



The FBI's  
Maritime Security Program (MSP)  
and the Role of the  
Maritime Liaison Agent (MLA)



# Mission of the MSP

**Mission:** To prevent, penetrate and dismantle criminal acts of terrorism directed against maritime assets and provide counterterrorism preparedness leadership and assistance to federal, state and local agencies responsible for maritime security.

## How the mission is accomplished:

- Maritime training for Maritime Liaison Agents (MLAs)
- Port visits to look at best practices and accompanying security assessments
- Identify and dissemination of maritime-specific intelligence
- Participation in working groups both public and private sector
- Participation in development of national maritime policies and strategies



# Maritime Security Working Groups



- Liaison with other government agencies and stakeholders at the national level:
  - White House National Security Council
    - Maritime Security Interagency Policy Committee (MSIPC)
    - Maritime Security Working Group (MSWC) with several subgroups
    - Participate in the development of national maritime policies and strategies
  - National Maritime Intelligence Center (NMIC) - Under the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)
  - Global Maritime and Air Intelligence Integration (GMAII)
  - Cruise Ship Security Working Group
    - Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)
  - Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR)



# MLA Relationships



## • Functional Relationship Building

- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS)
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)
- Customs Border Protection (CBP)
- Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- State/Local Authorities
- Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC)
- Port Industry Stakeholders
- Special Interest/Niche Businesses
- Visible Intermodal Prevention & Response (VIPR) Teams
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Program





# Port Visits



- Quarterly visit to Field Offices and port facilities
- Facilitated through local MLA
- Identify/share best practices
- Understand operational challenges and security concerns





# Threats to the US Maritime Domain



■ Currently, the FBI is not aware of any credible imminent threat from a terrorist group or affiliates against the US Maritime Domain.

■ ISIS, Al-Qaida and associated groups will remain a threat to the US Homeland.

■ Cyber



# Use of Waterborne Improvised Explosive Devices (WBIEDs)

- Oct 2002 – Al-Qaeda directed attack by an explosive-laden small boat against a French oil tanker M/V LIMBURG, Yemen

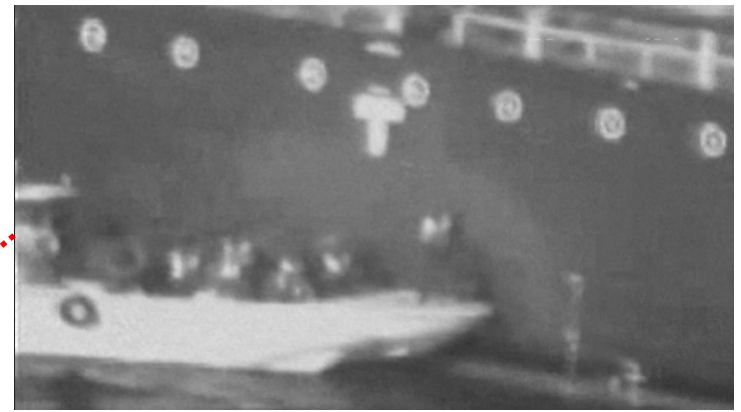




# Use of Waterborne Improvised Explosive Devices (WBIEDs)

- Oct 2000 – Al-Qaeda attacked the U.S. COLE, 17 U.S. Navy sailors killed. Navigating an explosive-laden small boat alongside the destroyer while refueling in Aden, Yemen.

June 14, 2019



UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO





# Territorial Vulnerabilities



- Geographic location of Puerto Rico; vulnerable to infiltration by illegal aliens, drug traffickers and terrorist.
- Terrorist are seeking access to the continental USA through the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico.
- Smuggling routes are seen as less patrolled and easier to penetrate.

## FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

BANK ROBBERY, ENLAW FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - ARMED ROBBERY, THEFT FROM INTERSTATE SHIPMENT

### VICTOR MANUEL GERENA



**DESCRIPTION**

Date of Birth:	June 24, 1978	Hair:	Brown
Place of Birth:	New York, New York	Eyes:	Green
Height:	5'6" to 5'7"	Complexion:	Dark/Medium
Weight:	300 to 350 pounds	Sex:	Male
Build:	Medium/Stocky	Race:	White (Hispanic)
Occupation:	Mechanics security guard	Nationality:	Argentine (naturalized-citizen)
Scars and Marks:	Caricats has a one-inch scar and a mole on his right shoulder blade.		
Remarks:	None		

**CAUTION**

VICTOR MANUEL GERENA IS BEING SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMED ROBBERY OF APPROXIMATELY \$2 MILLION FROM A SECURITY COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGEDLY FUNK TWO SECURITY EMPLOYEES HOSTAGE AT GUAYNAY AND THEN HINDERED, BORN AND INJURED THEM WITH AN UNKNOWN WEAPON IN ORDER TO FURTHER DISABLE THEM.

CONSIDERED A BOMB AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BROTHER OR THE SECRETARY AT: 800-375-6847.

### REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to one million dollars for information leading directly to the arrest of Victor Manuel Gerena.

[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)





# Territorial Vulnerabilities



- Puerto Rico is the central hub of entire Caribbean Region.
- One of the world's busiest cruise ship ports.
- San Juan is the home port to over a dozen cruise lines
- 7<sup>th</sup> busiest container port in the Western Hemisphere
- Over 40 shipping lines provide service to over 80 domestic and international ports.
- LMM Airport is one of the top 30 airports in passenger movement.





# Homegrown Violent Extremists



The FBI views Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs) as a primary terrorism threat in the U. S.

## What makes someone an HVE?

- Inspired by the global jihad
- Based in the U.S.
- Radicalized primarily in the U.S.
- Not directly collaborating with FTOs



# Responsibilities and Capabilities



- Counterterrorism Division (CTD)
- Criminal Investigative Division (CID)
- Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG)
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate
- Laboratory Division (LAB)
- Counterintelligence Division (CD)
- Directorate of Intelligence (DI)





# Questions?



## Point of Contacts:

- SA Jose A. Alvarado, (787) 648-0678
- SA Jorge Diaz (787) 378-1057
- TFO IA Luis R. Capestany (787-234-9849)
- TFO Javier Centeno, (787) 396-6043
- TFO Luis Sosa, (787) 457-0160