



# Russia



Russia's military action against Ukraine demonstrates its intent to reestablish a perceived sphere of influence despite what its neighbors desire for themselves.



## REGIONAL AND GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

- Build partnerships aimed at undermining U.S./NATO influence
- Use force to impose border changes, starting with Ukraine
- Reimpose an imperial sphere of influence

## MILITARY CAPABILITIES

- **CONVENTIONAL:** Losses during Ukraine conflict require years of rebuilding
- **WMD:** Rivals U.S. as most capable in the world; largest nuclear stockpile
- **SPACE:** Key competitor; myriad of factors limiting its long-term goals
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Military innovation to build deterrence and defense posture
- **ECONOMICS:** Affected by sanctions, withdrawal of investors, and demand
- **CYBER:** Views cyber disruptions as a foreign policy lever
- **MALIGN INFLUENCE:** Uses tools to try to divide and increase its sway



**Key Takeaway:** Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine is a tectonic event that is reshaping its relationships with the West and China.

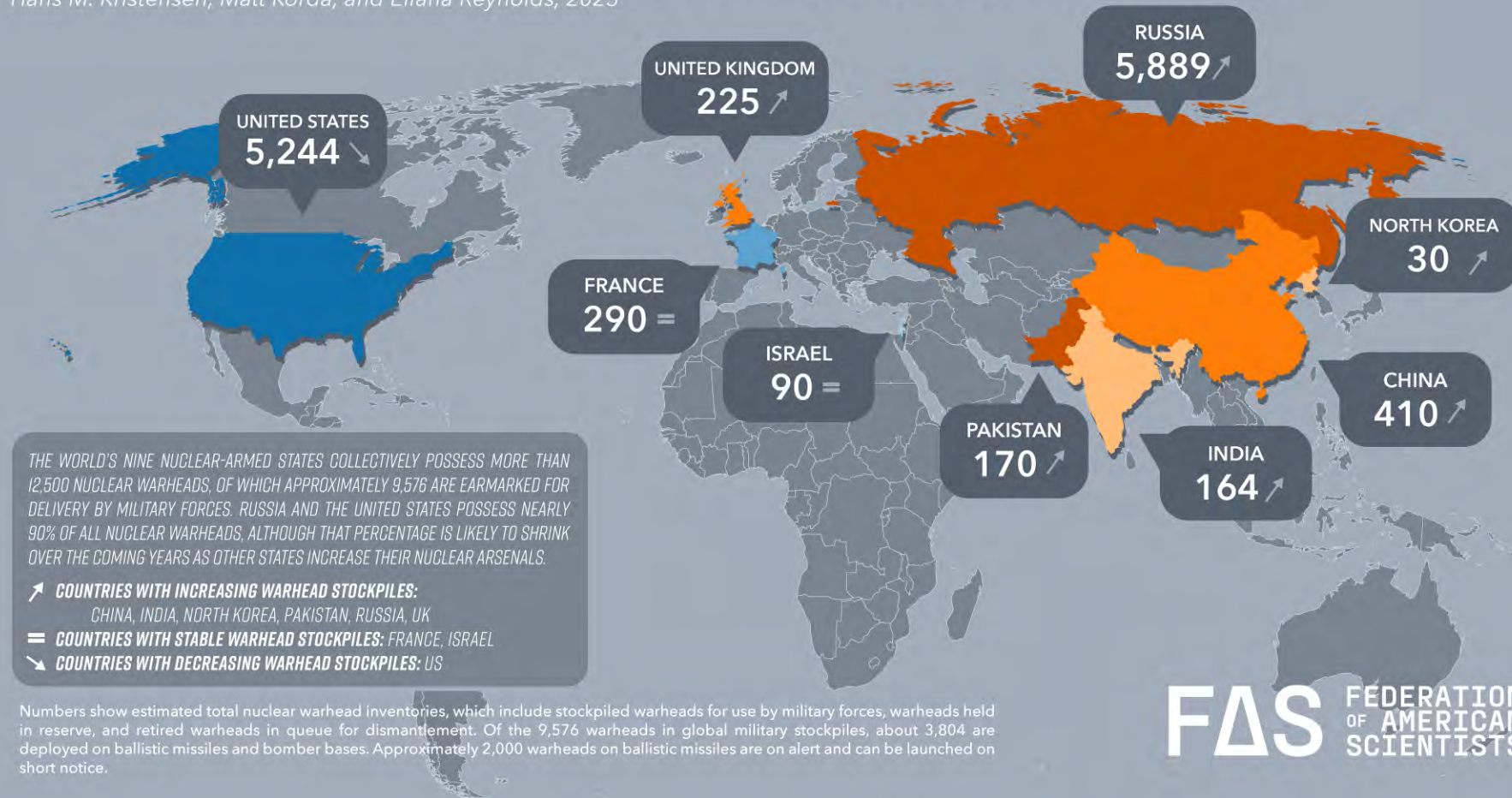


# Russia: Nuclear Inventory



## ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES, 2023

Hans M. Kristensen, Matt Korda, and Eliana Reynolds, 2023



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# Russia: Ukraine Battlefront



Feb 2022: Before the invasion



Mar 2022: Russia's rapid advance



Nov 2022: Ukraine regains ground Feb 2024: Stalemate on front line



- Russian military control
- Limited Russian military control
- Russian-backed separatist-held areas

- Held or regained by Ukraine
- Russia annexed Crimea in 2014



# North Korea



Dictator, Kim Jong Un is attempting to secure North Korea's position in what he perceives to be an international environment conducive to his brutal authoritarian system.



## REGIONAL AND GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

- Build nuclear capabilities to ensure regime survival
- Establish strategic dominance over South Korea
- Undermine U.S. alliances in the region

## MILITARY CAPABILITIES

- **CONVENTIONAL:** World's fourth largest; 5% of population is active duty
- **WMD:** Nuclear weapons are centerpiece to its national security
- **SPACE:** Limited; first military reconnaissance satellite launch upcoming
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Conventionally outdated, nuclear tech advancing
- **ECONOMICS:** Affected by sanctions, cut off from global market
- **CYBER:** Sophisticated and agile espionage, cybercrime, and attack threat
- **MALIGN INFLUENCE:** Engages in illicit activities to fund WMD program

