

**Admiral Thomas H. Collins**  
**“The Role of the Coast Guard in Achieving Maritime Security”**  
**CNO’s Strategic Studies Group**  
**October 08, 2003**

**I. Introduction**

- **Future arrived Sep 2001. We can anticipate more of the same on horizon.**
- **Achieving “Homeland Security” requires acknowledgement of changing world conditions. Must take into account new nature of threats against us in the maritime domain. (Ex: USS Cole; Port Vulnerabilities, shore infrastructure i.e Houston petro)**
- **Coast Guard on-going Project Evergreen will address asymmetric threats of the future. Strategic look ahead to 2025**
- **Presidential NSS: pre-emption is a necessary tool of strategy.**
- **Same idea applies to HLS strategy here at home.**

**II. Understanding the challenges: Globalization and emerging threats.**

**a. Traditional threats from nation-states remain**

**b. Terrorism is not the only threat to “homeland security.”**

- **Smuggling drugs, aliens, and conventional weapons**
- **Hazardous materials and other environmental threats**
- **Weapons of Mass Destruction and other traditional threats from nation-states**

**III. Asymmetric and transnational means of attack common to all emerging threats**

**a. Threats fall outside narrow bounds of “national security”**

- **Smuggling drugs, migrants, weapons, technology**
- **Circumvention of environmental law**
- **Violation of economic sanctions**
- **Violation of EEZ**
- **Piracy**
- **Vulnerability of transportation systems, infrastructure**

- IV. The maritime dimension of both National and Homeland Security**
- a. Most new threats have distinct maritime dimension**
  - b. Port Security focus**
  - c. Threats conveyed in ways that are not effectively countered by naval forces**
    - **Look like and mingle with legitimate commercial and recreational traffic**
    - **Can't launch cruise missiles or air strikes against them**
    - **Must engage up close and personal; sort suspicious from innocent**
    - **Must board, even if vessels resist or refuse to stop; requires enforcement**
    - **Can't afford to bring maritime economy to stop.**
  - d. Biggest challenge is how to ensure legit cargo not delayed as security is enhanced. Achieving maritime security will require being able to sort threats from legitimate traffic. Don't forget that. It's what the Coast Guard does best.**

- V. Role of CG in supporting Sea Power 21:**
- a. Coast Guard plays unique role in security of our nation and in the ultimate achievement of projected sea power.**
  - b. Multi-mission, maritime, military purpose uniquely positions us**
  - c. Past 213 year history prepared us for these challenging times; it's what we do**
    - Scalable command and control suits prevention and response capabilities**
    - PSUs, MSSTs give teeth to authority, both at home and abroad**
    - Boardings at sea are our specialty**
    - Experience in disaster relief and pollution response; ICS adopted by FEMA; unique capabilities of the Strike Teams**
    - Status as one of five armed services connects us in joint warfare environment; complement CINCs; National Fleet concept**
    - International engagement offers unusual diplomatic access**

**VI. Things to think about when examining future strategies:**

- Many future threats will likely be low-tech; don't overlook the obvious
- Enemy will continually adapt to our responses. War on terrorism is like war on drugs. Lessons: We must be able to anticipate, communicate, and cooperate.
- Pre-emption is a valid and necessary tool. We can't afford just to react anymore.
- Surveillance and tracking technologies will be vital to our capabilities to anticipate. (C-130 J integrated surveillance package)
- Full spectrum of warfare is no longer limited to an away game— "over there." War has come home. Involves use of military and civilian authority and power.
- Coast Guard is uniquely positioned among the 5 services as an instrument of national security.
- Homeland security must be seen as an integral component of national security. Don't forget the home game.
- Must partner to be effective. Can't afford to act independently. "Jointness" has never been more important or more vital to our success. Includes jointness with federal, state and local stakeholders as well.