

# A NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY FOR A NEW CENTURY, OCTOBER 1998

## Proponent

The proponent for this document is the White House (President of the United States).

## Web Site Location

This document is at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/NSC/html/documents/nssr.pdf>

## Definition

*National Security Strategy - A report, from the President of the United States, submitted in accordance with Section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Department Reorganization Act of 1986. The political leadership develops the current U.S. national interests and objectives. The National Security Strategy is then formulated based on existing threats and opportunities to the United States.*

*Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986 - Legislation related to DOD reform. Its purpose was to enhance the legal authority of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the unified commanders. Its practical purpose was to improve U.S. warfighting capability, particularly in terms of organizational relationships and responsibilities. Implementation has been, at times, controversial in terms of the shifting of power from the Services to the Joint Staff and the CINCs, particularly as interpreted by the Joint Staff. It is worth noting that the Joint Staff has remained an organization that assists the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff as opposed to transitioning to a "general" staff.*

*Quadrennial Defense Review - The QDR is required by the Military Force Structure Review Act that was included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997. The Department of Defense designed the QDR to be a fundamental and comprehensive examination of America's defense needs from 1997 to 2015 that must include: potential threats, strategy, force structure, readiness posture, military modernization programs, defense infrastructure, and other elements of the defense program. The QDR provides a blueprint for a strategy-based, balanced and affordable defense program.*

## Synopsis

This document is an updated and more detailed version of the May 1997 National Security Strategy. This version appears to provide a little more emphasis on environmental security and public health issues.

The Presidential strategic priorities for guiding our global leadership include:

- ◆ fostering regional efforts to promote peace and prosperity in key regions of the world,
- ◆ increasing cooperation in confronting new security threats that defy traditional solutions,
- ◆ strengthening and integrating military, diplomatic and law enforcement solutions, and
- ◆ creating more jobs and opportunities for Americans through a more open and competitive economic system that also benefits others around the world.

The strategy emphasizes the fact that there are limits to our worldwide involvement.



## Report Documentation Page

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The document describes our three national interest categories and how they are considered in any potential actions taken:

- ◆ vital interests—broad, overriding importance to the survival, safety and vitality of our nation. Includes the physical security of our territory and that of our allies, the safety of our citizens, our economic well-being and the protection of our critical infrastructures.
- ◆ important national interests—affect our national well-being and the character of the world in which we live. Examples include: efforts to halt the flow of refugees from Haiti and restore democracy in that state, our participation in NATO operations in Bosnia and our efforts to protect the global environment.
- ◆ humanitarian and other interests—our values demand it. While we may respond to natural and manmade disasters, the emphasis is on averting humanitarian disasters and conflict through diplomacy and worldwide cooperation. This preventive approach saves lives, and reduces the drain on resources caused by intervention in crises.

Threats to US interests are:

- ◆ regional or state-centered—nations resorting to coercion and aggression,
- ◆ transnational—states or organizations resorting to terrorism, international crime, drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, uncontrolled refugee migrations, and environmental damage,
- ◆ spread of dangerous technologies—proliferation of advanced weapons and technologies provides rogue states, terrorists, and international crime organizations the means to attack and destroy the U.S., its allies and citizens and troops abroad,
- ◆ foreign intelligence collection—using new technologies and innovative methods to obtain military, diplomatic, technological and commercial secrets, and
- ◆ failed states—inability to provide basic governance, services, and opportunities for their people, that could lead to internal conflict, humanitarian crises, or regional instability.

The three national objectives to respond to these challenges and threats include enhancing our security, bolstering our economic prosperity, and promoting democracy abroad.

