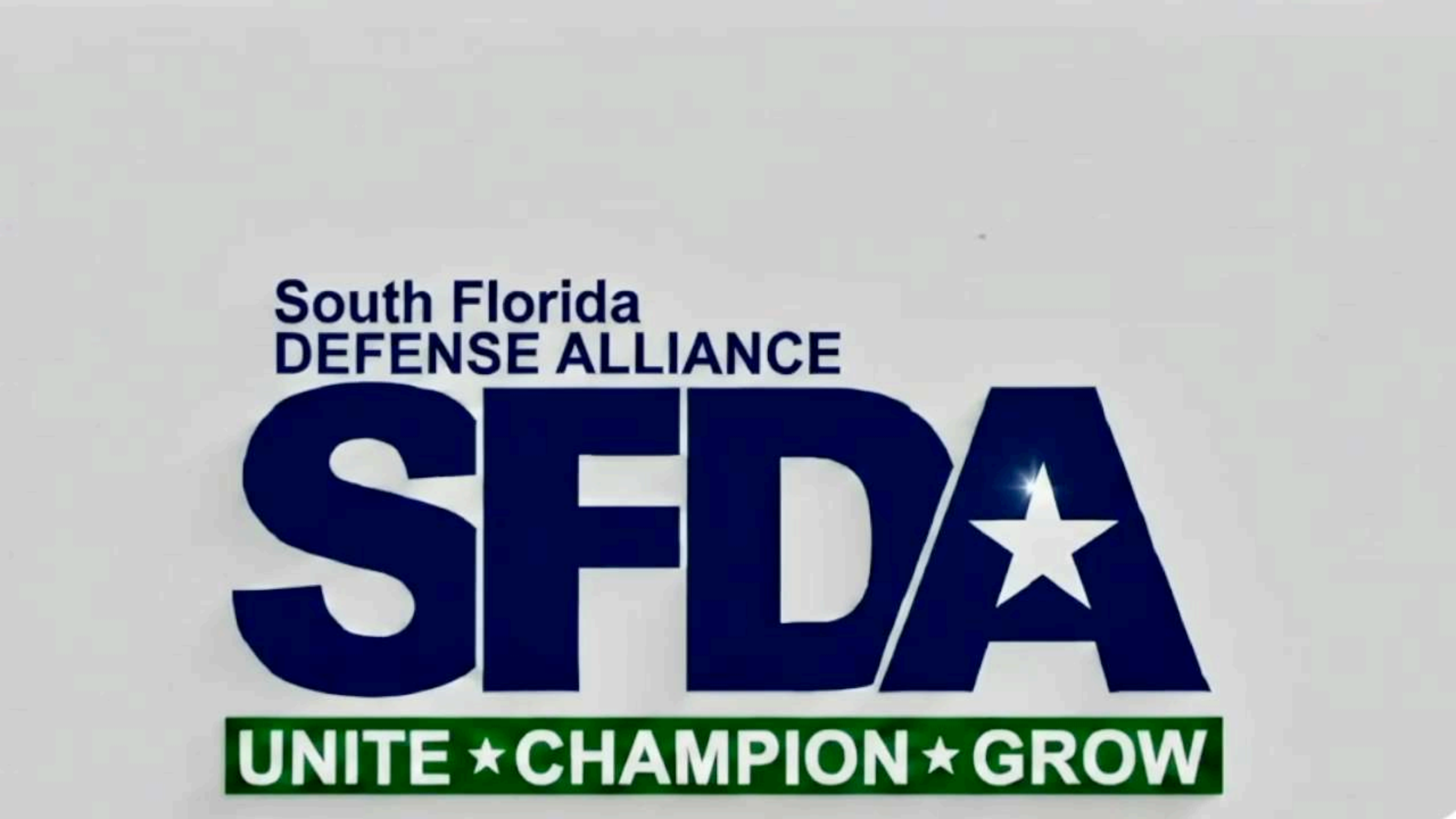
South Florida
DEFENSE ALLIANCE

SFDA

UNITE ★ CHAMPION ★ GROW

Rick Miller
Executive Director
CAPT, USN (Ret)


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The Video Highlighted Both Challenge and Opportunity

The Video Highlighted Both Challenge and Opportunity (Beyond National Security)

1. Why Does It Matter for FL / SEFL?

The Video Highlighted Both Challenge and Opportunity

1. Why Does It Matter (Beyond National Security)?

2. What To Do Regionally (& How)?

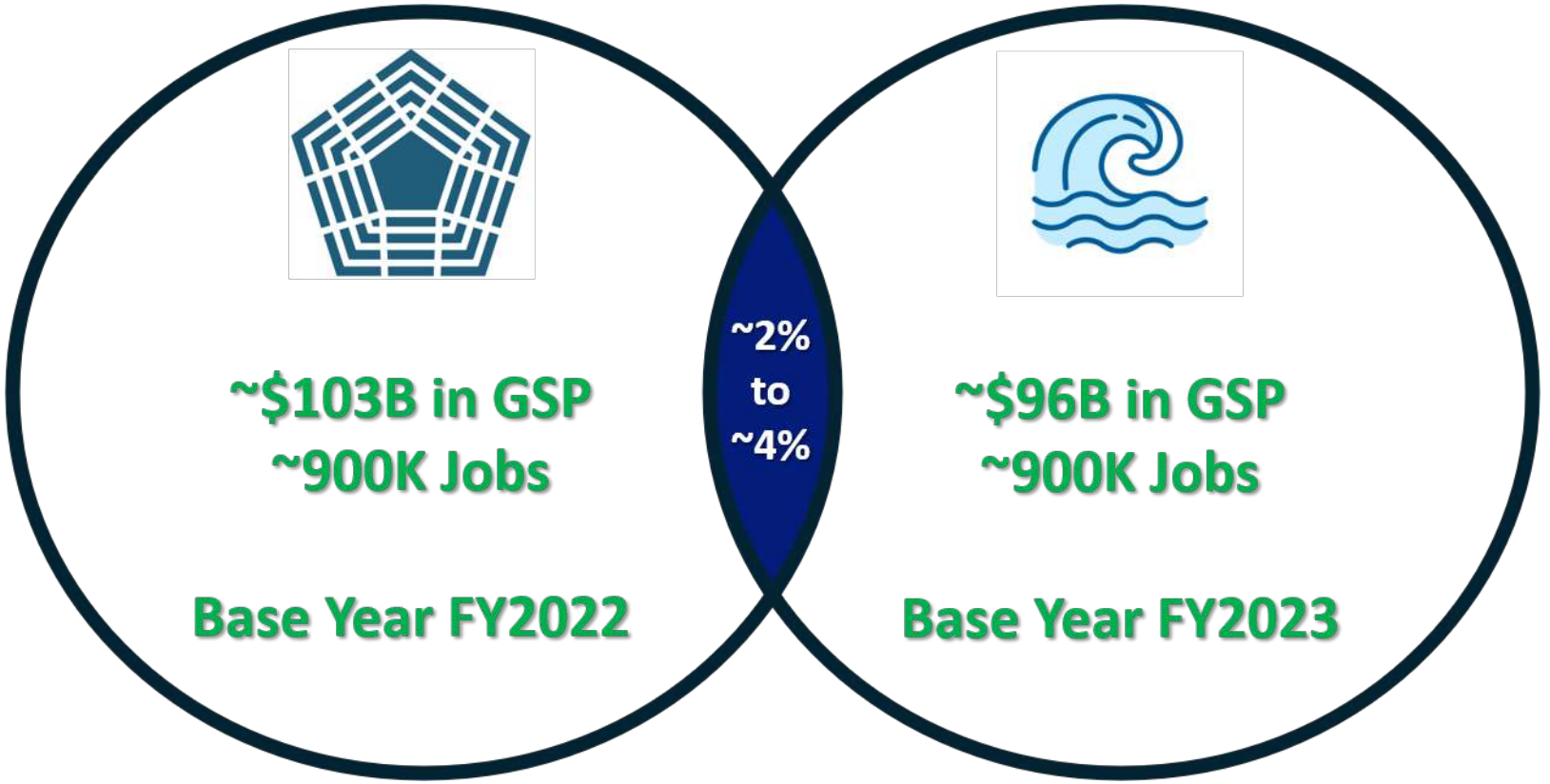
The Video Highlighted Both Challenge and Opportunity

1. Why Does It Matter (Beyond National Security)?

2. What To Do Regionally (& How)?

3. What Are You Going to Do Now?

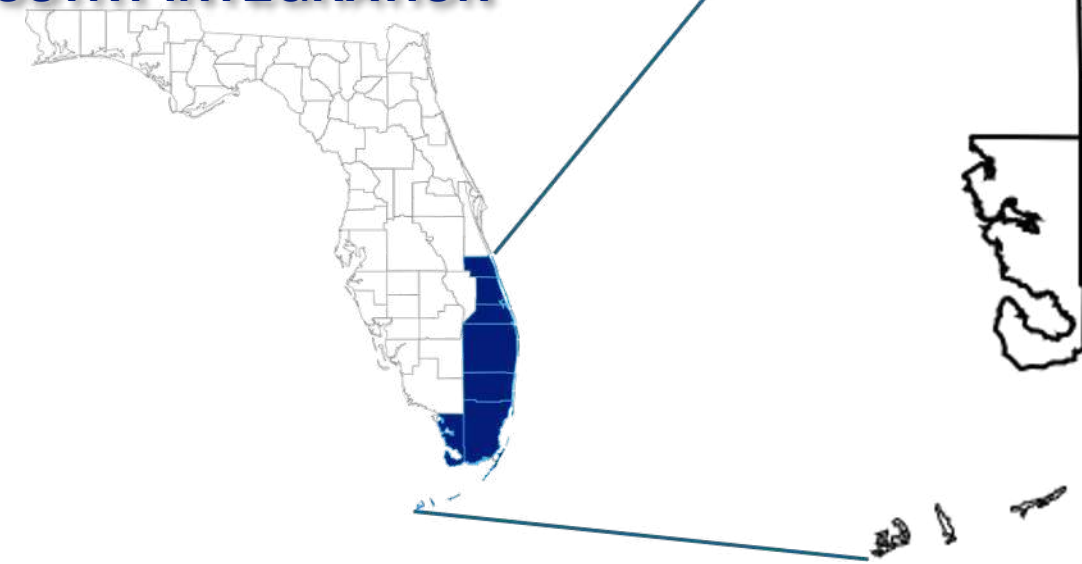
State Studies Currently Lack a Clear Nexus



Rick Miller
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CAPT, USN (Ret)

