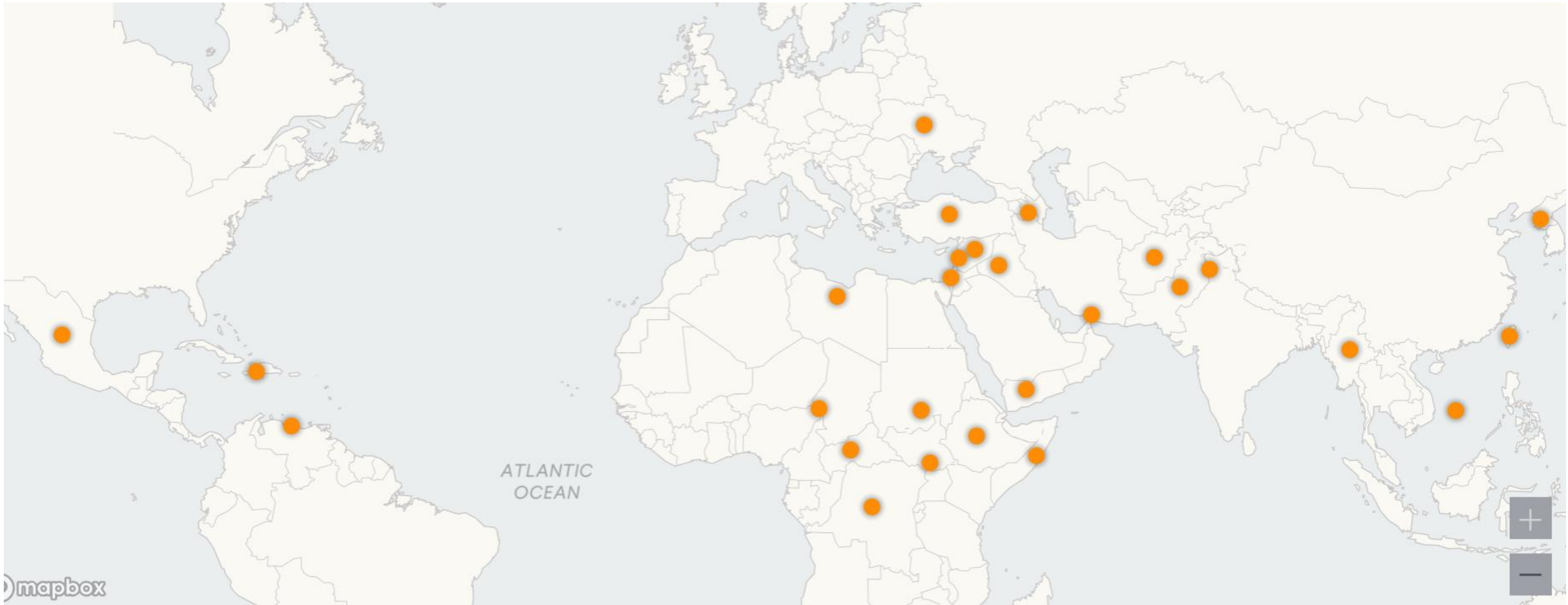


National Security Issues for our next President



Chris Starling, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)

Global Conflict Tracker



Threats

Existential

China

Russia

Existing & Emerging

Iran & Proxies

North Korea

Terrorism

Cyber Attack

National Debt

Illegal Border Crossing

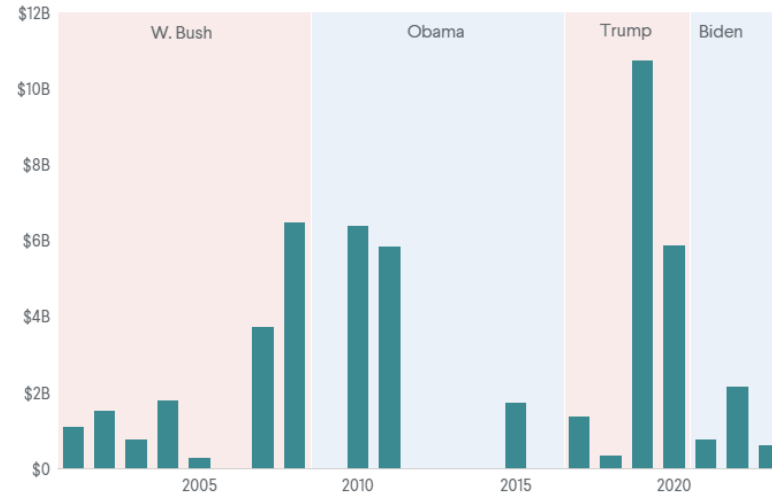
China

500 nuclear warheads
(USA 5,428 warheads)

300, ICBMs
(USA 1,770)

Taiwan
East China Sea EEZ tensions
Trade deficit
Technology Race
Cyber incursions
Influence – Russia, NK
Fentanyl

