



NAVAL  
POSTGRADUATE  
SCHOOL

**Thesis Presentation:**  
**Climate Insecurity and Governance Competition:**  
**The Near-Term Geopolitical Consequences of**  
**Destructive Climate Events.**

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Defense Analysis 698  
Class of December 2022

The Nation's Premier Defense Research University

Monterey, California  
[WWW.NPS.EDU](http://WWW.NPS.EDU)



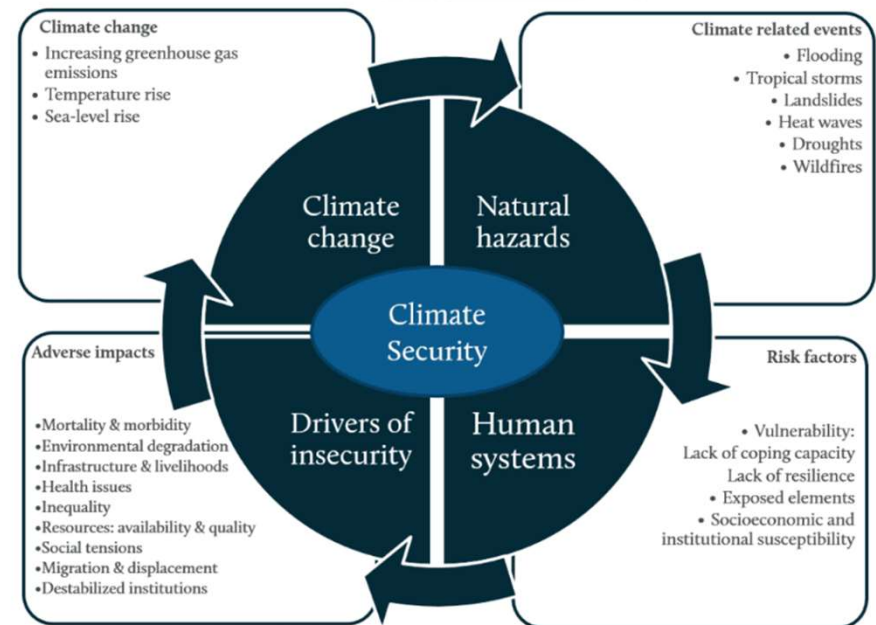
1. The Problem
2. Research Question
3. The Approach
4. The Findings
5. Recommendations

## Climate Security

- 2022 NSS: designates climate change as an existential threat and a transnational shared challenge.
- IPCC: as the world warms, there will be an increase in the intensity and frequency of natural disasters and extreme weather events.
- IPCC: over 3.3 billion people live in areas designated as highly vulnerable to climate change.

## Adversarial Competition

- New and more frequent methods of competition below the threshold of armed conflict are becoming the norm.
  - Economic statecraft
  - Cyber
  - Political warfare
  - Military and humanitarian aid



Source: IMCCS Climate Security Framework



# The 2022 NSS Priorities



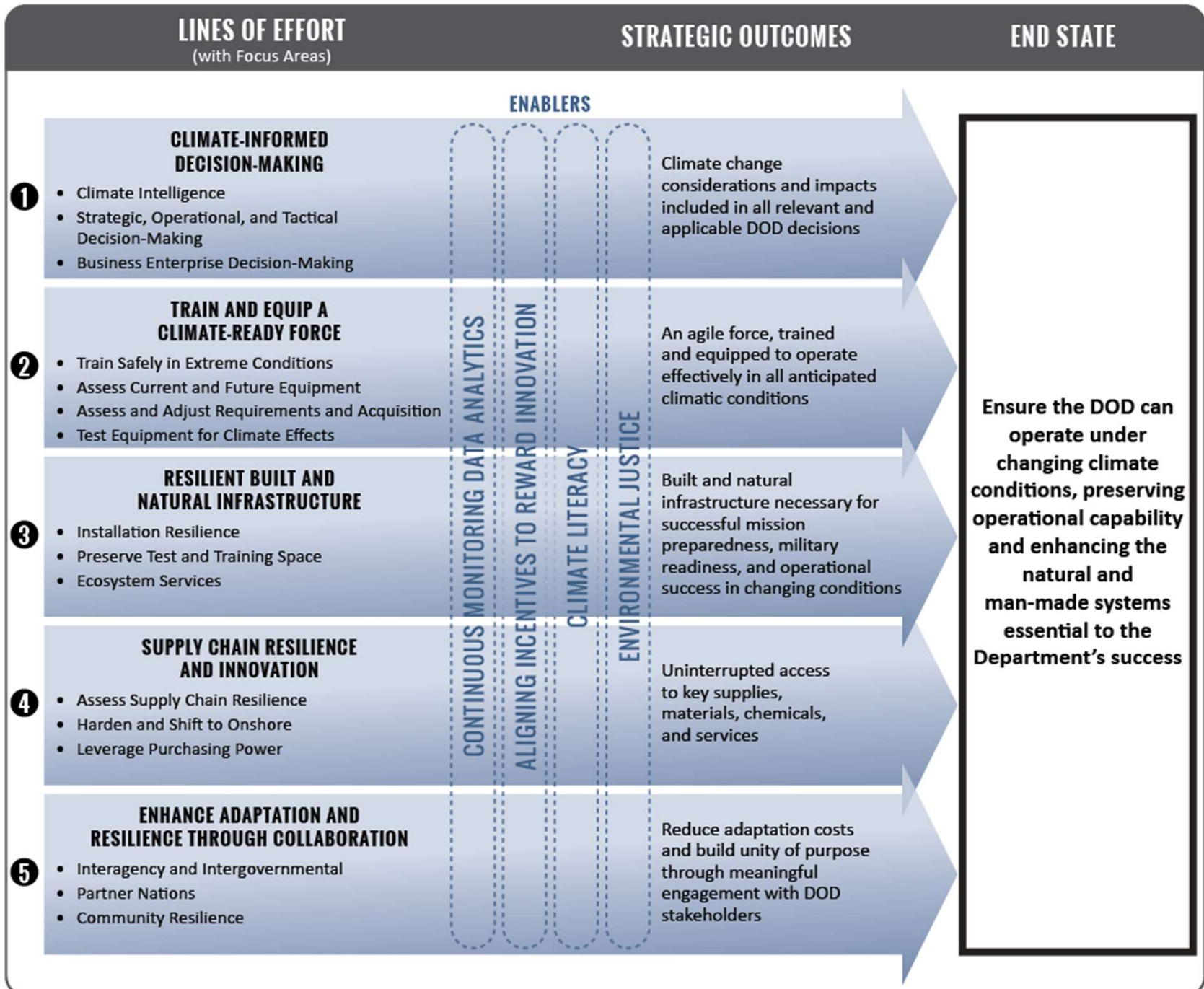
Climate  
Security



Adversarial  
Competition



# DoD CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK, 2021





Lines of Effort	Ways and Means	Objectives
1. Installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient energy and water supply</li> <li>• Carbon free electricity</li> <li>• Efficient and sustainable infrastructure</li> <li>• Non-tactical fleet electrification</li> <li>• Sustainable land management</li> <li>• Enhanced planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure resilience optimized</li> <li>• Infrastructure sustainability enhanced</li> <li>• Land management adapted to climate change risks</li> <li>• Future access to training and testing lands secured</li> <li>• Army GHG emissions mitigated</li> </ul>
2. Acquisition and Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of advanced technology</li> <li>• Reduced fuel consumption</li> <li>• Future contingency basing</li> <li>• Clean procurement</li> <li>• Resilient supply chains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainment demand reduced</li> <li>• Operational and contingency basing capability increased</li> <li>• Climate resilience strengthened</li> </ul>
3. Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the Army trains</li> <li>• How the Army trains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train and educate the Army to operate in a climate-altered world</li> </ul>

*ACS-IP LOEs, Themes, and Objectives*  
*Army Climate Strategy Implementation Plan FY23-FY27*



“How can actors leverage climate insecurity for regional influence?”



