



MMWC AND IMSA LTD. TO RAISE STANDARDS IN PRIVATE MARITIME SECURITY IN LINE WITH LATEST EU COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

New joint venture to set precedent in maritime security training and provision of security services to the merchant shipping industry.

Merchant Maritime Warfare Centre – www.mmwc.org

8th June 2010 -The Merchant Maritime Warfare Centre (MMWC) announced today that they have entered into a joint venture agreement with specialist maritime security company Independent Maritime Security Associates Ltd (IMSA) to combine accredited private maritime security training with anti-piracy Best Management Practice and the most comprehensive piracy intelligence.

The joint venture is a key component of MMWC's overall business strategy to raise the standard of security onboard merchant ships through the provision of well trained and vetted personnel who are supported by the latest and best intelligence; a vision also shared by IMSA Ltd.

“With Naval forces being ever more thinly spread, it has become clear that there is little alternative other than private security playing an increasingly important role in the protection of merchant vessels,” says Nick Davis, Chairman of MMWC. “But still lacking is a co-ordinated approach between an accredited training course, anti-piracy Best Management Practice and an international, legal framework by which security companies and their personnel must comply. Through our partnership with IMSA we aim to start this process.”

The joint venture comes at the same time as the EU Commission recalls its recommendations to regulate private maritime security. Acknowledging the role private firms play in the modern piracy endemic, the recommendations advise states to regain control over exercising force on the high seas through the implementation of an effective vetting and training system of private security personnel. This would be tighter controlled by an oversight, investigatory and enforcement system that would also serve to protect the social rights of private security company employees.

“We are greatly encouraged by the EU's plans to issue new guidelines,” says John Twiss, COO of IMSA Ltd. “For a long time now private security training and the vetting of personnel has been left to individual security firms' discretion with the onus on shipping companies to perform the due diligence. Any new framework that facilitates cohesion and better protects the interests of crew will greatly benefit the industry,” adds John.

The joint venture sees the amalgamation of IMSA's reputable ISPS training courses with MMWC's anti-piracy intelligence, comprehensive resources and entrepreneurial suite of anti-piracy products which commences with the launch of the new Ship Security Officer Plus+ (SSOplus+) course in June.

“The new SSOplus+ course is designed to provide private security professionals and merchant mariners with the accredited SSO syllabus, as directed by the IMO model course, but with additional

modules that take in to account today's piracy epidemic. Providing an insight into the why's and wherefores of the commercial maritime industry, the course is concluded within the 3 days of the standard SSO making it cost efficient for the delegate, " says John. "MMWC were the ideal partner for delivering this course with us and until a recognised framework is delivered by the EU, we hope our commitment to raise the standard of training will pave the way for others to do the same."

To view the SSOplus+ course syllabus visit www.imsaltd.com

Interested parties can register for the new SSOplus+ course at www.imsaltd.com or by calling +44 (0) 1202 696 677

About MMWC

The Merchant Maritime Warfare Centre (MMWC) was established in 2009 by maritime piracy expert Nick Davis and a committed group of ex-military and security professionals.

MMWC's primary aim is to empower the maritime industry against violent crime and in particular, the increasingly prevalent problem of piracy, through the research, development and delivery of comprehensive information, effective non-lethal countermeasures and training.

Strongly advocating existing industry Best Management Practice, MMWC's approach is to augment this initiative with structure and deliver through affordable and relevant training.

MMWC has developed partnerships at all levels of the merchant maritime industry, and is engaged with military and maritime insurance organisations in order to create a recognised authority on merchant maritime security and ultimately a Code of Practice, for merchant maritime security.

About IMSA Ltd

IMSA Ltd is a high end specialist maritime security company with worldwide training and operational capabilities.

The company cut its teeth providing consultancy advice for ports in the run-up to ISPS Code vesting day in 2004. Subsequently the company has provided security consultancy on a range of projects from new build LNG production plants to specialised offshore operations in high risk areas.

Licensed to provide the full range of ISPS Code training products, IMSA draws on the extensive practical experience of its trainers to deliver not only prescribed content but real-life scenario based knowledge that can make the difference between life and death of personnel and subsequent economic survival of a company at risk. IMSA associate trainers are Transec and MCA accredited who have also had extensive experience in the commercial maritime security business.

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