

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ON TERRORISM

### Strategic Crude Oil Reserve: Supply Security

Seth K. Jacobson
Senior Research Fellow

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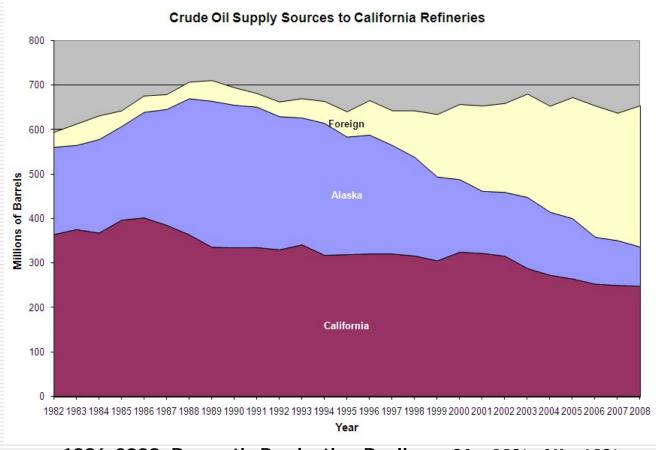
### **Executive Summary**



- Los Angeles and western states: escalating vulnerability to attacks on key oil imports
- Incentive for attack increases with ROI
- US withdrawal from Iraq heightens need for resilience to disruption of imported Iraqi oil
- SPR-West to provide surge capacity

### Regional Crude Sources: Past Peak Production





1986-2008, Domestic Production Declines: CA: -38%; AK, -63%

Source: CEC

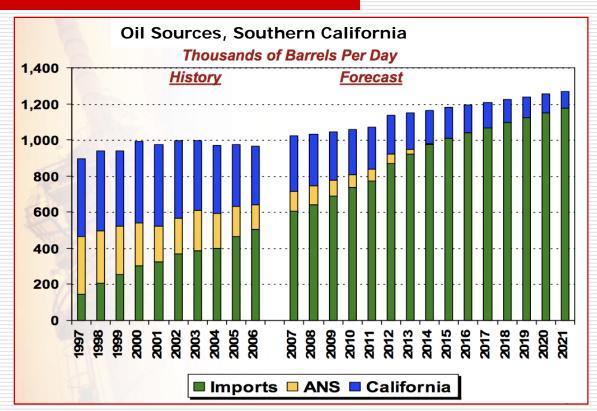
#### Petroleum: LA's Vulnerability



- Systemic demand of a megacity
  - Greater Los Angeles: 5 counties, 18MM pop., 34,000 sq. mi.
  - Transportation: Workers, products and students
  - Security: Public safety, public health and sanitation
  - Infrastructure: Asphalt, concrete and machine operations
- Regional economic impact beyond commuting
  - \$800B Gross Product, 6% of US GDP
  - Ports/shipping
  - Airports/tourism
  - Consumer spending
- Refineries also serve southwestern US
  - Las Vegas, San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson
  - About 25 million Americans over 8% of the US population

### Foreign Oil: LA's Rising Dependence



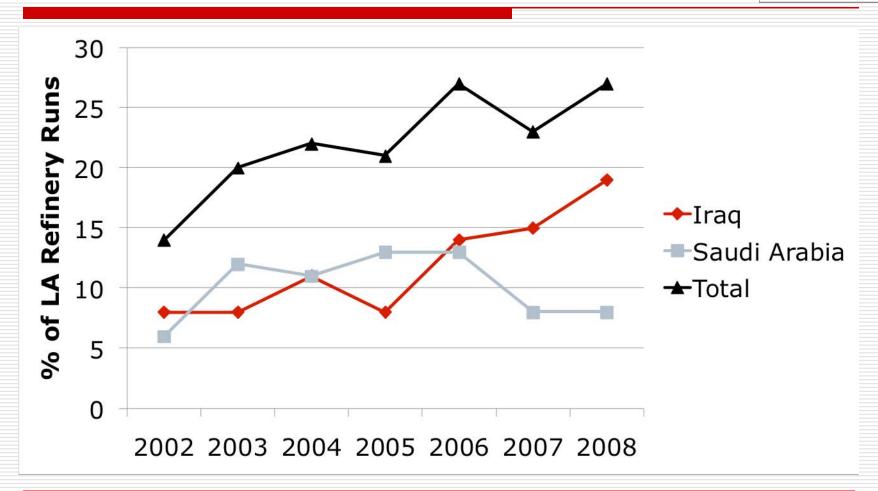


LA Refineries: Now Importing Majority of Crude

- 2006: 56% of LA refinery runs
- 2015: 0% from Alaska
- 2021: 90% of LA refinery runs

