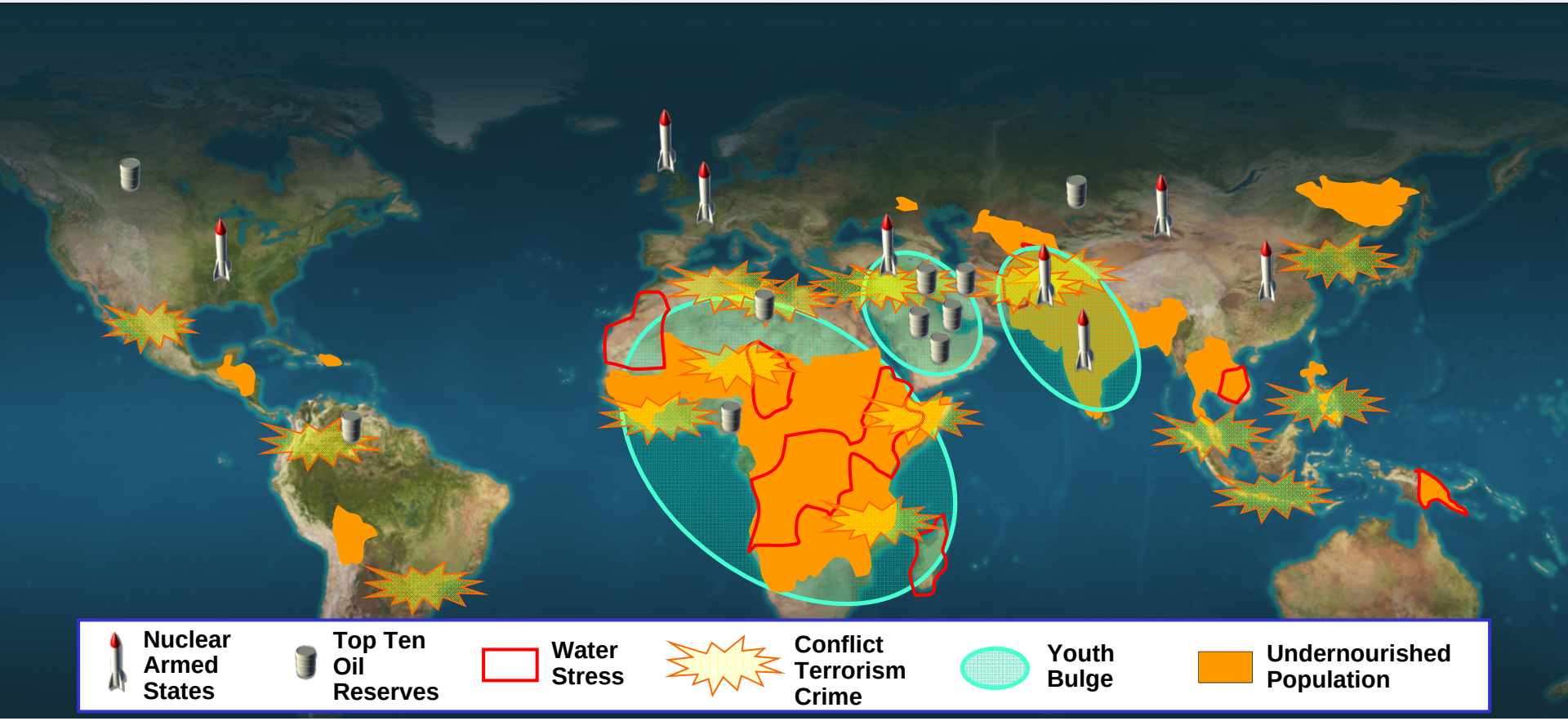
General James F. Amos
Commandant of the Marine Corps

