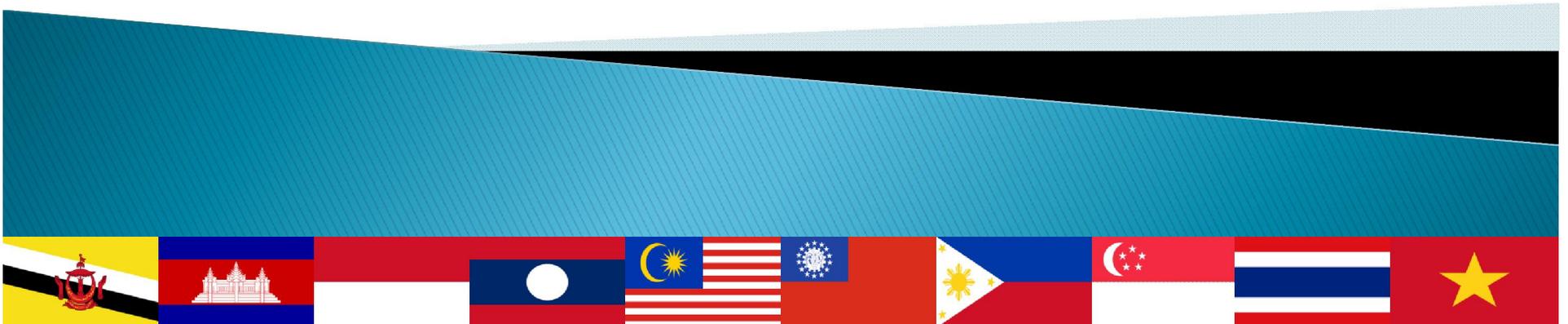


Pacific Forum CSIS | National Defense College of the Philippines

# Maritime Security in Southeast Asia: Maritime Domain Awareness

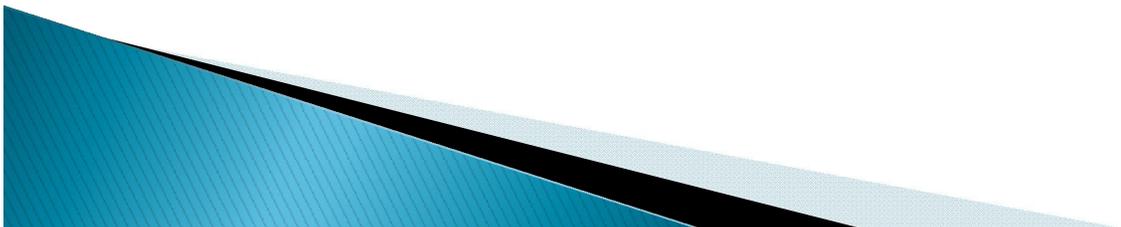
*The Malacca Strait Security Initiative and Prospects for  
Minilateral Initiatives*

S.L. Collin Koh  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

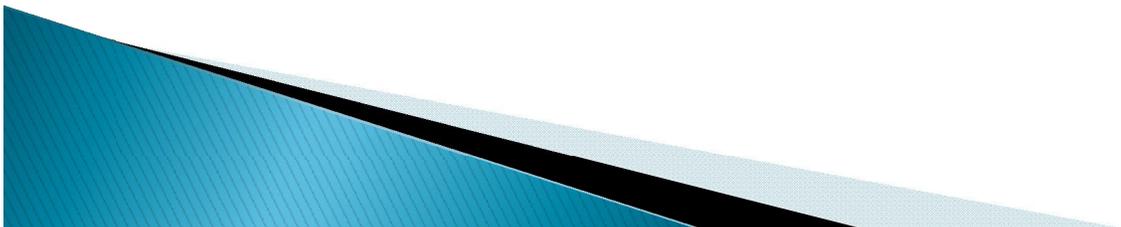
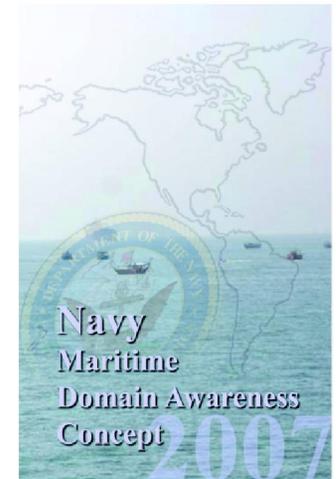


