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Exploring a case for a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies

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EXPLORING A CASE FOR A COMMON DOCTRINE FOR THE ASIAN COAST GUARD AGENCIES

By

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I certify that all the material in this dissertation that is not my own work has been identified and that no material is included for which a degree has previously been conferred on me.

The contents of this dissertation reflect my personal views and are not necessarily endorsed by the University.

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Abstract

Title of Dissertation:	**Exploring a case for a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies**
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A doctrine benefits in focusing the effort and fine-tuning the strategies. It is relevant for a country, organization, or group rather than an individual to help lead the organization and sustain it.

In the Asian region, it appears that some countries are guided by a published maritime doctrine whereas many others are yet to adopt a doctrine. Although many countries have developed their individual doctrines, they have not expanded their views into having commonality, procedures, and common interests and synthesizing them into a common doctrine. Furthermore, the concept of a common doctrine for any regional coast guard remains largely unexamined and scholarly attention to influence cooperation and collaboration between nations is apparently lacking.

This dissertation, therefore, aims to explore how the Asian coast guards would be able to cooperate with their common interests and common concerns in a mutually enforceable manner under the basis of a common Asian coast guard doctrine.

A qualitative research method is used for the study.

The coast guard agencies have an operational head at the top level and an overview of the organization's philosophical approaches and functions can be best understood through a discussion with the heads of organizations. Therefore, the researcher used semi-structured interviews for primary data collection and conducted several interviews with twelve different coast guard agencies.

Based on interviews, four main themes and significant sub-themes under the main themes were generated to explore answers to the research questions.

The research findings indicate a strong consensus on having a common doctrine for Asian coast guard agencies since it presents many benefits to regional countries. Furthermore, findings from this study identified the most appropriate basis for this common doctrine and its constituent. Despite the merit and benefits for everyone, there could still be hurdles to achieving objectives and achieving consensus. Therefore, the study discusses challenges that may arise in the course of developing and working on the concept.

Based on the findings, this study recommends how countries in the Asian region going forward to implement this concept of common coast guard doctrine, where the agenda should be highlighted and how the regional countries could proceed with implementation.

KEYWORDS: Doctrine, Coast Guard Agencies

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List of Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BC	Before Christ
DA	Defence Attaché
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
HACGAM	Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting
INCG	Indian Coast Guard
IJN	Imperial Japanese Navy
IOR	Indian Ocean Region
MNDF	Maldives National Defence Force
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NIMA	National Institute of Maritime Affairs
OPRC	Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Cooperation
PMSA	Pakistan Maritime Security Agency
PLAN	Peoples Liberation Army Navy
PTA	Preference Trade Agreement
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
REC	Research Ethics Committee
ReCAAP	Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combatting Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
ROK	Republic of Korea
SAR	Search and Rescue
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SLCG	Sri Lanka Coast Guard

SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
USA	United States of America
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
USCG	United States Coast Guard
VTS	Vessel Traffic Services
WMU	World Maritime University
WW	World War

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Coastal state functions such as Search and Rescue (SAR), oil pollution preparedness response and cooperation (OPRC) and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) are major responsibilities of the coastal state (Walker et al., 2021). Except for a lack of cooperation on a multilateral basis among the regions and across the world, these duties cannot be performed effectively. It is inevitable that the coast guard cooperates, collaborates and coordinates in securing interests in the maritime domain. The significant underlying basis for this cooperation is always the doctrine that currently has hardly received scholarly attention.

The significance of cooperation among the states relevant to coastal state functions is mentioned in different regulations. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) specifies the importance of global and regional cooperation toward the protection and preservation of the marine environment. States shall, therefore, cooperate on a global and regional basis through competent international organizations (article 197). On the other hand, the SAR, Convention states that "parties shall coordinate their search and rescue organizations and should, whenever necessary, coordinate search and rescue operations with those neighbouring states". Similarly, article 7 of the OPRC Convention specifies that "Parties agree that, subject to their capabilities and the availability of relevant resources, they will co-operate and provide advisory services, technical support and equipment to respond to an oil pollution incident, when the severity of such incident so justifies, upon the request of any party affected or likely to be affected". Therefore, to bring states together for a common objective, the doctrine is a significant basis. However, while countries have developed their individual doctrines, they have not expanded their thoughts into having a commonality of procedures by synthesizing them into a common doctrine. While there is scope for discussing global doctrine, this dissertation focuses on the

exploration of a regional doctrine namely, an "Asian coast guard doctrine" in order to understand the benefits for the regional countries that can be achieved through it.

Aside from the naval expansion in Asia, a major recent tendency in the maritime security of the region is the development of national coast guard functions and roles. Asian nations have invested significantly in the capacity building of their coast guards in order to protect and police maritime authority and respond to maritime conflicts. States use coast guards as their primary tool for defending offshore claims and safeguarding their marine rights and resources. This is in addition to the coast guard's standard missions of law enforcement and SAR (Kim, 2018).

In general, each state's coast guard agency is liable for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection, as well as functions such as maritime law enforcement, SAR, and anti-pollution measures. When looking at the organizational forms of these state agencies, however, the differences in how they carry out these functions become obvious (Iwanami & One, 2021). Regardless naval ships and people, countries choose to deploy coast guard vessels and personnel in critical scenarios at sea and to utilize coast guards for cooperation actions with other countries. As a result, coast guards are becoming more essential national institutions with the capacity to contribute significantly to regional order and security (Bateman, 2003). Therefore, it is important to have a common platform that the Asian coast guard agencies encourage to play regional roles together. In that context, the doctrine for the Asian coast guard is a significant tool that is able to bring all regions together in order to perform their role in the region with a common set of understanding.

1.2 Origin of Doctrine

The origin of the word 'doctrine' traces back to ancient times and the war of religion during the 16th and 17th centuries. This is derived from the Latin word 'doctrina' which means a set of beliefs or a system of beliefs accepted as authoritative by a group of parties'.[1] Therefore, it provides a framework of beliefs and teachings that shape a group's actions and serves as a guide for shared knowledge. However, it seems to

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[1] Definition at *WorldQ.com 2010.*

have largely expanded during the 19th century based on Christian doctrine and the theological concept of man's dignity (Abiew, 1999). In addition, the word doctrine is frequently used to refer to a set of theological concepts established by a church. In common-law traditions, doctrine can also refer to a legal theory formed through a history of previous rulings (Tiller & Cross, 2006).

Hence doctrine flows from general principles, in the contemporary world the doctrinal concept has been used from a variety of perspectives (Westerfield, 1996). For instance, the maritime doctrine is the fundamental document that specifies the national maritime policy and state maritime activities. It is also a component of a military doctrine and determines sustain of naval forces at sea.[2] In addition, the maritime doctrine provides key concepts for the carry out successful operations in the maritime domain.

1.3 Importance of Doctrine

In general, society allows professionals to control their own activities if they have a doctrine that outlines how they will accomplish their work and some type of administration and oversight of their members' activities (Westerfield, 1996). For example, professions like the military and medical services have their own doctrine to achieve collective action and a common approach. On the other hand, other professions that are self-sufficient with minimal oversight by the government may not be required to follow doctrinal concepts.

Doctrine emerges from general principles and allows it to be fully integrated and promote cohesiveness. Particularly, in the military most doctrine follows structural cohesion that is organization and beliefs based on shared thoughts, equipment, and organization. It is understood that the reasons behind the success of many military operations are due to cohesion brought by common values shared by many levels. Therefore, those common values shape and are shaped by doctrine (Westerfield, 1996).

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[2] Australian Maritime Doctrine. RAN Doctrine 1, 2010

The doctrine was not found of great importance in the era of small mercenary armies. For instance, in the 17th century, the main methods of indoctrination were discipline, manoeuvres and drill manoeuvres (Vego, 2009). However, in the aftermath of the French Revolution and Napoleonic war, doctrinal principles were initially used in the late 19th century. Similarly, many fleets adopted doctrine after their defeat due to a lack of common tactical procedures. For example, French, Spanish and Italian fleets under Admiral Francois Paul Brueys, Admiral Pierre- Charles- Jean- Baptiste and Admiral Carlo Pelion de Persano lost during their battles respectively (Vego, 2009).

However, it is important to understand that doctrine is not a vision. A vision explains the future that a particular person or organization wants to reach and the doctrine itself deals with the present translating vision and principles into action providing guidance on how to use principles to operate. Similarly, mere wisdom is also not a doctrine that any wise person can produce. If a doctrine was merely a theory, universal truth, war constants, or a list of technological developments, many people outside of authority could produce excellent doctrine (Hughes, 1995; Westerfield, 1996).

1.4 Problem Statement

Asia is the largest continent in the world with the longest coastline and comprises 48 nations according to the United Nations (World Population Review, 2022). Except for twelve landlocked countries, others have access to the sea. Therefore, nations have a vital role to play in terms of maritime context. Furthermore, nations are facing many challenges in maritime safety, security, and marine environmental protection. As first responders to these challenges, nations have to utilize their coast guard agencies to assist during emergencies. However, it is understood that many nations in the Asian region are under development (Sabir et al., 2019) and shortage of resources to function in their maritime-related duties such as SAR, oil pollution preparedness and response, VTS and other maritime operations.

Although several countries are developing and are limited with resources, coordination and cooperation between the nations are important to help each other during emergencies. The doctrine is a significant basis for this cooperation which will bring nations together for common objectives. While some countries in the Asian region have already published their maritime, naval, or coast guard doctrine for the purpose of national objectives, many of them have not been published. Furthermore, these doctrines do not expand their views for common objectives and do not influence the regional coast guard as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to study the requirement of a common doctrine for Asian coast guards in order to perceive the benefits that can be achieved by nations in the region.

1.5 Research Objectives

The main purpose of this research is to understand the value of a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies to perform their duties and explore the benefits that can be achieved by individual nations in the region as well as the region as a whole through a common doctrine.

1.6 Research Questions

The Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) is the multilateral cooperation among the Asian coast guard agencies and this is the only platform for cooperation that covers the entire Asian region. However, this forum is for strengthening coast guard functions in Asia sharing thoughts of individual nations and not a tool for identifying how countries play a regional role for Asian coast guard agencies. Therefore, in order to see mutual cooperation, insights and experiences of experts in the Asian region coast guard agencies are required in the broader sense. Accordingly, to understand the Asian coast guard philosophy and the timely requirement of common doctrine for the Asian coast guards, the undermentioned research questions have been set in the study.

    a.   What is the basis for common coast guard doctrine?
    b.   What are the benefits of a common Asian coast guard doctrine?
    c.   What would be the constituent elements of an Asian coast guard doctrine?

