

U.S. Environmental Security: An Emerging Enabling Concept For Mission Success



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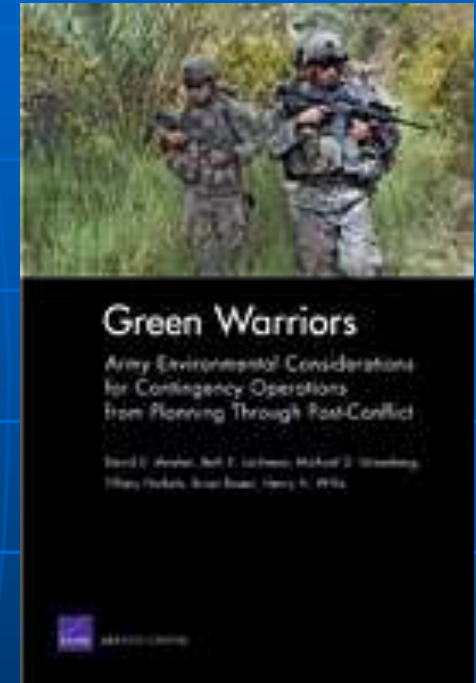
Presentation Overview

- Background
- U.S. Environmental Security 101
- Project Overview
- Survey Results
- Workshop Results
- COCOM ES Efforts
- Conclusions
- Next Steps?



Background (1)

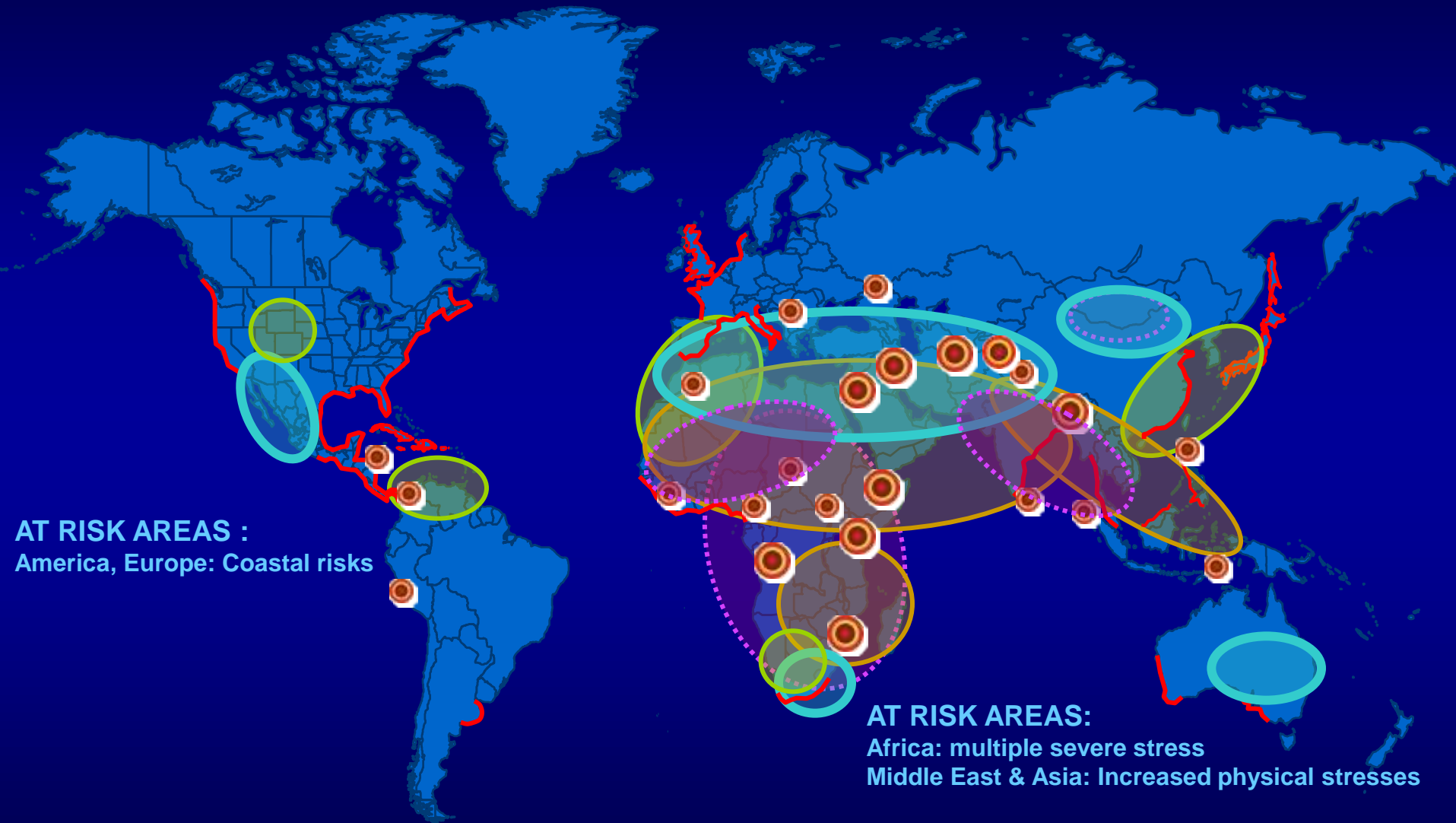
- GWOT, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom highlight real-world environment-related contingency operations (CONOP) challenges
- RAND / AEPI “Green Warriors” study emphasizes importance of environmental considerations during full-spectrum CONOP
- Operational and strategic transition toward “smart power” concepts and approaches



