



**ISIS
and
The Branches & Affiliates
Wolff's Thoughts
(2 April 2021)**

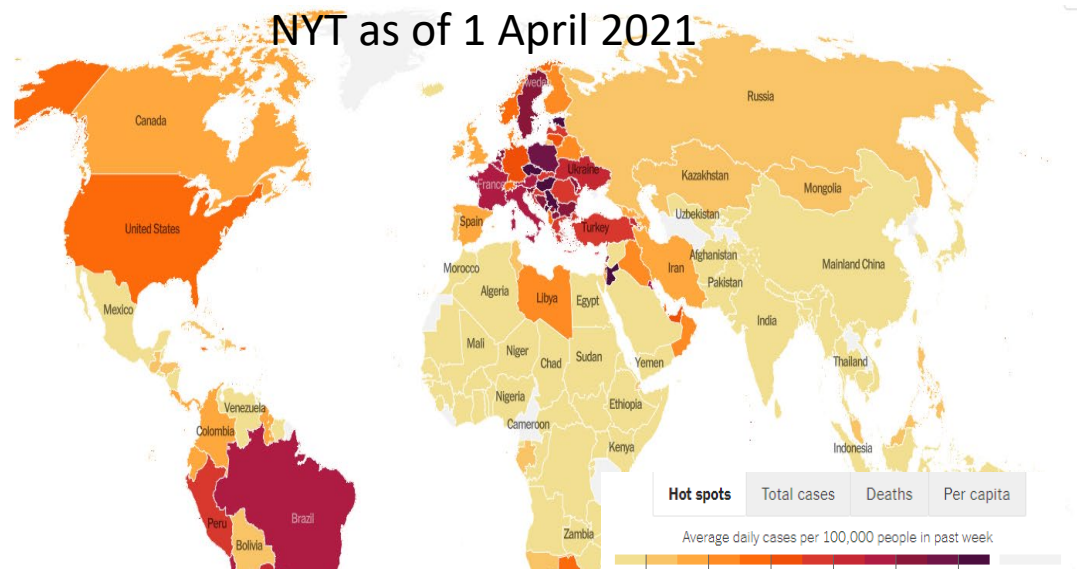
Agenda

- **Opening Big Ideas**
- **COVID-19 Impacts**
- **GPC-RPC / Gray Zone Framing**
- **The US & National Security**
- **VEOs – ISIS/Da'esh & AQ**
- **Case Studies**

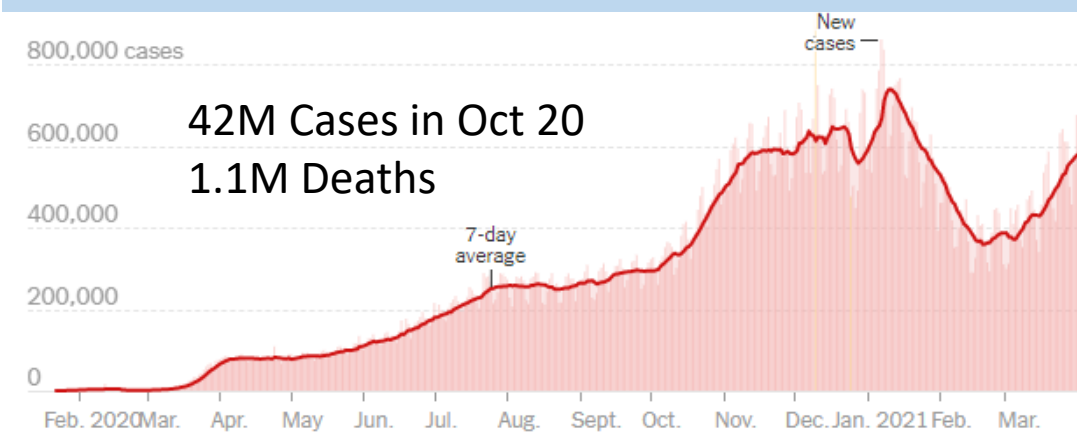
Big Ideas – Understanding the Context

- COVID-19 has created a “New Normal and a New Operating Environment” – We Must Learn to Adapt IOT live with the virus.
- Societies often change when confronted with: 1) Wars; 2) Recessions; 3) Pandemics
- Similarities associated with Pandemics and Terrorism – “How the Enemy (ISIS and other VEO Groups) Seize Opportunity”. Must Try to Determine what will happen next?
- Nations Respond to Threats Based on Their National Security Interests.
- State & Non-State Actors often use opportunity space when available.
- Many of the themes I’ll discuss you’ve heard the past four (4) days, so I hope to sharpen your perspective and challenge some of your assumptions.

NYT as of 1 April 2021



1918 Flu Pandemic Worldwide Deaths = 17-100M (675K US)
 Asian Flu 1957 Worldwide Deaths = 1-2M (116K US)
 1968 Flu Pand. H3N2 Worldwide Deaths = 1-4M (100K US)
 2009 H1N1 Worldwide Deaths = 150-575K (12K US)



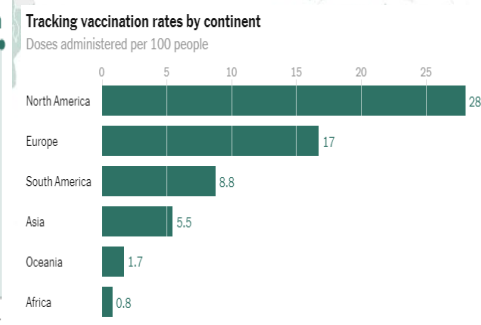
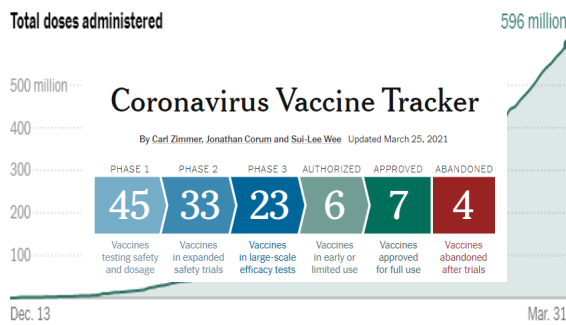
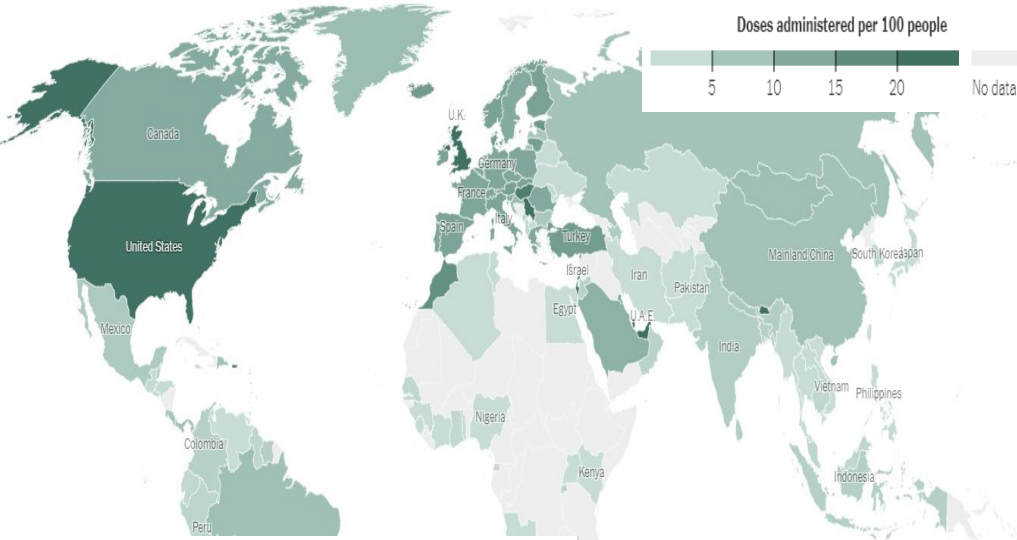
	TOTAL REPORTED	ON MARCH 31	14-DAY CHANGE
Cases	128.9 million+	676,789	+30% →
Deaths	2.8 million+	12,241	+18% →

COVID-19 Thoughts

- Pandemic is far from over
- This may be a 36 month event
- 3x Variants & Case Load Impacts
- Reporting is uneven # of: cases, infected, tested & deaths
- No cure for the coronavirus - yet
- Remarkable vaccine dev process - must get the world vaccinated

COVID-19 Impacts

- Worldwide recess. (-4.4 to 5.2% GDP)
- Job loss has been large
- Those in extreme poverty rising
- Travel & tourism impacted
- Energy demand & price down
- Food Insecurity growing
- Globalization challenged?
- Protest movements – unmet expect.
- Disinformation efforts ongoing
- Bad actors exploiting opportunity
- Pandemics have lasting impact & often drive change!
- Possible Wildcards?



	Per 100 people	Total	Vaccinated	Fully vaccinated
World	7.8	595,831,493	-	-
Israel	113	10,030,015	59%	54%
Seychelles	104	100,552	66%	38%
U.A.E.	86	8,308,469	-	-
Chile	56	10,461,783	36%	20%
U.K.	53	35,014,074	46%	6.2%
Bhutan	50	379,425	50%	-
Bahrain	49	766,317	33%	16%
Monaco	47	18,081	25%	22%
Maldives	46	237,716	-	-
United States	45	150,273,292	29%	16%
Malta	40	191,716	29%	11%
Serbia	35	2,444,395	20%	15%
San Marino	35	11,759	26%	8.8%
Qatar	29	816,484	-	-

Leading vaccines

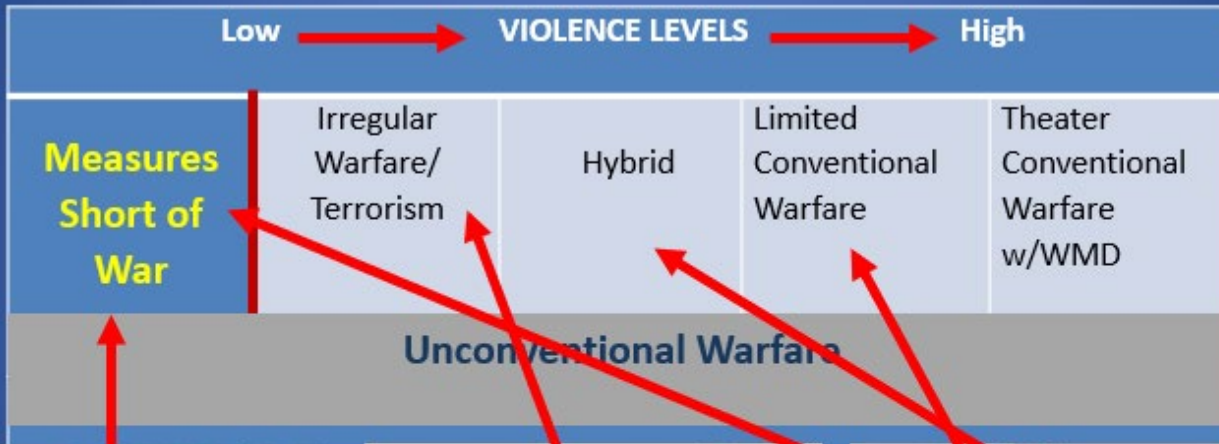
Developer	How It Works	Phase	Status
Pfizer-BioNTech	mRNA	2 3	Approved in several countries. Emergency use in U.S., E.U., other countries.
Moderna	mRNA	3	Approved in Switzerland. Emergency use in U.S., U.K., E.U., others.
Gamaleya	Ad26, Ad5	3	Early use in Russia. Emergency use in other countries.
Oxford-AstraZeneca	ChAdOx1	2 3	Approved in Brazil. Emergency use in U.K., E.U., other countries.
CanSino	Ad5	3	Approved in China. Emergency use in Mexico, Pakistan.
Johnson & Johnson	Ad26	3	Emergency use in U.S., E.U., Bahrain.
Vector Institute	Protein	3	Early use in Russia.
Novavax	Protein	3	
Sinopharm	Inactivated	3	Approved in China, U.A.E., Bahrain. Emergency use in other countries.
Sinovac	Inactivated	3	Approved in China. Emergency use in other countries.
Sinopharm-Wuhan	Inactivated	3	Approved in China. Limited use in U.A.E.
Bharat Biotech	Inactivated	3	Emergency use in India, Iran, Zimbabwe.

