Global Threats & Challenges

CAPSTONE Spouses Course

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OVERALL CLASSIFICATION: **UNCLASSIFIED**

Agenda

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Strategic Environment

Security Environment Overview

Now and over the next two decades, we face an array of strategic challenges that are interconnected. Our competitors deliberately link them to erode deterrence, exert economic coercion, and endanger political autonomy.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- **Complex interactions between a rapidly changing global balance of military capabilities**

- **Emerging technologies**

- **Competitor doctrines that pose new threats to the U.S. homeland and to strategic stability**

- **An escalation of competitors coercive and malign activities in the "gray zone"**

- **Transboundary challenges that impose new demands on the Joint Force and defense enterprise**

Global Priorities

The National Security Strategy is prepared periodically by the executive branch and lists the **national security concerns** and how the administration plans to deal with them.

## Out-Compete China and Constrain Russia

- **China:** Only competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order and the power to do it
- **Russia**: Pursuing imperialist foreign policy with goal of overturning the international order

Cooperate on Shared Challenges

- Climate and Energy Security
- Pandemics and Biodefense
- Food Insecurity
- Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
- Terrorism

Shape the Rules of the Road

- Technology
- Securing Cyberspace
- Trade and Economics

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2022

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
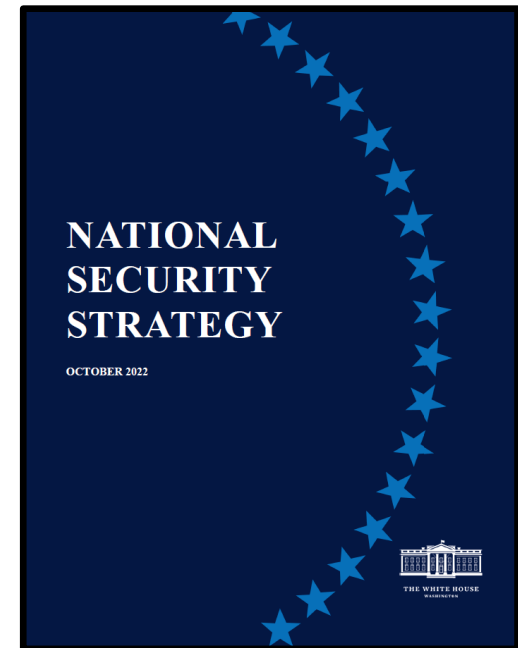
Key Takeaway: Out-compete our rivals to shape the international order while tackling the shared challenges that will define the next stage of human history.
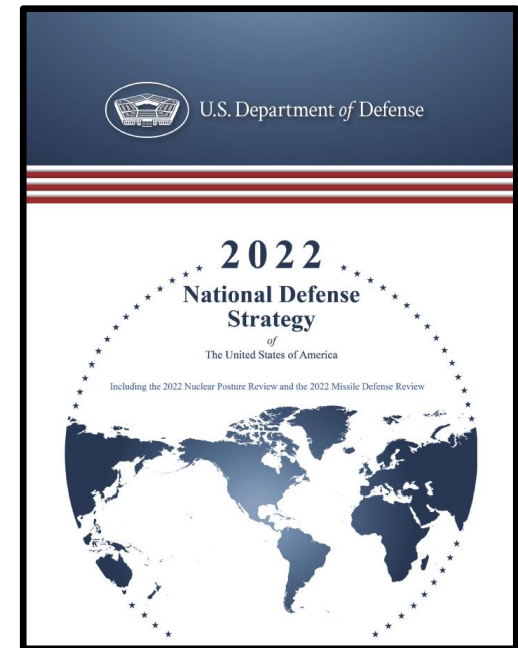
Defense Priorities

The National Defense Strategy details the DoD's path forward to protect Americans, promote global security, seize new strategic opportunities, and defend our democratic values.

- **Defend the homeland, paced to the growing multi-domain threat posed by China**

- **Deter strategic attacks against the U.S., Allies, and partners**

- **Deter aggression, while being prepared to prevail in conflict when necessary**
  - Prioritize China challenge in the Indo-Pacific region
  - Russia challenge in Europe

- **Building a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem**

U.S. Department of Defense

2022
National Defense Strategy
of
The United States of America

Including the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review and the 2022 Missile Defense Review

Key Takeaway: Support a stable and open international system while honoring defense commitments.

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**LCDR Mike Morrow**

Global Threats

Worldwide Overview

In the near future, the United States and its Allies will confront a complex and pivotal international security environment dominated by <u>two</u> critical strategic challenges that intersect with each other.

