The National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism (NMSP-WOT)

Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict Conference
13 March 2006

This briefing is UNCLASSIFIED
Agenda

• 21st Century Security Environment
• Strategies for the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)
• Implications of failure
• Closing Thoughts
"Adversaries increasingly seek asymmetric capabilities and will use them in innovative ways." - 2004 NMS

**Wider Range of Adversaries**
- bin Laden
- Mohammed Atta
- Kim Jung-II

**Technology Diffusion & Access**
- WMD
- Rogue State Armies
- Ballistic Missiles
- GPS Communications

**More Complex & Distributed Battlespace**
- Insurgency & Unconventional Warfare
- Terrorism
- Computer Network Attack

**High Intensity Combat**

Full spectrum capabilities required
Nature of the War

- The United States is at war against extremists that advocate the use of violence, to include murder, to gain control over others, and in doing so, threaten our way of life.
  - Not a religious or cultural clash, despite extremists’ claims to the contrary.

- It is a war to preserve ordinary peoples’ ability to live as they choose, and to protect the tolerance and moderation of open societies from the onslaught of extremists.

- The United States must ally itself with others who are moderate in their beliefs -- such as mainstream Muslims who reject domination by extremists.

- Success will rely heavily on close cooperation and integration of all instruments of national power and the combined efforts of the international community.
Nature of the Enemy

• We are under attack from a *global movement* comprising:
  1. Violent extremist organizations, networks, and individuals
     • *Primary enemy*: Extremist movements that exploit Islam for ideological ends.
     • *Most dangerous*: Al Qa'ida and associated extremists.
     • One of the extremists’ key instruments is terrorism – assassinations and murder of ordinary people.
  2. State and non-state supporters of violent extremist organizations
     • Some supporters are ideologically motivated, some are not.
     • Some supporters -- corrupt government officials, criminals and others -- forge opportunistic “alliances of convenience” with violent extremists.

• Components of a network:
  – *Leadership* - *Safe haven* - *Weapons*
  – *Finance* - *Communication* - *Personnel*
  – *Movement* - *Intelligence* - *Ideological Support*
The Enemy’s Current Fight

- Establish New Safe Havens in Latin America
- Expand Safe Havens in the Sahel
- Develop Safe Havens in Syria & Iran
- Maintain Safe Havens on Afghan-Pakistan Border
- Expand Safe Havens in Somalia & SE Asia

Active Jihads
Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Somalia, Algeria, Chechnya, Kashmir, Philippines

Take advantage of open societies, strike when and where we choose
The Enemy’s Future Fight

Bankrupt and Exhaust the Far Enemy

Continue to Establish Safe Havens

Expand Dar al Islam

Expand the Jihad to secure Dar al Islam, overthrow apostates, gain WMD capabilities, and control the oil resources of the region
Al-Zawahiri to Al-Zarqawi Letter

- On 25 Aug, an email authored on 9 July from al-Zawahiri to al-Zarqawi was intercepted
- Released and posted on DNI web page in both Arabic and English
- Provides a look at the AQ strategic perspective
  - Describes strategic goals
  - Highlights American vulnerabilities
  - Specifies specific phases of operations
  - Delineates lines of operation or elements of strategy
- Authenticity disputed by al-Qaeda and some western experts
**Al-Zawahiri to Al-Zarqawi Letter**

**Strategic Aim:**
“A Muslim state established in the manner of the Prophet in the heart of the Islamic world, specifically in the Levant, Egypt, and the neighboring states of the Peninsula and Iraq”

- Specified Phases of the Operation
  1. Expel the Americans from Iraq and establish an Islamic authority
  2. Extend the jihad wave to the secular countries near Iraq
  3. Destroy Israel
  4. Establish the caliphate (strategic aim)

“The Jihad in Iraq requires several incremental goals.”
One View of the Caliphate

THE MAP OF UNITED STATES OF ISLAM

THE DREAM OF 20th CENTURY MUSLIMS WILL BE REAL IN 21st CENTURY

BY H.G.

Source: Islamic-Youth.Net

FIGHT IN THE WAY OF ALLAH (AGAINST THE ENEMY OF ISLAM)

WORLD ISLAMIC MISSION RESEARCH DIVISION

UNCLASSIFIED
**National Strategy for the GWOT**

**Strategic Aims:**
- Defeat violent extremism as a threat to our way of life as a free and open society, and
- Create a global environment inhospitable to violent extremists and all who support them

**Ways**

**Ends**

- Protect and defend the Homeland
- Attack terrorists and their capacity to operate effectively at home and abroad
- Support mainstream Muslim efforts to reject violent extremism

**Means**

- Expand foreign partnerships and partnership capacity
- Strengthening our capacity to prevent terrorist acquisition and use of WMD
- Institutionalizing domestically and internationally the strategy against violent extremists

**Instruments of National Power**
**Military Strategic Framework for the GWOT**

**Strategic Goal:** Preserve and promote the way of life of free and open societies based on the rule of law, defeat terrorist extremism as a threat to our way of life, and create a global environment inhospitable to terrorist extremists.