Seven-County Spine: A Distributed Ocean Arsenal for Unmanned Sea Power

HIGH POTENTIAL FOR VERTICAL INDUSTRY INTEGRATION





- (Dozens) Boatbuilders & hull manufacturers
- (Multiple 100s) Shipyards & marine fabrication
- (Multiple 100s) Marine supply chain
- Underwater technology
- Test & evaluation/Operational demo ranges
- (4) Seaports
- (5/19) Commercial/Civilian Airports
- Rail access
- Multiple Foreign Trade Zones
- (50+) Higher-Ed Campuses
- (Multiple) Ocean-focused research centers
- Robust workforce development & training
- Defense/National Security customer proximity
  - USN / USCG / USAF / SOC / COCOM / CBP
- (Multiple) NOAA Research & Ops
- Industrial development infrastructure
- Increasing access to capital
- Growing innovation ecosystems

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Sea Power has Shaped U.S. Strategic Outcomes

FIVE HISTORICAL TURNING POINTS

1781	REVOLUTIONARY WAR – YORKTOWN	**DIRECTLY DECISIVE:** French sea control trapped Cornwallis and enabled a decisive victory
1861–65	CIVIL WAR	**DIRECTLY DECISIVE:** Blockade and Mississippi control progressively strangled the Confederacy
1917–45	TWO WORLD WARS	**ESSENTIAL ENABLER:** Atlantic convoys enabled U.S. armies to fight and remain supplied in Europe
1941–45	PACIFIC WAR	**DIRECTLY DECISIVE:** Fleet combat, amphibious reach and mobile logistics defeated Japan
1947–91	COLD WAR	**STRATEGICALLY DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION:** Undersea deterrence and forward naval power helped contain the USSR

Naval Force Have Been Decisive or Essential Enablers in Dozens of Other Conflicts & Crises

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USVs & UUVs Can Help Change the Western Pacific Equation

USV / UUV CONTRIBUTIONS

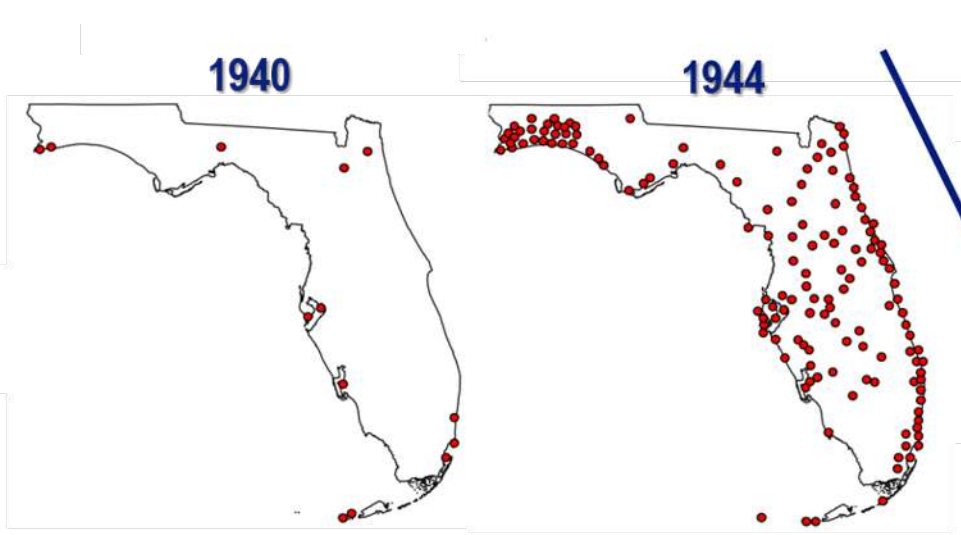
DENY A QUICK VICTORY	USV sensing, deception, and distributed fires; UUV surveillance and mine reconnaissance
SUSTAIN DISPERSED FORCES	USV delivery of small critical loads; UUV niche resupply
REGENERATE COMBAT POWER	Attritable hulls, modular payloads, rapid repair, and repeatable production
PROVE ENDURANCE AT SCALE	Comms-denied autonomy, launch/recovery, allied integration, and maintenance

UNMANNED MASS STRENGTHENS DETERRENCE WHEN IT CAN BE PRODUCED, SUSTAINED & INTEGRATED IN PEACE & UNDER FIRE

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Florida's Enduring Aerospace & Maritime Strengths



AIRSPACE & SEA SPACE DROVE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS TO HEAVILY LEVERAGE FLORIDA IN WWII

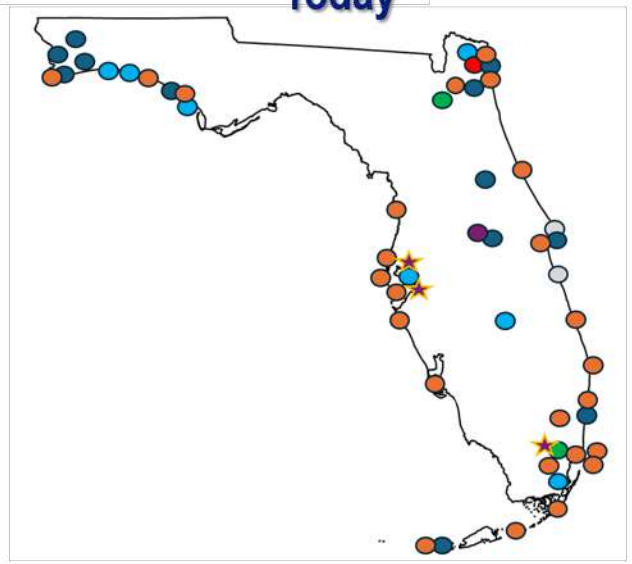
GROWTH EXPLODED PRIMARILY IN AVIATION & MARITIME

- 260+ Military Airfields (AAF / Navy / USCG)
- 50+ Other Significant Installations / Basing Functions
- 25+ POW Camps

DOZENS OF TRAINING, TEST & EVALUATION RANGE AREAS

Florida's Enduring Aerospace & Maritime Strengths

Today



20+ DOD / DOW & 20+ USCG INSTALLATIONS

Preponderance is:

- USAF / USSF / USN / USCG
- Aviation / Space / Maritime-Focused

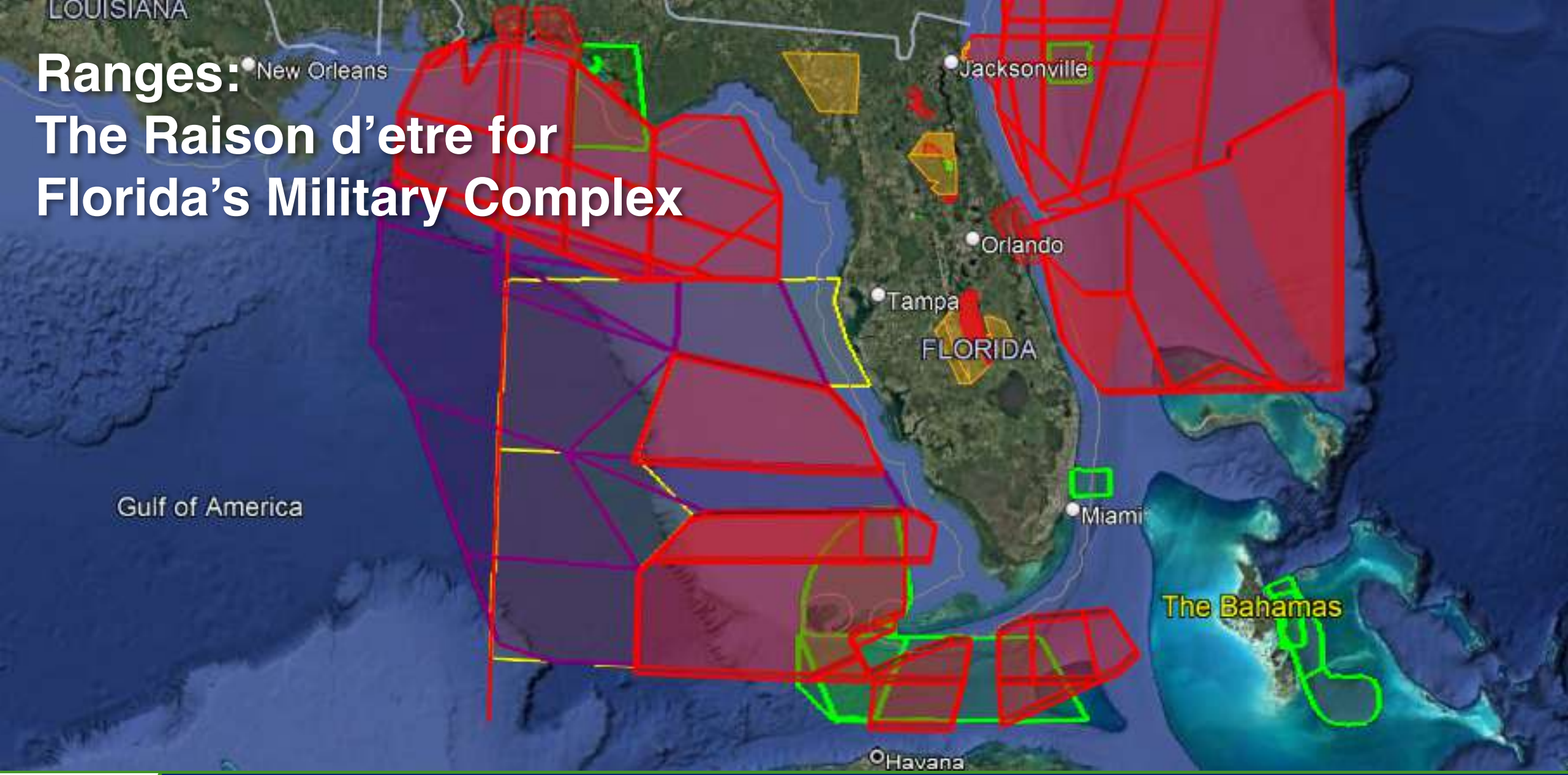
MODERN FL INFRASTRUCTURE ON MILITARY SKELETON

- Defense Ecosystems Around Defense Clusters
- 70+ WWII Military Airfields Reverted to Civilian Use
- 14 Current Florida Colleges / Universities Campuses, Centers, or Research Sites on Former Military Property

STATEWIDE DEFENSE ECONOMIC ANNUAL IMPACTS (2024 Assessment / FY2022)

