

# PIRACY

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**of**

**Masters, Mates and Pilots**

*National Security Council 2008 “Action Plan”*

- Reduce vulnerability of ships by sharing information and use of Best Management Practices to avoid pirate attacks
- Interrupt acts of piracy by interdiction and intervention in pirate attacks, disrupting bases in Somalia, and depriving pirate’s ransom revenues
- Hold pirates accountable through prosecution

# PIRACY

## National Security Council 2008 “Action Plan”

While 17 different government agencies are involved to some extent in suppression of piracy, implementation and monitoring of the NSC “Action Plan” primarily lies with four major players:

- Dept. of Defense
- Dept. of State
- US Coast Guard
- Government Accounting Office (GAO)

## Escalation

- Pirates have attacked 640 ships and have held 3,150 hostages.
- Hijackings have increased seven fold since 2008, with a 27% success rate in 2010.
- Escalating numbers of hostages held, the length of time held and the amount of ransoms paid.

## Escalation

- 2010 witnessed the highest number of successful pirate attacks and hostages taken on record. Pirate attacks so far in 2011 are significantly higher than 2010 levels.
- Pirates are operating from captured mother ships that extend their range of operations and that permit operations in seasonal monsoon conditions that previously restricted their activities.

## *Depriving pirate's ransom revenues*

- Ransoms now averages \$4 million per incident and have reached as much as \$9.2 million dollars.
- \$81M paid in 2010. \$86M paid so far in 2011.
- The Dept. of State is working to discourage governments and private entities from paying the escalating ransoms.
- A Presidential Executive Order makes the payment of ransom a crime

## *Disrupting bases in Somalia*

- Objections from Regional States
- Recently reported that unmanned drones operating out of Ethiopia. Purpose is to observe Shabaab in Somalia.
- Pirates are operating freely from safe havens

## *Prosecution of pirates*

- Piracy is a crime of universal jurisdiction.
- Prosecution is a matter of national laws.
- The multi-national character the FOC system complicates the situation.



## *Interrupt acts of piracy by interdiction and intervention*

- Somali pirates now operate in an area of approximately 2.5 million square nautical miles.
- Coverage of 2.5 million square nautical miles would require more ships than are currently in the inventory of the world's navies.

## *Interrupt acts of piracy by interdiction and intervention*

- Pirates continue to attack less than one-half of one percent of shipping and their attacks have succeeded only about one third of the time.
- The relatively low incidence of pirate attacks has implications on allocation of military assets.
- Merchant shipping needs to play a larger role in its own defense

## U.S. maritime labor's position

- Protection from piracy is primarily a government responsibility.
- In the absence of a willingness of the government to provide effective protection, ships should rely on private armed security.
- The ship, crew and armed security teams have a right to use arms to resist piracy under U.S. law.
- Ships should be permitted to carry on board and use military type weapons.
- The United States should provide legal and diplomatic support to individuals alleged to have violated foreign laws after an incident.