

Maritime Surveillance

Maritime Surveillance is the systematic observation of surface and subsurface sea areas by all available means for the purpose of locating, identifying and monitoring ships, sub surface vehicle, submarines and other vehicle. The methods of surveillance are the systemic use of visual, aural, electronic, photograph and other means. A number of the programs that are currently in use or contemplated for use are:

Integrated Marine Surveillance (IMSS) is a tightly integrated network of ship and shore based sensors, communications devices and computing resources that collect, transmit, analyze and display a broad array of disparate data including automatic information system radar, surveillance cameras, global positioning systems, equipment health monitors and radio transmissions of maritime traffic.

Suretrak is a range surveillance system that integrates and displays tracking data from a wide range of sensors. It helps ensure that military ships, planes and private vehicles stay within their proper boundaries on waterways.

RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) consists of a three spacecraft fleet of satellites. With satellites smaller than RADARSAT 2, the RCM will provide new applications -- made possible through the constellation approach -- as well as continuing to provide C band data to RADARSAT 2 users. Specific examples:

- maritime surveillance (e.g., ship detection)
- monitoring/tracking ice
- detecting oils spills
- monitoring floods, landslides and eruptions

Coast Guard Satellite System is designed to track vessels far from U.S. shores, the payload is outfitted with a receiver that will collect ship identification data and transmit it to ground-based Coast Guard stations. Significant ship-tracking capabilities can be accomplished far out to sea if a receiver is placed on a spacecraft.

The United States Navy's Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program provides persistent maritime Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) data collection and dissemination capability to the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF). The BAMS UAS is a multi-mission system to support strike, signals intelligence, and communications relay as an adjunct to the MMA/P-3 community to enhance manpower, training and maintenance efficiencies worldwide. The BAMS UAS, at full operational capability, will provide ISR persistence over large maritime distances for long periods of time for up to five simultaneous orbits worldwide. The BAMS UAS missions include, but are not limited to, maritime surveillance, collection of enemy order of battle information, battle damage assessment, port surveillance, communication relay, and support of the following missions - maritime interdiction, surface warfare, battlespace management, and targeting for maritime and littoral strike missions.

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