# Discussion Points

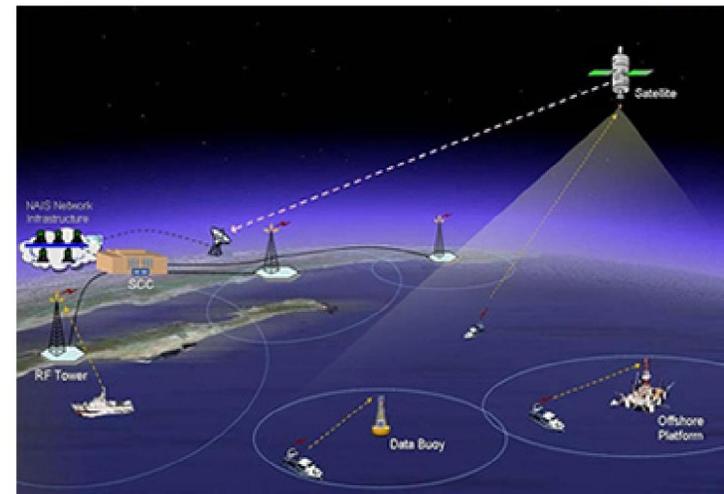
- ▶ Definition and Delimitations
- ▶ Overview: The Malacca Strait Security Initiative
- ▶ Evaluating MSSSI
- ▶ Extra-regional Powers in the 'Equation'
- ▶ Concluding Remarks



# What is Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)?

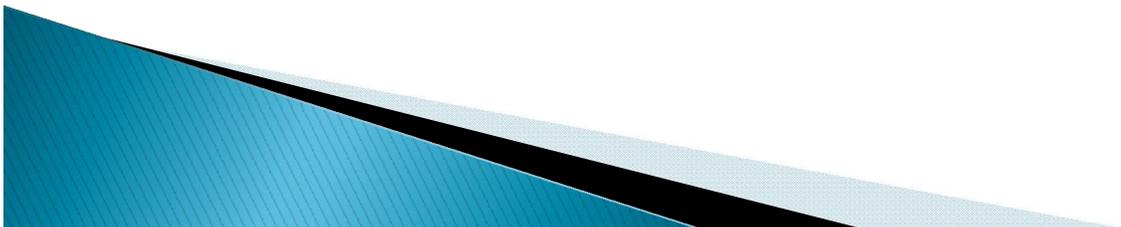


# What constitutes successful MDA?



# Minilateral initiatives: what?

- ▶ Minilateral initiatives that involve sub-regional cooperation within the ASEAN geographical scope.
- ▶ Minilateral initiatives are not new in Southeast Asia, since they dated back to the 1990s with particular attention on the South China Sea, in some ways related to MDA.
- ▶ Minilateral initiatives dealing with MDA against non-traditional maritime security threats are discussed here.
- ▶ Selected ASEAN countries.



