



CNI: Tools and CONOPS for Effective Inspection 23/05/2023

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Are we vulnerable?





Submarine Communications Cables

Kazakheta Pacific Atlantic Ocean Ocean Indian Ocean South South Pacific Atlantic Ocean Ocean **Source:** TeleGeography, *Submarine Cable* Мар, 2022, https://www.submarinecablemap.com/.



Submarine Communications Cables

Contested Areas



Source: TeleGeography map adapted from Greg Poling, *The South China Sea in Focus: Clarifying the Limits of Maritime Dispute* (Washington, DC/Lanham, MD: CSIS/Rowman & Littlefield, 2013), https://www.csis.org/analysis/south-china-sea-focus. Reprinted with permission.





Submarine Communications Cables

Is there a threat?



Source: Alan Mauldin, "Cable Breakage: When and How Cables Go Down," TeleGeography, May 3, 2017, https://blog.telegeography.com/what-happens-when-submarine-cablesbreak.

- 1959: Soviet trawler damages 5 cables near Newfoundland
- 2006: Earthquake severs 6 of the 7 undersea cables connecting North America with Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, S. Korea and Singapore
- 2007: Vietnamese pirates steal optical amplifiers
- 2008: Three cables connecting Europe to ME and S. Asia were damaged off the coast of Egypt
- 2013: Divers intentionally cut SEA-ME-WE 4 cable
- 2022: Cable connecting mainland Norway to Svalbard is damaged in deep water, unknown cause



Submarine Power Distribution Cables

Major Distribution Cables



Submarine Gas & Oil Pipelines

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Submarine Gas & Oil Pipelines





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Critical Submarine Infrastructure

Complexities of the problem



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Defining Requirements





CNI security challenges

Scenario context

- From deep waters to shoreside
- □ Massive volume of CNI
- Different types of subsea installations to be protected
- Different actors in theatre
- Challenging weather conditions
- Far from shore, limited support
- □ Transnational systems
- Possible threats and objects □ Terrorism □ Sabotage □ Foreign Intelligence activity □ Malfunction □ Unknown UUV's □ Mines / IEDs Divers □ Trawling □ Listening devices





Infrastructure Characteristics

Communications Cables



Source: Google; UK Cable Protection Committee; Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Network.

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Infrastructure Characteristics

Communications Cables

- Double armored cable
 - Used typically in the first
 600m near shore
 - Typical diameter: ~40 mm
- Single armored cable
 - Used in intermediate waters 600-2000m
 - Typical diameter: ~25 mm
- Light-weight cable
 - Used in deep water beyond 2000m
 - Typical diameter: ~15 mm

Source: Oona Räisänen, Submarine Cable Cross-Section 3D Plain, Public Domain, accessed November 30, 2021, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Submarine_cable_cross-section_3D_plain.svg.



Submarine Power Cables

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Typical diameter: 90-1000 mm

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Oil and Gas Infrastructure





Readily Available Tools and CONOPS





How to Handle the Challenges

- Frequent, persistent surveillance operations
- Different sensors and platforms for complete picture
- High resolution for small objects
 close to infrastructure
- Cost-effective solutions with reduced OPEX/CAPEX
- Highly scalable
- Precision navigation accuracy
- Rapidly available actionable information





UUVs: Optimal Tool for Subsea CNI Surveillance

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Long Range Navigation

Enabling unsupervised operations

- Sunstone[®] is the in-situ navigation processor taking inputs from a high grade IMU, DVL, depth sensor, compass etc.
- This enables long range missions while retaining navigation certainty
- Demonstratable performance of 0.005-0.01% of distance travelled
- Sunstone also includes TerrainNav and UTP (single beacon navigation)





Primary Sensor: Synthetic Aperture Sonar

Making sense of a cluttered world



Kongsberg HISAS 1032

- Prototype developed 2001-2005 in partnership with FFI
- Capable of coverage rates up to 4.5 km²/hr
- Imagery resolution of 5x5 cm
- In-mission processing for faster time to actionable information
 - Allows in-mission target detection
- Produces multiple data sets:
 - Real aperture sidescan imagery
 - Real aperture sidescan bathymetry
 - SAS imagery
 - SAS bathymetry
- Spot processing

WORLD CLASS – Through people, technology and dedication



HISAS 1032: Resolution



The target: 5 cm, 7.5 cm & 12.5 cm targets on a plastic, water-filled frame

HISAS 1032 Dual Rx Imagery Range to target: 100 m

HISAS 1032 Dual Rx Imagery Range to target: 300 m

HISAS 1032 Dual Rx Imagery Range to target: 500 m



Coverage Rate Visualizing what is achievable







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Littoral Naval Sonars

- Light weight and small size
- Variable depth solutions or hull mounted with hoist
- Optimized for shallow waters
- Containerized systems for movement from vessel to vessel
- Small combatants & USV's





Identifying Underwater Threats - Results



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Identifying Underwater Threats - Results



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Near Shore & Shallow Water

- Satellite surveillance
- USV equipped for underwater threat detection
- ISR equipped UAV
- SAS equipped UUV
- Small vessel (crewed) or shore-shore ops
- USV based UUV ops in future





ST2400 VDS VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR

The ST2400 is an active Variable Depth Sonar (VDS) with light weight, compact size, multiple frequencies designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and detection of chier submerged items.

The ST2400 operates from 18,75 to 31,25 kHz and emphasis frast been plead on shallow water capabilities. The active operating modes are onni and sectorial transmission and multibeam reception covering 300° with 128 beams of approximately 6° hortcortal beam width each. A passive mode where transmission is turned off to also available. The Towed body itself contains several sensors, such as a conductive/Temperature-Deght(CT0) probesuch as a conductive/Temperature-Deght(CT0) probe-





Deep Water Open Ocean

- Satellite surveillance
- SAS equipped deep water UUVs
- Larger vessels, crewed in the near term
- USV based or shore-shore operations in future







Future Work





Developing Actionable Information

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Automated Change Detection





Even Higher Resolution

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Long Range Shore to Shore Operations







Sub-Surface L/R





Encouraging the Use of MUS

- 1. Impediments to large scale use of MUS
 - Trust in the systems
 - Lack of comprehensive international regulations
- 2. What can Defence do to accelerate the operational exploitation of MUS?
 - Large scale experimentation in controlled conditions
 - Greater use of readily available commercial systems
 - Help drive the regulatory issue
 - Evolve workforce to specifically address MUS
- 3. What can Industry do to increase the operational maturity MUS?
 - Forge collaborative partnerships with defence counterparts
 - Embrace interoperability requirements
 - Participate in naval exercises where possible
 - Help drive the regulatory issue



Thank you

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