



## **US Department of Defense**

### **2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) Update September 30, 2009**

*The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) is a legislatively-mandated (USC 10, Sec. 118 (a)) review of Department of Defense (DoD) strategy and priorities.*

- As of August 2009, we are mid-way through the review process.
  - QDR deliberations continue. The Secretary of Defense and other senior leaders are working toward key decisions, supported by relevant analysis and intelligence, engagement with Congressional stakeholders, and processes to test assumptions, such as through the QDR Red Team.
- The 2008 National Defense Strategy is the strategic point of departure for the review. The QDR Terms of Reference and the Secretary's statements on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget build on that foundation.
- Across key issue areas, this review is assessing the balance between lessons learned from ongoing operations and capabilities needed to support the types of operations we anticipate in the future—including hedging against unforeseen threats arising from the uncertainty of a highly complex security environment.
- The Secretary intends to deliver a QDR defense program that is strategy driven but fiscally informed. QDR issues are being integrated into the Department's program and budget review processes.
  - The Secretary has stated that the QDR's assessments will not be resource constrained and he is prepared to ask for the resources necessary to meet the nation's defense needs.
- The QDR continues an evolutionary process to balance the force for current and future challenges that began in the FY10 budget submission and will continue through the FY11 budget and beyond, as well as through follow-on guidance documents.
- In late July, the Secretary approved guidance that identified strategic priorities for the Department's force development planning and resourcing work. This guidance supports DoD components' development of budget submissions.
  - This guidance provides overall direction for the evolution of U.S. military capabilities and reflects early insights from the QDR analytic work. These efforts continue the process of rebalancing the capabilities of U.S. forces as called for in the 2008 National Defense Strategy.
  - The guidance also directs DoD components to conduct studies on specific issues to inform near and longer-term deliberations and resource decisions.

- In the coming weeks and months, QDR efforts will focus on ensuring the strategic framework informs the program-budget review process; standing up the Congressionally-mandated Independent Panel; and drafting the QDR Report that will be submitted to Congress with the DoD FY11 budget in early February 2010.

## UPDATE ON COLLABORATION

- Combatant Commands and Military Services continue to play active roles in the QDR through participation in issue teams and senior-level review and decision-making bodies.
- The Department of Defense continues to bring non-DoD perspectives into discussions supporting the review and analysis of QDR issues including:
  - Congressional Committee staff
  - Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Agency for International Development, National Security Council Staff, Intelligence Community, and others in the Executive branch
  - Think tanks representing the political spectrum
  - Foreign allies and partners
  - Industry
- As the review progresses, the Department will continue to engage key stakeholder communities to keep them informed about the Review process and progress and take their feedback into consideration.