

# STRATEGIC STUDIES INSTITUTE

Research Plan 2009



Strategic Studies Institute  
U.S. Army War College  
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5244

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The Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) of the U.S. Army War College publishes national security and strategic research and analyses which serve to influence policy debate and bridge the gap between the military and academia.

SSI helps ensure the currency of the U.S. Army War College curriculum and assists the Army's leaders in identifying key strategy issues and by providing rigorous strategic analysis and recommendations. To those ends, SSI develops an annual research plan to guide its efforts for the following year. But this plan is a flexible one that is constantly revised as the strategic environment changes. As new issues, opportunities, and threats emerge, SSI, in consultation with the leadership of the U.S. Army War College, the Army Staff and other elements of the Department of Defense, devises ways to best analyze them. As a result, the priority for conducting the research described in this plan may be adjusted to allow analysis of new issues, opportunities, and threats.

**RESEARCH PLAN 2009**

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## Analytical Resources

SSI's civilian research professors and uniformed officers form the heart of its research efforts. All have extensive credentials and experience. They are trained in fields such as political science, history, law, or strategic studies and hold advanced degrees from Georgetown, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Temple, Claremont, Texas Tech, University of Tennessee, Widener University School of Law, National War College, Naval War College, Naval Postgraduate School, and Golden Gate University. Full information on SSI research faculty is available on the Institute's web page at [www.StrategicStudiesInstitute.army.mil/](http://www.StrategicStudiesInstitute.army.mil/).

For research and analysis, SSI is divided into three components: the *Strategic Research and Analysis Department* focuses on trans-regional and functional issues; the *Regional Strategy and Planning Department* focuses on regional strategic issues; and the *Academic Engagement Directorate* creates and sustains partnerships across the strategic community.

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In addition to its organic resources, SSI has a network of external research associates around the world, including the foremost thinkers in the field of security and military strategy. Typically, between a third and a half of SSI's publications are written by these external partners. Information on the External Research Associates Program is available at [www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/opportunities/#erap](http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/opportunities/#erap).

## Products

SSI provides strategic analysis to support the USAWC curriculum, provides direct analysis for the Army leadership, and serves as a bridge to the wider strategic community.

SSI produces a wide range of products to serve these audiences including:

- *SSI Studies*. SSI studies are published by the Institute and distributed to key strategic leaders in the Army and Department of Defense, the military educational system, Congress, the media, other think tanks and defense institutes, and major colleges and universities. They are all available on the SSI web site. SSI studies range from relatively short essays to book-length compilations. The norm is a monograph of about 50 pages based on rigorous research using scholarly and primary sources. SSI studies use history and current political, economic, and military factors to develop strategic recommendations.
- *Other analytical reports*. At the request of the Army leadership, SSI provides analytical reports on pressing strategic issues. The distribution of these is usually more limited than SSI studies.
- *The Key Strategic Issues List*. Every year SSI compiles a Key Strategic Issues List (KSIL) based on input from the U.S. Army War College faculty, the Army Staff, the Joint Staff, the unified and specified commands, and other Army organizations. This is designed to guide the research of SSI, the U.S. Army War College, and other Army related strategic analysts. It is available on the SSI web site.
- *External Publications*. SSI analysts publish widely outside of the Institute's own products. SSI analysts have been published by major university presses, commercial publishers, and influential journals. They have contributed chapters to many books. Recent articles by SSI analysts have appeared in publications such as *Jane's Intelligence Review*, *Occasional Papers of the Woodrow Wilson Center*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Strategic Review*, *Military Review*, *Joint Force Quarterly*,

*National Security Studies Quarterly, Central Asian Security, Washington Quarterly, Asian Survey, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Orbis, and African Security Review.*

- *Academic Colloquia.* SSI conducts academic colloquia to examine issues of importance to the Army, collaborating with some of the most prestigious universities in the country. Partners include Georgetown, Princeton, Harvard, MIT, Columbia, University of Chicago, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Duke, and the University of Pennsylvania.
- *Talks, Presentations, and Provision of Subject Matter Experts.* SSI analysts give talks and presentations to a very wide array of audiences including academics, military organizations, and other components of the global strategic community. These take place both in the United States and around the world. In an average year, SSI analysts speak in a dozen or more countries. In addition, they serve as participants and experts at seminars, war games and simulations, and are often interviewed by the print and electronic media.
- *The SSI Electronic Newsletter.* SSI publishes a monthly electronic newsletter that describes current and forthcoming publications and colloquia, and includes an editorial on a topic of importance to American defense.

