



# REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS (RSS)

Strength Through Unity



## EMERGING TRENDS/CHALLENGES ON MARITIME NARCOTRAFFICKING CONTROL IN THE RSS SUB-REGION





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## OVERVIEW

- Background Regional Security System (RSS)
- RSS Security Environment
- How We Do It
- Emerging Trends & Challenges
- Conclusion



# RSS ALLIANCE





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## PURPOSE & FUNCTION

**MISSION:** To ensure the stability and well-being of Member States through mutual cooperation, in order to maximize regional security in preserving the social and economic development of our people.

**MOTTO:** Strength Through Unity





# OPERATIONAL ACTIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO SECURITY IN RSS AOR

- Pursuant to Article 4 (1) of Treaty, the conduct of operations related to:

Countering Transnational Organised Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Prevention and Interdiction of traffic in Illegal Narcotic Drugs</li><li>– Immigration Control</li><li>– Fisheries Protection</li><li>– Pollution Control</li><li>– Maritime Policing Duties</li><li>– Prevention of Smuggling</li><li>– Customs and Excise Control</li><li>– Protection of Off-shore Installations and Exclusive Economic Zones</li><li>– Combating Threats to National Security</li></ul>
HA/DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Response to National Emergencies / Disasters</li><li>– Regional Search and Rescue</li><li>– Natural and Other Disasters</li></ul>



# REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM (RSS)

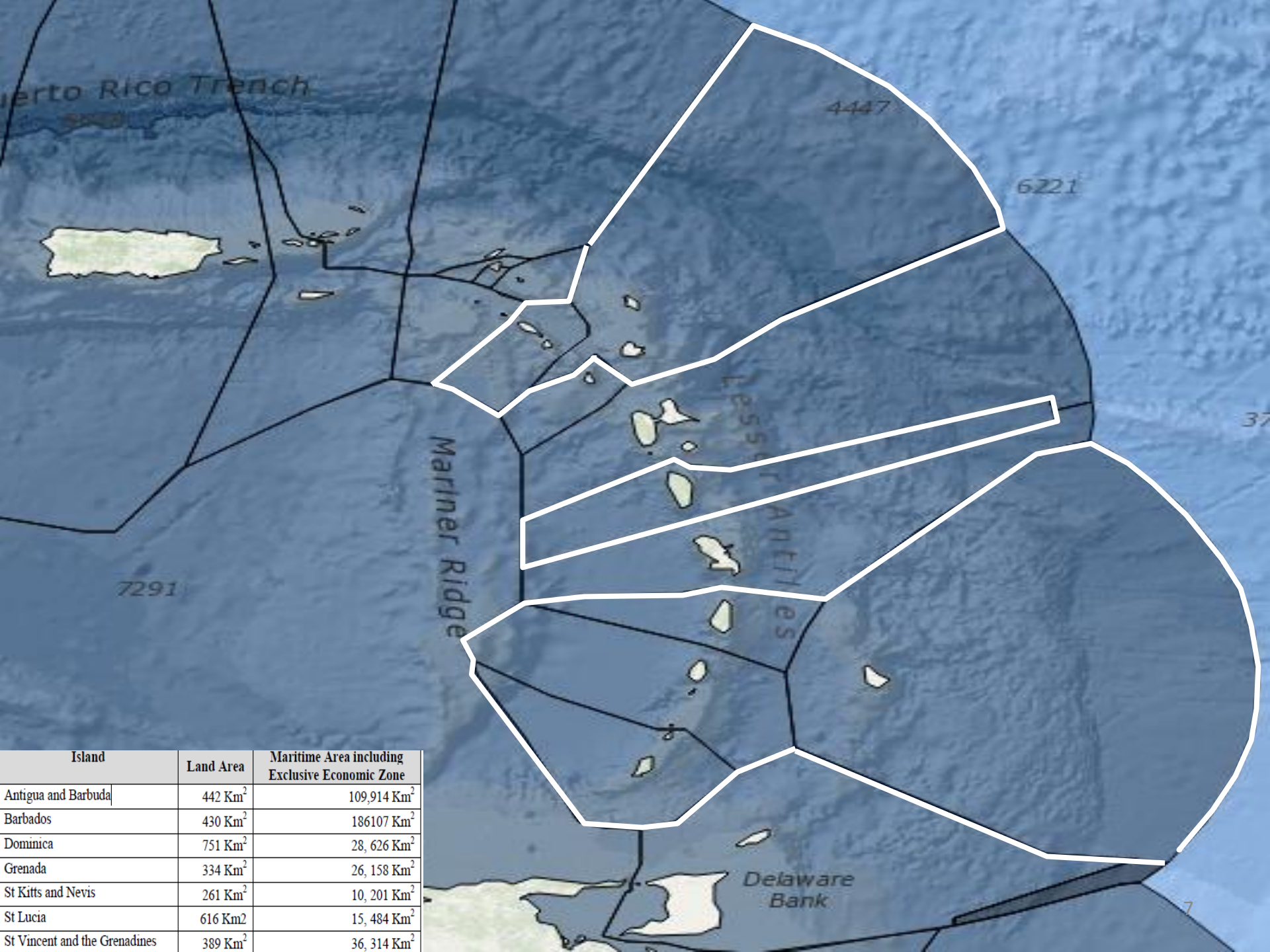
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RSS SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