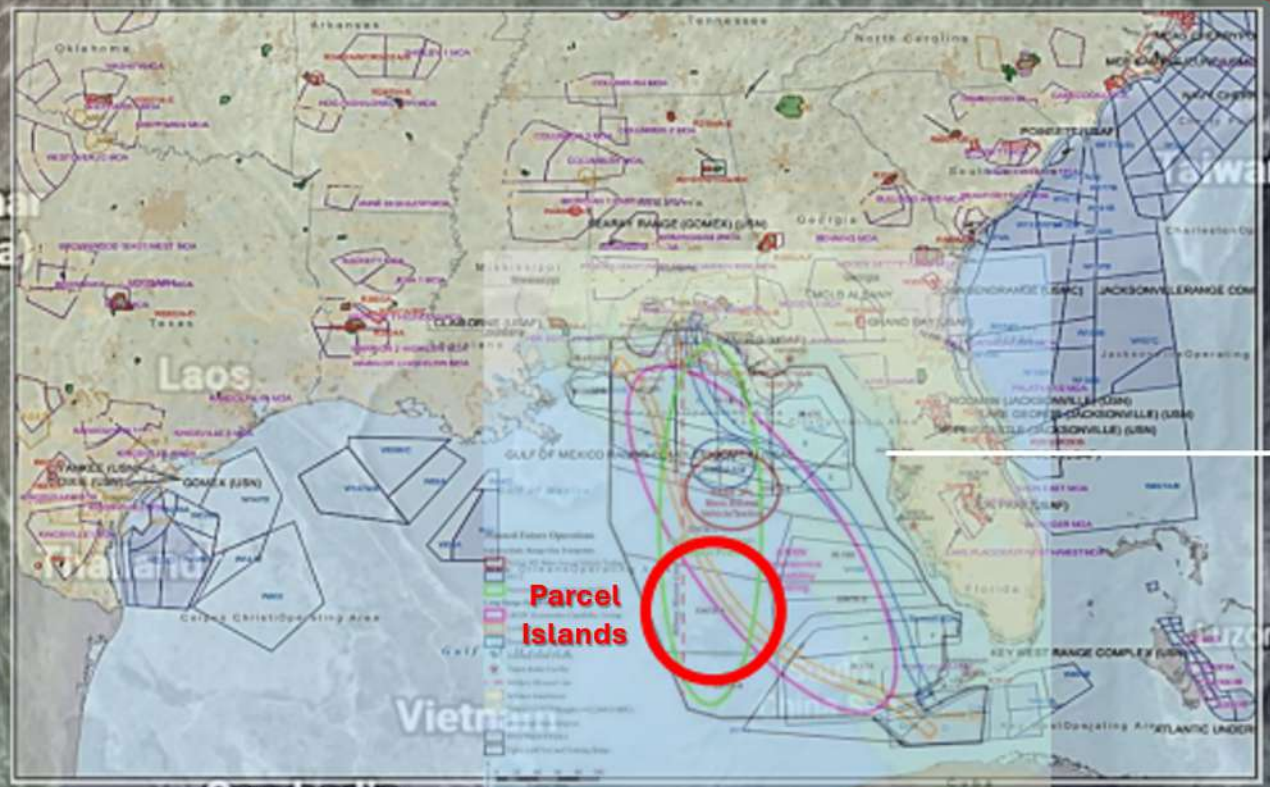
Economic Impact:	~$103B
Employment Generated:	~900K Jobs

Ranges: The Raison d'etre for Florida's Military Complex



Rick Miller
Executive Director
CAPT, USN (Ret)

Four Maps Realigned



Senkaku Islands

28° N – SE China

~400 NM Offset
~2% Offset N-S

Philippine Sea

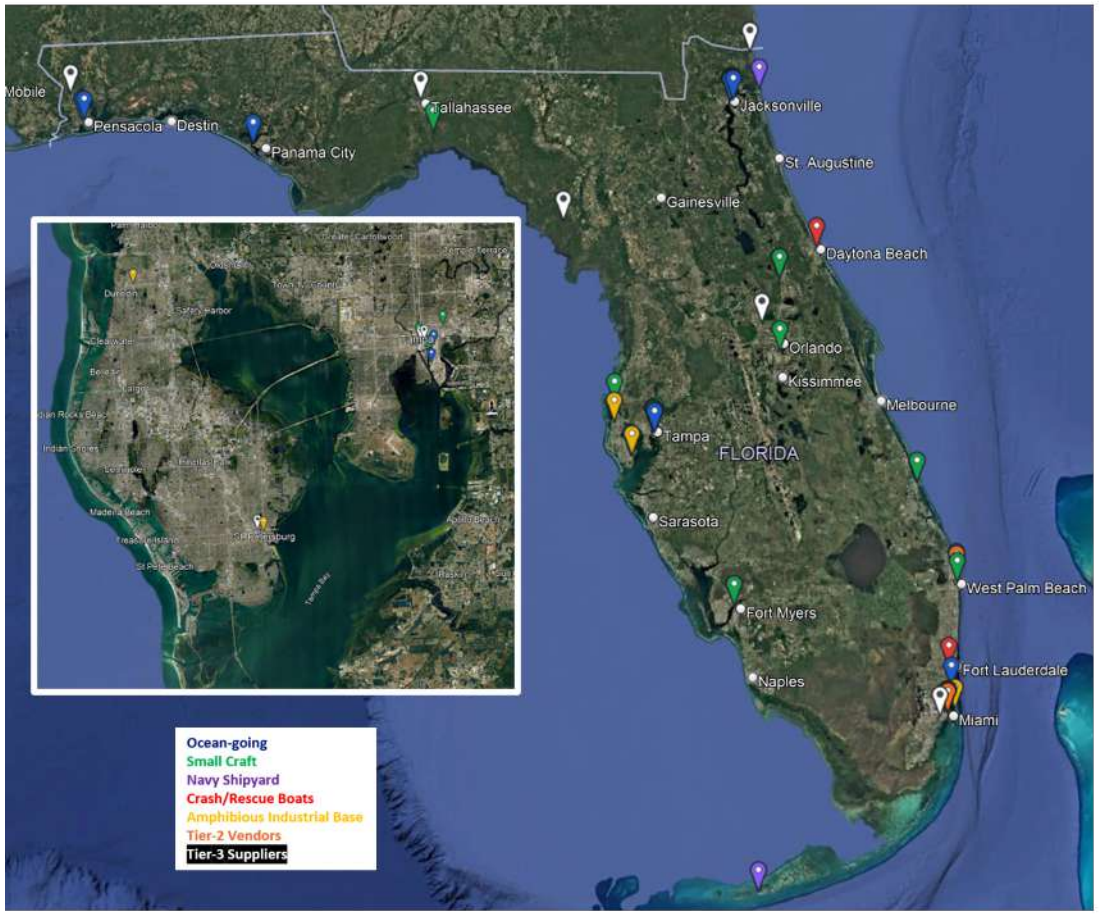
28° N – SE USA

~200° Longitude Rotation

Bangladesh
Myanmar (Burma)
Laos
Thailand
Vietnam
Cambodia
Andaman Sea
Gulf of Thailand
Philippines
Spratley Islands
Palawan
Panay
Negros
Mindanao
Taiwan
Luzon
Mexico
Dominican Republic
Puerto Rico

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WWII Shipbuilding



- ~2/3 of Florida's Industrial Growth
- Nearly 700 Vessels Constructed
- 10% of National Liberty Ship Production
  - 8 Months → 2 Weeks Delivery Time

Liberty Ships

148	Standard
12	Aviation Gas
28	Boxed Aircraft
6	Tankers
8	Tank Transports
24	Cement

Combat Vessels

9	Destroyer Escorts
12	Ammunition Ships
100	PT Boats
81	Minesweepers
38	Subchasers

Logistics & Auxiliary Vessels

17	Coastal Freighters
135	Tugboats
70	Army Barges
9	Navy Berthing Barges


Saronic Corsair


GARC


Saildrone Voyager


Saildrone Explorer


MCM USV / CUSV


Sea Hunter


Seahawk


Ranger


Mariner


Devil Ray T38


Devil Ray T24


MANTAS T12



Saildrone Surveyor


Typhoon


Ocean Aero TRITON


Arabian Fox MAST-13


Elbit Seagull


Exail DriX



WAM-V


Data Xplorer


Seasats X3



SeaTrac SP-48

Recent Operations

NAVALNEWS

EXPO 2026 NAVAL DECEMBE ESPACIO RI SANTIAGO -

NEWS | EVENT NEWS | INTERVIEWS | FEATURES | VIDEOS | ADVERTISING | ABOUT US

Saronic USV Rescues Two U.S. Army Pilots Downed by Iran

Published on 09/06/2026 By Aaron-Matthew Lariosa In News



The Corsair USV is capable of operating at ranges over 1,000 nautical miles and can support 1,000-pound payloads. Saronic picture.

NAVALNEWS

EXPO 2026 NAVAL DECEMBE ESPACIO RI SANTIAGO -

NEWS | EVENT NEWS | INTERVIEWS | FEATURES | VIDEOS | ADVERTISING | ABOUT US

CENTCOM Deploys Saronic Corsair USV Against Iranian Submarine At Bandar Abbas

Published on 13/07/2026 By Aaron-Matthew Lariosa In News



Screen capture from CENTCOM video showing the Saronic kamikaze USV moments before impact.

Saronic Corsair





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CAPT, USN (Ret)



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Executive Director
CAPT, USN (Ret)

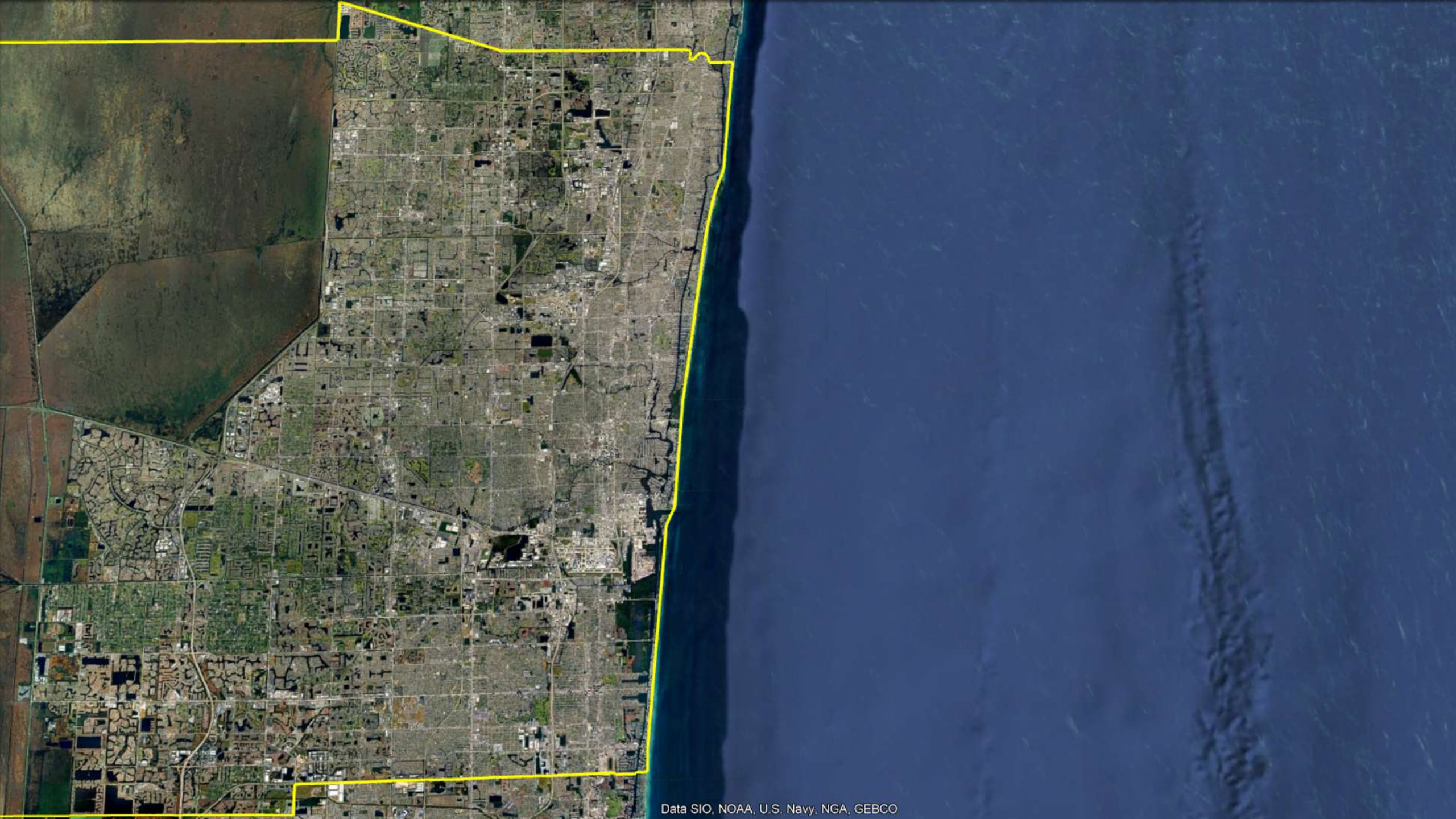
Mission Maturity & Development → Accelerating (One Opinion Estimates….)

