



U.S. AIR FORCE

Policy Letter

Digest

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Rumsfeld provides thoughts on terrorism

Following are some concepts from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld for use in speeches, press briefings and talking points, for both internal and external audiences:

Terrorist attack: The Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States was carefully planned. There may be more attack plans in place, and we must recognize that. It is likely that the terrorists planned not only the Sept. 11 attack and future attacks, but that they planned how they would hide and what evidence they wished to leave behind for us to find to confuse our search. Therefore, it will take sustained effort to root them out.

Expectations: The world needs to have realistic expectations. This campaign is a marathon, not a sprint. No terrorist or terrorist network, such as the al Qaeda network, is going to be conclusively dealt with by cruise missiles or bombers. We recognize that it will take time and pressure on the countries that harbor these people for the foes of terrorism to be successful. Therefore, the fact the first, second or third wave of our efforts does not produce specific people should not come as a surprise. We are patient and determined.

Worldwide support: The legitimacy of our actions does not depend on how many countries support us. More nearly the opposite is true; the legitimacy of other countries' opinions should be judged by their attitude toward this systematic, uncivilized assault on a free way of life.

Coalitions: The coalitions that are being fashioned will not be fixed; rather, they will change and evolve. While most countries are concerned about terrorism, and properly so, each country has a somewhat different perspective and different relationships, views and concerns. It should not be surprising that some countries will be supportive of some activities in which the United States is engaged, while other countries will not. Which

group any country falls into will depend on the nature and location of the activity. We recognize that some countries will have to conceal or downplay their cooperation with us. That needs to be understood and accepted.

Fear: We understand that people have fears – fear for themselves, their families and their governments. Therefore, some will be reluctant to join an effort against terrorism or at least some aspects of our efforts. Terrorists terrorize people. We accept that fact. However, we need people's help and any information they can provide that will assist us. A number of countries are helping quietly and we appreciate that. Indeed, we ask people across the globe to provide us any information they have that can help in rooting out terrorists and their networks.

Against terrorism, not the people: We are after terrorists and the regimes that support them. This is not a war against people of any country. The regimes that support terrorism terrorize their own people as well. We need to enlist all civilized people to oppose terrorism, and we need to make it safe for them to do so.

Not against Islam: This is not a war against Islam or any other religion. The al Qaeda terrorists are extremists whose views are antithetical to those of most Muslims. Their actions threaten the interests of the world's Muslims and are aimed in part at preventing Muslim people from engaging the rest of the world. There are millions of Muslims around the world who we expect to become allies in this struggle.

Secondary effects: Finally, there will be secondary effects. We recognize that as we continue to go after terrorism, our activities will have effects in a number of countries. We have to accept that, given the importance of the cause. As a result, relationships and alliances will be rearranged over the coming years.

Jumper talks about terrorism during Whiteman visit

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch visited Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 20 to update people there on America's response to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon Sept. 11.

"I'm here to tell you what's going on and thank you for what you're doing for your nation," General Jumper said.

He said the terrorists tried to unnerve America but were unsuccessful.

"What they don't understand is that hitting our symbols isn't the same as hitting our spirit, and our spirit can't be squelched," said General Jumper, who was in the Pentagon when it was hit by American Airlines Flight 77. The Department of Defense lost 189 people in the attack.

"We're going to take care of business in a profound way. We're going to teach the people of the world that America's spirit is unbreakable," he said, earning cheers from base members.

General Jumper went on to remind Team Whiteman how important their work is.

"When the nation is in a crisis, America turns to you to take care of business," he said. "This team needs to stand together, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, until the job gets done.

"This is a different kind of war, but it will include the same tools it always takes: air and space power," the general said.

"No one else in the world can do what you do. The Air Force will pull together and take the fight to the enemy," General Jumper said, causing more cheers from an already buoyant crowd.

The general then opened up the commander's call for questions. The first person asked if current operations would increase end-strength numbers and result in stop-loss actions.

"I don't think we'll increase our end-strength, but we'll do a stop-loss. Authority for exemptions will be in the hands of the major command commanders and will be done on a case-by-case basis. But it's not appropriate to call up the reserves without doing a stop-loss," the general said.

The next person asked if there would be changes in the Aerospace Expeditionary Force structure.

General Jumper said the AEF may have to be broken for tanker and lift support, but the Air Force would stay within the predictable AEF framework as much as possible.

"For everything else, if we have to break it, we'll explain it carefully ... When the nation calls, we have to answer," the general said. He ended his commander's call with praise for President George W. Bush and the Air Force.

"You heard President Bush. He doesn't want a pin prick, but a campaign ... and we'll see it through to the end.

"I'm proud to be leading the greatest Air Force in the world ... I'm proud to be serving alongside all of you. I'm proud of what you're able to do. When great airmen come together they make great things happen. God bless the United States of America," he said.