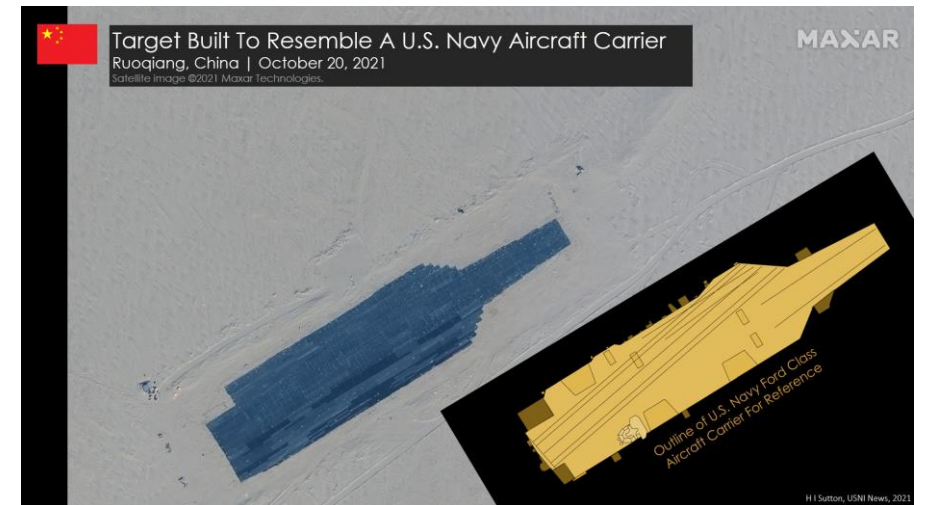
U.S. Arms Sales to Taiwan by Recent Administrations



Note: Data is as of March 2023 and includes sales of defense equipment of \$14 million or more, defense articles or services of \$50 million or more, and design and construction services of \$200 million or more.

Sources: Congressional Research Service; Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS



China

APEC 14 November 2023

COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE THE REUNIFICATION OF CHINA (S.F. BAY AREA) (2631576)

Request Certificate

Initial Filing Date	03/15/2005
Status	Active
Standing - SOS	Good
Standing - FTB	Good
Standing - Agent	Good
Standing - VCFCF	Good
Formed In	CALIFORNIA
Entity Type	Nonprofit Corporation - CA - Public Benefit
Principal Address	660 JACKSON ST SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133
Mailing Address	660 JACKSON ST SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133
Statement of Info Due Date	03/31/2025
Agent	Individual Kuo Lee 660 JACKSON ST SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133

California Secretary of State
Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

What can we help you with?

Home | About | Business | Notary & Apostille | Elections | VCA | Campaign & Lobbying | State Archives | Registries | News | Events | Contact

Home > Business Programs > Business Entities > **Name Reservations**

Business Entities

Online Services

Form a Business

File LLC Statement of Information

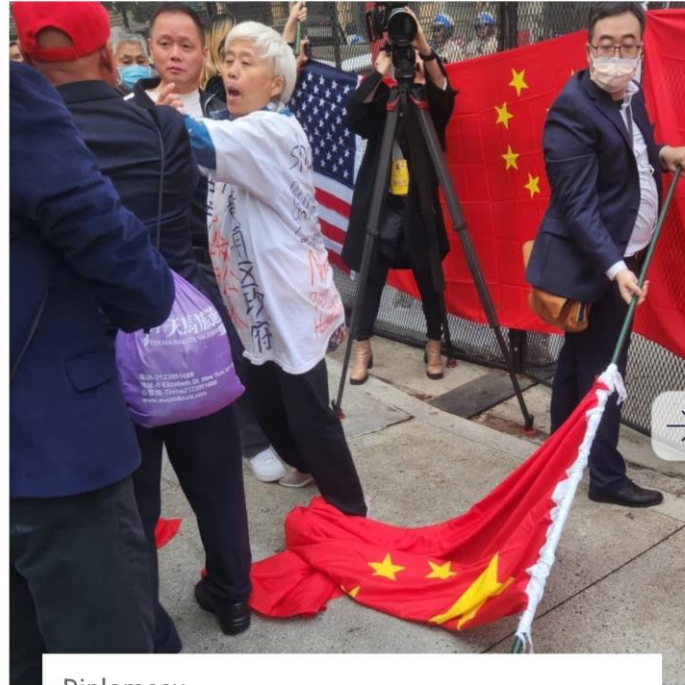
File Corporation Statement of Information

Over 140 Business Filings, Name Reservations, and Orders for Certificates of Status and Certified Copies of Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and Limited Partnerships available [online](#)

2021 Revised Business Entity Name Statutes

Effective January 1, 2021, the names of corporations, limited liability companies and limited partnerships must be "distinguishable in the records" from an existing entity of the same type of record with the California Secretary of State

South China Morning Post



Diplomacy

Apec summit: clashing protesters cheer for Beijing



Russia

5,889 nuclear warheads
(USA 5,428 warheads)

1,674 ICBMs
(USA 1,770)

	Russia	Ukraine
Def Budget	109B	42B
Population	142M	43M
Active	1.32M	0.9M
Reserve	2.0M	1.2M
Tanks	12,500	1900
Artillery	11,000	2000
MLRS	4000	650
Ships	598	38
Submarines	70	0
Aircraft	4000	300

