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UNITED STATES STRATEGY: SECURING AMERICA'S INTERESTS

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When studying US military strategy one must understand the meaning of "**national interests**" and "**national security**." The overriding national interest is economic. From that it follows that it is business interests that need security. Therefore, the term "national interests" can be translated to "business interests," and "national security" to "corporate security." With these definitions in mind let us proceed to a discussion of current US strategy and what the Pentagon plans for the future.¹

A. THE NUANCES OF CURRENT U.S. STRATEGY.

In Chapter One of his April 1997 *Annual Report to the President and the Congress*, and in the May 1997 *Report of the Quadrennial Defense Review*, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen outlines US strategy. Overarching everything is the National Security Strategy which is global in scope. Sub-headed under that are the Regional Security Strategies. US Military Strategy is then outlined as the means of enforcing the first two. In his 1998 *Annual Report to the President and the Congress*, Secretary Cohen moved the US Military Strategy up a notch -- directly under National Security Strategy to support the imperative of engagement outlined in the national strategy. Then, sub-headed under US Military Strategy is its application in various regions of the world.

1. U.S. National Security Strategy.

"To protect and advance US interests, the American government must be able to shape the international environment, influencing the policies and actions of others."² As we discussed at the beginning of this paper, US interests are really big business interests. In Cohen's words, the essence of national security is to manipulate the world order so as to enhance the profits of US businesses.

Thus the US National Security Strategy is called one of **engagement** abroad in the areas of greatest economic interests while encouraging allies and friends to pick up part of the tab. According to Cohen, this means taking pragmatic steps to enlarge global free market democracies in which US

¹For a history of US strategy see PLRC-980427 -- *History of United States Strategy*.

²Cohen-1997, p. 2.

entrepreneurs are masters at competing. Cohen itemizes the three principle objectives of US National Security Strategy:³

- **Enhancing security.** The United States must maintain a strong defense [sic] capability and promote cooperative security measures..
- **Promoting prosperity.** The United States will promote prosperity at home and work with other countries to create a more open and equitable international trading system and spur global economic growth.
- **Promoting democracy.** The United States will work to protect, consolidate and enlarge the community of free market democracies around the globe.

The essence of these three principles is economic prosperity for the US, as is explained farther on in Cohen's report: "The United States cannot be prosperous if its major trade and security partners are threatened by aggression or intimidation; nor can it be secure in international cooperation is breaking down..."⁴

In his 1998 *Annual Report to the President and the Congress*, Secretary Cohen states: "When the interests at stake are vital -- that is, they are of broad, overriding importance to the survival, security, and vitality of the nation -- the United States will do whatever it takes to defend them, including when necessary, the unilateral use of military power."⁵ He then points out that US vital interests include:⁶

- **Protecting** the sovereignty, territory, and population of the United States.
- **Preventing** the emergence of hostile regional coalitions or hegemons.
- **Ensuring** uninhibited access to key markets, energy supplies, and strategic resources.
- **Deterring** and, if necessary, defeating aggression against US allies and friends.
- **Ensuring** freedom of the seas, airways, and space, and the security of vital lines of communication.

National Security Strategy is the broad brush stroke. It is fine-tuned for the various global regions.

2. ***U.S. Military Strategy.***

Defense Secretary Cohen points out that "the Department of Defense will field and sustain the military capabilities needed to protect the United States and advance its interests. The United States is the only nation capable of unilaterally conducting effective, large-scale military operations far beyond its borders."⁷ Cohen summarizes US military strategy under three general headings:

³Cohen-1997, p. 2.

⁴Cohen-1997, p. 2.

⁵Cohen-1998, p. 4.

⁶Cohen-1998, p. 4.

⁷Cohen-1997, p. 5.