Background (2)

- Stand up of AFRICOM confirms shift toward a more “human security” direction
- New integrative mandates (i.e., NSPD-44 and DODD 3000.5) stress importance of non-traditional areas of national security
- But, current mandates do not explicitly cite environmental considerations
- Plus, emergence of energy security, climate change, water, and forward basing challenges

Threat Multiplier Stresses & Risks Out To 2036



Source: DCDC

Adapted from: B. Goran, USACE



U.S. Environmental Security (ES) 101

- White House and DOD embraced “real-politik” definition (DODD 4715.1) and built consensus in 1990s
- ES concept or mention of environment dropped from National Security Strategy (NSS) since 2000
- Post-9/11 national security focus on GWOT, homeland security, Afghanistan, and Iraq
- NSPD-44 & DODD 3000.5 officially brought in human security considerations but still no mention of environmental security

Renewed U.S. Interest in ES

- Stability, Security, Transition, and Reconstruction (SSTR) via DODD 3000.5
 - CENTCOM (Water, ES partnering & engagement)
 - AFRICOM (Human security & engagement)
- Forward Basing Issues
 - Post-conflict env. challenges in Iraq & Afghanistan
- Energy Security
 - EAct 2005, EISA, DSB Energy report, LL Iraq
- Climate Change “Ides of March” in 2007
 - CNA report, DOD FY08 Authorization Act - Sec. 931, SSI report, SERDP 9-02/05, environmental shock
 - Adm. Dennis Blair, Director of National Intelligence, emphasizes renewed importance of ES & Climate(2/2009)

On-going ES Challenges

- What is needed to better realize ES as a force multiplier?
 - Common and recognized ES definition
 - U.S. national security policy and strategy mandate for ES activities, particularly when already being developed by operational necessity
 - Understanding of U.S. ES players, existing capabilities, and needs & gaps

George Mason University (GMU) ES Project

- M.S. thesis project titled “U.S. Environmental Security: Defining It To Matter”
- Collaborative research project with national security and environment stakeholders
- Started in January 2008 and ended January 2009
- Researched how U.S. national security practitioners (e.g., Army, USAF) define, understand, and could yield value from ES
 - Capture understanding of ES and its definitional components
 - Identify ES common attributes
 - Understand current functional capability gaps