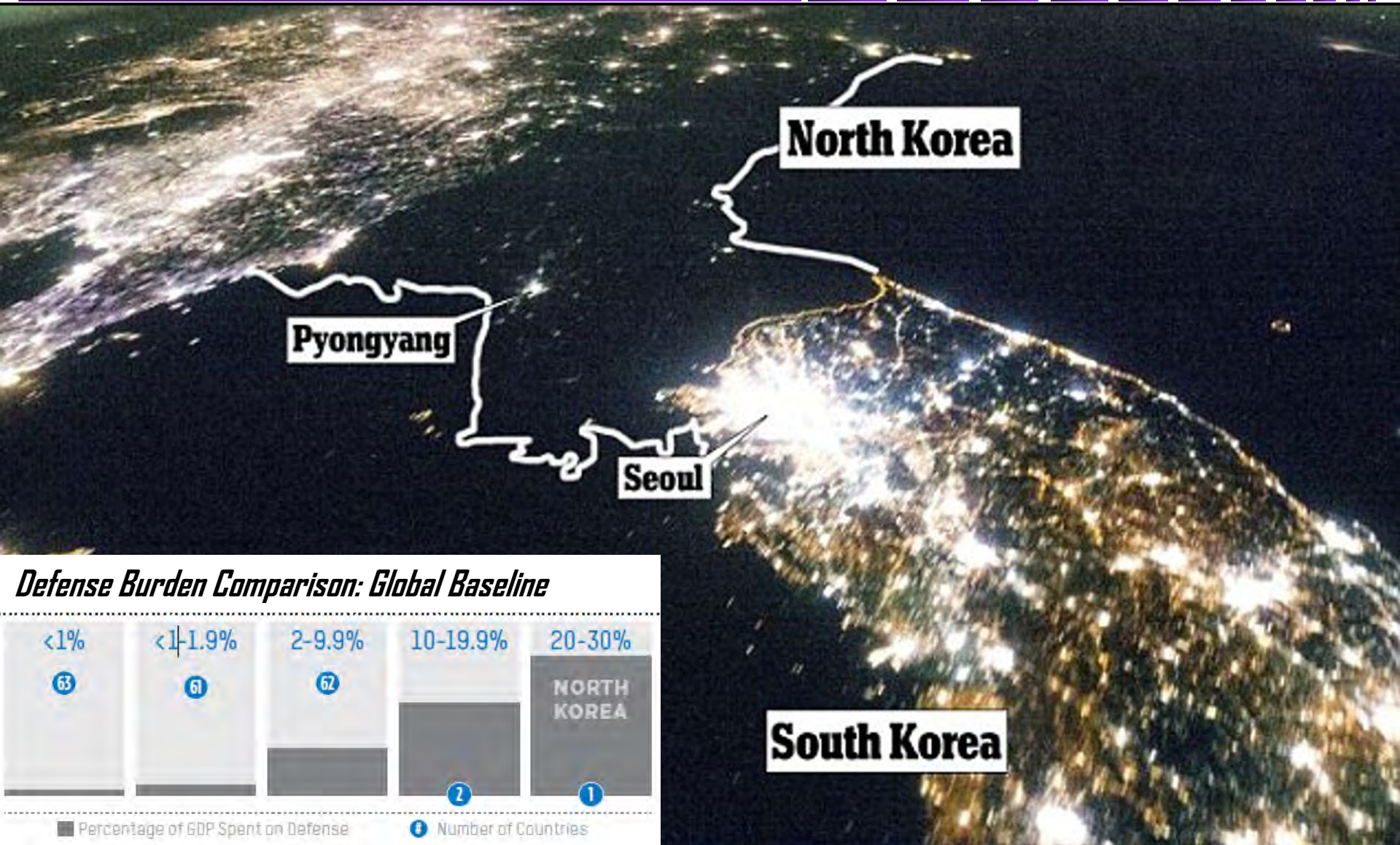


**Key Takeaway:** North Korea's military will pose a serious threat to the U.S. and its allies by investing in niche capabilities designed to provide Kim with a range of options to deter outside intervention.





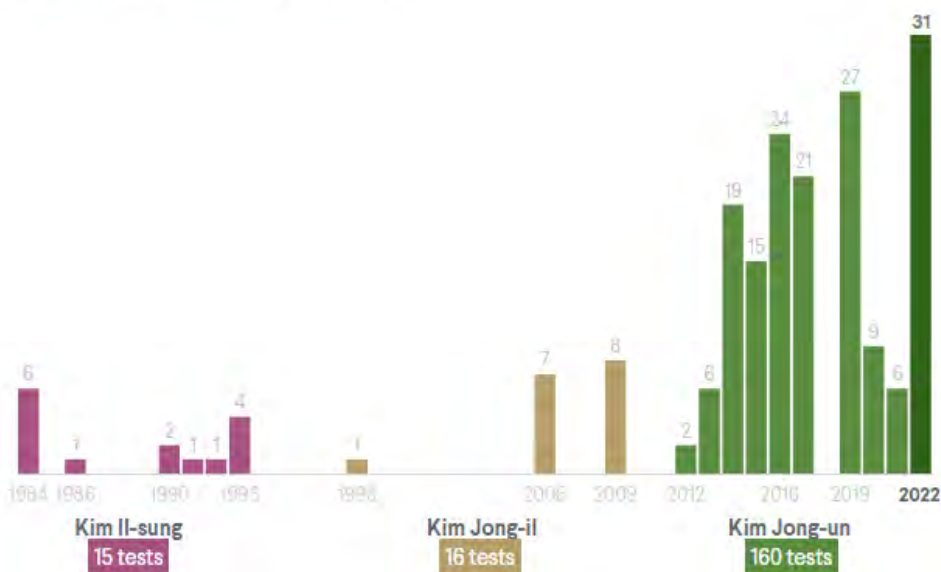
# North Korea: At What Cost?