(a) shaping the international environment in ways favorable to US interests, (b) responding to the full spectrum of crises, and (c) preparing now for an uncertain future.⁸

a. Shaping the International Environment. To do this the US keeps forces deployed abroad (permanently, rotationally, or temporarily) and conducts unitary and joint training exercises. It also arms and trains friendly nations through Foreign Military Sales, Foreign Military Financing, International Military Education and Training, and transfers of Excess Defense Articles. This activity, according to Secretary Cohen, is aimed at:⁹

- **Promoting Regional Stability.** In areas of vital or important interests the US military promotes military alliances and coalitions wherever possible. The bait for this is aid in military equipment, financing and training, as mentioned above.
- **Preventing or Reducing Conflicts and Threats.** The Pentagon's view of conflict prevention is its key justification for keeping forces stationed in critical regions. It claims this accomplishes such wonders as reducing proliferation of NBC weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological, and chemical), deterring terrorism and reducing US vulnerability to terrorist acts, stemming the flow of illegal drugs, and lessening the conditions for conflict.
- **Deterring Aggression and Coercion.** Essentially this is a show of force in a region to intimidate and aggressor, or to maintain a peace. This consists of "US forces and equipment strategically stationed or deployed forward, rapidly-deployable power projection forces, the US ability to gain timely access to critical infrastructure overseas, and the demonstrated ability to form and lead effective military coalitions."¹⁰

To accomplish these three objectives the Pentagon claims it must maintain adequate strategic and tactical nuclear weapons capabilities. This is necessary, it claims, because nuclear weapons are one of the range of elements that prevent the use of NBC weapons against the US. In other words, the ultimate weapon to back up US military strategy is the nuclear bomb. Then Commanding Admiral Henry Chiles of the US Strategic Command, which controls all the US nuclear forces, said in mid-1995 that his forces deter attacks "from any direction, not just from Russia, in an era of weapons of mass destruction." He referred to nuclear weapons as "blunt instruments of last resort" which allow the President to deal from strength, and added: "We're... America's insurance policy."¹¹ In November 1997 President Bill Clinton signed Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 60 which for the first time codified what had been implicit strategy -- that nuclear weapons could be considered as the retaliatory instrument in a chemical or biological weapons attack. The nuclear expeditionary force recommended by the Reed Panel has achieved reality.

⁸Cohen-1998, p. 5.

⁹See Cohen-1998, pp. 5-7.

¹⁰Cohen-1998, p. 6.

¹¹Cited in *Mercury News*, 1 June 1995, p. 12A.

b. Responding to the Full Spectrum of Crises. This response may be unilaterally or in a coalition. It would involve the following:¹²

- **Deterring Aggression and Coercion in a Crisis.** This usually involves signaling the United States' commitment to a particular country or expressing its national interests. It is signaled or expressed by enhancing the US warfighting capability in the theater. The readiness levels of deployable forces may be increased. To do all of this effectively the US must be able to respond rapidly and substantially.
- **Conducting Smaller Scale Contingency Operations.** The US usually seeks to prevent or contain local crises before they require military action. Failing that, the US would quickly and decisively intervene with military force to contain, resolve, or mitigate what could otherwise become more costly and deadly, and could escalate to a major theater war. These Smaller Scale Contingency Operations include show-of-force operations, interventions, limited strikes, noncombatant evacuation operations, no-fly zone enforcement, maritime sanctions enforcement, counter-terrorism operations, peacekeeping operations, foreign humanitarian assistance, and military support to civilian authorities. Defense Secretary Cohen believes these operations will "likely pose the most frequent challenge for US forces through 2015 and may require significant commitments of forces, both active and reserve."¹³
- **Fighting an Winning Major Theater Wars.** This is the high end of the spectrum of crises responses, and is the most stressful on military requirements. This is the long-debated and vacillating requirement for the US military to be able to fight two regional wars almost simultaneously.

c. Preparing Now for an Uncertain Future. The Pentagon offers four aspects to this preparation:

- **Pursue a Focused Modernization Effort.** Essentially this means pressing Congress to provide the budget to build the latest Pentagon dreams. Planned obsolescence apparently figures into this category when a better device is envisioned.
- **Exploit the Revolution in Military Affairs.** This program started in 1995 to determine the type of military force, technology, and philosophy needed to meet threats which might present themselves by the year 2010. It will be described more thoroughly later in this paper.
- **Exploit the Revolution in Business Affairs.** This is a parallel effort to re-engineer the DOD's infrastructure and business practices. Cohen says the nation should afford "a more robust modernization program" and capabilities to "support an ambitious shaping and responding strategy through 2015." He goes on to explain that these measures "will require changes in political and public thinking" and that this new

¹²See Cohen 1998, pp. 7 & 8.

