



THE ROLE OF AFRICAN NAVAL ASSETS IN SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE

*FOR MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES ON
E. C. AFRICA: ON 26 NOV 07*

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FOREWORD

**“....WHO EVER CONTROLS THE
SEA CONTROLS THE WORLD”**

--Alfred Thayer Mahan



OBJECTIVE

- ❖ TO BRIEFLY DISCUSS ON THE UTILIZATION OF AFRICAN NAVAL ASSETS ON PEACE SUPPORT ISSUES IN FOCUS ON MARITIME COMPONENT OF THE SADC REGION.

SCOPE

Introduction.

Objective.

General Background.

Identifying African Maritime Countries

Historical Setbacks

General Threats

Some Way Forward

Launching of SADC BRIG

Naval participation in operations in Africa.

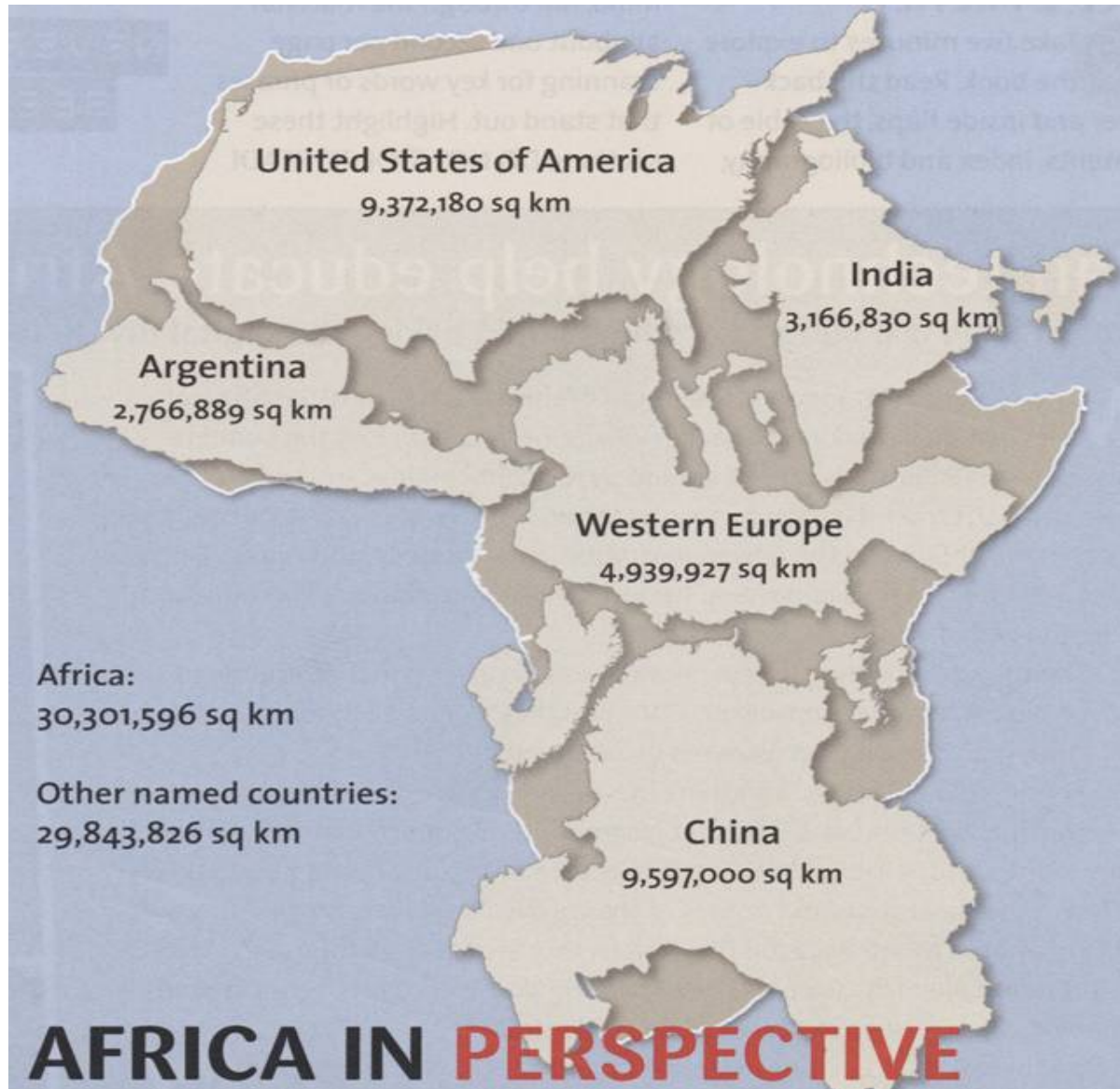
Suitability of Naval Forces

Challenges to the Maritime Component

Utilisation of Naval Assets in the Region

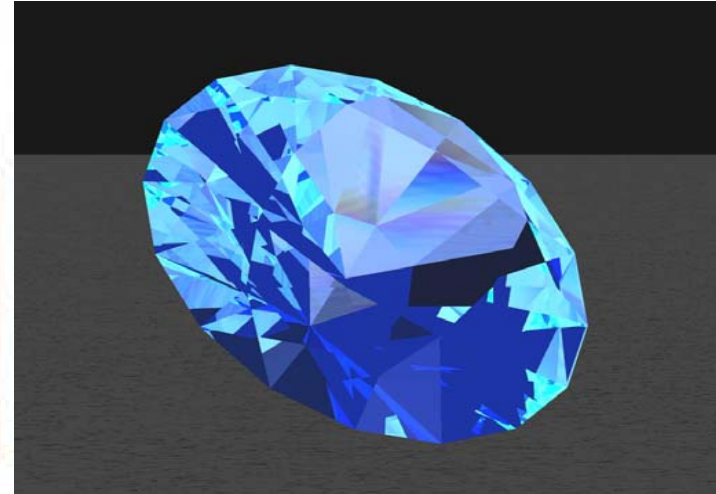
Conclusion.