PRC-119M; Inida-65M; Brazil-19M; Ger-13M; RF-11M; Mor-8M Mexico-8M; Indonesia-11M;

Vaccination Data Points (Need to up gun):

- 596M+ Doses Admin / 7.8 per 100
- 10 vaccines being used worldwide-> AZ-99 Countries(C); Pfizer-82 C; Moderna-35 C; Sinopharm 23 C; Sputnik-20 C; Sinovac-15C
- WHO COVAX Goal 2B vaccinations in 2021

Understanding The Gray Zone – The Continuum of Warfare

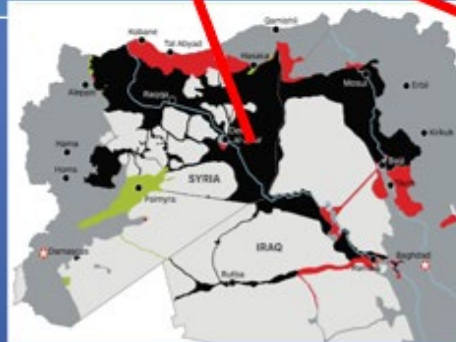


GEN Joe Votel CENTCOM Cdr

***Actors taking a “gray zone” approach seek to secure their objectives while minimizing the scope and scale of actual fighting.**

***In this “gray zone” we are confronted w/ ambiguity on the nature of conflict the parties involved and the validity of the legal and political claims at stake.**

***These conflicts defy our traditional views of war and require us to invest time and effort in ensuring we prepare ourselves with the proper capabilities, capacities, and authorities to safeguard US interests.**



Low → VIOLENCE LEVELS → High

Gray Zone Conflict

Interstate
Conventional
Warfare

Theater
Conventional
Warfare
w/WMD

National Security Advisor O'Brien -- Trump Administration Successes

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

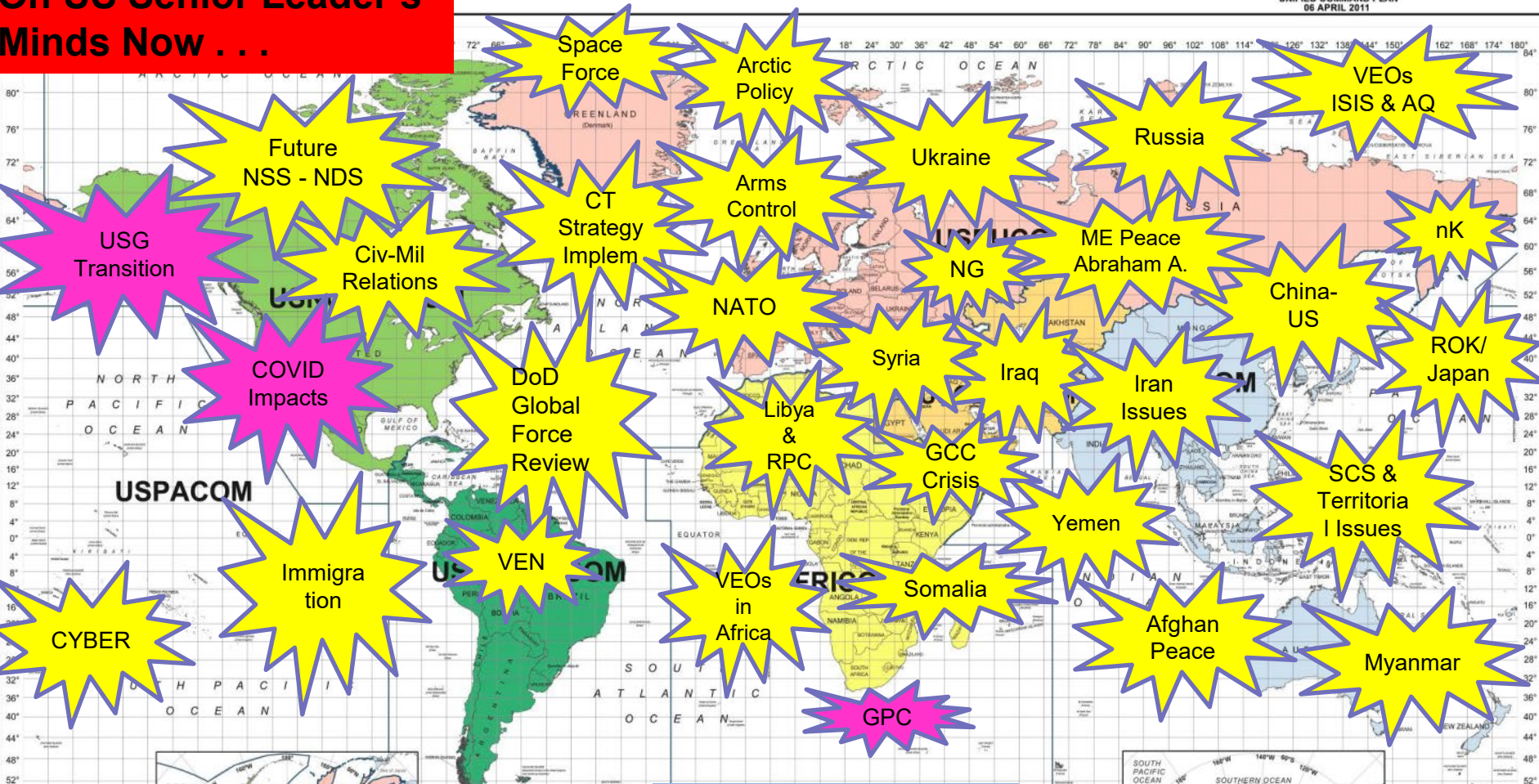
- **ISIS Defeated**
- **50 US hostages released**
- **USMCA trade agreement replaced NAFTA**
- **Illegal immigration reduced 85%**
- **NATO contributions up \$400B over 10 yrs**
- **End of Sequestration – US Budget Control Act**
- **Space Force brought into being**
- **Expanded relations with 2 democracies -- 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”**



On US Senior Leader's Minds Now . . .

WITH COMMANDERS' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

EDITION 9 NGA
 BASED ON
 UNIFIED COMMAND PLAN
 06 APRIL 2011



- ### U.S. National Security Interests
- The survival of the Nation
 - Prevent catastrophe attack of US territory
 - Security of the global economic system
 - Security, confidence & reliability of our allies
 - Protection of US citizens abroad
 - Preserve & extend of universal values

- ### U.S. Security Concerns
1. China
 2. Russia
 3. Iran
 4. nK
 5. VEOs
 6. Cyber Threats

- ### Biden N.S. Priorities
1. Prot the security of the Am people
 2. Expand economic prosperity & opportunity
 3. Defend democratic values
 4. Revitalize & modernize our alliances & partnerships

Thoughts About the USA – And Our Republic

- **USG & the Separation of Power (Balance of Power) between the President (Executive) and Congress (Legislative) results in dynamic tension & friction**
- **Civilian Control of the Military**
- **Executive Branch's InterAgency Process is designed to offer choices to the President – Definition of Goals / Objectives (ENDS)**
- **Tools of Statecraft – D//M/E/P//Fin/t (WAYS)**
- **Congress controls the MEANS via appropriations (\$\$), authorization & oversight**
- **Lots of Players involved in the crafting of US Policy which impacts clear communications & understanding – so read directly what leaders (POTUS/SecState/SecDef/Congress Big 8) say**
- **“Say-Do” Syndrome – Policy Pronouncement to Action to Program**
- **Impact of Social Media & Technology and Time on Decision Makers**
- **Transition Periods**

President Biden's Foreign Policy

Three (3) Tenets of the Biden Foreign Policy

- ❑ Repair US credibility and influence in the world
- ❑ Deal with global challenges “from climate change and mass migration to technological disruption and infectious diseases”
- ❑ Re-empower trust in democratic institutions & international system.

“The next U.S. president will have to address the world as it is in Jan 21, and picking up the pieces will be an enormous task. He or she will have to salvage our reputation, rebuild confidence in our leadership, and mobilize our country and our allies to rapidly meet new challenges. There will be no time to lose.”

Four (4) Principles of the Biden Foreign Policy

- (1) Renew Democracy at Home
- (2) A Foreign Policy for the Middle Class to succeed in the global economy.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Prepared to Lead

Secretary Blinken's Rollout Speech -- Interim NSS Guidance Document

Enduring Principles

- **American leadership and engagement matters** - *the world does not organize itself;*
- **We need countries to cooperate, now more than ever** as *there is no wall high enough or strong enough to hold back the changes transforming our world;*
- **Diplomacy in the Lead (for the U.S.)- engage and build that cooperation for today's challenges** - *we'll look not only to make progress on short-term problems, but also to address their root causes and lay the groundwork for our long-term strength. The goal is not to just build back, but build back better.*

The US Plan - 8 Tenets

1. **Stop COVID-19 and strengthen global health security.**
2. **Turn around the economic crisis and build a more stable, inclusive global economy.**
3. **Renew democracy, because it's under threat.**
4. **Work to create a humane and effective immigration system.**
5. **Revitalize our ties with our allies and partners.**
6. **Tackle the climate crisis and drive a green energy revolution.**
7. **Secure our leadership in technology.**
8. **Manage the biggest geopolitical test of the 21st century: our relationship with China.**





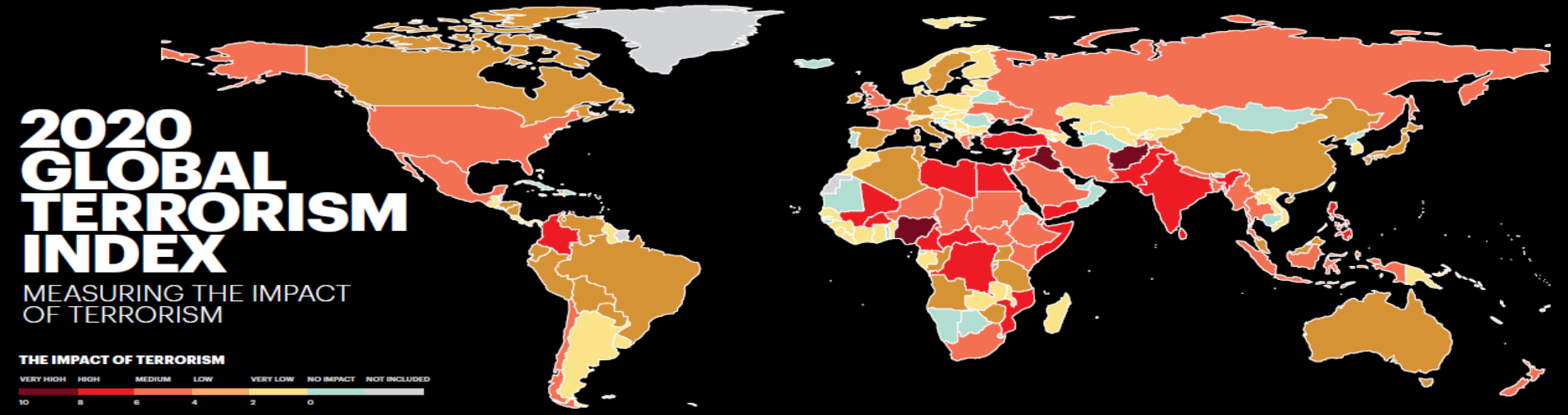
**ISIS
&**



The VEO Challenge

“The idea that the United States should focus less on counterterrorism and more on other issues is a bankrupt premise.” . . . “Less than three years after the U.S. military withdrew from Iraq, it launched operations there again against the Islamic State in 2014.” . . . “I hear this riff all the time: We’ve got to rebalance, as though this is somehow a zero-sum game. I understand how attractive that idea is — it’s just completely unrealistic. It never works. It never lasts.”

