

LIBRARY GUIDE

MARITIME SECURITY

Study Guide

For Shipping & Logistics Students – Caribbean Maritime University

PART 1: COMPREHENSIVE STUDY NOTES

1. Defining Maritime Security

Unlike traditional naval defence (which protects sovereignty), Maritime Security focuses on the *human and economic* security of the maritime domain.

- **The Broad Definition:** The protection of sea lanes of communication (SLOCs), ports, ships, and sub-sea infrastructure from deliberate unlawful acts.
- **Key Distinction:** *Maritime Safety* (accidents/weather) vs. *Maritime Security* (intentional threats).

2. The Major Threats (The "Dirty Dozen" for Exams)

Focus on these four core threats for any essay question:

- **Piracy & Armed Robbery:**
 - *Two types:* (1) **Somalia/HOA** (kidnap for ransom, high seas) & (2) **Strait of Malacca/West Africa** (theft of cargo/crew, coastal waters).
- **Maritime Terrorism:** The "Achille Lauro" (1985) & USS Cole (2000). Goals: Mass casualties, economic disruption (e.g., blowing up a LNG tanker in a chokepoint).
- **Illicit Trafficking:** Drugs, arms, charcoal, and **people smuggling**. The ocean as a highway for transnational crime.
- **Cyber Security:** GPS spoofing, AIS manipulation, ransomware on port logistics.

3. The Chokepoints (Strategic Geography)

You *must* memorize these for map-based questions:

1. **Strait of Hormuz** (Oil: 20% of global supply).
2. **Strait of Malacca** (Trade: 30% of global trade).
3. **Suez Canal** (Med to Red Sea).
4. **Bab el-Mandeb** (Gate of Tears: Yemen/Djibouti).

4. The Legal Framework (Hard Law vs. Soft Law)

Instrument	What it does	Limitation
UNCLOS (1982)	Defines territorial sea (12nm), EEZ (200nm), High Seas. Flag state jurisdiction.	Weak on enforcement against non-state actors.
SUA Convention	Makes it a crime to seize a ship or harm crew.	Extradition loopholes.
ISPS Code (Part of SOLAS)	Mandates security plans for ports & ships (Levels 1,2,3). Applies to <i>international</i> vessels.	Does not apply to fishing boats or domestic ferries.
PSI (Proliferation Security Initiative)	Voluntary interdiction of WMD by air/sea.	Not a treaty; legally soft.

5. The Private Sector & Industry Standards

- **BMP5 (Best Management Practices 5):** Industry guide for transiting High Risk Areas (e.g., use of Citadels, razor wire, 24hr radar).
- **PCASP (Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel):** Legal in some flags (UK, US) but banned in others (e.g., many coastal states in West Africa).

6. Key Institutions

- **IMO (International Maritime Organization):** The UN agency that writes the rules (ISPS Code).
- **UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs & Crime - Global Maritime Crime Programme):** Helps states arrest/prosecute pirates.
- **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF):** 34-nation naval partnership (CTF 151 for counter-piracy).

PART 2: EXAMINATION PREPARATION GUIDE

A. How to Revise: Active Recall Strategy

Do not just re-read these notes. Use the **3-2-1 Method**:

- **3** Case Studies (Memorize dates, location, outcome).
- **2** Legal instruments (Know 2 articles specifically).
- **1** Chokepoint (Map it blindfolded).

B. Question Types & Model Structures

Type 1: The Short Answer (5-10 mins)

Example: "Define the 'Archipelagic Sea Lanes Passage' (ASLP) under UNCLOS."

- **Structure:** 1 definition sentence + 1 example.
- **Model:** "ASLP allows ships to navigate routes designated by archipelagic states (like Indonesia) for continuous transit, balancing sovereignty with freedom of navigation. Indonesia's ALKI I, II, III corridors are examples."

Type 2: The Essay Question (45 mins)

Common Prompt: "Piracy is a symptom of instability on land, not a problem of the sea." Discuss.

Model Essay Outline:

- **Introduction:** Agree partially. Define piracy as armed robbery at sea (UNCLOS Art. 101). Thesis: While land-based factors cause piracy, the maritime domain enables it.
- **Paragraph 1 (Land causes):** Somalia (collapse of state in 1991 -> no fishing enforcement -> illegal foreign trawling -> local fishermen turn pirate). Evidence: 2011 peak (237 attacks).
- **Paragraph 2 (Sea enablers):** Gulf of Guinea vs. Somalia. Argue that lack of coastal radar (maritime domain awareness) and corrupt port officials allow hijacked tankers to disappear.
- **Counter-argument:** However, "Sea blindness" is the problem. Western navies focus on counterterrorism, ignoring fisheries crime which fuels piracy.
- **Conclusion:** Hybrid solution: Land-based rule of law (UNODC) + Sea-based patrols (CMF).

Type 3: The Case Study Analysis

Prompt: "Compare the ISPS Code response to 9/11 with the response to the MV Maersk Alabama (2009)."

- **9/11 (2001):** Led to *port-centric* security (container scanning, longshoreman background checks). Result: ISPS Code (2004).
- **Maersk Alabama (2009):** Led to *ship-centric* security (armed guards, citadels, BMP4/5). Result: Private security industry boom.
- **Exam Tip:** Argue that ISPS Code failed to stop piracy because it focuses on *port-state control*, not the *high seas*.

C. Mnemonics for Exams

- **For Law of the Sea Zones (Out to in):** "Every Tuna Sandwich Makes People Excited" (EEZ -> TS -> Sea -> MP -> PE).
 - Wait, better: **High Seas** (200nm+) -> **EEZ** (200nm) -> **TS** (12nm) -> **Contiguous** (24nm).
- **For ISPS Security Levels:** "1 is Normal, 2 is Heightened, 3 is Attack" (Expect to write acronyms fully once: International Ship and Port Facility Security Code).

D. The "Killer" A-Grade Argument

To get top marks, critique the Western bias of maritime security.

- **Standard View:** Piracy threatens global trade.
- **A-Grade View:** "Global North defines 'security' as the flow of containerized trade. For the Global South (e.g., small-scale fishers in Indonesia), maritime security means freedom from illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is a greater existential threat than piracy."

E. Last Minute Revision Table

Threat	Location	Primary Law	Response Actor
Piracy (Somalia)	Indian Ocean/Gulf of Aden	UNCLOS Art. 100-107	Naval forces (EU NAVFOR)
Armed Robbery	Territorial waters (Nigeria)	National law / ISPS Code	Coastal Police
Terrorism	Chokepoints / Ports	SUA Convention	Port Security (ISPS)
Smuggling	Straits of Malacca	UNTOC (Palermo)	Coast Guard

F. Sample Exam Questions (Self-Test)

1. "The ISPS Code has made ports safer but ships more vulnerable." Evaluate this statement.
2. Compare and contrast the legal jurisdiction of a Flag State versus a Port State in prosecuting a cyber-attack on an autonomous vessel.
3. To what extent is climate change a maritime security threat? (Hint: Arctic shipping routes & Pacific island EEZ loss).
4. Explain why the "Mare Liberum" (freedom of the seas) doctrine conflicts with modern coastal state security claims.

Final Tip: In your exam, always define your terms in the first paragraph. Do not assume the examiner knows you understand "MDA" (Maritime Domain Awareness). Spell it out once, then use the acronym. *Good luck!*

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

For assistance with research or accessing resources such as past papers, visit the CMU Library or contact:

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