



***“America’s Expeditionary Force in Readiness”***

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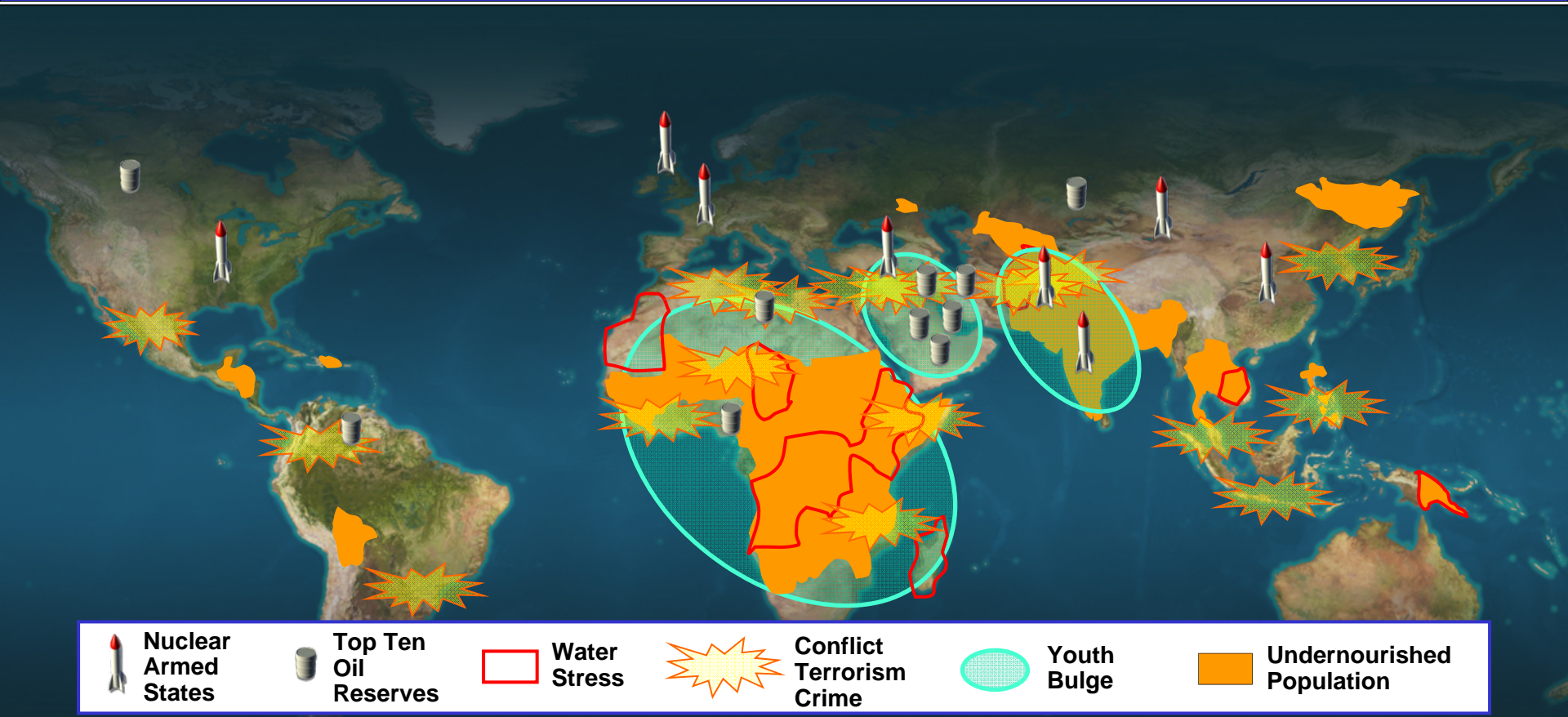
***General James F. Amos  
Commandant of the Marine Corps***

***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...

95% of international communications travels via underwater cables

70% of the world is water

21 of the world's 28 mega-cities are within 62 mi / 100 km of the sea

50% of the world's population lives within 62 mi / 100 km of a coast

49% of the world's oil travels through 7 major sea chokepoints

42,000 trading ships are underway daily

95% of the world's commerce moves by sea

95% of all commercial cargo travels through the littorals

**“...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

From 2001-2010, ~70K people/ year were killed in the Asia Pacific region due to natural disasters, resulting in 65% of world's total death from such causes and ~\$35B of economic damage per year