LTG (Ret) Michael Nagata, Middle East Institute – Distinguished Research Fellow
From Washington Post, 13 Dec and Dan.lamothe@washpost.com

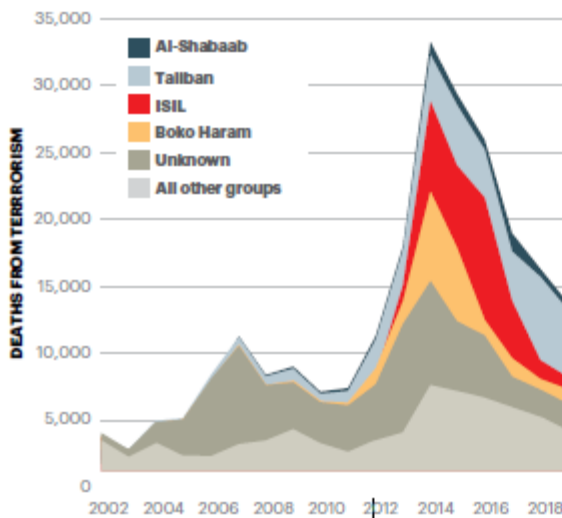


Results

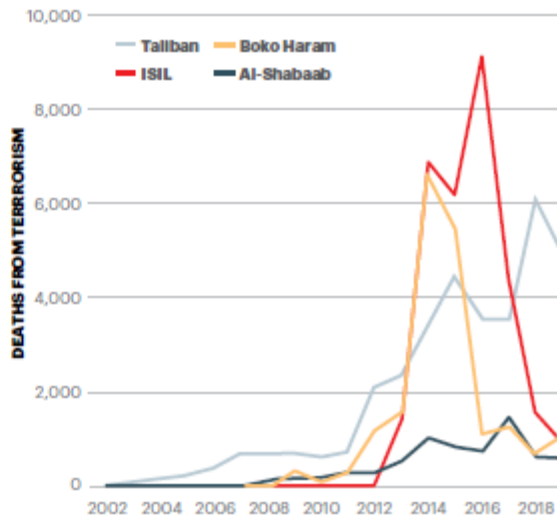
- **Deaths from terrorism fell for the 5th consecutive year in 2019 to 13,826 deaths, representing a 15% decrease from the prior year.**
- **MENA, Russia & Eurasia, South America and South Asia regions all recorded falls in deaths from terrorism of at least 20%.**
- **Terrorism has fallen in most regions, has become more widespread in others. 7 of 10 countries with the largest increase in terrorism were in sub-Saharan Africa.**
- **Burkina Faso had the largest increase in terrorism deaths by percentage followed by Sri Lanka.**
- **Afghanistan remains the country with the highest impact from terrorism.** Terrorism deaths in the country declined in 2019 for the first time in 3 years. Other Top 10 incl: Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Pakistan, India, DROC & Philippines.
- **Taliban remained the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2019.** Terrorist deaths attributed to the group declined by 18 per cent to 4,990. Peace talks impact?

Four deadliest terrorist groups in 2019

The Taliban were the deadliest terrorist group for the second consecutive year.



Source: START GTD, IEP calculations



Of Note:

- As activity falls in the ME & South Asia, new threats are emerging. Most prominent is:
1) spread of ISIS affiliate groups in sub-Saharan Africa, 2) emergence of far-right terrorism in Western Europe and North America
- ISIS's Global Reach has expanded w/ISIS related attacks recorded across 7 Regions: Asia-Pacific, Europe, MENA, NAmerica, Russia & Eurasia, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- O/S of Iraq/Syria, since 2013, ISIS groups & individuals conducted 3K attacks in 48 nations.
- # of countries recording an ISIS-related attack increased from 2 in 2013, to 27 in 2019.
- In the West, ISIS directed or inspired at least 78 terror attacks between 2014 and 2019, resulting in 471 fatalities. France/US/Belgium recorded the most ISIS-related deaths.
- 41% ISIS-related attacks in 2019 occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting the shift in ISIS-related attacks away from the Middle East.

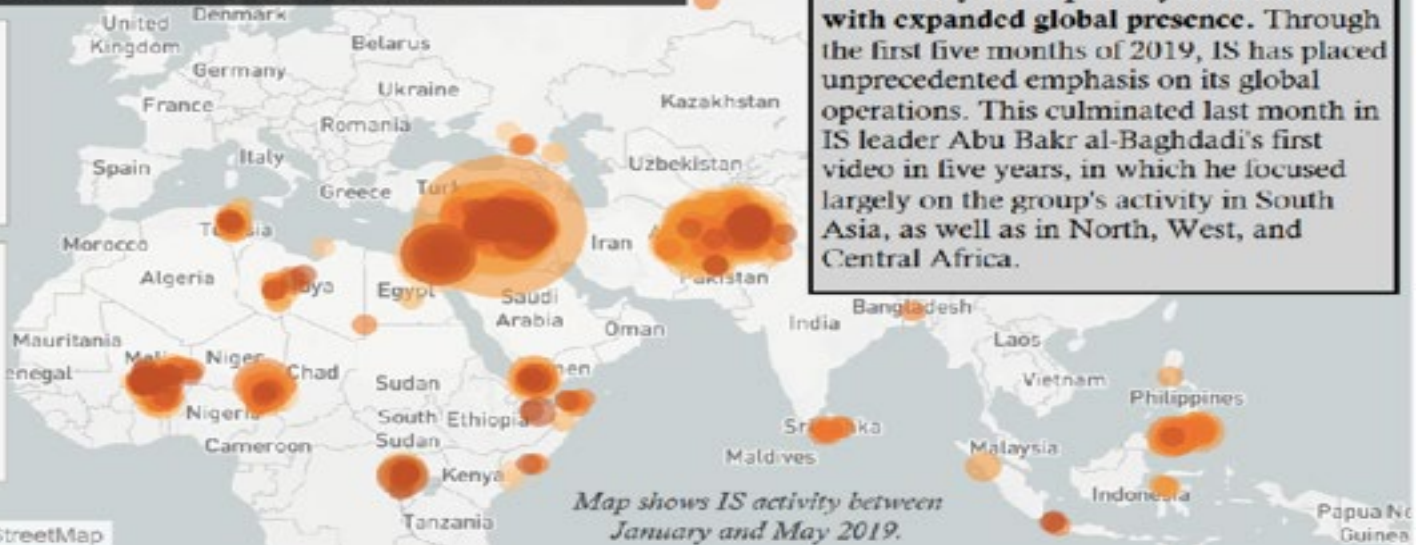
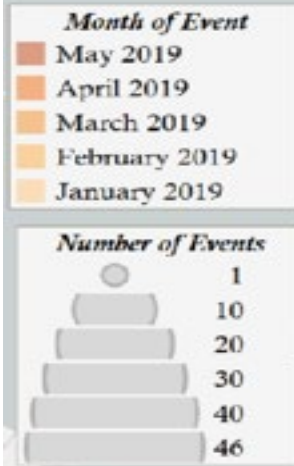


**VEOs
(ISIS & AQ)
A Few Lessons Learned in
the Fight Against Da'esh**

Da'esh Isn't Gone & Neither is AQ

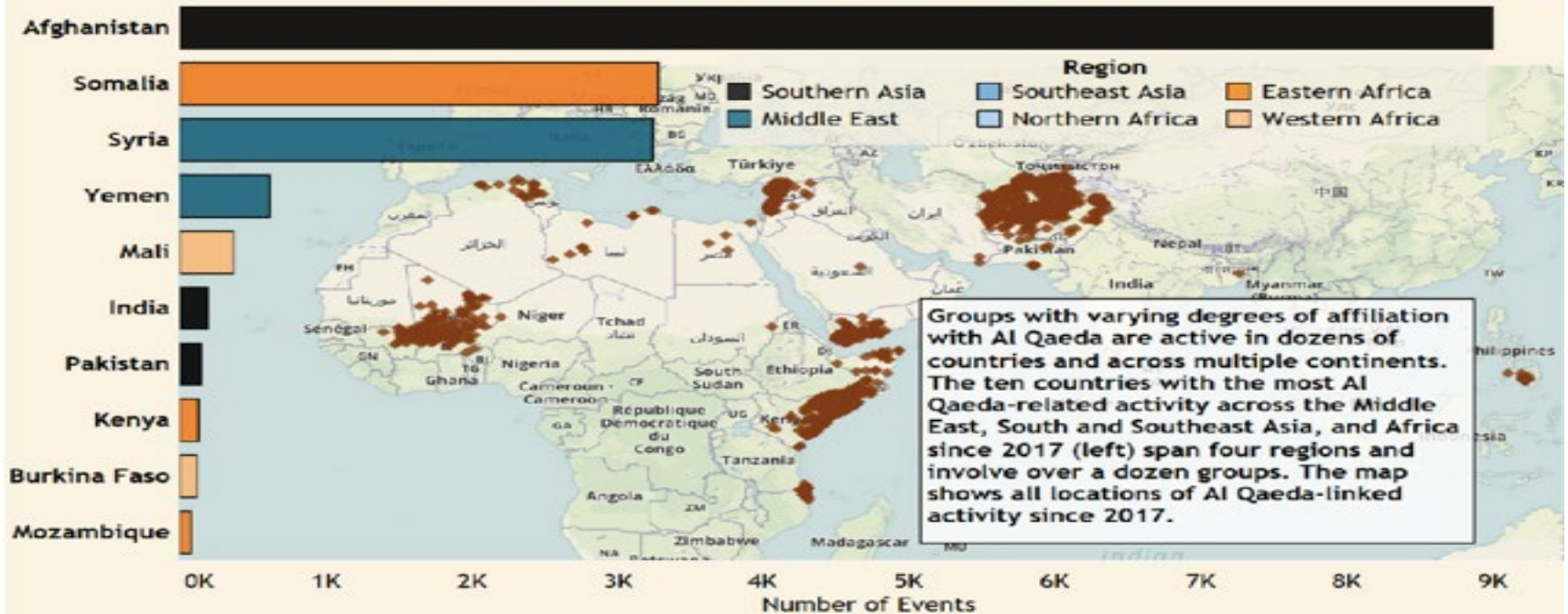
The Islamic State has expanded its global footprint in 2019, and has restructured in order to emphasize its global operations.

