

# U.S. Military Restraint Is a Better Course in Dealing with Violent Jihadist Groups in Muslim Countries

A presentation by Steve Metcalf

# ISIS 10 Year Expansion Plan



What will minimize violent jihadist attacks in the West and lead the Muslim nations of Central Asia, the Mid East and North Africa to a long term, stable end state with steadily improving economies?

# Two Objectives Must Be Achieved

- Greater economic opportunity for the citizens within Muslim nations
- A global Islamic reform that rejects violent jihad



What do those objectives have to do with ISIS, al Qaeda and other violent jihadist groups?

Everything

# Why Do They Follow the Path of Violence?

- Lack of economic opportunity (4 rebellious waves since 1980)
- Disenfranchisement
- Isolation
- Excitement in pursuit of a raison d'être
- Fundamentalist religious embrace

# The Quran Is the Muslim Catechism

- Passages of kindness and peace
- Passages of violence, enslavement & forced propagation of Islam
- Which verses are followed is up to the seller

“We cannot do for Iraqis what they must do for themselves, nor can we take the place of Arab partners in securing their region.” - President Obama, 10Sep14 speech to announce coalition against ISIS

- U.S. committed to lead coalition before obtaining specific commitment of forces by regional states – big mistake
- Void of tough regional diplomacy

# Where Are the Muslim Partners?

- Precise makeup of the 65 nation coalition is classified
- No Arab ground forces other than Iraq and Syria's
- Even greater lack of support by Muslim populations of regional states
- Violent jihad is rooted in Islam and can only be eliminated by Muslims through a reformation

# The Error of Political Correctness

- Daesh is an acronym for "al-Dawla al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham" (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant)
- Preferred by Muslim governments as it removes the word "Islam"
- ISIS members think they are following the guidance of The Prophet in the service of Allah

"We are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah."

- Osama bin Laden in October 2004 video

"Bleed by a thousand cuts" strategy was reiterated by al Alaki of AQAP

- Inspire Magazine, October 2010

## Financial Cost to the U.S.

- Currently \$40 billion/year in Iraq & Syria
- Added to the \$4.5+ trillion (2013) of Iraq and Afghanistan wars
- Full financial cost of these wars is deficit spending to be paid by future generations
- Greatest threat to the U.S. is its balance sheet: \$19 trillion deficit and growing
- Global capital markets will not continue to fund elective U.S. military excursions



# Cost of Precision Munitions

- Hellfire Laser Guided Missile \$110K, 100# warhead, 500m-5000m range
- Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) \$18K-40K, 500#-2000# warhead, 15 nm range, plus Paveway laser guidance kits of additional \$48K-84K
- Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) \$282K-719K, 1095# warhead, 12-70 nm range
- Tomahawk Cruise Missile \$1.59MM, 2900#-3500# warhead, 700-1350 nm range

# Should the U.S. Mount Yet Another Ground Offensive?

- Domestic terrorism will grow so long as violent jihad exists
- Again asking <1% of U.S. to do the fighting
- Conflicting objectives of regional parties
- Lack of participation by Mid East nations
- Effect on violent jihadist recruiting
- Effect on ISIS command and control
- Will it lead to a long term, stabled end state or just a continuation of the lawn maintenance strategy?

# Vienna US-Russian Plan (14Nov15)

- By 1Jan16: UN will seek to convene Syrian government and opposition in formal negotiations
- Within 6 months: Cease-fire between Syrian government and opposition groups; process for drafting new constitution
- Within 18 months: Free elections administered by the UN held under the new constitution

# Recommendations-1

- Publish specific participation by coalition members
- Cut the political correctness – associate roots of violent jihad with Quranic teachings
- Use tougher public diplomacy with regional states for ground and air participation
- Shift U.S. tac-air role to Iraq and protection of Kurds
- Support Iraq only if it formalizes and fills specific Kurdish and Sunni ratios and key positions in government

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# Recommendations-2

(continued)

- Saudi Arabia should offer closely controlled FIM-92h MANPADS to one select Syrian rebel group to encourage Russian support for UN sponsored elections and Assad transition in 18 months
- Encourage regional states to develop broader and deeper economies
- Increase U.S. humanitarian aid to refugees in region
- China, India, Russia and US should host a UN conference on how violent jihad can be ended globally
- Implement war tax in U.S. to reverse the direction of deficit
- Focus on domestic terrorism

# Saudi Arabia's new "Islamic Military Alliance"

(Post presentation announcement on 14Dec15)

- Purpose: to fight terrorism – but how will that be defined?
- No mention of "violent jihad"
- 34 countries with majority Muslim populations – several with conflicting interests
- Some Saudi citizens have supported violent jihad for years
- Nearly all violent jihadist groups are Sunni
- Why now? Could it be to strengthen ties with the US due to severe financial duress and potential for domestic revolution?
- Time will tell...

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