\$75B positional stalemate
Testbed of future war



Iran & Proxies

Nuclear weapons program and lack of transparency

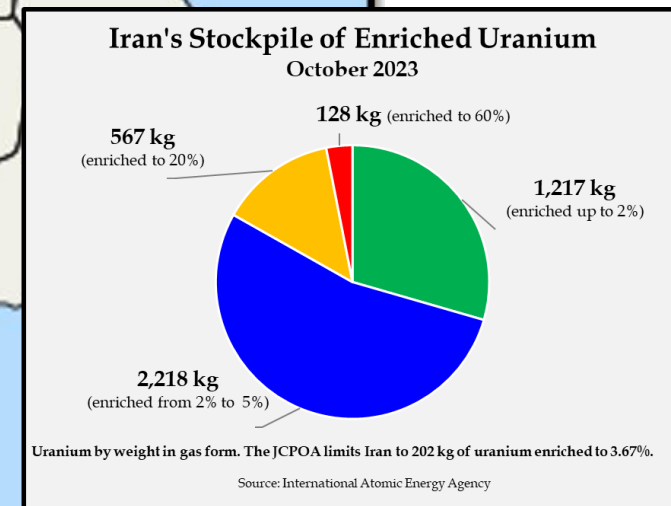
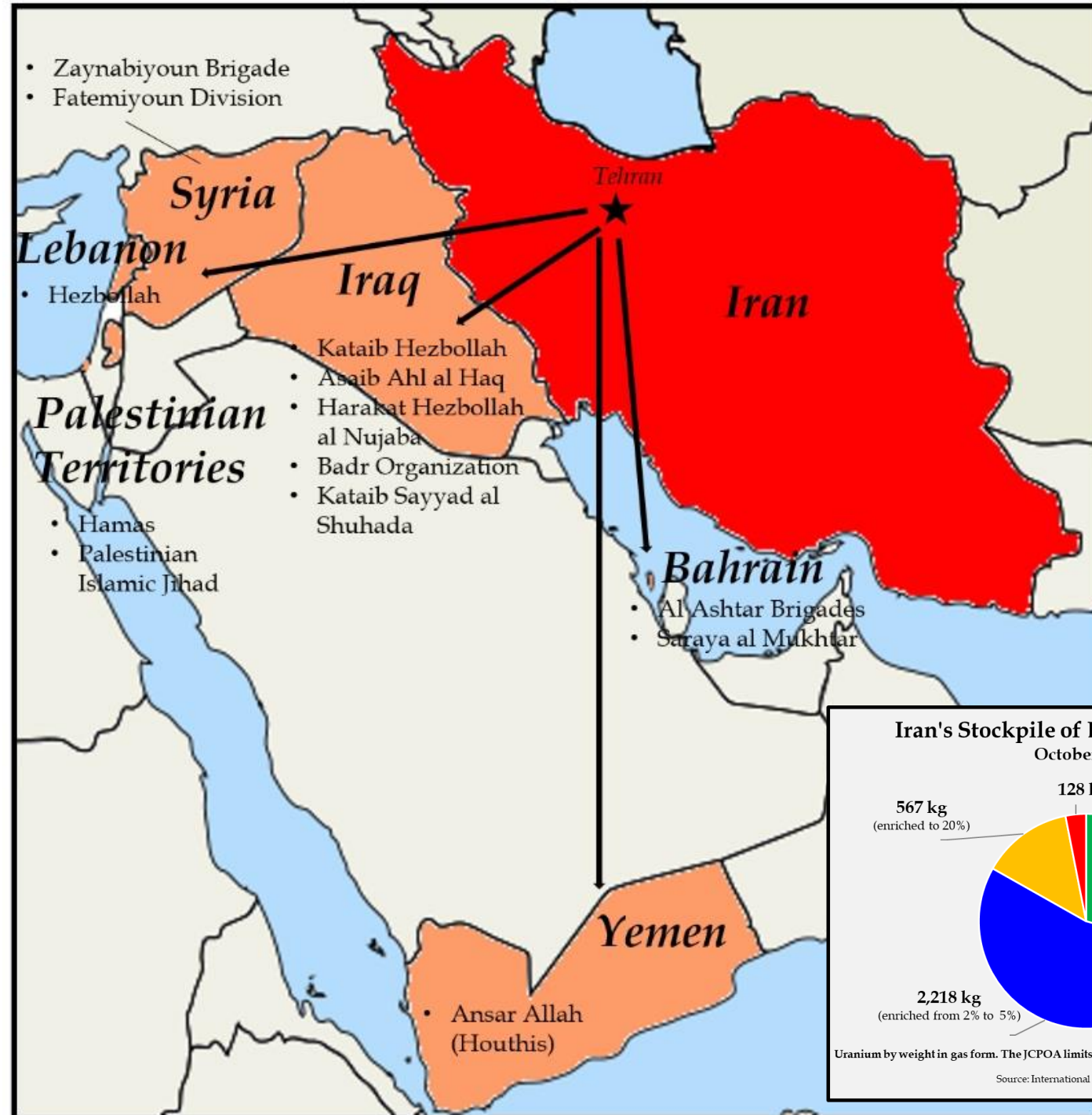
Chemical and biological weapons programs