AFRICA'S SIZE



**AFRICA'S SIZE
ON THE
COMPARISON,
VERY LARGE
ALTHOUGH
POOR AND
VERY DIVERSE.**

NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES



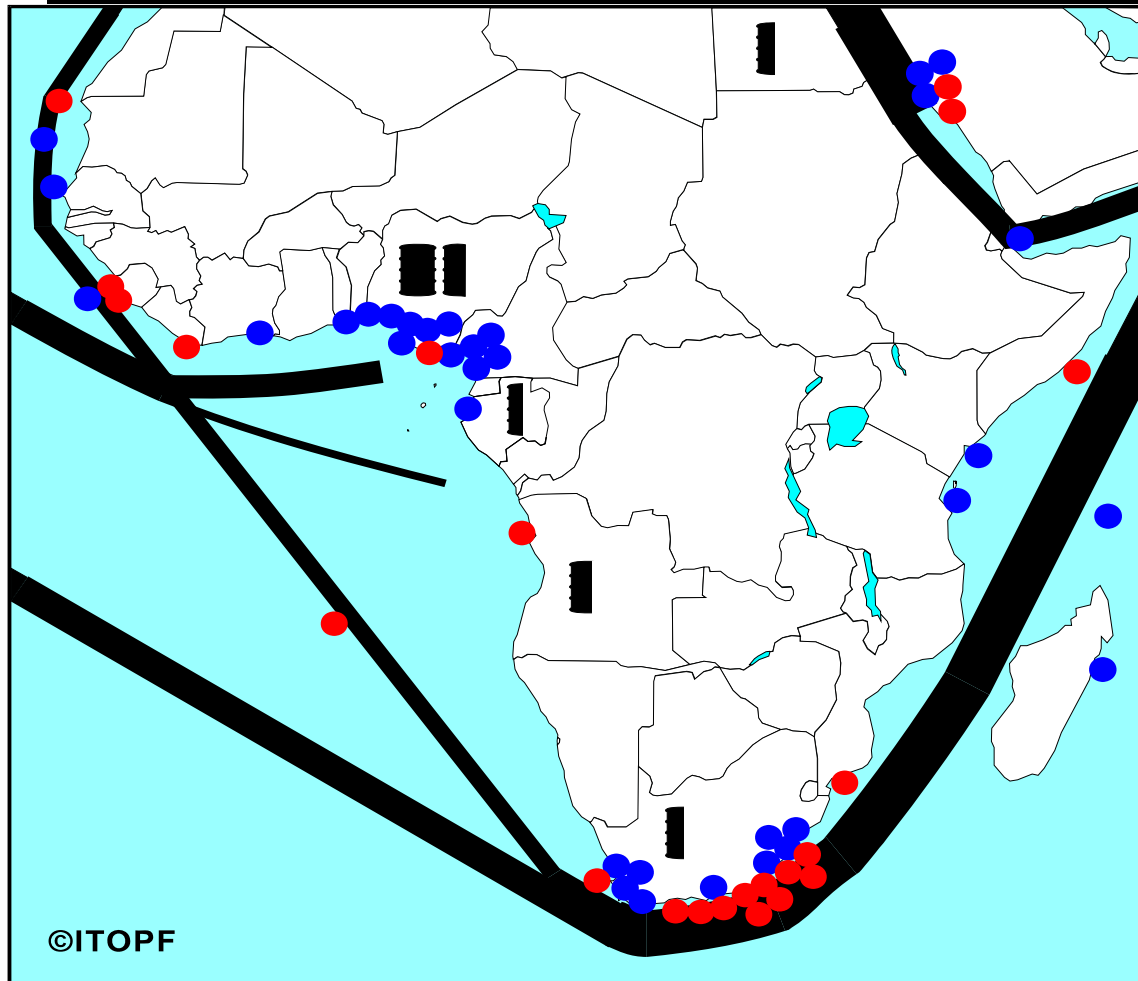
Coastal Economies

- NATURAL RESOURCES
