

Special Operations Command Pacific

Persistent Engagement for Persistent Conflict



US PACOM Area of Responsibility (AOR)

Characteristics of the Pacific AOR

- > 50 % of earth's surface
- 60% of world's population
- World's six largest armed forces
- Four of the world's largest economies
- World's largest Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist populations
- Five Mutual Defense Relationships

South Asia

Northeast Asia

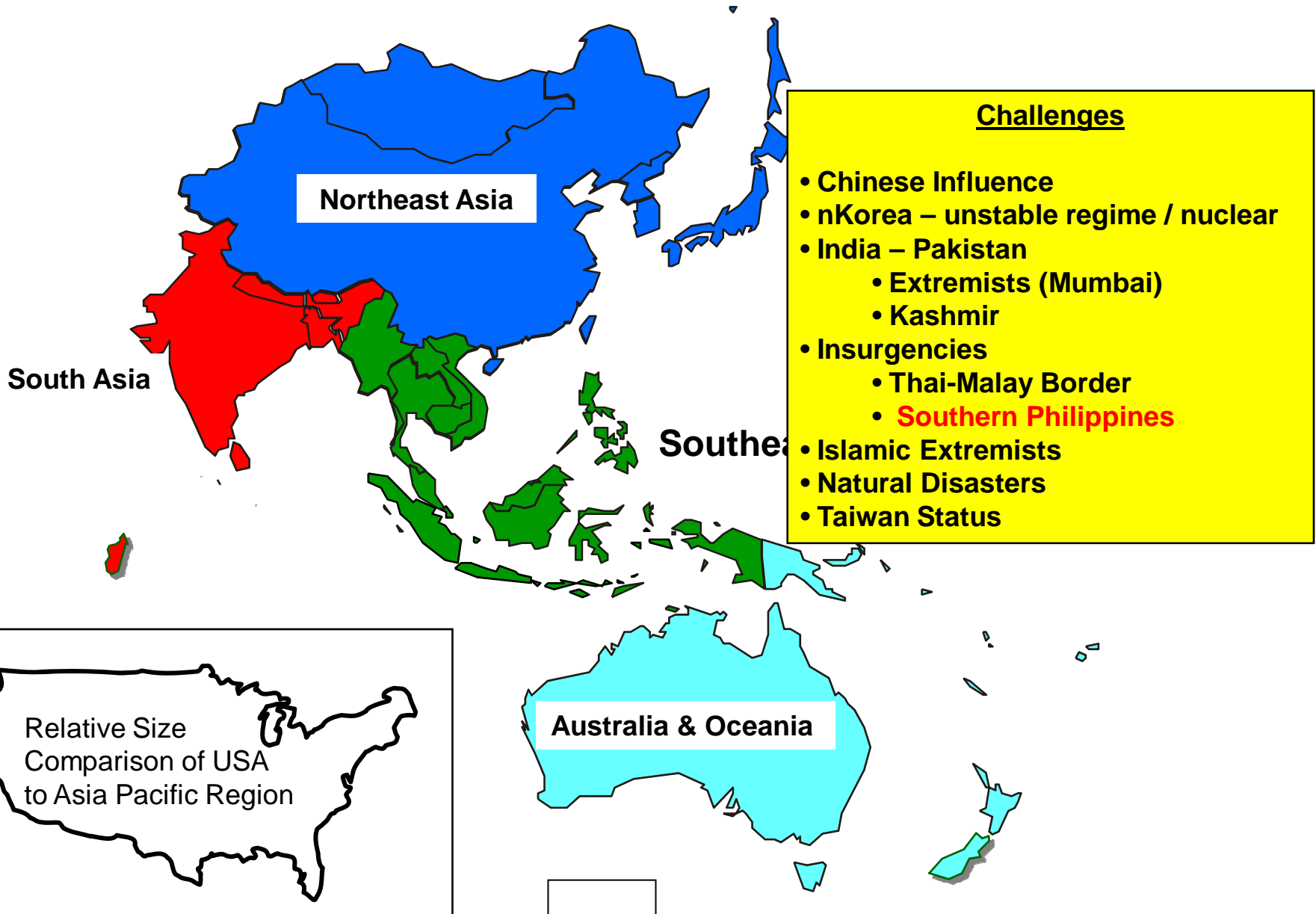
Southeast Asia

Australia & Oceania

Relative Size
Comparison of USA
to Asia Pacific Region

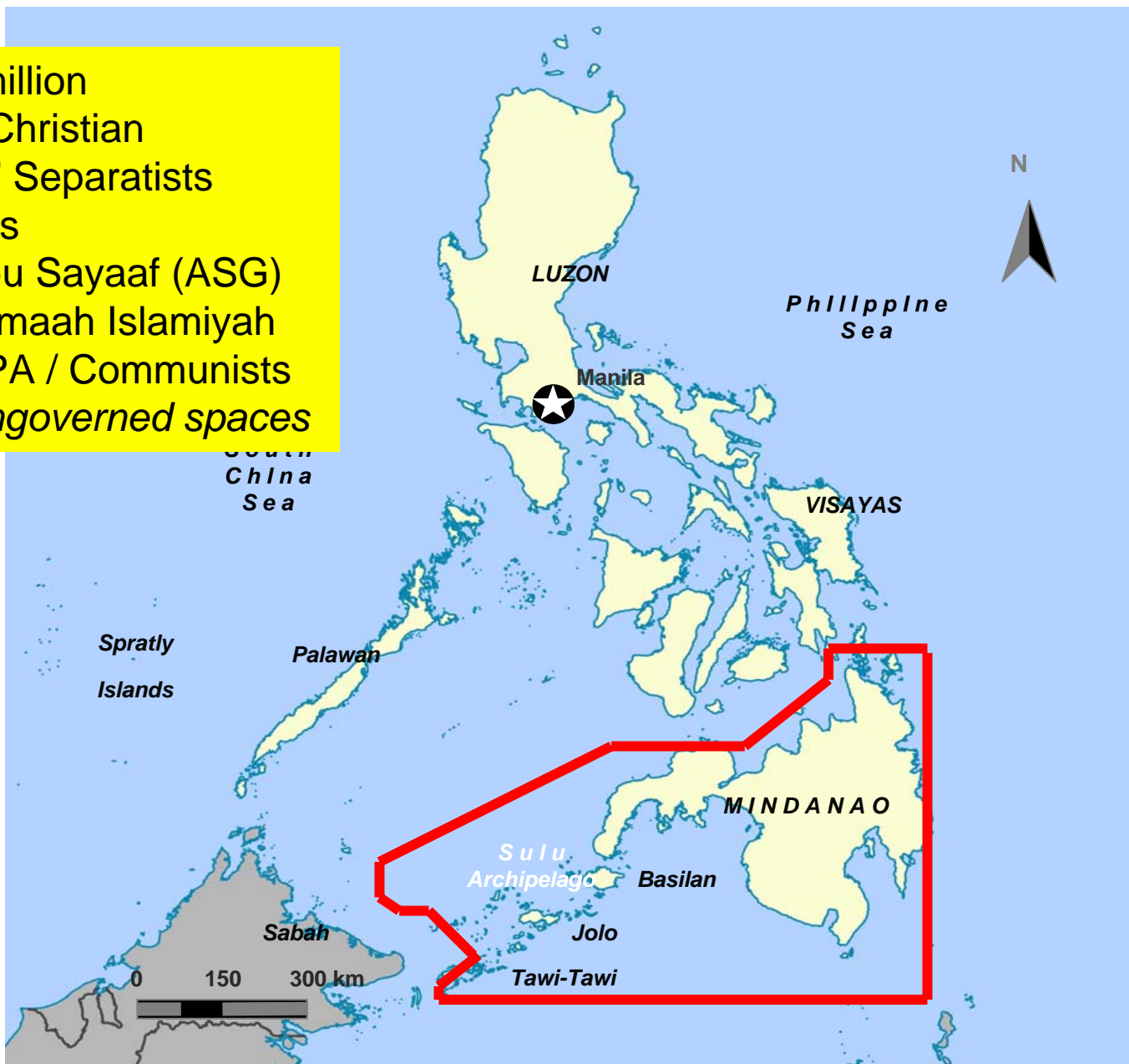


US PACOM Area of Responsibility (AOR)



Operation ENDURING FREEDOM – Philippines

- 90 + million
- 90 % Christian
- “Moro” Separatists
- Threats
 - Abu Sayaaf (ASG)
 - Jemaah Islamiyah
 - NPA / Communists
 - *Ungoverned spaces*

















“Indirect Approach” & Persistent Engagement

- **Campaign**
 - **Philippines = Counterinsurgency or COIN** - address underlying causes of insurgency, immunizing at risk communities from exploitation by militant Islamic extremists (AQ)
 - **United States = Foreign Internal Defense** in support of Philippines COIN (main effort) and Philippines Counterterror operations (CT) (supporting effort)
- **Persistent Engagement**
 - Seven years of sustained, persistent engagement in Southern Philippines
 - SOF led mission
- **Constraints.** Recognizes the constrained environment of (1) Sovereign Host Nations, (2) Counter-productivity of heavy US presence, (3) Limited resources to apply to the problem set
- **Division of Labor:** Recognizes DoD is one of many stakeholders. Attempts to scope the role of DoD in general, and SOF in particular, within a broader Host Nation and Inter-Agency environment
- **Patience:** Indirect Approach strategies & tactics are “by, with, through.” This inherently requires a long-term view accepting of measured developments and quiet results.



Questions?