CRITICAL STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

- <u>First</u>: Great powers, rising regional powers, and non-state actors vying for dominance in the global order

- <u>Second</u>: Shared global challenges including climate change and human & health security

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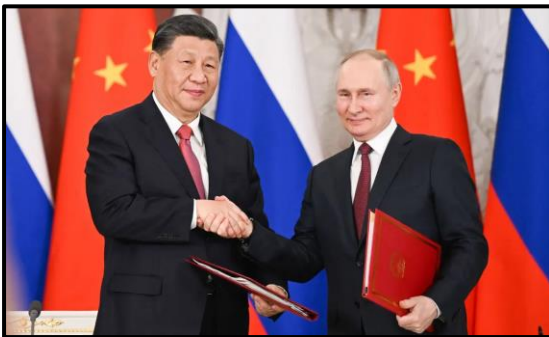
China

China's Communist Party will continue efforts to achieve President Xi Jinping's vision of making China the preeminent power in East Asia and a major power on the world stage.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

- **Secure what it views as its sovereign territory, including Taiwan**

- **Attempt to establish its preeminence in regional affairs**

- **Project power globally; offset U.S. military superiority**

MILITARY CAPABILITIES

- **CONVENTIONAL:** Navy and Air Force largest in the region

- **WMD:** Building hundreds of new ICBM silos

- **SPACE**: Designed to advance global standing and erode US influence

- **TECHNOLOGY**: Top threat to US technological competitiveness

- **ECONOMICS:** Central to global supply chains

- **CYBER**: Broadest, most active, and persistent cyber threat

- **MALIGN INFLUENCE**: Wants to sow doubts & damage democracy

Key Takeaway: China has the capability to alter the rules-based global order in every realm and across multiple regions and is increasingly pushing to change international norms.

