

"Piracy, the curse of maritime transport"

ARMS CONTROL AND RULES FOR THE USE OF FORCE

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Chairman

GoAGT

Reality



Firearms will be legitimately used for vessel defence.

DETER

- ▶ **Preferred**

DEFEND

- ▶ **If life is directly threatened**

Vetting & Control



- ▶ **Know the PMSC's Logistics Trail & Accountancy**
- ▶ **Able to trace ALL weapons from purchase and their current locations**

Arms Control Challenges



- ▶ **Lack of official oversight and scrutiny (non existent)**
- ▶ **No standardised “Best Practice” code**
- ▶ **However, good PMSC’s already have effective weapon assurance processes in place**

Arms Control



Principles

- ▶ **Verifiable proof of purchase and End User Certificates in place**
- ▶ **Crosschecked with licensed dealer**
- ▶ **Weapons history sheets available & up to date**
- ▶ **Maintenance programme in place**
- ▶ **Training & certification of operators**

Vetting & Control



KNOW

the PMSC weapon assurance processes.

REVIEW

how personnel are trained, monitored and managed.

PMSC Personnel



- **Effective, rigorous selection**
- **Experience in maritime environment**
- **Effective, regular training**
- **Proper and regular briefing**
- **Effective leadership**
- **Effective internal assurance process**

Use

of

Force

- ▶ **Most challenging aspect**
- ▶ **Legal constraints**
- ▶ **Delegation:**

Flag State

Shipping Company

Master

PMSC Team Leader

PMSC Team Member



Warning Shots



- ▶ The purpose of warning shots is to deter potential aggressors from boarding the ship and/or deterring them from using their own weapon systems
without having to use lethal force.
- ▶ Once the aggressor has commenced using their weapons, then the situation has deteriorated rapidly and it is highly likely that lethal force may be needed to provide
self-defence to the crew and themselves.

Warning Shots



- **Scenario including:**
 - **Own ship speed**
 - **Target relative bearing and distance**
 - **Closing speed and warning time**
- **Aggressor weapon systems**
- **Own weapon engagement ranges**

Attack



Timelines

Based on ship doing 15 kts, skiff 25 kts, approach from astern/quarter:

[3 mins]

Time to close at 1000m range

[54 secs]

Time to close at 300m range

Own

Weapons



- **Must have a range of 1000m for effective warning shots**
- **Must be capable of being 'aimed' effectively**
- **Must be well maintained**
- **Must have adequate ammunition**

Own Intent



- **Deter so that lethal force is not required**
- **Gain and maintain the initiative**
- **Provide protection**

Legal Use of Force



“an individual can use reasonable force in self-defence or to protect another person whose life is in immediate danger.”

Critical Decision



A serious personal decision is required immediately. And that is decide if the individual member of the AST is willing to use lethal force to protect life - because their life is on the line.

NOT ["well it depends."
or
"well if I have to."]

Personal



Responsibility

- ▶ **An individual member of the AST cannot be “ordered” to use lethal force by the Master, TL or another member of the AST.**
- ▶ **The decision has to be one that is taken by the individuals themselves based on their personal appreciation of the threat that is posed.**
- ▶ **And they must be prepared to answer for themselves afterwards if an individual is killed or seriously injured as a result of their actions.**

In Summary



- **Effective control of well maintained, effective weapons**
- **Rigorous personnel selection**
- **Regular training**
- **Effective assurance process**
- **Deterrence key**
- **In extremis to save life - use lethal force**

Conclusion



- ▶ **Good quality PMSCs are in place**
- ▶ **Requirement for weapon oversight & control**
- ▶ **Proper selection, training and management**
- ▶ **Deter first – defend in extremis**