## **FY09 Research Projects**

### **Strategy Research and Analysis Department**

**Study Title:** Future of the RC: DoD's Implementation of Legislative Initiatives

The purpose of this study is to examine changes to the RC that will result from DoD's implementation of findings and recommendations by the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves (CNGR). The January 2008 Report by the CNGR prompted a short-term intensive review by DoD. Some of CNGR's 163 findings and 95 recommendations (in six broad categories) were found fully acceptable by DoD, some were rejected, and many were found acceptable, but with stipulations. Those found acceptable were forwarded to appropriate agencies for evaluation and recommendations for implementation. By mid-2009 the implementation data should be available for an evaluation of potentially profound changes in the RC.

The study will be coordinated with the Office, Chief Army Reserve (OCAR) and the National Guard Bureau (NGB). The methodology will consist first of selection of one of the six categories to study, thereby limiting the study to a manageable number of phenomena. The category selected will be in concert with OCAR and NGB and will reflect agreement about which category is most likely to contain recommendations with the greatest potential for impact on the RC. The study's goal is to determine the likely intended and unintended changes to RC structure and processes and the effect of these changes on the RC's ability to fulfill its future missions. The planned completion date for the study is February 2010.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Adapting the Reserve Components to continuous mobilization; Active and Reserve Components' roles in homeland security

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**Study Title:** A 21st Century Grand Strategy for the United States

The purpose of this study is to provide senior military and political leaders with an argument for a new U.S. Grand Strategy and the corollary need for the effective integration of military and civilian instruments of power that it requires. This study will review and assess some of the competing proposals for alternative grand strategies, addressing different conceptions of the U.S. role in the world, the characteristics of the strategic environment, and some of the capabilities needed to achieve strategic objectives.

**Study Title:** Bridging the Gaps: Integrating Military and Civilian Capabilities in U.S. National Security Policy and Strategy

The purpose of this study is to provide senior military and political leaders with an assessment and analysis of the current U.S. structures and processes for formulating and implementing national security policy and strategy. The study will focus on so-called “whole of government” approaches and the effective integration of instruments of power that is required. It will combine historical and contemporary cases in demonstrating the need for new institutional capabilities and processes for integrating them. It will also contain an overview and review of current “reform” proposals and efforts.

**Relevant KSIL Topic:** For both studies, Global Functional and Strategic Issues

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**Study Title:** The Effects of Multiple Deployments on Army Adolescents

Purpose: To provide senior military leaders an analysis of the stress on Army adolescents due to multiple deployments and to identify factors that mitigate that stress.

Rationale: In a persistent conflict environment, multiple deployments have been and will continue to impact readiness.

Discussion: This study will consist of two phases. The first phase will be an online survey administered to soldiers, spouses, and children. Trends and issues will be identified in the first phase. The second phase will consist of interviews with children. Trends identified in the first phase will be explored and illuminated during the second phase.

**Relevant KSIL Topic:** Analyzing the impact of repeated deployments on families

**Study Title:** Obesity in America: Implications for the U.S. Army

Purpose: To provide senior military leaders an analysis of the effects of obesity in America and the implications for recruiting, retention, and leader development.

Rationale: Obesity continues to be a major hurdle for recruiting and overweight soldiers continue to challenge retention. This study will explore the implications of the societal trend of increasing obesity.