THE CONTEXT





Island	Land Area	Maritime Area including Exclusive Economic Zone
Antigua and Barbuda	442 Km <sup>2</sup>	109,914 Km <sup>2</sup>
Barbados	430 Km <sup>2</sup>	186,107 Km <sup>2</sup>
Dominica	751 Km <sup>2</sup>	28,626 Km <sup>2</sup>
Grenada	334 Km <sup>2</sup>	26,158 Km <sup>2</sup>
St Kitts and Nevis	261 Km <sup>2</sup>	10,201 Km <sup>2</sup>
St Lucia	616 Km <sup>2</sup>	15,484 Km <sup>2</sup>
St Vincent and the Grenadines	389 Km <sup>2</sup>	36,314 Km <sup>2</sup>

# The Modern Strategic Communications Environment

- 24 hour news cycles.
- Citizen journalists.
- Participatory web networks.
- Peer to peer media.
- Social networking.
- Video sharing.
- Podcasting.
- Life-streaming.
- Virtual world.
- Web activism.
- Dark web.
- Differentials in power determine access to the media and relationship.

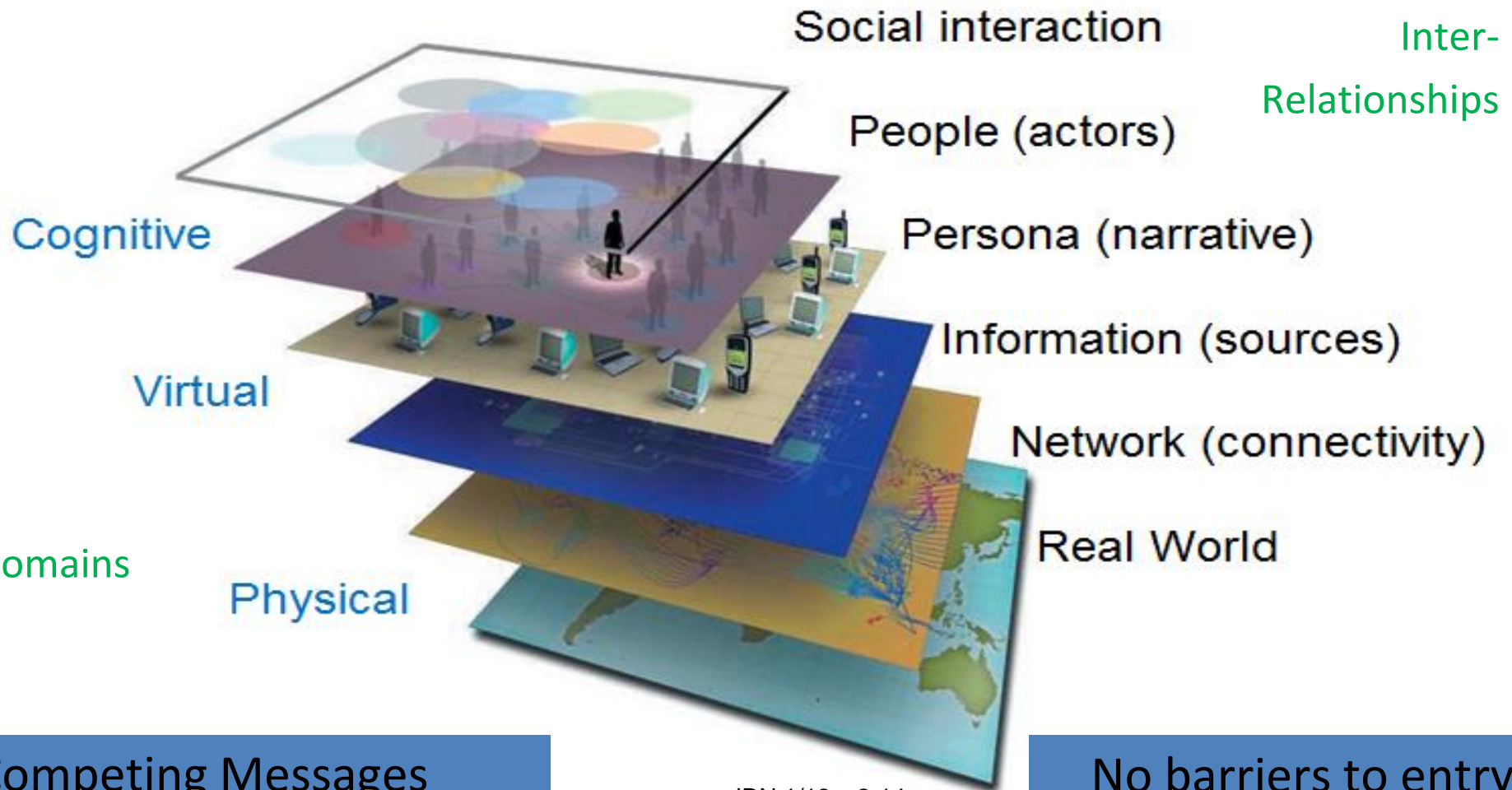




# Information Environment

Borderless

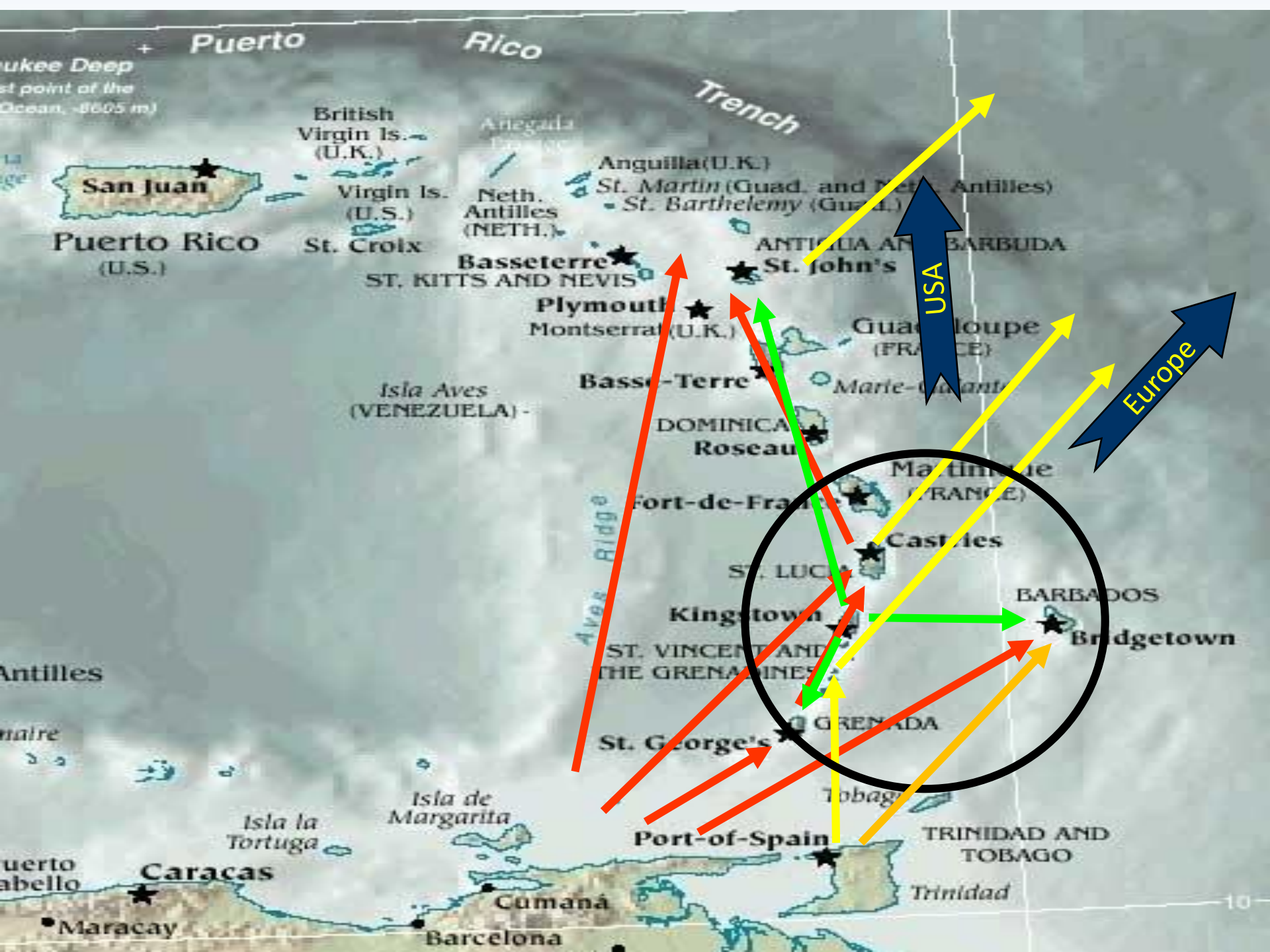
Alternative Voices



Competing Messages

JDN 1/12 p 2-14

No barriers to entry





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## Primary Maritime Security Threat

