



U.S. Military Strategy for the Global War on Terrorism

This briefing is
UNCLASSIFIED



Nature of the War

- **The United States is at war against extremists that advocate the use of violence, to include murder, to gain control over others, and in doing so, threaten our way of life.**
 - Not a religious or cultural clash, despite extremists' claims to the contrary.
- **It is a war to preserve ordinary peoples' ability to live as they choose, and to protect the tolerance and moderation of open societies from the onslaught of extremists.**
- **The United States must ally itself with others who are moderate in their beliefs -- such as mainstream Muslims who reject domination by extremists.**
- **Success will rely heavily on close cooperation and integration of all instruments of national power and the combined efforts of the international community.**



Nature of the Threat

- We are under attack from a global movement comprising:
 - **Violent extremist organizations, networks, and individuals**
 - Primary enemy: Extremist movements that exploit Islam for ideological ends.
 - Most dangerous: Al Qa'ida and associated extremists.
 - One of the extremists' key instruments is terrorism – assassinations and murder of ordinary people.
 - **State and non-state supporters of violent extremist organizations**
 - Some supporters are ideologically motivated, some are not.
 - Some supporters -- corrupt government officials, criminals and others -- forge opportunistic “alliances of convenience” with violent extremists.

National Strategy for the GWOT

OSD input



Ends

Overall Goal: Preserve and promote the way of life of free and open societies based on the rule of law, defeat terrorist extremism as a threat to that way of life, and create a global environment inhospitable to terrorist extremists.

Protect the Homeland

Disrupt and Attack Terrorist Networks

Counter Ideological Support for Terrorism

Ways

Help create and lead a broad international effort to deny terrorist networks the resources they need to operate and survive.

Means

Instruments of National Power



Military Strategic Framework for the GWOT

Ends

Strategic Goal: Preserve and promote the way of life of free and open societies based on the rule of law, defeat terrorist extremism as a threat to our way of life, and create a global environment inhospitable to terrorist extremists.

*Ideological support Funds Leadership Weapons
Comms & Movement Safe havens Foot soldiers Access to Targets*

Enemy

Protect the Homeland

Disrupt and Attack Terrorist Networks

Counter Ideological Support for Terrorism

Deny terrorists the resources they need to operate and survive.

Enable partner nations to counter terrorism.

Deny WMD/E proliferation, recover and eliminate uncontrolled materials, and maintain capacity for consequence mgmt.

Defeat terrorists and their organizations.

Counter state and non-state support for terrorism in coordination with other U.S. Government agencies and partner nations.

Contribute to the establishment of conditions that counter ideological support for terrorism.

Military Strategic Objectives

Ways

Means

Combatant Commands, Services, and Combat Support Agencies