



Brief Note on Illegal Maritime Trade

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DESCRIPTION

An unexpected result of increasing maritime trade and economic globalization is that it will facilitate the expansion of transnational crime. Trafficking in drugs, arms and people is already big business, and maritime shipping is a vital method of transport. International crimes will not disappear anytime soon, and maritime security must aid minimize their spread. The shipping industry can stop the damage caused due to illegal cargo. The shipment will be loaded once it reaches its destination by keeping the illegal products and weapons out of the hands of criminals.

As every shipping vessel is carrying hundreds of large containers, it's difficult for the security to check each one thoroughly. Lawbreakers know this, and use it to their advantage. Smuggling networks will attempt to get around the security measures and the shipping industry because its vastness and scale make it an easy to target. Smuggling is not an exclusive to the shipping industry, as criminals will sometimes attempt to use other types of the vessels to get their illegal imports past international borders. Just as the oceans are the highways by which we transport a large number of our goods, they're also the highways for the import and the export of illegal items. Organized and international crime organizations use the shipping industry to transport the large masses of their products, as we can see when we look at many large-scale drug busts throughout the years. They smuggle drugs, firearms and other illegal technology that fetches a high price on the black market.

Piracy

Piracy may possibly seem like an indication from the past, but large ships carrying millions of dollars' worth of cargo still tempt criminals to attack ships. Today's pirates and criminals are usually well-organized and equipped with the advanced communication and the equipment.

Ample training and the experience in maritime security can support crew members prepare for and deal with a piracy attack safely.

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is another one of the main issues that mostly face international marine security. Illegal migration may present in the maritime sector for a long time whether it's people escaping the political unrest or unwilling people being trafficked. It's difficult for the marine industry to catch all the illegal immigration, but proper marine security techniques help to minimize the problem [1-3].

Environmental damage

Because large-scale commercial operations may take place in the ocean ecosystem, there will be an inevitably be incidents that harm the environment. Proper safety and the security protocols are the best strategies to avoid disasters, especially in the petroleum industry.

Security tactics

Regularly inspect the vessel: To monitor and to ensure security measures, every security officer needs to be attentive on their vessel and always be looking for anything out of the ordinary.

Oversee maintenance to improve security: If there is anything aboard, the ship doesn't comply with the best security measures.

Manage the coordination and handling of cargo: While loading and unloading cargo, a security officer needs to make sure to do everything according to the protocol and to ensure proper checks take place, as well as inspection of vessel stores and bunkers [4,5].

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