***Climate Security:*** the interactions between change in global, regional, or local climate patterns and political, military, economic, and social risks/stresses to peace, security, and stability.

***Governance Competition:*** When a third-party actor challenges the legitimacy, authority, and or influence of a governing body over a population by undermining, circumventing, or substituting governing efforts.



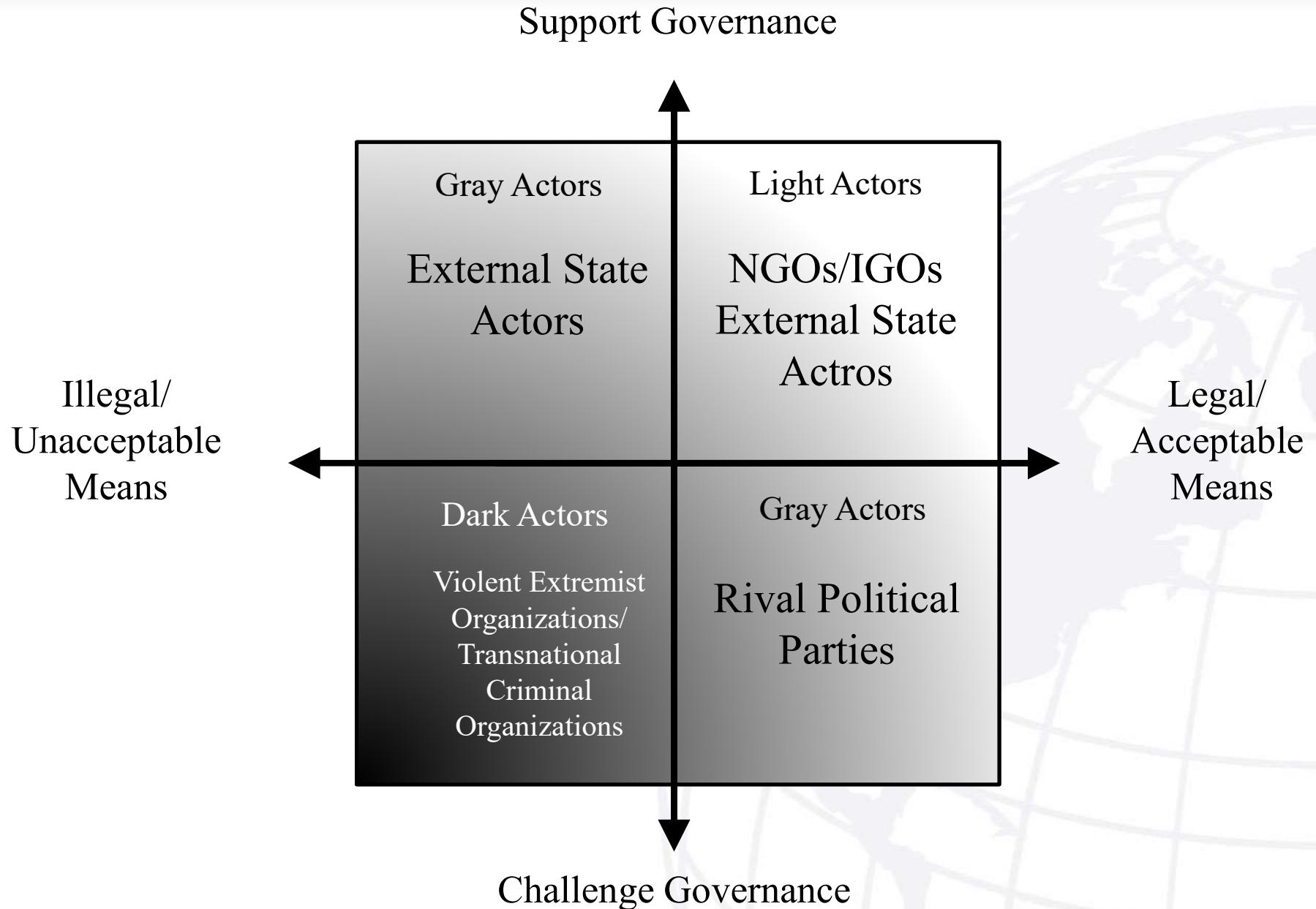


# Governance Competition Model





# Actors in Governance Competition





# Governance Competition Model



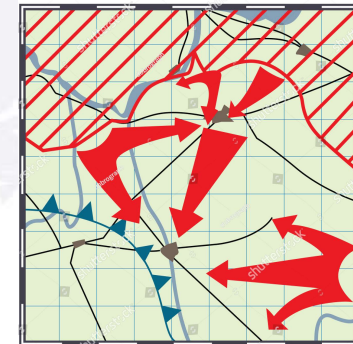
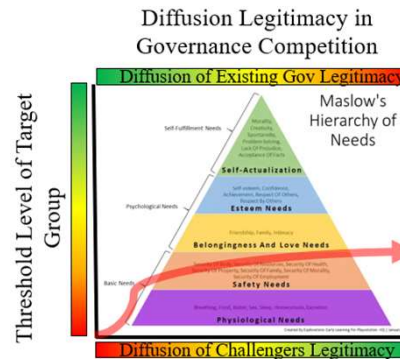
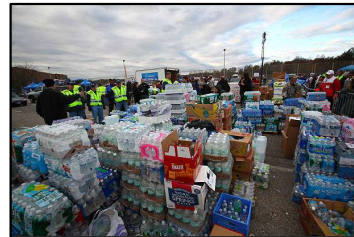
Methods of  
Influence



Target  
Group(s)

