

The Army - At War and Transforming: National Strategy And Future Army Forces

The threat to the U.S. Homeland has demonstrated the necessity of restructuring United States government institutions to protect America from violent threats and eradicate the potential actions of transnational aggressors. The National Security Strategy (NSS) represents a clear break with the past and in an unprecedented manner, demands government institutions become effective security conscious organizations. The Army, within the Defense Department, is rapidly responding to this challenge by contributing significantly in the fight to eliminate terrorist enclaves while continuing on a path of transformation to create a ground force that can respond to emerging global threats with greater speed, lethality, and versatility.

The current NSS parts irrevocably from the Cold War era by adopting a policy of preemption, a strategy that allows for immediate unilateral offensive action before the enemy strikes first. For valid reasons, previous U.S. strategy was based on an inherently defensive posture, but with the knowledge that our potential adversary had as much to lose as we did in any conflict. Current threats have already displayed disdain towards their possible destruction and future threats will conceivably embrace the same mentality. This mindset coupled with the potential damage from an adversary's use of Weapons of Mass Destruction or Mass Effects compels us to act first and act decisively.

Deterrence and dominance are at the heart of our security strategy. Our policy of preemption provides the critical insulation that occupies the crucial middle ground between enemies who remain undeterred, and those who hide within failed nations or criminal nations to frustrate dominance. Preemption allows for rapid and decisive action that is scalable to the situation. It demands military forces deployable and versatile enough to go into a variety of situations and defeat or defuse a threat. Army Transformation was well under way when our nation was attacked. The horror of that day reinforced the Army's non-negotiable contract of fighting our Nation's wars and protecting the nation against future threats. Our Transformation efforts are comprehensive and measured, meaning we know our future force must own training and information-age technologies while simultaneously standing ready to fight and win on short notice.

The Current Army is postured to support our National Strategy while our Army's transformation will facilitate the implementation of future strategies. Army Transformation contains multiple efforts, allowing the Army to cover more contingencies in the near term by updating the current force with advanced information systems and improving readiness. We are also building and certifying Stryker Brigade Combat Teams ideally suited to rapidly deploy and operate in rough terrain against insurgents and terrorists. We are capitalizing on technology to leap to an even more capable force, the Objective Force, designed to deal with all future conventional and unconventional threats in any environment and level

of conflict. This comprehensive approach supports the current strategy and anticipates future strategies in three key areas: Maintaining Balance, Global Responsibilities, and Strategic Responsiveness.

MAINTAINING BALANCE: Army Transformation does not ignore or discard the combat superiority and overmatch provided by the Current Force. We retain both the deployable light forces and lethal heavy forces needed to win decisively today. Recent events worldwide, such as operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines and many other places highlight the need for both effective mounted and dismounted operations and the continued requirement for organic firepower to support our troops in combat. Army Transformation focuses effort on the Current Force, the readiness and well being of its' soldiers, to win the ongoing fight, and as part of our comprehensive Transformation.

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Army Transformation builds capabilities that can be effectively used in any environment against any opponent. Unconventional threats are continually adapting and seeking asymmetries while altering their tactics and bases of operations. Additionally, future conventional threats may emerge in a variety of critical geographic regions. Transformed Army units possess the flexibility to respond both in terms of size and missions. It is prudent to assume that an evolving National Security Strategy must consider global operations and a variety of possible scenarios. The Army contains the depth in organization to meet these challenges while our Transformation effort anticipates and postures us for future threats.

STRATEGIC RESPONSIVENESS: The policy of preemption demands mobile, deployable ground forces capable of rapid entry into a hostile area and decisive action through precision maneuver once committed. Countering emerging threats demands an Army that can cope with complex and urban terrain in a variety of different sized conflicts, against enemies that wear no uniform, yet possess weapons of mass destruction. The common denominator in future conflicts is the timely delivery of the right combat power at the correct location to achieve the desired result. Effects-based strategy demands the entire joint force contain both speed and power and this is why Army Transformation includes both prompt, sustained, and lethal forces. We have developed the metrics of a combat brigade equivalent in 96 hours, a division on the ground in 120 hours and five divisions in 30 days as our future deployment goals. These goals provide incremental combat power delivery over time and will give the Joint Force Commander, as well as the nation, an effective instrument to realize our national security objectives