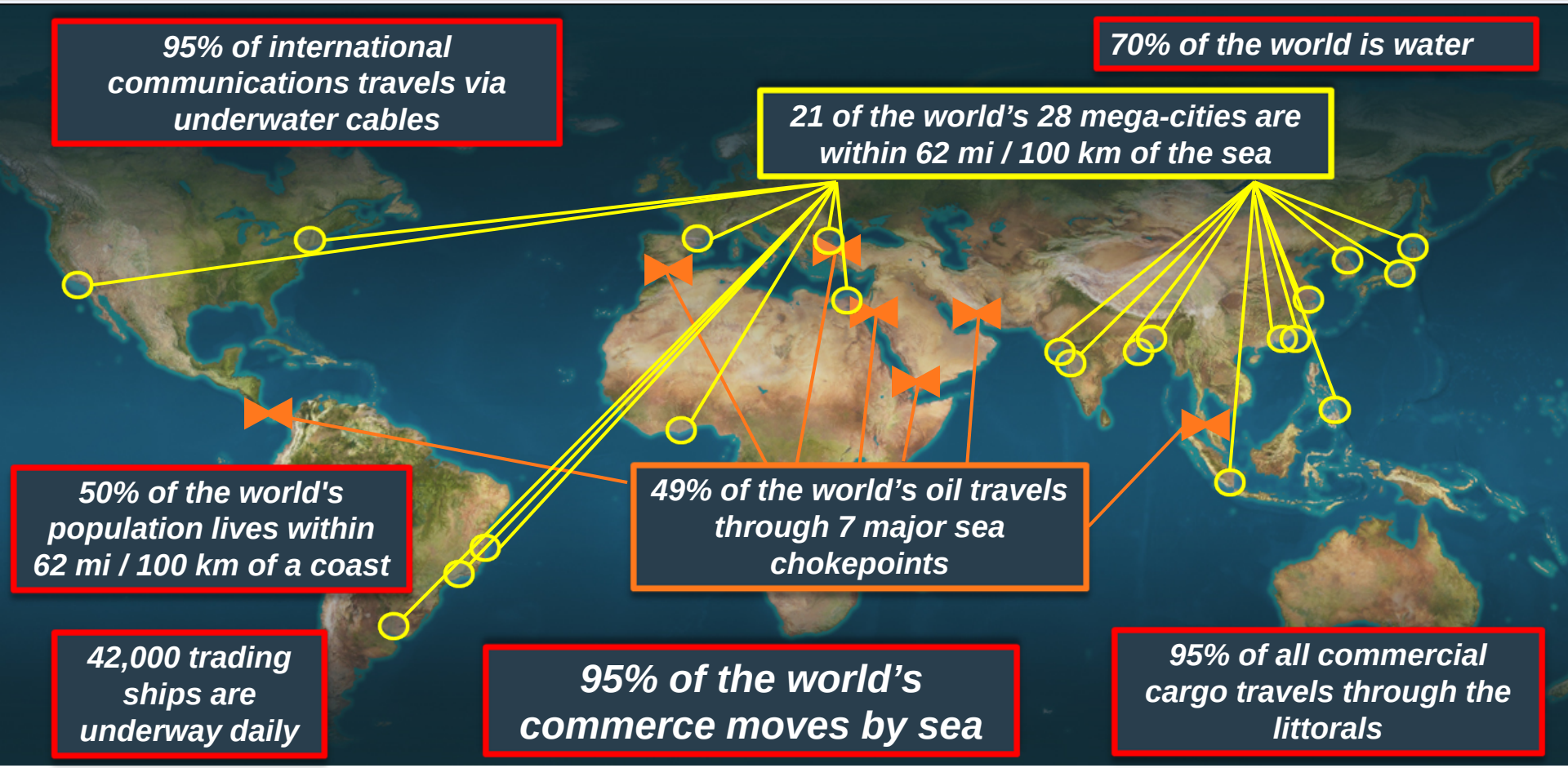
National Defense University
11 April 2012

Emerging Security Environment
Sources of Stress



Competition for resources; natural disasters; social unrest; hostile cyber activity, violent extremism (criminal, terrorist, religious); regional conflict; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and advanced weaponry in the hands of the irresponsible are becoming all too common. These challenges are harbingers of potential crisis around the world, and more specifically for naval forces in the littoral regions.

Emerging Security Environment… the Numbers are Telling…



"…At the Geo-Strategic level, it's all about the littorals."

