

**Statement of Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England**

**2006 QDR**

**Before the House Armed Services Committee**

**March 14, 2006**

Chairman Hunter, Representative Skelton, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the invitation to engage in a dialogue with you today. It is a special privilege to appear together with my close friend and colleague, Admiral Ed Giambastiani, who has been my constant counterpart in co-leading the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review process, and with Ryan Henry, who has spearheaded the effort all the way through. We do appreciate the opportunity to meet with this Committee. Today, we are prepared to discuss our efforts on the QDR to date, and our plans for the implementation of the QDR's strategic direction.

Let me start out by saying how much we appreciate this Committee's support for our men and women in uniform, and the great things they are doing around the world and at home, to defend freedom and liberty. You have also expended a great deal of effort and energy in your Committee Defense Review, trying to make sure that we have it right. The Department has made every effort to cooperate fully with the CDR. My understanding is that we have provided some 53 presentations and over 100 hours of briefings, from OSD Components, the Joint Staff, Services, and our Combatant Commands. We have made available 14 three-stars and 6 Deputy Assistant Secretaries, and our QDR team under Ryan Henry has worked closely with you. The Department appreciates the efforts you are making and looks forward to your conclusions.

Continued close cooperation between Congress and the Department of Defense is critical to our national security mission. The Department needs your continuing support in making hard choices as we prepare the military and the Nation to meet future security challenges. Without the full support of Congress, in making the hard choices still before us, there will be no way that the Department can implement this QDR and the strategic direction it lays out.

The QDR is a strategic document. It is based on the recognition that the Department of Defense, and our nation as a whole, face a global security climate of dynamic, complex threats, and that these threats will continue into the foreseeable future. The Nation has accomplished a great deal over the four years since our last Review. Much more remains to be done.

As you know, this is a critical time for America. We are a nation at war.

America is fighting against dispersed networks of terrorist extremists. This enemy is adaptable, relentless, and will continue the attack whenever and wherever he finds the opportunity. We did not choose this fight, but we don't have the option of walking away. Victory requires that our military continue to adopt unconventional, irregular and indirect approaches to eliminate the enemy's ability to strike.

But the Long War is only part of the nation's security challenge.

Hostile states or non-state actors could acquire and use weapons of mass destruction, and could strike a shattering blow to the US or our allies. This is a real danger as corrupt regimes are actively developing WMD, while terrorists seek access to WMD. Guarding against this threat – and preparing for possible attacks - requires that we pursue new technologies, build new sets of skills, and redouble our counter-proliferation efforts with international partners.

The nation also faces the possibility that a major or emerging power could choose to pursue a hostile course. The most effective approach will be to foster cooperation with emerging powers, while taking prudent steps to hedge against surprise. Traditional, state-based threats are still a concern. They have been kept at bay precisely because our nation has been so well prepared.

Of course, all of these challenges have a bearing on the security of our US homeland. Detecting, deterring, and defeating the threats far from our shores is the best way to keep America safe. But the Department of Defense is also prepared to defend America closer to home, and the Department continues to provide support to other agencies of the US Government for homeland security missions.

Importantly, over the next quarter century, scientific change will proceed significantly more rapidly than ever before. These advances will help us improve and expand our economy, but they will also help our adversaries who would do us harm. In a global marketplace, small competitors will increasingly have access to the latest commercial technologies and, in some cases, to advanced military technologies as well.

The 2006 QDR lays out the strategic approach of the Department of Defense for meeting these challenges. It captures the Department's best thinking, planning, and decisions as of early 2006. It is therefore an "interim" document, intended to launch a continuous wave of future improvements.

Highlighted below are the key findings of the 2006 QDR, for consideration as this Committee and the full Congress decide how best to act on the QDR's recommendations. Some of these steps apply to the Department of Defense alone, but many require the cooperation of other agencies.

- Defeat terrorist extremists in the Long War.
- Defend the homeland in depth.
- Help shape the choices of countries at strategic crossroads.
- Prevent the acquisition or use of weapons of mass destruction by hostile state or non-state actors.
- Ensure that the United States maintains its scientific and technological leadership.
- Integrate all the elements of U.S. national power for both homeland and national security.

- Develop a management structure for the Department of Defense that is as agile as our forces, moving to an Information Age enterprise rather than the Industrial Age enterprise we have today.
- Meet the security challenges of a new century with the broad support of all political parties and administrations.
- Focus on building capabilities, rather than numbers.

When you look at all of these initiatives together, as Newt Gingrich wrote in the *Washington Post* several days ago, “This is an extraordinary level of change.” He added, correctly, that “the QDR is best seen as one more building block in the new architecture of 21<sup>st</sup> century American security”. The QDR is indeed part of a longer-term continuum of change.

Now, to be clear, the QDR is not the same as the 2007 budget request. Change doesn’t happen that way in this town – you don’t reorient strategic direction in just one budget cycle. The QDR is the Department’s long-term strategic vision. Putting all of it into practice – institutionalizing real change – will take time. That said, the Department has inserted a few “leading edge” measures from the QDR into the 2007 budget request.

To realize the QDR’s strategic vision, and to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, America will require constancy of leadership, and unity of purpose within the US Government and with our friends and allies.

It was a steady commitment of national and international will, sustained for over 40 years, that succeeded in defeating the Communist threat. In the difficult days of the Cold War, America was blessed to have a succession of leaders with vision and courage, who faced down Communist expansion and intimidation, and stood up for freedom, liberty, and prosperity.

This commitment of national will transcended multiple Presidencies and Congresses. It included Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, all of whom put America's security first.

At the beginning of the Cold War, Harry Truman, a Democrat, was fiercely opposed on many issues by the Republican Congress. Nevertheless, to make sure we succeeded in the epic struggle between freedom and totalitarianism, the two parties found common cause, forged a consensus, and established capable, long-lasting new institutions of national security, including our own Department of Defense.

At the beginning of this new Long War, our nation needs to build on its past successes. More than in any past conflict, America needs a strong, bipartisan consensus on national security. Success will also require coordination between the Executive and Legislative Branches. This Committee has a critical role to play in facilitating these relationships. The Nation will also need an integrated effort among all agencies and at all levels of the US Government, as well as with our international partners.

The security challenges before us are difficult and complex, and how well we handle them will profoundly shape the prospects for future generations. This is a war of commitment, will, and resolve, over a sustained period of time. America remains the strongest nation on earth. With the united will of Congress and the American people, and the hard work and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, the Department of Defense will continue to provide the security that supports the freedom we all enjoy.

Thank you for your commitment to this most profound endeavor.