The Islamic State (IS) has greeted its loss of territory in Iraq and Syria in 2018 with expanded global presence. Through the first five months of 2019, IS has placed unprecedented emphasis on its global operations. This culminated last month in IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's first video in five years, in which he focused largely on the group's activity in South Asia, as well as in North, West, and Central Africa.



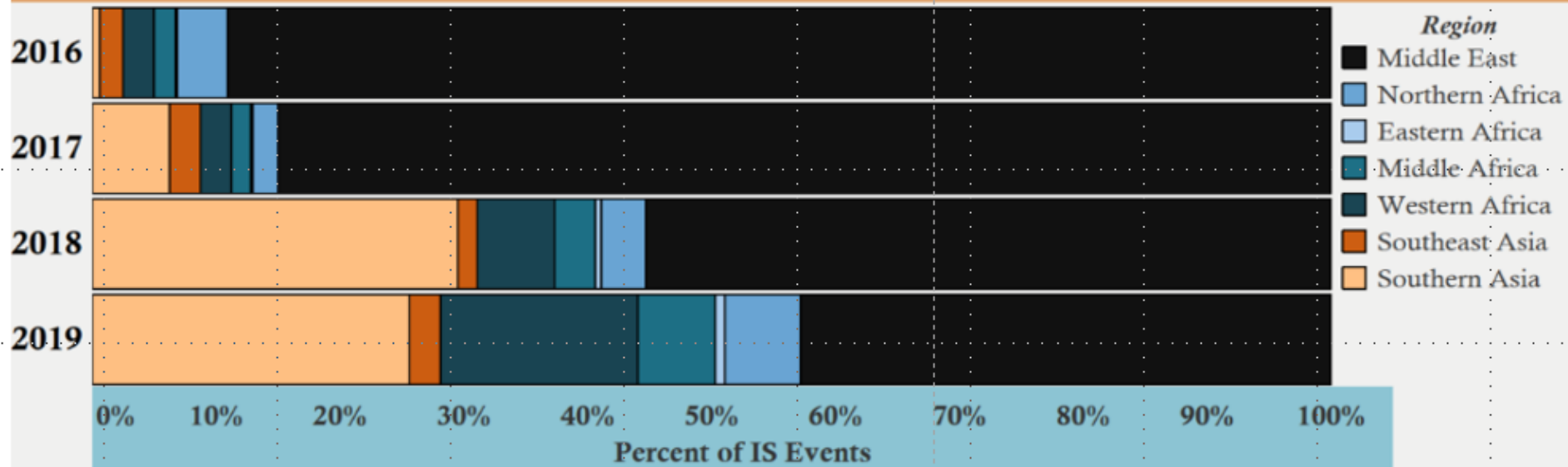
© 2019 Mapbox ©OpenStreetMap

Al Qaeda-linked groups span the globe



Da'esh Isn't Gone -- Indicators of Why It Isn't Over

More than half of IS activity in 2019 has taken place outside of the Middle East



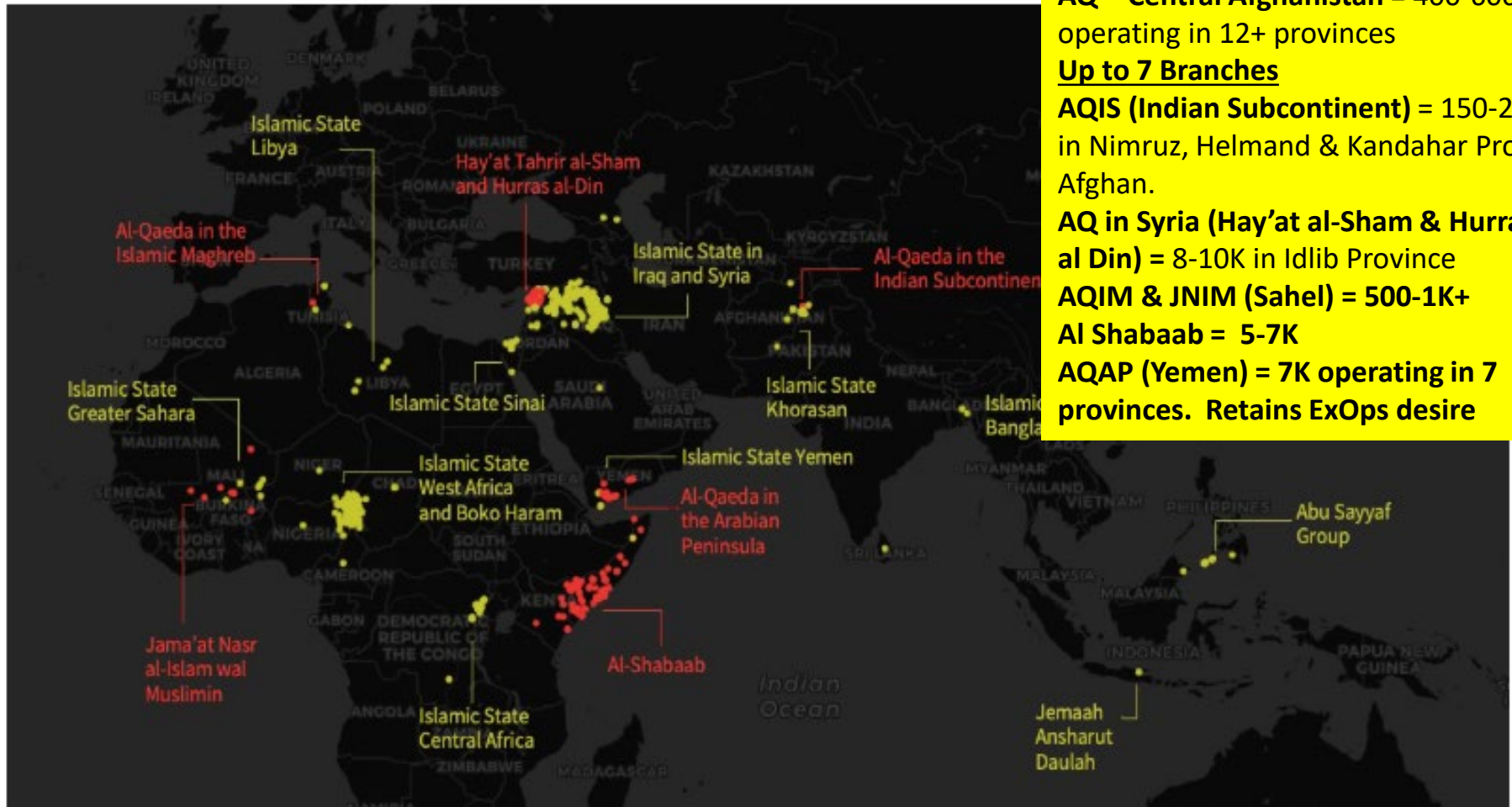
An April 2019 message from IS leader Baghdadi signals expansion

New Wilayats (Provinces)	New focal points	More to come?
<p>DRC</p> <p>Three new IS branches emerged in the past month. Wilayat Central Africa, based in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), grew out of an existing rebel group. Wilayat al-Hind is a new branch based in Kashmir. Wilayat Turkey, advanced in Baghdadi's video, has not yet claimed an attack.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Turkey</p>	<p>Libya</p> <p>Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>In his April video, Baghdadi praised specific IS activity across three regions. This included attacks in Libya (Africa), in Saudi Arabia (the Middle East), and the Easter attacks in Sri Lanka (South Asia). The scope of his praise served to emphasize IS's worldwide reach.</p>	<p>Afghanistan</p> <p>Burkina Faso</p> <p>Mali</p> <p>Baghdadi accepted pledges of allegiance from groups in three countries. These countries - Burkina Faso and Mali in the Sabel and Afghanistan in South Asia - have some of the highest levels of IS activity outside of Iraq and Syria.</p>

Sept 19 – Baghdadi's direction – prison breaks

Oct 19 - With Abu Ibrahim's appointment, Da'esh media bureau choreographed pledges of support from 16 B&A

Figure 3: Islamic State and Al-Qaeda Attacks, 2019¹⁹



AQ Worldwide Enterprise – Wolff's Best Guess

AQ – Central Afghanistan = 400-600 -> operating in 12+ provinces

Up to 7 Branches

AQIS (Indian Subcontinent) = 150-200 in Nimruz, Helmand & Kandahar Prov, Afghan.