- Sea life



Coastal Economies

OIL TRAFFIC ROUTES AROUND AFRICA



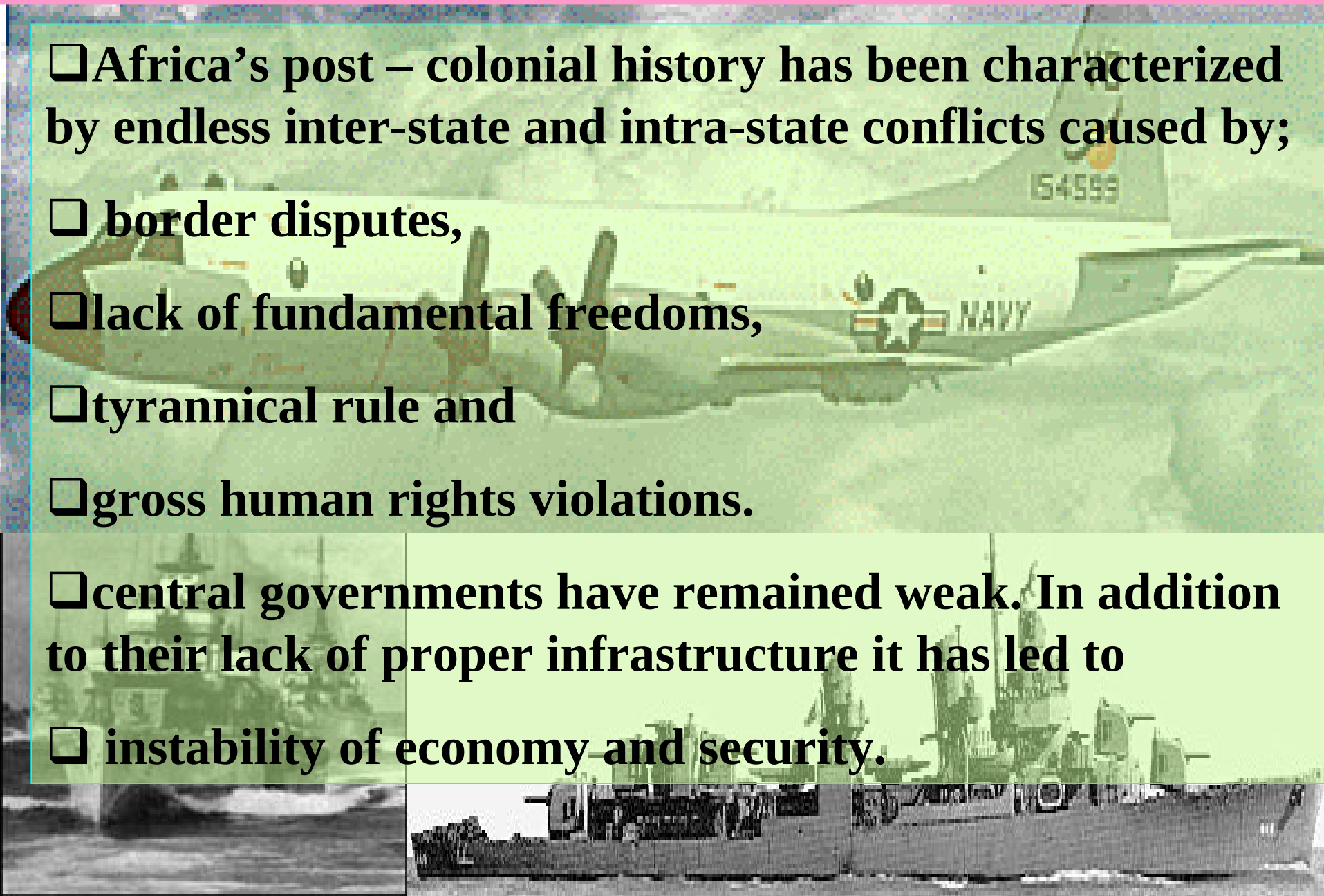
Spills >5000 barrels ● and from 50 to 5000 barrels ● in relation to oil exports and to major tanker routes ■