GMU ES Project Approach

- Collaborative Action Research Approach
- Research Methods Used:
 - Literature Reviews (*Task 1 & 2*)
 - Email Survey (*Task 3*)
 - Interactive Workshop (*Task 4*)
- Report Back
 - Draft Comments Process (*Task 5*)
 - GMU Web ES Resource Center (*Task 5*)

ES Definition Spectrum

- ES component of Human Security paradigm
(*UNDP Report 1994*)
- ES concept that resource competition and stress augments or triggers conflict
- “Real-politik” nation-centric security issues and maintenance of defense capabilities
- Environmentalist plot to conceptually “muddy the waters” and siphon defense resources

Survey Results

- 97% familiar with *environmental security*
- Good consensus on relevance of most AEPI (1998) ES definitional components
 - *Public safety from environmental dangers*
 - *Natural resource scarcity*
 - *Maintenance of a healthy environment*
 - *Environmental degradation*
- Weaker agreement on relevance of:
 - *Prevention of social disorder and conflict*

Survey Results (2)

- Confirmed strong link and relationship between ES and sustainability
- Most acknowledged ES mission considerations and/or responsibilities
- Identified lack of official ES definitions and inadequate policy mandate
- However, strong interest in concept and its ability to support their missions

Workshop Results

- Participants confirmed survey findings and emphasized:
 - Need for ES policy and approaches to support U.S “smart power” planning & implementation
 - DODD 3000.5 equalized defense mission priority between combat and SSTR (i.e., human security) missions
 - Soldiers “Get It” - Increased mission interest and need for ES approaches and capabilities
 - U.S. COCOMs already have ES interests / activities that were developed out of necessity

U.S. Combatant Commands



Source: DOD, DPAP , See http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pacc/cc/areas_of_responsibility.html

COCOMs' ES Interests & Activities (1)

■ CENTCOM

- ES partnership activities in Central Asia - Targeting “soft underbelly” of terrorism

■ SOUTHCOM

- Disaster response and ES training

■ AFRICOM

- Interest in natural resource scarcity / wealth and its security implications

■ EUCOM

- Post-Soviet environmental degradation challenges and its impacts on soldiers health

COCOMs' ES Interests & Activities (2)

■ NORTHCOM

- Interest in implications of climate change in the Arctic Ocean

■ PACOM

- Tsunami impact response & mitigation

■ CONUS

- Disaster resilience and response support activities (Katrina, Rita, etc.)

ES Force Multiplier Opportunities

- U.S. ES mandate could be useful to:
 - Forward deployed base ES activities
 - Post-conflict & counter-insurgency engagement
 - “Open Source” approach (J. Robb & S. Beebe)
 - Enable coordinated development of:
 - Proactive environmental conflict monitoring
 - Engagement and partnering efforts
 - Disaster resiliency & response mechanisms
E.g., Famine Early Warning System Network

Project Conclusions

- Nat'l security practitioners can broadly agree on most ES definition components
- ES increasingly recognized as “force multiplier” and enabling concept for SSTR, counter-insurgency, engagement, and humanitarian aid efforts
- U.S. needs ES policy mandate to:
 - Provide policy legitimacy and leadership
 - Identify existing capabilities and resources
 - Identify gaps and develop needed capabilities

Future ES Next Steps?

- Obama Administration already making changes in national security policy (and upcoming QDR)
- Compile and analyze needs to develop refined U.S. national ES policy
- U.S. Government institutional mission, functional, and capabilities analysis
- Revisit ES indicators / analysis methodologies
 - Upcoming AEPI Task
- Collect and leverage ES case studies from operational and tactical levels
- Build ES awareness, consensus, and dialog

GMU ES Web Resource Center

GMU Environmental
Security Resource
Center - See at:

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~jalcorn1/>

or

http://members.cox.net/environmental_security/



Questions?

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