- Uncanalised maritime smuggling
  - go-fasts (pirogues, cigarette boats)
  - fishing vessels
  - coasters
  - yachts
- the greatest risk -
  - **go-fasts**





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## DETECTION AND MONITORING CAPABILITIES

Two  
C-26A



- Available for tasking 24/7
- Radar and FLIR equipped
- video downlink capability

Inter Coastal  
Surveillance  
System (ICSS)



- Barbados has a stand alone system
- Grenada , St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia linked to Trinidad and Tobago







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## INTERDICTION CAPABILITIES

### OPV RSS Member States



- Barbados, St. Vincent & St. Kitts have OPV capability
- Limited patrols due to funding constraints

### OPV International Partners



- US/UK/France and Netherlands
- Availability to support limited to planned ops or when in area

### INTERCEPTORS RSS Member States



- Six RSS Member States equipped with Safe Boats





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## AIR WING OPERATIONS

- Conduct approximately 15-20 intelligence driven and routine maritime Counter Drug (CD) missions per month in support of RSS Member States
- Intelligence provided by NCA. Other sources JIATFS, DEA and Drug Squads
- Participate in planned operations in the RSS AOR
- Joint operations conducted with international partners; US, UK, France and Netherlands.
- MOA to support JIATFS





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## CD Operations 01 Jan 2001 – 04 Sep 2019

- CD missions flown: 3825
- Contacts prosecuted: 739
- Cocaine seized/disrupted: 19, 100.8kg
- Marijuana seized/disrupted: 126, 907.6lbs
- Persons arrested: 810
- Vessels: 188
- Currency totaling: 2, 666, 380 US dollars



# EMERGING TRENDS CHALLENGES & RESPONSES





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## Emerging Threats and Drug Trafficking Trends in the RSS Sub-regional Maritime Domain

- The routes used by narcotraffickers remain the same in the Eastern Caribbean (RSS sub-region)
- The threats remain largely the same – Uncanilised maritime smuggling by way of go fast vessels cooperating with local fishing vessels. Also coasters, yachts and use of some cargo vessels – occurring within the Member States
- The expanding Information Environment has brought some changes as there appears to be a greater use of technology and controlled social media use in the coordination of illegal activities.
- Significant activity in the Southern section of the RSS sub-region (SW and SE of the islands from Grenada to Dominica)



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## **Some Challenges Experienced by RSS Member States in the Face of Maritime Narcotrafficking Activities in the RSS Sub-region**

- Large maritime space coupled with porous maritime borders.
- Limited offshore capability to fully support interceptor vessels.
- Adversaries are able to adapt quicker than the responding agencies.
- Adversary network is stronger.
- Lack of funding.
- At present there are no national and regional maritime strategies in place.

# SUMMARY

## **Some of the Existing Challenges in the RSS Sub-region**

- Huge maritime space
- Limited domain awareness
- Limited offshore capability
- Limited CG Special Forces
- Legislation – Asset recovery & forfeiture
- No joint procurement
- No national and regional maritime strategy

# SUMMARY

## **Some of the Existing Challenges in the RSS Sub-region**

- Lack of funding
- Venezuela current economic & security situation
- Adversary is able to adapt quicker than us
- Adversary network is stronger
- Piracy – Gulf of Paria



# SUMMARY

## **Some Responses to the Threats in the RSS Sub-region**

- RSS Treaty
- Good Intelligence
- Excellent cooperation and coordination with partners
- Scheduled coordinated RSS Maritime Patrols (Member States)
- We make things work with what we have
- Ongoing participation in Regional and Hemispheric Maritime Security Conferences (e.g. Coast Guard Commanders, CLEIC, MMIPS, CABSEC/MARSEC, CICAD etc.)
- Capacity Building Activities – (e.g. BOST & Other Training Activities)
- Integrity – Operators are vetted (Vetting Policy)
- Regional Maritime Security Strategy (Oct 2019)



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## CONCLUSION

- RSS sees the transnational threat situation impacting the Caribbean as dynamic.
- Existing vulnerabilities to the risks and threats demand a reinforced RSS role and moreover, wider hemispheric partnerships.
- RSS is determined in its purpose and committed to its strategic partners in fighting the timeless transnational threats that confront us all.





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## THE WAY FORWARD

### ARTICLE 20

#### Relations with States and other International Organisations

1. The System shall seek to establish relations with States and with other international organisations which are in a position to further the purposes of this Treaty; and to that end the Council may conclude agreements or enter upon working relationships with such States or organisations.

The Executive Director, Captain (N) Errington Shurland thanks CICAD, OAS for assisting the RSS in fulfilling its mandate as outlined in the RSS Treaty





Inter-American Drug Abuse  
Control Commission