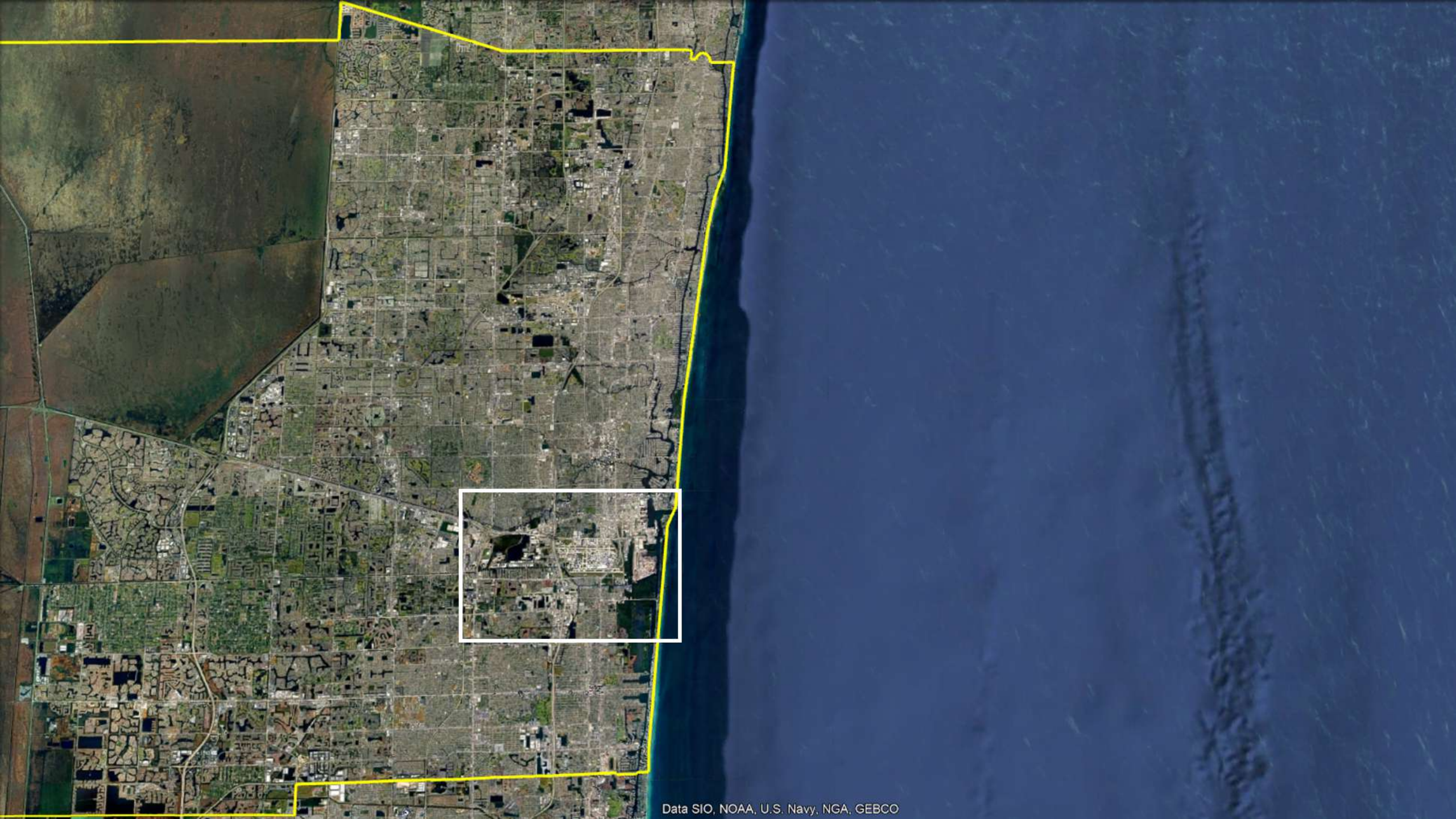
USVs

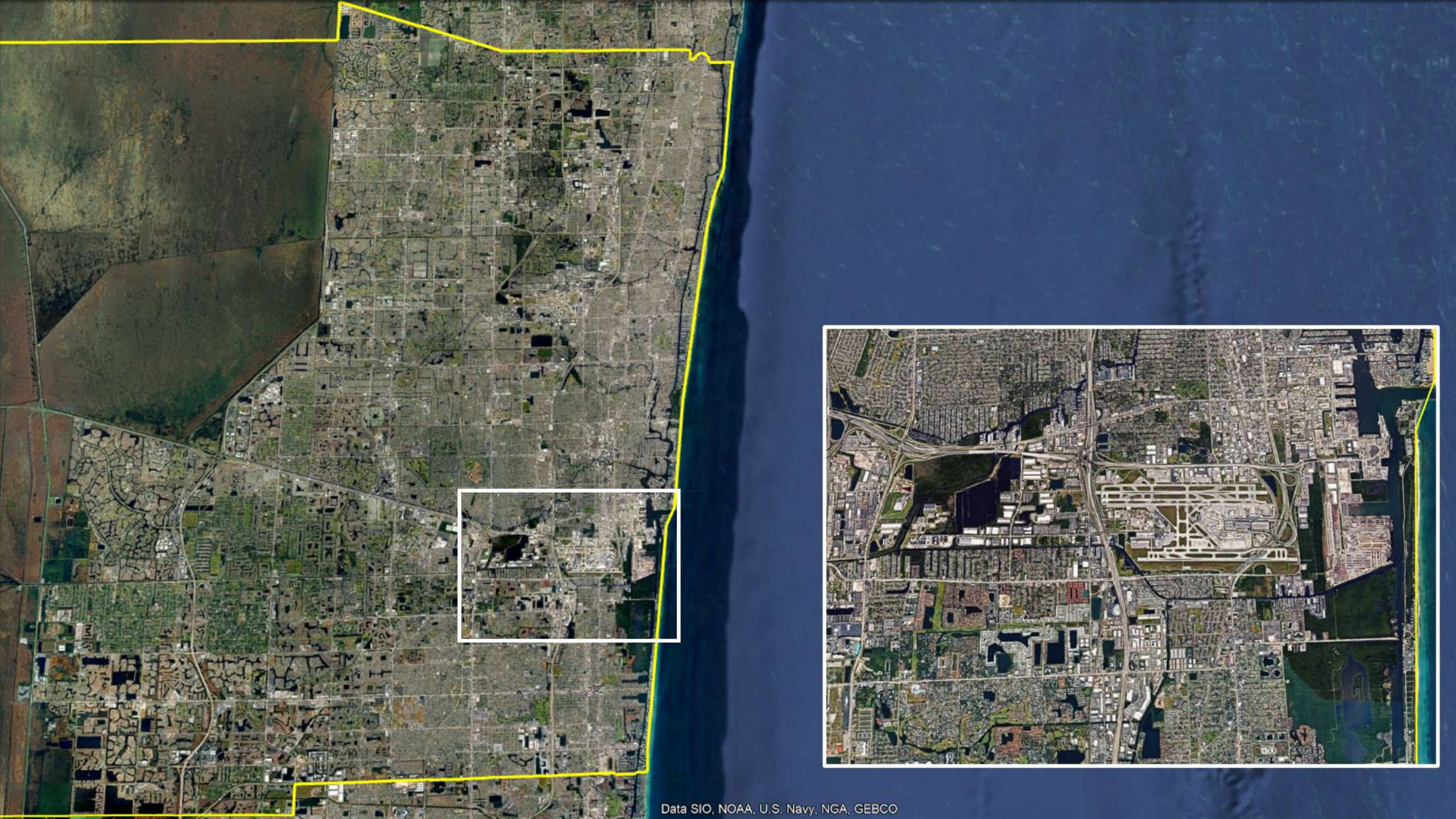
MISSION	TODAY (JUN – OCT)	5 YEARS	10 YEARS
Mine Countermeasures	🟢	🟢	🟢
Maritime Domain Awareness / ISR	🟢	🟢	🟢
Counternarcotics / Maritime Security	🟡🟢 →	🟢	🟢
Fleet Scouting / Distributed Sensing	🟡	🟡	🟢
C2 / Data Fusion / Manned-Unmanned Teaming	🟡	🟡	🟢
Electronic Warfare / Deception / Decoys	🟡	🟡	🟢
Sea Denial / Lethality Support	🟡🟢 →	🟡🟢	🟢
Port / Harbor / Critical Infrastructure Defense	🟡	🟢	🟢
Counter-UAS / Counter-Small Boat Defense	🟡	🟡	🟢
Logistics / Convoy / MSC Support	🔴🟡 →	🟡🟢	🟢
Training / Test / Red Force	🟢	🟢	🟢
Payload Truck / Mothership Role	🟡🟢 →	🟢	🟢

