



Great Power Competition in the ME

Briefing for the US CENTCOM International Military Officers Forum

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The views express in this briefing are the authors and not those of the USG or DoD

The NESAs Center: Lines of Effort



Who We Are:
A team of 36+ security professionals located on the NDU Campus at Fort McNair providing, education, engagement, and outreach programs to security, defense, & diplomatic leaders from over 30 countries throughout the Near East and South Asia

Our Network:
Over 11,000+ (NESAs graduates) leaders and influencers from throughout the NESAs region

Our Mission:
Enhance security in the Near East and South Asia by building sustained, mutually beneficial relationships; fostering regional cooperation on security issues; and promoting effective communications and strategic capacity through free and candid interaction in an academic environment

Our Programs:

Education

Provide Expertise & Develop Strategic Thinking

- Core & DC-based Programs
- In Region Programs iso COCOMs

Engagement

- JPME Programs-KSA, UAE, JO & Iraq

Identify Leaders & Build Relationships

- Dedicated COCOM Programs
- Track II (4 Types) Activities
- DC Events - Wash Seminars & Think Tank Events

Outreach

Remaining Connected, Collecting and Shaping Viewpoints Over Time

- Alumni Affairs
- Web Page & Strategic Comms



FY21/22 Program

- Programs / Courses: 81/92 (\$8.80M)
 - Core Programs = 13/12
 - Middle East Programs = 16/14
 - North Africa Programs = 14/25
 - South Asia Programs = 5/5
 - Central Asia Programs = 7/4
 - Special Initiatives = 12/9 & 10 PME
 - KSA Transformation (\$9.25M)
 - Iraq PME/ONSA (\$.840M)
 - Jordan PME MTT
 - Track II = 14/10 (\$1.2M – from \$8.80M)
 - DSCA UFR (\$1.4M) ends in FY21
- Alumni Goal: 1,400
- Total Program: **\$20.09M**

- Opportunities Identified for FY22:**
- Supporting CENTCOM & AFRICOM Commanders
 - Iran “Deep Dive” Program
 - CENTCOM GPC & RP (Strategic Competition)
 - Indian Ocean Region Dialogue (COCOM Seams)
 - KSA (NDU/AFSC) SANDU Transformation (FMS Case)
 - Grow PME -> Iraq, Jordan, UAE, Qatar, Nepal, Sri Lanka
 - Central Asia – Economy of Force Opportunities
 - Build our Women, Peace & Security Programs
 - Better Incorporate the ‘Ideology / CVE-PVE / Mis & Disinformation / Social Media / Cyber’ Challenge into our Programs
 - Build on our partnerships with USIP, think tanks & universities
 - Continue to provide regional reflections & issue updates to OSD-P, the Joint Staff, our COCOMs & DoS
 - Use the COVID-19 New Operating Environment to improve our outreach to Program Participants & Alumni via SM and VTCs
 - Maximize **TRACK II Programs** to provide engagement opportunities with potential Gray Zone Adversaries – China, Russia, & Iran in support of Freedom of Maneuver in the NESAs AO

A Security Partner of Choice Focused on Engagement, Education & Outreach

As of 19 Oct 2021

The Near East South Asia Center (FY22)



CCMD Strategic Guidance

CENTCOM

Strategic Priorities

- 1) Deter Iran
- 2) Resolve the Conflict in Afghanistan
- 3) Maintain D-ISIS Campaign Continuity in Iraq & Syria
- 4) Competition with Russia & China

Functional Priorities

- 1) Unmanned Aerial Systems
- 2) Displaced Persons and the Weaponization of Refugees

Lines of Effort

- 1) Iran
- 2) VEOs
- 3) GPC

CCMD Strategic Guidance

INDOPACOM

"China as a Major Strategic Competitor"

- 1) Secure the Indo-Pacific Region
- 2) Foster effective and accountable security sector governance in the region

