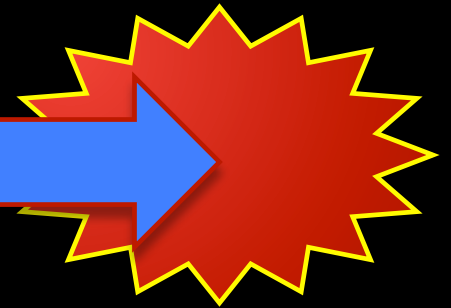


# ***Special Edition***

August 25, 2013

***Flashpoints***



## **Flashpoints**

by John Antal

***Intervention in Syria?***

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***What if?***

***Will the USA intervene in  
Syria in the next few  
weeks....***

***2013***



# ***What are out military options in Syria?***

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# ***Ground Invasion?***



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***There are no clear sides with good guys and bad guys. The enemy is al Qaeda, Assad's forces and others. All of these groups wish us ill and would delight in causing heavy US casualties.***

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***We would have to commit Ground Forces to a difficult urban battlefield.***

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***If we decide to go in with ground forces, we must go in big, or we will have little impact.***



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***If we deploy ground forces, then we would be fighting a prolonged conflict in another Middle East battlefield...***

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***As we are already fighting in Afghanistan  
we have very few strategic ground reserves  
left to call upon....***



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***We would have to call up large elements  
of the National Guard***

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***And what  
would we do  
if the  
opposition  
launched  
chemical  
weapons  
against our  
troops?***



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***The facts are that the U.S. does not have enough ground forces available or ready to make a difference in Syria.***



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***Our only “ground option” is to send in  
Special Forces to enhance kinetic strikes.***



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***We can launch kinetic strikes with Predator and Reaper drones...***



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***But these would only be  
“symbolic” and not enough  
to force a decisive outcome  
or stop the fighting..***



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A large cruise missile is being launched from a ship at night. The missile is seen ascending vertically, leaving a massive, bright plume of smoke and fire behind it. The ship's mast and radar equipment are visible in the lower right portion of the frame. The background is dark, emphasizing the intense light from the launch.

***Our navy can  
launch a  
barrage of  
cruise missiles...***

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***..and we can launch air strikes....***