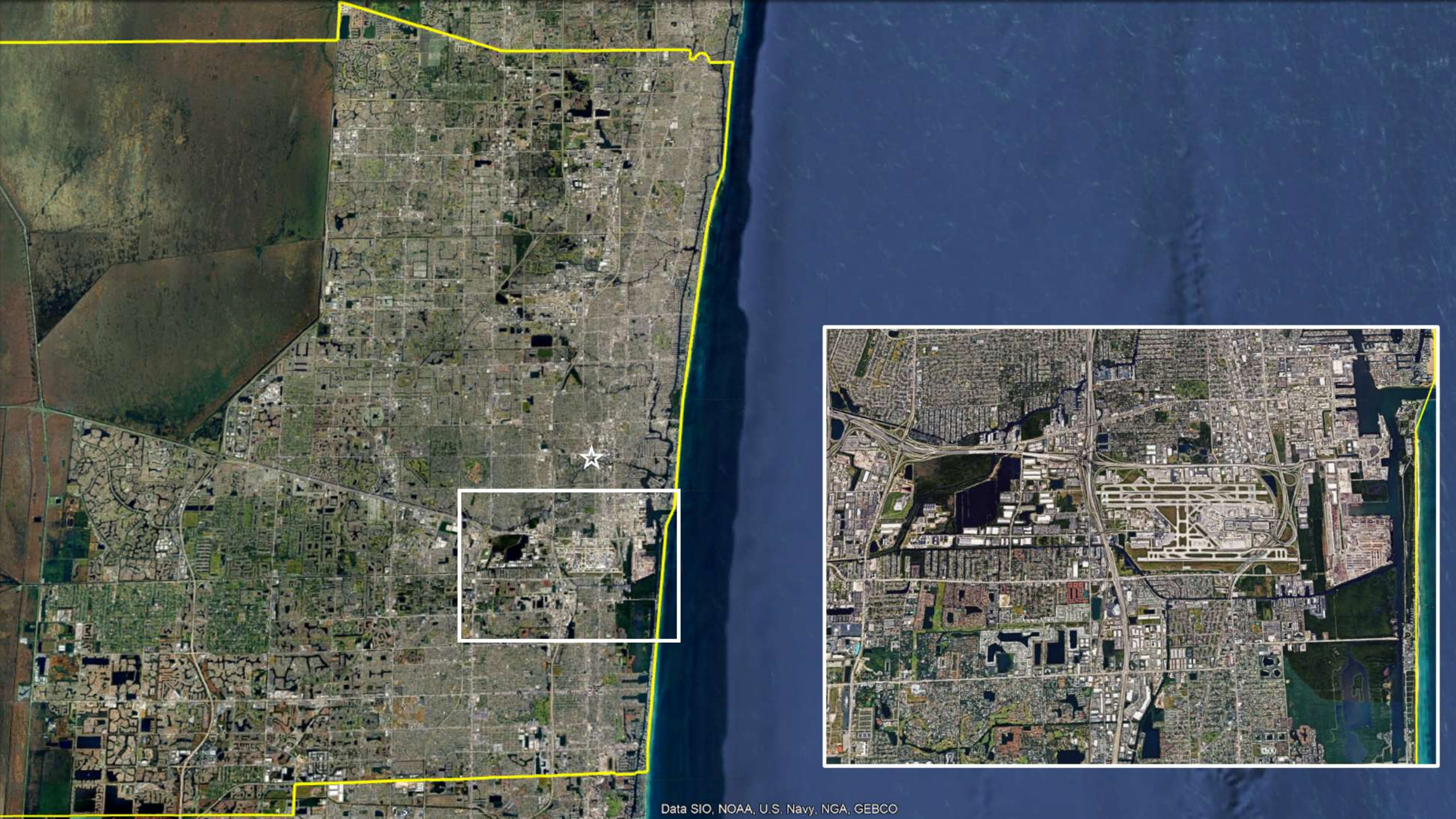
UUVs

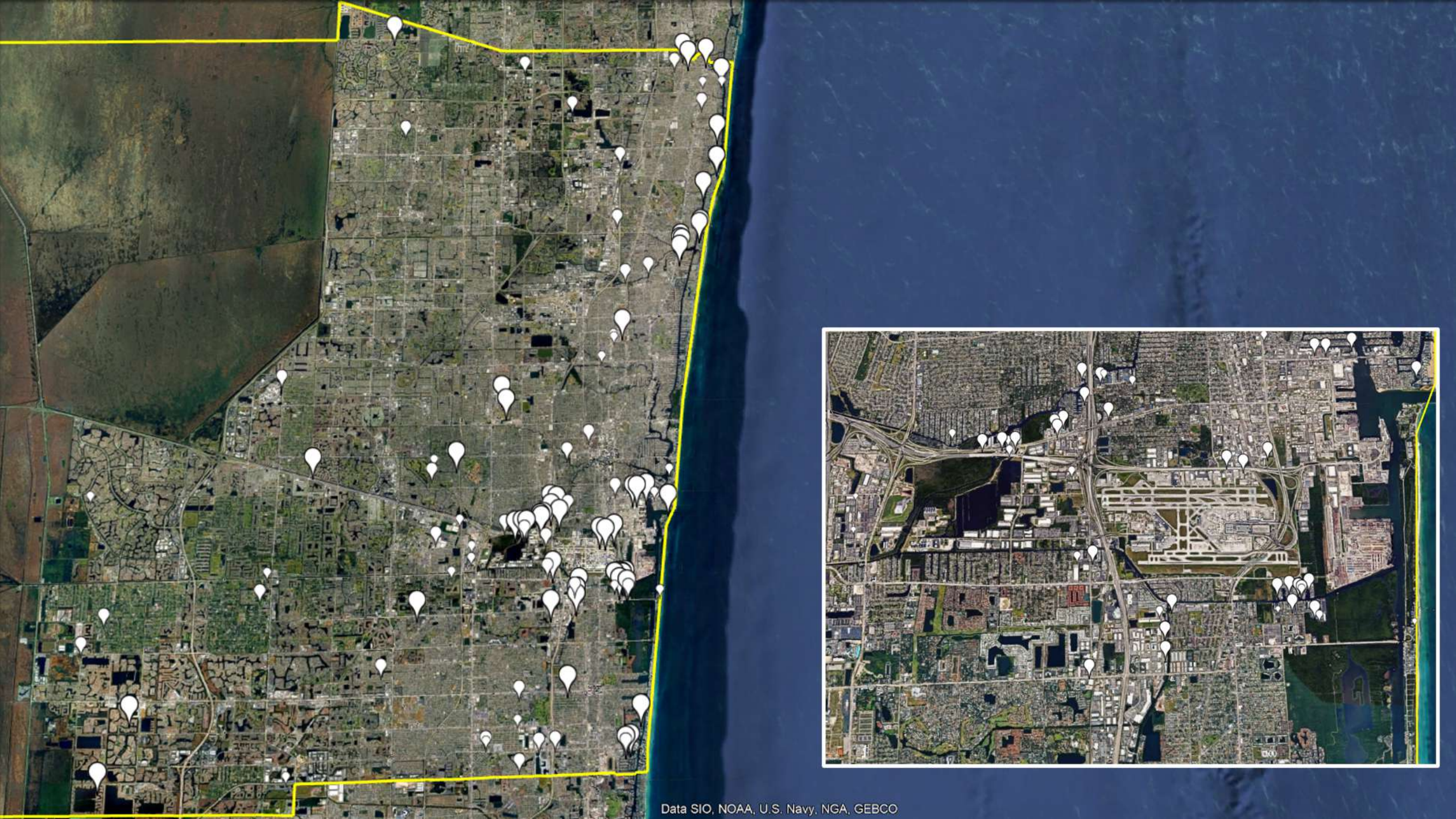
MISSION	TODAY (JUN – OCT)	5 YEARS	10 YEARS
Mine Hunting / Expeditionary MCM	🟢	🟢	🟢
Seabed / Hydrographic Mapping	🟢	🟢	🟢
Oceanographic / Environmental Intelligence	🟢	🟢	🟢
ASW Support ⇢	🟡	🟡	🟢
ISR / Preparation of the Environment ⇢	🟡	🟢	🟢
Critical Undersea Infrastructure Protection ⇢	🟡	🟢	🟢
Deep-Ocean Search / Salvage / Recovery	🟢	🟢	🟢
Large UUV / XLUUV Modular Payloads ⇢	🟡	🟡	🟢
Undersea Deception / Acoustic Effects	🔴	🟡	🟢
Undersea Logistics / Resupply	🔴	🟡	🟢
Seabed Warfare Support	🟡	🟡	🟢
Training / Test / Target Simulation	🟢	🟢	🟢