CCMD Strategic Guidance

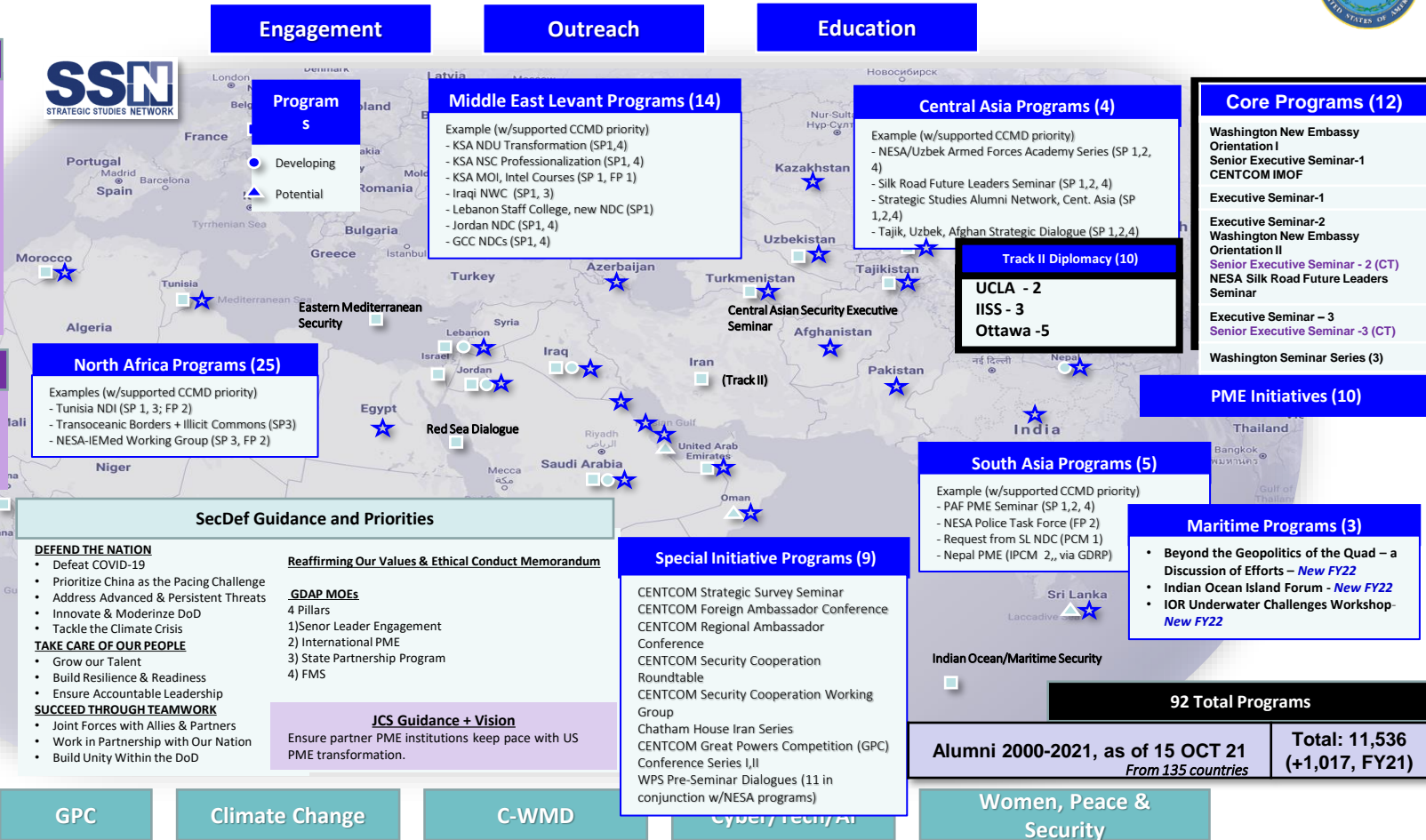
Approaches

- 1) Strengthen Partner Networks
- 2) Enhance Partner Capabilities
- 3) Develop Security in Somalia
- 4) Contain Libyan Instability
- 5) Support Partners in the Sahel and Lake Chad Region
- 6) Set the Theater