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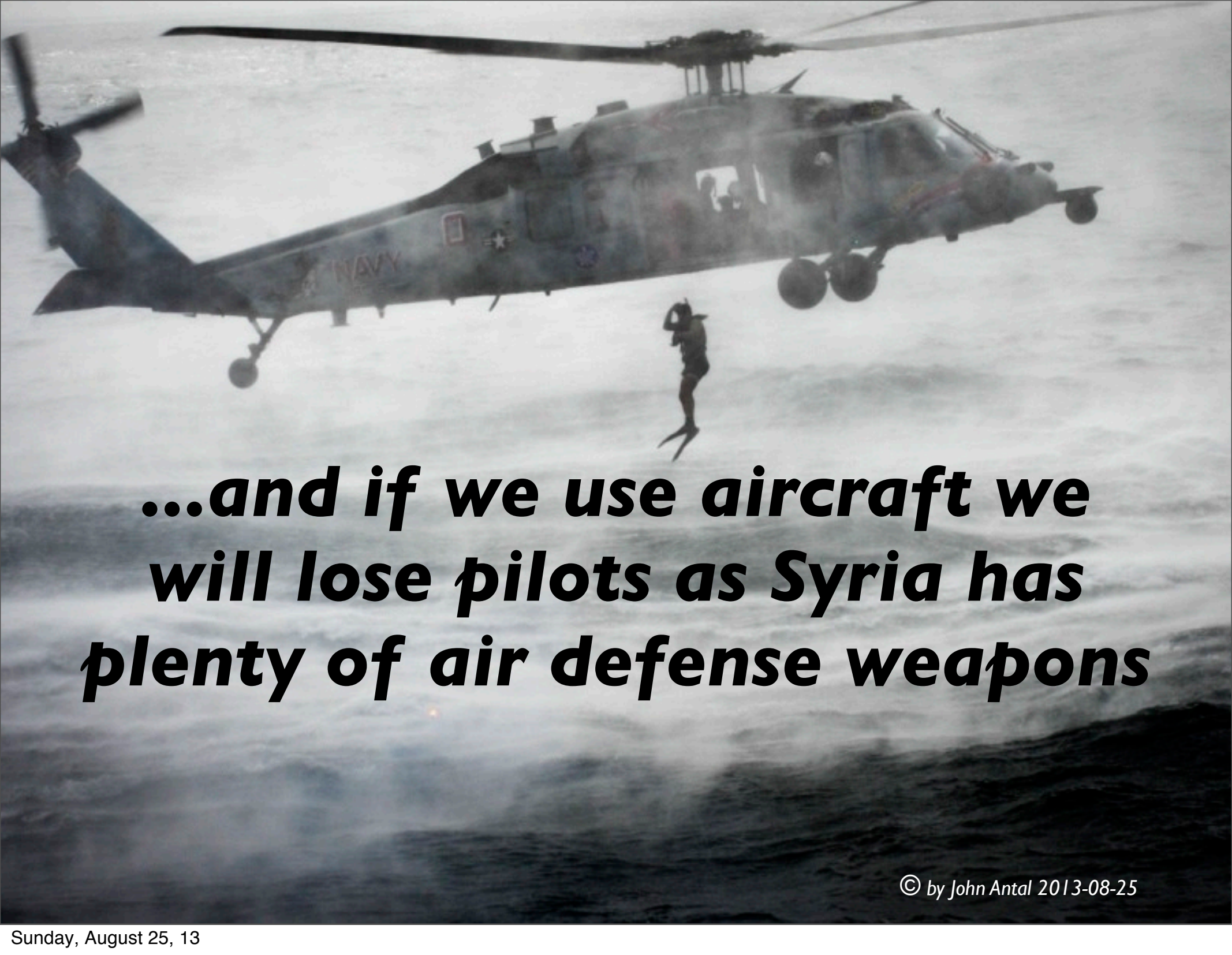


***But there are few easy targets  
and we could kill many civilians  
with air and cruise missile  
attacks.***



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***...and if we use aircraft we  
will lose pilots as Syria has  
plenty of air defense weapons***

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*And what will our enemies do? Will they heat up the war in Afghanistan to precipitate a bloody withdrawal??*



