

**Talking Points for Intelligence Challenges Workshop
Intelligence and Warfare Panel - Stanford University**

May 15, 2014

Intelligence in War

- Following 13 years of war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, the U.S. intelligence community gained incredible expertise in providing actionable intelligence to the war fighter.
- Improvements in intelligence was a major factor in the success of the “The Surge” in Iraq. Targeting Al Qa’ida and other insurgents in Iraq was incredibly effective through robust signals intelligence collection, targeting and dissemination to the U.S. military for action.
- Intel to warfighters was also incredibly effective in Afghanistan, particularly with JSCOC where targeting packages were put together and used to devastating consequence against the enemy.
- Intelligence can always be improved but the U.S. is better than any nation on earth and we are significantly better than we were pre-9/11.

Radical Islamist Threat Metastasizing

- Boko Haram is the latest Islamist terrorist group in the news. They are a Nigeria-based group that seeks to overthrow the Nigerian government and replace it with a regime based on Islamic law.
- What happened in Nigeria recently is another example of what has become an ecosystem of terror. We can’t let our policy ebb and flow based on what is popular.
 - In Afghanistan, we are withdrawing and leaving the country to our enemies after 12 years of fighting.
 - Even though we have the capacity and capabilities to take more of America’s enemies off the battlefield in Yemen, we are not taking those opportunities. It seems each time we build a little momentum against these threats; the decision-makers in Washington pull back and take our foot off the pedal. We lose the momentum, and we give our enemies time and space to regroup and plan more attacks. This battle against these networks of terrorists can only be defeated if we maintain constant pressure. Tempo is key. We cannot wait for these terrorist groups to kidnap 300 girls to start paying attention. We must deny them space to operate early and often.

- This doesn't mean boots on the ground, but it means more than a hashtag and a selfie.

Conducting Classified Operations in an Era of Media Leaks

- Selective leaks done in a hurry to brag about successes like the Usama bin Laden raid are often inaccurate and harmful. Too-often, in search of a favorable headline, this seems to be done without proper concern for giving away information about our sources and methods.
- Last year's critical leak of classified information degraded on our collection on AQAP, al Qa'ida's most dangerous affiliate.
- During the Bush Administration, we saw leaks done by people in the Administration who disagreed with certain counterterrorism policies and took it upon themselves to disclose key programs to the world, including our adversaries, in an attempt to change the policy.
- Now with Snowden, we have this dangerous, new band of leakers who see one piece of a 1,000 piece puzzle, decide they don't like it and are going to tell the world. That is dangerous.

Ukraine

- Last week, the Ukrainian people got to suffer through Vladimir Putin spiking the football in Crimea by showing up on Victory Day. Clearly, Putin does not intend to back down from his aggression.
- It is important that we show determination in the face of Russian aggression in Ukraine. There are substantial Russian-speaking minorities in just about every country that Russia borders, several of whom are NATO allies. If Russian aggression is allowed to continue in Ukraine, I don't see why Putin wouldn't continue this pattern in other neighboring countries.
- Putin wants to be recognized as a global power. President Obama has called Russia a regional power. It is the responsibility of global powers to keep regional powers in check.
- New sanctions against Putin supporters in Russia and Russian instigators in Ukraine and the aid packages coming out of both chambers of Congress are a start, but we need to do more. Ukraine is seeking, for example, various non-lethal support items that will help them mount a better defense against the Russians, and will show a level of support from the West that is currently lacking.
- These are measures well short of "boots on the ground" that will go a long way.