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Integrating Global Capabilities for Joint Warfighters: Serving as Army Service Component Command to U.S. Strategic Command

**(Second in a series of three Background Briefs based on information
obtained from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command)**

On 10 January 2003 President George W. Bush signed Change 2 to the 2002 Unified Command Plan assigning new missions to U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). In addition to previously assigned responsibilities and missions transferred from the former USSTRATCOM and U.S. Space Command, USSTRATCOM assumed responsibility for the previously unassigned mission areas of Global Strike (GS); Global Missile Defense; elements of Department of Defense (DoD) Information Operations (IO); aspects of Global Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) services; and DoD Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). Subsequently, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) became the Army Service Component Command (ASCC) for USSTRATCOM and designated as Army Forces Strategic Command (ARSTRAT). On 12 April 2004 the Army Campaign Plan gave the following tasks to the Commanding General, SMDC/ARSTRAT:

- Supported commander and Army proponent for planning, integration, control and coordination of Army forces and capabilities in support of USSTRATCOM mission areas of GS, global IO, global C4ISR, global ballistic missile defense (GBMD) and space operations and missions;
- Supported commander and Army proponent for space and ground-based midcourse defense (GMD); and
- Supported commander and Army integrator for global missile defense.

Supporting agencies include:

- 1st Information Operations Command (1st IOC), which coordinates and directs the defense of Army computer systems and networks as well as coordinates and conducts computer network attacks in support of the combatant commander's intent;
- Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), which provides management for the Army's information technology and networks;
- Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), which provides the combatant commander the seamless intelligence needed to understand the battlefield and to focus and leverage combat power;

- 1st Space Brigade (Provisional), which conducts continuous global space, space control and space force enhancements operations in support of USSTRATCOM and supported combatant commanders;
- 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD), which provides trained and ready forces for the execution of the global missile defense mission; and
- U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), which provides trained and ready Army forces for combatant commands.

Strategic and Operational Environment

The United States is currently engaged in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), an outgrowth of the instability that has characterized the post-Cold War period. In this context, SMDC/ARSTRAT, as the ASCC, must provide a value-added, global operational focus responsive to the Commander, USSTRATCOM, with expanded global mission areas.

The 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States confirm that threats to American security and interests have become more diffuse, harder to anticipate and more difficult to combat than ever before. While it is clear that uncertainty remains a challenge, USSTRATCOM and its component commands must be aware of and address a number of trends as they restructure to fulfill their global responsibilities. The 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) identified six geopolitical trends that will profoundly shape the future global security environment in which USSTRATCOM and SMDC/ARSTRAT will operate:

- diminished protection afforded by geographic distance;
- increasing threats to regional security;
- increasing challenges and threats emanating from the territories of weak and failing states;
- diffusion of power and military capabilities to non-state actors (i.e., terrorist organizations);
- increasing importance of regional security and increasing diversity in sources; and
- unpredictability of locations of conflict.

Implications of the Strategic Environment for the Joint Force, USSTRATCOM and SMDC/ARSTRAT

These trends point to a period of unbounded strategic challenges for the Joint Force, including USSTRATCOM and SMDC/ARSTRAT. Therefore, supporting the securing of U.S. interests and objectives, despite the challenges of the future security environment, is a fundamental requirement for SMDC/ARSTRAT as the ASCC to USSTRATCOM.

Following are four defense requirements for the United States and USSTRATCOM:

- **Full-spectrum capabilities.** Full-spectrum capabilities allow U.S. military forces to counter any capabilities our adversaries may employ against us. The United States must be able to rapidly transition between missions with an appropriate mix of forces and capabilities. U.S. military forces also must balance near-term requirements while transforming to ensure continued future military dominance.
- **Changing character of war and the need for integrated operations.** To address more diffuse and networked adversaries, the United States must integrate its own elements of power—

diplomatic, military, economic and information—and, while having the ability to act unilaterally, must prepare to act in concert with its friends and allies. Operationally, SMDC/ARSTRAT must likewise integrate its capabilities—GS, global missile defense, IO, space operations and C4ISR—both internally and in support of USSTRATCOM and supported regional combatant commands.