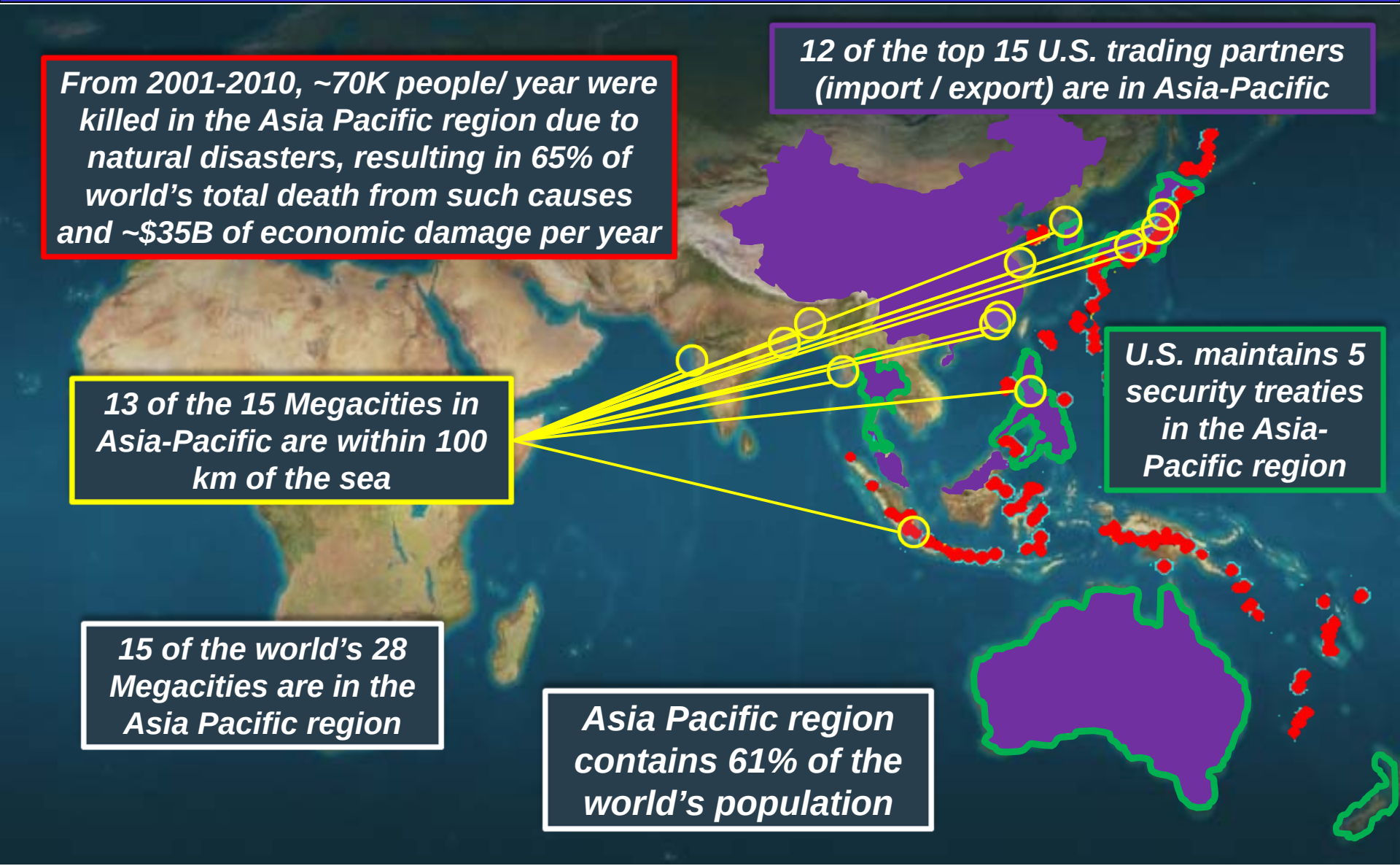
US Defense Strategy…some thoughts

"…Our strategic guidance rightfully focuses our attention on the Pacific and Central Command regions."