Support for terrorism

Interference in regional politics

Sabotaging the Arab-Israeli peace process

Supplying Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis



US Military in the Middle East

Suez. 60 ships per day

Bab el Mandeb. 60 ships per day

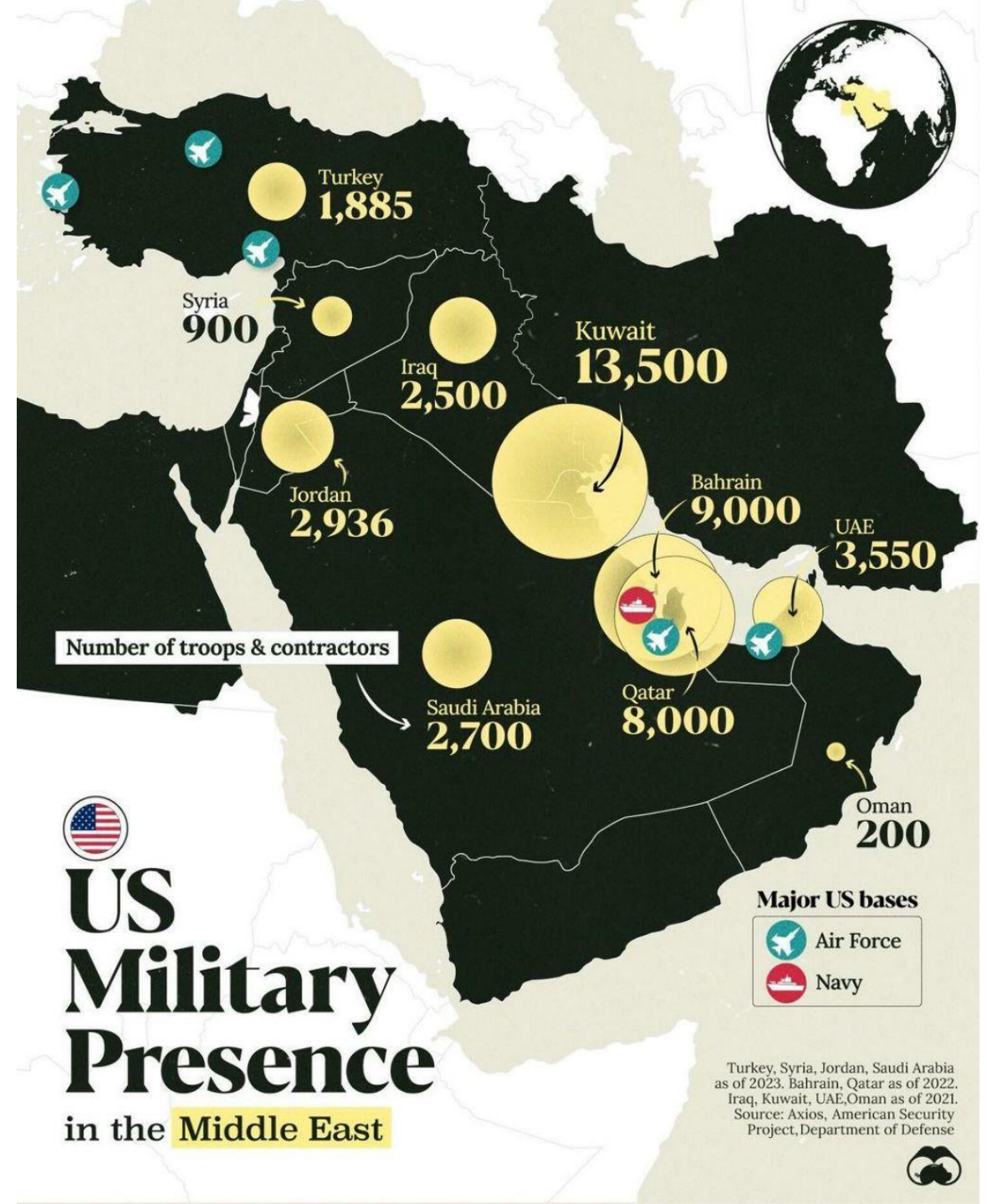
Hormuz. 40% of the world's oil, 17M barrels/day

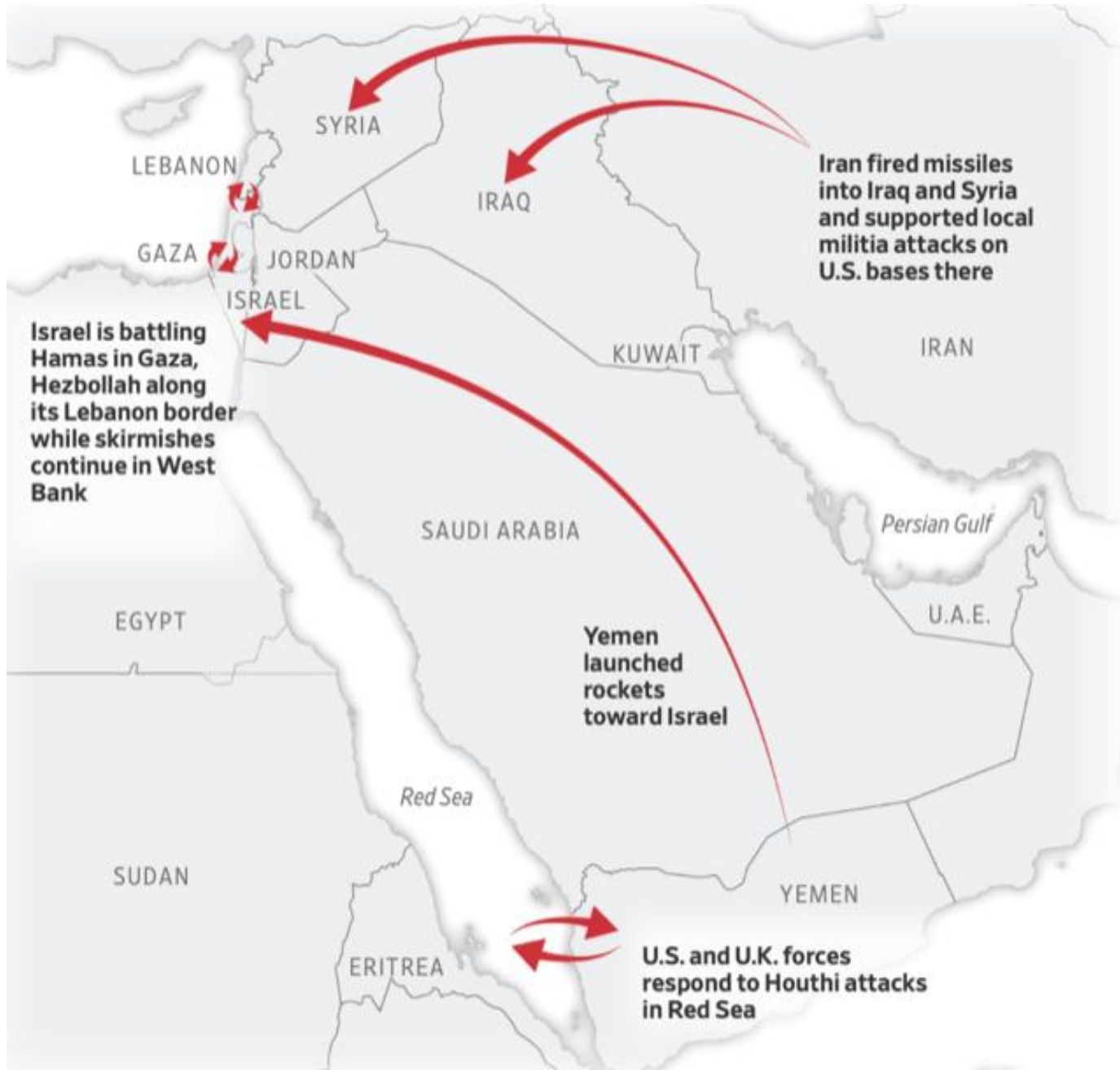
Secure. Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