Discussion: Societal trends of obesity as well as future forecasts will be examined. The impact of recruiting from society will then be analyzed with a focus on the effect on the recruitable pool of youth. Finally, retention practices will be analyzed with an examination of the effect of obesity after soldiers are recruited.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** What defines “quality” in the Army of the future (2010 and beyond)? Investigate future trends (up to 2020) in American population (ages 17-42) that will impact recruiting for Army components and recommend courses of action that maintain recruiting success

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## Regional Strategy and Policy Department

**Study Title:** New Frontiers in Counterinsurgency (edited book)

The purpose of this book is to provide strategists and defense leaders with insights on the changing nature of insurgency and counterinsurgency. Secretary of Defense Gates has indicated that counterinsurgency will remain a central element of U.S. strategy in the coming decades. To succeed at this, the Army and Joint community must understand how insurgency itself is evolving. This book will bring together the insights of a number of the top analysts in this field.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Analyzing developments in contemporary warfare; Requirements for counterinsurgency operations

**Study Title:** The Future of American Landpower in the 21st Century

The purpose of this study is to reexamine the role of American landpower given the massive changes in the strategic environment. In 1996 the Strategic Studies Institute published a seminal study on this topic which assessed the role of landpower within the context of the revolution in military affairs and defense transformation. Much has happened since then, most importantly the increased priority of confronting irregular challenges and supporting stabilization operations within U.S. strategy. For this reason, it is time to re-visit the issue of the strategic role and relevance of landpower.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Understanding revolutionary change in warfare; Analyzing developments in contemporary warfare; Changing landpower roles in stabilization, reconstruction, and humanitarian operations

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**Study Title:** China's Quest for Maritime Power

The purpose of this study is to provide senior military and political leaders with better understanding of China's quest for maritime power, and its challenges and implications for the United States. Several of China's maritime-related developments made headline news recently. One is China's dispatch of its naval fleet to the Gulf of Aden to protect China's commercial vessels from Somali pirate attack. Then it was senior Chinese officials openly articulating China's need to develop a power navy, and, more pointedly, aircraft carrier battle groups. Finally, the Chinese navy is using its 60th year anniversary to mark a new beginning of China's quest for maritime power. Indeed, after making much progress in its development on the mainland, China is now turning its attention to its largely underdeveloped maritime interests and naval power. An analysis of the Chinese views on this issue and the implications to the United States will be very beneficial to U.S. decisionmakers.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Balancing U.S. economic, political, and security interests with China in Asia; Assessing the strategic impact of China's maritime power on Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia sub-regions

**Study Title:** Chinese Way of War and Diplomacy

The purpose of this study is to provide senior military and political leaders with better understanding of the Chinese strategic culture – the Chinese view on the nature of war, the use of force, and the conduct of war and diplomacy. China is on the rise and going through a “power transition” with the United States. There are opportunities for cooperation but also risks for confrontation between these two great powers. This study will help U.S. leaders to understand the Chinese way of war and diplomacy and to manage the power transition.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Balancing U.S. economic, political, and security interests with China in Asia; Assessing the strategic impact of China's rising on Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia sub-regions

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**Study Title:** A New Dynamic in the Western Hemisphere Security Environment: The Mexican *Zetas* and other Private Armies

The purpose of this study is to help military, policy, opinion, and academic leaders think strategically about explanations, consequences, and responses that might apply to the dangerous new players that are insinuating themselves into Mexican internal and hemispheric security environments. In Mexico, this new dynamic involves hard and soft-power threats from small, professional, nontraditional private nonstate military organizations. The dynamic of privatized violence involves a more powerful and ambiguous mix of terrorism, crime, and conventional war tactics and operations than has been seen previously. Moreover, this violence tends to create and consolidate semi-autonomous enclaves (criminal-free states) that develop into quasi-states – and what the Mexican government calls “Zones of Impunity.” These dynamics not only challenge Mexican stability, security, and sovereignty, but also challenge the security and stability of the United States and Mexico’s other neighbors.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Hemispheric security forces (military and police) and new threats; Ungoverned space and implications for territorial security; Gangs and other trans-national crime as a threat to the area; Narco-funded terrorism networks; Analyzing developments in contemporary warfare