¹³Cohen-1998, p. 8.

thinking “must be open to new solutions and focused on the bottom-line support for US forces.”¹⁴ What he is saying is that Congress and the Public must not entertain any thoughts of restricting the military budget.

- **Insure Against Unlikely but Significant Future Threats.** The Pentagon wants to build its empire to insure against such ideas as early emergence of a strong power in any region of the world, or a so-called wildcard scenario, no matter how unlikely those events may be. A clear and present threat in our own society and foreign policy will remain untreated so that the military budget will be plentiful, if our military planners get their way.

The Pentagon’s plans for the future will be treated in more detail in a later section of this paper. Now let us turn to how the Pentagon plans to apply this military strategy throughout the world.

3. *Regional Applications of US Military Strategy.*

Each region of the world has unique conditions to which US strategy must adapt, and its special combination of security treaties and free-trade agreements. Defense Secretary Cohen states: "The security relationships established by the United States and its allies and friends during the Cold War are essential to advancing America's post-Cold War agenda. To meet the unique challenges of the post-Cold War era, the United States seeks to further strengthen and adapt those partnerships and to establish new security relationships in support of US interests."¹⁵ According to this, it will now take even stronger alliances to secure America’s more ambitious agenda. Let us look at how the US strategy is applied and operated to the various regions.

a. Europe. America's foothold in Europe is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Since the end of the cold war it has been hard to justify NATO's function and even existence, and the US has pushed to extend NATO's influence in two main ways. First, NATO has instituted a Partnership for Peace program to encompass central and southeastern European countries -- mostly countries which were formerly part of the Soviet bloc. Second, NATO has changed its rules to authorize out-of-area operations, such as the Implementation Force (IFOR) and the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Both of these measures have alienated Russia, undermined the goodwill which has sparked the START Treaties, and bolstered the influence of Russian hardliners -- even though Cohen purports that a central objective is to encourage Russia to play a constructive role in the new European security architecture. Nevertheless, NATO activities are moving the world closer to another cold war.

• **b. New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.** The US goal here is to encourage and assist development of a stable market economy in these newly independent nations --

¹⁴Cohen-1998, pp. 9 & 10.

¹⁵Cohen-1997, p. 3.

an economy of so-called free trade in which the US and its large trans-national corporations excel. Parallel to this effort are two other goals. The first is securing or eliminating any residual materials from the former Soviet nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction, and their delivery vehicles. The other is to deter strategic nuclear threats from Russia. To accomplish these two goals would provide a healthier climate for US business interests and at the same time keep America's strategic weapons builders in business.

c. East Asia and the Pacific Rim. This region is experiencing such unprecedented economic growth that the 21st century has been dubbed "The Century of the Pacific." It is projected to have the highest economic growth of anyplace in the world over the next 25 years. Yet this is an area where oppression and forced labor run rampant. Human Rights are low on the priority list. That is why a strategy called "Constructive Engagement" has been coined.

Constructive Engagement is the means by which human rights violations can be overlooked when they interfere with profits. This is accomplished under the premise that the US doesn't condone human rights violations but neither is it going to restrict constructive dialogue and trade because of a single issue. It is a different story when the issue is China pirating software and other electronic copyrights which hurts American businesses. Even then the administration has to study which Chinese imports to levy sanctions against -- it must be careful not to jeopardize the cheap forced labor US firms enjoy in that country.

