

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT WAR

Course was about how we structure civil/mil in US. We covered the relations among and between the services, the reserves, contractors, OSD, Congress, the President, the parties, the media, the public and our allies. Key issue: centralization/decentralization.

We have an Empire (and plans to maintain it ---Primacy and Preemption) and are just beginning to come to grips with its implications as a result of the al Qaeda attacks, Iraq project, and the attitude of "allies" and others.

Let's consider some questions:

1. What are the likely threats to US security in next 15/20/25 years?
2. What forces, budget, and strategies do we need to meet these threats?
3. What factors shape the forces/budget/strategies we have; how are they affected by threats?
4. How do Jointness, the AVF, and technology trends affect ability to meet challenges?
5. Is a transformation of the military necessary to meet the threats?
6. How will the concern domestic security (Homeland Security Dept.) affect the politics of defense?
7. Will the Republican and Democrat party positions on defense change?
8. Will the balance between the executive and legislative branches change because of changes in threat and/or politics?
9. What services or parts of the services, if any, are in jeopardy?
10. Is the Empire viable? Will the US public support it? Will our "allies"?
11. Are there any domestic threats to the Empire? Think again.

What do you want to bet on?

Your judgments on these questions?

My judgments? The Transformation Office's? Whose?

A structure that pits ideas and interests against one another?

It works in the economy, politics, and education---can it work in defense? What is required to make it happen? Why is there resistance? Why the desire to have a plan? Why the need to centralize? Hedge against uncertainty.

Are analogies really any good?

- The economy—companies plan but....
- The political system---is there competition?
- The legal system----advocacy
- The educational system; science
- The international system---chaos

How about half the current budget? Lots of R&D and lots of rivalry?

Who prevents this from happening? Civilians? The services? Contractors?