



Introduction from ACC Steve Watts Chair of the Solent Portal Maritime Security Group.

“Project Kraken is an initiative which engages our partner agencies, local communities and users of the Solent in the fight against terrorism and serious crime. The purpose of Project Kraken is to create a hostile environment for potential terrorists looking to disrupt the everyday lives and safety of those who live, work or travel through the Solent Portal. Through enhanced counter terrorist awareness and a promotion in the exchange of information, the Solent Portal can continue to be a safe place to live, work and relax for all.”

GANG JAILED OVER £6.5M DRUGS HAUL

Seven men and a woman have been jailed for attempting to smuggle £6.5m of cocaine into the UK.

The Anglo-Dutch gang planned to sell the 198lb (90kg) haul to dealers in the North West of England. Police swooped on gang members as they prepared to unload the drugs from a yacht in Pembrokeshire, west Wales. Gang leaders were jailed for 16 years each at Preston Crown Court, which heard that four members had sailed the yacht from Brazil in April 2006 and the drugs were loaded aboard off the coast of Guyana.

Erwin Kapitein, an experienced Dutch sailor, captained the vessel, with his girlfriend, Brazilian Odezia Silva, They were jailed for 13, 11-and-a-half years respectively. As the boat foundered with mechanical problems, a shore contact was preparing to use a speedboat to rendezvous with the yacht to take the drugs ashore when police swooped. The yacht had been tracked by Serious Organised Crime Agency officers as it crossed the Atlantic.

SPANISH SEIZE 3.7 TONS HEADING FOR THE UK.

A recent seizure by a Spanish customs vessel of 3.7 tons of cannabis resin onboard a British flagged yacht 300 miles off the NW coast of Spain. The drugs were in 116 bundles wrapped in plastic, with an estimated street value of US\$5.04m. The vessel was bound for the UK, having originated in North Africa. The crew were made up of 3 British and 1 North African. It is thought the yacht was due to sail east along the English Channel and rendezvous with a smaller boat at night in order to transfer the drugs ashore.

Report to the Police on **0845 045 45 45** the position, time, description of the vessel, and as detailed a description of the persons involved, details of their activity. Your report will be investigated, and if further information is needed you will be contacted.

OP. KRAKEN REQUIREMENTS:-

These are two recent examples of criminality in the maritime sector which highlight the vulnerability of the shores of the UK, and the importance of recruiting additional “eyes and ears” to keep a look out along our shores. Report any suspicious activity no matter how minor or insignificant, your piece of information may be the last piece of the puzzle. Although not fully comprehensive listed below are some indicators of suspicious behaviour which could attract your attention.

Excessive crew – a yacht arrives and a procession of people disembarks from below.

Poor seamanship – a boat that is dirty and unkempt poorly furled sails, no flag, badly coiled ropes.

Improperly dressed – sailors who go to sea normally dress for the weather and sea conditions. Clandestine immigrants, criminals, and terrorists are not that worried about their dress code.

Boats at night – vessels operating off shore at night without any navigation lights.

Boats at speed – vessels travelling at “high speed”. Where are they going in such a hurry?

Behaviour – Suspicious activity prior to departure. Planning a fishing trip with no equipment, taking on excessive food, water, and clothing, making extra cargo space, fitting extra fuel tanks for no apparent reason.

Secretive – Paying all bills in cash, loading the vessel at night, discouraging other berth holders from approaching.

Excessive equipment – Extra radar, sat nav, radios, lights etc could indicate a clandestine rendezvous at sea or covert landing ashore.