At Risk. Iraq & Syria 160+ attacks by Iran-backed militia.
80 injuries. 3 fatalities

Gaza. Oct 7 2023 – Unprecedented Hamas attack. 1,200+ Israelis killed, 253 taken hostage

Israel military campaign - 27,000 civilian casualties & humanitarian crisis

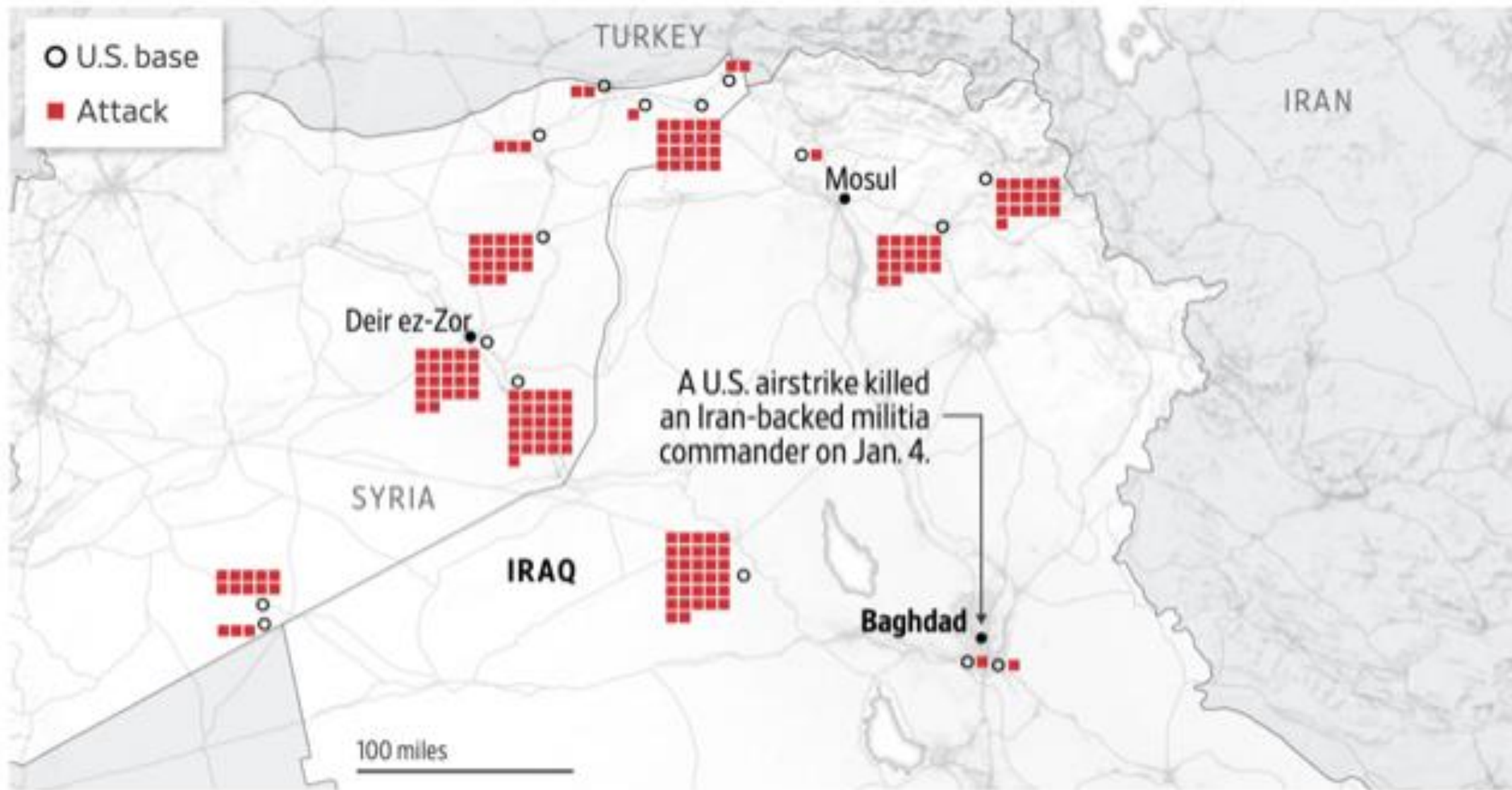




Violence from Lebanon to Iraq to the Red Sea all but amounts to an undeclared regional war, with Iran-backed militants fighting Israel and the U.S.



