PANEL IV:

PIRACY
Abstract

In the summer of 2007, the United States released a comprehensive policy for addressing piracy and armed robbery at sea. The policy serves as a restatement of two centuries of American efforts to contend with piracy and to reduce maritime armed violence. This latest document, issued by the White House, builds upon the National Security Strategy of the United States and the National Strategy for Maritime Security. The policy is reflected in seven action items: (1) to prevent pirate attacks and other criminal acts of violence against US persons, vessels and interests; (2) to interrupt and terminate of acts of piracy consistent with international law; (3) to reduce the vulnerability of the maritime domain to such acts; (4) to ensure that those who commit acts of piracy are held accountable; (5) to preserve freedom of the seas, including high seas freedoms; (6) to protect sea lines of communication; and, (7) to continue to lead and support international efforts to repress piracy. Combined, these policy actions represent a contemporary anti-piracy law and policy that captures our greatest interests in deterring and defeating piracy. These seven interests serve as a focus within the US government for enhancing interagency coordination between departments and agencies, both for crisis response and development of deliberate or strategic national level policy on piracy. Additionally, they facilitate international outreach and cooperation, including capacity-building, information-sharing, tactical cooperation at sea and promotion of more effective bilateral relationships and multilateral arrangements.

* The views expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the US Government. The author’s PowerPoint presentation in addition to the US Navy Counter-Piracy Operations Incident form and checklist (mentioned in Appendix II) may be viewed on the accompanying CD located inside the back cover of this book.