



AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Strategic Approaches to Maritime Security Session 3: The Challenges

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STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO MARITIME SECURITY

- Collins Gray writing on why strategy is difficult notes "True wisdom in strategy must be practice because strategy is a practical subject" he further notes that " Strategy is planned for contexts that literally have not occurred and might not occur; the future has not happened "

THREE TYPES OF MARITIME STRATEGY

- National Maritime Strategy
 - Deals with security at sea and concerns the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police etc
 - My guess is this is where a few African States are
- State action at sea strategy
 - Deals with security and governance usually Maritime administration, Fisheries and Port Authority.
 - My guess is most African states are here.
- Maritime Domain/ Integrated Maritime Strategy
 - Brings on board full spectrum of activities in maritime i.e. Security, governance and Maritime/Blue economy. It is more desirable and this is where we should be. The strategy involves various agencies and requires whole of government implementation process. Borrowed from the military where in an operation there are several lines of operations to unlock several Centre's of gravity to achieve the desired end state.

Advantages of this approach

- Ties security, governance and economic pieces together
- More appealing and likely to garner political will
- Easy to demonstrate return for investments

Advantages & Disadvantages

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Disadvantage

- Agencies protecting what they consider theirs.

Can one agency develop a Strategy for Maritime Security?

- Maritime security should be an inclusive process. There is ownership and ease of implementation.
- In military operations an action is taken " in order to....."
In other words that action is in support of the operation at hand. In a similar way if an agency cannot complete this sentence, then it should not be involved in the process
- If a single agency is tasked with developing the Maritime strategy, the resultant strategy is likely to be biased e.g.

Roles in Strategy Development

- **Navy:** Concerns are external aggression (Territorial Integrity). Strategy developed by the Navy is likely to be able to deal with external threats. Victory at sea will be the primary concern.
- **Maritime Police:** Concerns are law enforcement in the maritime environment. Provision of security along the seas and lakes will feature
- **Ports Authorities :** Cargo security is the primary concern. Security of persons visiting the port will feature.
- **Fisheries:** Will be concerned with socio-economic, monitoring, control and surveillance of maritime resources. Their strategy is likely to target industries in net making, packaging material, boat building and repair

AU 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy

AU 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy calls for increased awareness of the maritime domain and coordinated responses to insecurity. This obviously calls for the integrated maritime strategy in a State's Maritime strategy development.

What difference does a strategy make?

- Strategy helps maintain focus of the ends a country wants to achieve.
- Without strategy it is like playing soccer without goal posts.

At what point do resource constraints enter the picture?

- After analyzing the environment and matching own resources with tasks

Strategy & Analysis

What is the value of consistent analysis of security threats in order to apply current and critical thinking to them? How does a strategy help with evolving threats?

- Observe, Orientate, Decide and Act loop explains this.
- The situation keeps changing and if you do not keep pace the strategy you are employing will be irrelevant.
- Strategy should be used as a point of reference and is alive informed by current situation.

**QUESTIONS/
COMMENTS?**



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