

NAT'L SECURITY SYMPOSIUM 22 – 23 SEPT 2011

9/11 TEN YEARS AFTER – ARE WE NOW SECURE?

COURTESIES, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. THANKS FOR THE CHALLENGE.

NEED TO BEGIN BY SETTING CONTEXT. LINCOLN ON GENERALS

ROLL FORWARD TO SEPT 2001, AND THEN TEN YEARS MORE.

A GREAT DEAL HAS CHANGED SINCE 9/11, AND MANY OF THOSE CHANGES BEAR DIRECTLY ON MY TOPIC – DO WE

NEED TO DO MORE TO ABOUT RADICAL ISLAMIC THREATS TODAY? MOST OF THOSE CHANGES ARE HELPFUL, AND ALL ARE PART OF THE BIG PICTURE. WILL FOCUS ON RADICAL ISLAMIC GROUPS.

MUCH THAT I SHOULD NOT BOTHER YOU WITH, BECAUSE YOU ALL ARE CURRENT IN SUCH MATTERS, ESPECIALLY AFTER HEARING PREVIOUS SPEAKERS.

SO WON'T GO INTO THE TREMENDOUS TRANSITION IN U.S. MILITARY FROM

- MASSED FORCES, TANKS, ARTY, PLANES IN EUROPE,
- TO EXPEDITIONARY, AGILE, INTEGRATED...
- WON'T DO THAT

OR TRANSITION FROM NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM
THAT COUNTS

- AIRPLANES, SHIPS, TANKS, ROCKETS FOR
WASHINGTON DECISIONS, TO
- FINDING INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL GROUPS, AND
LOOKING OVER THE HILL TO HELP SQUAD LEADERS.
- WON'T DO THAT EITHER.

OR HUGE CHANGES IN TRAINING AND COMBAT DOCTRINE --

- OPPOSING FORCES LIKE OURS,
- TO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, WEPS, R.O.E.,
- NOT NEEDED FOR THIS AUDIENCE

OR MILITARY CAMPAIGNS WHERE KEY DECISIONS AND
IDEAS

- ARE BY GENERALS, TO
- CAMPAIGNS DEPENDING ON SMART LIEUTENANTS AND SQUAD LEADERS
- WON'T BORE YOU WITH THAT

OR FROM USING YOUR OPPONENT'S LANGUAGE AS A

- USEFUL DIPLOMATIC SKILL, TO
- CRITICAL, VITAL COMBAT PATROL SKILL
- WON'T GET INTO THAT

OR FROM CIVIL ACTIONS, RECONSTRUCTION

- AFTERTHOUGHT, AFTER VICTORY CELEBRATION
- TO COMBAT ACTIONS IN THEMSELVES
- WON'T GO THERE

OR FROM SPECIAL FORCES BEING

- JACK OR QUEEN IN DECK OF FIELD INTELLIGENCE, TO
- PAIR OF JOKERS IN FIELD COMBAT OPERATIONS
- DON'T NEED TO – THEY GET ENOUGH PRESS AS IS

INSTEAD I'LL DESCRIBE A DIFFERENT TRANSITION.

DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD – SUMMER OF 2002 – COUNTER-TERRORISM TASK FORCE. 2 PART REPORT, IN DRAFT

- TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGY (AKA CONTEXT)

THE “MARKET” SHAPED FINAL FORM. STRATEGY PART WITHERED AWAY. INTEREST IN STOPPING INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS, NOT REMOVING THEIR CAUSE OR SOURCE.

THAT MIND-SET IS LONG GONE.

WE HAVE TRANSITIONED TO A GOOD UNDERSTANDING,
NOW, THAT THE BEST WE CAN DO MILITARILY AGAINST ANY
GROUP OF RADICALS WHO ARE WELL FUNDED AND
HOSTILE – IS DEFENSE.

MAY LOOK LIKE OFFENSE IN THE FIELD, BUT IN THE LONG
VIEW, STRATEGICALLY, IT IS DEFENSE.

WILL NOT SURPRISE YOU TO HEAR THAT THE MILITARY
PLANNING TERM FOR A CAMPAIGN THAT DEPENDS MAINLY
ON STRATEGIC DEFENSE -- IS THE LOOSING SIDE.

WHAT DOES STRATEGIC OFFENSE LOOK LIKE, AGAINST RADICAL ISLAMIC GROUPS?

IT LOOKS LIKE SECULAR DEMOCRATIC GOVNM'TS IN ISLAMIC ARAB COUNTRIES. IRAQ FOR EXAMPLE.

IT LOOKS LIKE CHOSING ARAB SPRING IN PREFERENCE TO RELIABLE ARAB AUTOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS – KNOWING THE MESSY, UNRELIABLE RESULTS.

IT LOOKS LIKE FIXING THE PROBLEMS LAID OUT PLAINLY IN THE U.N. ARAB HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT OF 2002 – RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE, EDUCATION, WOMEN'S STATUS AND RIGHTS.

STRATEGIC OFFENSE LOOKS LIKE DRYING UP THE FOUNTAIN OF VOLUNTEERS AND CASH AND SYMPATHETIC CITIZENS THAT RADICAL GROUPS THRIVE ON, THAT PREPARE THE FERTILE GROUND FOR CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP AND TRIGGERING EVENTS.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? IT LOOKS LIKE A WIN WILL AGAINST MALARIA – IT WILL ALWAYS BE OUT THERE, BUT ATTENUATED DOWN TO A VERY LOW LEVEL. NOT LIKE THE WIN AGAINST SMALLPOX, WHICH IS GONE.

CURING THE WELLSPRINGS OF ISLAMIC RADICALISM WILL BE A SLOW PROCESS. NEED STRONG DEFENSE WHILE THE STRATEGY TAKES HOLD. THAT MEANS INCREDIBLY GOOD INTEGRATED INTELLIGENCE, STRONG DOMESTIC SECURITY

ARRANGEMENTS, AND AN AGILE, FAST RESPONSE MILITARY TO PLUG THE DYKE WHEN NEEDED. THE TRANSITIONS TO THOSE ARE WELL UNDERWAY AND MOVING AHEAD. BUT THEY WILL NEED TO KEEP EVOLVING, BECAUSE AT THE TACTICAL LEVEL THE OPPOSITION GETS A VOTE – UNTIL OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS DENY HIM HIS VOTE.

BUT THE WINNING STRATEGY, THE OFFENSIVE STRATEGY, HAS TO BE TO MAKE RELIGIOUS SUICIDE OR RISK OF DEATH LESS INTERESTING AND ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE ARAB ISLAMIC LIFE IS MORE INTERESTING AND MORE ATTRACTIVE. I BELIEVE THAT IS NOW WELL UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON.