

LESSON 12

SERVICE WARFIGHTING DOCTRINE: THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

“We are the nation’s at-sea law enforcement arm with the broad authority of Section 89 of Title 49 of the U.S. Code. Evolving over the years, our reach extends to illegal migrant interdiction, drug interdiction, and fisheries protection. Classically, our versatile deepwater platforms stand the watch with a ready flight deck, a boat at the rail, and a well trained boarding party always prepared to enforce domestic law, observe international standards, and preserve individual human rights. With a background in these roles and missions, the Coast Guard stands watch to ensure homeland security at our ports and maritime borders.”

—U.S. Coast Guard: America’s Maritime Guardian,
1 January 2002, Chapter 1

Lesson Introduction

This lesson examines the tenets of the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard doctrine. The objective of this lesson is to provide an understanding of the ethos of the United States Coast Guard, how it is organized, trained, and structured to fight. Of particular significance is the comprehension of how the Coast Guard fits into Joint operations. Now, with homeland security as a major issue of national security, the U.S. Coast Guard has been given the tremendous responsibility of maritime homeland security. This lesson will provide information on how the Coast Guard plans to confront that critical task. As you study the Coast Guard, it becomes very apparent that it occupied a unique position of being both an armed force of the United States (14 U.S.C. 1) and a law enforcement agency (14 U.S.C. 89), simultaneously and at all times. Therefore, it is ideally suited for homeland security missions against threats that are defined as military or terrorist. This lesson builds on the other 8803A course lessons dealing with the other branches of the armed forces. You will see a more unique set of roles and missions in this lesson than in the previous ones.

Student Requirements by Educational Objective

Requirement 1

Objective 1. Understand how the U.S. Coast Guard ties into the nation’s national defense. [JPME Area 1(a)]

Objective 2. Comprehend the capabilities and organization of the U.S. Coast Guard, its roles, missions, and functions, and how the U.S. Coast Guard relates to other services. [JPME Area 1(a)(e), 2(d)]

Objective 3. Comprehend how the U.S. Coast Guard participates in Joint warfighting. [JPME Area 2(a)(d)]

Read:

- Joint Pub 3-33, *Joint Force Capabilities*, 13 October 1999, pp. II-12 to II-15 (3 pages)
- Coast Guard Pub 1, *U.S. Coast Guard: America's Maritime Guardian*, 1 January 2002, pp. 5 to 14 and 28 (National Defense to the Fore) to 36 (18 pages)

Innovative concepts of homeland security, maritime sovereignty, and global engagement have continued to shape the Coast Guard's roles, missions, and tasks since the birth of the nation. Today, Coast Guard units play critical roles in peacetime deployments, humanitarian support, peacekeeping and enforcement, crisis response, and combat operations across the spectrum of U.S. national security and military strategies. Coast Guard peacetime, active and acceptable engagement reaches out to all elements of other countries' maritime interests and agencies. Coast Guard support to numerous bilateral and multilateral international initiatives—including search and rescue, law enforcement, and environmental exercises—helps to underscore America's commitments to regional stability and peace.

The Coast Guard's extensive peacetime responsibilities for coastal and port maritime functions and a variety of country-to-country operations provide broad-spectrum capabilities for response to threat and crises. The Service maintains a high state of readiness to function as a specialized Service within the Navy and has command responsibilities for the U.S. Maritime Defense Zones. Moreover, its operational capabilities figure importantly in small-scale contingencies, humanitarian assistance efforts, maritime interdiction operations in support of United Nations sanctions, and port security in overseas theaters, as well as in other important military-operations-other-than-war (MOOTW) missions.

Finally, Coast Guard tasks in the maritime aspects of major theater warfare encompass critical elements of naval operations in littoral regions, including port security and safety, military environmental response, maritime interception and coastal sea control, and force protection. More than two centuries of littoral warfare operations at home and overseas have honed the Coast Guard's skills that are most needed in support of the nation's military and naval strategies for the 21st century.

Not a second Navy, the Service will remain the world's best coast guard, offering unique, non-redundant, and complementary military capabilities to America's national defense needs.

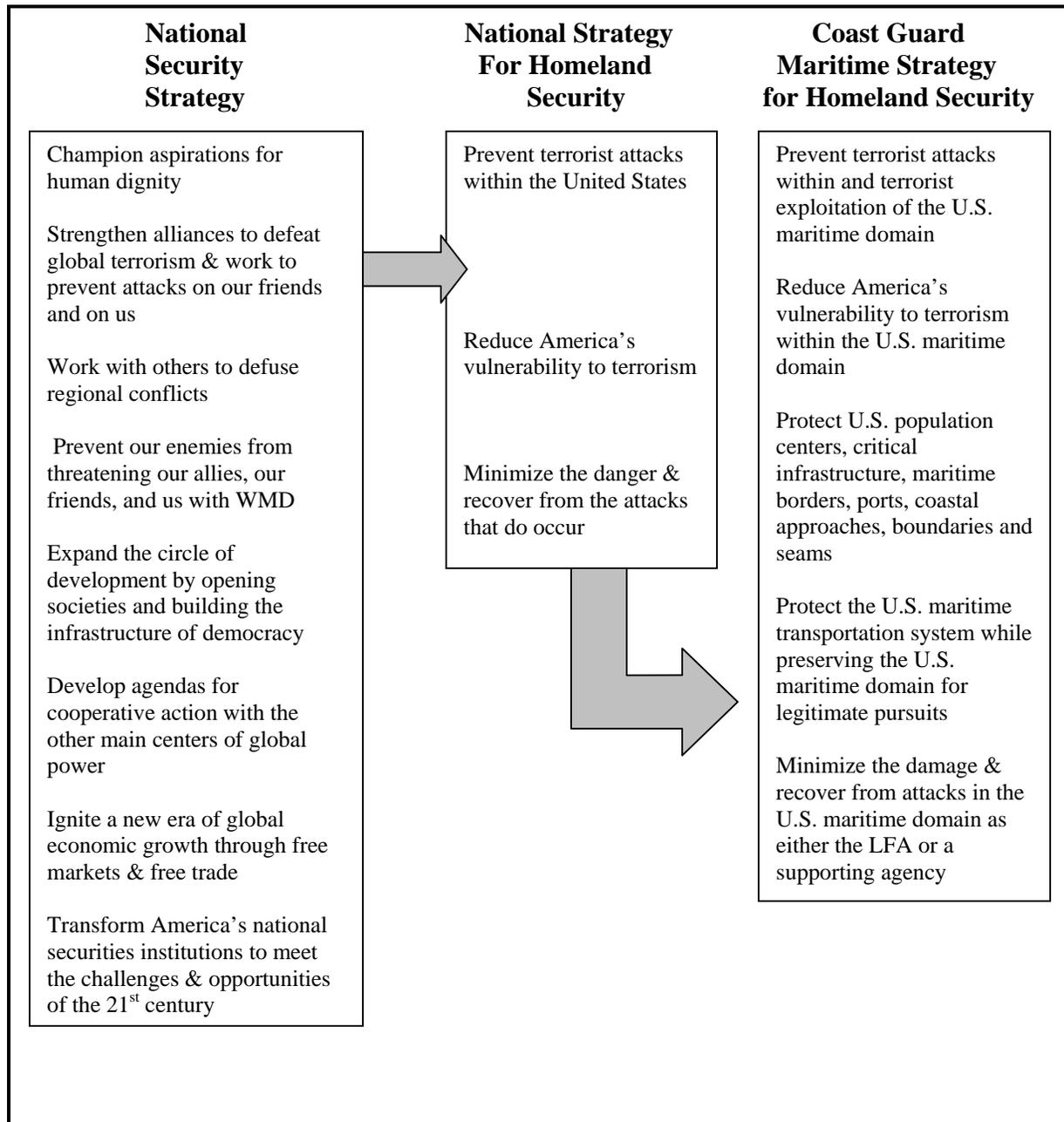
Requirement 2

Objective 4. Understand the U.S. Coast Guard's role, strategy, and missions with regard to U.S. homeland security. [JPME Area 1(a)(e), 2(b),3(a)(e)]

Read:

- *U.S. Coast Guard's Maritime Strategy for Homeland Security*, December 2002, pp. 1 to 3, 9 to 10, 16 to 24, and 27 to 29 (16 pages)

The U.S. Coast Guard has been assigned as the lead federal agency for Maritime Homeland Security. Their tasks are many and virtually insurmountable. They are responsible for some 3.5 million square miles of ocean area and 98,000 miles of coastline. The chart below shows the manner in which the Coast Guard took the National Strategy for Homeland Security and created strategic objectives for placement within their newly created Maritime Strategy for Homeland Security.



The chart that follows summarizes the entire Coast Guard Maritime Strategy. From their strategic objectives flow a mission statement and a series of tasks, which they call strategy elements.

