



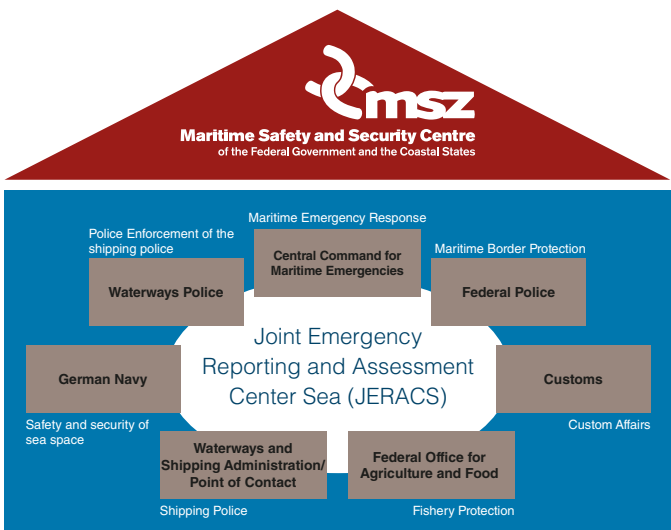
Maritime Safety and Security Centre
of the Federal Government and the Coastal States

The Maritime Safety and Security Centre Network for Maritime Security at Sea

The Maritime Safety and Security Centre (MSSC) is the communication and cooperation network of the operational forces of the Federal Government and the coastal states. Since 2007, all of the authorities responsible for maritime security and facilities in this high-performance network have been united. These joint Federal and coastal state (Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein) institutions consist of

- the Federal Police,
- the Federal Customs Administration,
- the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food,
- the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration,
- the German Navy,
- the German Waterways Police of the five coastal states and
- the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies.

The Joint Emergency Reporting and Assessment Centre Sea (JERACS) is responsible for the work of all partners to ensure safety and security at sea.



The Joint Emergency Reporting and Assessment Centre Sea

Operational centrepiece with 24/7 crew

Around the clock, 365 days a year, the employees of the maritime security authorities work closely together in the operational centre, the JERACS.

The pooling of expertise and allocation of responsibilities enable the optimal flow of information and ensures maximum flexibility.

This guarantees optimal monitoring of shipping along the entire German coast and at the seaward port entrances.

In addition to the exchange of information, situational assessments and deployment measures are initiated. Furthermore, each team member coordinates the missions of the seagoing units and airborne vehicles.

There are also two special situation rooms on the same level as the JERACS.



JERACS interior view



BUNDESPOLIZEI
FEDERAL POLICE

The Federal Police at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre



The Federal Police protects Germany's 435-mile-long maritime borders at sea, in ports, in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea.

At this Schengen external border, it monitors and controls the cross-border traffic in close cooperation with the Federal Customs Administration to avert dangers and to prevent illegal entry by sea.

Beyond the outer limit of the German territorial sea, the Federal Police's primary missions are general police tasks such as investigation in the case of offences against environmental protection regulations or maritime accident investigations.

The Federal Police counsels and trains the German shipping companies for the protection against pirate attacks and conducts investigations into cases of piracy.

The Joint Control Centre of the Federal Police and the Federal Customs Administration within the MSSC coordinates in particular the employment of the ships, boats and helicopters deployed for maritime missions.

The Federal Police

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The Federal Customs Administration at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre

The maritime control units of the Customs Administration monitor the goods traffic across the EU's external borders. The civil servants on board of the customs vessels secure the national revenue, e. g. by levying customs, excise duties and import turnover tax. Furthermore, current bans and restrictions are observed. This, for example, includes the prevention of illegal imports of narcotics.

Moreover, the maritime units protect the social welfare systems by combating illegal work and illicit employment. The Federal Customs Administration also supports the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food as well as the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration by providing assigned tasks such as fishery controls and monitoring the observance of sea traffic regulations.

In accordance with the regulations of the MARPOL convention, the German territorial waters are monitored and polluters are prosecuted constantly in order to ensure clean and protected seas in the future.



The Federal Customs Administration

Customs Control Centre

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The Federal Office for Agriculture and Food at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre



The Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) is the authority competent for monitoring fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Throughout the year, and with three fishery protection vessels, namely Seefalke, Meerkatze and Seeadler, the BLE supervises compliance with fishery regulations in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. Pursuant to international agreements, the oceangoing vessels also operate in the North Atlantic.

Aboard the fishery vessels, BLE inspectors control both fishing gears and quantities as well as vessel papers.

Catch already on board is checked pursuant to EU requirements in terms of fish species, quantities and minimum sizes. The respect of general fishing bans and access criteria for particular catch areas are also monitored. These controls contribute significantly to a sustainable development of fishery resources.

The Federal Office for Agriculture and Food

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The Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre

The Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration ensures safe and smooth maritime transport along the German coast. The Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), which are situated along the coast of the German part of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, provide a modern traffic management which guarantees high safety standards, especially in the densely frequented harbour entrances and shipping channels to the ports such as the river Elbe.