# Maritime Security Challenges in SE Asia

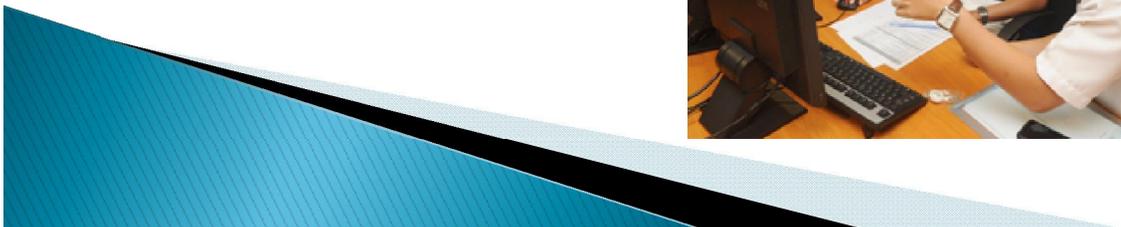


# History of naval cooperation in SE Asia

1980s	1990s	2000–2011
Bilateral naval training exercises Search-and-rescue (SAR) Maritime border management	Bilateral naval training exercises Multilateral naval training exercises SAR Maritime border management Bilateral surveillance and coordinated patrols Marine research and surveys Intelligence exchange and information sharing	Bilateral naval training exercises Multilateral naval training exercises SAR Maritime border management Bilateral surveillance and coordinated patrols Minilateral surveillance and coordinated patrols Marine research and surveys Intelligence exchange and information sharing

