



Army Service Component Command Support to U.S. Strategic Command: New Missions for the 21st Century

**(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, the President of the United States signed Change 2 to the 2002 Unified Command Plan assigning new missions to United States 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 unassigned mission areas of Global Strike (GS); Integrated Missile Defense (IMD); 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. Subsequently, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT) was identified as the Army Service Component Command (ASCC) for USSTRATCOM. Supporting agencies include:

- 1st Information Operations Command (1st IOC). Coordinates and directs the defense of Army computer systems and networks; coordinates and, when directed, conducts computer network attacks in support of the combatant commander's intent.
- Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM). Provides management for the Army's information technology and networks as an enterprise.
- Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). Provides the combatant commander the seamless intelligence needed to understand the battlefield and to focus and leverage combat power
- 1st Space Brigade. Conducts continuous global space, space control and space force enhancements operations in support of USSTRATCOM and supported combatant commanders.
- Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Brigade. Provides trained and ready forces for the execution of the GMD mission.
- U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM). 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, an outgrowth of the instability that has characterized the post-Cold War period. It is in this context that SMDC/ARSTRAT

must transition to an ASCC that provides value-added, global operational focus responsive to the Commander, USSTRATCOM, with expanded global mission areas.

The events of 11 September 2001 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, there are a number of trends that USSTRATCOM and its component commands must be aware of and address as they restructure to fulfill their global responsibilities. The 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review report 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 geopolitical, international security and domestic trends point to a period of unbounded strategic challenges for the Joint Force, to include 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. Among the U.S. and USSTRATCOM defense requirements are:

- **Requirement for 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, and 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, strategically the United States must integrate its own elements of power—diplomatic, military, economic and information—and while having the ability to act unilaterally, it must prepare to act in concert with its friends and allies. Operationally, SMDC/ARSTRAT in support of USSTRATCOM’s global responsibilities must likewise integrate its capabilities—global strike, global missile defense, information operations, space operations, and command, control communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C⁴ISR)—both internally and in support of USSTRATCOM and supported regional combatant commands.
- **Requirement to integrate 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 its own in other areas to achieve 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, such as armed force and police, by which they coerce their citizens.

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, if necessary,
- decisively defeating them.

The new National Military Strategy requires USSTRATCOM, and by inference, SMDC/ARSTRAT as its ASCC, to support the requirement to be able to:

- defend the United States;
- deter forward in four regions;
- swiftly defeat the 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 impact the nation’s military, particularly the Army’s ability to transform.

The Space and Missile Defense Command’s operational center of gravity is its ability to project the force and provide Global Strike, Global Ballistic Missile Defense, Global Information Operations, Global C⁴ISR and Global Space operations capabilities anywhere in the world, in either a supported or supporting role. SMDC’s challenge is the ability to rapidly apply these capabilities to any area of operations around the globe. Transformation to full operational capability and beyond must occur concurrently with ongoing operations as the ASCC to USSTRATCOM and its supported and supporting command requirements.

Conditions of irreversible momentum are set at the strategic and operational levels. At the strategic level, Change 2 to the 2002 Unified Command Plan—which assigned new missions to USSTRATCOM

and subsequently to SMDC/ARSTRAT as the ASSC—necessitates change by SMDC/ARSTRAT to reach full operational capability by 1 January 2004. At the operational level, the fielding of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) marks a significant insertion of capability based on technological developments. Future enhancements to SMDC/ARSTRAT warfighting capabilities in all mission areas can clearly be envisioned and the organization needs to be positioned to achieve maximum benefit.

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 increase of the TOA share thereof.
- The strategic and operational environment is likely to change before 2015.
- Science and Technology will produce materiel solutions on the required timeline.
- 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 ASSC, with a trained and ready Army force able to plan, coordinate, integrate and execute 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—is critical to the nation's defense.