



# **Counterproliferation at Ten**

*Transforming the Fight Against  
Weapons of Mass Destruction*

**8-9 December 2003**

## **Reducing the Threat in the Next Ten Years**

**General Larry D. Welch, USAF (Ret.)**  
**Former Chief of Staff, United States Air Force**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

---

# **Reducing The Threat In The Next 10 Years**

**A Very Short Time  
A Very Long Time**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

# ***The Context: The National Security Environment***

---

- From stable, predictable, gradually evolving to unstable, unpredictable, rapidly changing
- The Cold War strategic environment
  - Predictable, well-understood adversary
  - Single potentially cataclysmic threat
  - Well-understood US strategy and approach
  - Long-term view, patiently and resolutely managing challenges – nation threatening and contingencies
- Our view of the world today?
  - Frustration over Vietnam, subsequent military success feeding impatience for resolution – expectation of “decisive defeat”
- Decisive military victory does not equal decisive resolution – WWII, Korea, Middle East/Southwest Asia



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

# ***Rapidly Evolving Adversaries Capabilities and Motives***

---

- **Cold War**
  - **Only the Warsaw Pact, sometimes China capable of placing US existence as we know it at risk**
  - **Other adversaries pursuing private regional goals – North Korea, North Vietnam, Iraq**
  - **Terrorists with limited damage objectives**
  
- **Post 9/11**
  - **Wide range of major threats with motives to do fundamental harm to the US**
  - **Terrorists moving to unlimited damage objectives**
  - **Asymmetric capabilities increasingly threatening**
    - **WMD and means of delivery**
    - **Adaptive opportunities**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

# ***Multi-layered Defense***

---

- **No silver bullets**
- **Demand for complex multi-layered defense approach:**
  - **Focused Intelligence**
  - **Vigilant Awareness**
  - **Dissuasion and Deterrence**
  - **Preemption**
  - **Protection**
  - **Rapid Detection and Attack Diagnosis**
  - **Public Leadership and Communications**
  - **Medical Diagnosis and Treatment**
  - **Consequence Management**
  - **Reconstitution**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

# ***Processes, Mechanisms, Accountability***

---

- **Need clearly assigned mission and accountability for:**
  - **A joint and eventually an interagency concept of operations**
  - **A process for identifying capability needs for each layer of the defense**
  - **A process for setting priorities for meeting the needs**
  - **Processes and mechanisms for developing and exploring solutions**
  - **Authority and accountability for making and enforcing program choices**
  - **Program management to execute approved programs**



# ***Bottom Lines***

- **The price of sustaining the environment of security and prosperity that supports an acceptable human condition is resolute commitment to a layered defense**
- **We have successfully met such demands in the past. We should be even more capable of doing so now and in the future.**
- **9/11 was planned and executed by those who saw the US as vulnerable to coercion. Our response to 9/11 demonstrated how wrong they were. The US public is resilient, committed, and tough when informed and led with courage.**
- **We know what it takes. We have what it takes.**