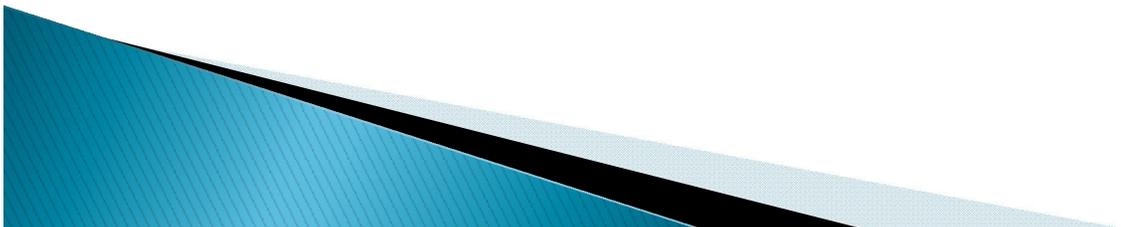
# Case Study

## *Malacca Strait Security Initiative*



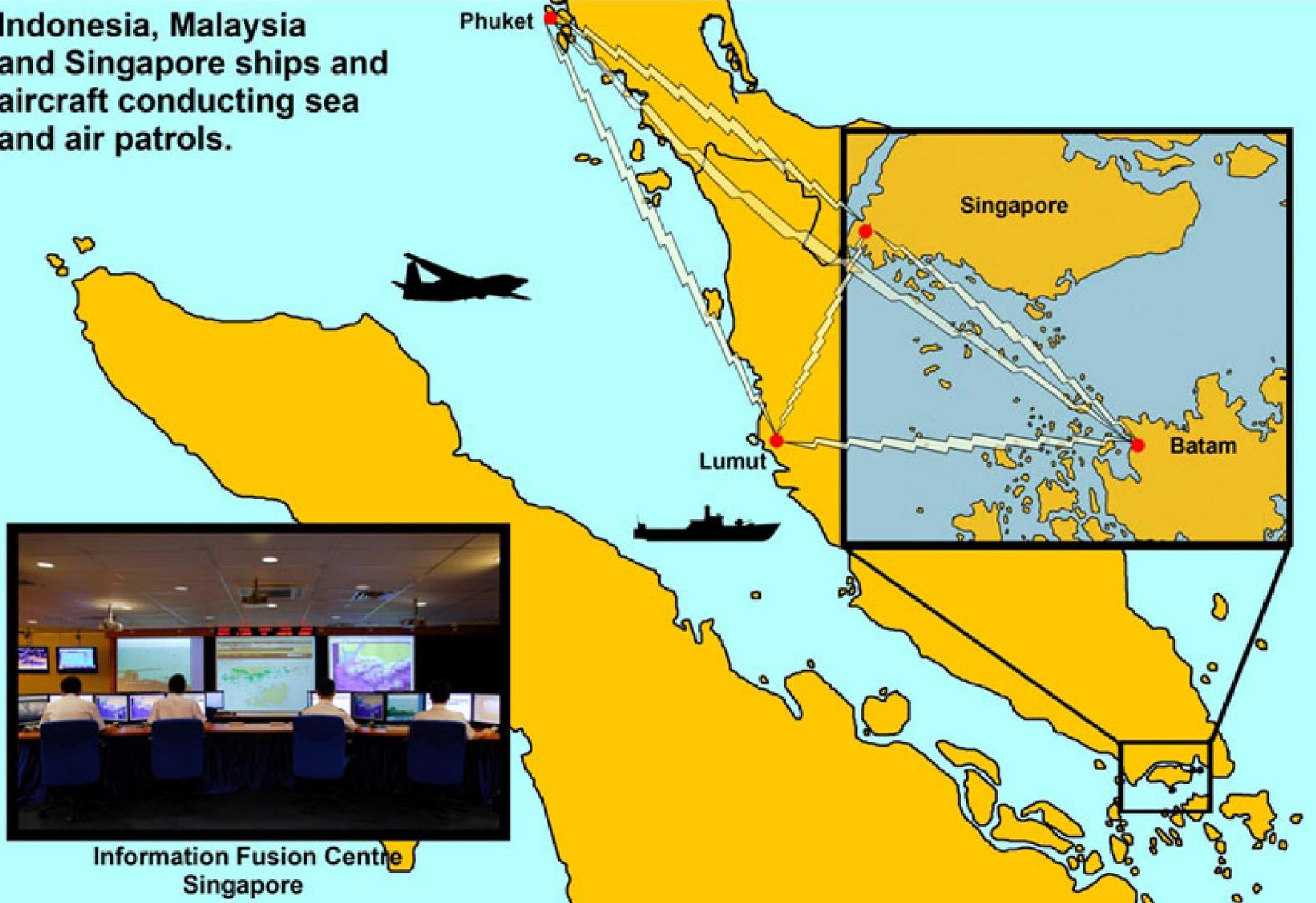
# MSSI: Overview

- ▶ Precursor: bilateral coordinated patrols amongst Malacca Strait littoral states
- ▶ 2004: Malacca Strait Sea Patrol (MSSP) under MALSINDO trilateral arrangement
- ▶ 2005: Eyes-in-the-Sky (EiS) promulgated
- ▶ 2006: SOPs established to enhance MSSP; MSSP and EiS amalgamated under the Malacca Strait Patrols umbrella (based on the proposed MSSI scheme) to formalize arrangement
- ▶ Trilateral Joint Coordinating Committee comprising 3 working groups: MSSP, EiS and Intelligence Exchange Group