1.7 Motivation

The strategic location of the Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean not only serves as a crucial crossroads for East-West maritime commerce but also a command centre for monitoring the entire ocean space that stretches all the way to the southernmost point on the globe. While the Sri Lanka navy performs deep-sea operations, the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) has maritime law enforcement functions mainly in the territorial waters and within the maritime zones of the country. As a first responder to maritime safety, security and marine environment protection, the SLCG has an important role to play. On the other hand, in the Asian region, the SLCG has a significant role to play in terms of cooperation with the regional coast guards. The researcher is an active member of the coast guard organization and has been motivated to understand the importance of regional coast guard cooperation through exploring the case for common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

Firstly, this chapter discusses the definition of doctrine and reviews the relevant literature which defined the doctrine. An exploration follows of the constituent elements of a doctrine, sources of doctrine and the contexts in which doctrines have been applied. The theoretical model for the implementation of a doctrine in different contexts is also discussed subsequently. Finally, the researcher has identified there is no doctrine that provides a common basis for the Asian coast guard agencies and that in order to address the gap further research is required.

2.1 What is a doctrine?

The origin of the word 'doctrine' is found in the Latin word 'doctrina' which implies a set of beliefs', 'particular principles', or 'body of teachings'. It thus facilitates a framework of beliefs and teachings that shape a group's actions and serves as a guide for shared knowledge.[3] In addition, the doctrine is the formulation of what a professional thinks and practices when its members act in a standard and normative manner.

According to Hoiback (2016), the doctrine is 'institutionalized beliefs about what works in war and military operations'. It comprises three important elements; theory, authority and culture. While a doctrine is built on assumptions about what works and what leads to success, it also requires some theory. Further, it has a cultural component since it must connect to current organizational discussion and requires the authority to have an integrating impact. Doctrine as a tool of command, a tool of education and a tool of change, these three doctrinal elements can be balanced effectively.

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[3] Maritime Doctrine of Sri Lanka (2020). To Nurture a Stable Environment at Sea

As far as organizations are concerned, "the doctrine is those shared beliefs and principles that define the work of a profession". Knox (1915) asserted that doctrine flows from general principles and would be developed top-down that is settled as command, strategy, tactics, logistics and materials. Therefore, from primitive decisions, the minor doctrine may follow logically and consistently in order to keep the grand strategy steady and in harmony. We may infer from Knox's view, that a logical sequence exists in the many doctrines that always follow the grand strategy. For example, within the coast guard organization itself, different sections may have minor doctrines that are in line with the grand doctrine. Moreover, to understand the doctrine in a broad sense, fundamental elements in the doctrine are also important to review.
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2.2 What constitutes a doctrine?

Essentially, a doctrine describes the organization's goals, character, policies, and ways of operation in order to provide vital principled and institutionally accepted solutions (Angstrom & Widen, 2016). In a quality doctrine, it would constitute the standard of principles and the text in which they would surface and be evaluated. Angstrom and Widen further emphasized that the quality doctrine would encompass its purposes and the targeted audience. In my understanding authors may think about the "target audience" as the people who are actively engaging and following doctrinal principles in any organization. Tangredi, S. (2002, as cited in Angstrom & Widen, 2016) stated that the doctrine focuses on one of two primary issues; doctrine's expected effect, that is doctrine can have an independent innovative effect on the result and the exact contents of various doctrines. In addition, clear and concise language is commonly concerned when writing a doctrine.

According to Posen (2016), doctrine performs a minimum of four tasks. Firstly, it constitutes strategic functions, priorities and direct efforts. For example, an organization like the military required strategic functions in order to prepare for future battles and strategies that reflect nations' foreign policies. Second, the doctrine should give a message to society that how organizations people contribute since the organization depend on public money. Therefore, in modern democracies doctrine should explain what the organization does.

Third, in particular, military doctrine provides useful guidelines to military leaders on how to fight. Since the doctrine is likely to be a shared conceptual framework, especially in the military, leaders need to know better coordination and cooperation during their missions. Finally, the doctrine facilitates individual members in the organization and the reasons why they serve the organization.

While looking into Posen's doctrinal philosophy relevant to the military, these four tasks are similarly applicable to the coast guard agencies. Although coast guard roles and functions are different from the military, these four doctrinal tasks are followed by the current coast guard agencies, and this helps to achieve common objectives.

The main challenge that doctrinal makers are facing is how to create a quality doctrine. Therefore, in order to understand the common doctrine, sources of doctrine need to be referred to.

2.3 Sources of doctrine

Doctrine should be based on critical analysis and operational learning rather than being driven by quickly changing policies, new technologies, individual personalities, or politically popular catch-phrases ("Doctrine development and education", n.d.). In addition, doctrine should not be published to codify a uniquely-tailored organization or to defend a policy position backward. Furthermore, doctrine incorporates operationally proven best practices while also concerning drawbacks. Considering both best practices and losses, doctrine can be developed based on analysing experiences, the study of exercises, war games, and experiments as useful sources (Vego, 2009). In terms of experiences, the military of other nations and non-defence organizations should also be considered as sources of doctrine. When exploring a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies, other regional nations' best practices, experiences and useful sources would need to be incorporated into a common doctrine for better understanding and identifying common objectives.

According to Posen (2014), the doctrine development is continuing in force and is never complete. Any doctrine document is a snapshot in time, reflecting the thinking that existed at the moment. Written and innovation have always been important aspects of sound doctrinal growth. In addition, doctrine should adapt as fresh experiences and technological advancements guide the way to future operations. In this sense, the common doctrine will be a basis for cooperation among the countries in the region to have innovative technology and exchange knowledge. After discussing the doctrine in general, the following sections discuss the particular contexts where doctrine is likely to be applied.

2.4 Contexts in which a doctrine has been applied?

The doctrinal concept is merely not used in one context and is broadly used and applied in different fields. Reference to organizations, mainly in the military and other similar organizations such as coast guard, law enforcement forces and other civil defence forces also widely use the concept. In addition, in the political (states' foreign policies), legal and religious contexts, the doctrinal concept has been widely applied. The subsequent sections will discuss the use and implementation of doctrinal principles in different fields.

2.4.1. Foreign Policy Doctrine

The United States is one unique country that produces several doctrines. Several presidents have published doctrines during their tenure; two of the most significant doctrines that stand out are the Truman and Monroe doctrines. The President is the supreme commander of the armed forces and influences the doctrine of the United States in the military and the coast guard. The coast guard is about international cooperation and if there is a doctrine governing the cooperation, these doctrines are relevant to the common Asian coast guard doctrine.

2.4.1.1 Truman Doctrine

The 'Truman doctrine' defined the doctrine as 'A stated principle of government policy, mainly in foreign or military affairs.'[4] During the office of Harry S. Truman in the United States, the policies toward other nations have been outlined in the 'Truman doctrine'. One of the paramount aims of the United States' foreign policy is to create conditions in which the USA and other countries may work out a way of life that is free of compulsion. President Harry S. Truman addressed the members of Congress seeking authority to assist the countries that were affected during WW II and lately the speech was published as the "Truman doctrine" stating foreign policies towards nations. For example, after WW II the USA provided financial assistance to Turkey and Greece as well as techniques to improve the public administration of the two countries to overcome the economic crisis (Satterthwaite,1972). This doctrine is the best example of cooperation with nations and, similarly, common policies can be incorporated into a common coast guard doctrine for Asia for the benefit of other nations.

2.4.1.2 Monroe Doctrine

The Monroe Doctrine defined the doctrinal part of the foreign policy with reference to understanding cooperation and coordination as 'an official statement of a nation's policy, especially towards other nations'.[5] This doctrine, as stated before the United States Congress in 1823, developed a vocal style that was later linked with similar announcements made during and after the Cold War. Often phrased in idealistic and great language, such presidential declarations of purpose sought to advance the cause of humanity by maintaining values like freedom, democracy and peace (Gilderhus, 2006). For instance, at the close of the Napoleonic Wars, the Monroe Doctrine was useful in reaction to the demands of European politics. Therefore, the Monroe Doctrine always mirrored the waving in US policy between coercion and cooperation, intervention and non-intervention while reflecting what US officials defined or invented as the country's self-interest.

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[4] Truman Doctrine (1947). Source: Transcript from the National Archives Online Portal.
http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=81&page=transcript.
[5] James Monroe. (1823). Seventh Annual Message. *Monroe Doctrine.*

2.4.2. Political doctrine

The doctrine may have political influence since it is always linked to the national interest. If the coast guard agencies in Asia cannot cooperate without the government's level of cooperation, they need to have a doctrine at the national level to cooperate. If the government is not deciding to work at the international level, the people and organization cannot work together. Therefore, the political doctrine is most important to understand since it has an influence on other doctrines as well.

Evlampiev (2021) analysed the classification of political doctrine examined by Boris N. Chicherin according to his history of political thoughts. For political doctrines, Chicherin employs two methods of classification. Firstly, he described the main characteristics such as power, personal freedom and law used in explaining society. Secondly, an introductory level of explanation such as rational principles or imperial facts. Furthermore, Chicherin argued that in contrast to ancient times, whose first mature doctrines characterize as realism and the contemporary era begins with rationalism. The ancient intellectuals examined nature and drew the foundations for explaining society from it, whereas modern thinkers had the opposite aim.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the destabilizing effects of offensive military doctrines were frequently recognized as the main cause of World War I. Political science interest in doctrine sparked in that era. According to Gallo (2018), political doctrine is defined as "state strategies and policies towards other nations in order to maintain a healthy relationship and better cooperation among nations". Many scholars consolidate doctrine with a state's strategy, which generates plenty of problems for the innovative arguments that these researchers make. This can be attributed to false motivation claims, overemphasized doctrine importance and the understanding of a doctrinal change that was actually a shift in a state's strategy and/or policy.

According to Hoiback (2011), it is known that generally politicians are overruled in democracies. In the military, Flag officers have the right to raise their voices in ways that are consistent with their strategic culture, but the only alternative they have is to comply or leave if the orders they receive are valid. Politicians, cumulatively, have the right to employ doctrines to convey issues that are not always supported by "the finest available concepts." Hoiback further argues that politics can steer war and war preparations in a distinct route than experts or culture would have predicted. Even though all doctrines must include aspects of all three doctrine pillars, namely theory, culture, and authority, not all doctrines place equal emphasis on all three corners. Therefore, the weight of the three pillars can be adjusted as required, without ignoring any of them.