CMD Strategy Approach

- 1) A Partner for Success
- 2) Compete to Win
- 3) Pressure on M. Networks

Ctr VEO is GPC & BPC is GPC



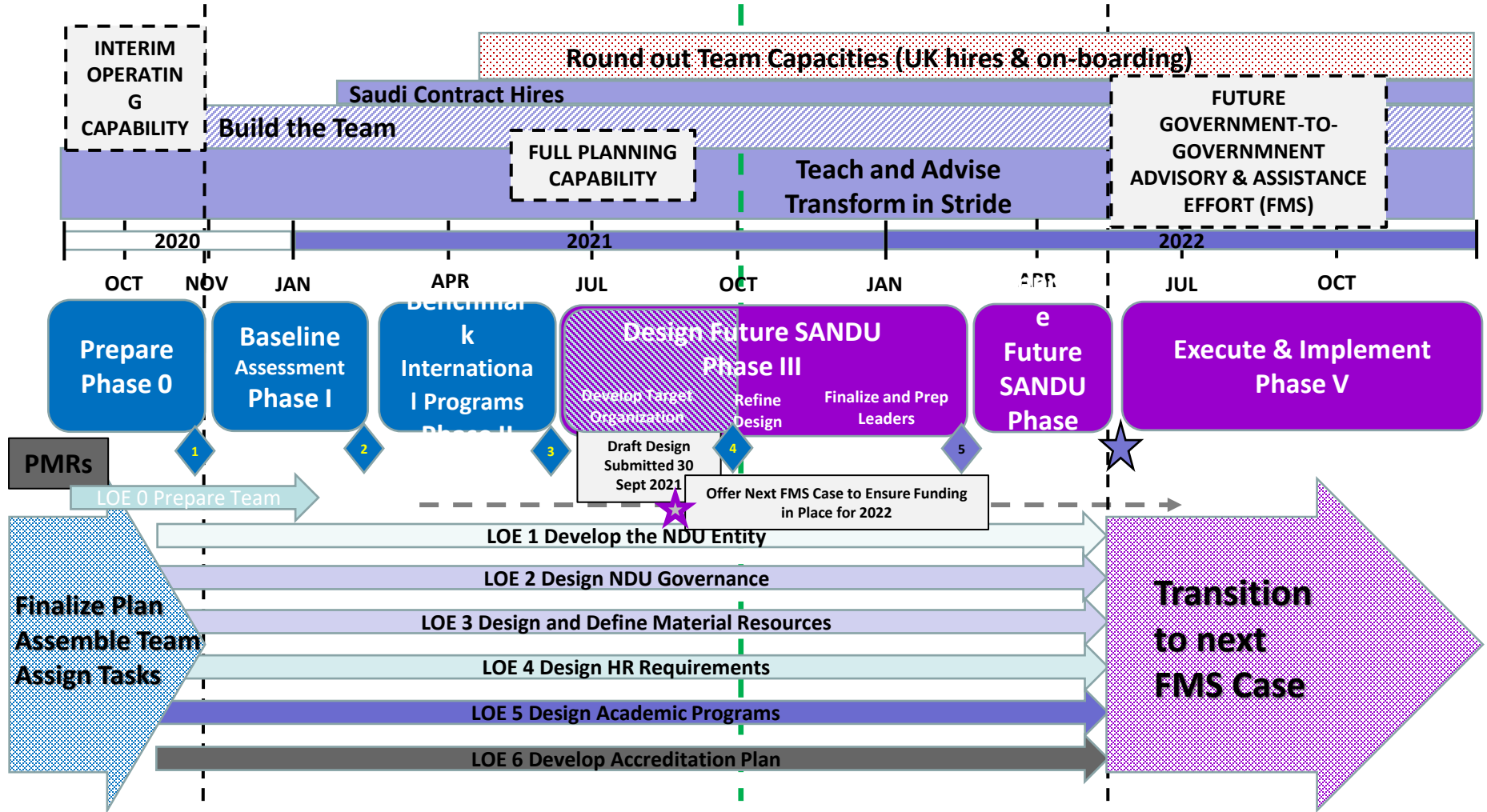
Focused emphasis →

GPC **Climate Change** **C-WMD** **Cyber/Technology** **Women, Peace & Security**