- ◆ Enhancing security—We will continue an integrated approach in addressing the numerous threats to our interests and preserve a full range of foreign policy tools. Three threat categories must be addressed: regional or state-centered, transnational, and weapons of mass destruction. To accomplish this we must:
  - ⇒ *Shape* the international environment by promoting regional security and preventing or reducing the aforementioned threats. Diplomacy, international assistance, arms control, and nonproliferation initiatives are some of the tools that will be used.
  - ⇒ *Respond* to crises by focusing on challenges that most directly affect our interests. We will be more selective in our engagements, choosing where we can make the most difference. We will respond to growing transnational threats including terrorism, drug trafficking, and international organized crime.
  - ⇒ *Prepare* now for an uncertain future by fostering innovation in new operational concepts, capabilities, and technologies to be able to shape and respond more effectively in the future. To be successful in implementing our national strategy, we must recruit, develop, and retain quality people (most critical asset), and develop the most advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities (critical instruments).

- ◆ Promoting prosperity—our economic and security interests are inextricably linked. We need to promote America’s prosperity by strengthening macroeconomic coordination enhancing American competitiveness, enhancing access to foreign markets, promoting an open trading system, implementing our export strategy and advocacy program, enhancing export control, providing for energy security, and promoting sustainable development abroad.
- ◆ Promoting Democracy—we must strengthen the commitment and institutional capacity of foreign states to implement democratic reforms and support human rights. We must focus on assisting emerging democracies, promote adherence to universal human rights and democratic principles. Finally, our efforts to promote democracy and human rights must be complemented by our humanitarian assistance programs which are designed to alleviate human suffering, help establish democratic regimes that respect human rights, and pursue appropriate strategies for economic development. These efforts help prevent humanitarian disasters that require more significant resources.

Integrated regional approaches to enhancing security, promoting prosperity, and promoting democracy are described. The approaches are tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities within each of the regions. The basic approaches are discussed in some detail. The regional categories of the world are:

- ◆ Europe and Eurasia,
- ◆ East Asia and the Pacific,
- ◆ The Western Hemisphere,
- ◆ The Middle East, Southwest and South Asia, and
- ◆ Africa

This National Security Strategy continues the efforts of the U.S. to build new frameworks, partnerships, and institutions, while modifying existing ones, to strengthen America’s security and prosperity

## What Does This Mean for Military Public Health?

Military public health opportunities and challenges abound. To support the National Security Strategy we must:

- ◆ be able to respond to the full range of threats; from a small humanitarian mission to a major theatre war.
- ◆ be positioned to assist with activities such as promoting sustainable development abroad, intervening in infectious diseases resulting from poverty and rapid urbanization.
- ◆ focus preventive medicine assets on responding to problems resulting from increased population growth, environmental degradation, and refugee migration from intervention and teaching perspectives.
- ◆ recruit, develop, and retain quality people.
- ◆ develop the most advanced medical intelligence, medical surveillance, and health reconnaissance capabilities and integrate these capabilities within established military command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence frameworks.

The following themes are common to other planning documents on our list:

- ◆ preventive medicine is a comprehensive program to protect the health and environment of military personnel. We have unique expertise at the USACHPPM in our diverse staff of scientists and engineers. The coordinated efforts of these experts with their DoD and U.S. Alliance counterparts will benefit our nation's political and military strategies.
- ◆ to support the emerging directions for defense, we need to critically rethink, redesign, or eliminate those product and service processes that are inefficient. We need to assess our preventive medicine organizational strengths and weaknesses to ensure preventive medicine and health promotion assets can perform their mission both today and in the future.
- ◆ we need to review all of our products and services to determine if their use results in promoting and maintaining a healthy and fit Force. We must create a common culture throughout the DoD that values health and fitness. We should focus on value added products and services that increase our ability to help shape the international HP & PM environment of tomorrow.
- ◆ we need to optimize the use of technology to obtain, evaluate, and disseminate preventive medicine information. Finally, we must demonstrate the effectiveness of environmental health, occupational health and health promotion in minimizing risk and optimizing readiness, fitness, and health.
- ◆ We need to work with the respective service schools and/or policy and doctrine development organizations to ensure these concepts are included in Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force policy and doctrine.