A companion strategy in the East Asia-Pacific region is "Preventive Defense," which allows the US to maintain military bases in the area. Preventive Defense is a system of security agreements such as those with Japan, South Korea, and Australia; confidence-building measures such as joint exercises in the Pacific; and other agreements such as the coalition which persuaded North Korea to stop its nuclear weapons program.

The linchpin of US security policy in Asia is the military alliance with Japan. The *Guidelines For US-Japan Defense Cooperation* were completed on 23 September 1997. These supersede the 1978 Guidelines and cover three main conditions: (1) cooperation under normal circumstances, (2) cooperation in response to an armed attack against Japan, and (3) cooperation in situations in areas surrounding Japan. The first two, among other things, guarantee continued use by the US military of bases in Japan and Okinawa. The third is more sinister and could draw Japan into a regional war almost anywhere in the world. The Guidelines point out that situations in areas surrounding Japan is not geographical but situational. A situation which threatens Japan's supply of Mid-East oil, for instance, could draw Japan into a war with Iraq.

d. Middle East and South Asia. US interests in this region are obviously oil and arms sales. Any threat to the free flow of oil, such as an uncooperative dictator or the development of NBC weapons of mass destruction, is met with an immediate and decisive military response, as illustrated by US relations with Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Toward enhancing the free flow of oil, the US has vigorously pursued a Mid-East peace plan. Under the guise of enforcing peace the US has established a huge arms market in both Israel and friendly Arab states.

Another main strategy in this region is to establish defense relationships which will prevent a major India-Pakistan encounter. There is also concern about war between Nepal and Bangladesh. Stability in the region is essential to developing economic interests there and in adjoining areas.

An average of 15,000 military personnel as well as prepositioned material are in this region at any one time. Additional land and naval forces are brought in when a crisis develops.

e. The Americas. The overarching US objective in this region is to sustain military and economic stability. This is necessary in order to extend the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to other Central and South American countries.¹⁶ That will provide fertile ground for US businesses to prosper. Defense Secretary Cohen describes this US objective: "The United States desires all members of its hemispheric community to be peaceful, democratic partners in economic prosperity."¹⁷ Relations with Mexico under NAFTA have shown that such conditions position the US as major partner and less developed Latin American countries as small-time players.

To provide a favorable business climate and ostensibly to stem narcotics trafficking and other criminal activity, the US has engaged in profitable arms sales for US weapons merchants and military training of the Latin American military by the "School of the Americas" at Fort Benning, Georgia -- the latter euphemistically dubbed "The School of Assassins."

g. Sub-Sahara Africa. The US seeks to make this region free of all the threats to a peaceful business environment. Africa has the potential for developing free-market economies. Toward that end the US is seeking to "empower" African states and organizations so they can resolve their many conflicts.

Although the US has no permanent military presence in Sub-Sahara Africa, it seeks influence through joint military exercises and military training activities. The African Crisis Response Initiative is a US training program aimed at creating jointly operating, rapidly-deployable African peacekeeping units. Battalions in Uganda, Senegal and Malawi have completed the training. Again the door is open for weapons sales and military advisers.

Through the Front Line States Initiative, the US is providing nonlethal military assistance to help certain African countries to resist Sudanese-backed insurgencies and that state's sponsorship of international terrorism. The US is also enhancing its military relationship with South Africa through the US-South African Binational Commission's defense committee.

Cohen's 1998 report ends this section with the statement that the US must continue to work with African nations to help secure US interests. Those interests were apparent during President Clinton's recent tour of Africa to promote free trade agreements.

B. PLANS FOR THE 21st CENTURY.

Two concepts are emerging to cause serious rethinking on how to conduct a war. First of these is long-range, precision-strike weapons coupled with sophisticated sensors and very effective command and control systems to destroy the enemy from a distance. The second is information warfare.

¹⁶See PLRC-940106, *The Dark Side of Free Trade*.

¹⁷Cohen-1998, p. 13.

