CHALLENGES OF DETERRING IRAN

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Who is the intended target of deterrence?
Wide-range of ‘malign’ behaviors

- Conventional issues
  - Nuclear
  - Missile
  - Hormuz Strait

- Unconventional issues
  - Terrorism & proxies
  - Cyber
  - Information

What are the priorities for deterrence?

What actions will cross declared ‘redlines’?
ACTIONS TO BOLSTER DETERRENCE

+ **Deterrence by punishment**
  - Strengthen (broaden) nuclear declaratory policies; extend nuclear umbrella
  - Surge forward deployment US/NATO forces (nuclear capable)
  - Bolster intelligence to attribute WMD, proliferation, & cyber attacks
  - Increase targeting/interdiction of Iranian military & financial support to proxies
  - Improve offensive cyber capabilities to offer credible range of responses

+ **Deterrence by denial**
  - Expand offensive cyber capabilities to disrupt nuclear & missile programs
  - Negotiate missile payload & range limits
  - Bolster missile defenses & improve regional early warning
  - Strengthen US/NATO allied military capabilities to counter Iran A2/AD in Hormuz
  - Help create credible & legitimate state-based national security organizations
  - Work with private industry to defend critical infrastructure vs cyber attack
  - Press regional allies to better integrate Shi’a communities

+ **Positive incentives**
  - Pledge Western economic investment & technology
  - Champion regional political, economic, & social reforms; build civil society
  - Open Iran to participation in regional security exercises/organizations
  - Ensure Iranian citizens retain access to international community
SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

- **Key challenges**
  - Targeting the right Iranian decision-makers: opaque & multiple actors with different roles
  - Prioritizing Iranian behaviors to be deterred or curtailed
  - Developing coherent deterrent strategy: punishment, denial, & incentives

- **Prospects going forward**
  - Conventional (nuclear, missile, Hormuz)
  - Non-traditional (terrorism & proxies, cyber, information)