In the MSSC, the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration is responsible for the Point of Contact (PoC). In the event of a security threat, such as a critical situation or a terror attack, it acts as the central information hub between shipping and security authorities. Ships sailing under the German flag can set off a “silent alarm” to the PoC at any time and from anywhere in the world whenever their security is endangered, e. g. in case of a pirate attack.

Furthermore, any ship which is equipped with the “Automatic Identification System” (AIS), sailing in the German Exclusive Economic Zone or the territorial waters, can activate an alarm. As soon as the PoC receives an alarm signal, the appropriate measures will be initiated. Safe maritime transport needs highly effective traffic waterways.



The Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration

Coordination Point

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The German Navy at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre



By monitoring the sea, the German Navy makes a contribution to Germany's maritime safety and security. This contribution is part of a national security concept within the given constitutional framework. For the Navy, safety and security at sea means surveillance of German coastal waters as well as protection of sea lines of communication in remote sea areas. To compile a comprehensive maritime picture, the German Navy continuously conducts maritime surveillance and participates in the national search and rescue service (SAR).

Based on several bilateral administrative agreements, the Navy also supports its partners in conducting transports by sea and by land as well as in oil surveillance and oil spill control activities. For this purpose, the German Navy operates oil recovery ships and the DO228 sensor aircraft that are assigned to the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies.

The German Navy

Liaison Element

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The Waterways Police at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre

The coastal waters of North Sea and Baltic Sea belong to the mostly frequented sea areas in the world – a risk potential which requires an efficient protection by the police of the coastal states. The various tasks of the waterways police in coastal waters and ports are co-ordinated in the “Common Waterways Police Reporting and Coordination Centre of the federal coastal states in the MSSC Cuxhaven.

To that belong the supervision of the shipping traffic, inspections of ships, processing of maritime casualties and investigations in crimes, for example water pollutions. Additionally the waterways police is in charge for the search for persons, ships or things/stolen property, the supervision of regulations on the protection of nature as well as for the execution of front end investigations in the scope of general police regulations.

The Waterways Police Reporting and Coordination Centre also takes over operation tasks on requirement of a German coastal state and analyses, evaluates and routes/governs information in the sphere of maritime safety and security. Besides the co-ordination of police actions the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies Germany (CCME) is supported in case of major maritime emergencies.



The German Waterways Police

Common Waterways Police Reporting and Coordination Centre
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The Central Command for Maritime at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre



The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME) is the leading organisation in Germany for managing large-scale maritime emergencies. It is the only organisation that performs this duty. The CCME is specialised in maritime emergencies that occur on German coasts and at estuaries of navigable inland waterways and the Exclusive Economic Zone, so that it can respond to such incidents quickly and effectively.

The CCME bears responsibility for the planning, preparation, exercise, and execution of measures related to rescue operations, pollution response, fire fighting, assistance efforts, and safety-related salvage operations, and also fulfils a public relations role in the case of a large-scale maritime incident.

The day-to-day work of the CCME includes analysing and defining risk potentials, creating new concepts and adjusting existing ones, acquiring any equipment required or initiating the acquisition, and informing the public about its work. The concepts are tested by way of national and international exercises, which are organised and managed by the CCME.

The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies

Press and PR Department

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Cooperation in the network

Model for coastal states worldwide

The security agencies represented in the MSSC are equal partners in the network. For optimal task management, the JERACS comprises the following control stations and facilities merged together.



JERACS partner facilities

The added value of the MSSC lies in the close proximity of the maritime forces. This means that a partner can ask for assistance directly if they cannot work through a deployment situation alone with their own forces.



Cooperation in the network

Model for coastal states worldwide

Essentially, support is provided within the scope of legal options and available resources. Special situations are covered in proven police structures under management of the relevant competent authority.

The cooperation works smoothly under consideration of the federal structures of the Federal Republic of Germany.

There is no head of all operations with the authority to direct the federal authorities and the five coastal states in JERACS.

But there is a “JERACS Coordinator” from among the partners who changes annually in a fixed rhythm and is responsible for coordinating the activities of the general service operations within JERACS.

With the implementation of this special network structure, Germany has become a role model for many coastal states in Europe and even worldwide.



The features of the building

High security standards



View of the MSSC in the Cuxhaven harbour area

The 16-metre-high building is subject to high security requirements and is classified as a “critical infrastructure”. This is a designation for facilities that have a significant importance for safety (here: in the maritime sector). For this reason, the building is not open to the public.

Among other things, the safety requirements include the availability of communication technology within JERACS and in the special situation rooms. This is ensured by a redundant power supply and information technology, double server centres and emergency power generators as well as several electricity and IT distribution networks.

The EUR 25 million MSSC building is located on the grounds of the Cuxhaven Waterways and Shipping Administration.

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Photo credits:

Partner of the MSSC, except for the photo of the accommodation and JERACS: Erik Krüger

This leaflet was produced by the Administration Department at the Maritime Safety and Security Centre as part of its public relations. Any use for lobbying is prohibited.

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