1. Joint Vision 2010.

In early 1995 the Pentagon set up five "Revolution in Military Affairs" task groups to study warfighting after 2010. Their studies suggested smaller, highly mobile, better dispersed, and very lethal military units. Using advanced communications these units could call for precision missile or aircraft strikes to help subdue their opponent. These forces would strike deep into enemy territory to destroy missile emplacements, munitions storage, transportation devices, communications, etc.

To shape the military force structure, equipment, and tactics called for by the Revolution in Military Affairs task groups, the Pentagon in early 1996 announced a new strategy called "Joint Vision 2010." This strategic plan rests on four key pillars: Dominant Maneuver, Precision Engagement, Focused Logistics, and Full Dimension Protection.

a. Dominant Maneuver. Allows dispersed land, sea, air, and space forces to control all aspects of the battle and accomplish their mission. Dominant Maneuver will build on joint operations from widely scattered locations.

b. Precision Engagement. Provides the proper mix of forces and weapons to rapidly engage or destroy the enemy at long range. Joint commands and flexibility are the key.

c. Focused Logistics. Integrates information-gathering technologies and transportation techniques. Requires rapid tracking and shifting of supplies to keep highly mobile and dispersed forces equipped.

d. Full Dimension Protection. Provides the full spectrum of capabilities needed to protect all US forces, assets, and facilities so that complete superiority over the battlefield can be achieved.

The Pentagon admits they do not have these capabilities now, but intend to achieve them. Additional personnel and funding has been poured into the Joint Warfighting Center at Fort Monroe, Virginia to run war games, simulation exercises, and live exercises that will flesh out the strategy and needs of "Joint Vision 2010." The US Defense Science Board is funding studies of 21st century warfare and the logistics needed to support it. Computer simulations such as TACWAR and NIMBLE DANCER are refining methods to fight two wars nearly simultaneously.. Broad technology concepts will be refined by the Pentagon's Advanced Concepts Demonstration Program. And military commanders will be retrained to think of small, precise, surgical operations rather than massively overwhelming the enemy.

Army plans are to have light and extremely mobile equipment along with sensor-clad super warriors which can monitor everything on the battlefield. Studies called *Army Vision 2010*, *Force XXI* and *The Army After Next* have identified Army concepts.

The Air Force is moving toward pilotless fighter planes and quick global deployment. *Global Enlargement: A Vision of the 21st Century Air Force* depicts air and space warfare through 2020.

The Navy envisions unmanned and minimally-manned vessels such as the arsenal ship. Its future vision of warfare is delineated in *Forward...From the Sea*. While the Marines under the Navy's *Forward...From the Sea*, have examined warfare through *Operational Maneuver from the Sea* and *Ship-to-Objective Maneuver*.

Joint Vision 2010 received impetus from the Quadrennial Defense Review. All of it will be made possible through enhanced communications and Information Warfare.

2. Information Warfare.

The official definition of information warfare is secret but it is usually described as protecting one's own information-gathering systems while destroying or disrupting the opponent's. Some say that harnessing concepts into usable tools will create a revolution in military thinking, and they view information warfare as a means to overcome an enemy without firing a shot. Others say information warfare is merely a refinement of intelligence-gathering, electronic warfare, psychological operations, security, cryptography and deception. Nevertheless, research and development funding in this area has tripled in five years and the Air Force Rome Laboratory in New York has formed a team to focus on information warfare implications.

The more exotic concepts of information warfare envision enemy commanders in underground bunkers watching their forces advance victoriously on the battlefield, while in fact those forces were really routed during the early stages of combat. Those commanders had been led into all the wrong decision by bogus information.

Even such far-out concepts as having sensors the size of dust particles spy on the enemy, and using laser holography to image tanks on the battlefield have been dreamed up.

C. CONCLUSION.

During the Persian Gulf war, we fell victim to an intense propaganda campaign fabricated from deception and falsehood. Yellow ribbons and patriotic banners flew from many door posts. Today we are taken in by more subtle but equally convincing mind control -- the delusion that the nuclear menace is gone and that the world is in good repair. Nothing could be more wrong.

