



Chapter 8
The Future
Army

The Future Army

Tomorrow's Solutions Today

The United States is at war, and the U.S. Army is conducting operations against an enemy. The Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) could last many years. Meanwhile, the Army must prepare to protect the nation from unforeseen threats in the future.

The Army envisions what it calls the "Future Force," which it aims to field five to 10 years from now. The Future Force combines advanced technologies (such as the Future Combat Systems described in chapter 5) with improved organization and processes (the modular Army discussed in chapter 3) to create a dominant military power that is responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable and sustainable. The centerpiece of the Future Force remains the Soldier, who will be better networked with other forces and weapons than any combatant in the history of armed warfare. To command such forces the Army is developing a new generation of highly adaptive leaders.

While the Army is developing the Future Force it is simultaneously bringing Future Force capabilities to enhance the effectiveness of the Current Force. One example of a Future Force investment already operating in Iraq is the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams described in chapter 3. The transformation to the modular Army is also under way.

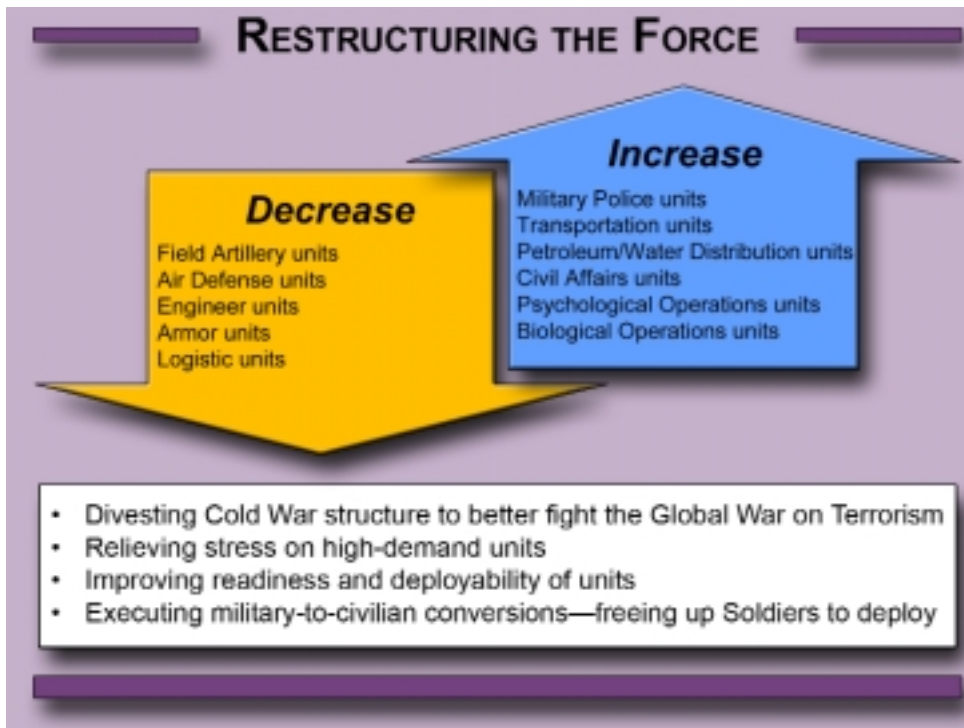
Trends Toward the Future

Here are some trends that will impact the U.S. Army in the near and distant future:

- **Joint interdependence**—Today, the individual military branches in the Department of Defense

are sharing more missions and working together as seamless teams in theater. This trend toward joint operations will continue among military institutions and on the battlefield. The Army will remain the primary landpower force for the United States, but it will become more integrated with the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps in future battles.

- **Leaner force**—The entire Department of Defense is scaling back the number of its bases around the world, relying on better communications and transportation systems along with unit structures that allow agility to move forces from fewer locations to the full range of hot spots. One intent of the Army's reorganization to a modular structure is to do more with less. Similar lean thinking will be incorporated into a number of functions in the coming years, including equipment maintenance, supply, transportation and weapons acquisitions.
- **Netcentric Battle Management**—Computer and communications technology has advanced rapidly over the past 10 years and shows no signs of slowing down. Today, people can access the Internet and send text, images and sounds digitally from the palms of their hands. Tomorrow, even more efficient versions of that digital technology will be in the hands of all Soldiers, keeping them in touch with all elements of the joint team and providing a view of the whole battlefield.
- **Active/Reserve component balance**—As part of maintaining an all-volunteer force, the Army wants to make sure no mission specialty or



are developing new fabrics and metals that are strong yet light, flexible yet impenetrable. These modern materials would offer better protection while allowing Soldiers to carry more sustenance and equipment without losing agility, speed or efficiency.