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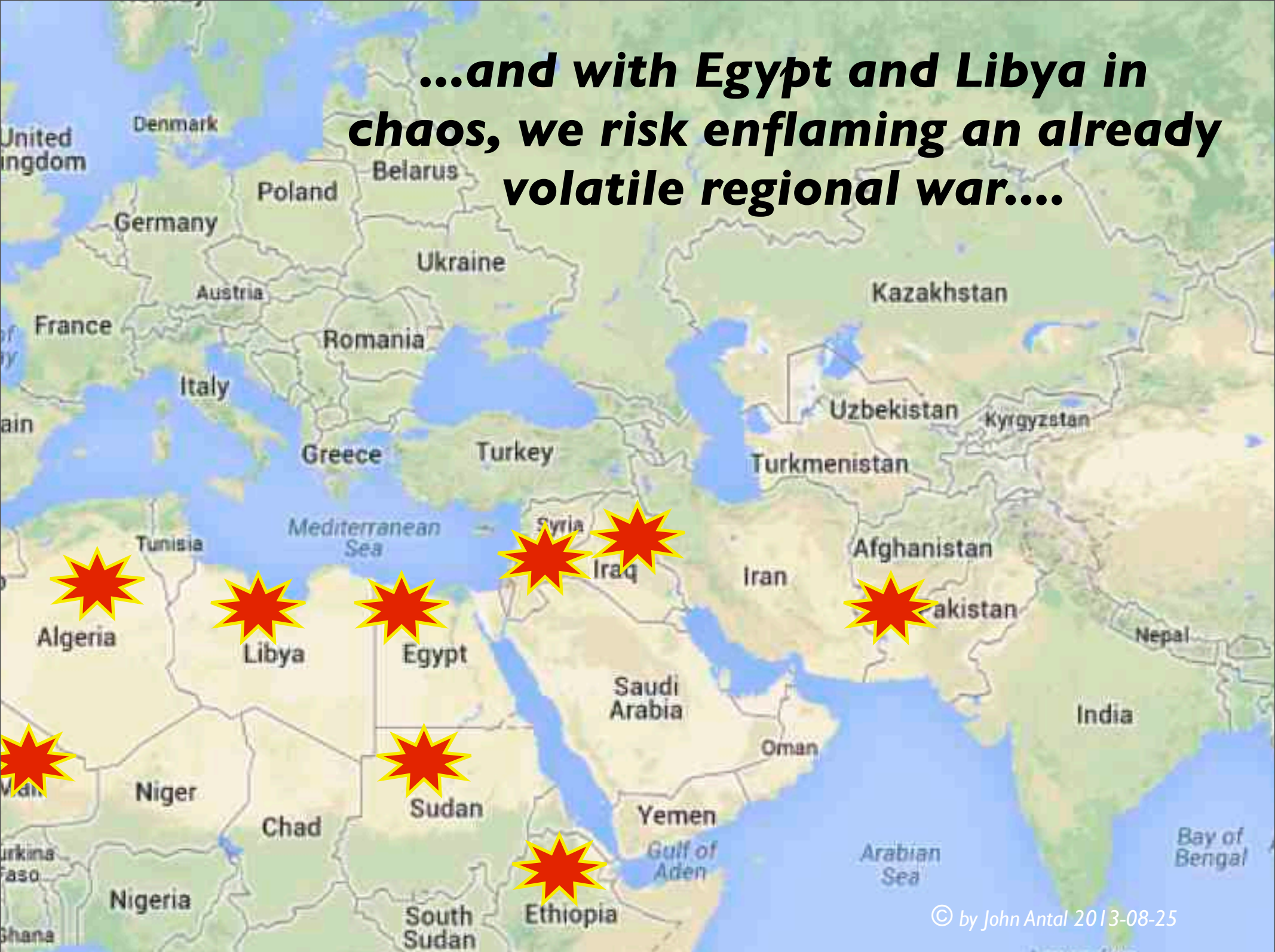
***Our enemies would like nothing more  
than to kill Americans and show how they  
beat the USA and drove us out  
Afghanistan....***



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***...and with Egypt and Libya in chaos, we risk enflaming an already volatile regional war....***



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***Israel might be forced into the conflict***

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***...and Jordan***

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***How will the Chinese and  
the Russians react to our  
intervention?***

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***Many things are hard, and few things  
are impossible...but Syria is not Libya...***

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***War in Syria would  
be very hard indeed.  
If we commit, we  
must fully commit.  
Half measures will  
fail.***






***The only viable military response to the situation in Syria is a symbolic air, missile and “drone” attack or a “decapitation” attack to kill Assad.***

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A photograph of a missile being launched from a ship's deck. The missile is angled upwards, and a massive, bright white and yellow plume of smoke and fire erupts from its base, partially obscuring the ship's superstructure. The ship's mast and various antennas are visible on the left side of the frame. The background is a dark, overcast sky.

***A symbolic missile  
attack will not end  
the war and might  
not change  
anything....***

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***The  
“decapitation”  
attack puts  
leaders on notice  
that we will not  
tolerate the use  
of chemical-bio-  
nuclear weapons  
in modern war.***

*Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad*

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***...but a “clean”  
decapitation  
attack is very,  
very hard to  
do...***



*It took us 9 months to find Saddam Hussein... We  
searched for Osama Bin Laden for a decade... Muammar  
al-Gaddafi was killed by factions on the ground 8 months  
after the UN intervention....*

