



Mad Libs: War Edition

What's on the horizon for warfare in 2012? **FP** asked some of the world's top experts to fill in the blanks.

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THE MOST OVERLOOKED NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT TO THE U.S. IS ...

U.S. economic decline. —Thomas Bowditch, Paul Kapur, Edward Luttwak * The global proliferation of cheap surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. —Spencer Ackerman * **A weak China.** —Kristen Lord * Gun swarms. —John Arquilla * Christian extremism. —George Perkovich * **Saudi Arabia's fragility.**—Peter W. Singer * Cyberattacks. —Robert D. Kaplan * The spread of precision-guided weaponry and supporting capabilities. —Thomas Mahken * Overreactions to security threats. — Benjamin H. Friedman * Pandemics. —David Barno * **WMDs.** —Frank Carlucci * Global warming. —John Nagl * The deficit. —Ian Livingston * Our inability to learn from our past mistakes. —Christopher Preble

AL QAEDA IS ...

Weakened but still lethal. —Robert D. Kaplan * Sliding toward strategic defeat. —Graham Allison * Dangerous, vulnerable, but still persistent. —Thomas Bowditch * Yesterday's terrorist problem. —Erik Dahl * **Nearly defunct.** —David Barno * Through as an organization, but still alive as an organizational concept for other groups. —

Thomas Keaney * **Dead.** —Edward Luttwak * Like Godfather's Pizza: It was never that successful, but we are likely to hear from nutjobs who were part of it for years to come. —Peter W. Singer * Toast. —Donald M. Snow * **Losing the war of ideas among Muslims.** —Kori Schake

THE EXAMPLE OF PENTAGON BLOAT THAT MAKES ME ANGRUEST IS ...

The F-35. —John Arquilla ("A trillion dollars for a new fighter, when we've had only one fighter shot down by an enemy fighter in 40 years, is a sheer waste."), Thomas H. Johnson, Paul Kapur, Barry Posen, Peter W. Singer * **The preposterous number of U.S. aircraft carriers.** —William Rosenau * Billions of dollars in the last 10 years on canceled weaponry. —David Barno * **The Pentagon is no more bloated than any federal agency.** —Jamie M. Fly * The number of people and size of headquarters. —Robert Cassidy * The large bases in Afghanistan. —Carter Malkasian * U.S. Special Operations Command. —Edward Luttwak * Its inability to complete an audit. —Christopher Preble

BARACK OBAMA'S BIGGEST MISTAKE AS A WARTIME PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ...

Tripling down in Afghanistan. —Graham Allison * The premature withdrawal of the surge forces from Afghanistan. —Peter Mansoor * **Not getting out of Afghanistan faster.** —Donald M. Snow * Letting his reelection campaign affect his decision-making. —Robert D. Kaplan * **His overly rapid drawdown from Iraq.** —Kenneth M. Pollack * His slow response to the Arab Spring. —Kristin Lord * His failure to stand up to the military and act as his own chief strategist. —John Arquilla * **Thinking of himself as a peacetime president.** —Danielle Pletka

THE BEST NATIONAL SECURITY IDEA OF THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN IS ...

Mitt Romney's plan to increase naval shipbuilding from nine new major warships per year to 15. —Robert Haddick * **Ron Paul's proposition that the U.S. is not the solution to every international problem.** —Graham Allison * Jon Huntsman's call for a quicker-than-planned withdrawal from Afghanistan. —John Deni * A strong and well-trained U.S. military is the world's best guarantee of peace. —Peter Mansoor * The

willingness to review Pentagon spending. —Richard Kohn * **Still waiting to hear one.** —Linda Robinson

The opinions here are those of the respondents alone.