Sources: OE Data Integration Network (range); staff reports



Note: Attacks as of Jan. 18. Since Oct. 18, 2023

Source: Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project

Carl Churchill/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Note: Houthi territory is as of Nov. 27, 2023. U.S. coalition strikes and Houthi incidents are as of Jan. 18.
Sources: ACAPS (Houthi territory); Ambrey Analytics (Houthi attacks through Jan. 6); Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project (Houthi attacks since Jan. 6. and U.S. coalition strikes); Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (Jan. 12. strikes)
Carl Churchill/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

North Korea

30 Warheads

US Military Presence
US & SK Military Exercises
Economic Sanctions

Naval provocations

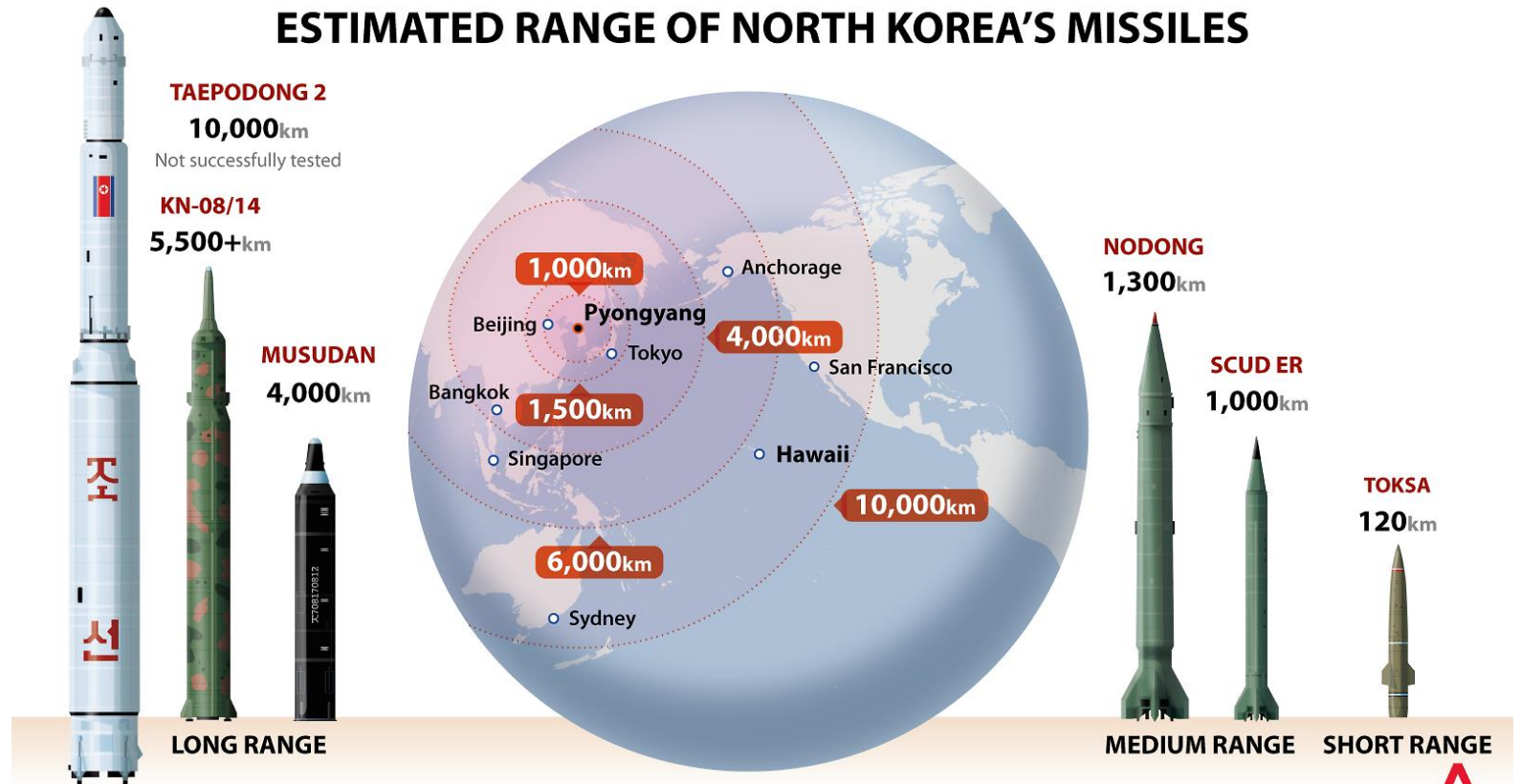
Artillery Ammunition to Russia



Kim Jong-un: “the legal right to annihilate South Korea”

Kim’s “respected daughter”
Kim Ju Ae joined him on the visit to a recent missile launch

ESTIMATED RANGE OF NORTH KOREA’S MISSILES



Terrorism

Jihad threat localized in regionally,
South Asia, particularly
Afghanistan; Middle East; East
and West Africa

Limited capabilities to strike US

Not gone. Not defeated. Rebuild
phase

Terrorism in other regions can
have serious impacts on the US



Cybersecurity

Fastest growing threat

China replaced Russia as top hacking threat in 2024

Volt Typhoon: hackers tied to Government of China

Mission: maintaining network access to U.S. critical infrastructure

Masked from malware detection

Tamper with basic essential services

Infrastructure & Businesses

Targets to date: H2O utility in Hawaii, West Coast port, Oil & Gas pipeline

1st group focused on destructive cyberattacks — (act of war?)

