



In a dynamic and unpredictable strategic environment, the U.S. Army provides a full range of choices to the nation and a shield against uncertainty—an essential national asset.

The Value of Engagement

Engagement is an important instrument of foreign policy used throughout the world to achieve national security objectives. The Theater Engagement Plan activities of the warfighting commanders in chief (CINCs) provide direction and common vision for “shaping” the security environment. The Army:

-  promotes stability and deters potential aggressors;
-  increases regional readiness and enhances coalition capabilities;
-  improves ability of regional partners to defend themselves;
-  strengthens security alliances and partnerships; and
-  promotes security arrangements suited to the challenges of the 21st century.

Our presence strengthens relations with our hosts and improves our ability to protect ourselves by eliminating suspicion, demystifying intent, opening the door to communication, and denying the closed environment in which terrorists thrive.

General Tommy Franks
CINC U.S. Central Command
Congressional Testimony, March 2001

The Value of Forward Presence

Whether the mission calls for compelling or deterring an adversary or for reassuring or supporting an ally, there is no more convincing sign of American commitment than the presence of U.S. soldiers on the ground.

Forward-deployed Army forces are part of the essential “strategic framework” for global security. They are vital to each CINC’s overarching theater engagement strategy.

Strategic Value

Forward-deployed Army forces:

-  signal U.S. commitment and strategic intent;
-  sustain U.S. global leadership by cementing coalition and enabling alliances;
-  promote stability, prevent conflict and deter aggression;
-  enable strategic responsiveness, access and power projection;
-  fulfill treaty obligations and security agreements, thus setting the conditions for peace and security over time; and
-  appreciate and continuously influence the operational environment in real time.

It is physical, not virtual, U.S. presence that brings peace of mind to the democratic nations of the region, and provides tangible deterrence.

General Thomas Schwartz
CINC United Nations Command/U.S. Forces Korea
Congressional Testimony, March 2001

This is the first of a series of discussion papers on key strategic issues relevant to the U.S. Army’s transformation.

more . . .



The Value of Forward Presence (continued)



Operational Value

Army forward presence provides:

-  trained and ready forces for crisis;
-  capability to meet many in-theater requirements;
-  enhanced interoperability and strengthened capabilities of allies and potential security partners;
-  eyes and ears oriented on potential battlefields clear mission focus, culturally and geographically acclimated; and
-  a foundation for rapid and decisive crisis response.

In peacetime, forward presence of naval, land, and air assets provides unparalleled access to countries in transition. In crisis, the forward presence of our forces enables a rapid transition from engagement to response. Forward presence is a critical enabler for USEUCOM activities.

General Joseph W. Ralston
CINC U.S. European Command
Congressional Testimony, April 2001

Tactical Value

On the ground, in-theater Army forces provide immediate warfighting and security forces that enable CINCs to shape activities, assure access and enable speedy reception of follow-on forces. Forward-deployed Army forces reassure allies and deter aggression and adventurism through a clear and unambiguous statement of U.S. commitment.

-  Forward-stationed forces (e.g., Germany, Italy, South Korea)
-  Forward-presence forces (e.g., Kuwait, Sinai, Balkans)
-  Prepositioned equipment (e.g., Diego Garcia, Guam, Southwest Asia, Europe)

While the U.S. has made great strides in our ability to rapidly project power around the globe, there is still no substitute for some degree of forward presence when faced with limited warning times, and vast distances.

General Thomas Schwartz
CINC United Nations Command/U.S. Forces Korea
Congressional Testimony, March 2001

The Army is the essential contributor to CINC Theater Engagement Plans that shape the international environment in support of U.S. national interests.



We base our power and influence on our values, our economic vibrancy, our desire to be a partner in this critical region, and the forward-deployed forces of the U.S. Pacific Command.

Admiral Dennis Blair
CINC U.S. Pacific Command
Congressional Testimony, March 2001

***Boots on the Ground...
the ultimate commitment to demonstrate the national will.***