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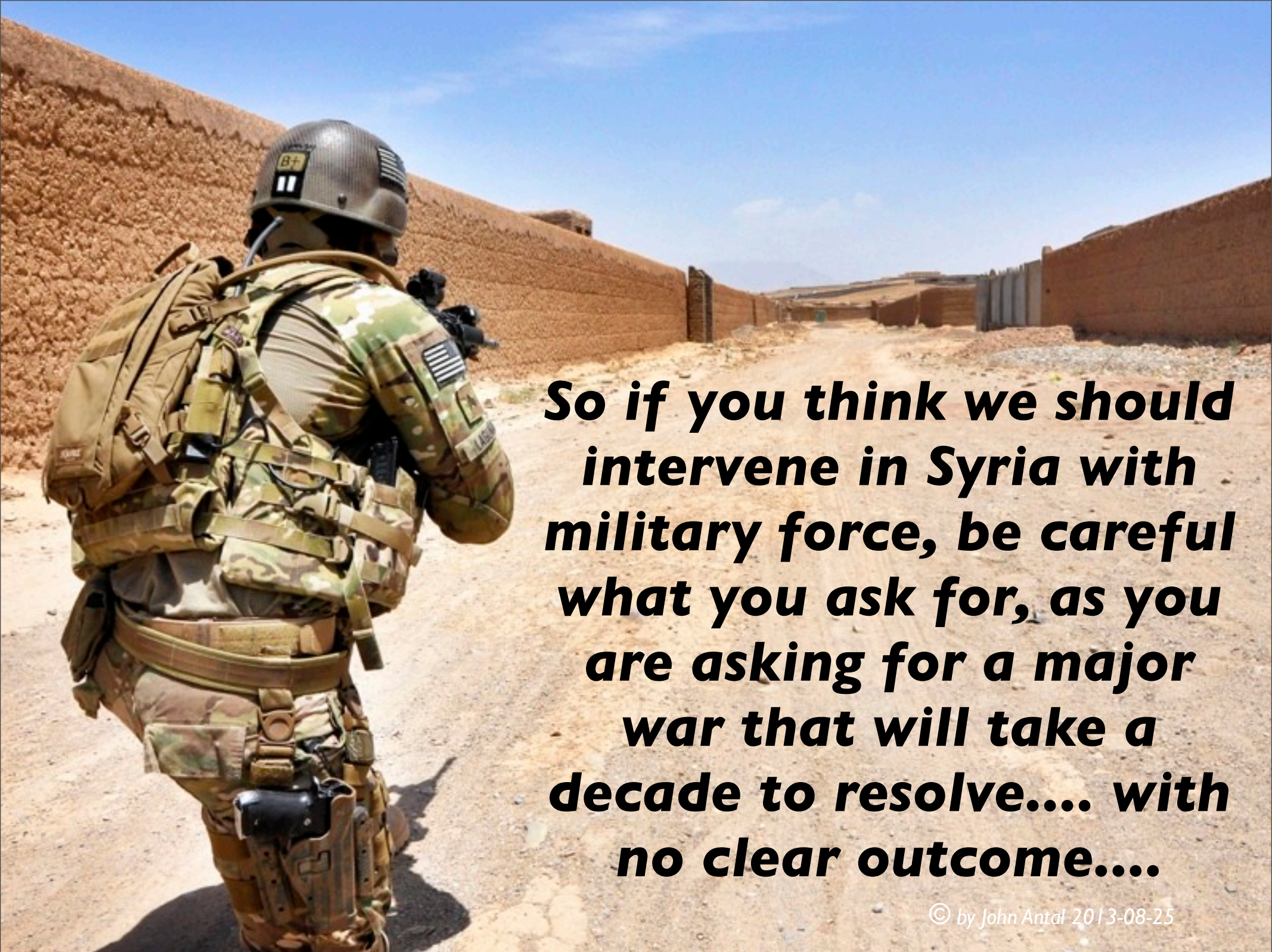




***There are limitations to power...  
even for the United States.***

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***So if you think we should  
intervene in Syria with  
military force, be careful  
what you ask for, as you  
are asking for a major  
war that will take a  
decade to resolve.... with  
no clear outcome....***

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# What is the most likely scenario for a US attack on Syria?