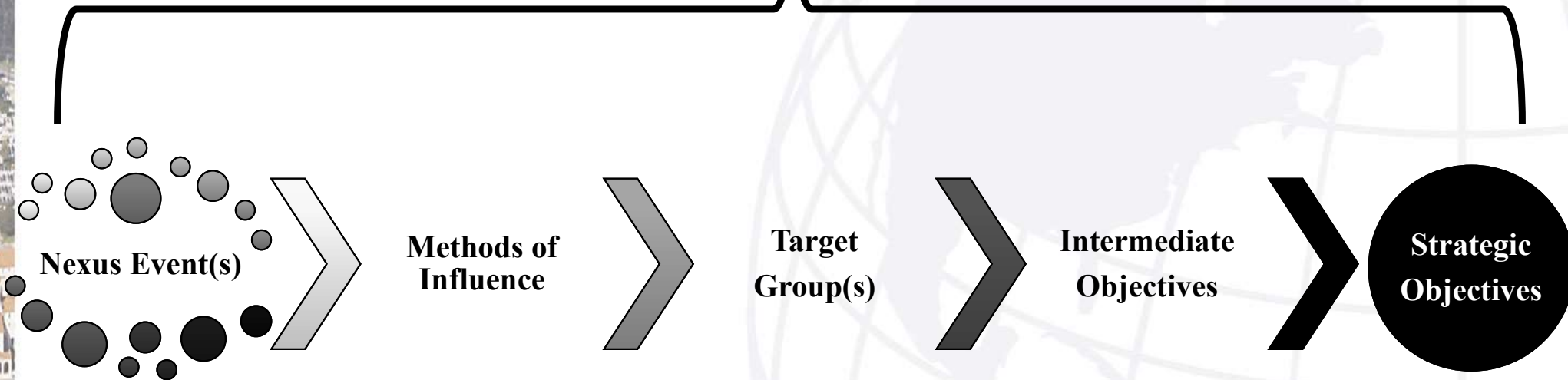


Intermediate  
Objectives



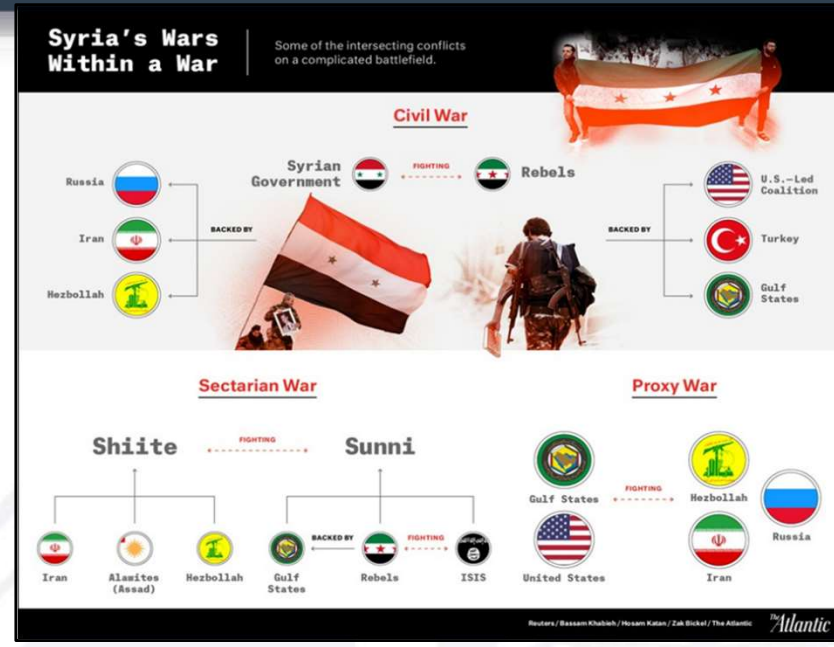


# Governance Competition Model



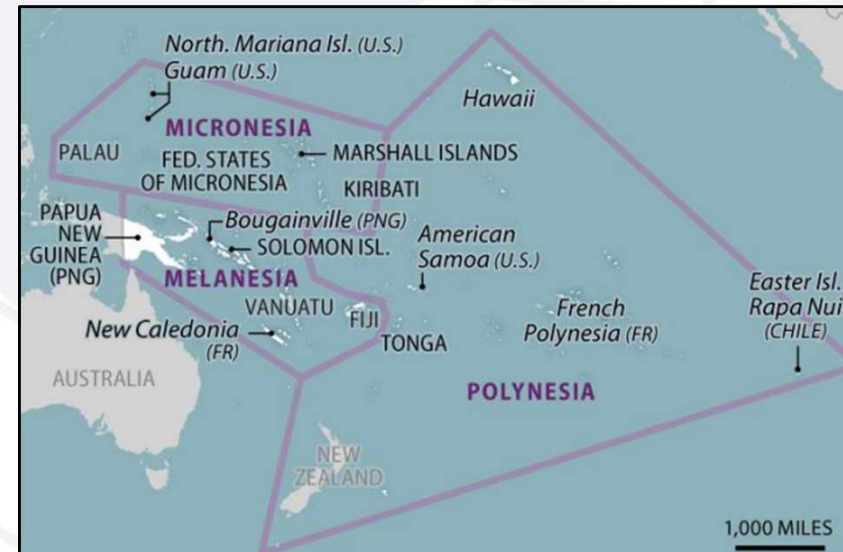


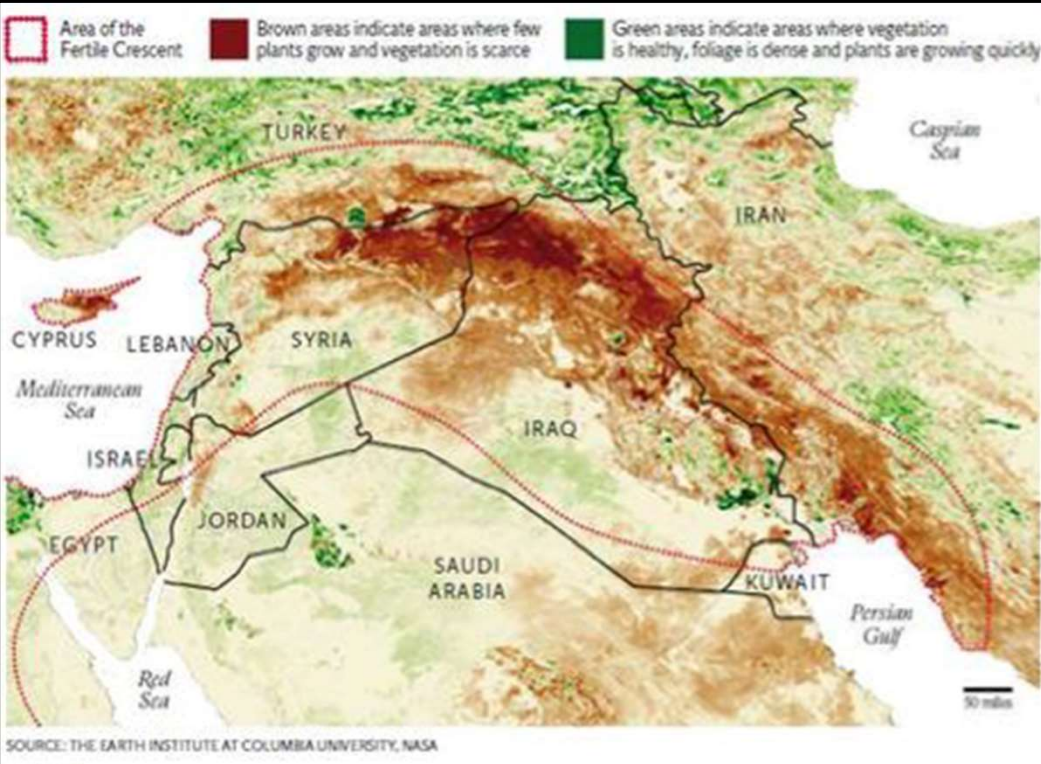
## Syrian Civil War



## Central America

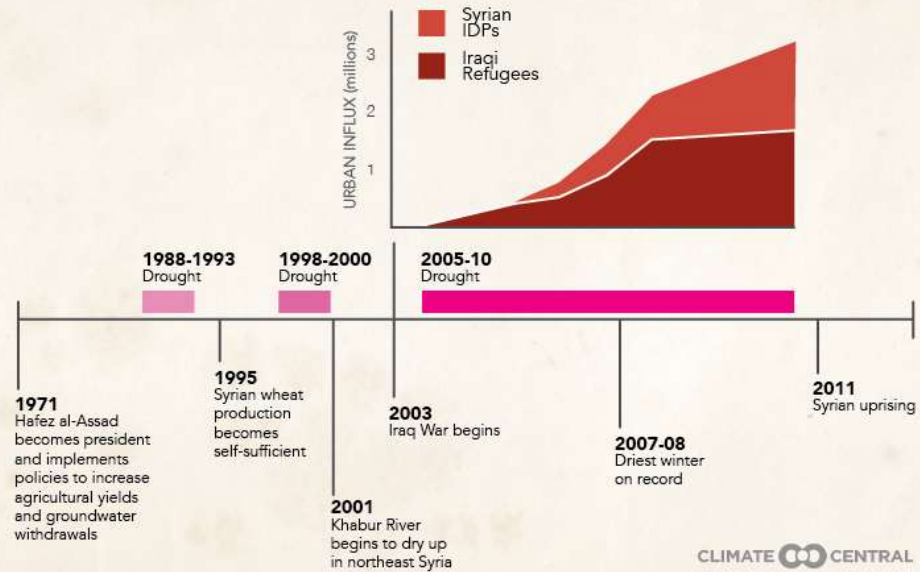
## Pacific Islands



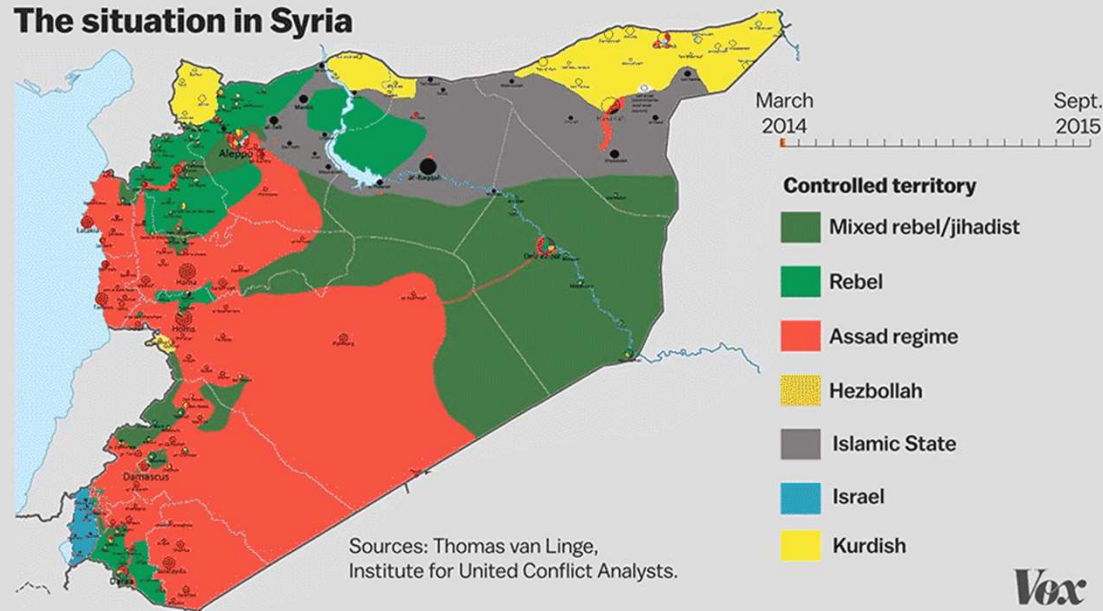


## A Syria Timeline: Policy, Drought and Conflict:

A series of social and climate factors became confounding elements that contributed to the uprising in Syria.



## The situation in Syria

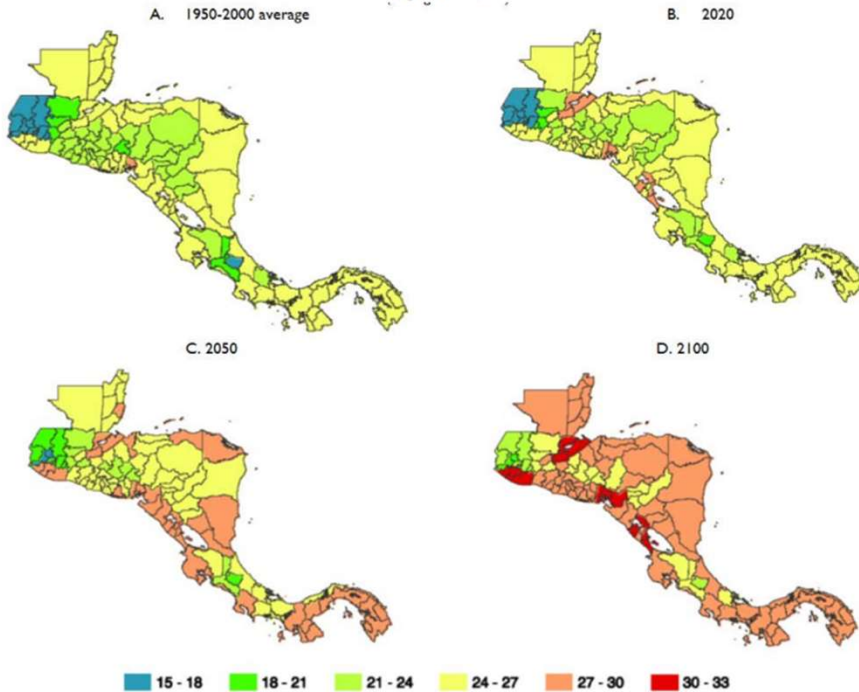




<b>Governance Competition Model: Syria</b>						
Existing Governance	Challengers	Strategic Objectives	Intermediate Objectives	Target Group(s)	Method of Influence	Nexus Event(s)
Syrian Government	ISIS	Establishment of an Islamic Caliphate	Fear/ Increase Legitimacy	Civil Population/ Govt Officials	Violence/ Extortion	Drought
Syrian Government	Russia	Survival of Syrian Government for Regional Economic Access & Influence/ Destruction of ISIS	Foothold in Syria to Use Military Power/ Fear/ Deter Other ESA Actions	Civil Population/ ISIS	Military Power/ Deterrence	Drought