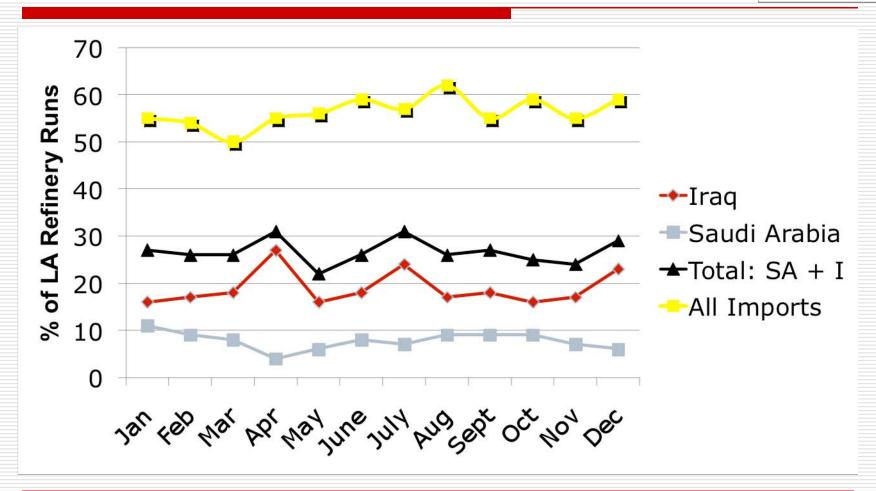
#### Iraqi Oil: LA's Growing Reliance





## 2008 Recession: LA Oil Imports Unabated





## Petro-Terror: Disrupting Oil Supplies



- AQ Petro-Attacks
  - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen
  - Repeated attacks on targets
- ☐ 4GW: User-Friendly Knowledge Networks
  - Open Source: Share, Adapt, Use, Improve & Re-Share
  - Global development and dissemination of best practices
  - Beyond AQ: Shi'ite (militias), Leftist (FARC), Tribal (MEND)
- More Attacks Anticipated

### Petro-Terrorists: Assumptions about Al-Qaeda

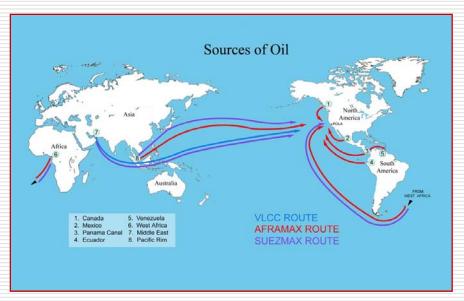


- Goal: Drive infidels, apostates, "impure" from (Islamic) world, establish Caliphate
- Strategy: "Bleed Until Bankruptcy"
  - Inflict unbearable costs on US economy
  - Erode US public support for funding war
  - Stimulate regional withdrawal
- □ Tactics: 4th Generation Warfare
  - Asymmetric
  - Net-centric
  - Polis-targeted (Terror, IO, Economic, etc.)
  - Use of networks to strike from a distance

## Using the Network: LA's Global Supply Chain



- Infrastructure
  - Iraq & Saudi Arabia
- Tankers
  - In/Near Port
  - Straits of Hormuz, Malacca
- Benefits to Jihadists
  - Return on Investment (ROI): Cheaper, but same \$\$\$ impact as US attack
  - Logistics: Easier to plan, execute and repeat
  - PR: noticed by both local and US media, public, government



Global Flows of Crude Oil into LA Region

#### ROI & Threat: Correlating with Oil Price



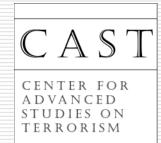
- AQ are rational actors
  - Use ROI in target evaluation (implicitly/explicitly)
  - Higher ROI increases incentive for AQ to attack
- ROI from an attack on oil infrastructure increases with rising market price of oil
  - Higher oil price increases incentive for AQ to attack
  - May be less incentive to attack today at \$50/bbl than at \$147/bbl
- Withdrawal of US forces + higher oil prices
  - Potential: lower cost to attack + increase in benefit = higher ROI
  - Many regional actors using similar tactical evaluation
    - □ AQ, Other Sunni Groups, Shiites, Kurds
  - ✓ May increase threat of disruption of Iraqi oil exports.

#### Resilience to Supply Chain Disruptions



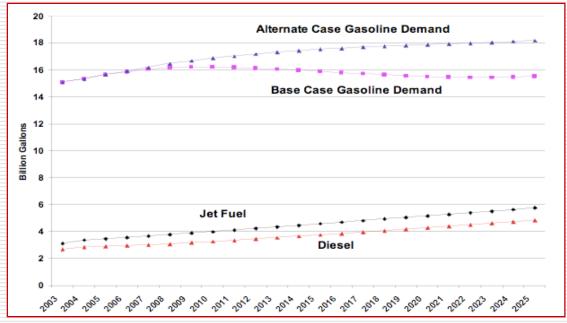
- Resilience in Emergency Management context
  - "The ability to dynamically mitigate and dampen system shocks."1
  - "...reducing...vulnerability to high-impact/low-probability disruptions...[by] building in capabilities for bouncing back quickly."2
- □ LA Example: Earthquake Preparedness
  - Distributed Mitigation: Earthquake-proofing, kits, CERT
  - Policy: Building codes, unified command, training
  - Public-Private Initiatives: Infrastructure, capital infusion
  - Surge Capacity: MOUs with other municipalities
  - Leadership: Vision + Action (Riordan: 1994, Northridge)

# Regional Best Practices: Reducing Consumption



- Public Policy: HOV lanes, transit oriented development, alternative fuel fleets, etc.
- Citizen Action: Ridesharing, public transportation, telecommuting, etc.
- But California Energy Commission staff:

"Reducing the rate of demand growth for traditional transportation fuels...will not have any appreciable impact on crude oil imports."



CEC Model Base Case: AB 1493 compliance with GHG reductions for motor vehicles

### SPR-West: Local Surge Capacity