Analysing all these philosophies of the political doctrine, I understood that political influence usually impacts any other doctrine. The doctrine should always go with the political interest which may be the national interest. However, the contradiction between political interest and the doctrinal concept may lead to confusion and may not affect any context. Therefore, the common Asian coast guard doctrine also should be in line with the nation's national interest while maintaining a common objective.

2.4.3. Legal doctrine

Doctrine comes with authority. If the authority of the doctrine is not respected or not adhered to, it becomes ineffective. Therefore, in order to understand the authority of the common coast guard doctrine, the legal background would be understood.

The traditional legal approach to the law is doctrine-based. Tiller and Cross (2006) stated that the currency of the law is legal doctrine. In many ways, doctrine serves as the law, at least as far as the courts are concerned. Legal doctrine's guiding concepts or standards are developed by judicial decisions. Tiller and Cross further stated that legal doctrine establishes the bounds for future case resolution in a given field. In contrast, to the traditional legal approach, some researchers argued that doctrine does not have any significance at all. This narrative stems from the assumption that judges are unconcerned about the law as it is understood by legal experts. According

to research judges are inherently ideological in their decision-making process and therefore, doctrine in a legal context is not essential (Tiller & Cross, 2006). However, extracting the philosophy of Tiller and Cross, there is no harm to have a legal validation of the doctrine.

The common Asian coast guard doctrine should have to have a legal authority that can make uniformity in the region. Then legal authority may also provide support to work under a common legal framework.

2.4.4. Doctrine as a religion

Why am I discussing doctrine in the context of religion? Some religions strongly influence culture and subculture in the nation, especially in the Asian region. It influences how people conduct themselves and that impacts the organization. Although religion is not part of the doctrine and not part of the main discussion, it is believed to have some influence on organization in Asian countries.

The word 'doctrine' is derived from religion and refers to the church's authorized interpretation of the Holy Scriptures (Angstrom & Widen, 2016). Doctrine is frequently religious and authoritarian in nature, laying out articles of faith that church members are expected to believe in. Furthermore, the doctrine should ideally suit others and change non-believers into believers. While such articles of faith are not wholly beyond the reach of human reason, they function as a set of concepts that work best when everyone in the society believes in them and works together to put them into practice.

Angstrom and Widen (2016) further discuss that without being able to anticipate the future, doctrines envisage future actions. Similarly, religion is a more useful frame of reference for doctrine than other sets of belief structures like ideology, which is a collection of ideas that provides solutions to how society should be organized and administered. In addition, the religion believes that when someone faces hardship, the contents of the doctrine provide courage and comfort.

2.5.   What is a military doctrine?

Modern military organizations that are about to engage in real combat require a set of codified norms for fighting and this set of principles is called military doctrine (Posen, 2016). Posen stated that most in all military levels, the doctrine exists from the lower level to the higher level. Therefore, political scientists, historians and military theorists are particularly interested in high-level doctrine, which covers all of a nation's military power. However, there is no rigid term for this subject and sometimes it's called a 'joint doctrine' which specifies how to coordinate and cooperate between units or with other organizations during large campaigns. Hence the doctrine must reflect the main strategic choices that states people have made concerning dangers and opportunities, it is frequently referred to as "political-military doctrine." In contrast, Nisser (2021) and Tritten (1994) argued that military doctrine is not in written form and ideally is implemented. There are some doctrines successfully implemented for a particular period and at other times not. For instance, in 1940, the French doctrine which was defined as a 'methodical battle' degraded poorly against German. On the other hand, the US counter-insurgency doctrine was successfully used by the government against the American public. Accordingly, Hoiback (2013, as cited in, Nisser, 2021) stated that the popular definition of military doctrine as;

"*authoritative documents military forces use to guide their actions containing fundamental principles that require judgment in application.*"

Gallo (2018) argued that military organizations used the term 'doctrine' for over a hundred years, but in political science literature the concept was unclearly defined. Furthermore, it is likely to appear regularly in contemporary literature regarding military organizations. The concept is often chaotic and ambiguous. Therefore, the majority of military doctrine research is practical and non-theoretical.

According to Posen (2016), the military doctrine served two purposes; a diction of priorities and an ordinance of military structure for employment. Prioritization is crucial because it coordinates the activities of many types of military forces that are all under

the control of the same state. Risks might be numerous and resources are nearly always limited and, therefore, prioritization and prescription of structure and employment are critical. Posen's definition is important because it enables the author to identify how doctrine differs from strategy. The military doctrine is also called a "subcomponent of grand strategy that deals clearly with military means''. On the other hand, the Posen doctrine aims at "What means shall be employed?" and "How shall they be employed?" Therefore, grand strategy deals with a nation's theory about how best cause security itself can be affected and doctrine emphasized the structure of the military organization and its achievements.

In the Asian region, some countries perform both military and coast guard duties together. The coast guard agencies, on the other hand, are similar to military organization. Hence the Hoiback and Posen military doctrine philosophy is more or less applicable for common Asian coast guard doctrine since diversity is existing in the region's coast guard agencies. Therefore, in my understanding, the relevant portion of military doctrine may also be considered for the common doctrine of the Asian coast guard agencies.

2.5.1 Evolution of doctrine in the military

Military doctrine, while not as old as war itself, has a long and glorious history. The Art of war was nearly written in the 4th century BC by Sun Tzu and he recognizes doctrine as one of the fundamental factors of war among moral influence, weather, command and terrain (Homan, n.d.). Furthermore, the nutshell of military doctrine can be traced back to the late 18th century. In Europe, it was recognized as the study of tactics in the war and the main formal education to military serving candidates as a core element to fit their duties in different fields. By the end of the 19th century, all of the major nations' militaries were putting a lot of time and effort into doctrine and interest has only grown since then.

The USA lost to the Spanish during the American Spanish war in July 1898. In the battle of Santiago, the Spanish fleet outmanoeuvred the American North Atlantic Squadron and managed to enter Santiago harbour in Cuba. After this debacle, there

were a lot of debates about the Spanish performances which led to fruitful discussions of a doctrinal nature. As a result, the word 'doctrine entered into US forces and officers claimed that doctrine would exist for the US Navy. In 1915, the initiative of Lieutenant Commander Dudley W. Knox's essay about doctrine led to becoming a formal tactical publication that was read by professional officers in the navy. This formal document was used for exercises at sea as well as war college. However, when World War II was declared, the US had a fully matured, formal and centralized system for the US navy. During WW II the US Pacific fleet operated under a centralized system later used to call doctrine for the US Pacific fleet (Tritten, 1994). At the time being this doctrine was steered and developed by many states from different angles to meet contemporary requirements.

2.5.2   Purpose of military doctrine

Nisser (2021) argued that doctrine enables coordination and cohesiveness application of military strategies and powers as a way of tailoring to the organizations. Though numerically inferior to the opponents, the best doctrine leads to winning the battle. Hoiback (2013, as cited in, Nisser, 2021) explained that doctrine can serve one of the following three functions; as a tool to lead the military forces, to educate military forces, or/and change the military forces. In brief, doctrine as a tool of command describes command philosophies and educational doctrines enable to educate of personnel serving in the military on their obligatory missions and objectives. With reference to doctrine as a tool of change, it can explain operational behaviours in the organization which are needed for implementation. These three functions are similarly used for the common coast guard doctrine. It will be a basis for capacity building in the regional states and direct the organization towards common objectives.

According to Posen's (2016) perspective, the military doctrine has many purposes that might not be obvious at first. These purposes may help to minimize organizational uncertainty in one way or another. Military organizations are likely to work harder at themselves and doctrine is a means to this end. Posen further stated that doctrine performs at least four different tasks. First, it serves strategic purposes by focusing military resources on preparing for possible confrontations. Second, doctrine

addresses the society that must give the critical human and financial contributions that the organization relies on to carry out its mission. Third, the doctrine is associated with significant guidelines to military personnel on how to combat in war. Finally, doctrine aids in motivating individual persons of an organization to work toward the organization's goals.

Hughes (1995) explains that the challenge is to develop a good doctrine that is both prescriptive and restrictive. If doctrine is built and interpreted in such a way that initiative is lost, its power will be channelled too narrowly. A doctrine that denies its own prescriptive nature, on the other hand, must be ineffective in as much as the denial is believed by those it affects. Similarly, Westerfield (1996) describes that to overcome the risk of doctrine, the doctrine itself should be considered as an authoritative guidance. He further argued that doctrine is not a philosophy, strategy, or policy, however, it is an integrative part of all these factors. Moreover, he indicated that a powerful doctrine contributes the following ethos.

● It is flexible in both ways of application and required changes expected from the organizations as per the time being. It should be adapted to address new requirements.

● It allows for initiative. Although it is authoritative guidance, the doctrine shall leave room for users to deviate whenever required.

● It should be clear, simple, concise and easily understood.

● It should remain in control and necessary to unite actions.

● It also provides authorized guidance instead of rigid prescriptive.

● It should be compatible with other similar level doctrines as a part of cohesive and comprehensive. Also, the logical flow should be there from the higher- level doctrine to the lower level doctrine.

After examining in-depth about the doctrine, the author has identified that the doctrine provides for the following four key elements and Figure 1 depicts the doctrinal characteristics;

- Common approach;
- Collective action;
- Consistent behaviour; and
- Individual initiative

Figure 1

Military doctrinal characteristics

Note. Author's elaboration.

2.6.   Joint doctrine

Joint doctrine is just as important for operational goals as strategy is for national strategic objectives. It lays out the Joint view of the optimum approach to use troops to achieve goals regardless of which service facilitates them. Operationally, it connects what has to be done to the tools that are available by bridging the gap between national military policy and military operations. As a result, joint doctrine should be derived from national military strategy, among other things, and used to assist implement it (Lovelace & Young, 1997).

Similarly, Sawyer (1997) stated that the joint doctrine is a fundamental principle that directs the use of forces from two or more services in coordinated action toward a shared goal. The system's creators realized that effectively combining technology and different forces through successful joint employment principles is a force multiplier. Therefore, the joint doctrine directs the use of joint forces, establishes a foundation for joint training and informs other government agencies involved with the use of joint forces. For instance, the UN peacekeeping operations capstone doctrine and the NATO doctrine are multinational joint doctrines published to achieve these objectives.

