate the same services.
- The discussion moved to the SMART. The ITA Navy representative explained that a WEB version (Internet Based) will also be available soon. This Functional Area Service (FAS) will utilize "https:" internet protocol and the most advanced security means, even though it is an UNCLAS network. ENFM in close

cooperation with the Italian Navy will be able to start the test phase of the system by the beginning of April 2016. The FOC will be achieved in about 30 days. The system will require “access credential” and will be used by military and civilian authorities (basically those invited to the first SHADE MED) on a voluntary basis.

- MARCOM representative shortly described a project running at the moment within the NATO community to distribute MSA. Timing is not completely determined at the moment, since the project is under evaluation at SHAPE.
- The ITA Navy representative stressed the difficulty in achieving a clear and reliable Maritime Situational Awareness, in the sense that a lot of effort should be done in order to put together the maximum amount of data inputs from different sources (ground sensors, reports, etc.). Summarizing, SMART (improved version) could be a common unclassified platform for de-confliction, alerts, real-time coordination.
- All participants agreed to state that the main focus should be set on the following elements (common denominators):
 - Enhancement of situational awareness & shared picture through access to respective databases and resources;
 - Ability to communicate with military, and commercial maritime community;
 - Exchange of experiences, lessons learned and mutual support.

c. Conclusion and way ahead

- The desired outcome, i.e. the establishment of a platform offered as a “collaboration portal” in order to facilitate sharing of information regardless of its origin and field of expertise, was achieved. ENFM OHQ CJ6 Branch elaborated a possible technical solution to meet the requirements.
- The SMART testing phase, enabling instant exchange of unclassified information between actors, can start by the beginning of April, offering availability of services to users in a limited performance level (mission-tailored). Initial Operational Capability (IOC) will be declared by the 2nd week of April, followed by an exhaustive test run in close co-ordination and co-operation with ITA Navy. The testing phase is scheduled to be completed by the end of April, marking also the next milestone - the declaration of Full Operational Capability (FOC) of the system in regards with information sharing (exclusively unclassified level).

d. Participants

- ENFM OHQ: OF-5 ELIA (OHQ ACOS CJ6)
- MARCOM: OF-3 DI BENEDETTO (CJ6)
- ITA Navy: OF-4 CAPORASO (C4I MARITELE)