

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 Mano 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?