The National Security Strategy Document: The Product
The Product: the NSS document

• The purpose of the NSS
  - Why have one?
  - What makes a good one?
• What is the relationship between the NSS and sectoral and regional documents?
• What is the ideal length, frequency and classification of the NSS?
• Case Study: Liberia’s 2008 NSS
• Questions
Why have an NSS?

• Identifies strategic objectives
• Provides a vehicle to communicate these strategic objectives to a larger community (buy-in)
• Prioritizes effort and resources among agencies
• Defines a time period to accomplish the objectives
What makes a good NSS?

- A good NSS must be a document that is implementable. So what characteristics make an NSS implementable?

• It must be realistic
• It must be understandable
• It must be resource informed
What documents influence the NSS?
What documents evolve from or influence the NSS process?

US Example:

• NSS
• National Defense Strategy (SecDef)
• National Military Strategy (CJCS)
• Regional Strategies (Combatant Command)
Other factors to consider when developing a National Security Strategy

• How long should it be?
• How often should it be updated?
• Should it be classified?
Liberia Case Study

• 13-year Civil War ended in 2003
• Documents considered:
  - Constitution
  - 2003 Comprehensive Peace Agreement
  - 2006 Poverty Reduction Strategy
  - ECOWAS and Manu River Union security protocols
  - UNMIL’s strategy
• NSS finalized in 2008; reviewed again in 2013

Note: Google “2008 Liberia National Security Strategy” to read Liberia’s 19-page unclassified NSS
Questions?