Enabling Saudi Arabia NDU Transformation

The Critical Foundation for Future Capability Development and Coalition Interoperability





US National Security Strategy

National Security Priorities:

Protect the security of the American people

Expand economic prosperity and opportunity

Committed to realizing and defending the democratic values and the American way of life

Reinvigorate and modernize our alliances and partnerships around the world



From a Transactional Westphalian (Nationalist) to a Values Based (Globalist) Security Policy



US National Security Strategy

Principles of the Biden Foreign Policy:

- Renew Democracy at Home
- A Foreign Policy for the Middle Class to succeed in the global economy
- Back at the Head of the Table in terms of working with allies and partners to mobilize collective action on global threats via a balanced & coherent approach with diplomacy in the lead
- Prepared to Lead



The Primacy of Domestic Politics



US Military Strategy

Defend the Nation:

- Defeat COVID-19
- Prioritize China as the Pacing Challenge
- Address Advanced & Persistent Threats
- Innovate & Modernize DoD
- Tackle the Climate Crisis



Internally Focused

Take Care of Our People:

- Grow our Talent
- Build Resilience & Readiness
- Ensure Accountable Leadership



US Military Strategy

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK:

- Outreach towards Allies & Partners
- Work in Partnership with Our Nation
- Build Unity Within the DoD



Working:

- Integrated Deterrence Concept
- Global Force Posture Review
- China Task Force
- Climate Crisis Task Force
- Deputy's Workforce Council
- Sexual Assault Independent Review Commission
- Countering Extremism Working Group
- Afghanistan Drawdown



US Military Funding

Comparative Funding:

Current and projected military spending

(USD billions/ % of GDP, 2015 and 2030)

	2015	2021	2030 (estimated)
U.S.	597 (3.3%)	740	967 (3.8%)
China	145 (1.8%)		627 (2%)
India	48 (2.3%)		306 (2.5%)
Russia	65 (5.4%)		163 (4%)
Germany	36.7 (1.2%)		60.3 (1%)
Japan	41 (1%)		60 (1%)

Source: 2030 estimates based on SIPRI 2016 data

Policy is where you spend your money – real increase of 16% in social spending beginning 2022

US Response – Indo-Pacific:

- UK – US – Australia
- NK – Strategic Patience (again)



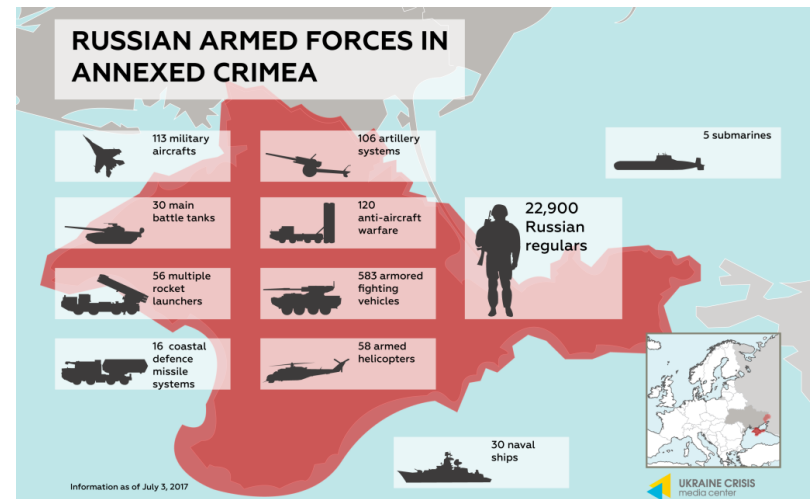
Strategic "Spoiler"

