

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, it's my privilege on behalf of the Italian Navy to make welcome and to greet all of you at MAST 2010 here in Rome.

Today it's important naval communities seek new solutions to face future challenges to defense and maritime security.

In modern scenarios we are facing every day, maritime security is crucial for worldwide stability and peace, economy, progress and prosperity. Many studies and statistics clearly pointed out that 90% of global trade is moved by sea. Moreover, this worldwide commercial traffic can suffer major disruptions due to the complexity of controlling the sea, for its wide extension and its principles of freedom and for the vulnerability of harbours, approaches and choke points. For these reasons Navies have been, in some ways, always interested in technology development, all around its aspects.

Nowadays, the modern scenario poses to maritime forces additional challenges, since the traditional ones are not fainting yet.

**Terrorism, smuggling, piracy, human trafficking** and the many other **threats** originated at sea, or which might exploit the sea largeness to achieve their objectives, require to be prevented and defeated, and moreover they call for a set of innovative capabilities, that together with the doctrine developments are critical to guarantee that: **freedom of navigation is safeguarded, citizens, vessels, infrastructure and resources are safe, in other words to guarantee the Maritime Security.**

In this light, the Italian Navy, is looking at the future by enhancing its own capabilities with three complementary and mutual supporting perspectives:

- **In the maritime environment**, to preserve freedom of navigation and protect territories from and on the seaward side, while safeguarding the unique nature of the high sea, which is one of the mankind's few remaining "commons". This requires assets able to be interoperable in the international and inter agency domains, deliver interdiction at range, provide rapid response and layered defense with the lowest impact possible on the sea related human activities. Navies and Maritime forces in general, have a fundamental role in such global effort for their inherent capabilities, experience and prerogatives. This "*desired*" enduring condition of Maritime Security calls for a balanced mix of capabilities entailing the Maritime Situational Awareness, the Maritime Security Operations and the Maritime Capacity Building aspects of the maritime operations, not to mention the need to maintain cutting edge capabilities in the traditional war-fighting areas.
- **In the space segment**, where the threat posed by ballistic missiles in recent years has seen a significant increase. This is mainly related to the growing missile capabilities of some potentially unstable regimes, which are already able, and even more in the medium term, to pose a persistent threat not only against forces deployed in the operation theater, but directly to the national territories too. This threat is deeply perceived by the international community, producing an interest shared by several Nations. This is clearly witnessed by the important US initiative known as PAA - Adaptive Phased Approach - and within the drafting activities of the new Alliance Strategic Concept, about the opportunity that territorial defense against such kind of threat can become part of the permanent missions of NATO, with the potential implications in terms of capabilities for the NATO member States. In this context, a wider defense against ballistic missiles (Ballistic Missile Defence - BMD) hence not limited to the protection of forces deployed in theater, but extended to the wider Alliance area of strategic interest, can extremely benefit from the role played by maritime forces. In fact, Navies can potentially fulfill fundamental tasks in BMD, as testified by the various initiatives in place promoted by both European nations and US. It is to be highlighted that the naval instrument peculiar features, as its unrestricted mobility, make it particularly suitable to implement an effective BMD system, dynamic and depth working.
- **In the cyber domain**, as "information" has been nowadays universally recognized as a "mission critical asset" and all organizations are recognizing the need to protect, to the maximum extent possible, the "**confidentiality**", "**availability**" and

“**integrity**” of this critical element within their organizations. This emerging specific sector, requires to review technical-procedural management policies, thus re-formulating and re-defining the specific security policies in order to:

- ensure the necessary connectivity to users, inducing them to operate in accordance with specific disciplinary and security protocols (security domain);
- create "safe and legally recognized interfaces" within the Nation itself and among Allies and Partner nations.

The Armed Forces thanks to their firm and sound experience in handling secure communication may represent the most suited organization to whom assign the overall coordination of the measures to be adopted in this critical activity. The US experience represents a model which exploits and maximizes the military experience in this critical field, appointing NSA of this specific task.

The Italian Navy commitments in the three above mentioned sectors is firm and sustained by the soundest effort, this is reflected in our operational posture as well as in our ongoing and progressive improvement of the fleet, naval aviation, Landing force, Special forces and shore based capabilities.

A consistent contribution to Maritime Security, is far the main objective of our attentions, since at national and international level the growing debate on this issue, is fully involving an increasing number of international maritime organisations, to respond to the compelling need for an interagency and comprehensive view.

We are, in this business, **in the frontline**; concerning the interagency dimension, an eloquent turning point is represented by the development, in Italy, of the **System for Integrated Interagency Maritime Surveillance**, which enjoyed the contribution of all the state bodies and agencies in some way related to the maritime environment. In this context, the Navy plays a primary and fundamental role for its intrinsic ability of dealing with maritime surveillance.

With reference to the international environment, among the many “Dialogue and Cooperation” Italian Navy sponsored activities, the **Virtual Regional Maritime Traffic Centre** and its recent trans regional development namely the **TRMN**, whose operational arrangement was signed by 25 Navies in Venice the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, emerge as successful information sharing initiative, towards a global extended MSA based on a “building block” regional federative model.

In the **Ballistic Missile Defence** field, the Italian Navy is fully convinced of the intrinsic value that maritime forces could provide.

The new generation ships such as the recently commissioned **ORIZZONTE DDG** and the forthcoming **FREMM** class units could with a few technical enhancements become suited to be active and effective BMD players, thanks to the upgrading embarked surveillance sensors, the C4I capabilities and the possibility to be fitted with interception systems.

Nevertheless, being aware that a single nation cannot independently develop, neither afford effective solutions to BMD, the Italian Navy is very much attentive about any initiative at international level, in particular towards those countries with which **commonality and interoperability of systems exist** as well as a **correspondence between the respective levels of ambition is matched**.

In the **cyber domain**, the Italian Navy is already in the condition to **concretely contributing** to the development of the Defence Info-structure, aimed at sharing and coordinating the overall information flow within the Armed Forces interconnected networks.

This represents the starting point to implement a more detailed structure defined as “Cyber Defence” of the Italian Ministry of Defence within the larger project defined as “Defence Information Infrastructure”.

As all of you are already aware, and as I briefly pointed out in my speech, challenges are several in numbers and different in nature. The flexibility that historically belongs to maritime forces can help to forge appropriate solutions. But it goes without saying that the need to face such challenges forces Navies to look for “dialogue and Cooperation”, for International Cooperation both in the areas of “Research & Development” and in the “Data Sharing” activity.

In conclusion, the answer to the question “how can we deal with the present situation and improve our effectiveness” is synergy. Synergy of effort and cooperation, especially in those field where practical measures of cooperation can be generally accepted and useful technological assets can be easily and profitably shared.

Over the course of the next days, I’m sure that this will be a recurring theme.

The Italian Navy has been pursuing such a policy since ’90 and has established successful co - operations with several European countries.

I look at MAST 2010 with the same approach and I see it as a great opportunity, for all of us, to make consistent progress in maritime security, which I consider the prerequisite for homeland security itself.

In thanking all of you for your kind attention I wish to express again my gratitude to the organizing Committee, together with a productive participation to this great event and a pleasant stay in Rome.