AQ in Syria (Hay'at al-Sham & Hurras al Din) = 8-10K in Idlib Province

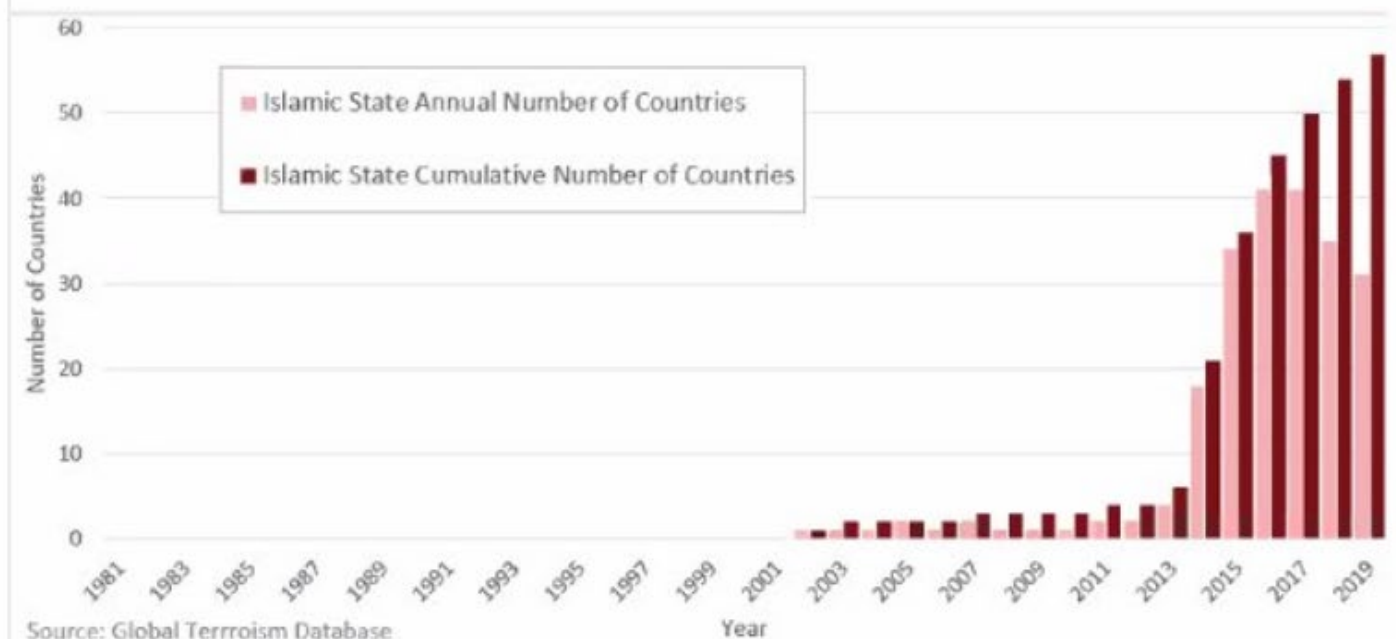
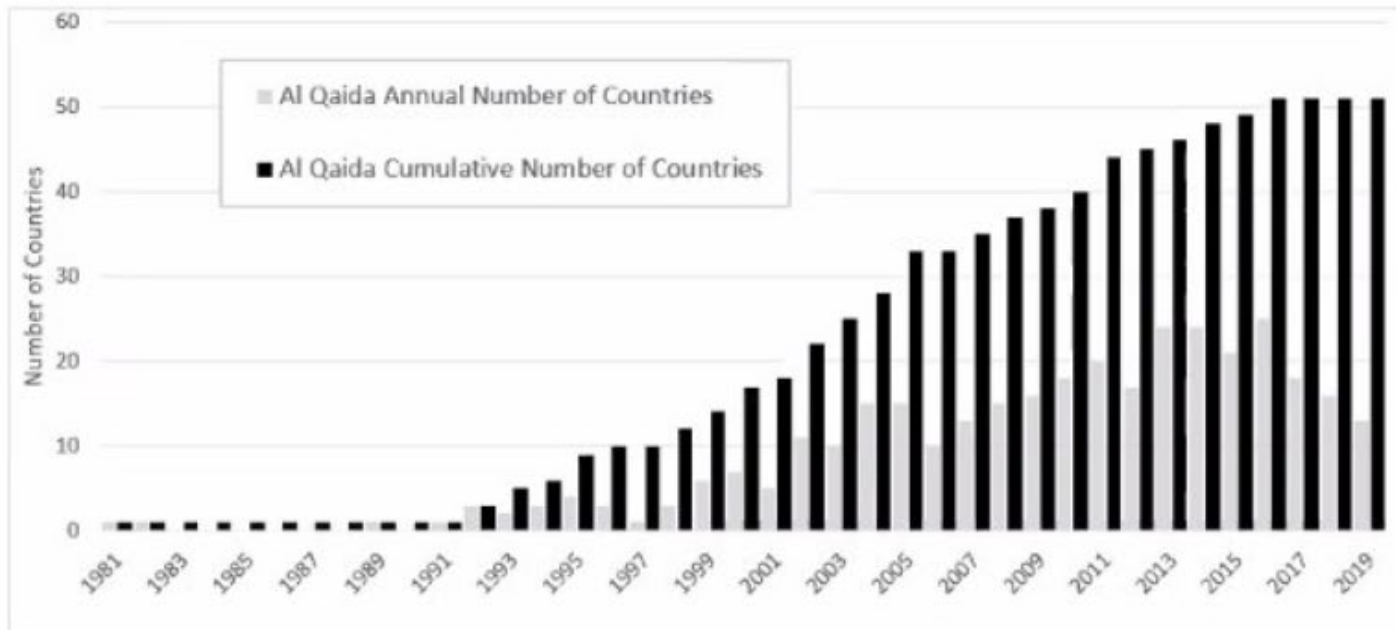
AQIM & JNIM (Sahel) = 500-1K+

Al Shabaab = 5-7K

AQAP (Yemen) = 7K operating in 7 provinces. Retains ExOps desire

- Seth Jones-3 Sets of Factors that Increase the Probability of an Insurgency (study of 200 insurgencies) including: 1) Grievances, 2) Weak Governance with incompetent police & military forces, 3) Greed – see WBG “Pathways for Peace” and USIP “Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States”
- Review the Arab Youth Survey 2020 at https://www.arabyouthsurvey.com/about_the_survey.html
- Role of nation states in supporting proxy forces

Geographic Reach of Al Qaida- and Islamic State-Related Attacks, 1981 – 2019 (Includes Predecessors, “Core,” Affiliates, and Inspired Individuals)



Source: Global Terrorism Database

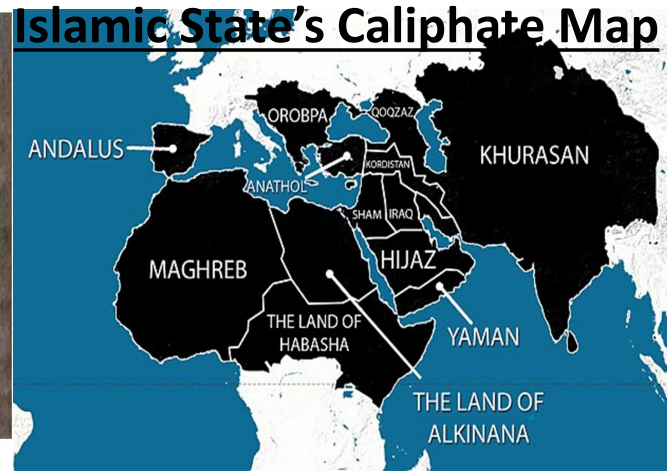
Year

Key Thoughts

- The Fight Against ISIS has been different every year & will be in 2021
- Fight Against ISIS is Far From Over-Da'esh has strategic depth
- We're in a Critical "Counter-Insurgency" Phase in Iraq & in Syria
- Coalition of 83 Remains Strong Enabled by the Guiding Principles Document & Coalition Meetings and Commitments
- Campaign Has Been Dominated via a "By - With - Through" Effort - This Must Continue (Military & Non-Military components)
- Focus on Right Approaches for Major ISIS Networks & Branches through Multiple Mechanisms – (Coalition, Multilateral, Bilateral)
- Baghdadi's Death Isn't the End of Da'esh -> Amir Mohammed Sa'id Abdul-Rahman al-Mawli (they always have a succession plan)



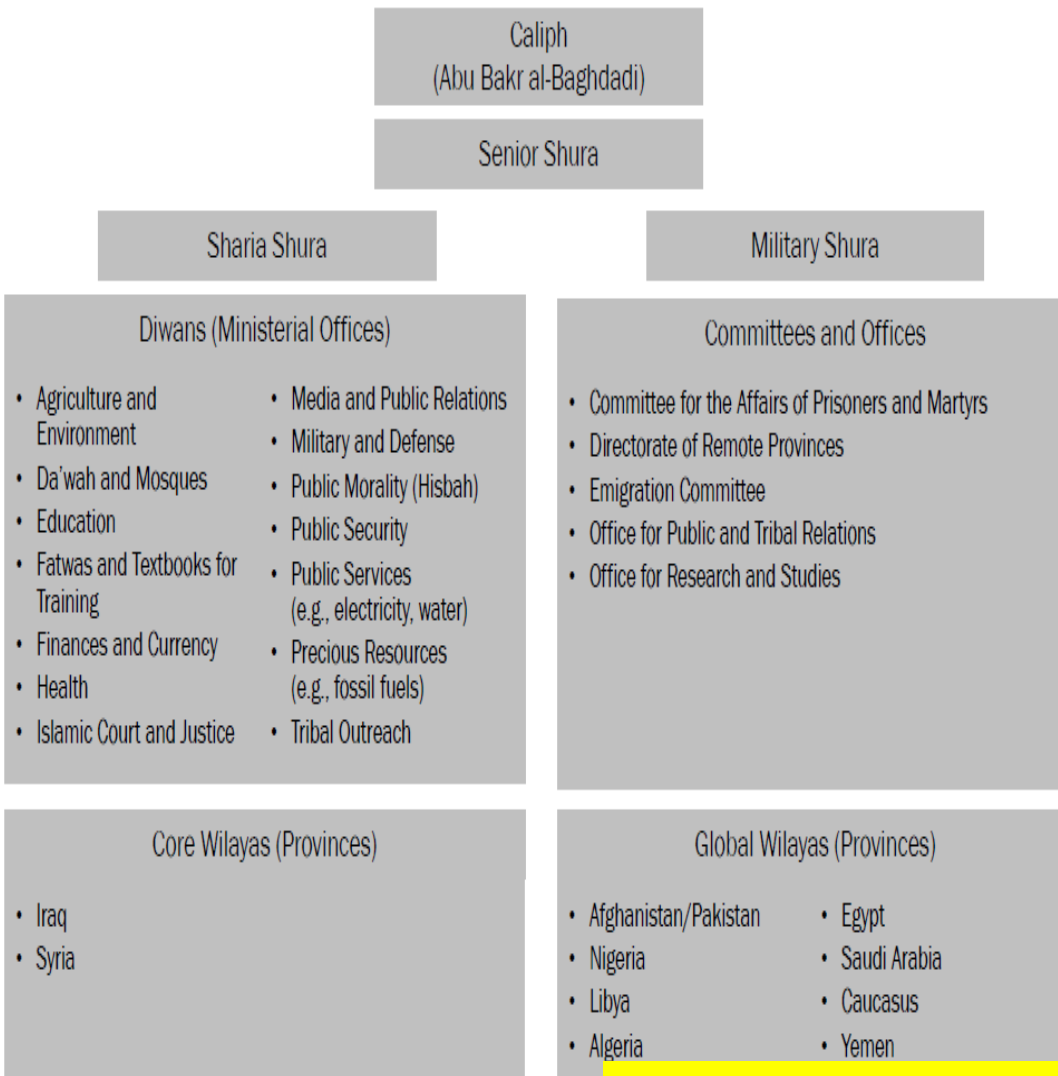
▲ Amir Mohammed Abdul Rahman al-Mawli al-Sabi, the new Isis leader. Photograph: Twitter