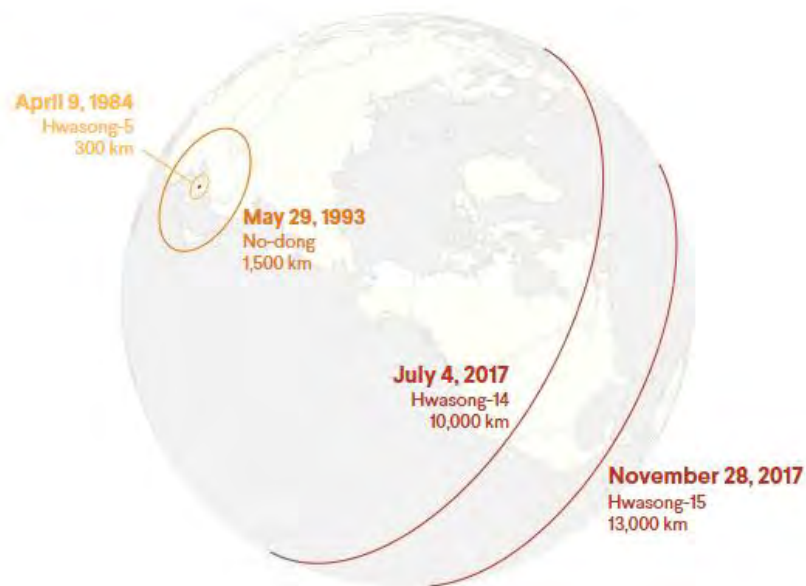
# North Korea: Growing Missile Threat

## North Korea's Missile Launches



## North Korea's Expanding Missile Range

Missile models' first known successful test dates with estimated maximum ranges







# Iran



Iran has crafted its military strategy to serve two important functions: ensure the survival of the regime and secure a dominant position in the region.



## REGIONAL AND GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

- Erode U.S. influence in the Middle East
- Project power in the neighboring states; threaten Israel
- Minimize threats to the regime



## MILITARY CAPABILITIES

- **CONVENTIONAL:** Hybrid approach; leverages proxy networks
- **WMD:** Taking actions to pursue a nuclear weapon if it so chooses
- **SPACE:** Limited, though advancing counter-space capabilities
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Lack of access to modern technology and weapons
- **ECONOMICS:** Seeks lessened effects of U.S. and multilateral sanctions
- **CYBER:** Conducts malicious information operations
- **MALIGN INFLUENCE:** Cyber, drone, and proxies demonstrate aggression



**Key Takeaway:** Tehran will try to leverage diplomacy, its expanding nuclear program, conventional, proxy, and partner forces, and its military sales and acquisitions to advance its goals.



# Iran: Proxy Networks



■ Notable Iran-backed militias as of April 2023



Country	Militia	Iranian Influence	Estimated size
AFGHANISTAN	Fatemioun Brigade	Strong	10,000–15,000
BAHRAIN	Al-Ashtar Brigades	Strong	Unknown
IRAQ	Kata'ib Hezbollah	Strong	20,000–30,000
	Badr Organization	Strong	10,000–30,000
	Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq	Strong	5,000–15,000
LEBANON	Hezbollah	Strong	30,000–45,000
PAKISTAN	Zainabioun Brigade	Strong	2,000–5,000
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	Hamas	Weak	25,000
	Palestinian Islamic Jihad	Moderate	1,000–8,000
SYRIA	Quwat al-Ridha	Strong	3,000–3,500
	Baqir Brigade	Strong	3,000
YEMEN	Houthi movement	Moderate	10,000–30,000