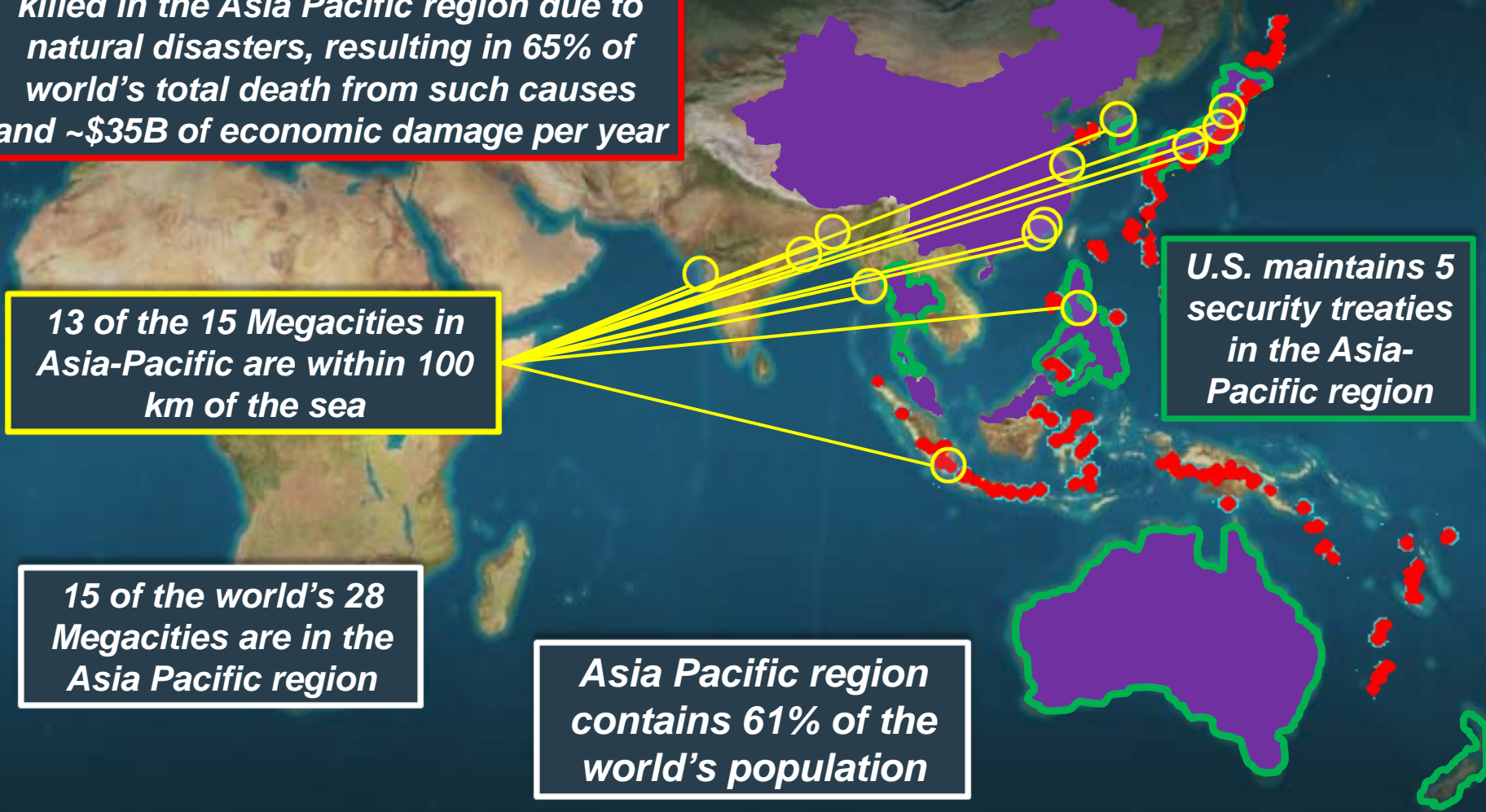
12 of the top 15 U.S. trading partners (import / export) are in Asia-Pacific