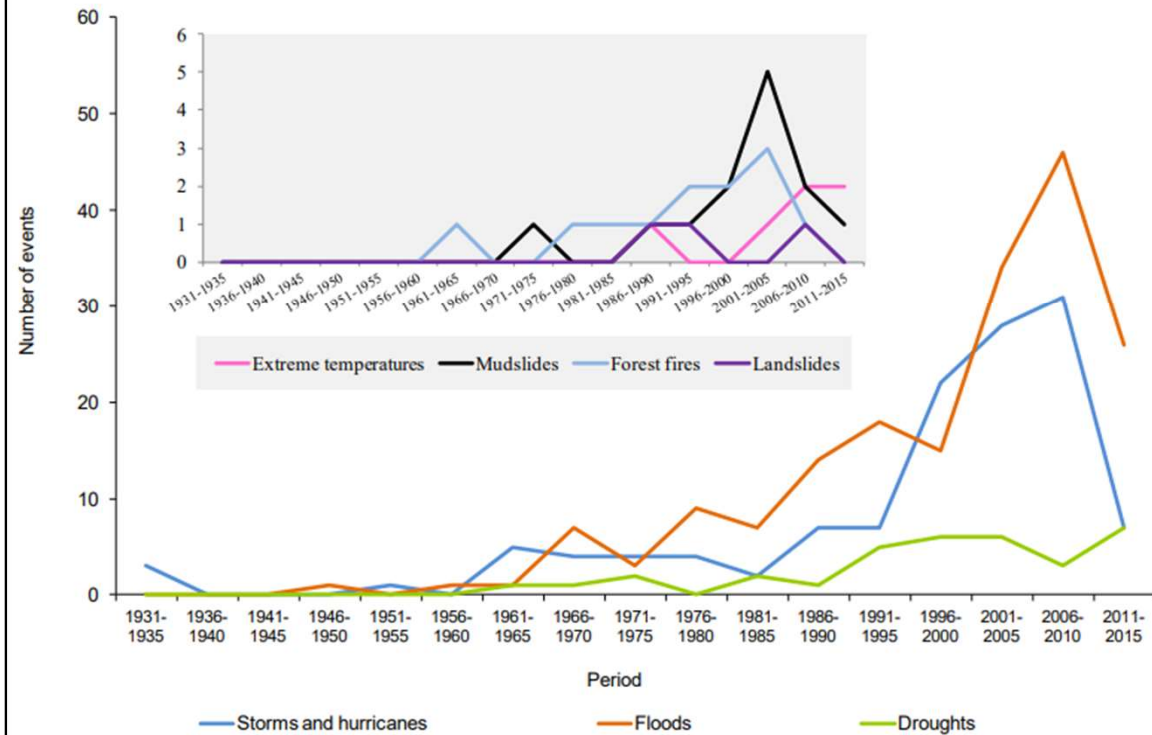


**MAP I**  
**CENTRAL AMERICA: ANNUAL AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE BY DEPARTMENT,**  
**1950-2000 AVERAGE AND SCENARIO A2 UP TO 2100**  
(In degrees Celsius)



Source: ECLAC, CCAD/SICA, UKAID, DANIDA (2012a).

**CENTRAL AMERICA: EVOLUTION OF RECORDED  
EXTREME EVENTS OVER TIME, 1931-2015**  
(By number and type)







<b>Governance Competition Model: GHEN</b>						
Existing Governance	Challengers	Strategic Objectives	Intermediate Objectives	Target Group(s)	Method of Influence	Nexus Event(s)
GHEN State Governments	MS-13 Mara-18	Freedom of Maneuver/Finance	Fear/ Increase Legitimacy	Civil Population/ Govt Officials	Violence/ Extortion	Drought/ Hurricanes
State Governments	PRC	Regional Economic Access & Influence	Increase State Partnerships	Civil Population/ Govt Officials	Econ State Craft/Relief	Drought/ Hurricanes
Nicaraguan Government	Russia	Regional Access & Influence	Increase State Partnerships	Nicaraguan Government	Military Aid/Relief	Drought/ Hurricanes
Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador	Russia	Threaten US Borders	Coups/ Destabilize Region	Civil Population	Unconventional Warfare	Drought/ Hurricanes



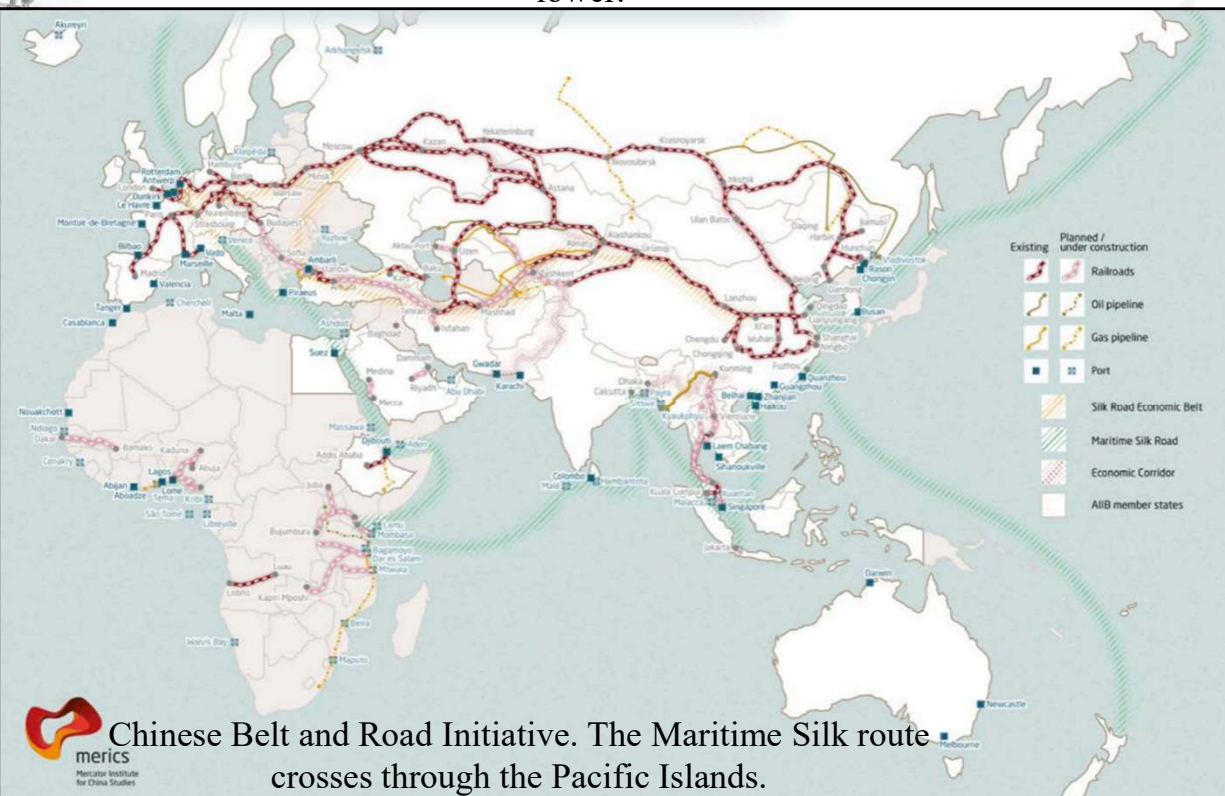
# Pacific Islands



At-risk coastal urban areas that are 30 feet above sea level or lower.



Island Chain Strategy to block access into the Pacific.



Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. The Maritime Silk route crosses through the Pacific Islands.



