

# Maritime security



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**The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong has been Australia's leading research, education and training institute in ocean affairs and maritime security for over 20 years.**

Established as a partnership between the Royal Australian Navy and the University of Wollongong as the Centre for Maritime Policy in 1994, ANCORS has grown to be the world's largest ocean policy, law and maritime security research centre. It provides advice and training on ocean issues and maritime security to over 50 countries plus a number of international and regional organisations.

ANCORS continues its close relationship with the Royal Australian Navy, particularly via the RAN's Sea Power Centre – Australia, and the Department of Defence.

It also maintains strong working relationships with Maritime Border Command (MBC), the Australian Border Force (ABF), and other Australian Government agencies. The University entered into an MoU with the ABF to provide a variety of support, including international capacity-building and policy advice, signed by the Vice-Chancellor and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection in 2015.

ANCORS' maritime security activities fall under four main categories:

- Research
- Education
- Training
- Advisory services

## Border protection

ANCORS has collaborated with ABF and MBC for many years, supporting the Australian Government to enhance national maritime security through improved border protection measures.

ANCORS Director Professor Stuart Kaye chaired a review of maritime enforcement legislation on behalf of Defence and Customs that recommended a new single maritime enforcement act, with a number of specific features.

Parliament adopted the Maritime Powers Act 2013 to achieve this objective, and ANCORS subsequently hosted a major engagement activity in Canberra in March 2014 to encourage improved whole-of-government understanding of the new Act. In November 2016, ANCORS facilitated a major international meeting on maritime security under the East Asia Summit framework for the Australian Civil Military Centre, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Government of Indonesia.



Holding the signed partnership agreement are the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Peter Dutton, MP, and UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, CBE. UOW's Brand Ambassador, cricketing legend Adam Gilchrist, AM, (far right) was among guests attending the Memorandum of Understanding ceremony in 2015.

### Capacity-building with a global reach

ANCORS' maritime security capacity-building programs have a global reach, but focus mainly on three maritime regions: Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Southwest Pacific and the South-west Pacific.

In Southeast Asia, ANCORS facilitates the Maritime Security Desktop Exercise (MSDE) in Indonesia on behalf of the ABF and MBC to promote maritime security understanding and cooperation amongst the representatives of 22 Indo-Pacific region countries and territories. It has tested various scenarios related to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea, maritime terrorism and people smuggling at sea.

For more than 15 years ANCORS has partnered with the Defence Cooperation Program to deliver professional short courses, both in the region and within Australia. For example, ANCORS has partnered with the RAN to deliver a Maritime and Strategic Studies Period (MSSP) to the Indonesian Naval Command and Staff College (SeskoAL) annually since 1999 and to the Philippines since 2012.

This is the longest continuously operating Defence Cooperation activity Australia has with Indonesia.

ANCORS has educated naval and coast guard officers from more than a dozen nations in its Master of Maritime Policy degree under the Defence Cooperation Scholarship Program, which is focused on South and Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

In all, naval and coast guard officers from 23 countries have completed UOW award courses with ANCORS at Masters or Graduate Certificate levels.

In a major African capacity-building initiative, ANCORS has hosted officials from both East Africa/western Indian Ocean and West Africa on behalf of the aid division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), delivering both professional short course and award course programs in Ocean Governance and Maritime Security.

ANCORS has also delivered DFAT-funded programs for Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR – ARC) countries, and to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on combating maritime crime in the western Indian Ocean.

### Vessel tracking

Over the past seven years ANCORS and key partners have developed a satellite vessel tracking system that allows Pacific island nations to monitor legal fishing and detect illegal fishing in their territorial waters.

ANCORS facilitates training and research on the use of vessel tracking data to improve maritime domain awareness, an increasingly important element of maritime security.

This initiative included the establishment of a laboratory at ANCORS' headquarters at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus for research, training and demonstration purposes.

The ANCORS VTI was developed in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and industry partners Polestar Space Applications Ltd and L-3 Oceania. The initiative is presently being expanded with support from Lloyds List Intelligence.



ANCORS Director Professor Stuart Kaye (left) and Research Fellow Dr Chris Rahman at the Vessel Tracking Laboratory at ANCORS headquarters

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