2.6.1. NATO Doctrine

According to NATO[6], the doctrine is defined as *"fundamental principles by which military forces guide their actions in support of objectives". It is authoritative but requires judgment in application.* The doctrine's main goal is to provide a framework of guidance for Alliance forces conducting operations in order to attain a unified goal. Principles detailing how operations should be planned, prepared, commanded, conducted, sustained, terminated and assessed underpin operations. Doctrine principles are characterized by conventional, long-lasting capabilities that have been established via best practices, as well as innovative insights into how these concepts

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[6] North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Allied Joint Publication. February, 2017. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/905877/20200728-doctrine_nato_allied_joint_doctrine_ajp_01.pdf. Accessed on 01st May 2022.

are used. Despite doctrine includes permanent foundations, it is examined for relevance on a regular basis and is thus evolutionary in character.

2.6.2. UN Peacekeeping Doctrine

In 2008, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) launched a doctrine for peacekeeping operations entitled principles and guidelines. First time in UN history, a doctrine has been published specifying a large number of directives, guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manuals and training aids issued by DPKO over the years.

Many ideas on the subject of peacekeeping have similar meanings, yet they often imply significant variations in their various doctrinal approaches (Coning et al., 2008). Traditionally, peacekeeping operations involved the deployment of slightly armed soldiers as a neutral third-party cease-fire examination troop between two clearly identified opposing forces. The concept reaffirms and clarifies how practitioners should follow the United Nations' three main peacekeeping principles; consent, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. Although nations from all around the world are participating in peacekeeping operations, the UN peacekeeping doctrine is able to bring nations together for common understanding in order to achieve desired goals.

When moving to a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies, the principles of joint doctrine is essential. Optimum use of resources regardless of the countries in the region is important to achieve common objectives. In addition, shared beliefs, thoughts and other important aspects of the nations are to be considered when working towards a common doctrine. It may enable countries to work in a more cooperative and collaborative manner.

2.7.   Maritime Doctrine

After exploring the doctrine in different fields, it is important to study the philosophy of maritime doctrine since the coast guard is operating under the purview of the maritime domain. However, to begin, maritime power and strategy are also to be understood.

The ability of a nation to defend and advance its interests at sea is referred to as maritime power. Therefore, it is a vital enabler in the creation and execution of successful national and military plans. A maritime strategy, as it relates to the overall national strategy, is a plan for developing and using a state's maritime power to achieve national objectives.[7] Therefore, maritime doctrine facilitates the conceptual framework for developing and employing maritime force to achieve state objectives and interests.

Maritime doctrine refers to the part of the military doctrine that endures with the use of armed forces at sea. It defines the fundamentally collaborative nature of maritime operations, as well as the fact that they are useful only if they influence the course of a campaign whether directly or indirectly[8]. The navy is a nation-primary state's instrument and the manifestation of maritime power. However, nations' coast guard agencies also take part in strengthening states' maritime power while performing law enforcement roles. As a result, the maritime doctrine also focuses on the aspect of maritime power that allows all stakeholders to use the seas.

The subsequent section discusses a relevant theoretical model to understand the effective utilization of a common doctrine in order to identify way forward.

2.8.   A Theoretical Model for Utility of Doctrine

The main objective of this section is to develop and understand the theoretical model appropriate for the implementation of doctrine by synthesizing scattered ideas based on previous research. It is understood that many researchers developed theories for

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[7] Indian Maritime Doctrine. Naval Strategic publication 1.1. Indian Navy.
[8] Australian Maritime Doctrine. RAN doctrine 1. Sea power Centre. Royal Australian Navy.

the implementation of military doctrine. For instance, Harald Hoiback introduced a "doctrinal trinity" for the implementation of military doctrine (Hoiback, 2011). In his model, he identified three elements of doctrinal implementation namely; theory, culture and authority. Similarly, Nisser (2021) developed a model for doctrinal implementation focusing on three main factors namely authority, culture and credibility. However, the coast guard is a similar organization to the military, and the military organization of some countries in the Asian region also plays multiple roles (Kim, 2020), these models can be relevant to the coast guard agencies. Therefore, the researcher found relevant characteristics from these models and applied them to the implementation of the common coast guard doctrine.

The famous definition of the military doctrine by Harald Hoiback is *"authoritative documents military forces use to guide their actions containing fundamental principles that require judgment in application"*. He further emphasized that the doctrine has three major components; theory, culture and authority. Doctrines have causal justifications for why their determined solutions are predicted to succeed, which is known as theory. With reference to the culture, doctrines must be philosophically suited to the culture to which they speak. The authority in the sense that the doctrine is accepted by the institution or organization.

Hoiback further describes that doctrine at least serves one task of the three functions; as a tool of command, as a tool of education and as a tool of change. Firstly, doctrine as an educational tool enables people to learn their missions and mandated duties and responsibilities. Secondly, doctrines can be used as a tool for change, prescribing new operational behaviours that are subsequently applied across the organizations. Finally, as a tool of command, it enables us to differentiate command philosophies. Although Hoiback concentrates more on military organizations, these doctrinal functions are applicable to coast guard agencies upon their entrusted duties and responsibilities. Therefore, there is a need to understand the three main elements depicted in Figure 2 and to what extent they would be relevant to the common Asian coast guard doctrine.

Figure 2

The three main elements of doctrinal implementation
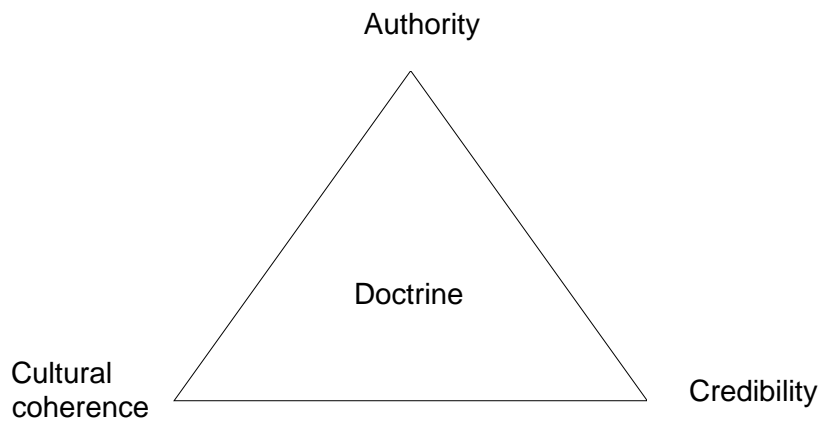
Note. Adapted from Høiback, H. (2011) and Nisser, J. (2021).

2.8.1. Cultural coherence

In this part the author focuses more on military culture. However, the researcher has extracted similar characteristics which may apply to the coast guard context since the military and coast guard agencies have many similarities.

Cultural coherence is the first and most prominent elaboration for doctrinal implementation. While some researchers have stated that culture is difficult to define, most works on doctrines define culture as the assumptions, ideas, conventions, and beliefs that shape an organization's behaviours and perceptions (Monsoor & Murray, 2019). The incoherent and irrational parts of culture are mentioned in this study, which defines culture as "preferences regarding how to fight." As a result, the assumptions that support preferences for fighting tactics may not be defined. It can also suggest that preferences are irrational, as seen by militaries' unwillingness to learn things that contradict their pre-existing beliefs. Similarly, Eley 2006 explains military culture as the "habitual practices, default programs, hidden assumptions and cognitive frames" that underpin how an organization functions.

What are the unique cultural practices in the Asian region which may be able to bring all nations together? Kawamura (2012) stated that the greater part of Asian cultures are collectivist in nature. Individuals are considered to strengthen their group identity in collectivistic cultures and the concept of a separate autonomous is self-diminished. Furthermore, individuals who influence collectivist beliefs are more likely to engage in social comparisons in order to guarantee that they are adhering to group norms. In addition, the amount of knowledge about Asian societies is rapidly growing and well committed to their works. Therefore, these cultural norms such as commitment, collectivism, cognitive skills and unification are the best cultural practices that enable bringing nations together.

2.8.2. Authority

Authority is the second element of doctrinal implementation. In the works examined, authority is frequently seen as either formal authorization or support from a position of power (Nisser, 2021). The authority has both formal and informal aspects. The hierarchy of the organization has authorized the doctrine and it has to be implemented within the organization without option. The first component which is authorization is decisive, as the hierarchy's signature on a doctrine denotes the significance of doctrine. The idea is that if influential people within an organization give a doctrine their blessing, others would adopt their attitude toward the concept and follow its principles. Secondly, that implementation is forced, is critical because the organization may otherwise hesitate to accept new methods. This argument is based on a typical perception of military institutions as being reluctant to change unless compelled to do so. The signer's rank can be used to determine authority and the higher the signer's rank, the more likely the doctrine will be implemented. Although Hoiback and Nisser explained the authorization of military doctrine, the concept and practices are similarly applicable to the coast guard as well as any other organization.

2.8.3. Credibility

The third element of doctrinal implementation is credibility. In this model, credibility is explained constructively unlike culture. It has a rational explanation that emphasizes rationality and expression. Credibility refers to how likely the doctrine's approach is to operate based on one of two logics. Firstly, the concepts have been demonstrated to operate in real-world situations like warfare and training. The other logic is they appeared to be a credible future adaptation for the military with changes. Examining if the ideas offered in fresh doctrines were expressed and sensible, might help determine credibility. Furthermore, credibility can be determined by both engaging with the doctrine itself and the way that practitioners perceive its necessity. Similarly, in the Hoiback model, he explained theory instead of credibility as there is a distinction to be made between instructions that reside to practical reasoning and those that logically necessitate a general explanation.[9] When facing the practical scenario, we only need to understand whether something works. And if not, why? As a result, explaining why the selected theory is preferable to all feasible alternatives will be an important role of a doctrine.

The elements discussed above are more related to the military implementation of doctrine. However, coast guard agencies possess many similarities to military organizations and these elements of the model are also relevant to its functions. As discussed, the two logical factors; adaptation and examining the ideas in the doctrine may apply to coast guard agencies' functions. The way of perceived information and principles contained in the doctrine by practitioners of the organization can be similarly applied to the different functions of the coast guard agencies. Unlike war, they can be different roles such as law enforcement and other non-military duties.

To summarize, the model for implementation of the doctrine, cultural coherence, authority and credibility are three significant factors. As discussed in the model, these three elements would be useful for exploring a doctrine for the Asian coast guard

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[9] Charles Reynolds, 'Carl von Clausewitz and Strategic Theory', British Journal of International Studies 4 (1978), 184.

agencies and particularly cultural coherence will be more significant for the regional nations to come together and work on a common platform.