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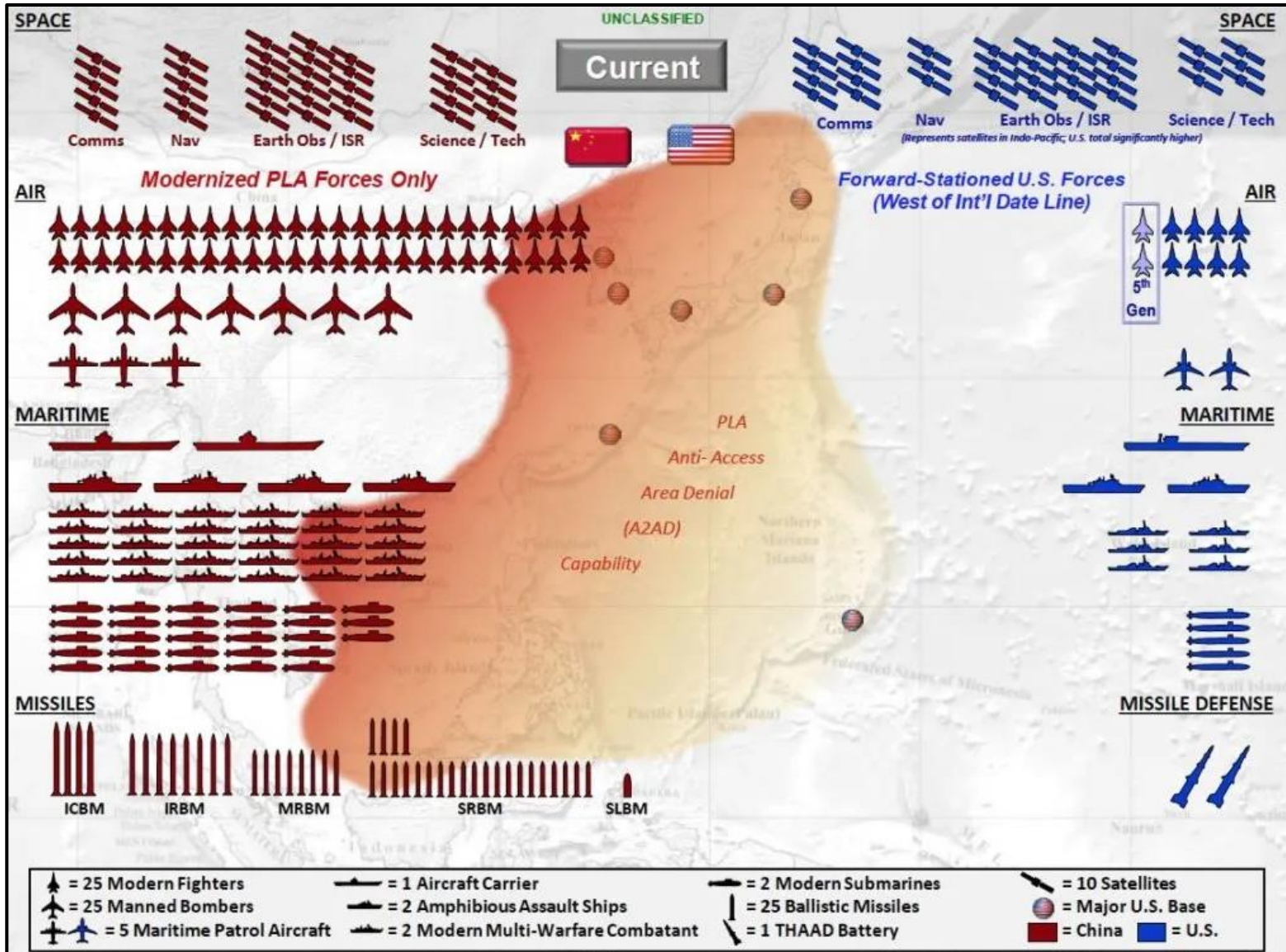LCDR Mike Morrow
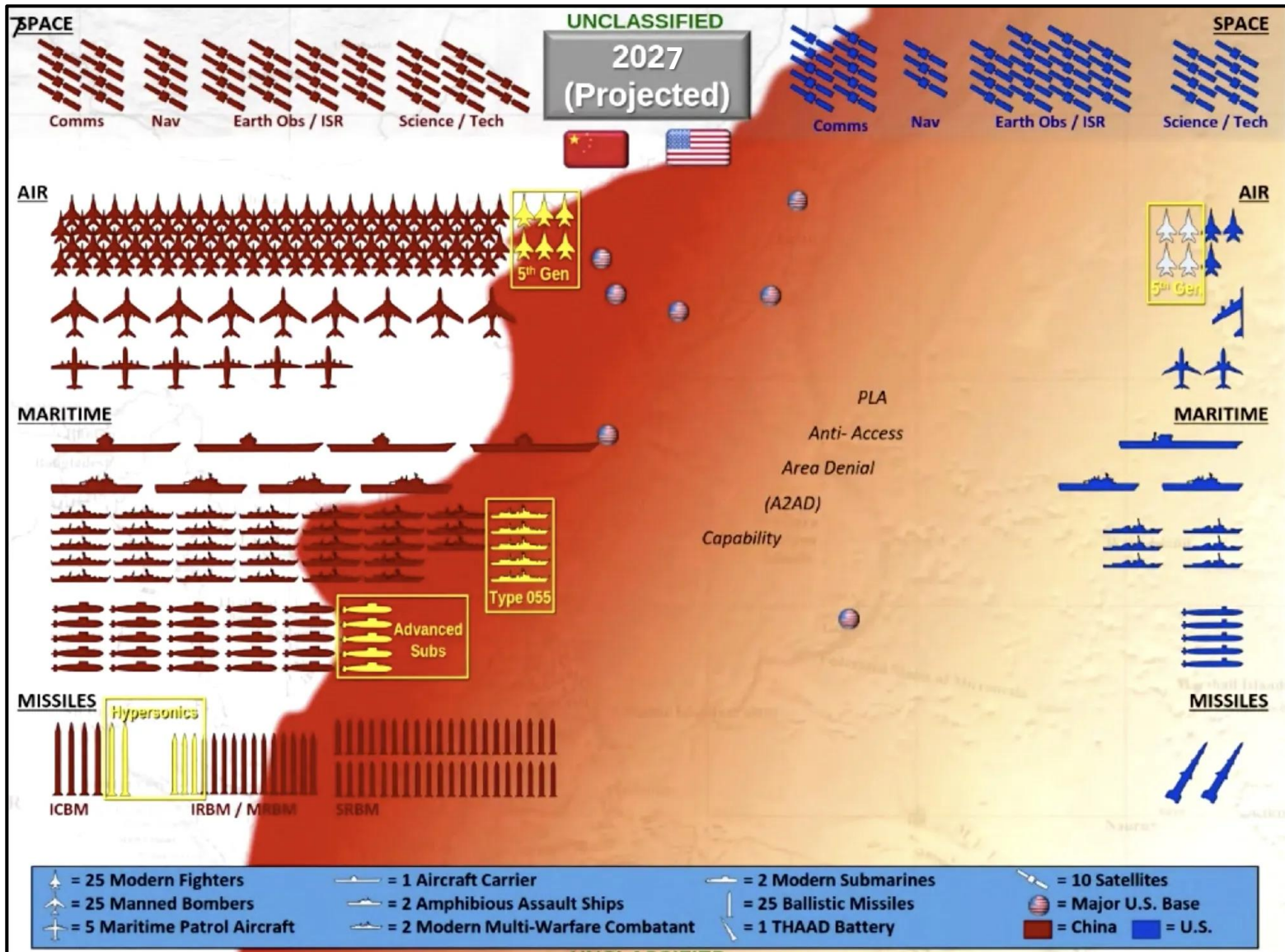
China: Order of Battle (1999)

