

Assessing the Djiboutian Navy Defense Industrial Base(DIB)



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Abstract

This research examines the industrial base supporting the Djiboutian Navy, focusing on the defense industrial base (DIB) capabilities through a comprehensive sector-by-sector/tier-by-tier (S2T2) and Fragility and Criticality (FaC)analysis. It aims to identify risks associated with the Djiboutian Navy acquisition and port operations that could impact defense budget decisions and long-term operational investments. By analyzing the supply chain, software development, and contracting methods, this study seeks to develop strategies to mitigate identified industrial base risks and enhance the operational readiness and strategic decision-making of the Djiboutian Armed Forces.

Methods



The research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, beginning with a qualitative analysis of existing literature on naval ship acquisition risks. The methodology progresses to an empirical sector-by-sector and tier-by-tier assessment of the Djiboutian defense industrial base, incorporating Fragility and Criticality analysis to evaluate the robustness and critical sectors of the DIB. This approach allows for a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by the Djiboutian DIB and the development of tailored strategies to strengthen it against identified vulnerabilities and risks.

Results & Their Impact

Sector-by-Sector and Tier-by-Tier (S2T2):

- **Advantages:** allows for a focused examination of each sector’s unique requirements and challenges. It is particularly beneficial for identifying specific areas within the naval ship acquisition process that require improvement.
- **Disadvantages:** coordinating and integrating across different sectors and tiers can be a significant challenge. Furthermore, ensuring interoperability and avoiding redundancies require careful planning and execution.

Fragility and Criticality (FaC):

- **Vulnerabilities:** sheds light on the susceptibilities within the DIB, such as over-dependence on single suppliers or critical components that could significantly impact naval operations if disrupted.
- **Prioritization:** facilitates the identification of critical sectors and components that must be protected or developed to ensure robust and reliable naval capabilities.

Recommendations

Enhance S2T2 and FaC Frameworks:

- Improve the understanding and application of S2T2 and FaC analyses among stakeholders.
- Develop a centralized database to track and manage sector-specific and tier-specific information that helps decision-making and strategic planning.

Strengthen supply chain resilience:

- Develop partnerships with a diversified portfolio of suppliers to reduce dependency on single sources and mitigate risks of supply chain disruptions.
- Invest in local industry capabilities where feasible to reduce import reliance, supporting local businesses and contributing to the Djiboutian economy.

Contract management and acquisition strategies:

- Enhance contracting processes to ensure transparency, competitiveness, and fair evaluation of proposals, focusing on long-term value rather than just upfront cost.
- Implementing flexible contracting strategies that can accommodate changes in requirements, technological advancements, and unforeseen challenges.