Ukraine: NATO problem is a US problem

Lack will

Lack military capability

Deir al-Zour

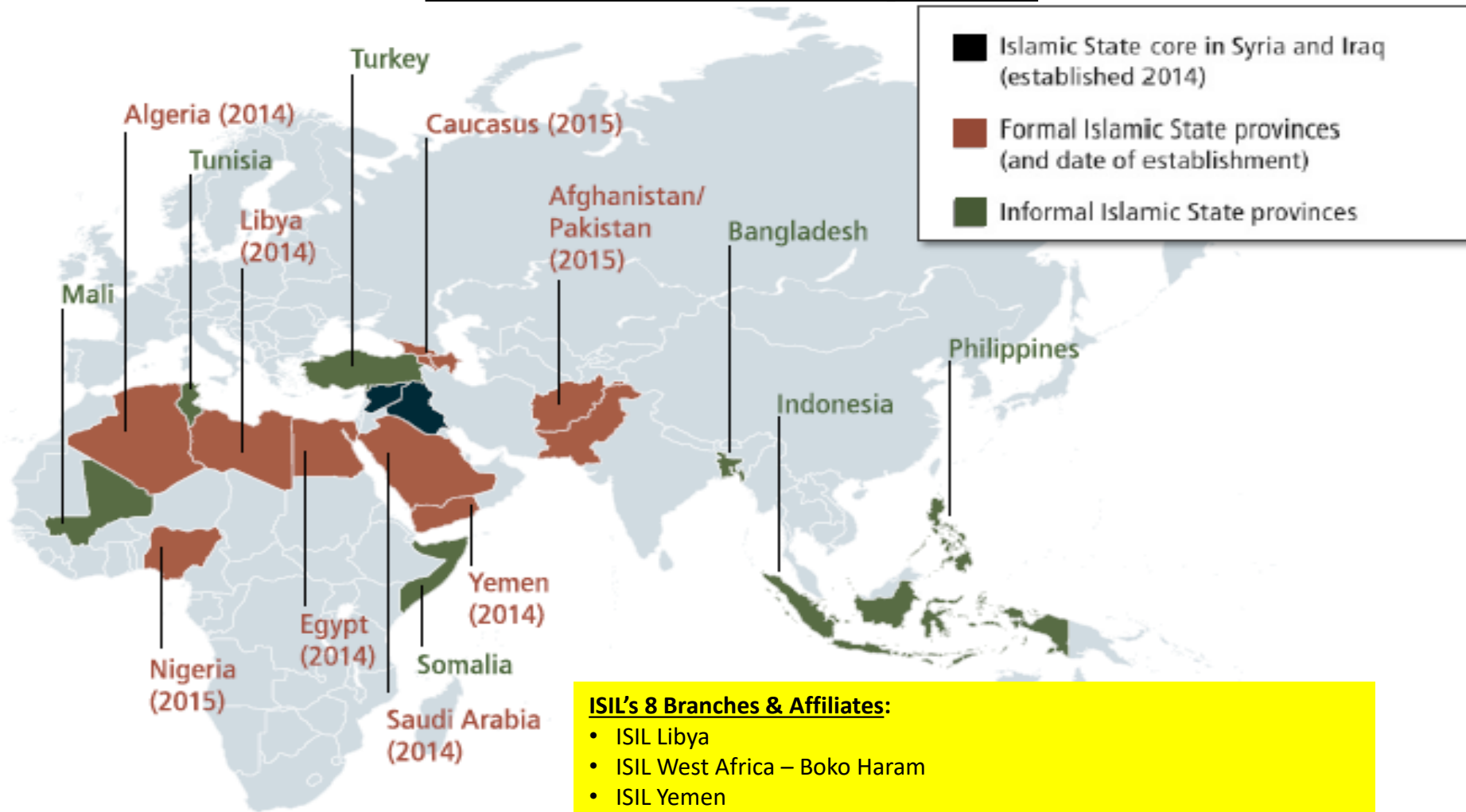


Syria: Russia, Turkey and Iran

- They deserve each other

- Reduction of Idlib

ISIS Global Footprint*



ISIS's 8 Branches & Affiliates:

