



# **Maritime Security in Africa**

**Mike Bittrick, Deputy Director**

**Bureau of African Affairs/Office of  
Regional and Security Affairs**

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# African Maritime Security

A satellite-style image of the Earth, showing the African continent in the lower-left quadrant. The land is a mix of brown and green, surrounded by deep blue oceans. The horizon of the Earth is visible at the top of the frame.

- Overview
- Policy background
- Challenges
- Opportunities

# Maritime security is a complex problem

- Territorial integrity, sovereignty, and international freedom of action at sea
- Multiple facets:
  - National security
  - Energy security
  - Economic growth and trade
  - Food security
  - Human health
- Requires a holistic solution



# Coastal resources have high economic value

- Fisheries: A leading SSA export commodity: \$2.7 B/yr
  - Illegal fishing → \$1 Bn/yr lost revenue, threats to fisheries
  - Food security of 200 million
  - Income for > 10 million



- Coastal dumping and oil spills: impacts to human health, ecosystems

# Maritime transport is critical to trade

- Key to economic growth and development
- Mechanism for regional integration
- 80% of world trade
- Compliance with international ship and port safety standards impacts trade flows



# Basis of U.S. maritime policy in Africa

- National Security Policy Directive (NSPD)-50: US Africa Policy (2006)
- African Maritime Governance Initiative (2007): annex to NSPD-50
  - Provides strategic framework
  - Seeks to address convergence of U.S., African national interests
- National Strategy for Maritime Security (2005)



# National interests vary but intersect

- Counterterrorism, counter-piracy and maritime proliferation security at sea
- Countertrafficking (drugs, arms, persons)
- Protecting shipping routes and preserving freedom of navigation
- Energy development and security
- Protection of sovereign natural resources



# A holistic approach is required

- Diverse threats with common solutions:
  - Strengthen law enforcement and jurisdiction in territorial waters
  - Secure maritime infrastructure
  - Improve interdiction capability
  - Improve sharing of maritime information/intelligence
- Preventing exploitation of ungoverned space simultaneously addresses multiple threats



# AMGI implementation approach

- **Build awareness** within USG and partner nation governments
- **Build capacities** to address multiple facets of problem
- **Build command and control/ integration** capabilities to ensure communication and coordination



# Challenges

- Limited (but growing) awareness of threats and vulnerabilities
- Limited resources, capacity and infrastructure → assistance must be targeted/coordinated
- Overshadowed by other immediate threats
- Weak enforcement mechanisms make it difficult to catch and prosecute violators



# Opportunities

- Address intersection of national interests for cooperation/assistance
- Encourage development of holistic national and regional strategies
- Energize African Union, Regional Economic Communities
- Use UN, IMO, and G8 to support
- Work with Gulf of Guinea Commission, MOWCA, other advocacy groups



# Applicable funding authorities

- Foreign Military Financing
- International Military Education and Training
- Section 1206 Nation Defense Authorization Act
- Law Enforcement (INCLE)
- Economic Support Funds (maritime exception to security assistance restrictions)
- Development Assistance (community-based fisheries management)



# Security cooperation platforms

- Africa Partnership Station training/joint exercises
- USCG Mobile Training Teams
- USCG port assessments
- DS/ATA coastal programs
- US Customs Border and Protection/Int'l Customs Organization assistance
- Regional conferences/training (EASWIO, GOG)



# Conclusions

- National interests vary but intersect
- Scarce resources and multifaceted threat require a holistic, strategic, and cooperative approach
- Maritime security: nexus of security, economic, environmental issues





Thank you  
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