- **Robotics**—Already the Army is successfully using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs) for both attack and reconnaissance. Use of such robotics in a variety of

component is stretched too thin. The burden of missions and the number and length of deployments will become more judiciously shared among the Army's active, National Guard and Reserve units and personnel.

- **Leadership Training**—As the Army transforms to a more fluid force it will need more agile leadership. Leaders will continue to emerge through career experience as reflected in a Soldier's promotion through the ranks; but the Army also is looking to instill leadership qualities among all Soldiers at all ranks and grow leaders capable of handling a broader range of responsibilities in a wider array of scenarios and circumstances.
- **Actionable intelligence**—New technology, better interagency cooperation and coordination and an increasing focus on human intelligence will provide commanders and Soldiers a more complete understanding of a battlespace and theater of operations before and during operations. Furthermore, technology will deliver that intelligence directly to the Soldier with optimum accuracy and speed.
- **Payload efficiency**—Scientists and engineers

missions will expand as technology improves.

- **Simulation training**—The Army has used simulators to train helicopter pilots, tank operators and artillery units for many years. More recently, video game technology has helped train infantry Soldiers in techniques and protocols. With improved video technology and networking, simulation will become a more prevalent form of training, allowing Soldiers anywhere on the globe to network for single training missions in a wide range of scenarios.
- **Enhancement of installations**—The Modular Force emphasizes quick projection of forces abroad rather than stationing large numbers of personnel overseas. Therefore, the Army will be significantly investing in installations to make them effective platforms for force projection as well as thriving communities for Soldiers and their families.
- **Personnel stability**—While a primary purpose for the Army's transformation to a modular force is to improve agility and efficiency, another key aspect of the reorganization is the opportunity to spread deployments over a wider array of units. This will allow units to be placed

on more predictable rotations for deployments. The Army also plans to keep Soldiers assigned to units for longer periods. This will enhance unit cohesion as well as provide more stability by allowing Soldiers and their families to plant deeper roots in their local communities.

Someday the United States may once again stand up to a single nation's powerful, uniformed force and engage in conventional warfare. The Army is prepared for that eventuality. The enemy in the GWOT, however, is not a nation but non-state organizations using terrorist tactics to wage war, striking anyplace at anytime and retreating by blending into civilian populations. The Army is transforming to better combat this type of enemy, too. In the future the United States may face an even more elusive, nonconventional foe than it is encountering now. The Army is preparing for that eventuality, as well. No matter from whom, what or where a threat to the United States may emerge, the Army must be ready whenever it may occur.

An Ever-emerging Army

As the world has changed and new threats to U.S. security have emerged, the Army has always adapted to keep ahead of those changes and meet any threat. That is one thing the future Army will have in common with today's Army and with the Army that General George Washington commanded at Valley Forge: a well-prepared, highly adaptable force consisting of the best-trained and most dedicated Soldiers in the world.

Useful Websites

Army

<http://www.army.mil/index.html>

Army Campaign Plan

<http://www.army.mil/thewayahead/acp.html>

Army Center of Military History

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/>

Army Historical Foundation

<http://www.armyhistory.org/>

Army Knowledge Online

<http://www.army.mil/ako/>

AUSA's ARMY magazine

<http://www.ausa.org/>

AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare

<http://www.ausa.org/ilw>

Focus

<http://www.army.mil/thewayahead/focus.html>

Force Stabilization

<https://www.unitmanning.army.mil/>

Future Combat Systems

<http://www.army.mil/fcs>

Hot Topics

<http://www.army.mil/soldiers/HotTopics/hottopics.html>

Joint and Expeditionary Capabilities paper

<http://www.army.mil/jec/>

Joint Training

http://www.jfcom.mil/about/abt_j7.htm

Lessons Learned

<http://call.army.mil/>

Posture Statement

<http://www.army.mil/aps/>

Vision

<http://www.army.mil/thewayahead/foreword.html>