The military solution from Korea to Bosnia, from Panama to Somalia, has consistently failed. Some of those conflicts were eventually stopped by political solutions which could have occurred much sooner. The war with Iraq and the Korean war are still awaiting that solution.

Joint Vision 2010 is really the same progression of channeled vision down the Neanderthal path of military thinking. Real vision must take in a wider field of choices which will lead to a benevolent mutation in the evolution of world order.

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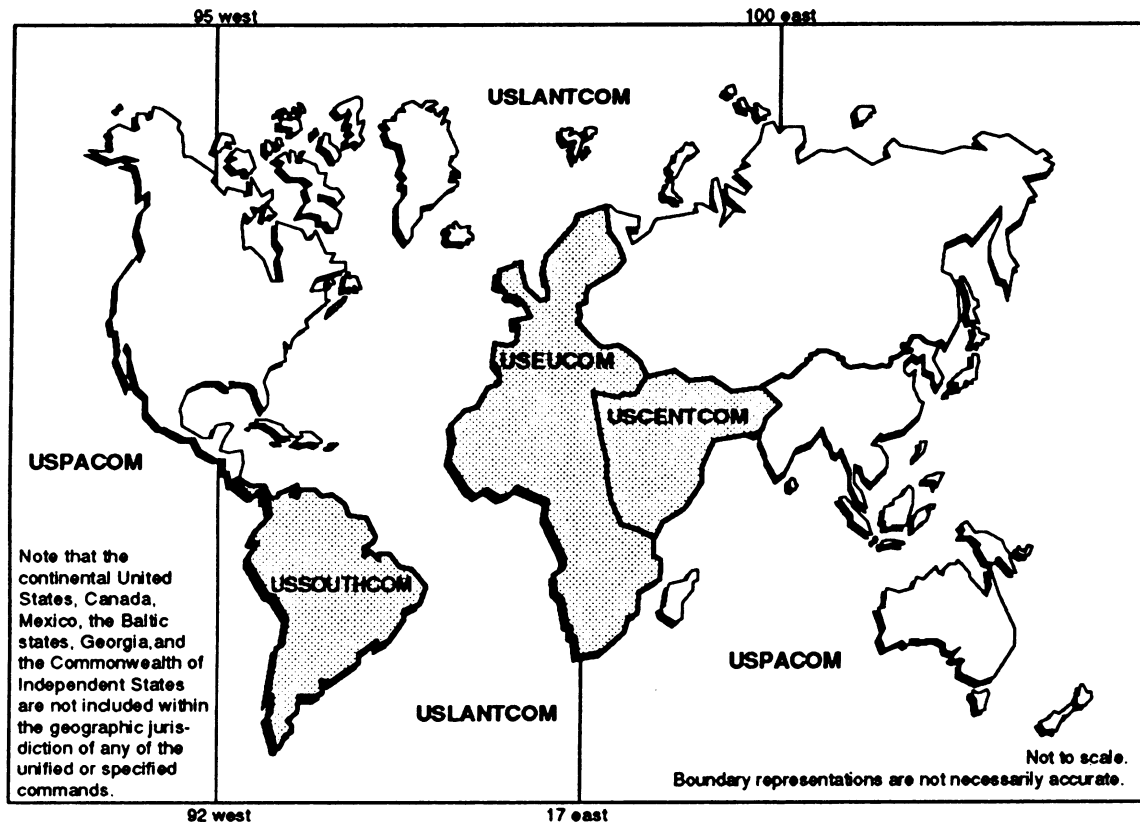
GLOSSARY.