President addresses Congress, American people

The following are excerpts from President Bush's Sept. 20 address to a joint session of Congress and the nation concerning the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The complete speech is available at www.whitehouse.gov.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tempore, members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

In the normal course of events, presidents come to this chamber to report on the state of the union. Tonight, no such report is needed. It has already been delivered by the American people.

We have seen the state of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past

exhaustion. We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers — in English, Hebrew and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people who have made the grief of strangers their own.

My fellow citizens, for the last nine days, the entire world has seen for itself the state of our union — and it is strong.

Tonight, we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.

On behalf of the American people, I thank the world for its outpouring of support. America will never forget the sounds of our National Anthem playing at Buckingham Palace, on the streets of Paris and at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

On September the 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars — but for the past 136 years, they have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known the casualties of war — but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks — but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day — and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself is under attack.

Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking: Who attacked our country? The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as al Qaeda. They are the same murderers indicted for bombing American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and responsible for bombing the USS Cole.

Al Qaeda is to terror what the Mafia is to crime. But its goal is not making money; its goal is remaking the world — and imposing its radical beliefs on people everywhere.

The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics — a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam. The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military and civilians, including women and children.

This group and its leader — a person named Osama bin Laden — are linked to many other organizations in different countries, including the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. There are thousands of these terrorists in more than 60 countries. They are recruited from their own nations and neighborhoods and brought to camps in places like Afghanistan, where they are trained in the tactics of terror. They are sent back to their homes or sent to

hide in countries around the world to plot evil and destruction.

Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated.

Americans are asking, why do they hate us? They hate what we see right here in this chamber — a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms — our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and disagree with each other.

Americans are asking: How will we fight and win this war? We will direct every resource at our command — every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war — to the disruption and to the defeat of the global terror network.

This war will not be like the war against Iraq a decade ago, with a decisive liberation of territory and a swift conclusion. It will not look like the air war above Kosovo two years ago, where no ground troops were used and not a single American was lost in combat.

Our response involves far more than instant retaliation and isolated strikes. Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen. It may include dramatic strikes, visible on TV, and covert operations, secret even in success. We will starve terrorists of funding, turn them one against another, drive them from place to place, until there is no refuge or no rest. And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime.

Our nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack. We will take defensive measures against terrorism to protect Americans. Today, dozens of federal departments and agencies, as well as state and local governments, have responsibilities affecting homeland security. These efforts

must be coordinated at the highest level. So tonight I announce the creation of a cabinet-level position reporting directly to me — the Office of Homeland Security.

Many will be involved in this effort, from FBI agents to intelligence operatives to the reservists we have called to active duty. All deserve our thanks, and all have our prayers. And tonight, a few miles from the damaged Pentagon, I have a message for our military: Be ready. I've called the armed forces to alert, and there is a reason. The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud.

The civilized world is rallying to America's side. They understand that if this terror goes unpunished, their own cities, their own citizens may be next. Terror, unanswered, cannot only bring down buildings, it can threaten the stability of legitimate governments. And you know what — we're not going to allow it.

Americans are asking: What is expected of us? I ask you to live your lives, and hug your children. I know many citizens have fears tonight, and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat.

I ask you to uphold the values of America, and remember why so many have come here. We are in a fight for our principles, and our first responsibility is to live by them. No one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic

background or religious faith.

Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom — the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time — now depends on us. Our nation — this generation — will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.

It is my hope that in the months and years ahead, life will return almost to normal. We'll go back to our lives and routines, and that is good. Even grief recedes with time and grace. But our resolve must not pass. Each of us will remember what happened that day, and to whom it happened. We'll remember the moment the news came — where we were and what we were doing. Some will remember an image of a fire, or a story of rescue. Some will carry memories of a face and a voice gone forever.

Fellow citizens, we'll meet violence with patient justice — assured of the rightness of our cause, and confident of the victories to come. In all that lies before us, may God grant us wisdom, and may He watch over the United States of America.

Hate crimes will not be tolerated

Hate crimes are reportedly on the rise across America in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11.

But, even as they assist in cleanup and recovery operations at the Pentagon, Air Force officials are quick to remind bluesuiters everywhere of Air Force policy regarding such conduct.

“It will not be tolerated in the Air Force,” said Bob Cook, Air Force Equal Opportunity Policy chief at the Pentagon. “Commanders have been urged at all levels to remain vigilant and take prompt, appropriate action with members of their commands who fail to meet Air Force standards. Discriminatory treatment in any form, including against individuals of Arab-American, Middle Eastern or Muslim descent, simply will not be tolerated.”

People who violate this policy are subject

to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. To date, Mr. Cook said only one Air Force incident has been reported.

Individuals should immediately report all incidents relating to hate crimes, discrimination or harassment to local military equal opportunity offices, Mr. Cook said.