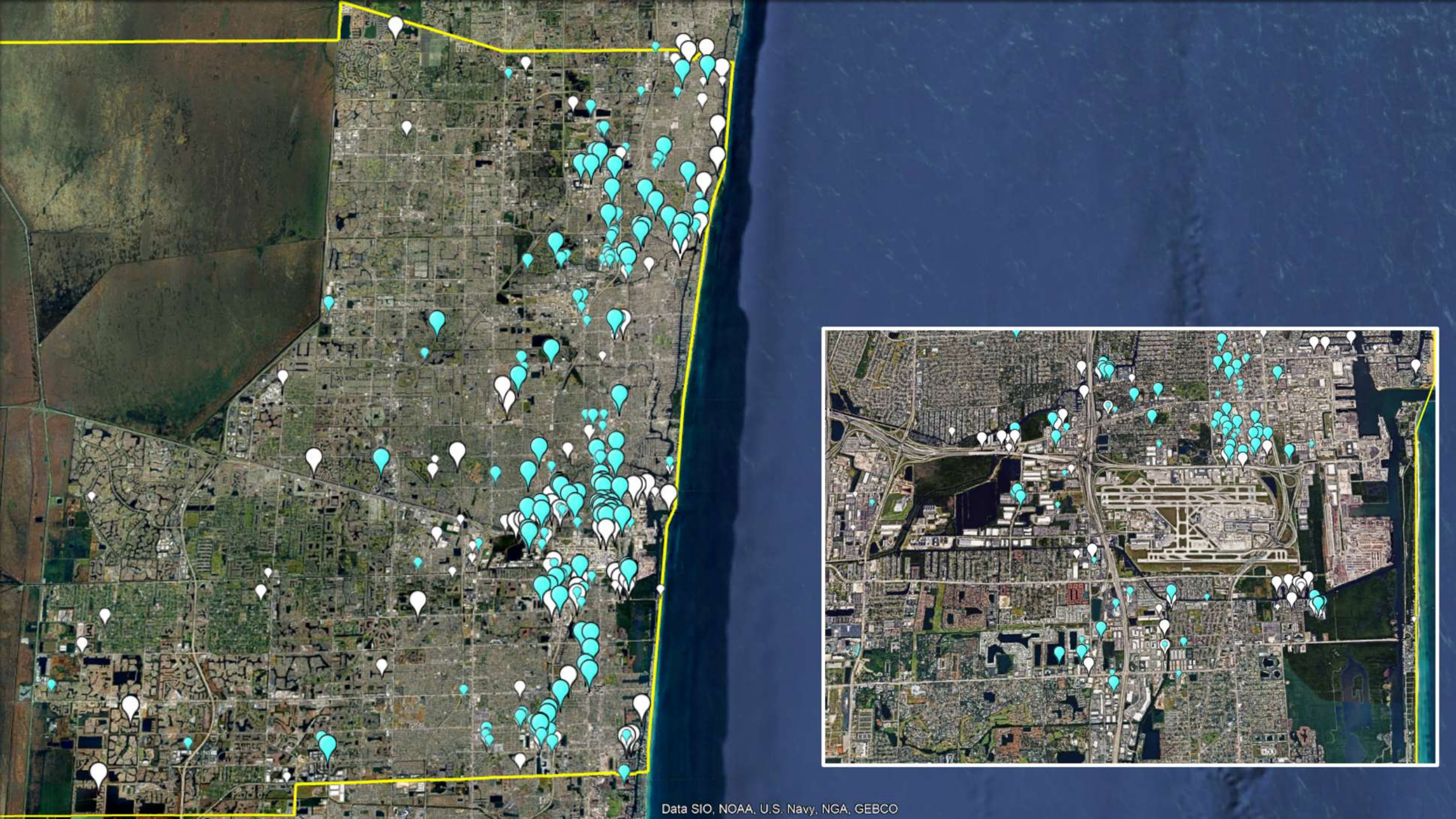

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

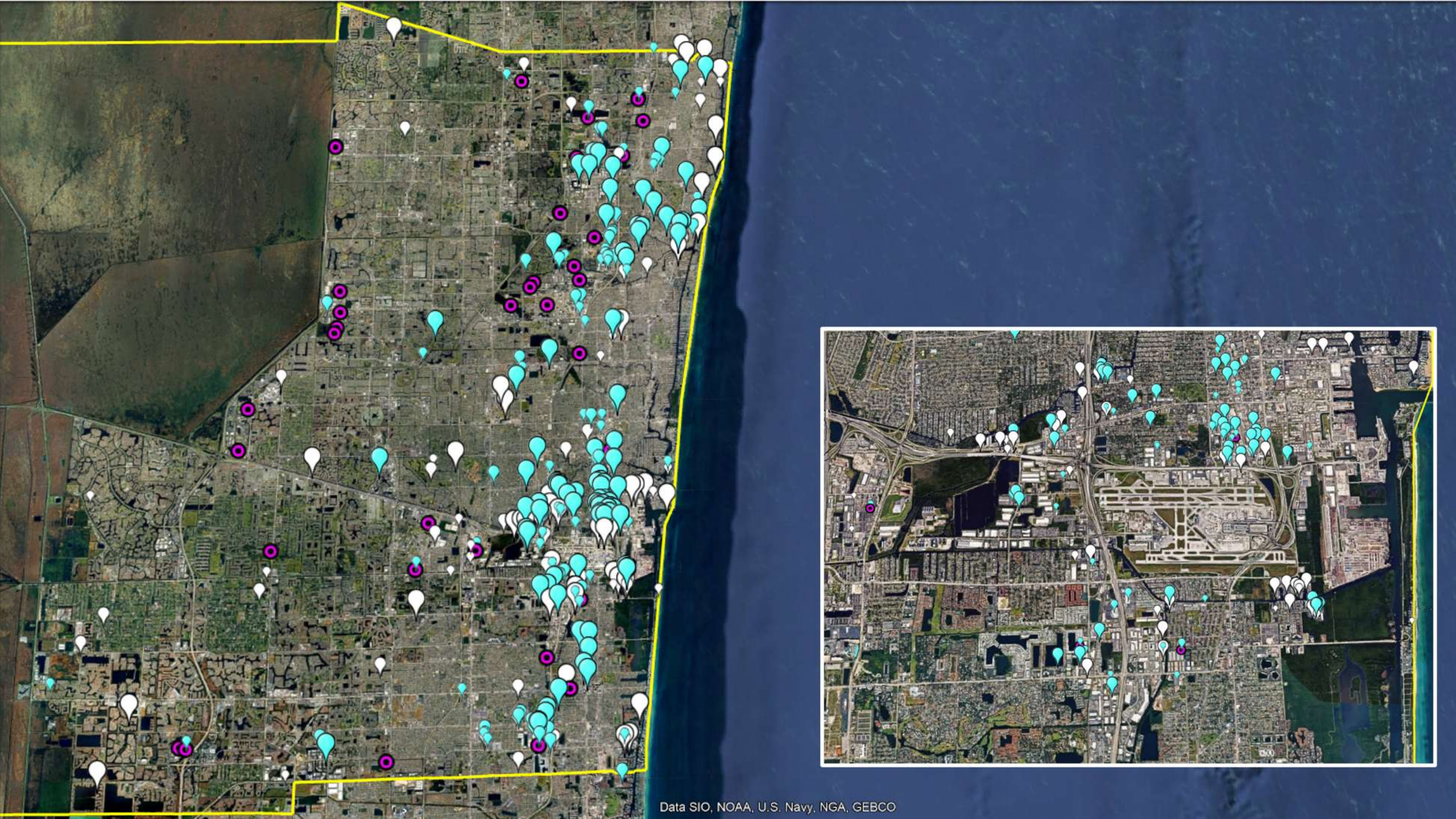

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

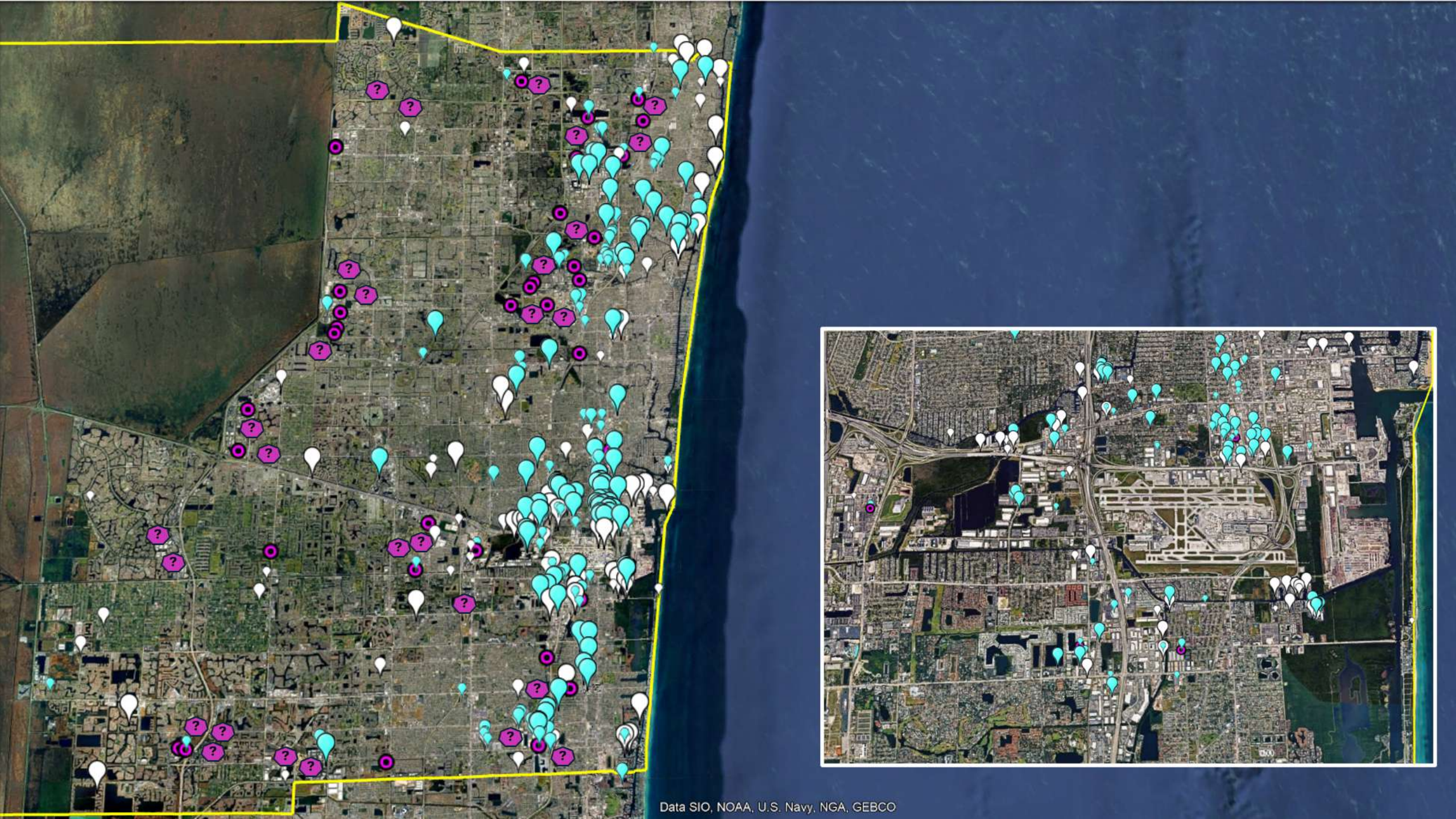

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO


Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

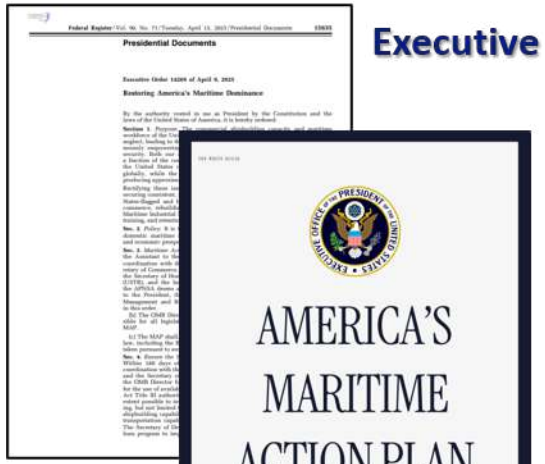

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO


Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO


Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO


Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Federal Impetus


Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14269 of April 9, 2025

Restoring America's Maritime Dominance

Executive Order 14269, "Restoring America's Maritime Dominance"

America's Maritime Action Plan / Restoring America's Maritime Dominance


Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14265 of April 9, 2025

Modernizing Defense Acquisitions and Spurring Innovation in the Defense Industrial Base

Executive Order 14265, "Modernizing Defense Acquisitions and Spurring Innovation in the Defense Industrial Base"


Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14307 of June 6, 2025

Unleashing American Drone Dominance

Executive Order 14307, "Unleashing American Drone Dominance"