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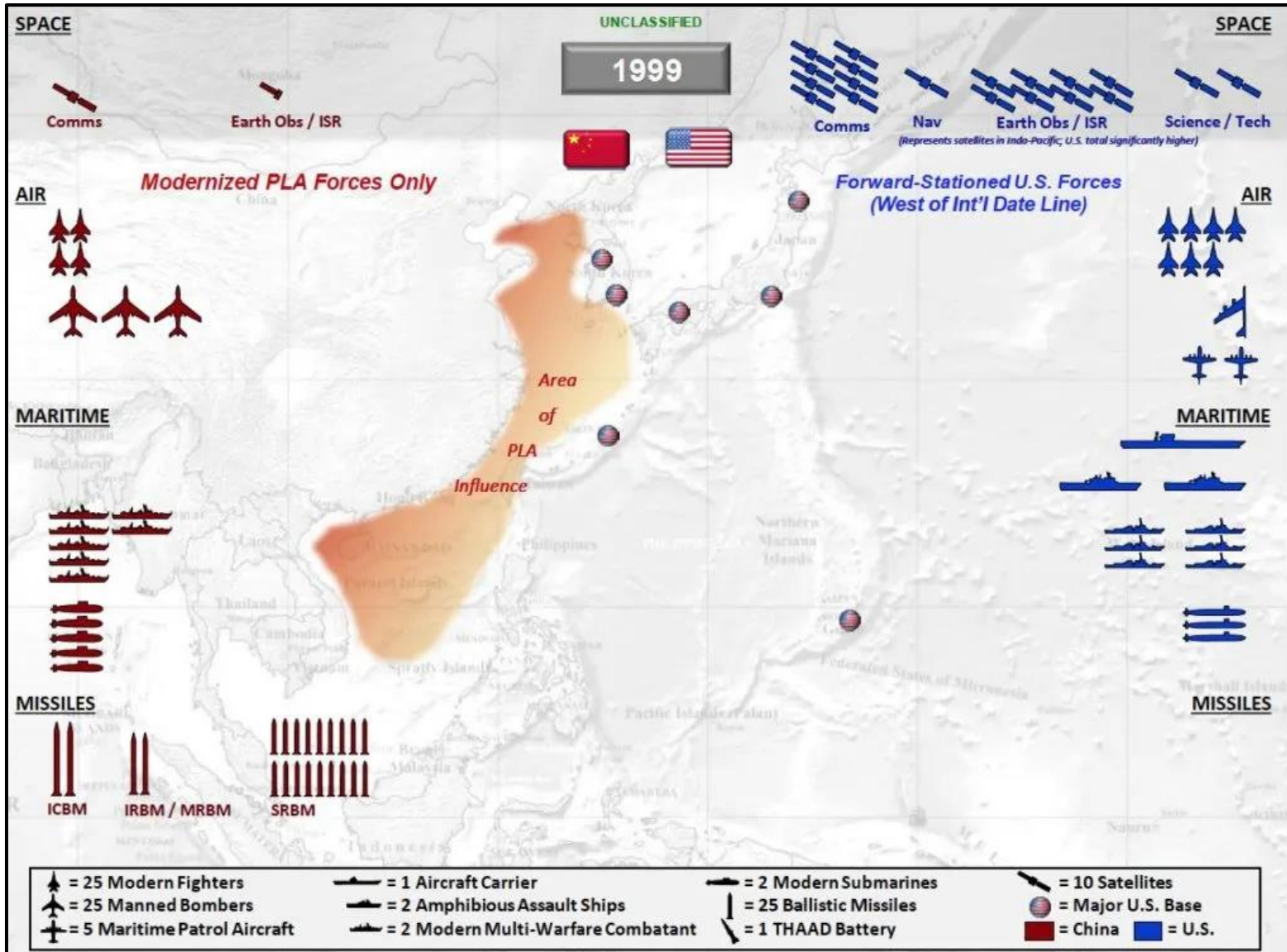
China: Order of Battle (Current)

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China: Order of Battle (2027)