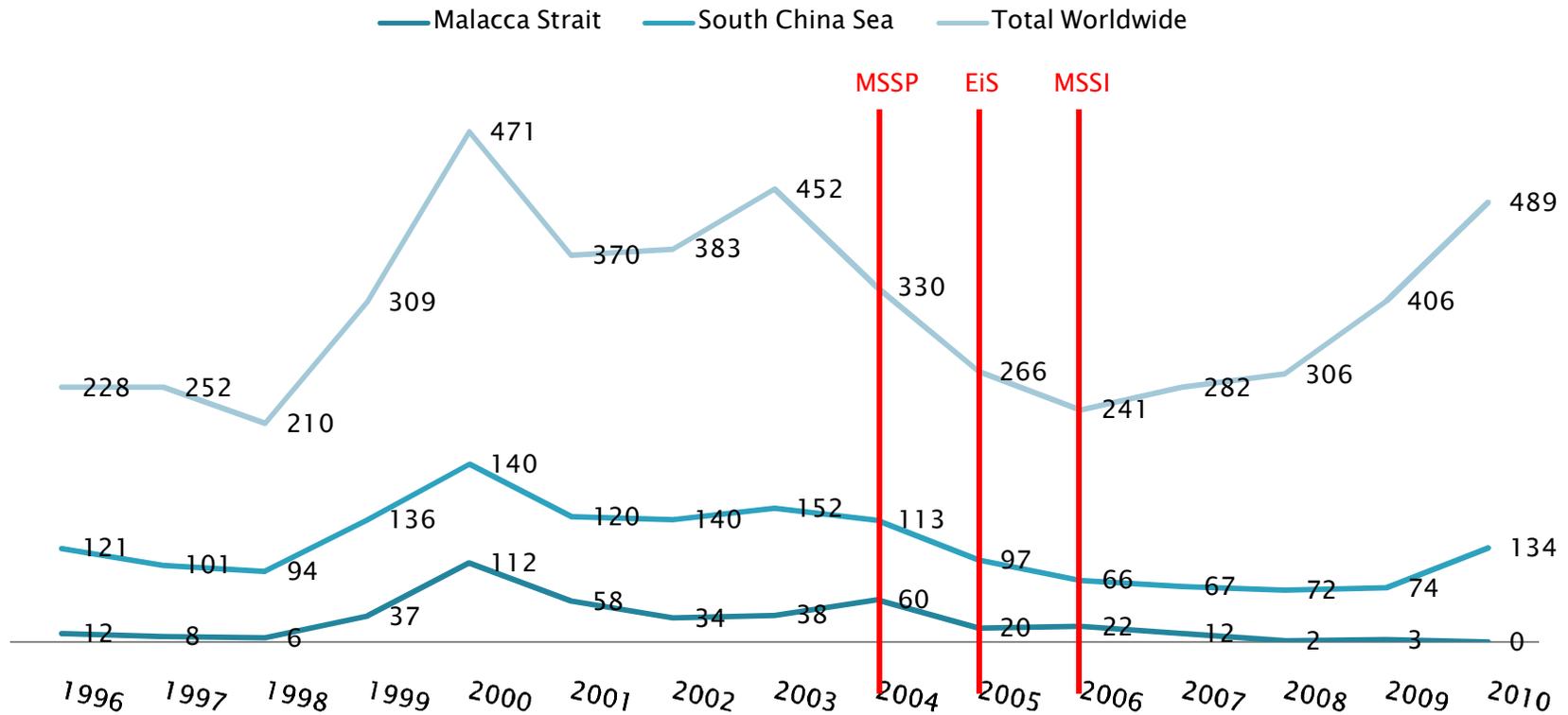
## Malacca Strait Patrols (MSP)

Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore ships and aircraft conducting sea and air patrols.



Information Fusion Centre  
Singapore

# Impact of the MSSSI on MDA



Source: Data compiled from successive International Maritime Organization Annual Reports: *Report on Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships*, 1996–2010



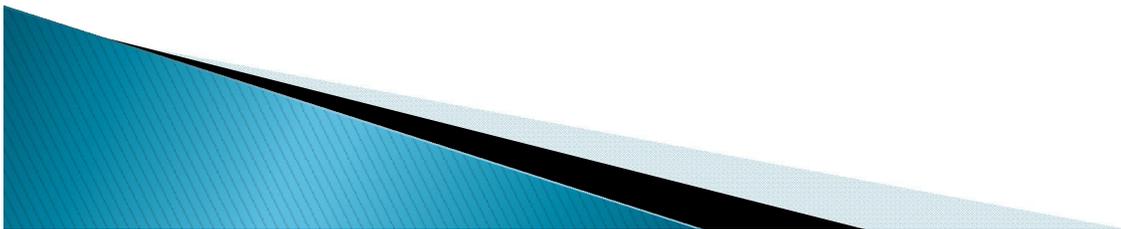
## ‘Out-of-the-Limelight’ Complements to MSSSI

- ▶ National capacity-building
  - Formation of MMEA by Kuala Lumpur in 2005
  - Formation of MSTF and IFC by Singapore in 2009
- ▶ Bilateral arrangements
  - Indonesia–Singapore SURPIC I in 2005 and SURPIC II in 2009
  - US technical support to Indonesia and Malaysia, e.g. Integrated Maritime Surveillance System