ISIS Organizational Structure is Resilient

Islamic State organizational structure

Indicators of Islamic State strength and weakness



The Role & Legitimacy of the Islamic State Leader



Territorial and population control

It is all about the physical caliphate



Popular support



Global spread of wilayas and supporters

Via the use of Islamic State Media Warfare

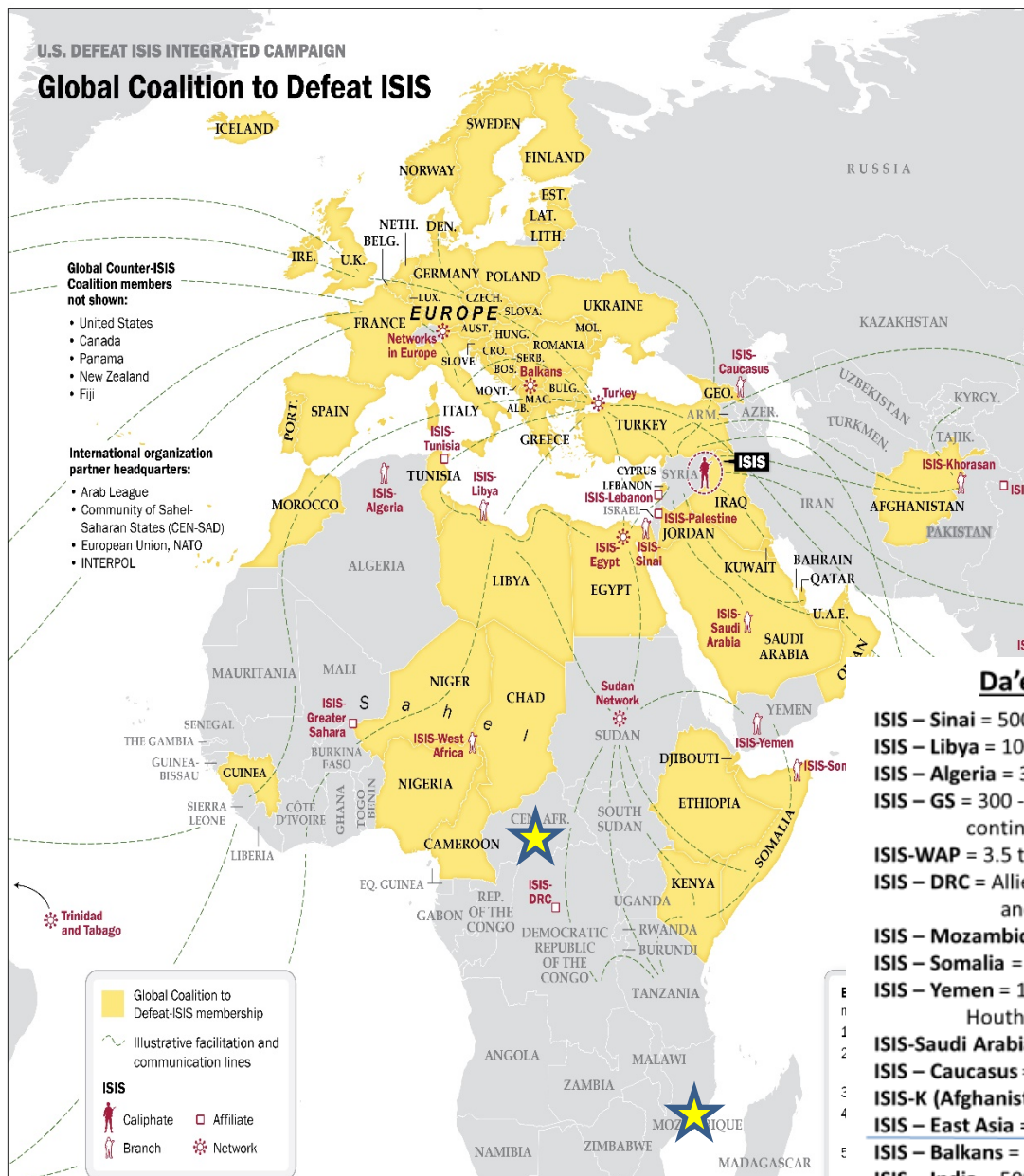


Levels of violence

Clandestine ops, Guerilla Warfare, Conv Ops

U.S. DEFEAT ISIS INTEGRATED CAMPAIGN

Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS



How We're Thinking About Global ISIS

- * Disrupting the Transregional Flow and Generation of ISIS Financing & Weapons (IEDs, UAS, WMD)
- * Address the Dispersal of ISIS Fighters & Families across Borders & Prevent Further Radicalization
- * Disrupt External Operation & Movement of ISIS Operatives Globally
- * Neutralize the Narrative
- * Protect our Homelands – FTF Problem Set

Da'esh Branches and Affiliates – Wolff's Assessment

31 March 21

- ISIS – Sinai = 500-1K -> Stalemate with GoE military on the Sinai
- ISIS – Libya = 100 - 200 (1.4K) -> Disbursed, but GNA/LNA fighting offers sanctuary
- ISIS – Algeria = 30-50 -> Remnant cells remain
- ISIS – GS = 300 -> With JNIM (AQ) violence has created havoc in the Sahel – continued attacks on security forces in tri-border area BF-Mali-Niger
- ISIS-WAP = 3.5 to 5K -> With BH (1-2K) actions causing enormous challenges in NE Nigeria
- ISIS – DRC = Allied Democratic forces (ADF) & Madina at Tauheed Wau Mujahedeen) 2K locals and FTFs from Burundi, Chad, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya,
- ISIS – Mozambique = 1-3K -> Rwanda, Somalia Tanzania & Uganda - on the upswing in E.Africa
- ISIS – Somalia = 300-500 mostly in the Puntland, but al-Shabab (5-7K) the key VEO
- ISIS – Yemen = 100-500 in 2/22 Provinces – 3rd in importance after the Houthis and AQAP Houthis helping ISIS to fight AQAP in Bayda Gov.
- ISIS-Saudi Arabia = less than 50
- ISIS – Caucasus = 100-400 but 2.5K-4.3K went to Syria & Iraq
- ISIS-K (Afghanistan) = 1-3K but up to 10K (mostly in the East)
- ISIS – East Asia = 300-500 in the Philippines & diversifying on Mindano & Sulu;
- ISIS – Balkans = 1-2K with over 1K known to have gone to Syria & Iraq
- ISIS – India = 500? Announced May 2019
- ISIS – Bangladesh = 100?
- ISIS – Indonesia = 20 (JAD linkage 1K?) with 1.5K known to have gone to Syria & Iraq / 600 rtn'd
- ISIS – Sri Lanka & Maldives = 100?
- ISIS – Turkey = unknown number in the 3.5M refugees
- ISIS – Europe Affiliates = 6K FTFs travelled to Syria & Iraq – lone wolf attackers – prison releases

Bottom Line -- De'esh Comes From Existing VE Groups

- 50+ Group have pledged allegiance
- Few new “start ups”

More on the Future of ISIS

- The Fight Against ISIS continues to evolve – a learning organization
- Da'esh has strategic depth both in Syria & Iran and in the Branch/Affiliates (Global)
- ISIS marries Kinetic Action with Social Media well - ideology



ate Soldiers In #Libya, Teach That With Patience and That The Best R The Pious"



Global Coalition Areas of Concern – Identified in July 2017

- Emerging ISIS Hotspots & Trends
- ISIS and Women & Children
- ISIS Use of Encrypted Comms Platforms
- Radical Information Sharing
- ISIS Threats to Domestic Security
- FtF Detention, Extradition and/or Prosecution
- Rehabilitation and Reintegration
- Financial Profiles of FtF and ISIS Supporters
- ISIS Non-oil Sources of Revenues
- Terrorist Financing Vulnerabilities in Digital Payment
- Border Control / Intercepting ISIS at Your Borders
- Degrading the ISIS Brand
- Destroying ISIS Legacy
- Cyber Policy and ISIS
- Strategic Messaging on Stabilization
- How to Manage a Messaging Center
- ISIS as Innovator

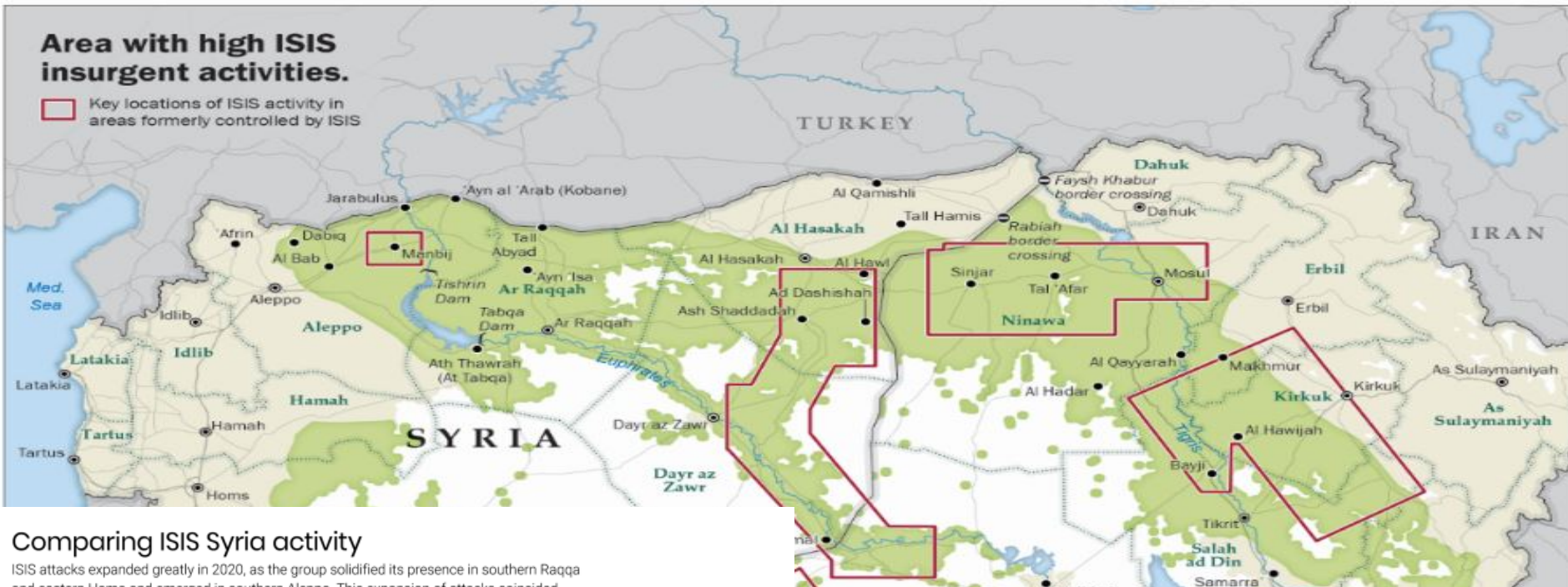


Al Hol Camp – “The Tip of the Iceberg”

35 Humanitarian partners, including UN agencies and implementing partners

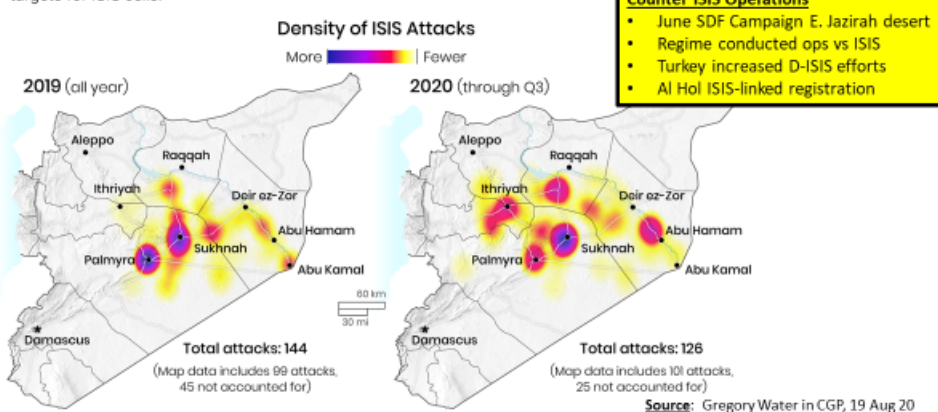
HIGHLIGHTS		Note – 4K incl 2.6K Syrians have left since June 2019		Now	
Now - 66,101	Now - 61K	Now - 25+K	Now - 30K	Now - 9.5K	Now - 11.5K
73,782	91% = 67K	182	20.8M	30K	9.5K
TOTAL POPULATION	WOMEN AND CHILDREN	CHILDREN REUNIFIED WITH FAMILY	FUNDING REQUIRED	IRAQIS	ISIS W&C

Areas With High Historical ISIS Insurgent Activity

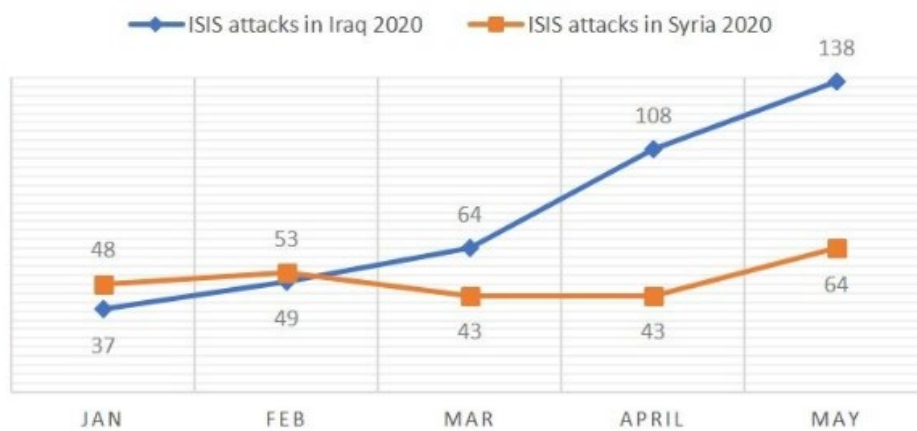


Comparing ISIS Syria activity

ISIS attacks expanded greatly in 2020, as the group solidified its presence in southern Raqqah and eastern Hama and emerged in southern Aleppo. This expansion of attacks coincided with widespread anti-ISIS operations by regime forces in April, which presented additional targets for ISIS cells.