AFRICA COASTAL NATIONS

- **39 maritime countries**
- **population of about 678,753,806 (UN censor by Jul 2007).**
- **total coastline of 32,068 Km**
- **account for a larger part of wealth and resources of the continent due to geographical location.**
- **about 70 % of the world' population is located here**

HISTORICAL SETBACKS

- ❑ Africa's post – colonial history has been characterized by endless inter-state and intra-state conflicts caused by;
 - ❑ border disputes,
 - ❑ lack of fundamental freedoms,
 - ❑ tyrannical rule and
 - ❑ gross human rights violations.
- ❑ central governments have remained weak. In addition to their lack of proper infrastructure it has led to
 - ❑ instability of economy and security.



GENERAL THREATS

Africa and especially SADC Region needs to arrest maritime safety and security issues in order to achieve peace, security and stability.

Threats to coastal and maritime safety in the region include:

- Illegal fishing,
- illegal immigration,
- pollution smuggling,
- piracy, terrorism,
- trafficking of drugs arms and humans,
- inadequate port security and
- hostage taking.

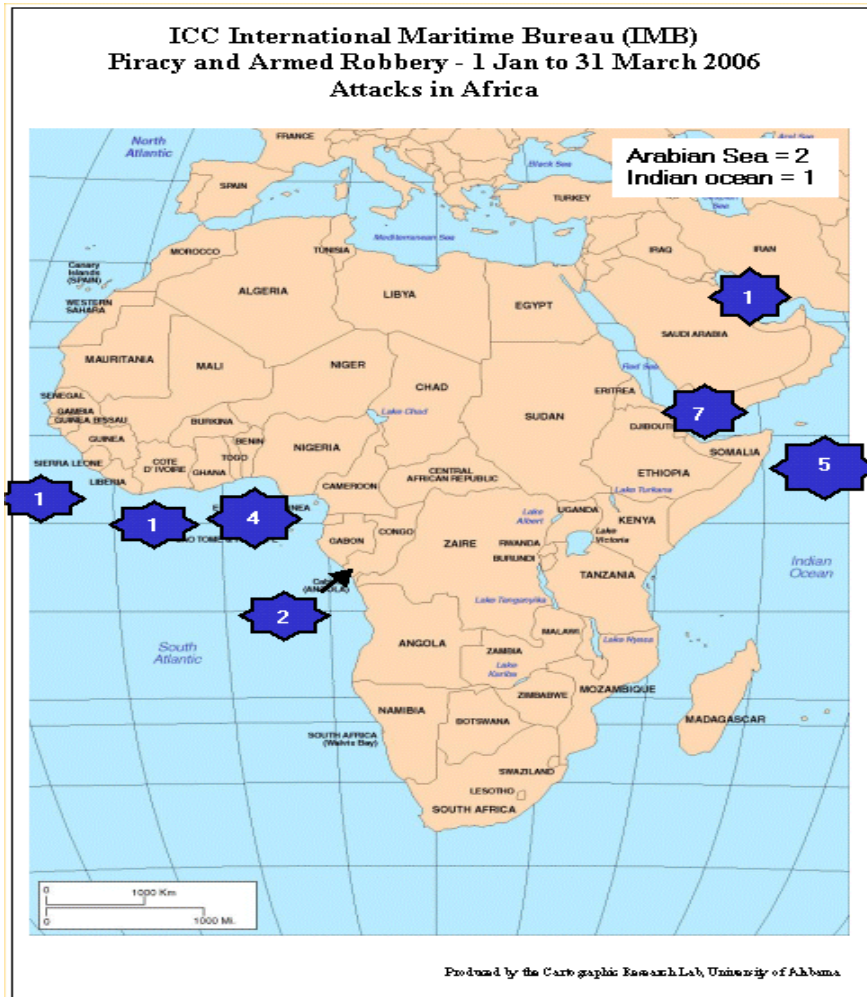


PIRACY PRONE AREAS IN AFRICA

Gulf of Aden

Somalia Waters

West African Coast



ILLEGAL FISHING

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a global problem affecting both Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and the high seas.