13 of the 15 Megacities in Asia-Pacific are within 100 km of the sea

U.S. maintains 5 security treaties in the Asia-Pacific region

15 of the world's 28 Megacities are in the Asia Pacific region

Asia Pacific region contains 61% of the world's population





# 2012 Strategic Vigilance in CENTCOM,...

**Arab Awakening**

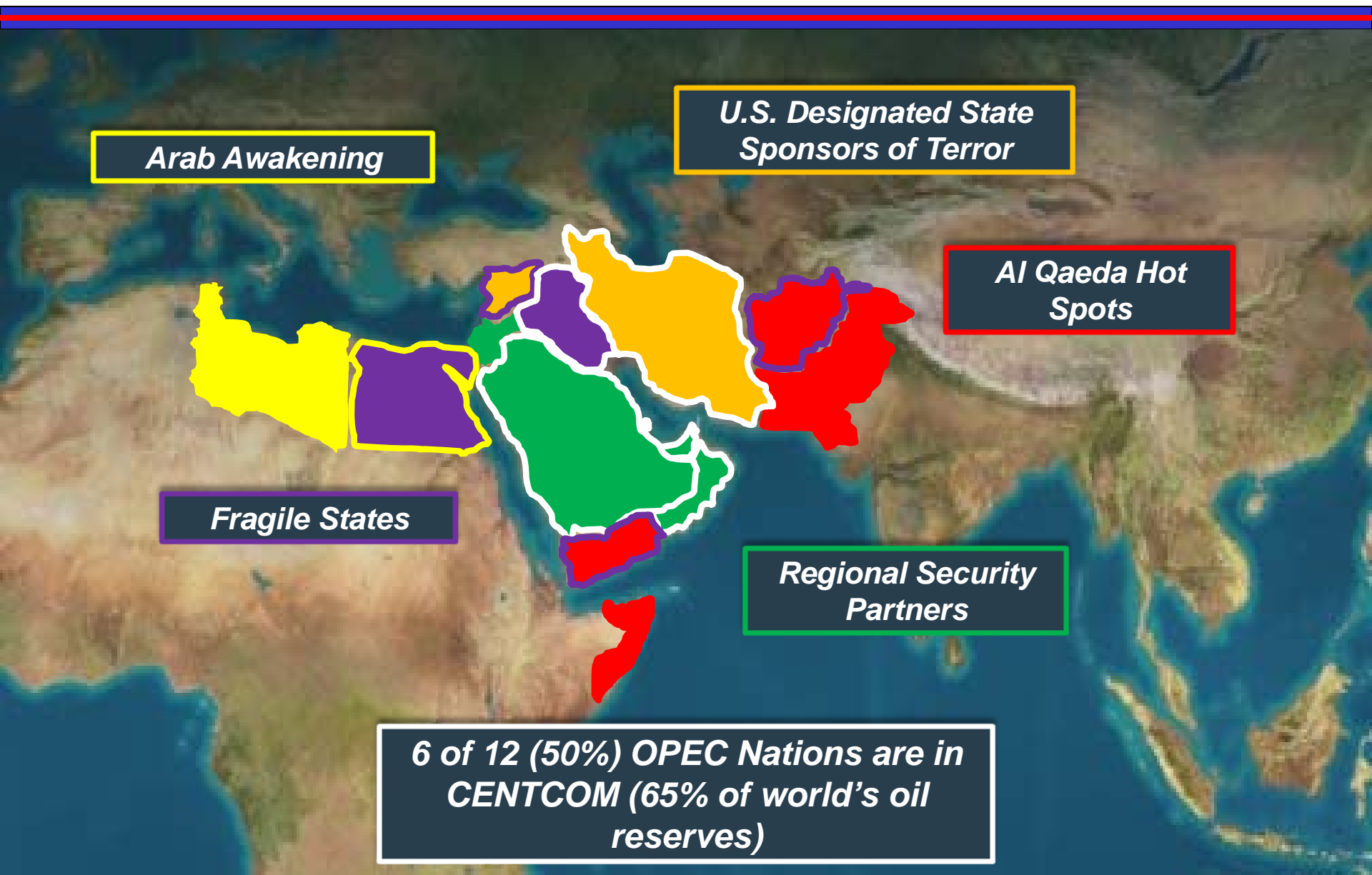
**U.S. Designated State Sponsors of Terror**