2.9.   Available Doctrine for Maritime and Navies

It is necessary to look into the doctrine that has been published in the Asian region related to the maritime domain to understand the regional countries' interest on doctrine. The researcher is mainly focusing on leading nations such as China, India, Japan, Pakistan and South Korea in the region and his home country Sri Lanka in this study.

China

In 2015, China published its naval strategy of "Near Seas defence and Far Seas Protection," to broaden the geography and mission of operations.[10] The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) focuses on safeguarding the mainland and national sovereignty. This is something similar to doctrine, however, the country has not published particularly maritime, naval, or coast guard doctrine.

India

The first-ever Indian maritime strategy document in the public domain was 'Indian Maritime Military Strategy' in 2007. Timely it has been updated and the latest version was published in 2015. The Indian maritime doctrine is a set of principles that guide a force's operations in terms of how it organizes trains, frights, and sustains itself in pursuance of national goals and that it unites all of the force's members and stakeholders on a typical conceptual platform. It is mainly focused on the Indian Navy's new doctrinal hierarchy and the functions of naval operations.

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[10] China Maritime Report No. 13: The Origins of "Near Seas Defence and Far Seas Protection" https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cmsi-maritime-reports/13?utm_source=digital-commons.usnwc.edu%2Fcmsi-maritime-reports%2F13&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages. Accessed on 29th April 2022.

Japan

During WW II, Japan used the naval doctrine to fight against its opponents. This is often known as "decisive battle doctrine' or "*Kantai Kessen*". The Imperial Japanese Navy's (IJN) principal goal was to conduct a single engagement that would entirely destroy the opposition's ability to fight at sea. In the recent past during his term of office as Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe published the "Abe doctrine" which attempts to adjust Japanese foreign and security policies against global and regional politics (Hughes, 2015). The doctrine stated the defence capabilities of the country and the relationship between east Asia and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The "Fukuda doctrine" which was published in 1977 aimed to maintain cooperation between Japan and Southeast Asia (Koga, 2017). The doctrine gradually improved its initial interest in southeast Asia from socio-cultural, economic and political interest to security dimensional as well. These two doctrines contain the foreign policies of Japan and, therefore, maritime and naval perspectives described under their purview. However, it is noticed that separate doctrines for maritime, navy or coast guard have not yet been published by Japan.

Pakistan

In 2018, Pakistan formally published the maritime doctrine of Pakistan conserving freedom of the seas.[11] The "Maritime Doctrine of Pakistan, Preserving Freedom of Seas" is an attempt to promote a wide understanding of the country's maritime industry and economy. It depicts the challenges and function of the Pakistan navy as a protector of national maritime borders, highlighting the complexities of maritime security issues. The doctrine further describes the expansive contours of naval and maritime power usage in line with national interest and collective efforts to preserve order at sea. The narrative of the doctrine is both doctrinal and informational.

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[11] Pakistan launches first formal maritime doctrine. Global village space. https://www.globalvillagespace.com/pakistan-launches-first-formal-maritime-doctrine/. Access on 29th April 2022.

South Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is a global economic and industrial powerhouse that leads the globe in shipbuilding, automobile manufacturing and information technology. The country has grown into a thriving democracy. Despite its achievements, defence and security problems remain of fundamental societal and political relevance in South Korea nearly 60 years after the Korean War ended (Korkmaz & Rydqvist, 2012). Therefore, the defence and security sector in South Korea is going through a period of transformation and change. In this sense, the Korean navy and the coast guard play a significant defence role in the country. In 2017, the Korean Coast Guard was promoted as an independent and external agency. The organization is functioning under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as an external agency.[12] Protection of maritime territory and sovereignty is the main mission of the organization. However, it is noticed that in the coast guard or maritime context, South Korea has not yet launched a doctrine that can thrive the organizations to a more successful edge.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka navy recently launched the maritime doctrine of Sri Lanka in 2020. This is the capstone publication of the Sri Lanka navy and its steering to understanding the unique nature of naval maritime power. The doctrine describes ways that can be applied to perceive national interest and it outlined the employment of maritime power broadly. In addition, how the navy steering about livelihood a stable surrounding at sea. The doctrine primarily focuses on naval functioning and less attention is given to the SLCG. The role of the SLCG and its detailed functions are not mentioned under the purview of maritime doctrine. On the other hand, SLCG has not yet published a separate doctrine for the organization.

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[12] Korea coast guard. http://www.kcg.go.kr/english/si/sub/info.do?page=2861&mi=2861. Accessed on 30th April 2022.

Table 1

Details of countries that have published doctrines in the Asia

Sr. No.	Country	Name of doctrine
1	India	Indian Maritime Doctrine
2	Indonesia	Coast Guard Doctrine (Bakamla Doctrine)
3	Iran	Naval Doctrine
4	Israel	Naval doctrine
5	Maldives	MNDF Capstone Doctrine
6	North Korea	Naval Doctrine
7	Pakistan	Maritime Doctrine
8	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Defence Doctrine
9	Sri Lanka	Maritime Doctrine
10	Turkey	Naval Doctrine (Mavi Vatan)
11	United Arab Emirates	Naval Doctrine

Note. Adapted from google

2.10.   Is there a case for a doctrine for the Asian Coast Guards?

In this literature review, the researcher has discussed the doctrine in many aspects. Particularly, the context that doctrine has been applied was discussed deeply. Although some countries in the region have published relevant doctrines, many of them have not. Furthermore, these doctrines have not expanded their thoughts on common objectives or any portion which brings nations together for common understanding. However, for the multinational cooperation among the coast guard agencies, the regional level meetings are conducted on a regular basis. For instance, the HACGAM is a platform for the cooperation of the region and it is understood that the common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies is always an underlying basis for better cooperation and coordination. Therefore, further exploration is required to understand the necessity of the common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies.

Chapter 3 Methodology

This chapter will discuss the research methodology and organize subsequent sections such as research design, data collection, participants, data analysis, ethical consideration and limitations of the study.

3.1 Research Design

This research used a qualitative method to explore the requirement of a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies. Since the study merely focuses on the grounded theory approach rather than hypothesis or theory testing, the qualitative research method was used. Furthermore, insights of different coast guard heads in the Asian region were considered in the study. Therefore, the most convenient method for this study is the qualitative research method. Furthermore, a review of the scholarly view of the qualitative approach and its application in different contexts was also taken into account for the link to the study.

Guba & Lincoln (1994, as cited in Khan, 2014) stated that "qualitative research is based on observations and interpretations of people's perceptions of various occurrences in a natural setting and it captures a snapshot of people's perceptions". Similarly, Creswell 1998 ascertained that "qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions on inquiry that explore a social or human problem. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyses words, reports details of informants and conducts the study in a natural setting" (Creswell, 1998, p.15; Creswell & Poth, 2016). Similar to both authors, Holloway and Wheeler (2002) specified that qualitative research enables the researcher to explore different perceptions, behaviours and ideas more deeply to find a solution for a specific problem.

3.2   Data collection

Exploration of the study is critical for conceptual development, construct definition, and operationalization. According to academic literature, the identification of conceptions as well as the development of a conceptual framework are important steps before selecting a qualitative data collection method (Khan, 2014). Exploratory research is usually used to investigate structures and fields when there is a lack of knowledge and research on a subject. (Cavana et al., 2001). Furthermore, qualitative research is the most suitable method for exploring research and Creswell (2007) has identified four methods such as interviews, fieldwork, observations and document analysis for qualitative data collection. Therefore, semi-structured in-depth interviews and focus groups can be utilized to collect data for qualitative research, particularly in a grounded theory approach.

3.3   Primary data collection

In research, popular social science procedures like interviews can be utilized to better understand the elements that affect decision-maker behaviour (Young et al., 2018). Structured, semi-structured, open-ended, face-to-face, telephonic, one-on-one, computer-assisted interviews, group interviews and focus group interviews are all types of interviews that can be used in qualitative research. Therefore, these interview methods are a good platform to bring out detailed information from a person (Cavana et al., 2001). According to Mason (2017), there are many different industries that use the interview approach, and examples include face-to-face verbal contacts, group discussions, and telephone or online surveys.

In structured interviews, a prearranged list of questions is used. The same interview script is used for every interview, allowing for close transcript comparison but preventing interviewers from directing the discourse. (Punch, 2013). On the other hand, unstructured interviews are conducted without the use of an interview script. The root of the conversation depends on the reply of the interviewee in this type of interview and questions will be asked spontaneously based on the answers (Bryman, 2016). Due to the limitations of both structured and unstructured interviews, most researchers choose to adopt a semi-structured approach as a medium ground. These

rely on an interview guide that has been planned in advance, implying that the same questions are addressed in each interview to allow for comparison and data quality assurance. In addition, the researcher allows the interviewer to raise additional questions based on the interest of the interviewee and this makes a new line of inquiry develop in the interview process (Dunn, 2000, as cited in Young et al., 2018). In particular, semi-structured interviews allow the researcher to prepare a topic guide or pertinent questions to be discussed with each participant in a single setting (Polit & Beck, 2008).

Coast guard organizations always have an operational head in the hierarchy. While borrowing Creswell's, Holloway and Wheeler's philosophies, the researcher trying to understand the coast guard's philosophy. Therefore, my intention would be to do a great portion of the discussion with the head of the operational or doctrinal person in the Asian coast guard agencies. Accordingly, to have all sight of the organization philosophy, I used a semi-structured interview with organizational heads as a primary data collection method in the study.