# Iran: Houthi Support



Since 2014, the Houthis have developed their political, financial, and military partnership with Iran<sup>38</sup>

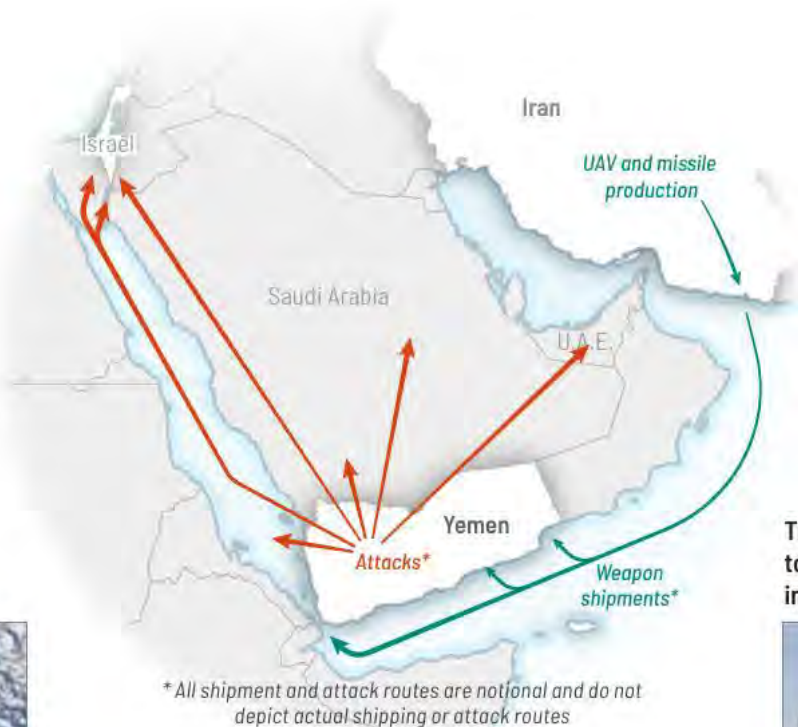


The Houthi spokesperson Muhammad Abd al-Salam (left) with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali-Hoseini Khamenei (right) in August 2019<sup>39</sup>

Iran smuggles weapons from Iran into Yemen



A dhow carrying Iranian weapons destined for the Houthis interdicted in December 2021<sup>40</sup>



The Houthis assemble, repaint, and modify smuggled Iranian weapons and display them with Houthi names<sup>41</sup>



A Houthi military parade in Sanaa in September 2023<sup>42</sup>

The Houthis use Iranian weaponry to conduct maritime attacks in the Red Sea that threaten international shipping lanes<sup>43</sup>



The Norwegian-flagged M/V Strinda (left) attacked by a Houthi cruise missile (right) in December 2023<sup>44 45</sup>

The Houthis use Iranian weapons to attack commercial and civilian infrastructure across the Middle East<sup>46</sup>



A Saudi Aramco oil silo in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, damaged by a Houthi missile attack in November 2020<sup>47</sup>



# Violent Extremist Organizations

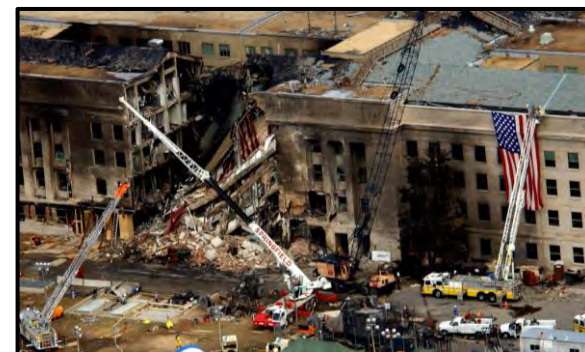


Terrorists adhering to ideologies espoused by ISIS, al-Qa'ida, or racially-motivated extremists pose a significant threat to U.S. interests. Many remain committed to planning terror attacks, including on U.S. soil.