Governance Competition Model: Pacific Islands

Existing Governance	Challengers	Strategic Objectives	Intermediate Objectives	Target Group(s)	Method of Influence	Nexus Event(s)
PICs	PRC	International Environment favorable to PRC	Security & Economic Agreements	Civil Population/ Govt Officials	BRI/ Disinformation/ IUUF/ Extortion	Sea Level Rise/ Extreme Weather Events (cyclones)



- Destructive climate events can serve as a threat multiplier
- Climate insecurity increase the chances of governance and adversarial competition
- Climate insecurity provides an opportunity that state and or non-state actors can exploit
- Climate insecurity has geopolitical implications in the near term
- Climate security creates a field for the US to advance influence



## 1. Strategic Adjustment

DoD Climate Security LOE Defend Forward

## 2. Tactical Employment:

Special Operations Forces Civil Affairs



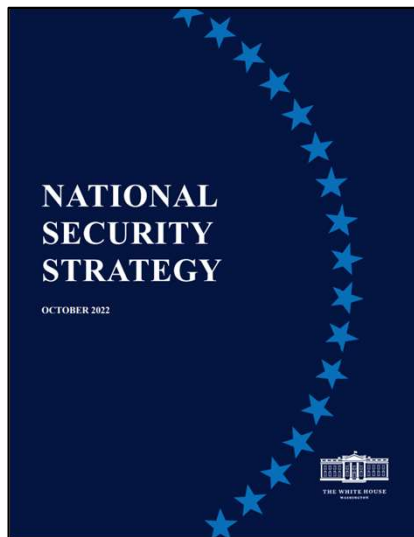
We will defend forward to disrupt or halt malicious cyber activity at its source, including activity that falls below the level of armed conflict. We will strengthen the security and resilience of networks and systems that contribute to current and future US military advantages. We will collaborate with our interagency, industry, and international partners to advance our mutual interests. – US DoD Cyber Strategy 2018



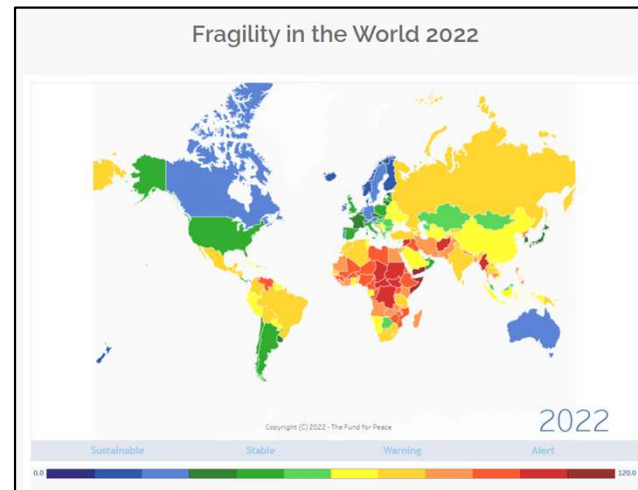
We will defend forward to disrupt or halt malicious Governance Competition at its source, including activity that falls below the level of armed conflict. We will strengthen the security and governance and state resiliency to climate events that contribute to current and future US military advantages. We will collaborate with our interagency, industry, and international partners to advance our mutual interests. – Proposed US DoD CASF LOE



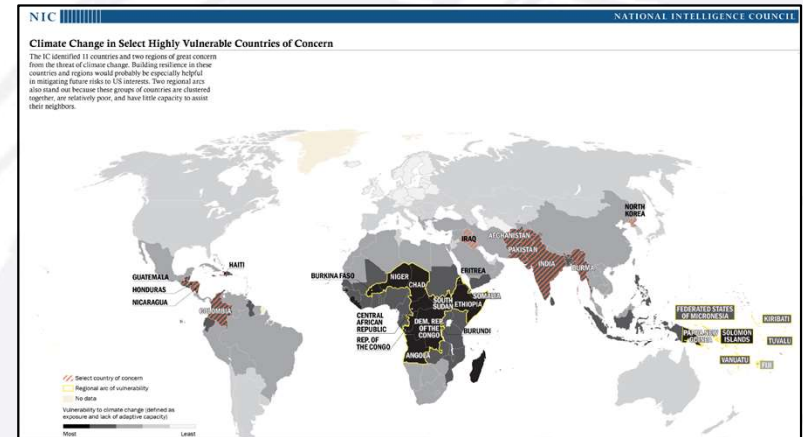
## Prioritize and Identify Climate Security Named Areas of Interest



Prioritize Regions



Identify Fragile Areas



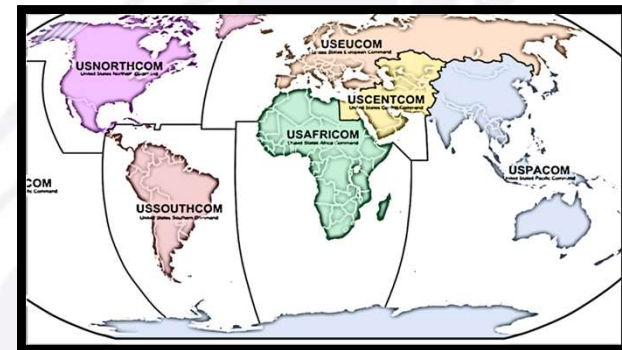
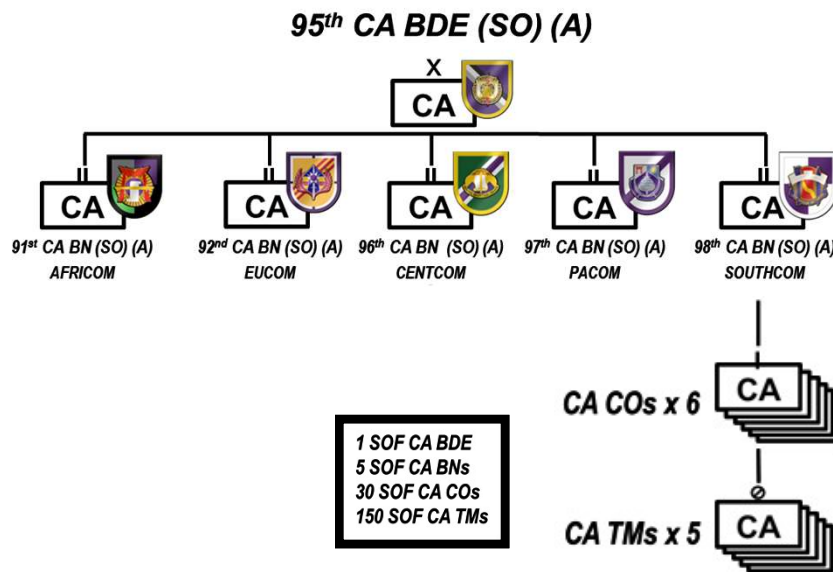
Identify Climate Vulnerable States





# US Army SOF Civil Affairs

The 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne) provides the nation's premier *civil reconnaissance* and *engagement* force to *understand* and *influence* the *human component* of the *land domain* to advance the nation's global priorities.



