

**TAB 2**  
**Statement of Purpose**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to forward to the Secretary of Defense the recommendations of the Secretary of the Air Force.

**Background**

The demise of the Soviet Union, the victory of the United States and its coalition allies over Iraqi aggression, and the success of integrating the leading democracies into a US-led system of collective security have changed our fundamental strategic position and choices. The new regional defense strategy sets a course that will ensure our ability to deal with potential threats and shape the environment in ways favorable to our national interests and security.

The world has changed in dramatic ways and the national military strategy has evolved to meet regional threats around the world. We must, however, continue to deter and defend against strategic nuclear attacks and retain the potential to defeat a global threat, should one emerge.

The capability to respond rapidly to regional crises and contingencies, such as Iraq, the Balkans, and Somalia, is one of the key demands of our national strategy. Achieving and maintaining preeminence in the air and in space are critical to our continued success as a global leader. Our ability to project power has strategic value beyond crisis response. It is a day-in and day-out contributor to deterrence, regional stability, and collective security.

Obviously, retention of an affordable base structure which supports that national strategy must be the preeminent goal of any base closure process.

**Air Force Restructure**

In responding to extraordinary international developments, political change, and technological revolution, the Air Force has been guided by the strategic planning framework of Global Reach - Global Power. As a result, the Air Force has undertaken the most fundamental restructuring of its institution since its founding in 1947. For example, Air Force Materiel Command integrated Systems and Logistics commands into a single organization for cradle-to-grave weapon system management. In Air Force Intelligence Command, one commander now has responsibility for functions once scattered across the Air Force. Additionally, education and training functions are being integrated under the Air Education and Training Command. Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and Military Airlift

Command merged into the new Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command. The scope of these changes was enormous. In terms of resources and personnel, the restructuring of major Air Force commands dwarfed any of the mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and consolidations that took place in the private sector over the preceding decade.

### **Global Reach - Global Power**

Global Reach - Global Power has been the blueprint of this reshaping, and it captures the unique characteristics of aerospace forces - - speed, range, flexibility, precision, and lethality. Air Combat Command blends firepower into one command. Providing forces tailored for the theater air campaign is the foremost challenge for Air Force power projection. Initiatives like the Composite Wing, where different aircraft are combined in one wing to train together in peacetime and prepare to fight the way they would in war, provide a theater commander with responsive, effective firepower.

Air Mobility Command lines up most of our mobility and refueling assets on the same team and provides the sinew of global reach. Mobility forces preserve a tremendous asset: the ability to operate from the CONUS and to move rapidly to any spot on the globe, whether building an air bridge for ground forces or speeding support for air forces already on the scene. Fighter forces paired with precision weapons are a formidable combination that our mobility fleet can deploy worldwide. Integrating airlift and tankers enhances mobility, reach, and combat power across the breadth of America's armed forces. The uniquely American capabilities to airlift anything, anywhere, and to extend the range of our firepower are the foundation of global reach and power.

America is an aerospace nation. Our aerospace forces are the world's finest. The Air Force, through Global Reach-Global Power, will maintain that superiority in a framework requiring the prudent trading of some force structure and the reduction of excess infrastructure to achieve the highest level of readiness and modernization. Air Force base closure and realignment recommendations occur within the context of Global Reach-Global Power. The focus is on capturing strengths to respond to new challenges in any theater.

### **Applicable Specific Legislation**

The Air Force developed all of its recommendations in compliance with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (DBCRA/90 or Public Law 101-510), as amended by Public Laws 102-190 and 102-484.

### **Air Force Basing Concept**

The Air Force base structure is intended to support Air Force operations, logistics, education, training, research, development, test, and acquisition.

Significant force structure reductions driven by dynamic changes in the international security area, create new challenges for Air Force leaders and all mission elements, as they do for the other Services. To meet these challenges and provide greatest probability for success, weapon systems and like-mission assets are being consolidated where possible to optimize effective combat capability and increase efficiency. This concept, "One Wing, One Boss," creates an environment where a single commander is responsible for all activities on an installation to enhance efficient and effective use of resources in a revised regional contingency (vice global war) strategy.

The array of domestic bases is determined by a variety of factors such as survivability, dispersion, proximity to and unencroached access to training airspace and ranges, extent of ground encroachment, suitable weather, and adequate base infrastructure. Additionally, the Air Force must look to the future and long-term military value and flexibility of its installations. As the Air Force is compelled to adjust its base structure, it must ensure that the potential for limitations on military value such as ground and airspace encroachment and airspace congestion are minimized at our remaining bases. Likewise, locations or regions with potential for future airspace/range expansion must be emphasized.

In determining base structure, the Air Force focused on future concepts: continuing close air support and mobility interoperability with the Army and the development of a modernized Global Reach-Global Power concentration of fire power and mobility - - the composite wing and mobility wing. With regard to close air support interoperability, the Air Force will continue to base, to the maximum extent possible, its close air support force structure on Air Force bases near major Army installations. This will provide daily interoperability with Army units at the division level and below, and enhance the development of improved interoperability and fire power support. Towards this end, the Air Force plans to establish an air/land operations composite wing at Moody AFB, Georgia.

With the focus of the Air Force mission changing from a global war to regional contingencies, mobility requirements have evolved rapidly. To meet this new mission and new mobility requirements, Air Mobility Command was formed to help integrate the air refueling and airlift missions. The next step in meeting new mobility requirements is the establishment of air mobility wings. An air mobility wing would consolidate large numbers of tanker and airlift aircraft onto one base. Besides long-term cost savings and increased efficiency, an air mobility wing would enable air refueling and airlift aircrews to plan and train together as a team for rapid response. Each coast of the US would have a mobility wing to meet future contingencies. An East Coast mobility wing should be based within approximately 3500 miles of Europe enroute staging bases. The staging bases are extremely important to meeting Middle East contingencies.

The bases which will remain in the Air Force basing structure will support the programmed force structure effectively and efficiently. This base structure will retain the flexibility to accommodate absorption of overseas force structure if needed, as well as accommodate changes in the strategic threat. Obviously, future changes in force structure as well as changes in factors which enhance training, such as airspace, ranges, encroachment, and congestion, will cause the Air Force to continue to seek ways to operate more effectively and efficiently.

*NOTE: As part of the 1993 Base Closure and Realignment process, active and Air Reserve Component units are likely to be inactivated. In some cases a unit's heraldry (numerical designation and unit flag) may have a sufficiently high precedence to warrant retention of the unit's heraldry regardless of the inactivation of the unit's structure. In such cases, the Air Force might assign the heraldry to another unit, without changing the substance of the action recommended. For example, if the recommendation were to "transfer the 699th Wing to Anywhere Air Force Base," the aircraft, personnel, equipment, etc., would indeed go to Anywhere AFB, but the unit might be redesignated the "9th Wing."*