Air Force leaders have expressed a personal concern and determination that Air Force people will not be subjected to inappropriate treatment because of their national origin, religious beliefs or physical appearance.

Arab-Americans and members of Islamic faith groups are part of our American society and the Air Force, and they should not be unfairly targeted for attacks on America, Mr. Cook said.

“Unfortunately, the suffering, loss of life,

grief and anger that we are experiencing as a result of last week's tragic acts of terrorism may cause some of our people to react negatively and forget this basic tenet," Mr.

Cook said. "For that reason, people must be even more vigilant and proactive to prevent these acts and, when necessary, respond to acts of harassment or discrimination."

People can keep 'use or lose' leave

Active-duty Air Force people will not lose any accumulated annual leave in excess of 60 days as a consequence of operations resulting from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. This leave is commonly referred to as "use or lose" leave.

Those who do accumulate more than 60 days, as a result of being recalled from or not being allowed to take annual leave, are able to keep up to 90 days of annual leave until the end of fiscal 2002, said Charles S. Abell,

assistant secretary of defense for force management policy.

Any scheduled leave that is lost between Sept. 11 and 30 will be restored, said Maj. Karen M. Corrente, chief of Air Force Travel, Transportation and Benefits Policy at the Pentagon. The restored leave must be used by the end of September 2002.

Air Force personnel officials said specific details on policy adjustments will be forthcoming.

Aftermath of tragedy

By Brig. Gen.
Arthur F. "Chip"
Diehl III
Secretary of the Air
Force director of
marketing

The following article was originally published in The Tampa Tribune, Sept. 16, 2001. Reprinted with permission.

As I walked into the Pentagon Sept. 12, the sight of our American flag flying at half-staff, silhouetted against a brilliant orange sunrise, brought home the pride and emotions so caught up inside all of us.

The sorrow, anger, compassion and patriotism came together in heartfelt sympathy for those who are suffering, our own family and our nation. In a moment, while we were spellbound watching on CNN the tragedy at the World Trade Center, our lives in the Pentagon changed forever. This massive building shook, a loud explosion was felt, terror descended upon us all, and evacuation ensued. We couldn't believe it — whole lawn and helicopter pad, we realized how massive, how well-organized the rescue efforts had already grown. As far as one could see, the military, fire and rescue, police, engineers, chaplains and medical teams were in place, working around the clock.

Equally, the Salvation Army, Red Cross, churches and so many crisis response and family support organizations, as well as hundreds of volunteers, were engaged in recovery operations.

America was uniting, responding to this attack, this tragedy. A Baptist church from North Carolina had set up operations, providing food and comfort to family members

praying, waiting and hoping for their loved ones to emerge. Love, comfort, hope and strength were everywhere.

Now, I cannot tell you how proud I am of all our airmen — men, women, officers, enlisted, civilians, guards, reserves — who showed such courage, sacrificed without hesitation to participate in the heroic aftermath of this tragedy.

Our Air Force jets have secured the skies. Our medical corps is now gathering hundreds of specialists, precious supplies of blood and tons of medical resources at McGuire Air Force Base intended for New York. And our services professionals prepare for the grim but necessary task of providing mortuary support through Dover Air Force Base.

Our Air Force has come together to the fullest extent of our capability to support rescue, recovery and security operations. We are so proud to wear this blue suit, to be a part of this great military team.

America has been attacked, our homeland was the target, our people the casualties. America has suffered greatly. But America is now responding — this nation and our people are resilient. Comfort for our loved ones, rescue and recovery, as well as reassuring our security are our priorities.

Our national leaders have taken command of this tragic situation and will direct the appropriate response. We all have utmost respect and faith in them and their decisions.

We all are ready to carry out their orders.

Let there be absolutely no doubt, our armed forces and your Air Force will not rest until we have exhausted our rescue efforts, buried our brethren and taken care of our families.

Even more, our nation can be assured we will not rest until we fulfill the promise of our president that freedom will be defended and this terrorism will be utterly defeated.

We all will remember Sept. 11, 2001, but today we must rally to the sides of the families who are suffering, rally to the rescue and

recovery efforts and rally to support our president and our leadership as they continue to lead our great nation. Our armed forces and our nation will respond with all our strength and resolve to preserve our security, freedom and way of life.

Please, please continue to pray for those missing, those who are suffering and those supporting recovery operations.

America is a wonderful nation. Let us come together in this time of need. Fly our American flag — you wave it; we'll protect it!



RONALD T. RAND
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Public Affairs

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

“I think the important thing to keep in mind is that this is not a question of punishment or retaliation. This is a question of self-defense. The only conceivable way that the United States can be protected against terrorist acts of this type that take place inside of our country — and, I might add, potential terrorist attacks of considerably greater magnitude — is if we attack the problem of terrorism at its roots and go after the people who are doing it. That is what needs to be done.”

Donald Rumsfeld, secretary of defense

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