*On any given day...*

*~ 300 Soldiers deployed to 40 countries*





# US Army SOF Civil Affairs Mission

**Mission:** Civil Affairs mission is to Understand and Impact the Civil Domain to support of US objectives

## Civil Domain

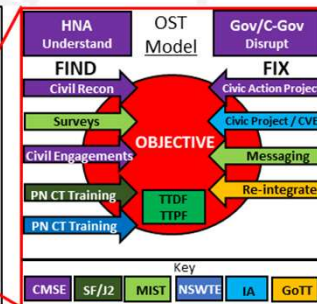
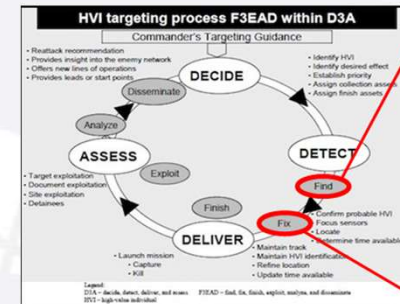
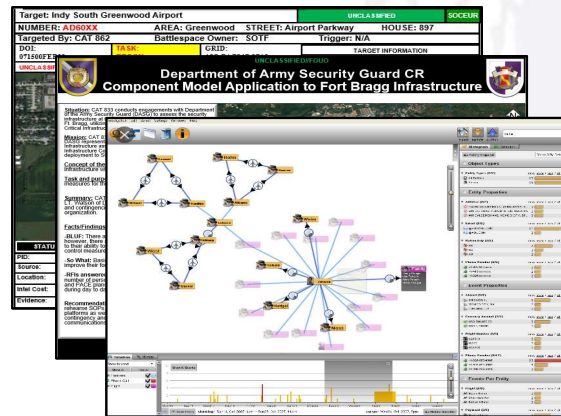
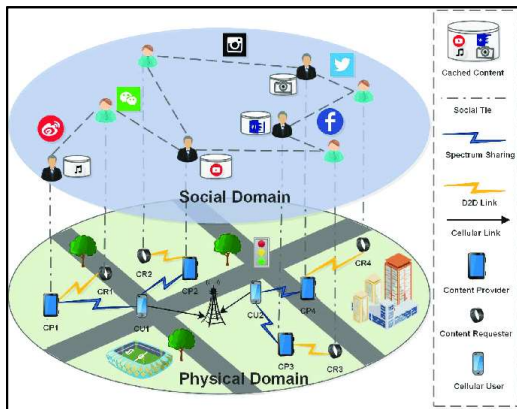
- Physical
- Social
- Information

## Understand

- Open-Source Research/Publicly Available Information
- Civil Reconnaissance
- Civil Engagement
- Civil Information Management
- Human Network Analysis