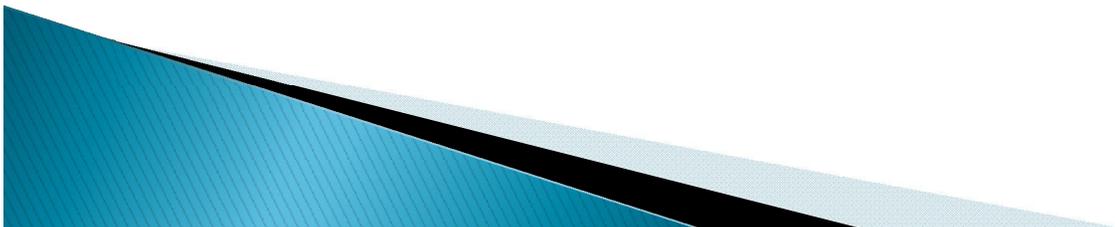


# Roles of Extra-regional Powers

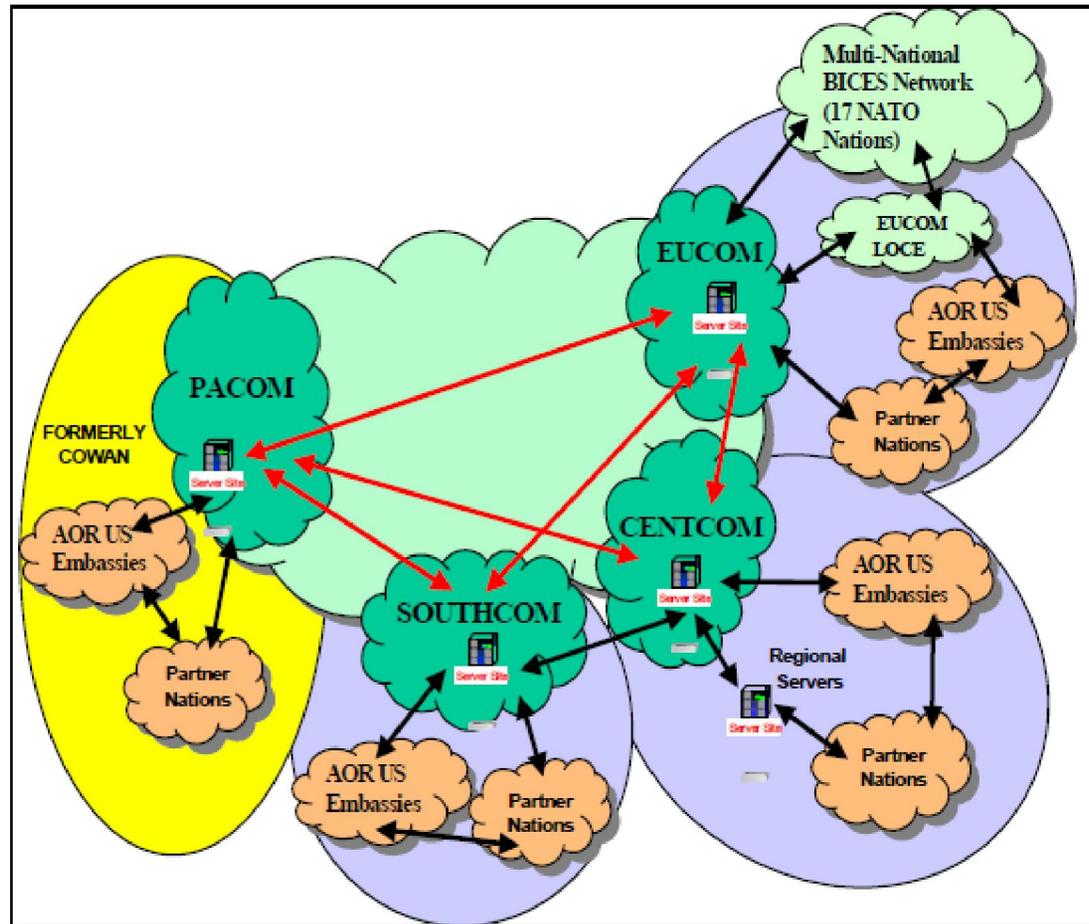
- ▶ EIS open to extra-regional power participation: so far, Australia and New Zealand are amongst those interested
- ▶ In 2004, Japan reportedly deployed MPA to help patrol skies above the strait
- ▶ Help in terms of financial and technical support in capacity-building
- ▶ Low-profile, less obtrusive joint activities such as CARAT and SEACAT