Figure 3

Basic steps in the interview process.
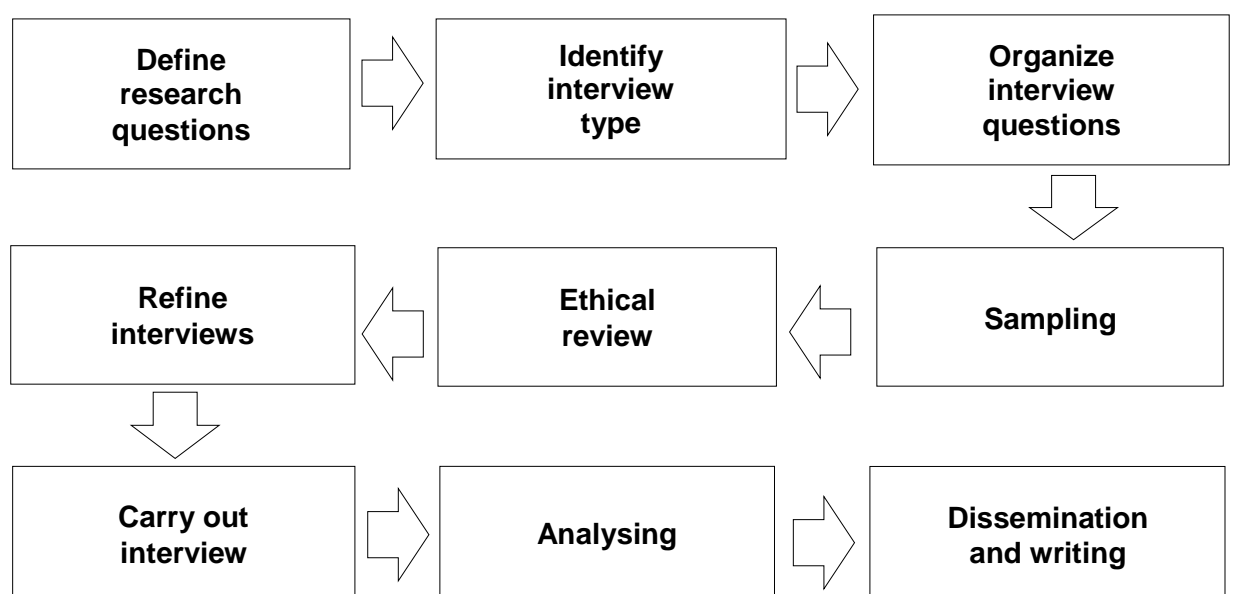
Note. Adapted from Young et al., 2018

3.4   Participants

In order to understand the doctrinal philosophy, the researcher put maximum effort to contact heads of organizations of relevant coast guard agencies. As identified by the researcher, the policies and decisions are made at the hierarchical level of the organization and all sight of the organization's think and functions can be understood by consulting heads of the organization. Therefore, the priority of the participants is given to the heads of the organizations. However, with the limited access of the researcher and due to the busy schedule of the head of the organizations, the researcher had to interview persons other than the head of the coast guard agencies.

3.5   Data analysis

The primary data were analysed using the theme analysis technique. Firstly, all interview data was transcribed and specific codes were generated. Then coded data was extracted from the original transcript and four main themes were created in order to find any pattern for sense-making. Finally, started analysing and writing with quoted data.

3.6   Ethical consideration

Since this study is directly involving humans, the World Maritime University (WMU) Research Ethics Committee's (REC) approval has been obtained before starting the interview process. The participants' consent form was sent to every participant to read, understand and sign before they took part in an interview. The protection of the interview data is another ethical consideration in line with the university guidelines. Therefore, research data has been stored on the researcher's personal computer with a strong password. In addition, to keep the anonymous of the participants, their names were not included anywhere in the study and participants were named R1, R2, R3, R4 and so on.

3.7   Limitations of the study

This study is not an elaborate project and is carried out parallel to regular studies. Therefore, time is a limiting factor influencing the study. In addition, I have a limitation to interact with the participants and everything was limited to remote interviews. Furthermore, understanding the culture, authority and credibility of the coast guard organizations needs much time and physical interaction. I will, therefore, focus on aspects that aim to identify commonalities and disparities of the Asian coast guard agencies in this dissertation due to limited scope and time. Regardless, this study provides a significant overview and interested researchers will be encouraged to do further studies.

Chapter 4 Results and Discussions

The discussion of this chapter emerged from the interview, literature review and critical analysis of the researcher. This research first looked at the fundamental question: whether there is any merit in thinking about a common doctrine for Asian coast guard agencies. Therefore, this chapter will begin with a discussion of the merit of a common doctrine, in particular, the Asian coast guard agencies. The basis for Asian coast guard doctrine, constituent elements and challenges are also discussed in subsequent sections.

The researcher used a deliberate selection process to choose the people who would be interviewed for this study making an effort to select those with the most experience and knowledge in the strategic level of the coast guard agencies. As far as written requests are concerned, seventeenth persons from twelve countries responded out of 48 countries in the Asian region including USCG. (Table 2). This was an adequate number of people to gather information since the area of operation of these nation's coast guard agencies adequately covers the Asian region. In particular, USCG doctrine provides a broad overview of the doctrinal philosophy in terms of the theatre of operation. Therefore, USCG is an appropriate role model to understand the philosophy of the common doctrine.

Table 2

Details of the interview

Sr. No.	Country	Date of interview	Duration	Organization
1	Maldives	28. 06. 2022	26 min	Director Plans and Policy, Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)
2	Maldives	03. 07. 2022	44 min	Principal Director, Coast Guard, MNDF
3	India	02. 07. 2022	37 min	Former Additional Director General Indian Coast Guard (INCG)
4	Sri Lanka	06. 07. 2022	35 min	Sri Lanka Navy
5	Sri Lanka	21. 07. 2022	30 min	Former Sri Lankan Commander Of the Navy
6	Sri Lanka	06. 08. 2022	32 min	Former Sri Lankan Commander Of the Navy
7	Indonesia	13. 07. 2022	30 min	Indonesia Coast Guard, Department of Strategy
8	South Korea	14. 07. 2022	35 min	International Affairs Division, Korea Coast Guard
9	USA	28. 07. 2022	25 min	Strategic analyst at the United States Coast Guard (USCG)
10	Pakistan	29. 07. 2022	27 min	Former Director General, National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Pakistan Navy
11	Pakistan	07. 08. 2022	32 min	Former Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Pakistan Navy
12	Bahrain	30. 07. 2022	20 min	Bahrain Coast Guard
13	The Philippines	12. 08. 2022	30 min	Former Admiral, Philippine Coast Guard
14	Japan	29. 08. 2022	30 min	Japanese Coast Guard
15	China	19. 08. 2022	Written respond	China Maritime Safety Administration
16	Malaysia	21. 08. 2022	Written respond	Malaysian Coast Guard
17	Indonesia	29. 06. 2022	Written respond	Indonesian Coast Guard

Note. Author's elaboration

4.1   Merit of a common doctrine for Asian coast guard agencies

In this section, the researcher is intending to explore whether there is merit in thinking about a common doctrine for Asian coast guard agencies based on a shared view of participants. The researcher has identified the need and relevancy of a common coast guard doctrine for Asia that emerged from different angles.

The majority of military doctrine is organized and built on common beliefs or structural cohesiveness (Westerfield, 1996). The common beliefs and common interests of the Asian region coast guard agencies are believed to be one of the foremost factors that should lead to a common doctrine. These beliefs and practices of regional countries could be incorporated into a common doctrine and that will enable strengthening the doctrinal principles toward common interests. One Naval Chief expressed that "the need for a doctrine is also arising from threats" (R6). Therefore, there is a need to understand the common threats that are facing the region as a whole and how to respond to them. He further stated that "no single country can be a net security provider in the ocean unless it is cooperating with other nations". This view is further reinforced when looking into how ReCAAP came into existence to suppress piracy through cooperating nations. In essence, a common doctrine, therefore, would be the underlying basis for bringing regional coast guard agencies together for achieving common interests through cooperation between countries.

A doctrine bridges theory and practice (Petersson et al., 2016). It converts theoretical ideas into doctrinal philosophy. The senior level naval person who engages international relations and policy-making stated that "the doctrine gives a very clear path and a way to achieve certain organizations' objectives and unless otherwise well laid down doctrine, it will be a challenging task for any organization" (R4). The main benefit of a doctrine, therefore, is to provide any organization with a common philosophy, a common language, a common objective and unity of effort. A coast guard is similar to a military setup and a doctrine would be a set of rules or principles to guide the coast guard agencies. It is evident that the reasons behind the success of many military operations are because of the cohesion brought by common values shared by many levels (Westerfield, 1996). Doctrine both shapes and is shaped by those common values. There is a need for a doctrine whenever having a coast guard

since the doctrine gives rise to principles, which in turn gives rise to policies and thereon to strategies. Therefore, a doctrinal approach is highly merited for Asian coast guard agencies to fulfil coast guard duties in the complex and complicated maritime domain.

One of the coast guard deputy directors stated that "a doctrine helps in focusing the effort and fine-tuning the strategies" (R3). It helps lead the organization, equip it, and train and sustain it. These things can be done in a cost-effective manner if it is guided by the doctrine. Similarly, another senior-level person expressed that "I always look at the doctrine as the constitution of the organization" (R2). The country, in particular, benefits by understanding what the organization is contributing to the well-being of the state and its citizens adhering to the doctrine. It is like a collective effort in every organization that must have a kind of doctrine that the organization really performs that would be understandable to the country as far as the doctrine is concerned.

The researcher found that there was a strong consensus on having a common doctrine for Asian coast guard agencies. Since it is agreed that there is indeed merit in having a common doctrine, the discussion further proceed to understand the basis for the common coast guard doctrine.

4.2   Basis for regional Asian coast guard doctrine

The basis for Asian coast guard doctrine is derived from the common core values, commonality of culture and common aids for the authority based on the shared range of views of the head of coast guard agencies in the Asian region. The discussion is also linked to the three elements of grounded theory; cultural coherency, authority and credibility which were discussed in the literature review.

4.2.1   Common core values

According to Nisser (2021), cultural coherency is the foremost justification for doctrinal implementation. In the military, culture is defined as "preferences about how to fight" (Mansoor & Murray, 2019). Since the coast guard agencies are similar to the military, the author perceived the philosophy as "preferences about how to function coast

guard duties" that could be incorporated into a common doctrine. One of the coast guard Director General stated that "a preference for harmony and cooperation rather than competition is a unique Asian value" (R5). A lot of things may not happen if there is no trust and mutual understanding. Therefore, cooperation can only occur if the countries trust each other and they develop common SOPs and common processes while sharing intelligence. In contrast, there was another view from the senior naval officer saying that "there is no Pan-Asia identity or shared dischargeable experience that brings or binds regional nations together" (R3). There is huge diversity in linguistics, ethnicity and race in the Asian region. However, according to the 1997 Bangkok Declaration (Van Ness, 1997), there was an attempt to identify Asian values to unify Asian society and these are indicated as follows:

- the preferences for social harmony;
- loyalty and respect to the head of the organization;
- interdependence and collectivism; and
- concern with socio-economic prosperity and the collective well-being of the community.