- ISIL Libya
- ISIL West Africa – Boko Haram
- ISIL Yemen
- ISIL Sinai
- ISIL Khorasam (Afghanistan – Pakistan)
- ISIL Saudi Arabia
- ISIL Algeria
- ISIL Caucasus
- Affiliates -> Tunisia; Turkey; Sub-Sahara Africa; Sudan; Bangladesh; Indonesia; Malaysia; Philippines
- Europe Linkages



2019: U.S. Footprint & Activity in Africa

UNCLASSIFIED



Military/Defense

1
Permanent Military Base
(Djibouti)

0 by 2025
New Military Bases Anticipated

~6,750 Troops
Total Deployed in Africa

28 Troops
In 5 UN Peacekeeping Operations

\$97 Million
Military Equipment Sales

11
Major Military Port Visits

Diplomatic/Development/Economic

49 (of 53)
Diplomatic Missions

~\$9.6 Billion
Foreign Aid (USAID)

~\$48 Billion
15% *decrease* in FDI Stock

0 and 0
Visits to/from Africa & U.S.
Cabinet-level or above

~171,000
U.S. citizens living in Africa

COVID-Related (2020-2021)

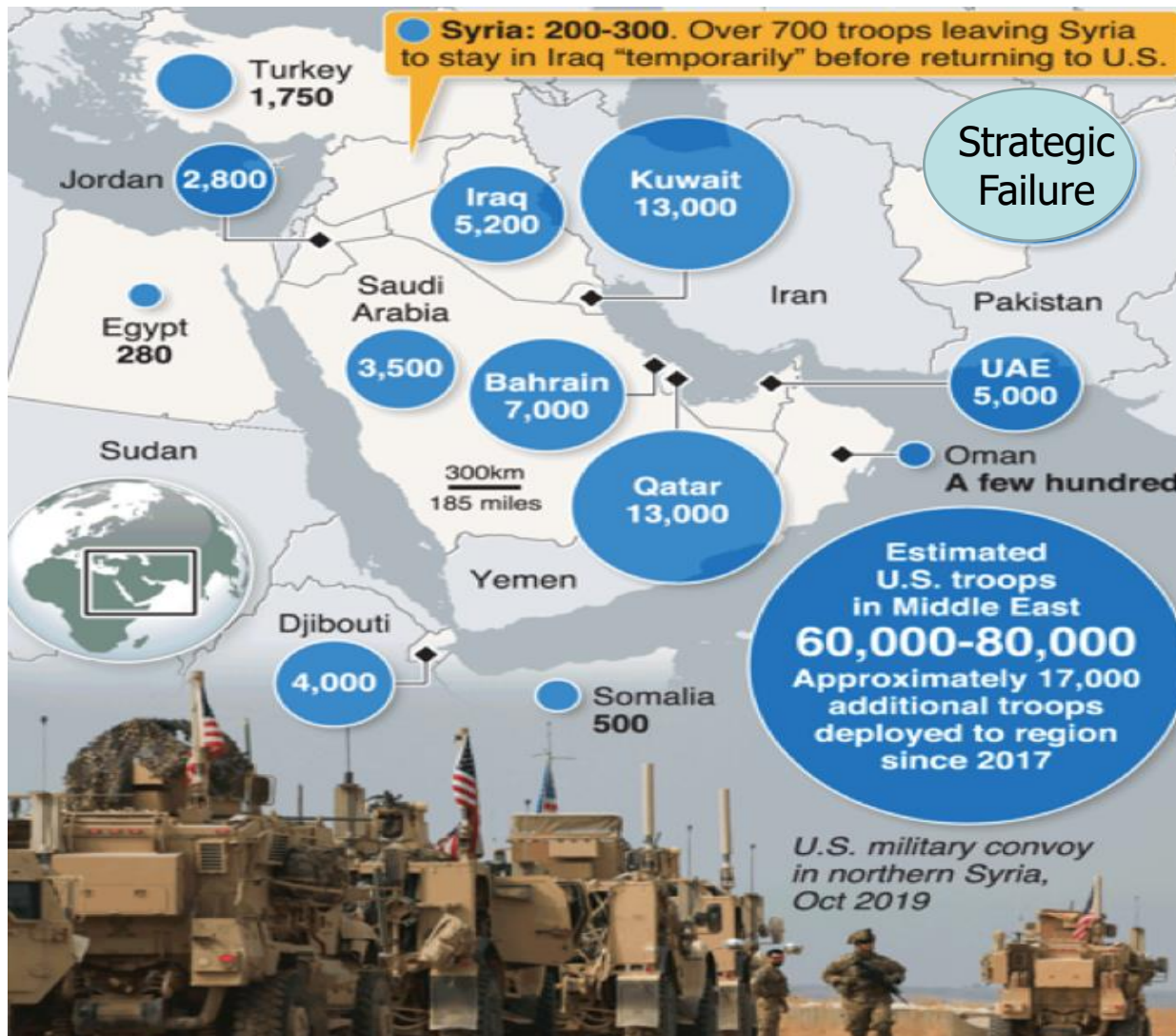
0
COVID Vaccinations Directly Provided
(Leading Donor to global COVAX initiative)