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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.
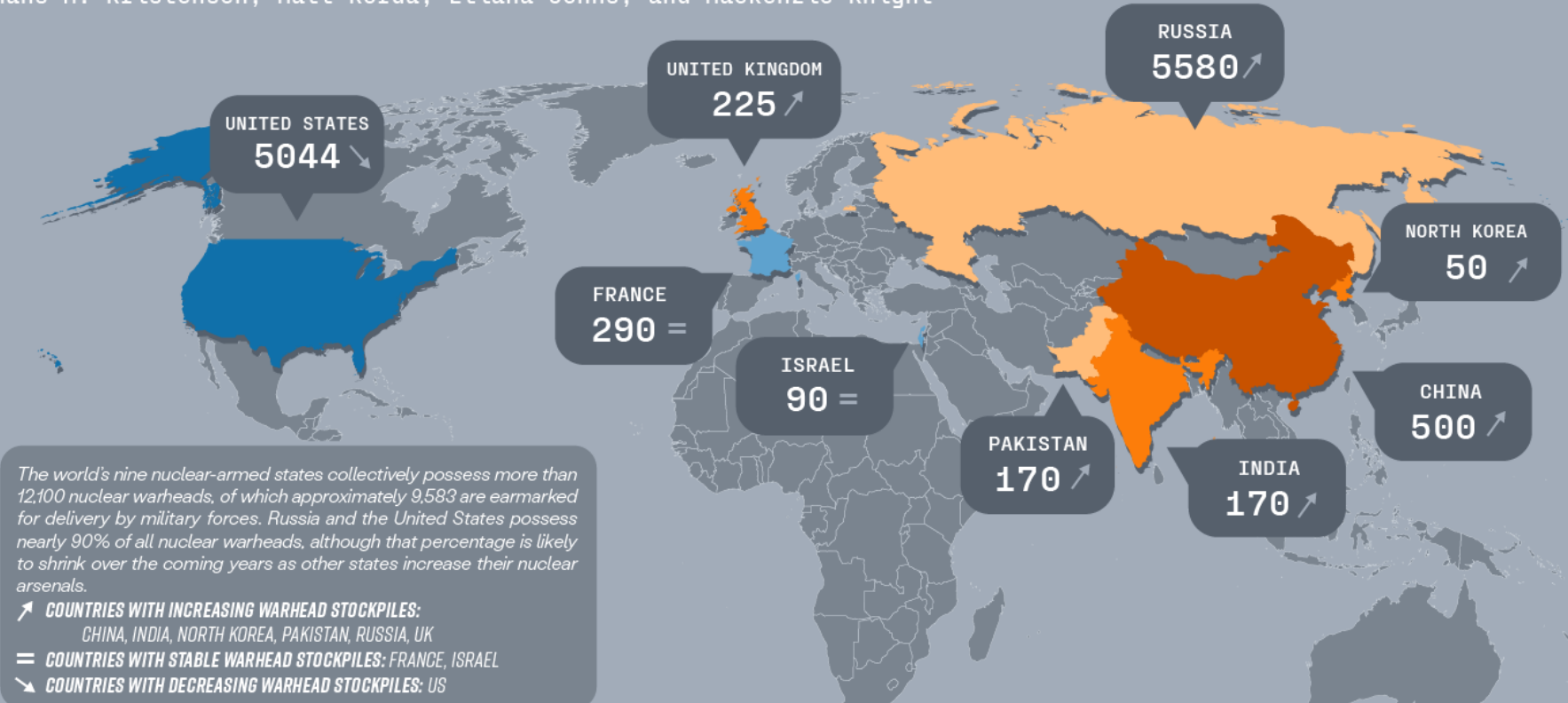
Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Inventories, 2024

Hans M. Kristensen, Matt Korda, Eliana Johns, and Mackenzie Knight

RUSSIA 5580 ↗

UNITED KINGDOM 225 ↗

UNITED STATES 5044 ↘

NORTH KOREA 50 ↗

FRANCE 290 =

CHINA 500 ↗

ISRAEL 90 =

PAKISTAN 170 ↗

INDIA 170 ↗

The world's nine nuclear-armed states collectively possess more than 12,100 nuclear warheads, of which approximately 9,583 are earmarked for delivery by military forces. Russia and the United States possess nearly 90% of all nuclear warheads, although that percentage is likely to shrink over the coming years as other states increase their nuclear arsenals.

↗ **COUNTRIES WITH INCREASING WARHEAD STOCKPILES:**
    CHINA, INDIA, NORTH KOREA, PAKISTAN, RUSSIA, UK
= **COUNTRIES WITH STABLE WARHEAD STOCKPILES:** *FRANCE, ISRAEL*
↘ **COUNTRIES WITH DECREASING WARHEAD STOCKPILES:** *US*

Numbers show estimated total nuclear warhead inventories, which include stockpiled warheads for use by military forces, warheads held in reserve, and retired warheads in queue for dismantlement. Of the 9,583 warheads in global military stockpiles, about 3,880 are deployed on ballistic missiles and at bomber bases. Approximately 2,000 warheads on ballistic missiles are on alert and can be launched on short notice.

FAS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

How military control of Ukraine has changed

Feb 2022: Before the invasion

Mar 2022: Russia's rapid advance

Nov 2022: Ukraine regains ground

May 2024: Russia edges forward

Russian military control
Limited Russian military control
Russian-backed separatist-held areas
Held or regained by Ukraine
Russia annexed Crimea in 2014

Note: Areas held or regained by Ukraine were reset by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) on 12 May 2023

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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.

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North Korea: At What Cost?