The world's highest sea-borne trade takes place via the Asian region (Cerderio et al., 2020). Therefore, the biggest concern for all Asian states, particularly the island states is the "protection of maritime commerce" one participant expressed (R4). This becomes the basis for everybody to cooperate for overcoming non-traditional maritime security threats such as maritime terrorism, maritime piracy, drug trafficking and armed robbery. The ReCAAP[13] came into existence in particular, for suppressing piracy which is mandated under international law. As law enforcement agencies, coast guards have to ensure continuity of trade and energy flow in the Indian Ocean from East to West. If the common doctrine principle is accepted among the coast guard organizations, visual and electronic means for the entire region's maritime domain can be used to deal with these issues. For instance, the surveillance in the Malacca strait by the chain of radars that generates maritime domain pictures may help to ensure maritime domain awareness (Anderson, 2012 & Kusuma et al., 2021).

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[13] ReCAAP Information Sharing Center. Vision and Mission.
https://www.recaap.org/vision_mission_of_ReCAAP-ISC. Accessed on 22nd August 2022.

The safety of life and environmental protection are fundamental values that are universal. "The coast guard exists to protect man from the sea and the sea from man" (R9), one senior coast guard person stated. At a minimum, the duty to render aid to the vessels in distress and help prevent environmental pollution are common core values for any coast guard agencies.

One naval Admiral stated that "protection of resources" (R11) is also an important issue. The researcher understood the idea expressed by the senior person from one of the coast guard strategic departments. According to Leenhardt et al (2013), some island nations have jurisdiction over huge ocean space and the resources of the seabed. These resources may be hard to protect without cooperation. For example, the migratory fish Tuna is a risk of depletion due to poor fishing methods (Digal & Placencia, 2017).

In contrast, one Naval Chief specified that "it is difficult to have common values in the Asian region instead of similar values". "If you look at the most common denominator, I think the threat is there" (R6). When there is a common threat, the regional nations have to react and find solutions together. Therefore, collaboration with each other becomes a bigger force and collective effort outweighs individual actions for mitigating or responding to threats.

4.2.2 Commonality in Asian coast guard culture

The main function of the coast guard is to protect the maritime interest and national interest in the maritime zones. Accordingly, to perform these functions, the coast guard agencies look at economic jurisdictions provided for in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In addition to focusing on maritime security, the safety of life and property and environmental protection as well. However, the coast guard functions as a law enforcement force within the EEZ and beyond governed by International law. Therefore, UNCLOS is a common international instrument for every state regardless of the diversity of Asia.

Nisser (2021) argued that cultural coherence is the harmonization of ideas that a formal doctrine prescribes with the organizational culture. An inadequacy of cultural coherence appears to be hindered the execution of modern doctrine. The Asian coast guard agencies more or less share a common culture. They speak the same operational language and same jargon in terms of the military which is common for everyone. Moreover, the coast guards use the same formats of discussions for maritime security cooperation or anything of that nature. Therefore, a lot of interoperability exists:

- culturally Asian countries are very closely knitted;
- understand each other's issues;
- understand each other's challenges and opportunities;
- understand the red tapes; and
- friendly with partner nations.

Every country in Asia has a history of its culture. Many factors such as religion, art, creativity and philosophy are inculcated with respect to cultures (Kim, 2007). More or less, these cultural practices still have an influence on different organizations including the Asian coast guard agencies.

Another commonality is a tendency to always say yes to helping. A senior-level coast guard person described that "the bias for action is the way I describe it" (R9). A 'desire', when someone joins a coast guard organization is to "do" things and the process of helping involves doing something rather than sitting, talking or writing. There is always an element of action and probably this will be a most fundamental value in any coast guard culture.

Overall, to ensure maritime safety, security and protection of the maritime environment, the coast guard agencies follow the same law in the region. In addition, harmony, willingness to help each other and influence of cultural practices to organizations are found common in Asian coast guard agencies.

4.2.3   Commonality of authority

The military cannot have many commands at a time and it needs an element of authority (Petersson et al., 2016). When working under authority, it is easier to cooperate. One naval Admiral stated that "there are two elements in any regional coast guard that could attribute to authority none other than responsibility and accountability" (R5). The responsibility always flows downwards in the organization structure and accountability always remains in the hierarchy of the organization which appears to be common in coast guard agencies.

Furthermore, the Asian region's coast guards are following an almost similar organizational structure. The authority remains with the head of the organization and the rest of them are always loyal to the command. However, in order to exercise the authority, in particular, the common Asian coast guard, the parties have to agree to well-defined standards that would come under the tactical part of the doctrine.

To summarise, the accountability and responsibility towards the authority and the organizational structure of the Asian coast guard agencies are appearing to be common.

4.3   Constituent elements of a common Asian coast guard doctrine

This section discusses the emergent constituent elements of common coast guard doctrine based on the qualitative analysis of the interviews conducted by the researcher. The researcher has identified two main scopes; characteristics of common doctrine and common objectives under constituent elements.

4.3.1   Common doctrine characteristics

The Asian coast guard doctrine should be acceptable to all the participants or all the goodwill participants. The researcher has identified many participants who expressed similar views with regard to the scope of doctrine which was discussed in the literature review. One naval chief explained that "the doctrine should be results-oriented, rather it should derive results" (R6). Therefore, it should be effective and there is no point

talking about or discussing it with other people if it is a non-starter. Furthermore, the doctrine should be narrowly tailored and endure for a long period while moving on. Moreover, it should be flexible, understood and comprehensible by each party who are the prospective members. These factors are linked to the method of adoption as described by the researcher under doctrinal characteristics (Fig 1).

The doctrine essentially outlines the organization's objectives, character, policies and method of operation in order to provide broad principles and institutionally recognized solutions (Angstrom & Widen, 2016). Therefore, three important pillars may be applied to achieve organizational policy.

"I strongly believe any doctrine should have ends, ways, and means. "Ends" are referred to as the organization's objectives. "Ways" describe how an organization going to achieve its objectives and "means" reflect what the organization is going to achieve its objectives" (R4).

The organizational practices and procedures lead to the element of the experiences. When practices are carried out frequently, experiences are achieved from them. Therefore, doctrine evolves from the experience of an organization and elements of experience should be included in the common doctrine. Similarly, the elements of doctrine can be derived through a thorough study and analysis of the lessons from history.

4.3.2   Common objectives

When talking about the coast guard organizations, a large number of them came into existence during the last two decades and the major driving force was certain maritime interests that required to be addressed by each of the states. When looking into Asian coast guards, they have a unique environment that differs from other coast guards like USCG and this environment provides certain aspects such as maritime safety, security and environmental protection which may be common for all coast guard agencies in the Asian region.

Aligning with the regional security organization's priorities and provision for conflict resolution would be two significant elements of this common doctrine. Inevitably at some point, there are going to be conflicts between the members and the doctrine would specify how to address that clearly. Therefore, the doctrine needs to have a dispute resolution mechanism.

Regardless of the area of operation, the mission and vision of the coast guard would be the same for any nation. "We as a coast guard should be experts in the ocean and safeguard the lives of people regardless of nationality and protect the sovereignty and security" (R8). Therefore, the vision and mission of the Asian coast guard agencies would be the same under this common doctrine.

Fundamentals should be a major catalyst that can make every coast guard sit together, come out with a lot of consensus building and bring out the common areas which are not very conflict-prone and have no history behind them. For instance, these common areas could be climate change, transnational crimes such as drugs and human smuggling, oil spills, piracy and SAR operations. The Asia- Pacific regional forum on environment and health addresses priority environment and health issues that require regional attention. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 6 and 14 are also the main concerns of the forum out of the eleven SDGs concerned by them. Furthermore, the ASEAN, ReCAAP and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) are working on eliminating transnational crimes, suppressing of piracy and promoting cooperative activities in mutually concerned environmental areas, respectively.

Furthermore, it is required to focus on the role of law enforcement and cooperation with the regional countries when talking about the common Asian coast guard doctrine. In addition, the constabulary role and emergency response would also be constituent elements of the Asian coast guard doctrine.

Despite the merits and benefits for everyone in the Asian coast guard agencies, there could be still hurdles to becoming a common understanding.

4.4 Challenges for the Asian coast guard agencies under a common doctrine

This section analyses possible challenges that Asian coast guard agencies would likely be faced with under a common doctrine. These challenges are identified under two categories; challenges to bringing countries together and challenges that may be faced when working under a common doctrine.

4.4.1 Challenges to bringing countries together

One Naval Admiral stated that "some certain issues between the countries may disrupt bringing them together" (R10). However, the researcher believes that obtaining the consensus of those countries could not be a difficult task since the concept focuses on common interests which merit benefits for everyone. On the other hand, countries in the South Asian region have a lot of constraints and that is common, especially in trade. For example, trade facilitation, transport corridors, cost of finance and unresolved regional issues create barriers. These inherent issues in terms of differences even though sharing the same region could be a hurdle to come together.

Every country in Asia has different thoughts, beliefs and interests. National interests of respective countries, political directions and stability, geopolitics, economic stability and consistency in national policies would be considered factors that collectively come as a challenge to bring coast guard agencies of all Asian nations together. Therefore, the alignment of nations will be challenging. In addition, when making a huge forum like a common Asian coast guard, it is very difficult to remain true to the goals and there may be conflicts and contradictions between nations.

According to one coast guard Director General, the highest premise is that the participating states in the Asian region have faith in the rule of the law and believe that UNCLOS is a fundamental law and a governing principle of the ocean (R3). Nations follow UNCLOS as a sacrosanct and think if everyone follows the rule, countries can come together. If there is a state or states which does not believe in the rule of law or hold contrary views, it could be a challenge. However, the literature did not immediately indicate an Asian country not observing the rule of law in maritime.

Currently, out of 48 countries in Asia, 35 countries have ratified the UNCLOS and eight nations are neither signed nor ratified.[14] Five nations have signed the Convention but have not yet ratified it. On the other hand, five countries have not ratified the IMO Convention out of 48 countries in the Asian region.[15]

One participant shared a thought about the asymmetry which is differences in the size and platforms of the coast guards as a challenge (R6). However, the researcher found that there are examples of combined and joint operations by assets of different countries, especially during the oil spill responses. The assistance rendered by the foreign governments providing different type of assets during the Wakashio oil spill in Mauritius (Hebbar & Dharmasiri, 2022) in 2021, was a good example of less hindrance of asymmetry. The participant further stated that "is the country that contributes the majority of platforms and human resources going to be the leader? That can be a problem". Therefore, how command and control is going to be exercised is a challenging part of this common doctrine. However, the researcher perceives this common doctrine as a philosophy of working and not the tactical part of the doctrine. The doctrine will be, therefore, not an obstacle for who will be an authority since it will be adopted by all those countries together.