**Study Title:** The Resurgence of Peru’s *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path).

The purpose of this study is to provide military, political, opinion, and academic leaders with an update on the supposedly defunct *Sendero Luminoso*. When the primary leadership of *Sendero* was captured, tried, and jailed in 1992-1993, it was thought that that Maoist insurgency had been destroyed. But *Sendero* has mutated into a terrorist-criminal network utilizing a complex and ambiguous mix of terrorism, war, and crime (illegal drug production and trafficking) to help achieve its long-term objective of violently creating a “nationalistic,” “Indian,” and “popular” democracy in Peru. It is time to rethink U.S. and Peruvian counter-terror/counter-drug strategies, and accommodate to a new set of realities.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Understanding revolutionary change in warfare; Analyzing developments in contemporary warfare; Hemispheric security forces and new threats; Gangs and other transnational crime as a threat to the area; Narco-funded terrorism networks.

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**Study Title:** Escalation and Intra-War Deterrence in Middle East Conflicts

The purpose of the forthcoming monograph is to provide senior military and political leaders with a discussion of the lessons and implications of two key historical case studies where nations armed with weapons of mass destruction may have seriously considered their use but ultimately did not resort to these weapons. These instances are the 1973 Arab-Israeli War and the 1991 Gulf War. Both of these wars were fought at the conventional level, although the prospect of Israel using nuclear weapons, Egypt using biological weapons, or Iraq using chemical and biological weapons were of serious concern at various points during the fighting. The prospect of a U.S. war with WMD-armed opponents (such as occurred in 1991) raises the question of how escalation can be controlled in such circumstances and what are the most likely ways that intra-war deterrence can break down. This study will consider why efforts at escalation control and intra-war deterrence were successful in the two case studies under consideration and assess the points at which these efforts were under the most intensive stress that might have caused them to fail. An understanding of these earlier case studies may be useful in future circumstances where the United States may seek to explicitly deter WMD use by potential adversaries such as Iran or North Korea. This is particularly important in a wartime environment in which all parties should rationally have an interest in controlling escalation, but may have trouble doing so due to both systemic and wartime misperceptions and mistakes that distort communications between adversaries and may cause fundamental misunderstandings about the nature of the conflict which these states may find themselves embroiled.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Middle Eastern Regional Security Strategy; Deterrence and dissuasion in U.S. national strategy; Nonproliferation and counter-proliferation

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**Study Title:** Russian Defense Reform; Part 1: The General Purpose Forces

The purpose of this study is to provide senior military and political leaders with an analysis of the new Russian defense reform of the army, navy, and air (air defense) forces introduced in late 2008. This reform, if implemented, could engender a major transformation of the Russian military as we know it and has important security and defense implications for Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and East Asia. A second study will follow to consider the reform of the strategic rocket, i.e., nuclear, forces. These studies will analyze trends in Russian military development and what they might presage for the United States, specifically any potential threats or risks to U.S. interests.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** The revival of Russian military forces; Long-term stability, support, reconstruction and transition operations

**Study Title:** Challenges and Opportunities to the Obama Administration in Central Asia

The purpose of this study is to provide senior political and military leaders with an analysis of the current strategy for the war in Afghanistan. The administration has announced that its strategy for prosecution of this war is an Af-Pak strategy, i.e., one that emphasizes the centrality of Pakistan and the priority of Afghanistan in our current strategy. This study suggests that such an approach is incomplete because it leaves out Central Asia as a factor. The ensuing strategy is much more than a military one; it is a holistic security strategy that aims to ensure the region is stabilized and independent of efforts to destabilize it either by Islamic terrorism or by Moscow's neo-colonialism. The evidence is that Central Asian states welcome a U.S. presence as long as it is not onerous or perceived as threatening, but rather as a way to balance their ties with Moscow and Beijing. Such a strategy is decidedly in U.S. interests.

**Relevant KSIL Topics:** Growing U.S. security interests in the Caucasus and Central Asia; Russia-China-U.S. competition in Central Asia; Security cooperation and political reform in Central Asia

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