Defense Burden Comparison: Global Baseline

<1%	<1-1.9%	2-9.9%	10-19.9%	20-30%
63	61	62		NORTH KOREA
			2	1

Percentage of GDP Spent on Defense   Number of Countries

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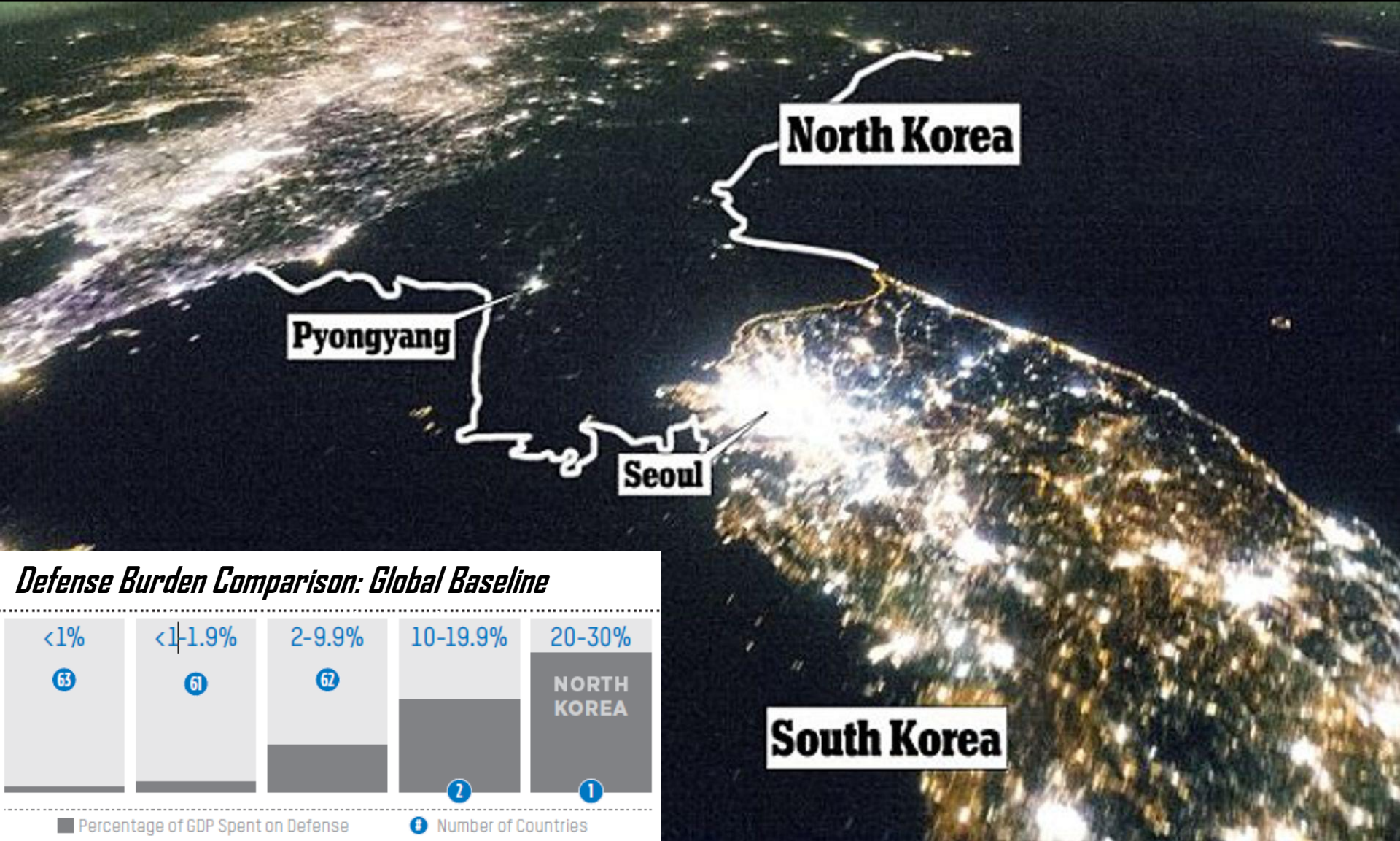
North Korea's Missile Launches

Kim Il-sung — 15 tests
Kim Jong-il — 16 tests
Kim Jong-un — 160 tests
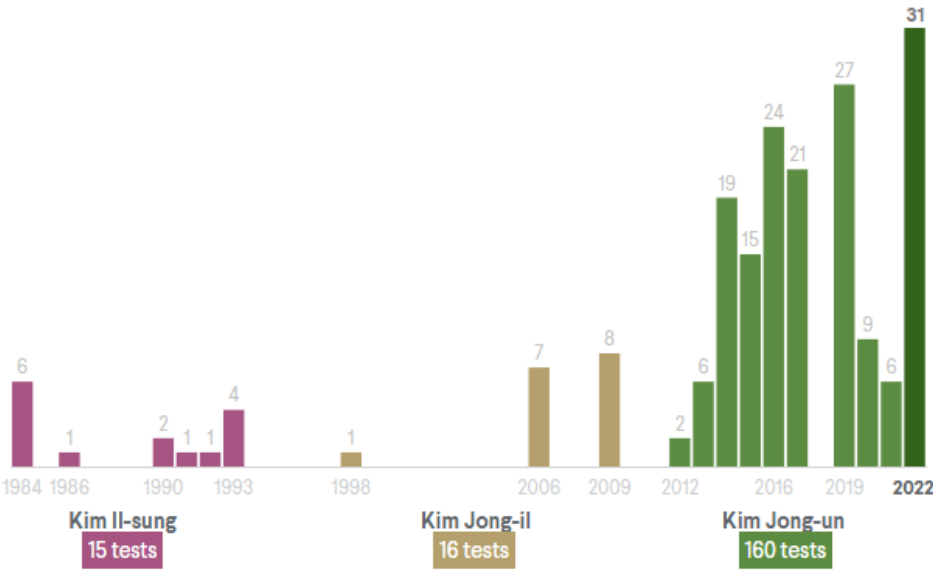
North Korea's Expanding Missile Range