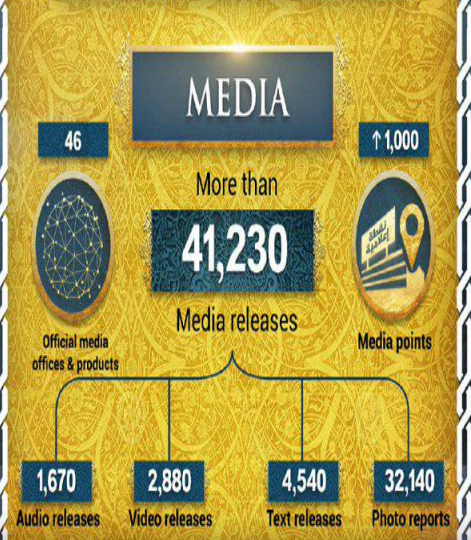
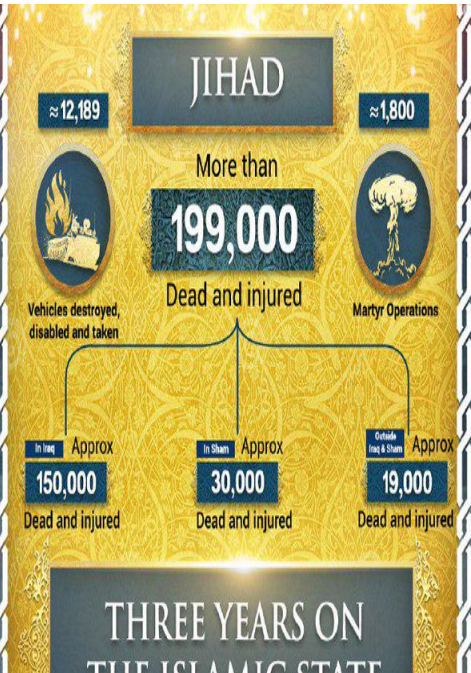
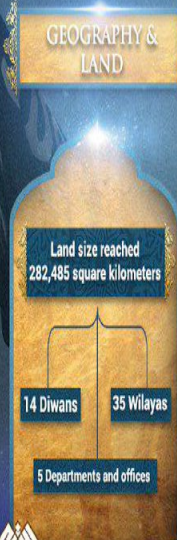
ISIS ATTACKS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA 2020



Data Source: U.S. Central Command

- **ISIS Attacks are increasing against Regime Forces and the SDF**
- **Between Jan 19 to 31 Jul 20 -- 268 ISIS attacks have killed approx. 406 Syrian Regime & Allied Fighters in central Syria. Most attacks in Homs (113 total attacks, 30 high-quality attacks) & DeZ (115, 30) w/increases in both overall & high quality attacks in the "exterior" provinces of Raqqah (20, 8), Hamah (15, 5), and Aleppo (5, 3) since Dec 19**

ISIS Media in Support of Their Ideology



JUNE 2017

Kill the Civilians of the Crusaders, Run Over them by Vehicles (Gain Benefit from Ramadhan)



Handgun Knife Truck

اقتلوا المدنيين من الصليبيين، ادهسهم (استغلوا رمضان)

RUMIYAH

ISSUE 10 - RAMADAN 1438 - EN



THE JIHAD IN EAST ASIA

85th Nabiya



PDF

النبا

صحيفة

85

العبد الخامس والثمانون
20 رمضان 1438 هـ

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ISIS Core Narratives - The Legacy

Winner's Message: Maintaining the perception of strength and momentum



Religious Legitimacy: Calling all Muslims to the caliphate, IS claims to be only legitimate Islamic movement



The Caliphate as an Islamic Utopia: Highlighting governance, service provision & the implementation of sharia

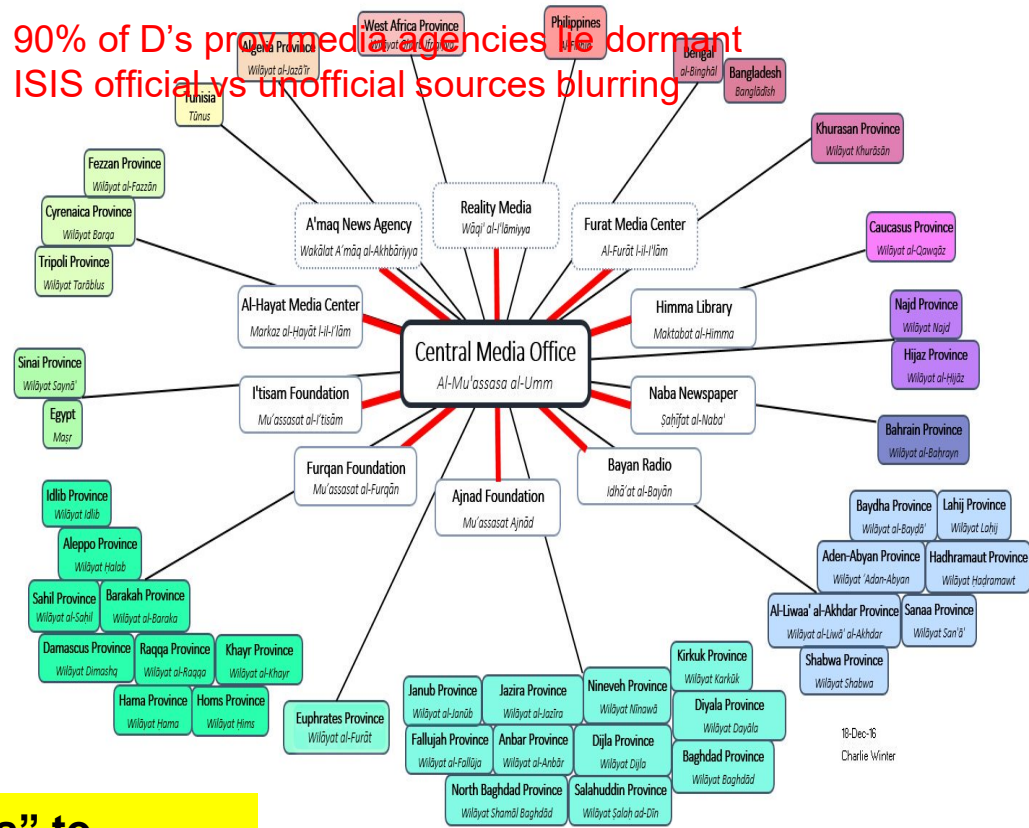


Distribution of cooking gas in Deir al-Zour.

Camaraderie and Adventure: Portraying the jihad as the ultimate journey; themes of brotherhood

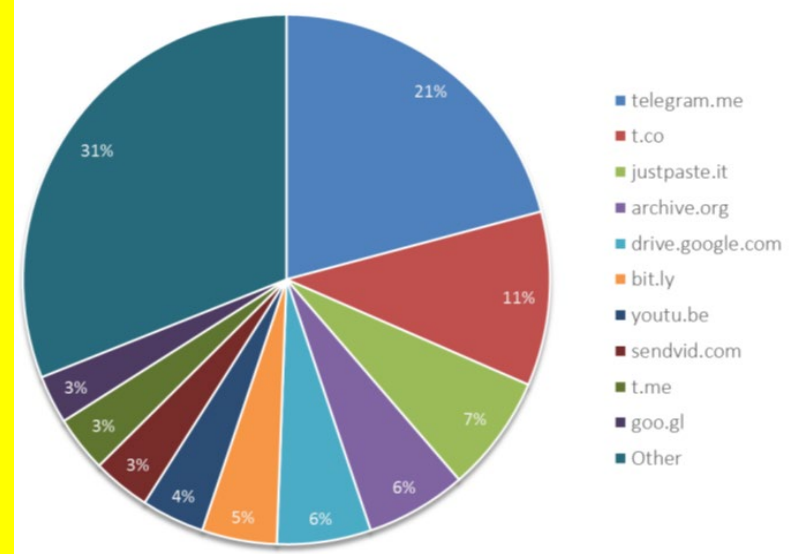


90% of D's pro media agencies in dormant
ISIS official vs unofficial sources blurring



18-Dec-16
Charlie Winter

Domains 2016-2017

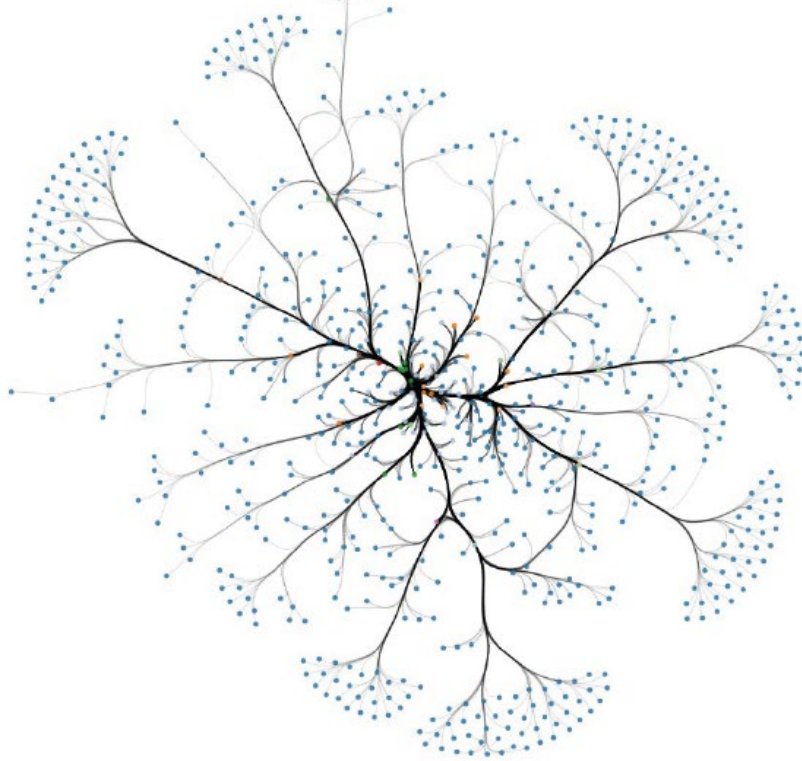


Evolving Narrative—a Message of “Success” to Maintain Morale

- Continue the fight inside & outside of Iraq & Syria
- Conduct “Lone Wolf” attacks at home
- Take more of the fight into the virtual world-> recruit, sow fear, and spread the word
- Promote the “brand” – an image of strength, endurance, and resilience
- Return to the “good old days” and the physical caliphate – merely experiencing a temporary setback
- The Ongoing Debate inside ISIS – Divine Test or Divine Punishment – explaining “D’s” Losses

