

Abstract

Development of an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Security Awareness Program

In today's ever changing social and economical environment the people of the United States and symbols of America's prosperity and wealth, continually face an ever-increasing threat from persons and organizations that want to harm us and instill terror in the American public. There is no doubt that these same threats have a great interest in the critical assets associated with the OCS. This statement is not based on stipulation or assumption it is based on fact. Since the events of September 11th 2001, U.S. intelligence agencies have substantiated (credible) and unsubstantiated information that leads them to believe that transnational terrorist groups may target offshore and near shore oil and gas facilities. Though, to date, terrorists have not acted out their desire to damage or destroy an OCS asset, this does not mean it won't happen tomorrow.

Because of this belief, the Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service (MMS) has tasked and funded the Department of Defense (NFESC), Security Engineering Division Antiterrorism Program (ESC66) to develop a comprehensive security awareness program related to protection of critical assets situated in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The ultimate goal of this program is to improve the overall security awareness associated with persons who routinely operate in and around critical oil and gas infrastructure situated on the OCS. The program will include the publication of security awareness guidebooks that will be offered to OCS stakeholders of the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific offshore area. Additionally, the program will include the development of a security awareness training program that will be offered to MMS personnel that routinely travel offshore.

The overall objective of the program is to improve security awareness of the stakeholders who routinely transit or work in and or around these assets, infrastructure, and facilities. In the end, the stakeholders who actively participate in this effort should walk away with; (1) a better understanding of the threats that pose a danger to their livelihood and well being as it relates to their workplace; (2) being better prepared in the event of a terrorist or other criminal compromise or attempt compromise; (3) how to become more proactive in the security arena, and lastly; (4) a philosophical approach to understanding on how security countermeasures are applied to typical OCS assets to make them a harder target, therefore less desirable to threats.

As noted above, the overall effort to develop an OCS security awareness program involves 3 major tasks described below:

Task 1: Data Collection and Organization

Meet with and collect information from industry leaders and Government agencies who operate in the OCS. Discussions will be held with the following organizations:

1. Minerals Management Service (MMS)

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3. U.S. Coast Guard
4. State and Local Fish and Game Agencies
5. Gulf Safety Committee (GSC)
6. American Petroleum Institute
7. Offshore Operators Committee (OOC)
8. Commercial fishing associations
9. Oil and gas platform operators (as selected)
10. Drilling Services Industry
11. Recreational Diving Industry
12. Shipping Industry (Tanker and Freighter)
13. OSV/Towing Vessel Industry
14. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
15. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
16. Other Federal, State and public entities (as appropriate)

Task 2: Development of Curriculum

Prepare and develop comprehensive security awareness curriculum designed to address all Gulf of Mexico and Pacific offshore area OCS operators, vendors, and entities. Focus will be on the oil and gas infrastructure though collaterally the curriculum will address other functions and/or entities that routinely operate in the OCS, state waters, or adjacent coastal infrastructure. The curriculum will be presented as a guidebook and will address the following:

1. A regional (Gulf of Mexico and Pacific regions) overview of terrorist and criminal activities and organizations that pose a threat to the oil and gas industry.
2. Historic offshore terrorist and criminal events regardless of location.
3. Identify methods of operation (MO), trends, and patterns associated with terrorist and criminal activities toward the offshore oil and gas industries.
4. Identify U.S. Government responsibilities.
 - a. Department of Homeland Security
 - b. United States Coast Guard
 - c. Department of Interior
 - d. Minerals Management Service
 - e. Other Federal agencies
 - f. State and local government agencies
 - g. California Area Maritime Security Committee
 - h. Gulf of Mexico Area Maritime Security Committee
5. Familiarize readers with the different threat levels and matrixes
 - a. MARSEC
 - b. Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). -

- c. Department of Defense Force Protection Conditions
 - d. International security level systems (as identified)
6. General Awareness Discussions designed to improve security awareness and vigilance.
- a. Threat recognition (characteristics, patterns, behavior) of persons who are likely to threaten security;
 - b. Recognition of techniques used by adversaries to circumvent facility security measures;
 - c. Recognition and detection dangerous substances and devices typically used by threats.
7. Identify recommended countermeasures, practices, procedures, and initiatives that are available to mitigate vulnerabilities and risk to the OCS oil and gas infrastructure to include:
- a. American Petroleum Industry – RP70
 - b. GSC Communication Protocol
 - c. Federal and state emergency procedures and contingency plans
 - d. 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter H, Parts 101 – 106
 - e. California Area Maritime Security plan
 - f. Gulf of Mexico Area Maritime Security plan

Task 3. Presentation of Curriculum

The curriculum will be formally presented in the form of a 1-day training workshop. The individual guidebooks discussed in Task 2 will be used as the student handbook.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The overall effort commenced in July 2004 and should be completed by September 2005.