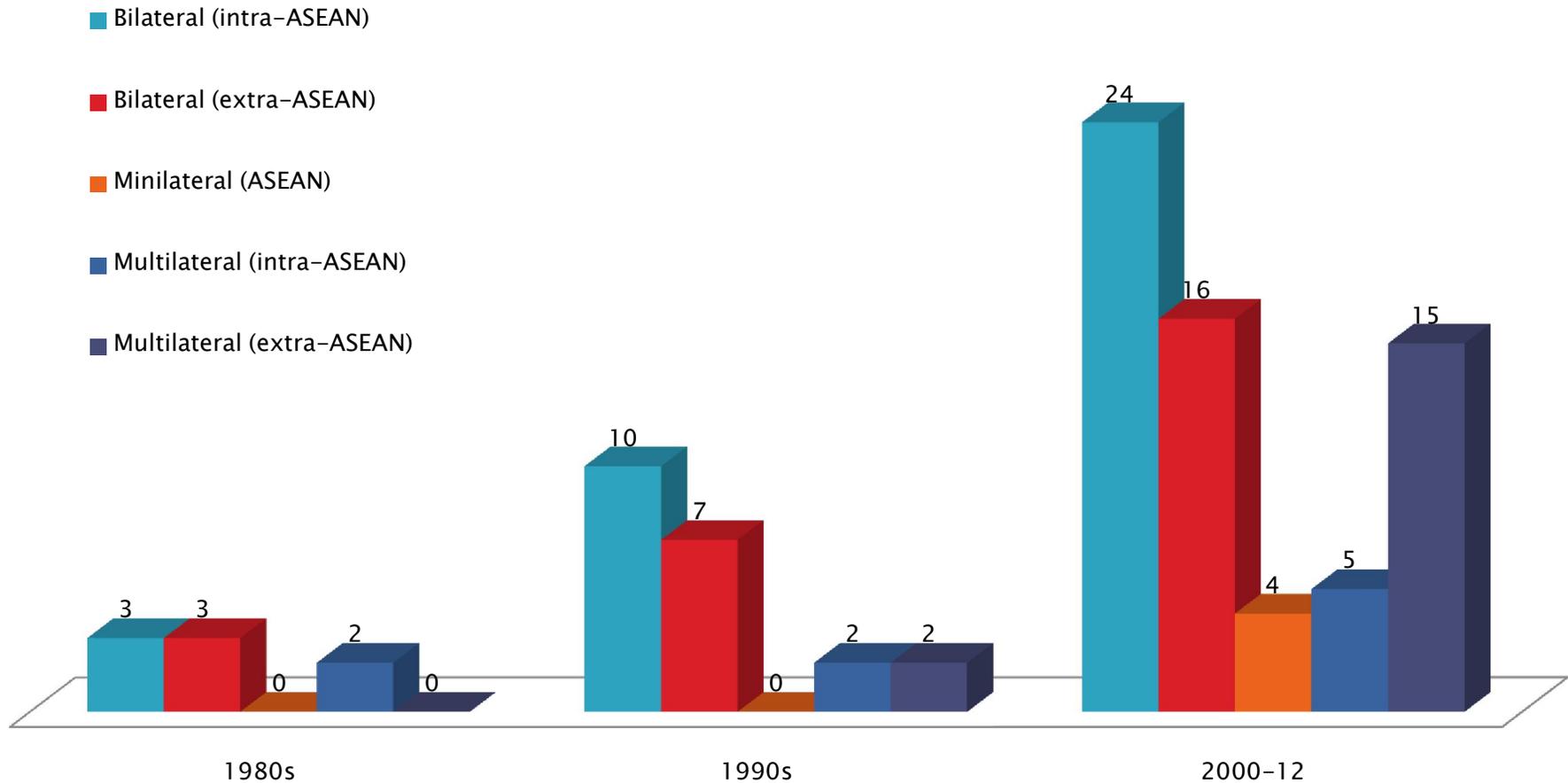
# Washington in the Equation



# Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System (CENTRIXS)



