



Wrap-up, MARSEC 15-19 September, 2014 Course on
counter-proliferation and PSI Workshop,
by Dr. Şebnem Udum¹



On September 15-19, 2014, the Counter-proliferation course and on September 16-17, 2014, the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Workshop was held at MARSEC COE² in the Aksaz Naval Base, Marmaris/Turkey. The Counter-proliferation course was opened with the lecture on changing security environment and strategies to combat proliferation, which set the stage to understand the current proliferation-related security threats and challenges, and respective responses. International regimes are key to address international issues, thus, the following lecture focused on non-proliferation regimes including multilateral export control regime. Since the maritime domain is attractive for aspirant states or non-state actors to obtain weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the legal basis of preventing proliferation through the maritime domain was studied. The following lecture assessed the risk of potential catastrophic accidents which could emanate from the transportation of special nuclear materials at sea. The day closed with the session on NATO's perspective on counter-proliferation.

The two-day PSI workshop was part of the course, and it was hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs³. Following the perspectives on Turkish maritime security, Turkey's policies and efforts in counter-proliferation were presented by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs³ and the Ministry of Customs and Trade. The international legal basis regarding nonproliferation and international maritime law was covered to give a broad view of law and enforcement. Then, the practice of PSI was tackled by looking at legal considerations and operational realities, particularly the "proliferation supply chain" from which one can detect key challenges in interdiction. The European practice on transit/transshipment regulations and interventions was provided as a case. The second day of the workshop was opened with the Table-Top-Exercise (TTX) on a proliferation scenario, where participants studied a hypothetical case, and tried to apply international law, international maritime law and related UN Security Council Resolutions in order to interdict the transport of nuclear and other chemical dual-use material to a country of proliferation concern. The remaining lectures were devoted to proliferation through transit and transshipment, the detection of dual-use commodities, and DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency) proliferation prevention program. The day closed by the session on maritime situational awareness and maritime information sharing.

The fourth day of the counter-proliferation course covered issues on CBRN defense. The opening session informed the participants about the general principles of CBRN defense, which was followed by a narrowed focus on CBRN defense at sea and harbors. Warning and Reporting about CBRN incidents is essential to detect some forms of CBRN attacks. Similarly, the lectures provided general information, and then focused on detection at sea. Last but not least, the passive defense measure of disaster management was given in detail with the help of software developed by industry. The closing of the counter-proliferation course was the most memorable part, which was the live Maritime Security Operation (MSO) for Counter Proliferation training demo performed by Turkish Naval WMD Response Center on TCG GAZİANTEP, for the course participants as well as the members of Turkish media.

¹ Hacettepe University Department of International Relations Beytepe/Ankara Tel: (+90-312) 297-8111,
E-mail: usebnem@hacettepe.edu.tr

² www.dgmm.tsk.tr

³ <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/arms-control-and-disarmament.en.mfa>