## TERROR THREAT GROUP OBJECTIVES

- **ISIS**
  - Rebuild capabilities and replenish its ranks
  - Spread ideology/propaganda to inspire attacks against the West
- **Al-Qa'ida**
  - Maintain safe haven in Iran, adapt to Taliban restrictions in Afghanistan
  - Expand territorial control and challenge local security forces
- **Lebanese Hizballah**
  - Reduce U.S. influence in Lebanon and the broader Middle East
  - Threaten Israel and enable Iran's power projection
- **Transnational Racially/Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists**
  - Sow social divisions, support fascist-style governments
  - Attack government institutions
- **\*HAMAS\***
  - Charter calls for establishing Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel







# Israeli Ground Efforts



▨ Israeli ground operations

**27 Oct:** Tanks and other armoured forces move into northern Gaza

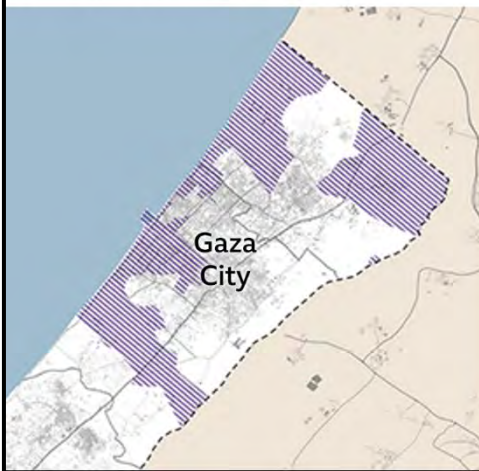


↓ Israeli ground forces

**9 Nov:** Israeli forces cut the Strip in two, surrounding Gaza City



**27 Nov:** Israeli forces hold positions during seven-day ceasefire



**04 Feb:** Israeli forces consolidate operations in northern Gaza



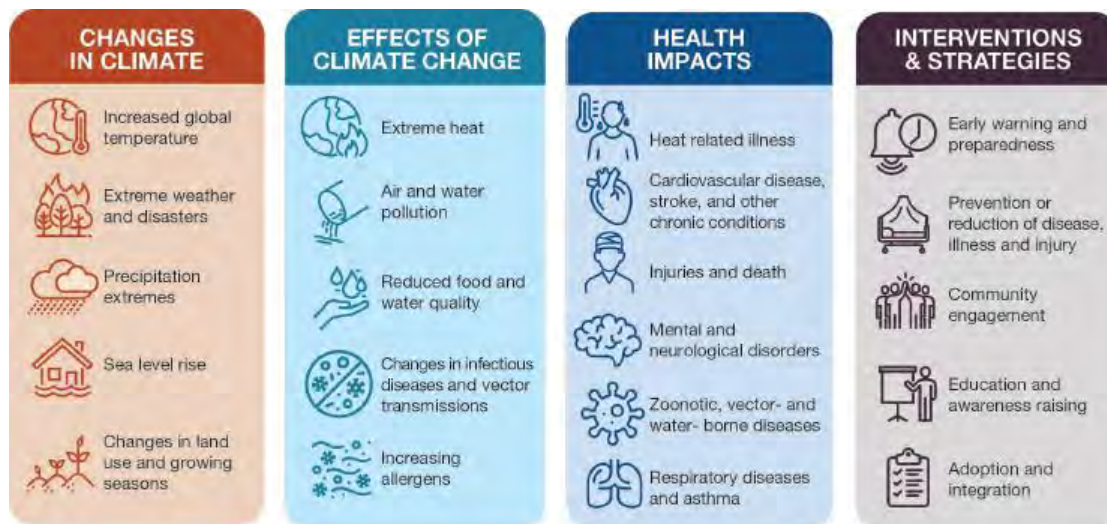




# Climate Change & Geopolitics



Climate change will increasingly exacerbate risks to U.S. national security interests as the physical impacts increase and geopolitical tensions mount about the global response to the challenge.