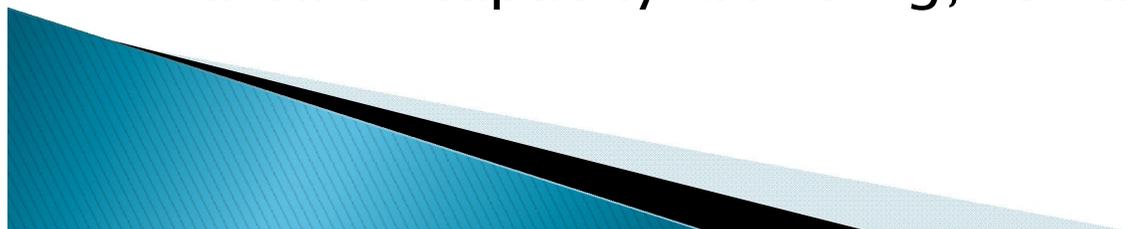
# Average Cumulative Number of Naval Cooperation in SE Asia



Source: author's own database compiled from various official and open sources; selected ASEAN sample countries - Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

# Prospects for growth of minilateral MDA initiatives

- ▶ Since the beginning of 2000, fastest growth recorded in bilateral and multilateral initiatives.
- ▶ In contrast, minilateral initiatives remain nascent and largely overshadowed by wider multilateral initiatives.
- ▶ Minilateral initiatives remain geographically narrowly- and issue-focused, in view of the diverse and sometimes diverging maritime threat perceptions amongst ASEAN countries.
- ▶ Sustainability of minilateral initiatives is highly dependent on individual capacity-building efforts of participant countries.
- ▶ Involvement of extra-regional powers, at least in the area of capacity-building, remains inevitable.

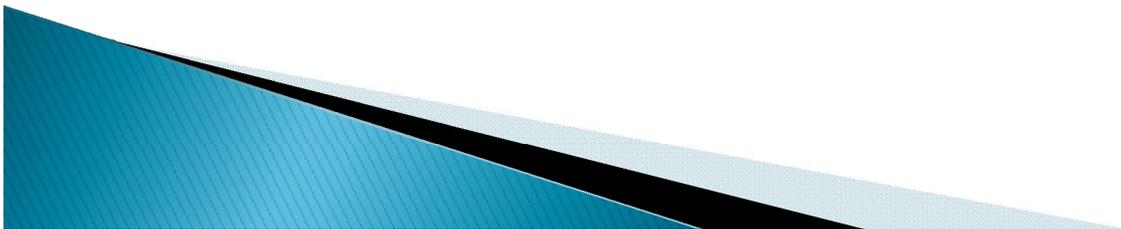


## Beyond minilateral MDA initiatives: Promising Signs

- ▶ The formalisation of the MSSI in 2006 represents the starting point for future prospects of wider and more institutionalised maritime security cooperation.
- ▶ Since 2006, Malacca Strait littoral states have opened the possibility of extra-regional power participation, such as the case of India.
- ▶ In July 2010, the four Malacca Strait littoral states roped in Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines and Vietnam as observers to the discussion and review of existing MSSI.
- ▶ In July 2011, ASEAN navy chiefs formalise their meeting to expand maritime security cooperation.
- ▶ In January 2012, ASEAN leaders agreed to enhance the use of the ASEAN Maritime Forum for more wide-ranging and inclusive participation into maritime security matters.



# The way forward...





**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**