- **Integrating regional and global demands.** Countering threats to U.S. interests in a more interconnected security environment requires mutually supporting regional actions integrated within a global strategy. Regionally tailored activities allow the United States to leverage the capabilities of regional partners and integrate their capabilities and activities with those of the United States in other areas, thereby achieving national objectives. The United States will continue to require a world-class land force capable of strategic responsiveness and maneuver dominance across the entire spectrum of military operations. The Army must adequately address these challenges to achieve the national security and defense strategic goals and objectives.
- **Centers of Gravity—Enemy and Friendly.** Because America’s potential enemies are unlikely to possess centers of gravity in the traditional sense, they are perhaps better understood with redundant and complementary centers of gravity. At the most fundamental level, these centers of gravity include the ability of leaders to control and direct the people and resources of either a state or a movement. This includes the means by which hostile leaders communicate their intent to their followers and the means by which they coerce their citizens, such as armed force and police.

USSTRATCOM must be ready to provide full and effective support to four DoD defense policy goals:

- assuring friends and allies of U.S. capability and commitment;
- dissuading potential military competitors;
- deterring aggressors; and
- decisively defeating them.

The new National Military Strategy requires USSTRATCOM—and, by inference, SMDC/ARSTRAT—to support the overall requirements commonly known as 1-4-2-1:

- defend the United States;
- deter forward in four regions;
- swiftly defeat efforts in two theaters; and
- achieve decisive victory in one of the two theaters.

The national strategic center of gravity is the nation’s ability to protect the American homeland from significant disruption caused by terrorist attack or attack through weapons of mass destruction. Failure to secure the homeland will drastically limit U.S. ability to act on the international scene and secure other policy goals.

Additionally, U.S. ability to quickly engage, support and enable its allies worldwide is crucial to positive theater engagement. The critical requirements to protect these centers of gravity are sufficient funding and adequate technology. Any dramatic escalation of current operational engagement will significantly affect the nation’s military, particularly the Army’s ability to transform.

The SMDC’s operational center of gravity is its ability to project the force and provide GS, global IO, global C4ISR, GBMD and space operations capabilities anywhere in the world, in either a supported or supporting role. SMDC’s challenge is to rapidly apply these capabilities to any area of operations around the globe.

Conditions of irreversible momentum are set at the strategic and operational levels. At the strategic level, Change 2 to the 2002 Unified Command Plan necessitated SMDC/ARSTRAT to reach full operational capability (FOC), which it did prior to 1 January 2004. This transformation to FOC occurred concurrently with SMDC/ARSTRAT's ongoing support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the operational level, the fielding of the GMD marks a significant insertion of capability based on technological developments. Future enhancements to SMDC/ARSTRAT's warfighting capabilities in all mission areas are anticipated.

Assumptions

Some assumptions must be made during this process:

- The Army will not receive an increase in Total Obligation Authority (TOA), nor will SMDC/ARSTRAT receive an increased share of the TOA;
- The strategic and operational environment is likely to change before 2015;
- Science and technology will produce materiel solutions on the required timeline; and
- Information requirements at both tactical and strategic levels will continue to increase due to demand and Common Relevant Operational Picture (CROP)/Situational Awareness requirements.

Conclusion

The mission requirement is to build, maintain and sustain SMDC/ARSTRAT as a fully capable ASCC, with a trained and ready Army force able to plan, coordinate, integrate and execute (where applicable) all aspects of its assigned USSTRATCOM missions, functions and responsibilities. Challenges exist, but the envisioned end state—SMDC/ARSTRAT performing new missions for the 21st century and supporting joint warfighters as part of the joint, interagency and multinational team—is critical to the nation's defense.