**Key Takeaway:** The increasing physical effects of climate change will likely cause or intensify domestic and cross-border geopolitical flashpoints as tensions continually mount over climate financing.

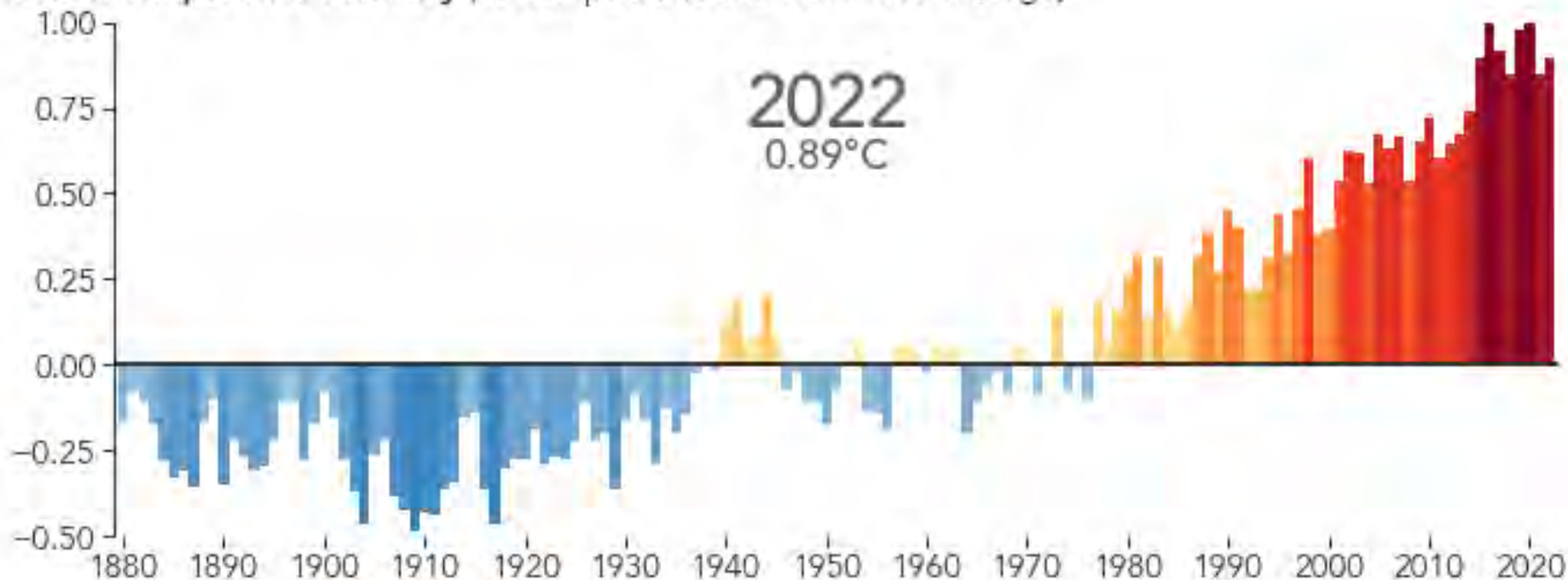


# *Global Average Temperature*



## Last 9 Years Warmest on Record

Global Temperature Anomaly ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$  compared to the 1951-1980 average)





# Health Security



The COVID-19 pandemic remains one of the most significant threats to global public health, coming at a cost of more than 6.5 million lives lost and trillions of dollars in lost economic output.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

- Countries now are responding to new variants
- Waning vaccine protection/gaps in vaccine coverage
- Challenges in management of public health safety measures
- Growing misinformation campaigns



## ADDITIONAL CONCERNS...

- **Biological Weapons:** China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia publicly pushing false narratives about U.S.—adversaries could develop bioweapon



**Key Takeaway:** COVID-19 shortcomings in preparedness and concerns with biosecurity may inspire some adversaries to consider options related to the development of biological weapons.