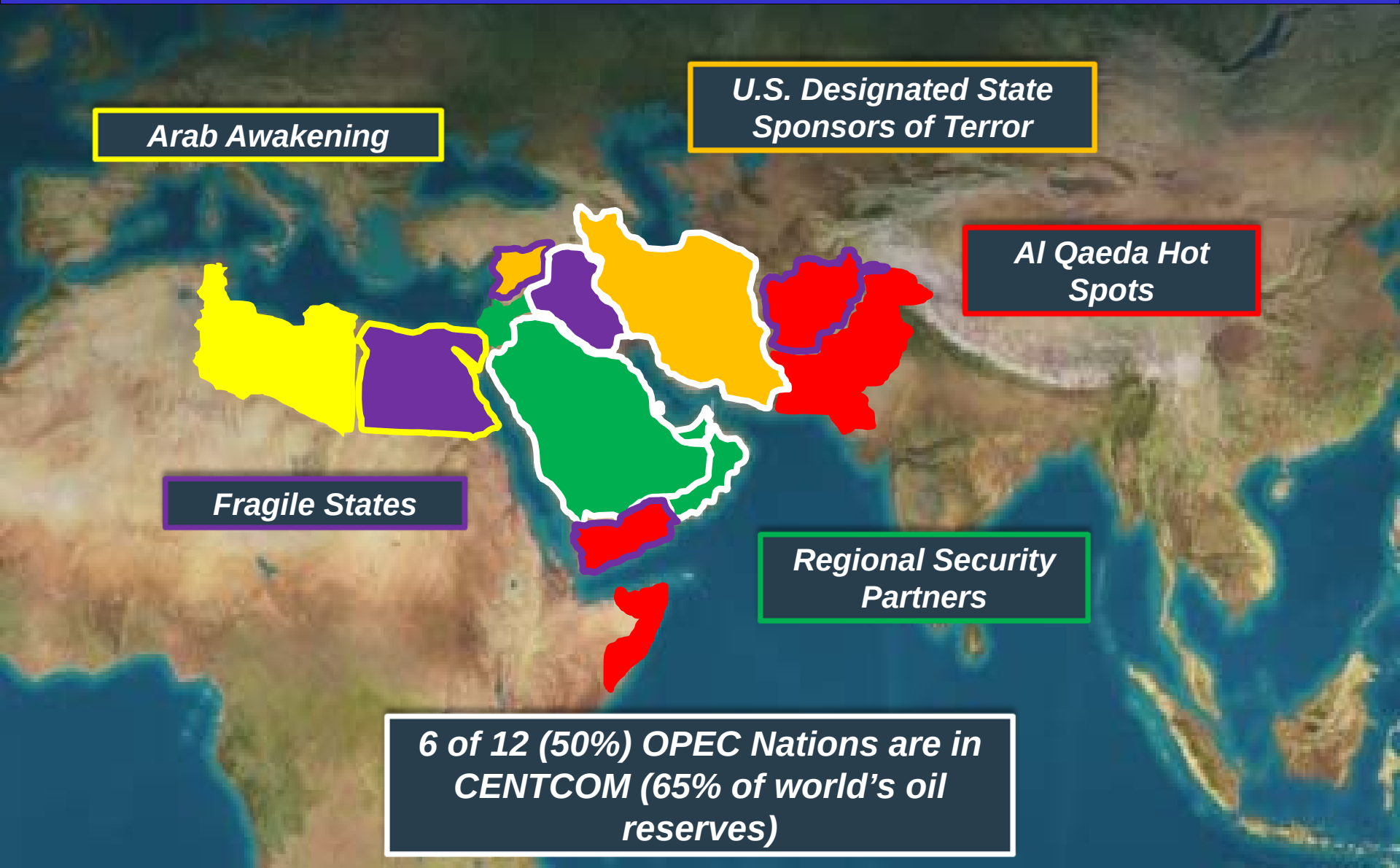
Matters worth considering:

- ***Economic engagement is important***
- ***Freedom of navigation/commerce is important***
- ***China is not the USSR***
- ***China and the US are inextricably linked***
- ***US Military posture must be…***
  - ***Geographically distributed…operationally resilient…politically sustainable***
- ***US must develop allies and coalitions***
- ***Cyber security - critical to mil opns & defense of homeland***