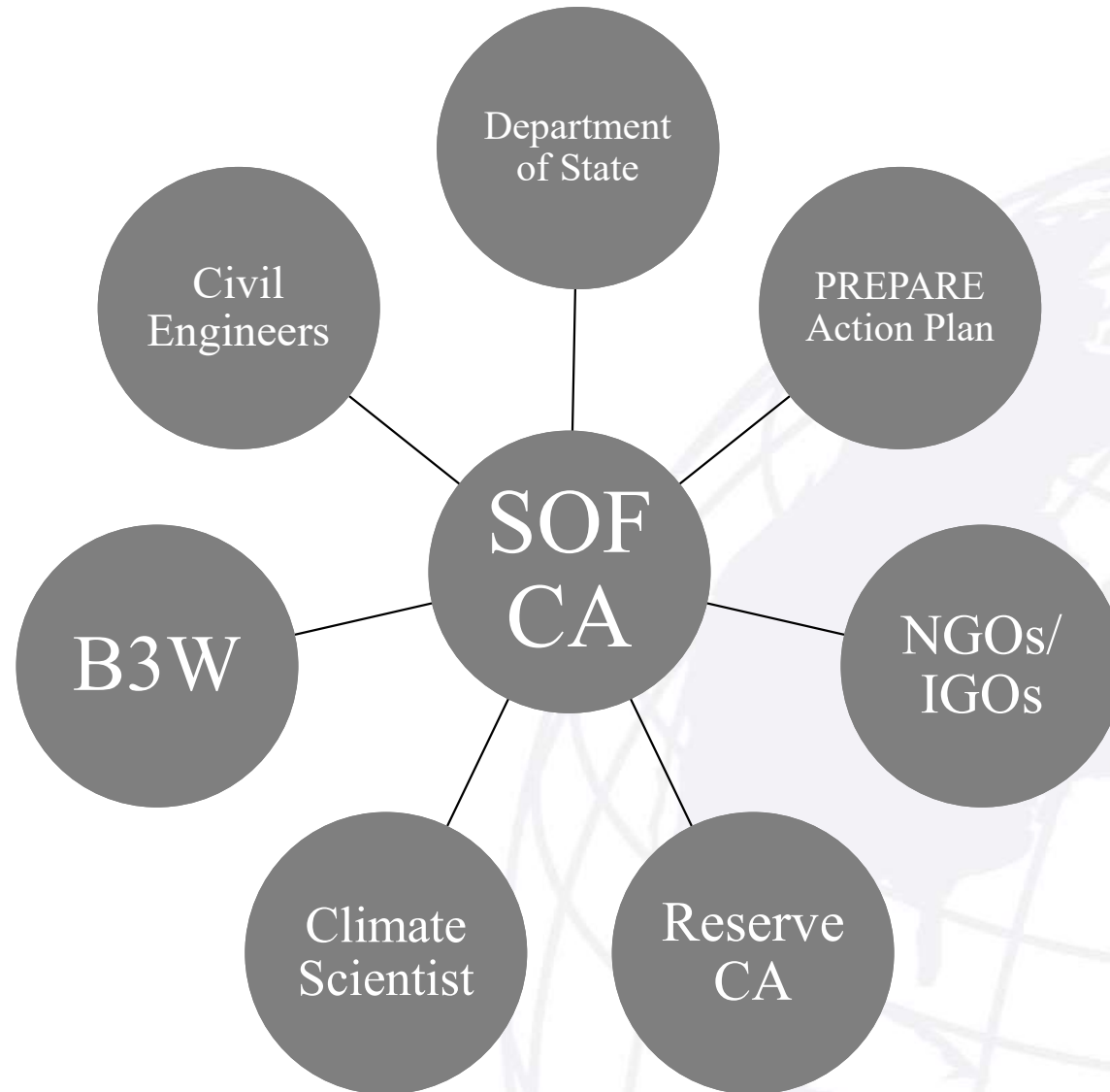
## Impact

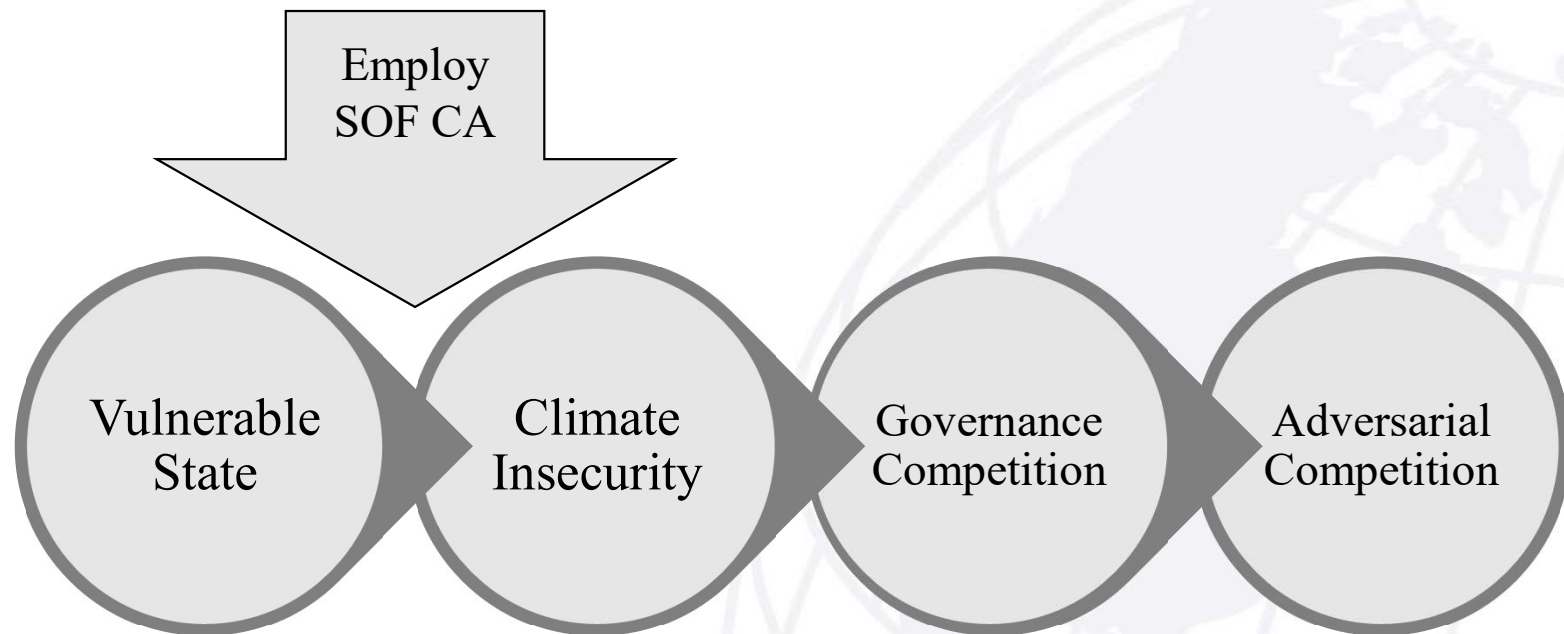
- Non-Lethal Targeting
- IA/Joint/ Combined Efforts
- Civic Action Projects
- Support Governance
- Support to FID





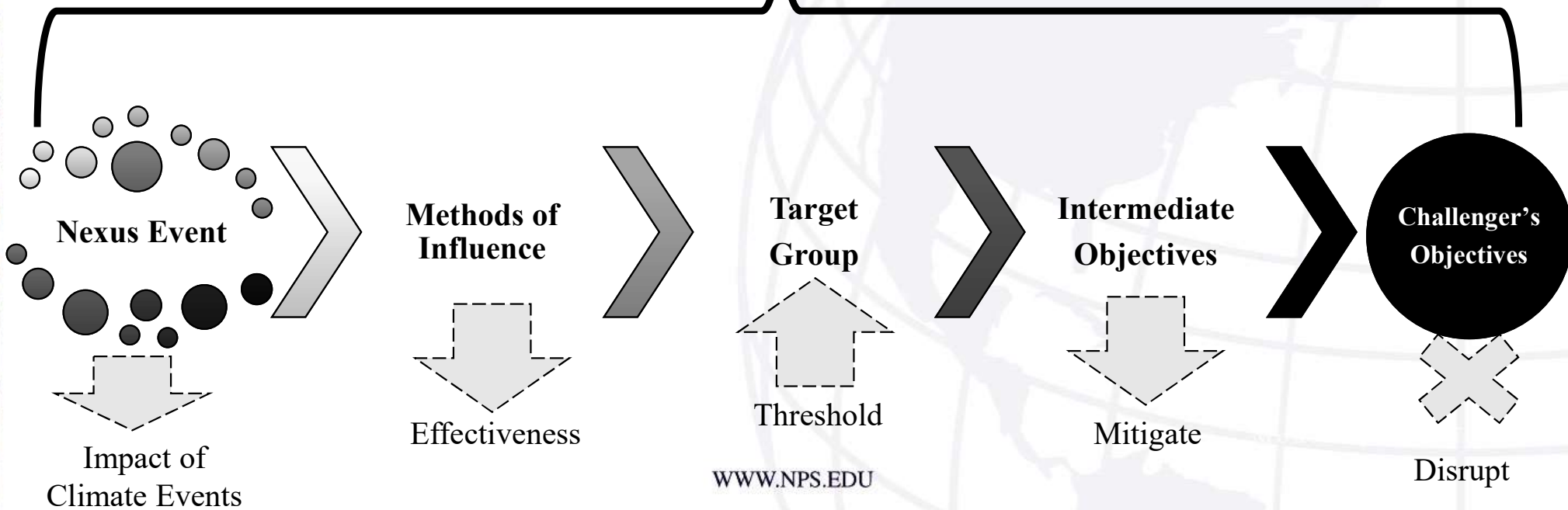
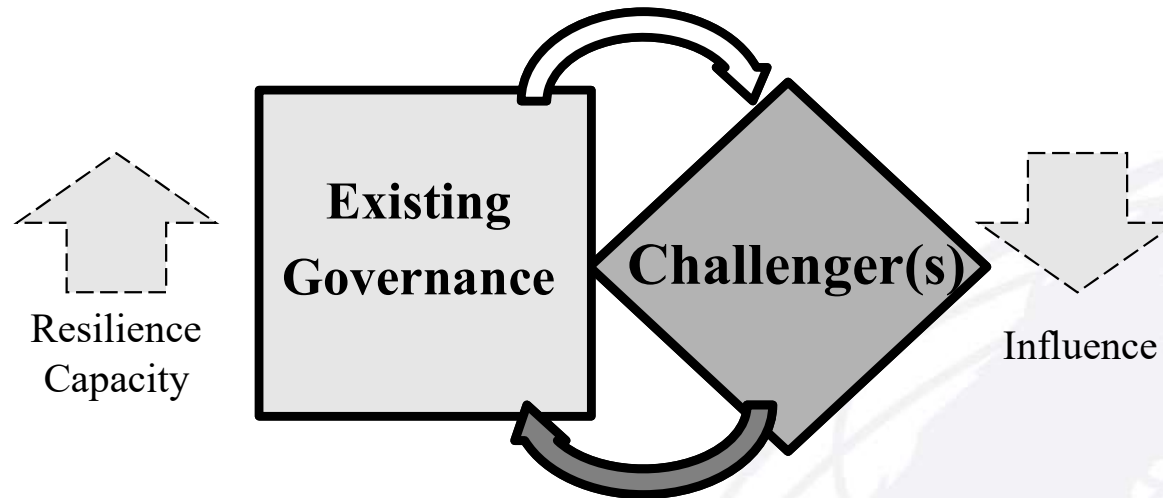
# US Army SOF CA: “Hub & Spoke”







# Governance Competition Model





# Questions?

*“To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill.”*

-Sun Tzu