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

April 9, 1984
Hwasong-5
300 km

May 29, 1993
No-dong
1,500 km

July 4, 2017
Hwasong-14
10,000 km

November 28, 2017
Hwasong-15
13,000 km

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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.

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Iran: Proxy Networks

Countries where notable Iran-backed militias are active, as of February 2024

Main area of activity	Militia	Iranian influence	Estimated size
BAHRAIN	Al-Ashtar Brigades	Strong	Unknown
IRAQ	Kata'ib Hezbollah	Strong	20,000–30,000
	Badr Organization	Strong	30,000–60,000
	Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq	Strong	20,000–30,000
	Hezbollah Harakat al-Nujaba	Strong	10,000–20,000
	Kata'ib Sayyed al-Shuhada	Strong	10,000–20,000
LEBANON	Hezbollah	Strong	30,000–45,000
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	Hamas	Moderate	30,000–40,000
	Palestinian Islamic Jihad	Moderate	1,000–15,000
SYRIA	Fatemiyoun Brigade	Strong	10,000–15,000
	Zainabiyoun Brigade	Strong	2,000–5,000
	Quwat al-Ridha	Strong	3,000–3,500
	Baqir Brigade	Strong	3,000
YEMEN	Houthi movement	Moderate	10,000–30,000

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**

- **Private Military and Security Companies**
  - **Foments violence and escalate instability in already fragile regions**

- ***HAMAS***
  - **Charter calls for establishing Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel**

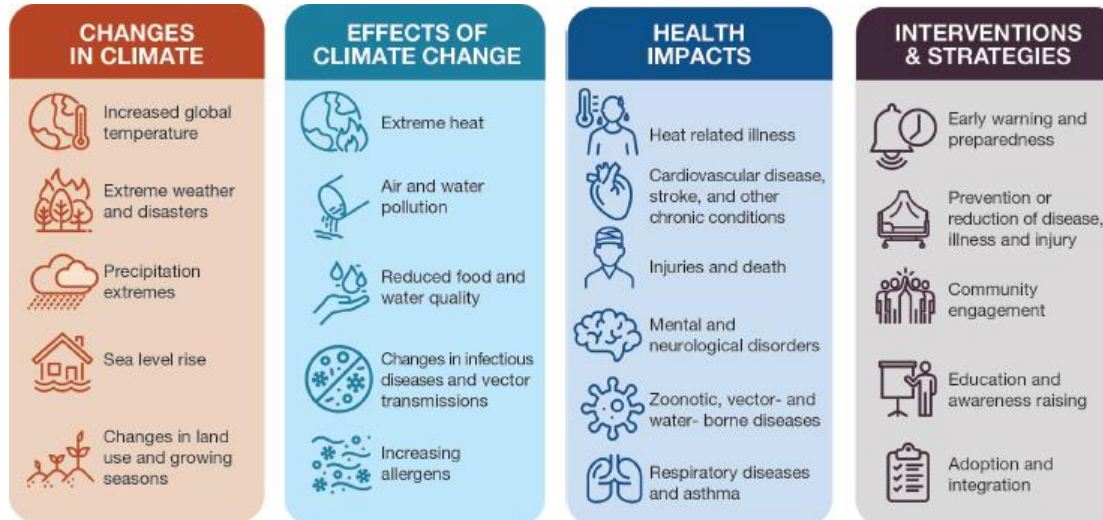**Col Casey Grider**
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Climate Change & Geopolitics

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.


CHANGES IN CLIMATE	EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	HEALTH IMPACTS	INTERVENTIONS & STRATEGIES
Increased global temperature	Extreme heat	Heat related illness	Early warning and preparedness
Extreme weather and disasters	Air and water pollution	Cardiovascular disease, stroke, and other chronic conditions	Prevention or reduction of disease, illness and injury
Precipitation extremes	Reduced food and water quality	Injuries and death	Community engagement
Sea level rise	Changes in infectious diseases and vector transmissions	Mental and neurological disorders	Education and awareness raising
Changes in land use and growing seasons	Increasing allergens	Zoonotic, vector- and water-borne diseases	Adoption and integration
		Respiratory diseases and asthma	

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.

