National Security Strategy

• What is national security strategy?
  • Guiding vision
  • Theory of success
  • Art of creating power
  • Plan
  • Process

• Why bother with national security strategy?
  • Roadmap for government decisions (“policy”) and priorities
  • Alignment among stakeholders
  • Strategic communication to stakeholders, partners, potential adversaries
National War College Approach: Strategic Logic 5 Steps

• Analyze the situation (CONTEXT)
• Define desired outcomes (ENDS)
• Identify or develop resources and capabilities (MEANS)
• Design methods to apply means to achieve outcomes (WAYS)
• Assess risks and costs of the strategic design (TESTS)
VISUALIZING STRATEGIC LOGIC APPROACH

Source: Dr. Terry Deibel, National War College
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOALS (ENDS) AND NATIONAL INTERESTS
Instruments of National Power (MEANS)

- Diplomatic/Political
- Information
  - Influence
  - Intelligence
- Security
  - Law enforcement
  - Military
- Economic
  - Trade
  - Finance
  - Development
Institutions & Actors (MEANS)

- Government
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Media
- Academia
- Domestic NGOs
- Bilateral or Multilateral Partners
- International NGOs
- International Financial Institutions
Generic Strategic Approaches (WAYS)

- Observe
- Accommodate
- Shape
- Persuade
- Enable
- Induce
- Coerce
- Subdue

Multiple instruments of national power relevant to each strategic approach
Strategy Tests

• What are costs and benefits?
• What are risks to the strategy and from the strategy?
• Is the strategy
  • *Suitable* in accomplishing ends?
  • *Desirable* relative to cost/benefit assessment?
  • *Acceptable* to the public, partners?
  • *Sustainable* from the perspective of resources and political will?
Caveats: Strategy is NOT

- A simple recipe or formula
- Linear
- Accomplished in isolation
- A budget exercise
- Means-based planning
- A whole-of-government mantra