FISCAL YEAR 2027 TOPLINE

FY 2027 Budget Increases Shipbuilding

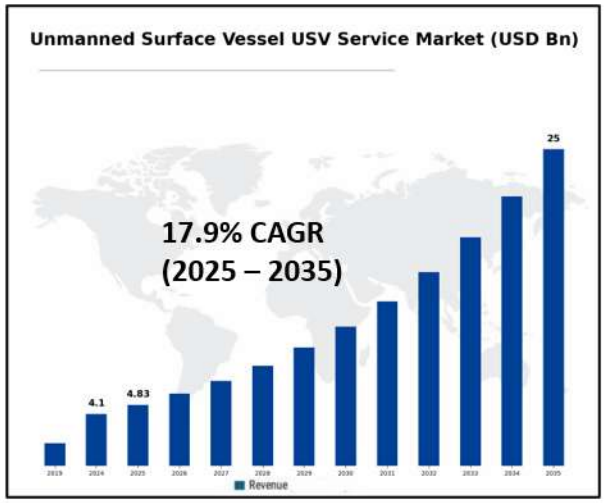
- Navy
- Coast Guard
- Army
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Science Foundation
- National Park Service

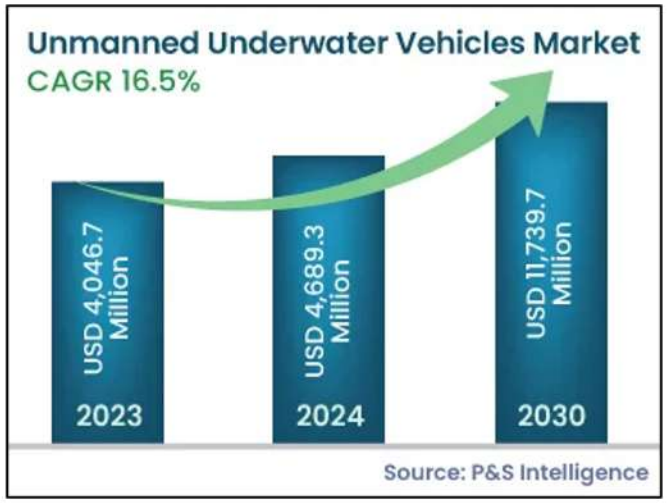
Industry Ripe for Diversification

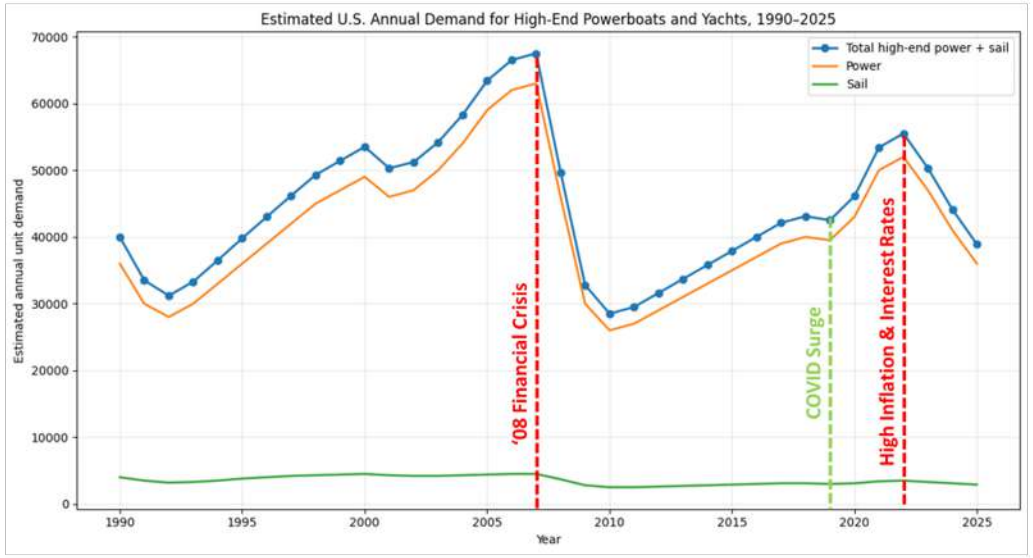
SELECT USV / UUV MAKERS BY DISCLOSED FUNDING

Company	Country	Disclosed Investment
Anduril Industries		~$6B+
Saronic Technologies		~$2.58B+
Saildrone		~$325M
Advanced Navigation		~US$199M
XOCEAN		~US$155M+
HavocAI		~$100M+
Vatn Systems		~$76.5M+
Blue Water Autonomy		~$64M+
Bedrock Ocean Exploration		~$63M+
Sea Machines Robotics		~$45.7M

- **Rising Investments**
- **Projected Transformational Growth**
- **Commercial Boat Sales Economically Sensitive**







State Activity Examples

FLORIDACOMMERCE

1. DESIGNATED MARITIME AS A FLORIDA TARGET INDUSTRY



Target Industries and Clarifications ("incl." = but not limited to)

- ❑ 4 Cross-Cutting Target Industries:
  - ❑ Corporate Headquarters
  - ❑ Logistics – incl. Shipping, Distribution, Packaging, Processing
  - ❑ Manufacturing
  - ❑ Research and Development
- ❑ 8 Sector-Specific Target Industries:
  - ❑ Aerospace and Aviation – incl. MRO, Pilot Training, Air Traffic Control, AAM, UAS/UAV
  - ❑ AgTech – incl. Emerging Technologies, Timber, Aquaculture, etc.
  - ❑ Energy Security – incl. Semiconductors, Superconducting, Nuclear, Hydrogen, Energy Storage, etc.
  - ❑ Financial Services – incl. Insurance, FinTech
  - ❑ Information Technology – incl. Emerging Technologies, Cybersecurity
  - ❑ Life Sciences – incl. Pharmaceuticals, Medical Device Technology, Digital Health
  - ❑ Maritime – incl. Commercial and Industrial Base Shipbuilding, MRO
  - ❑ Military and Defense – incl. Dual Use Tech, Law Enforcement Tech, Modeling, Simulation and Training

2. Framed maritime as part of a broader industrial ecosystem

3. Secured a major federal apprenticeship award tied to shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing

4. Connected maritime to workforce credentials and emerging-demand occupations



MARITIME – incl. Commercial and Industrial Base Shipbuilding, MRO
2022 - 2024

GDP	Establishments	Jobs	Average Wage
$8.5 B	1,547	44,230	$88,342
Increase 15.0%	Increase 13.8%	Increase 5.0%	Increase 10.4%

2028 Forecast:
+2,947 Additional Jobs by 2028
Increase of 6.0%

Industry Overview

Maritime, including Commercial and Industrial Base Shipbuilding and MRO, is emerging as a newly designated Target Industry, building on the state's longstanding maritime heritage while positioning Florida to support the next generation of shipbuilding, freight operations, and ship sustainment. Florida's extensive coastline, deepwater ports, navigable inland waterways, and proximity to major global trade routes provide clear competitive advantages for maritime business activity.

The Maritime Industry captures a broad cluster of NAICS codes that, together, form a diverse and expansive new Target Industry, extending beyond shipbuilding to encompass the full maritime industrial ecosystem. It includes subsectors like Maritime Manufacturing, Freight Operations, and Maritime Support Activities. Together, these components reflect the integrated nature of modern maritime production, where manufacturing, infrastructure, and skilled labor operate as a unified ecosystem supporting both commercial and industrial maritime needs.

Florida ranks first in the nation in Maritime establishments, with more than 1,500, marking Florida as the only state to eclipse more than 750 establishments within the sector nationwide. Additionally, Florida ranks first nationally in Maritime employment and is demonstrating strong momentum. Employment is projected to grow by 6% by 2028, outpacing national trends across several key subsectors. Employment in Nautical Systems and Instrument Manufacturing is projected to grow by 11% reflecting increasing demand for advanced navigation, detection, and control systems. Deep Sea Freight Transportation employment in Florida is projected to grow by 7% through 2028, while national employment in the subsector is expected to decline, underscoring Florida's competitive position in global maritime trade. Collectively, these factors highlight why Florida is well positioned to expand its role as a center for Maritime production and innovation. The designation of Maritime – incl. Commercial and Industrial Base Shipbuilding, MRO – as a Target Industry reflects the state's commitment to supporting this critical sector through coordinated investment, workforce development, and policy alignment.



U.S. Department of Labor Awards $40 Million to Expand Registered Apprenticeships Nationally

Jul 8, 2026

~ FloridaCommerce was awarded $40 million to support a nationwide incentive program through a consortium led by the State Workforce Board and CareerSource Florida for the defense industrial base, shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing sectors. ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Today, FloridaCommerce announced that Florida has been awarded $40 million by the U.S. Department of Labor to support nationwide efforts to expand apprenticeships in the defense industrial base, shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing sectors—with nearly 80 partners across the state offering Letters of Support for this new program.

"Thank you to Acting Secretary Keith Sonderling and the U.S. Department of Labor for supporting Florida's efforts to expand our maritime industrial base by driving talent development across our maritime and defense sectors," **said Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly.** "Home to 16 deepwater seaports and 21 major military installations, and ranked the #1 state in the nation for workforce development, maritime industrial base jobs, and ship- and boat-building establishments, Florida is uniquely positioned to support our nation's efforts to develop the high-skill talent across these critical industries—bolstering job growth while supporting our national defense."

5. Positioned maritime w/in Florida's logistics & export advantages

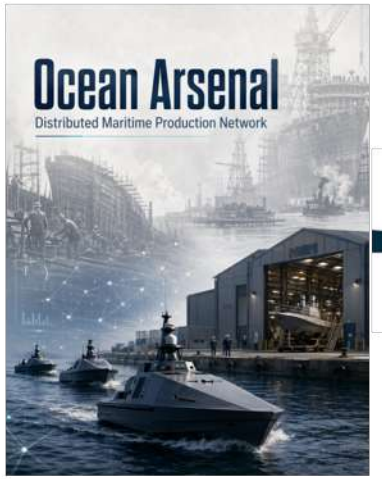
6. Continued defense-economic analysis and planning work

7. Opened DRG and FDSC grant cycles; can support maritime-defense work

One Local Action: Defense Reinvestment Grant

OVERALL INTENT

- **Convert Broward's Commercial Maritime Strengths Into a Defense-ready & Dual-use Industrial Ecosystem**
- **Advance Project Ocean Arsenal Concept**
  - Modeling maritime readiness
  - Preparing vendors for defense work & dual-use demand
- **Identify Where Broward's Strongest Maritime-defense Capabilities Exist Today & Where Additional Capacity can Realistically be Scaled**
  - Including: waterfront hubs, inland suppliers, workforce assets, advanced-manufacturing clusters, & logistics nodes
- **Staged, Evidence-based Methodology**
- **Strengthen Broward's Ability to Support SFOMF & Emerging Unmanned Surface/Undersea Vessel Opportunities**



Model Readiness
Prepare Vendors
Match to Needs

Five-Layer Assessment Model



What maritime industrial capability exists and operates today?