# ***Additional Transnational Issues***



Transnational threats interact in a complex system along with more traditional threats such as strategic competition, often reinforcing each other and compounding risks to U.S. national security.

- **Technological Developments:** Developing and proliferating faster than companies and governments can shape norms or prevent bad outcomes
- **Digital Authoritarianism:** Digital repression more pervasive, automated, targeted, and complex
- **Economic Fallout of RUS/UKR War:** Fueling market volatility, and contributing to food insecurity
- **Migration:** Displacement, exploitation, and irregular flows continue
- **Organized Crime:** Illicit drug production/trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and cybercrime threaten public safety



**Key Takeaway:** Some issues have a direct and immediate impact on U.S. interests, such as narcotics trafficking, and terrorism. Others seem to be building, or pose chronic, indirect challenges.



# Strategic Approach



# *Integrated Deterrence*



Our central charge is to develop, combine, and coordinate our strengths to maximum effect. This is the core of integrated deterrence, a centerpiece of our National Defense Strategy.

## How We Will Deter

- Deterrence by Denial
- Deterrence by Resilience
- Deterrence by Direct and Collective Cost Imposition
- Effective Operations in the Information Domain

## Tailored Deterrence Approaches

- Deterring Attacks Against the Homeland
- Deterring Strategic Attacks
- Deterring China/Russia/North Korea/Iranian Attacks



## Escalation Management

- Develop tailored approaches to assess and manage escalation risk in crisis & conflict

**Key Takeaway:** We will use every tool at the DoD's disposal and collaborate with our counterparts across the U.S. government, Allies, and partners to ensure potential foes understand the cost of aggression.





# Campaigning



Synchronize the DoD's activities and investments to aggregate focus and resources to shift conditions in our favor. The DoD must focus on the most consequential competitor activities.

## CAMPAIGN GOALS

- Gain Military Advantages
- Enhance Deterrence
- Address Gray Zone Challenges



## GLOBAL FORCE POSTURE FOCUS

- Expand access and enable warfighting requirements
  - Deter PRC and Russian aggression against vital U.S. national interests
  - Prevail in conflict if deterrence fails



**Key Takeaway:** Campaigning gains and sustains military advantages, counters acute forms of our competitors' coercion, and complicates our competitors' military preparations.



# *Advance Regional Goals with Allied Support*

Close collaboration with Allies and partners is foundational for U.S. national security interests and our ability to address challenges China and Russia present while dutifully managing other threats.

## ANCHORING OUR STRATEGY

- Strive to be a trusted defense partner
- Prioritize interoperability
- Enable coalitions

## REGIONAL GOALS

- **Indo-Pacific Region:** Reinforce and build a resilient security architecture
- **Europe:** Maintain bedrock commitment to NATO collective security
- **The Middle East:** Address security challenges in sustainable ways
- **Western Hemisphere:** Build partner capabilities; promote stability
- **Africa:** Prioritize disrupting VEO threats
- **The Arctic:** Promote adherence to international rules and norms



**Key Takeaway:** Early and continuous consideration, engagement, and where possible, collaboration with Allies and partners in planning is essential for advancing our shared interests.



# Force Employment



Sustaining and strengthening deterrence requires that the DoD design, develop, and manage a combat credible U.S. military fit for advancing our highest defense priorities.

## FUTURE FORCE DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

- **Lethal:** Possesses anti-access/area denial strike capabilities
- **Sustainable:** Provide logistics/sustainment to operate in contested environment
- **Resilient:** Maintains advantages, preserves C3 systems, ensures operational effectiveness
- **Survivable:** Continual combat power despite adversary attacks
- **Agile and Responsive:** Operate effectively despite adversary advantages and climate change



**Bottom Line:** The DoD will remain prepared to employ combat-ready forces to address aggression or crisis to strengthen deterrence and maintain readiness for future missions.





# Q & A