SOME WAY FORWARD

- ❖ Africa has to resolve most internal problems on its own.
- ❖ Assistance from United Nations and the African Union
- ❖ Peace support operations will still be needed in the continent within the next few years.
- ❖ The idea of unity originated during liberation struggles when African states fought for independence of the continent.
- ❖ Recommendation for Regional Standby Force in the five regions as components of ASF. (1997)

LAUNCHING SADCBRIG

Important achievement;

- **SADCBRIG launched during the SADC Day on 17 August 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia.**

Advantage:

- ❖ **SADC inherited the Inter state Defence and Security Committee (ISDCC) which had been functional in the auspices of the Front line States in 1970.**

SADC REGION EXPERIENCES

Since 1990 the SADC region;

❑ Experienced a range of recurrent intermittent attempted coups, civil wars, natural disasters;

❑ Some exercises of SADC organ such as;

➤ Ex BLUE HUNGWE (1996),

➤ TANZANITE (2002),

➤ BLUE ANGEL (2003),

➤ Regional Peacekeeping Training Center (RPTC) and

➤ SADC Allied Coalitions in resolution of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Lesotho.

NAVAL PARTICIPATION IN AFRICAN OPERATIONS

“The use of forward deployed maritime forces to gain military access to vital littoral arrears of the world has become established doctrine amongst most major navies.” *(J. Stocker, Non intervention: Limited operations in the littoral Environment)*

This scenario is envisaged due to African states commitment to peace and development in Africa and post conflict reconstruction efforts.

NOTE: At present no large peacekeeping operation within Africa has involved naval forces but the possibility still exists in due time.

UN peacekeeping missions:Example;- use of unarmed Argentine patrol vessels in the Gulf of Fonseca between Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

SUITABILITY OF NAVAL FORCES

Naval Forces are more suitable in peace support missions due to:

- **Flexibility and maneuverability nature combined with their visibility.**
- **They remain on station for as long as necessary without having to hold or surrender ground like the land forces.**
- **Can monitor weapons supplied through the sea route to-date no effort has been made by any one to monitor the shipping.**
- **They do not need transport infrastructure such as roads, rails and appropriate airfields.**

CHALLENGES TO THE MARITIME COMPONENT

Main challenge is to make optimal use of the sea to support the Governments in achieving and maintaining peace, security and stability.

Maritime component's broad objectives;

- ☐ Secure bases necessary to support naval operations;
- ☐ Provision of logistic support/strategic lift and protection;
- ☐ Promote sea borne trade & protection to merchant fleets
- ☐ Suppress terrorism, piracy and illegal fishing, etc.
- ☐ Safeguard natural and artificial property on our water
- ☐ Ensure innocent passage & denial to unfriendly forces during .

OPERATIONAL PROFILES

The objectives when conducted by naval asset can be grouped in Operational Profiles as;

- ❖ **Crisis Respond Operation**
- ❖ **Tactical Sealift**
- ❖ **Amphibious Operations**
- ❖ **Humanitarian and Medical Aid**
- ❖ **Evacuation and Disaster Relief**
- ❖ **Task Group level Command Platform**
- ❖ **Negotiation Platform**
- ❖ **Logistic Support**
- ❖ **Helicopter Platform**

CRUCIAL UTILISATION OF NAVAL FORCES

- ❖ AU intervention, in Inter - state conflicts in Africa most efforts are directed to land forces and in air forces, but very little towards maritime forces regardless of all the potentiality;**
- ❖ Eastern Africa, piracy escalated from 7 reported in 1993 to 46 attacks 2006;**
- ❖ Somalia waters not safe as far as 210 km out to sea;**
- ❖ US and French Warships rescuing ships in the area.**
- ❖ Regardless these insecurity activities in Somali waters, no meaningful action has been taken by African Navies to secure the area.**

NAVAL ASSETS UTILISATION

□ EXAMPLES OF INVOLVEMENT OF NAVAL ASSETS

logistical back up as conducted in several African littoral for peace operations including;

- Peace talks between Zaire and President Mobutu and his successor Kabila brokered by President Mandela onboard SAS OUTENIQUA.
- Burundi, SANDF's initial deployment; Support ship SAS OUTENIQUA was utilized.
- Dutch Navy deployed a Landing Platform Dock (LPD) to Ethiopia/Eritrea to provide logistical and medical sup.



CONCLUSION

- ❑ African Naval assets to devote more to participate in peace support operations;
- ❑ Restore security in the maritime domain.
- ❑ Provide logistic support, strategic lift;
- ❑ Provide protection during such support / lift both at sea or on land waters.
- ❑ Assist to stimulate and accelerate the continent's growth and development.

THANKS!