**Al Qaeda Hot Spots**

**Fragile States**

**Regional Security Partners**

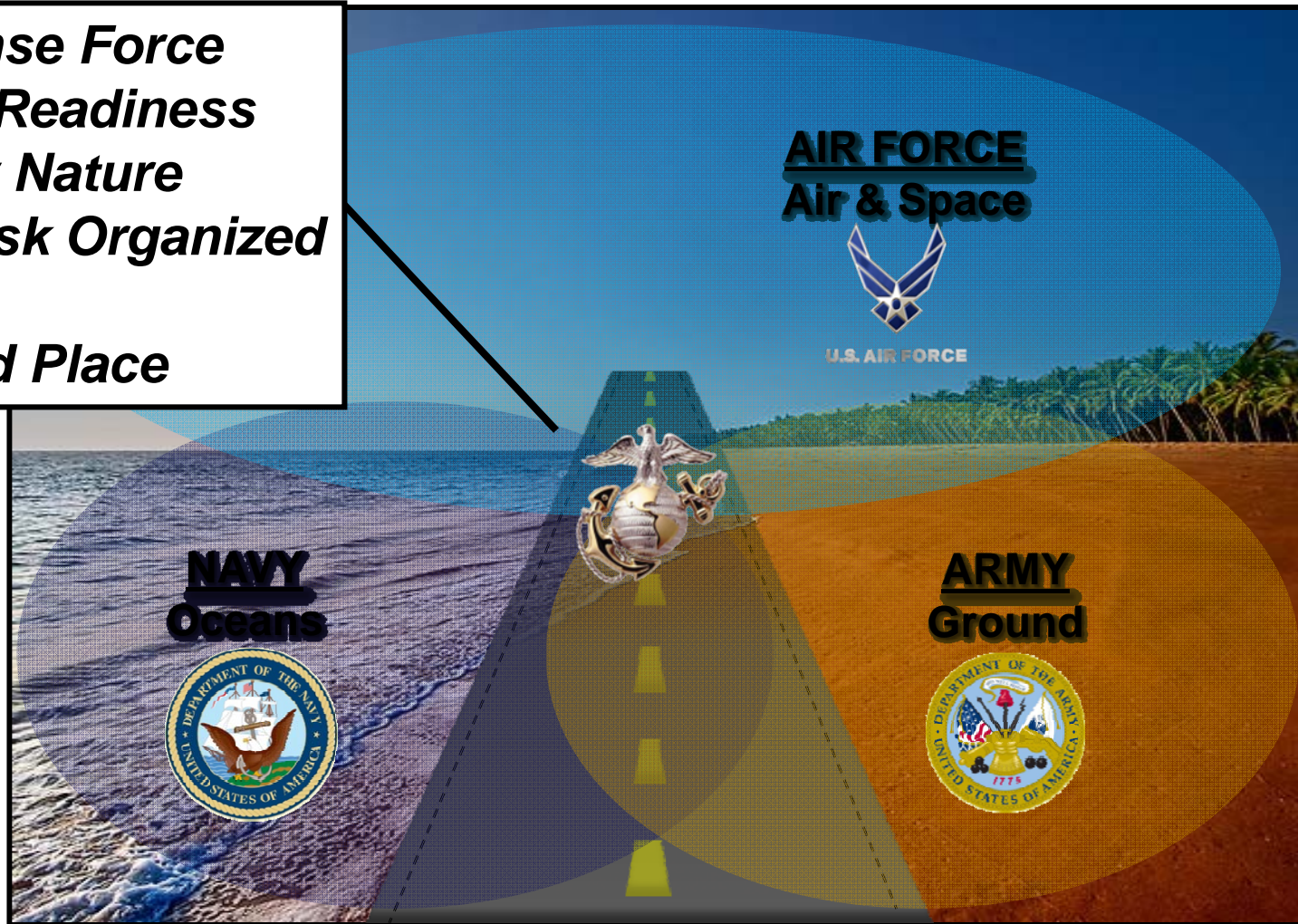
**6 of 12 (50%) OPEC Nations are in CENTCOM (65% of world's oil reserves)**





# ***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***

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- ***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...***



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# The *'spiritual health'* of our Corps!