**Ends**
- Protect the Homeland
- Disrupt and Attack Terrorist Networks
- Counter Ideological Support for Terrorism

**Ways**
- Deny terrorists the resources they need to operate and survive.
- Enable partner nations to counter terrorism.
- Deny WMD/E proliferation, recover and eliminate uncontrolled materials, and maintain capacity for consequence mgmt.
- Defeat terrorists and their organizations.
- Counter state and non-state support for terrorism in coordination with other U.S. Government agencies and partner nations.
- Contribute to the establishment of conditions that counter ideological support for terrorism.

**Means**
- Combatant Commands, Services, and Combat Support Agencies
Military Contributions to Countering Extremist Ideology

• The military does not have the lead for countering ideology in the USG, but we play a significant role.

• Focused Military Strategic Objective: Establish conditions that counter ideological support for terrorism.

  – DoD’s role falls into five categories:
    – Security
    – Information Operations
    – Humanitarian Support
    – Military to Military Contacts
    – Conduct of Operations

*Critical to DoD’s contribution is educating our leaders.*
Conduct of Operations

The US military’s most important contributions to CIST may result from the way we conduct operations.

- Importance of choosing when, where, and how (or whether) to conduct operations

- Conduct of operations informed by knowledge of indigenous populations’ culture and religious sensitivities

- Where appropriate, choosing means other than kinetic means

- Where kinetic means are necessary, building-in mitigating measures to off-set negative effects
NMSP-WOT Highlights

Annex C: Operations

Annex H: Strategic Comms

Annex R: Assessment

National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism

1 December 2005
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington, DC 20318
NMSP-WOT Annex C: Operations

SOCOM’s Role in the GWOT

*Implements the Secretary’s designation of CDR, USSOCOM as the supported combatant commander for planning, synchronizing, and as directed, executing global operations against terrorist networks.*

- CDR, USSOCOM leads a global collaborative planning process leveraging other combatant command capabilities and expertise

- In this role, USSOCOM’s specific responsibilities include:
  - Integrating DoD strategy into GWOT plans and establishing intelligence priorities against terrorist networks.
  - Prioritizing and synchronizing security cooperation activities, deployments, and capabilities in campaigns against terrorist networks
  - Exercising command and control of CT operations, as directed.
  - Creating, implementing and directing global operational preparation of the environment (OPE).
**NMSP-WOT Annex H: Strategic Communication**

- **Strategic Communication (SC) (per JSCP):** *The transmission of integrated and coordinated USG themes and messages that advance US interests and policies through a synchronized interagency effort supported by Public Diplomacy, Public Affairs, and military IO, in concert with other political, economic, information and military actions.*

- Identifies DoD GWOT SC objectives.
- Articulates DoD’s support to USG SC efforts for the GWOT.
- Articulates DoD’s mission, concept of operations, and coordinating instructions for SC.
  - Describes the JS organization (SCSG) and synchronization framework to assist CJCS and Cbt Cmds with SC issues.
  - Cbt Cmds are to develop processes for integrating SC within operational plans, and may identify a SC director to coordinate and oversee SC activities.
**Military Strategic Objectives**

1. Deny terrorists the resources they need to operate and survive
2. Enable partner nations to counter terrorism
3. Deny WMD/E proliferation, recover and eliminate uncontrolled materials, and maintain capacity for consequence management
4. Defeat terrorists and their organizations
5. Counter state and non-state support for terrorism in coordination with other U.S. Government agencies and partner nations
6. Contribute to the establishment of conditions that counter ideological support for terrorism

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**ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

- **Metrics**
  - COCOMS SERVICES
  - COMBAT SUPPORT AGENCIES

- **Strategic Planning Team**
  - O6 Level Planners
  - IDENTIFY SHORTFALLS
  - RECOMMEND CHANGES TO METRICS

- **Executive Steering Group**
  - GO/FO Level Review
  - Action Plans

**Feedback**

**Integrating Influences**

**USG Metrics**

**CJCS Assessment of Risk**

**QDR**

**Other USG Processes**

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**PPBE Process**
What are the implications of failure?

- The further spread of terrorism- “Spillover”
- Massive restrictions of civil liberties in the West to try to stem the expanding threat
- Moderate governments at risk
- Civil unrest in countries with sizable Muslim minorities
Closing Thoughts

- This is a test of wills…and the enemy has staying power
- In four years of war, we have never lost a platoon in combat
- They never have to beat us militarily…just stay alive
- Islam has powerful antibodies against extremism but also against foreign occupation
- Must not allow the extremist ideology to become mainstream
- The enemy’s network is decentralized, franchised, no rules, dangerous, believes we are weak
- The indirect elements of our national power must be mobilized to help Muslim nations help themselves
NMSP-WOT available

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Questions