1. We will attack with stand-off weapons (Cruise missiles launched from ships and JDAM bombs dropped from high altitude).
2. We will target Assad's military forces -- primarily his rocket launchers, aircraft and air defense.
3. What we hit, we will destroy.
4. The result will be **indecisive**. It will be a **“FEEL GOOD”** attack with no effect to the fighting. It is a strategy with no objective.
4. An indecisive “Feel Good” attack will embolden Iran and the jihadis against the U.S. We will not be feared and RED LINES mean nothing.
5. It fuels support for Assad and will spark a larger, more bloody regional war, now with the U.S. supporting one side -- the one led by al-Qaeda.
6. The chances of greater U.S. involvement and loss raise dramatically.



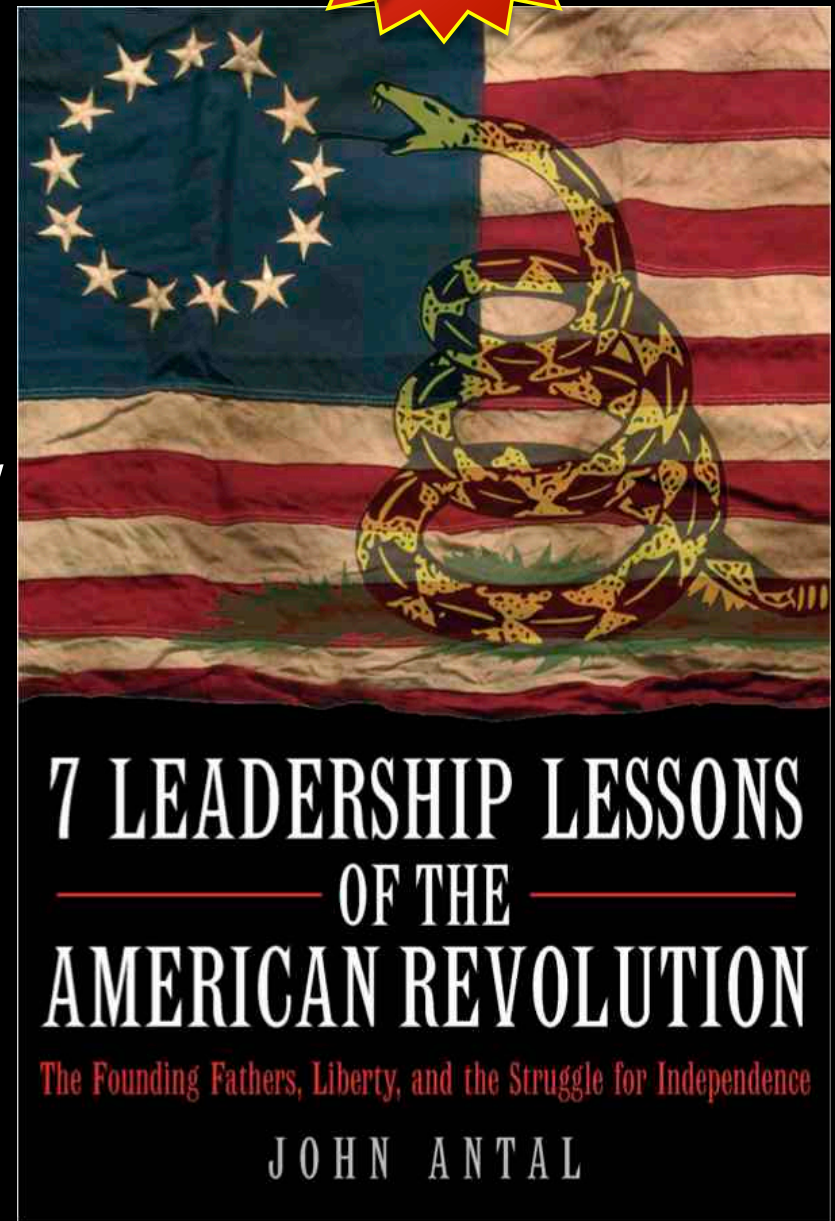
If you want to raise your leadership awareness, read:

*7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution: The Founding Fathers, Liberty, and the Struggle for Independence*

Available on Amazon.com and at American-Leadership.com

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