The U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Strategy for Homeland Security

Strategic Objectives

- Prevent terrorist attacks within and terrorist exploitation of the U.S. maritime domain
- Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism within the U.S. maritime domain
- Protect U.S. population centers, critical infrastructure, maritime borders, ports, coastal approaches, and the boundaries and seams among them
- Protect the U.S. Marine transportation system while preserving the freedom of the U.S. maritime domain for legitimate pursuits
- Minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may occur within the U.S. maritime domain as either the Land Federal Agency (LFA) or a supporting agency

Top Level Mission Statement

Protect the U.S. maritime domain and the U.S. Marine transportation system and deny their use and exploitation by terrorists as a means for attacks on U.S. territory, population, and critical infrastructure. Prepare for and, in the event of attack, conduct emergency response operations. When directed, as the supported or supporting commander, conduct military homeland defense operations.

Strategy Elements

- Increase maritime domain awareness
- Conduct enhanced maritime security operations
- Close port security gaps
- Build critical security capabilities
- Leverage partnerships to mitigate security risks
- Ensure readiness for Homeland Defense operations

Guiding Principles for Strategy Development

1. The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for Maritime Homeland Security.
2. For Maritime Homeland Security, DoD primarily acts as a supporting agency to the Coast Guard.
3. For Maritime Homeland Defense, employing traditional military missions, DoD is the lead federal agency with the Coast Guard acting as a supported or supporting commander.
4. Securing the homeland requires the sharing of responsibilities among all agencies.
5. Information will be shared in an unprecedented manner by all agencies.
6. Maritime security operations will be focused to meet essential, threat-based requirements and conducted within the rule of law.
7. Forces for implementing this maritime strategy will be derived by leveraging the Coast Guard's multi-mission assets, acquiring new resources and partnering/coordinating with public and private stakeholders.

The chart that follows provides comprehensive information on near-term initiatives, which are designed to support the strategic objectives, mission, and the strategy elements shown above.

Strategic Elements	Near-Term Initiatives
1. Increase maritime domain awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center at each area to leverage interagency information sharing • Co-chair with Navy a Joint Maritime Surveillance working group • Install SIPRNET at each COTP & group • Install GCCS in all command centers • Expand sensor capability with RESCUE-21, PAWSS, Deepwater, & state-of-the art port surveillance system
2. Conduct enhanced security awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission MSSTs & enhance boarding team capabilities • Evaluate arming all HH-60/65s • Conduct robust exercise plan to test effectiveness of an expanded layered defense • Acquire new small boat fleet • Increase acquisition of WPB-87 coastal patrol boat • Deploy HC-130J with advanced C2 & sensor systems for increased maritime surveillance capability
3. Close port security gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct & update port security assessments on ports, vessels & facilities using Port Security Risk Assessment tool methodology • Conduct follow-on detailed vulnerability assessments on ports most at risk • Plan & conduct port-level counter-terrorism exercises • Field bio-terrorism response policy • Establish port security committees in each port with participation from all key stakeholders
4. Build critical security capabilities & competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand, train & commission MSSTs • Expand security-training infrastructure to include Operational Intelligence & MLE schools & Fast Boat Center of Excellence • Modernize via Deepwater upgraded C4ISR capabilities in 37 existing major cutters, all WPBs, selected HC-130s, all HH60Js, all HH65s & 12 command centers, & add new MPAs & UAVs • Develop skill sets in workforce to leverage increased technological capability being fielded
5. Leverage partnerships to mitigate security risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct port vulnerability assessments • Establish & exercise specialized HAZMAT Response Teams & other critical capabilities from existing first responder type organizations • Pursue efforts to increase cargo security & enhance the security & validity of mariner documentation at international level
6. Ensure readiness for Homeland Defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Deepwater to increase operational capability & DoD compatibility • Prepare to conduct operations as a supported & supporting commander to U.S. NORTHCOM • Prepare, equip, & train forces to conduct both HLS & HLD operations & to transition smoothly between missions • Procure CBRNE personal protective equipment for field personnel deemed at risk • Develop training programs to ensure safety & effectiveness of Coast Guard personnel pursuing HLS & HLD missions

Lesson Summary

A comprehension of the U.S. Coast Guard's capabilities and limitations is important to Joint and combined planning, and it will assist future commanders and staff officers in appreciating the complementary enhancements the Coast Guard offers within the Joint operational environment. As the Coast Guard is an often overlooked and misunderstood Service, knowledge of its doctrine, missions, and capabilities, as well as the interrelationship with Joint doctrine and homeland security, will be instrumental in successful planning. How the Coast Guard supports the theater commander in a Joint or combined environment is essential for other Service planners to fully understand and ensure that this support is appropriately included.

JPME Summary

AREA 1					AREA 2				AREA 3					AREA 4					AREA 5			
A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D
X				X	X	X		X	X				X									