IFOR	NATO's Implementation FORce in Bosnia.
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement.
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
NBC	Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical.
PDD	Presidential Decision Directive.
PLRC	Pacific Life Research Center.
SFOR	NATO's Stabilization FORce in Bosnia.
SOF	Special Operation Forces.
SRAM	Short-Range Attack Missile.
START	Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.
UN	United Nations.
US	United States.
USCENTCOM	US Central Command
USEUCOM	US European Command
USJFCOM	US Joint Forces Command
USPACOM	US Pacific Command
USSOCOM	United States Special Operations Command.
USSOUTHCOM	US Southern Command

APPENDIX I

US Regional Commands

Source: JMNA-1992, p. 44



USCENTCOM	--	US Central Command
USEUCOM	--	US European Command
USJFCOM	--	US Joint Forces Command
USPACOM	--	US Pacific Command
USSOUTHCOM	--	US Southern Command

Changes to the geographic areas depicted which resulted from the Bottom-Up Review:

- **In early 1996** the waters adjoining Central and South America were transferred from the US Atlantic Command the US Southern Command.
- **In early 1996** large portions of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean were transferred from the US Pacific Command to the US Central Command.
- **On 1 June 1997** the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and an additional portion of the Atlantic Ocean were transferred from the US Atlantic Command to the US Southern Command.
- **On 7 October 1999** the US Atlantic Command became the US Joint Forces Command.

APPENDIX II

Forward Deployment Of Troops And Supplies.

In order to carry out the US military strategy, troops and supplies must be immediately available. Although the US has cut down considerably on overseas bases, there are still about 100,000 fully-equipped US troops in the Asia-Pacific region (almost half in Japan and close to 40 percent in South Korea) and about 109,000 in Europe.

An Army heavy-brigade set of equipment is prepositioned in Kuwait. A heavy brigade set is also established in South Korea. In Qatar a heavy brigade and division base is being set up -- equipment to support a tank battalion was set up in 1996. Still another armored brigade set plus selected support units is afloat in 14 ships near Indonesia (will be 16 ships by 2001). They can be immediately dispatched to Korea or the Persian Gulf with 30 days supply of everything from tanks to bandages.

Air Force planes are deployed at critical locations along with stocks of the preferred munitions for their area. Three prepositioned ammunition ships will supply the Air Force early in conflict.

Naval carrier task forces, three Marine Expeditionary Units (special operations capable), along with Tomahawk-capable ships and submarines are sent to potential trouble spots. To support the Marine units for 30 days are three squadrons (13 ships total) of maritime prepositioning ships in the Mediterranean Sea, Indian Ocean, and the Western Pacific. These ships have the ability to relocate and the number will soon be increased to 16.

In addition, the Norway Air Landed Expeditionary Brigade, a land-based prepositioning program, helps protect NATO's northern flank.

APPENDIX III

Countering the Spread and Use of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons.

This mission was launched in December 1993, pursuant to a presidential directive, to address the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Besides the five declared nuclear powers, the Pentagon estimates that at least 20 other nations have or are attempting to acquire weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical or biological), along with the means to deliver them. The Pentagon outlines eight areas in which it approaches this mission:

- **Deterrence.** By continually estimating the intentions of a country possessing nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons the US adopts declared policy, force structure and other political/diplomatic/military signals that would intimidate an aggressor.
- **Intelligence.** Continually spying on suspicious countries and assessing their threat. For example, US Navy patrol planes in the Middle East carry a Specific Emitter Identifier to identify and track ships carrying nuclear, biological or chemical cargoes.
- **Missile Defense.** Ability to prevent or limit contamination by any cruise missile or ballistic missile which might be carrying nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons.
- **Passive Defenses.** Battlefield devices to detect, protect against, and decontaminate from chemical/biological weapons.
- **Counterforce.** The ability to seize, disable, or destroy arsenals of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons -- or their delivery system -- prior to use without "unacceptable collateral damage" (meaning civilian deaths which cannot be covered up). An example is the underground chemical munition plant in Libya which may soon be attacked. Also on the high-priority list to watch are Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.
- **Effective Power Projection.** Basically this means to keep US troops out of areas where nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons might be used.
- **Defense Against Covert Threats.** Seek capabilities to detect and disarm nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons that may be smuggled into the US.
- **Command, Control, and Communication.** The architecture to provide timely flow of critical intelligence and commands.