Mapping the Jihadist Information Ecosystem – Towards Disruption

Model of the Jihadist Info Ecosystem



Platform Roles & Connectivity

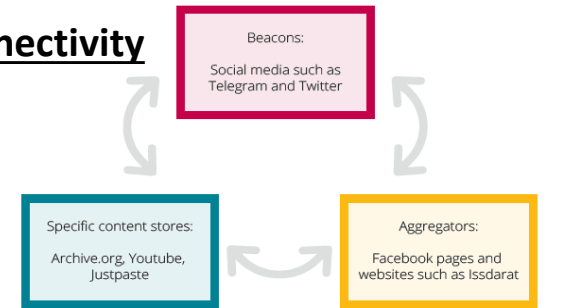
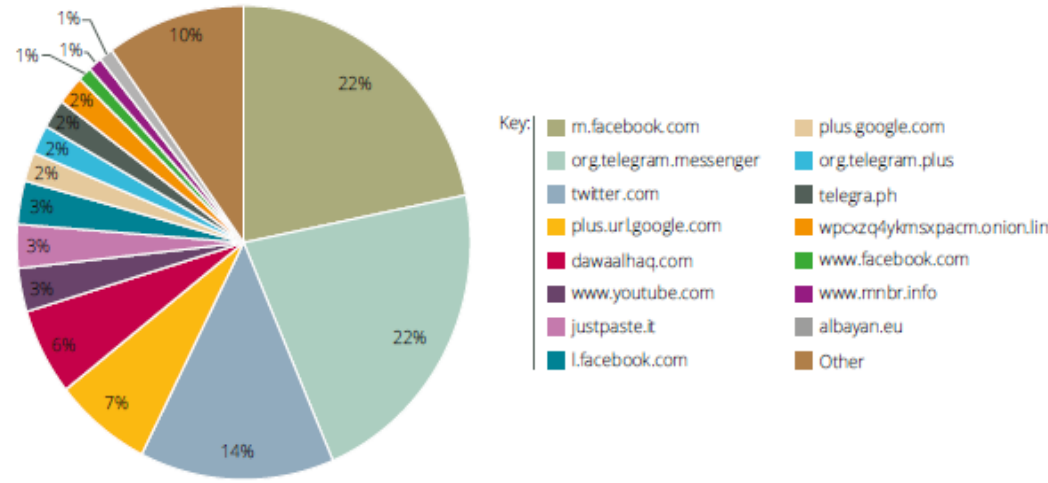


Figure 3: Source of Known Clicks



Key Thoughts About this Ecosystem:

- It is a large & complex network connecting a large array of platforms across the surface and dark web
- Content-widely accessible via mainstream social media and the web -> "swarmcast"
- Disruption requires a multi-platform approach
- Must understand major SM platform links to material and where specific content is stored on line
- Major platforms are being used as beacons directing users to material (50% on FB/Telegram/Twitter)
- Text (in Arabic) to disseminate messages separate from audio-visual content storied on other sites
- All about -> Branding / Recruitment / Fund Raising

Da'esh's Air Force

IMAGE 1. DRONES AND DOCUMENTS CAPTURED IN A DAESH DRONE FACILITY IN MOSUL, IRAQ



IMAGE 2. DRONES CAPTURED BY THE ISF



Da'esh's Air Force

- Drone Program began as early as 2013
- May have spent as much as \$1M or more
- Multiple sources of Drones including purchases from China, Europe (Denmark), Turkey
- Lots of experimentation
- Use of Fixed Wing and Rotary Wing Drones
- Drone used for:
 - Surveillance & Targeting of ISF & Coalition Forces
 - Aerial communications incl. retransmission
 - Weapons Delivery Platforms
 - Suicide Drones
 - Delivery of Chemical Tainted Munitions
 - Filming of Attacks for Propaganda purposes

IMAGE 6. MUNITION-LOADED FOUR-PROPELLER DRONE



Technology and VEOs

Low Tech versus High Tech – Simple vs Complex

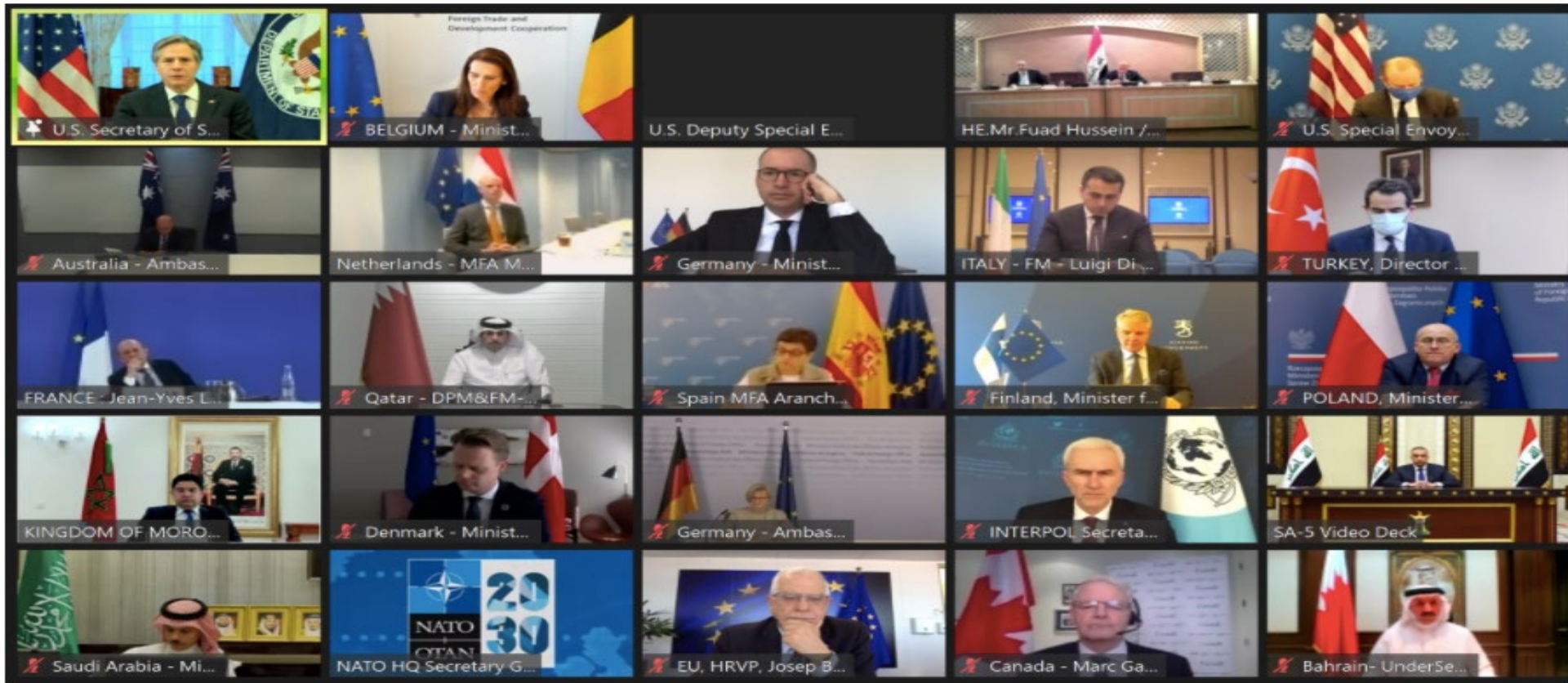
- Knives, cars & vans, guns – “**Lone Wolf**” Attacks -- keep it simple?
- **AI** – who needs it when you have operatives willing to carry out suicide attacks?
- **Drones** -> limited swam capability versus “killer swarms” with remote targeting?
- **Social Media** versus use of “**anonymous for a**” such as 8chan vice the big platforms
- **3D Printing**
- **IED Networks** and use of **mining equipment**
- Basil Hassan and the Da’esh Drone Network 2013-2018) -- leading to the Islamic States’ 2017 Sydney airline plot (**ExOps**)





Virtual Small Group FMs Met – 30 March 2021

- * Continue the fight against Da'esh in Iraq/Syria & create the conditions for its enduring defeat worldwide via a comprehensive & collective effort through stabilization, political, military, communications, counter finance, and law enforcement lines of effort
- * Allocate military & civilian resources to sustain Coalition and legitimate partner forces' efforts against Daesh/ISIS in Iraq and Syria, incl stabilization support to liberated areas, to safeguard Iraq & Syria's stability and our collective security interests.
- * Unwavering commitment to continue close cooperation/spt of GOI
- * Welcomed the incremental expansion of NATO's non-combat advisory & training mission in Iraq (NM-I).
- * Discussed Syria (UNSCR2254); Sahel Challenges; Al Hof Camp Issue



Lessons Learned from the ISIS Fight & Enduring Challenges

- **Dealing with the “clandestine” ISIS threat** – a law enforcement (LE) and intelligence problem – *how to respond to threats to internal domestic security?*
- **ISIS is an Innovator & Learning Organization** - recognizing how they innovate & adapt across the domains – ground, sub-surface, air, and cyber – *adapt or else!*
- **Determining how to conduct Radical Information Sharing across key communities** incl. LE & Domestic Security, Intelligence (foreign & domestic), Military & National Leadership – *how are you organized for success?*
- **Combating Da’esh ‘s Use of Ideology and How to Prevent Violent Extremism** – *types of programs are key.*
- **ISIS & Social Media** – Counter Messaging vs. Messaging vs. Cyber efforts --*you must degrade Da’esh’s Brand & Destroy their Legacy!*

Lessons Learned from the ISIS Fight & Enduring Challenges

- **PVE and / or CVE** – *Best programs?*
- **FtFs – Repatriate or not?** *How to Prosecute (lashup between LE & MoJ)? Punish and/or Re-educate? Rehabilitation & Reintegration?*
- **Prison Challenge** --*How to prevent Radicalization in Prisons?*
- **ISIS Women & Children** – *What to Do and When?*
- **Border Security & the Flow of FtFs** -- *Understanding how citizens move*
- **ISIS Financing – Stopping the Flow of Money via Informal Networks** -- they're a mafia that's diversified; supervise the CIFG financial sector & AML/CFT strategy & action plans to counter looting & antiquity smuggling; *Understand the lashup between crime & terror* – (FIU/LE/MoJ)
- **Da'esh Playbook** – they use a “clandestine / conventional set” of plays married with a propaganda / messaging / ideology component augmented with a social service provision effort.