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Global Average Temperature

2023 Was the Warmest Year on Record – by a Record Margin

Global land and ocean surface temperature anomalies (in degrees Celsius compared to the 20th century average)

2023: **+1.18°C**

Global mean surface temperature from 1901-2000

| Land	Sea	Land & Sea
8.5°C	**16.1°C**	**13.9°C**
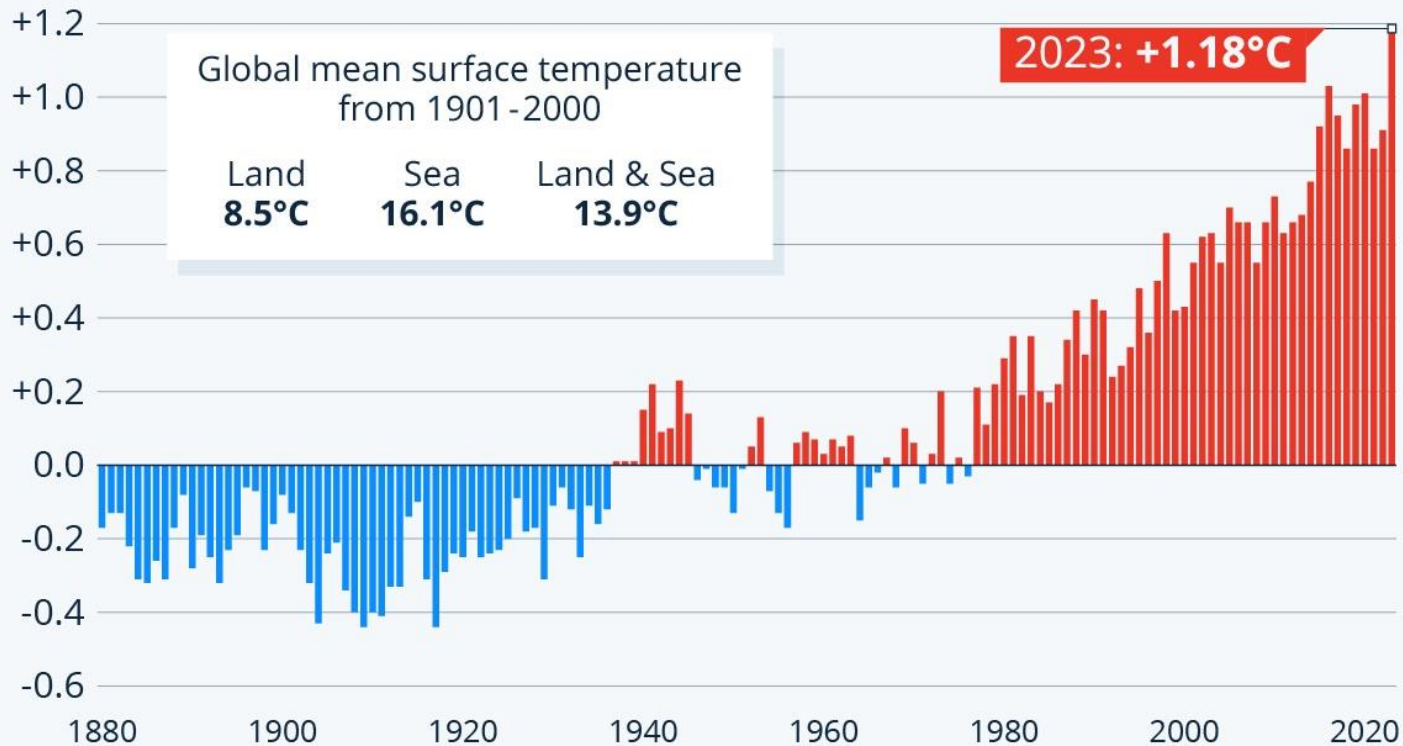
Health Security

National health system shortfalls, public mistrust and medical misinformation, and eroding global health governance will impede the capacity of countries to respond to health threats.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- **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**
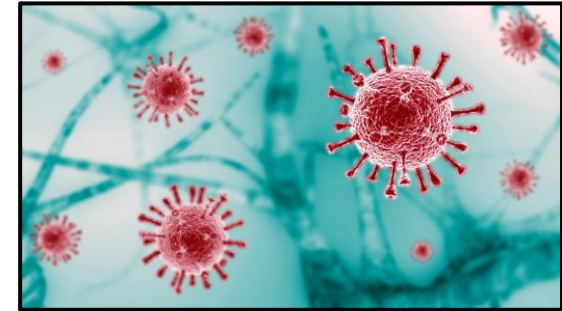
ADDITIONAL CONCERNS...

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

Key Takeaway: Countries remain vulnerable to the introduction of a new or reemerging pathogen that could cause another devastating pandemic; Biosecurity concerns may lead to biological weapons.

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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**

  o Deter PRC and Russian aggression against vital U.S. national interests

  o 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.

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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