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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
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CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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SELF-PROPELLED SEMI-SUBMERSIBLES (SPSS)
A CONTINUING THREAT
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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Self-Propelled Semi-Submersibles (SPSS) – A Continuing Threat



Homeland
Security

Armada Nacional

ESTRATEGIA NARCOTRAFICANTE

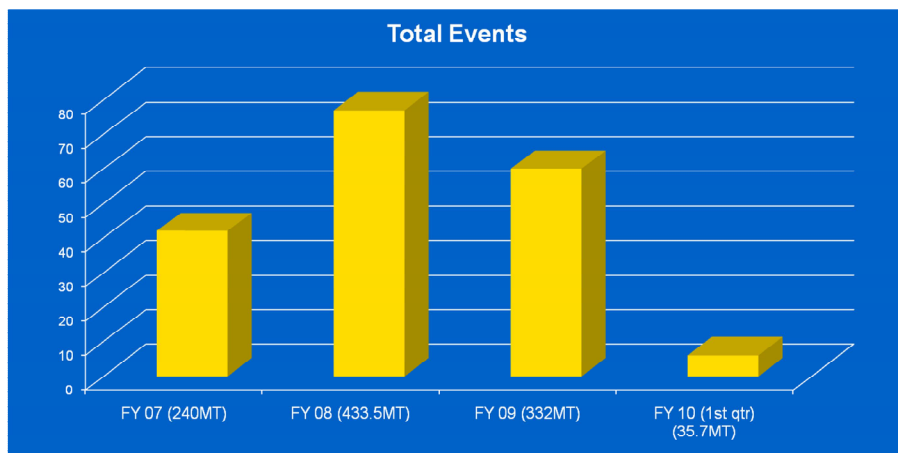
“SEMISUMERGIBLES”
Mar Caribe

REUNIÓN CICAD OEA

DIMEX

Slide courtesy of Colombian Navy

SPSS: A Significant Threat



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Current & Potential SPSS Threats



SPSS CHALLENGES

- § Built in remote jungle regions
- § Limited Intel on SPSS routes
- § Low profile is very difficult to detect
- § Support vessels monitor LE presence
- § High frequency of scuttling



SPSS



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Actions to Counter the Threat

- § Multi-prong response to SPSS challenge
 - § Develop actionable intelligence through focused operations and investigative work
 - § Create tailored boarding Tactics, Techniques & Procedures (TTP)
 - § Legislation to enable prosecution of SPSS crew without the recovery of contraband



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**The Drug Trafficking Vessel Interdiction Act of 2008
(P.L. 110-407; 18 U.S.C. 2285)**

§ **Felony To Operate or Embark in Unregistered SPSS**

§ **Immediate Impact on Operations:**

§ **Consequence Delivery Ensured**

§ **Improves Safety**

§ **Must Prove at Time of Interdiction**

§ **SPSS is Without Nationality**

§ **Operating in International Waters**

§ **Intent to Evade Detection**



U.S. Prosecution Results

§ 11 US SPSS Prosecutions Since 12/31/08

§ 9 DTVIA Prosecutions

§ 2 MDLEA Cases

§ 43 Defendants

§ 28 Defendants Convicted

§ Remaining Cases Pend

§ DTVIA Cases Receive Average of 108 Months

§ MDLEA Cases Receive 135 Months +



Why is This Important?

- Stateless vessels
- Account for approximately 1/3rd of maritime cocaine flow
- No legitimate purpose
- Built for stealth
- Designed to scuttle
- Destroys evidence
- Dangerous to ALL personnel
- Hazard to navigation
- National security threat



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May 2010: SPSS Interdiction



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Conclusion/Recommendations

- **Recommend Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking**
 - **Develop and Propose Model Legislation**
 - **Develop SPSS Tactics, Techniques & Procedures (TTP)**



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