Investigations - operators with simplistic passwords (“1111”)

37% surge in ransomware attacks; Average payment exceeds \$100,000

Generative AI, WORM GPT

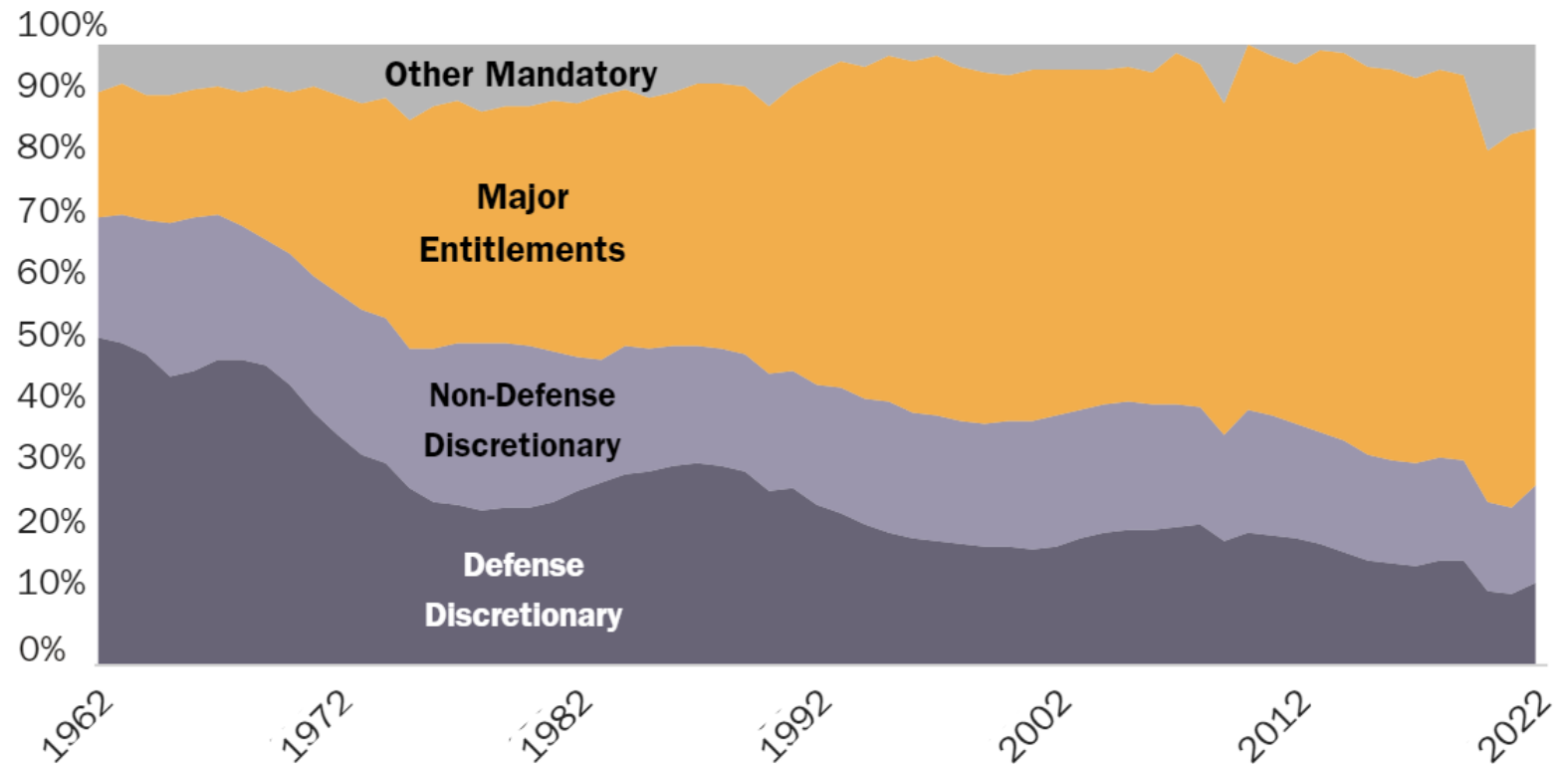
AI tools to elevate and automate phishing campaigns, craft evasive malware,
& reduce development time of threats



National Debt

- \$34T in debt
- Congress debates **28 cents** of every dollar it spends
- Most federal \$ spent w/o congressional deliberation: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, other entitlements
- Debt burden slows economic growth, reduces income levels, harms national security posture.
- Constrains funding for strong military & effective diplomacy

Entitlements dominate the federal budget, share of total non-interest spending



National Debt

Public debt exceeds \$34 trillion, debt-to-GDP ratio 120%

Per capita – over \$100,000 per US citizen

Debt-to-income ratio. 1.3 times the national income (GDP)