UNCLASSIFIED



Middle East



The US is not leaving the Middle East



What Middle East Equities are Missing in Biden FP?

Great Power Competition Dynamic in the Middle East. Russia: Desires sphere of influence while undermining the US; securing a seat at the table; economic motivations; and play asymmetrically in ways of Putin's choosing.
China. BRI & trade, presence in the M.E and Africa, bases & choke points

Middle East Security Alliance. Iran: "JCPOA Future" and linkages Ballistic Missile Problem & Malign Influence in the Region. What role will the Region play in these discussions?

Israel & the Region. Palestinian Uprising and Current Response. How to build on the Abraham Accords?





What Middle East Equities are Missing in Biden FP?

KSA. No offensive support for Yemen fight. Will continue to help KSA defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and people. Strong statements on human rights.

Yemen. Houthi challenges beyond Yemen's border

Economic & Trade. Willingness to maintain U.S. military presence to ensure the free flow of energy and trade throughout the region?

Human Rights Approach? How specific in the ME?





Regained initiative on the Arab peninsula

US Reaction to Abqaiq and Khurais (Sep 20) and Oil Prices – perhaps:

- Abraham Accords
- Gulf Détente (Qatar) – v. Iran
- Reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Syria (AMB Jeffery)
- NESAs IPME
- Yemen civil war - No Offensive Actions
- Iranian malign influence – Elections, Statements, Military Candidates
- Lebanon – Shia crescent to the Mediterranean – “broken”

“Iran will be the lens through which you will view the theater”



National Security Advisor O'Brien --Trump Administration Successes

“Putting the American People First; Peace Thru Strength & Dealing with the World as It Is”

- ✓ ISIS Geographic Caliphate Defeated
- ✓ 50 US hostages released
- ✓ USMCA trade agreement replaced NAFTA
- ✓ Illegal immigration reduced 85%
- ✓ NATO contributions up \$400B over 10 years
- ✓ End of Sequestration – US Budget Control Act
- ✓ Space Force brought into being
- ✓ Expanded relations with 2 democracies -- India & Brazil
- ✓ Focused on the Asia Pacific
- ✓ Maximum Pressure Campaign on Iran
- ✓ Abraham Accords –a warm peace
- ✓ Balkans (Serbia-Kosovo) Agreement
- ✓ Protected U.S. Sovereignty
- ✓ China –“we see them for who they are”



**Moving from DIME to DIME
under Biden**



Questions