4.4.2 Challenges when working under the common doctrine

When looking at variations of priorities such as land border and maritime border issues, maritime and island nations have different priorities. One coast guard Admiral stated that "when prioritizing under the common doctrine, there will be different opinions on what comes first and what comes second from the states" (R15) and this will be a challenging task.

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[14] United Nations Treaty Collection. Status of the Convention. https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsIII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-6&chapter=21&Temp=mtdsg3&clang=_en. Accessed on 07th September 2022.

[15] International Maritime Organization. Status of Conventions. https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/StatusOfConventions.aspx. Accessed on 07th September 2022.

One senior coast guard participant highlighted that "at any given time, there are certain bilateral agreements between the neighbouring states" (R3). These bilateral agreements may disrupt a multilateral cooperative arrangement like a common doctrine and may be a challenge for such nations. Therefore, bilateral issues between countries in the region should not intervene by this cooperative arrangement. However, the researcher found that bilateral agreements between the countries in Asia appear to be less hindrance to the concept of a common doctrine. Most of the bilateral agreements are related to Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) between the countries in Asia and focus on gaining various economic benefits (Okabe, 2015). On the other hand, bilateral agreements related to maritime affairs more or less focus on enhancing cooperation between nations. For instance, China and Japan's coast guard continuously cooperate in combating maritime crimes, maritime SAR exercises under the SAR agreement and marine environmental protection (Ministry of foreign affairs, 2021). Therefore, the researcher believes that concerns of bilateral agreements between countries in Asia in particular, maritime affairs could be incorporated into common interests that are focused under a common doctrine without disrupting bilateral agreements.

I would like to bring up a concern that emerged from one of the senior naval officers during the interview. "I believe the similar challenges the UN facing today could happen to the Asian coast guard once the organization is made under a common doctrine" (R10). Few countries in the region have more resources and they may intend to take more benefits from other nations that have fewer resources. Similarly, a financial contribution is another issue. Some countries may provide more funds and others less. However, the researcher believes that this common doctrine may not require financial contribution and physical space unless there is a doctrine formulation centre and think tank. This common doctrine merely focuses on doctrinal philosophy where it could be applied to Asian coast guard agencies to achieve common interests.

To conclude, when working under a common doctrine, prioritizing common interests would create different opinions between the nations. In addition, disrupting bilateral agreements between nations and benefits over resources could also be possible challenges.

Chapter 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1   Conclusion

The main objective of this study was to understand the merits of a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies to discharge their duties in a more efficient and effective manner. Furthermore, the study also concerned the benefits that can be achieved through a common doctrine for the betterment of the Asian region. In order to achieve the research objectives, the researcher has identified three main research questions after in-depth study of the literature review as follows.

   a.   What is the basis for common coast guard doctrine?
   b.   What are the benefits of a common Asian coast guard doctrine?
   c.   What would be the constituent elements of an Asian coast guard doctrine?

Utilizing qualitative research methods, the researcher carefully examined research questions to comprehend the research problem. The primary data was gathered based on the semi structured interview and fourteen people were interviewed from eleven different coast guard agencies including USCG. In addition, three written responses were also received from three different coast guard agencies.

The research understood the main benefits and merits of a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies through a shared range of views from the participants. The research found that there were indeed merits and strong consensus to having a common doctrine for Asian coast guard agencies. In essence, this doctrine would help to fine tune the strategies and shape the coast guard agencies to sustain. Furthermore, the doctrine gives a clear path to achieve certain objectives of the organization.

The study revealed that common core values, commonality in the Asian coast guard culture and common authority would be the basis for this common doctrine. These factors more or less could be incorporated into a common doctrine.

The research identified the constituent elements of this common doctrine in the study. Those elements were categorized under two scopes namely, common doctrine characteristics and common objectives. Therefore, the research revealed what could be the common interests of all coast guard agencies in the Asian region and how these could shape the doctrine to achieve these common objectives.

The research concluded that the common doctrine for the Asian coast guard cannot be achieved overnight. There is need for further research before really embarking on a journey of developing a common doctrine. The research identifies room for further researchers to study about the demarcation of Asia and which maritime nations would bring for work under this common doctrine. Furthermore, who is going to take the initiative to form a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies? The following recommendations are made to trigger the concept to go forward based on the findings.

5.2   Recommendations

- Firstly, the Asian region coast guard agencies need to have a forum to publish and make awareness of the concept of common coast guard doctrine among the Asian nations. The forum should make a healthy environment where coast guard agencies could sit together and discuss common objectives which they want to achieve together. Therefore, it is recommended that HACGAM is the appropriate forum where this agenda point can be used to create awareness of regional nations.

- It is recommended to have the participation of each player of the coast guard to fine-tune and design a doctrine. Therefore, recommended reviewing existing individual coast guards' doctrines and how best they can merge into a common coast guard doctrine.

- It is recommended this doctrine would include more generic things rather than more specific laid down factors. Therefore, based on the common interests in the region, it is recommended to create prioritised pillars to address issues where everybody will be responsible. Furthermore, these pillars could be assigned to different countries based on their capabilities.

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EXPLORING A CASE FOR A COMMON DOCTRINE FOR THE ASIAN COAST GUARD AGENCIES
Q1. In your opinion, how does a country benefit from the doctrine?
Answer:
Q2. In your opinion, what are the constituent elements of a doctrine?
Answer:
Q3. In your opinion, what would be the constituent elements of an Asian coast guard doctrine?
Answer:
Q4. What could be the common core value for the Asian coast guard?
Answer:
Q5. What is common as far as authority is concerned?
Answer:
Q6. What is the element of authority when you talk about doctrine?
Answer:
Q7. What are the common points in coast guard culture?

Answer:

Q8. How do you identify and say that Asian culture is common?

Answer:

Q9. In your opinion, what would be the basis for common coast guard doctrine?

Answer:

Q10. Is there a basis for regional Asian coast guard doctrine?

Answer:

Q11. What do you think about whether the basic principles of beliefs and practices should be included in doctrine or not?

Answer:

Q12. What would be the challenges when the Asian coast guard works under common doctrine?

Answer:

Q13. Do wish to offer any other comment or opinion with regard to doctrine in general, or a common Coast Guard doctrine, in particular for Coast Guards in the Asian region?

Answer:

WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION SHEET

Project title: Exploring a case for a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies

Researcher: D.A. Nishantha Danansooriya

Supervisor: Dr. Anish Hebbar

I am D. A. Nishantha Danansooriya currently following a Master of Science in Maritime Affairs, specializing in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration at World Maritime University, Malmo, Sweden. You are being invited to take part in a research study about "Exploring a case for common doctrine for Asian coast guard". I strongly believe that you can make a significant contribution to this research study.

Interview request

The aim of this interview/questionnaire survey is to acquire your experience and valuable insights about the requirement of a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard in order to perform the role of coast guard agencies in an effective manner. Furthermore, the study aims to explore the possibility of working under a common platform like a "common doctrine" by regional coast guard agencies. In particular, I would like to discuss current practices in the coast guard agencies, common working culture, benefits for the countries and challenges as well. Moreover, your recommendations for adopting a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard in the future are also taken into consideration.

Procedure

The questionnaire will follow a semi-structured format which required 45-60 minutes to be completed. The researcher aims to conduct virtual interviews with participants (zoom/ any other means). However, I would like to consider participants' convenient time and mode of participation at all times. As the interview proceeds, I will ask questions to seek the ideas, views and experiences of the participants with regard to the research topic. Participants have the liberty to ask any questions from the researcher to clarify questions in any case of ambiguity. The interview will be recorded via manuscript and electronic audio recording device or any other means. However, you may opt out of the electronic audio recording.

Use of data

The data collected from the research study will be used to complete the master's thesis. Data may also be used in the publication or presentation of the thesis and publications or presentations arising from this research.

Confidential
The information collected from the participants will be kept private with strict confidence. You are given the option to be named in the research. If you do not wish to be named in the study, then your identity will be excluded from academic publications and presentations arising from this research. I will ensure that every possible effort will be made to confirm your identity remain anonymous. However, due to the small number of participants and the specialized nature of your role, it still may be possible your identity will be identifiable by the nature of your comments.

Benefits
There will be no direct benefits to you if you participate in this interview. However, the possible benefits of your participation in society include the potential development and improvement of legislation, capacity building, training needs identification, regional cooperation in terms of effective coast guard functions, etc. in the Asian region.

Data storage
All data relating to the study will be stored securely and kept until the completion of this study. The audio recording taken during the interview will be kept on a computer protected by a password. Data will also be stored in a virtual drive linked to the university's personal email. Hard copies of data (transcript, notes) will be securely stored in a locked filing cabinet. Consent forms will be stored in a locked cabinet of the researcher on the university premises. All materials will be retained for the research period and will be either deleted or shredded as soon as the degree is awarded. The material you provide will only be used for this research project, and it will only be disclosed with your permission.

Voluntary participation
Please read this carefully and raise any questions or more information before deciding whether or not to participate. Your participation is voluntary in this research study. If you don't wish to participate, you don't have to. However, if you decide to participate in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent form. By signing in you are telling us that you;

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

Wish to withdraw
You will be permitted to withdraw from the interview at any time without giving a reason. Thank you very much for your valuable time. If you wish to know more and ask queries, do not hesitate to contact me or my supervisor on;

Contact information
Researcher

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Dear Participant,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this research survey, which is carried out in connection with a Dissertation which will be written by the interviewer, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden.

The topic of the Dissertation is "***Exploring a case for a common doctrine for the Asian coast guard agencies"***

The information provided by you in this interview will be used for research purposes and the results will form part of a dissertation, which will later be published online and made available to the public. Your personal information will not be published. You may withdraw from the research at any time, and your personal data will be immediately deleted.

Anonymised research data will be archived on a secure virtual drive linked to a World Maritime University email address. All the data will be deleted as soon as the degree is awarded.

Your participation in the interview is highly appreciated.

Student's name: Nishantha Danansooriya
Specialization: Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration
Email address: w1011241@wmu.se

* * *

I consent to my personal data, as outlined above, is used for this study. I understand that all personal data relating to participants is held and processed in the strictest confidence, and will be deleted at the end of the researcher's enrolment.

Name:
     ………………………………………………………………………

Signature:
     ………………………………………………………………………

Date:
………………………………………………………………………………

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