2012 Strategic Pivot to Asia-Pacific



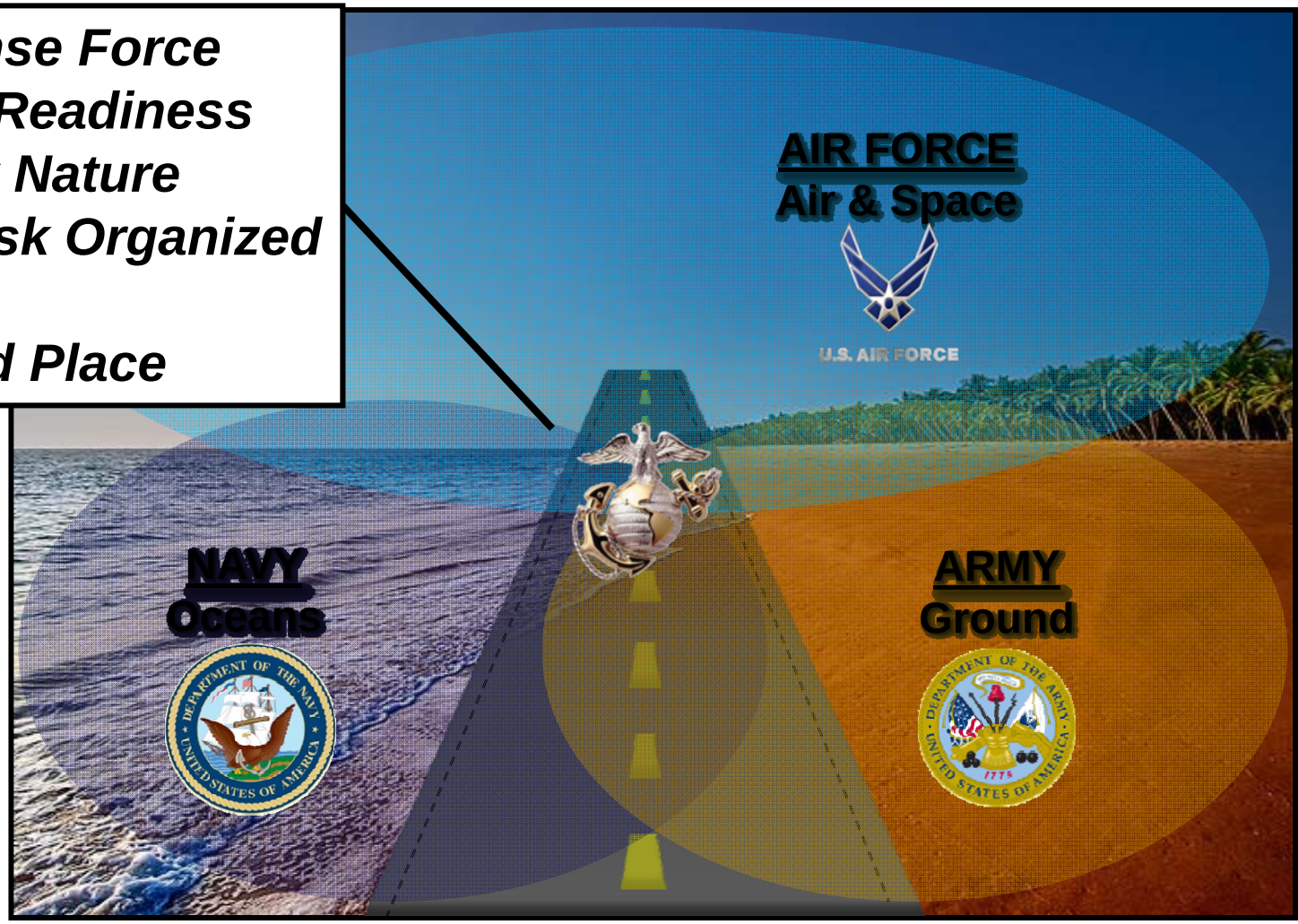
2012 Strategic Vigilance in CENTCOM,…



6 of 12 (50%) OPEC Nations are in CENTCOM (65% of world's oil reserves)

USMC Lane vs. other DOD Forces Domain

- *Crisis Response Force*
- *High State of Readiness*
- *Expeditionary Nature*
- *Scalable & Task Organized*
- *Amphibious*
- *Any Clime and Place*



"…at the front door of crisis and conflict, we possess the finesse, the training and the tools to knock at the door diplomatically, pick the lock skillfully, or kick it in violently."

The Post-OEF Active Duty Marine Corps… America's Crisis Response Force

- ***23 Infantry Bns*** *(27 to 23),* ***18 Fixed Wing Sqdrns*** *(25 to 18), &* ***32 Rotary Wing Sqdrns*** *(36 to 32)*

Every Unit Fully Manned and Equipped!
Operations and Maintenance Fully Funded!
Incorporated lessons learned from OIF/OEF!

- **Marine Special Operators** + ~3,100
- **Irregular Warfare Marines** + ~8,200

Increased Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Precision Fire Support, Information Operations, Engineers, Civil Affairs, enablers for partnership and capacity building

- **Cyberwarfare Operators** + ~600

The Marine Corps of 182.1K is the Nation's risk mitigator for an uncertain future…the United States' crisis response force…one that will be "the most ready when the nation is least ready."

Matters that keep me awake at Night

- ***Drawdown in Afghanistan – what this means***
- ***New Def Strategy / Reorientation to the Pacific***
- ***Sequestration – what this could mean***
- ***End strength reduction - 202K' to 182.1***
- ***"Keeping faith"…what this truly means***
- ***Resetting the Force***
- ***Reconstituting the Force - no hollow units!***
- ***USMC critical programs…ACV, JLTV & F35B***

And lastly…

The ‘*spiritual health*’ of our Corps!