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From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: MILINET: Resp "NATO's Quiet War Off Somalia"

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14 May

MILINET: Resp "NATO's Quiet War Off Somalia"

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Lets add a new and potentially more troublesome dimension to the pirate business. To wit, the recent "after action" reports from the OBL raid that indicate that bin Laden was urging the seizure and destruction on the high seas of the huge supertankers carrying crude oil. By so doing he hoped to create an oil shortage/crisis or at least help to drive up the price. Given the current price levels at the pump, a few exploding tankers would create a further degree of nervousness among suppliers and more important, another opportunity for the financial speculators to manipulate the market forces to the public's disadvantage. The challenge operationally is to sort out the run of the mill pirates from the AQ operatives or even a group of "true believer" pirates who suddenly decide to give up their usual ransom to help the cause.

One exploding tanker could significantly transform this "Quiet War" that needs focus and attention at the highest level to deal with the legal morass that is one of its core problems. The OBL report also gives us another reason to look hard at a major amphibious raid against the array of pirate havens in Somalia which would clearly be the best "cost benefit" short term action. More complex than the OBL raid in many respects, but it could be a combined NATO operation to send a message not only to Somalia, but every failed sovereign state, that the world will not stand idly by and allow a continuing threat to international commerce costing billions to the world economy and untold human suffering. A straightforward and simple message: either you fix it or we will. We will be happy to help you, but it WILL get fixed.

PatG