Annual payment for federal debt interest 4% of the debt per year

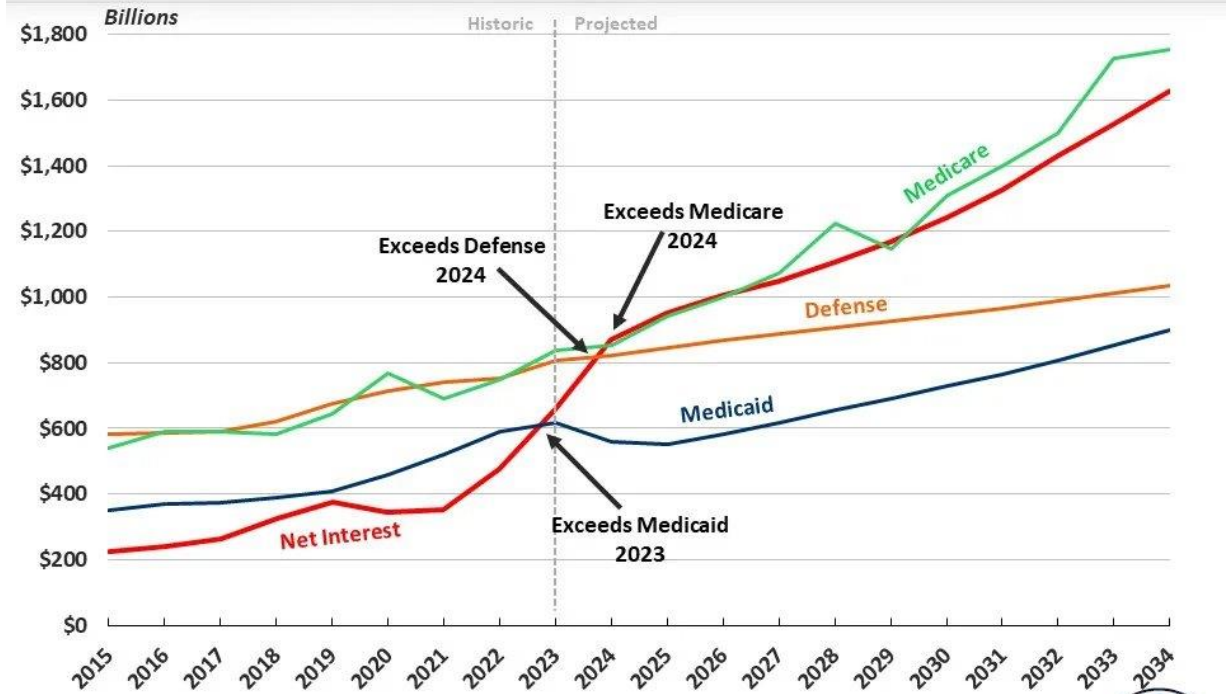
Interest expenses account for 5.2% of GDP

Federal tax income = 18% of GDP.

Debt payments are less than 1/3 of income

Highly Indebted

Interest Costs Will Top Defense & Medicare in 2024



Sources: Congressional Budget Office & Office of Management and Budget.

Illegal Border Crossing

USBP: 249,785 arrests on the Southern border in December 2023

Up 31% from 191,112 in November 2023

Up 13% from 222,018 in December 2022

Criminals & Criminal Enterprises

Drug Trafficking

2023, 27,000+ lbs of fentanyl seized

Weapons Trafficking

Human Trafficking



Illegal Border Crossing

Monthly U.S. Border Patrol Nationwide Checkpoint Drug Seizures

Numbers below reflect FY 2024.

Fiscal Year 2024 runs October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024.

	Marijuana	Cocaine	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl	Other
October	183	115	0	1,083	167	13
November	3,705	51	9	723	289	27
December	183	66	10	296	5	14
Total	4,070	232	18	2,102	461	54

*weights are in pounds (lb)

Arrests of Individuals with Criminal Convictions or Those Wanted by Law Enforcement

Numbers below reflect FY 2017 - FY 2024.

Fiscal Year 2024 runs October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024.

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24YTD
U.S. Border Patrol								
Criminal Noncitizens Encountered³	8,531	6,698	4,269	2,438	10,763	12,028	15,267	4,247
Criminal Noncitizens with Outstanding Wants or Warrants	2,675	1,550	4,153	2,054	1,904	949	988	234

³ Criminal noncitizens refers to noncitizens who have been convicted of crime, whether in the United States or abroad, so long as the conviction is for conduct which is deemed criminal by the United States. Criminal noncitizens encountered at ports of entry are inadmissible, absent extenuating circumstances, and represent a subset of total OFO inadmissibles. U.S. Border Patrol arrests of criminal noncitizens are a subset of total apprehensions. See [U.S. Border Patrol Criminal Noncitizen Statistics](#) for a breakdown of criminal noncitizen stats by type of conviction.

⁴ NCIC (National Crime Information Center) arrests refers to the number of CBP arrests of individuals, including U.S. citizens, who are wanted by other law enforcement agencies.



Opinion Page

CHI – Reinforce Taiwan without saber rattling – China unable to force

RUS/UKR: negotiate territory gains for RUS, end war, no NATO for UKR

IRAN – Hardball – Galvanize Sunni states – hard because of Palestine

ISR / Gaza. Get your adversary to over-react strategy by Iran, Hamas.

Clear Gaza, eliminate Hamas, minimize collateral damage - weather PR

NK – stalemate so long Kim Jung Un leads, strength and deterrence

TERRORISM – the least of our worries until it's not – vigilance

CYBER – Over 600,000 open jobs – train early, incentivize

DEBT – Adjust entitlements, raise taxes, or kick the can down the road...

BORDER – Clear Policy & Formidable Controls