How much additional maritime defense capacity could realistically be created, converted, or scaled?



Will other growth sectors amplify maritime defense scale-up, or will they significantly compete for the same resources?



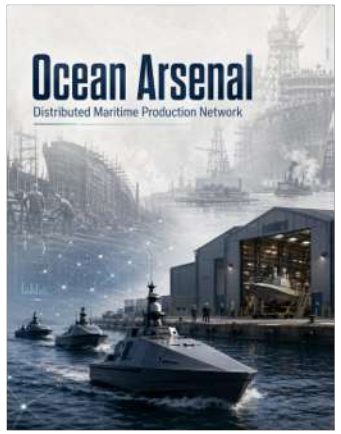
Is the tract, cluster, or corridor a credible maritime defense growth zone?



What happens if the MPZ is activated: economic & job impacts?

Rick Miller
Executive Director
CAPT, USN (Ret)

Bottleneck not Demand – Qualified Capacity Builder / Vendor Pathway



Baseline & In-Take — Tier 1 — ~ 2 weeks

Contract-Ready Foundation — Tier 2 — ~ 30 – 90+ days

Secure Technical Exchange — Tier 3 — ~ 60 – 120+ days

LRIP Readiness — Tier 4 — ~ 90 – 180+ days

Scaling & Sustainment — Tier 5

Work Funnel Highlights

- Capability Proof, Sanitized Profile & Fit Decision
- SAM/UEI/CAGE Registrations, Cyber Plan, QMS Plan, Workforce & Facility Needs
- Clean Team & TDP, Configuration Controls
- PRR, FAI, FAT, Test Readiness
- Rate Ramp, Supplier Controls, Warranty, PMO

Aerospace & Defense Corridor Development Zone Example

A – SOUTH DADE AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CORRIDOR (white-shaded boundaries are illustrative only – anchored along US1)

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY plus Five Municipalities

PINECREST / PALMETTO BAY / CUTLER BAY / HOMESTEAD / FLORIDA CITY

B – Miami-Dade Executive Airport

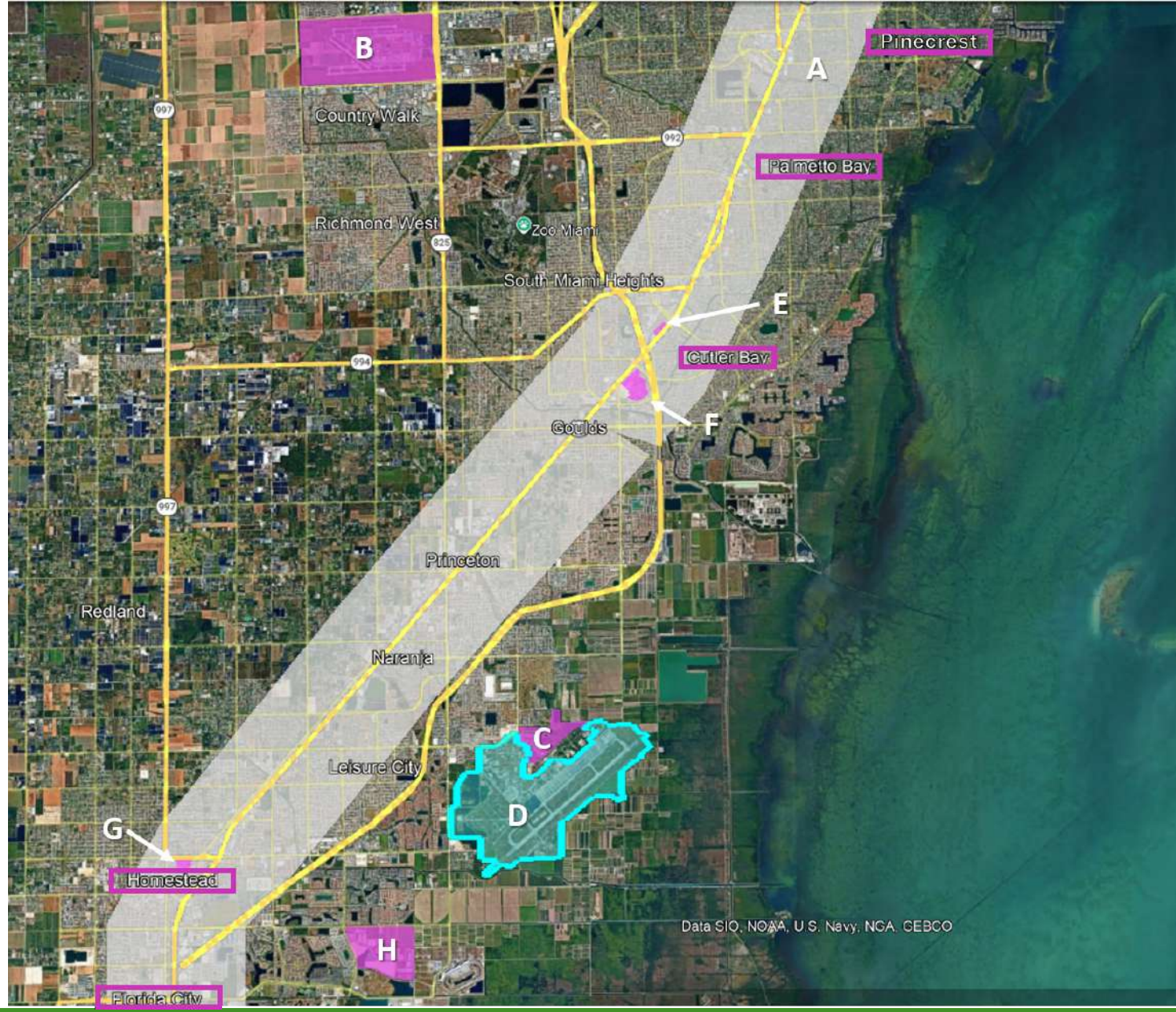
C – Miami-Dade County State Spaceport Territory

D – Homestead Air Reserve Base / State Spaceport Territory

E – 19500 S. Dixie Hwy, Cutler Bay (100K sqft)

F – Southland Mall Redevelopment

G – Homestead [illegible]

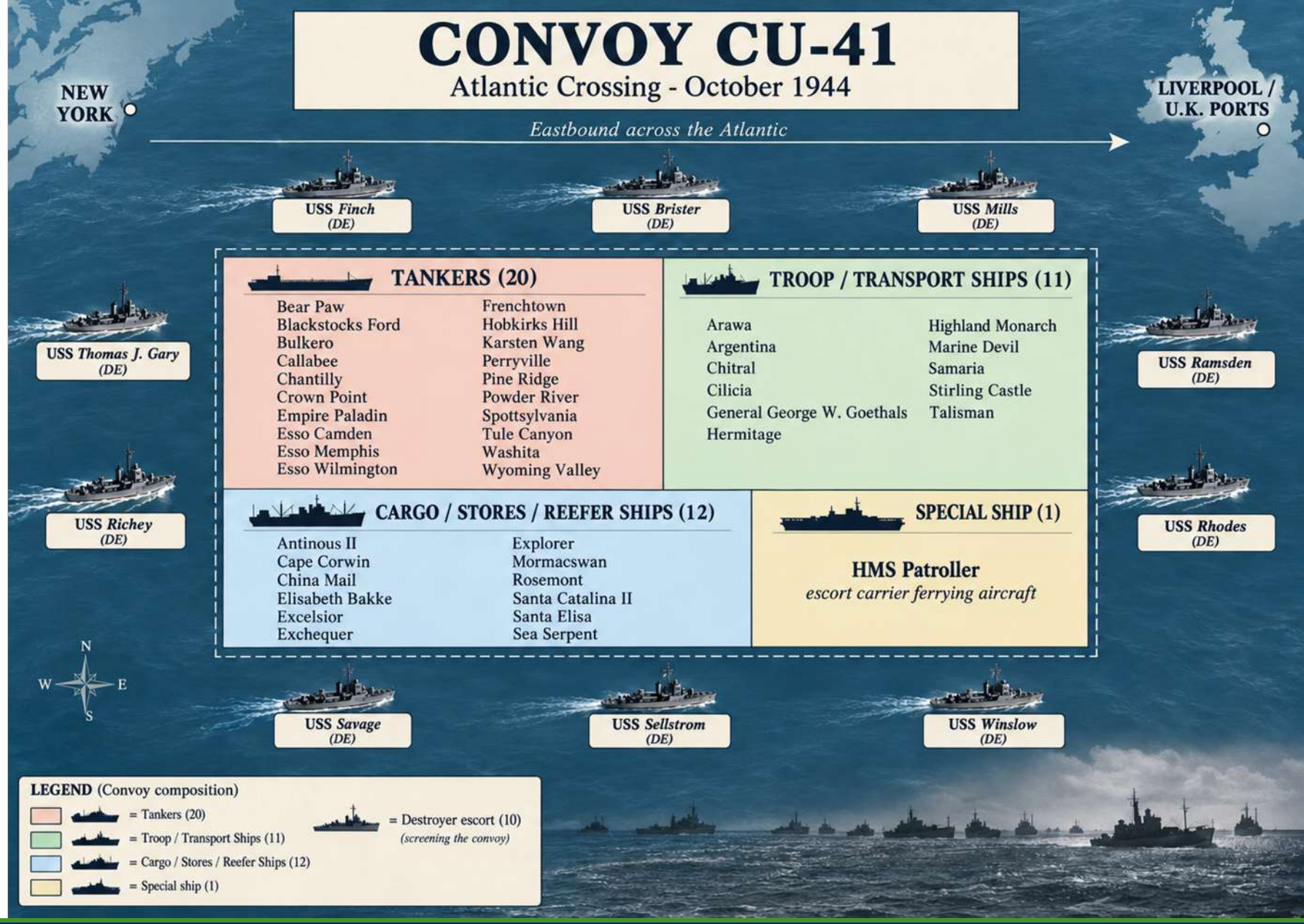


Rick Miller
Executive Director
CAPT, USN (Ret)

82 Years Ago…

OCTOBER 1944:

- (733) merchant-ship sailings moved eastward in the CU, HX, and SC North Atlantic convoy streams alone
- (5) CU fast convoys; 175 ship-sailings; ~ 12 million barrels of petroleum lift; 3X+ today's entire active Military Sealift Command fleet



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Slogans Do Not Create Jobs…or Hulls in the Water



Blue Tech…



Blue Economy…



Ocean Economy…



Implementation Does









Action Sprint – Pick One Thing and Give Yourself Homework….

Function/Area	Owner	Action	Deadline	Output/Result
Supplier Ready	*Your Name*	*???*	*< 6 Months*	*???*
Workforce				
Capital				
Legislative				
Regulatory				
Demonstration				
Other…?				

South Florida
DEFENSE ALLIANCE

SFDA

UNITE ★ CHAMPION ★ GROW

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