

This is Google's cache of <http://www.change.gov/agenda/defense/>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on Nov 7, 2008 07:07:07 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)

[Text-only version](#)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2008 | 74 DAYS UNTIL INAUGURATION

AGENDA

A 21ST CENTURY MILITARY FOR AMERICA

“Our country's greatest military asset is the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. When we do send our men and women into harm's way, we must also clearly define the mission, prescribe concrete political and military objectives, seek out advice of our military commanders, evaluate the intelligence, plan accordingly, and ensure that our troops have the resources, support, and equipment they need to protect themselves and fulfill their mission.”

*Of the People, By the People*

There is no more important resource for changing the direction of this country and defining the ideas that will transform America than the American people.

Tell us your ideas and be part of the change you're looking for.

[SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS](#)

— Barack Obama, Chicago Foreign Affairs Council, April 23, 2007

The Problem

**A 20th Century Structure for 21st Century Problems:** We have inherited a national security structure that was developed and organized in the late 1940s to win the Cold War. It remains a rigid bureaucracy of government agencies, relying upon a restrictive and disconnected set of legal authorities.

**New Leadership and Vision is Needed:** America simply cannot afford more of the old approach to our national defense. Instead, it needs a Commander-in-Chief with the right combination of judgment, vision, and leadership for the 21st century.

**A Military Under Strain:** Currently, our soldiers, seamen, airmen and Marines are deployed around the globe, working valiantly to defend our nation. Yet, these heroes are under-resourced and asked to do too much by a policy that has too often taken their sacrifice for granted. Due to their incredible courage and ingenuity, they persevere, but at incredible cost to themselves and their families.

**Recruitment and Retention Problems:** A country of 300 million strong should not struggle to find enough qualified citizens to serve. Recruiting and retention problems have been swept under the rug by an administration that does not understand the value of service to our nation.

**A System Not Serving our Troops as Well as They Serve Us:** As the shameful events at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the recent reports on growing numbers of homeless and unemployed veterans show, we simply are not taking proper care of our wounded warriors and veterans.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden's Plan

[Invest in a 21st Century Military](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE AGENDA

- [Revitalizing the Economy](#)
- [Ending the War in Iraq](#)
- [Providing Health Care for All](#)
- [Protecting America](#)
- [Renewing American Global Leadership](#)

[MORE ISSUES](#)

YOUR ADMINISTRATION

President-Elect  
[Barack Obama](#)

Vice President-Elect  
[Joe Biden](#)

TRANSITION DIRECTORY

[GSA Transition Directory](#)  
The Transition Directory was developed to introduce



- **Rebuild the Military for 21st Century Tasks:** As we rebuild our armed forces, we must not simply recreate the military of the Cold War era. Obama and Biden believe that we must build up our special operations forces, civil affairs, information operations, and other units and capabilities that remain in chronic short supply; invest in foreign language training, cultural awareness, and human intelligence and other needed counterinsurgency and stabilization skill sets; and create a more robust capacity to train, equip, and advise foreign security forces, so that local allies are better prepared to confront mutual threats.
- **Expand to Meet Military Needs on the Ground:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden support plans to increase the size of the Army by 65,000 soldiers and the Marines by 27,000 troops. Increasing our end strength will help units retrain and re-equip properly between deployments and decrease the strain on military families.
- **Leadership from the Top:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden will restore the ethic of public service to the agenda of today's youth, whether it be serving their local communities in such roles as teachers or first responders, or serving in the military to keep our nation free and safe.
- **Lighten the Burdens on Our Brave Troops and Their Families:** An Obama-Biden administration will create a Military Families Advisory Board to provide a conduit for military families' concerns to be brought to the attention of senior policymakers and the public. Obama and Biden will end the Bush administration's stop-loss policy and establish predictability in deployments so that active duty and reserves know what they can and must expect.

#### Build Defense Capabilities for the 21st Century

- **Fully Equip Our Troops for the Missions They Face:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe we must get vitally needed equipment to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines before lives are lost. We cannot repeat such failures as the delays in deployment of armored vehicles, body armor and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles that save lives on the frontlines.
- **Review Weapons Programs:** We must rebalance our capabilities to ensure that our forces have the agility and lethality to succeed in both conventional wars and in stabilization and counter-insurgency operations. Obama and Biden have committed to a review of each major defense program in light of current needs, gaps in the field, and likely future threat scenarios in the post-9/11 world.
- **Preserve Global Reach in the Air:** We must preserve our unparalleled airpower capabilities to deter and defeat any conventional competitors, swiftly respond to crises across the globe, and support our ground forces. We need greater investment in advanced technology ranging from the revolutionary, like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and electronic warfare capabilities, to essential systems like the C-17 cargo and KC-X air refueling aircraft, which provide the backbone of our ability to extend global power.
- **Maintain Power Projection at Sea:** We must recapitalize our naval forces, replacing aging ships and modernizing existing platforms, while adapting them to the 21st century. Obama and Biden will add to the Maritime Pre-Positioning Force Squadrons to support operations ashore and invest in smaller, more capable ships, providing the agility to operate close to shore and the reach to rapidly deploy Marines to global crises.
- **National Missile Defense:** An Obama-Biden administration will support missile defense, but ensure that it is developed in a way that is pragmatic and cost-effective; and, most importantly, does not divert resources from other national security priorities until we are positive the technology will protect the American public.
- **Ensure Freedom of Space:** An Obama-Biden administration will restore American leadership on space issues, seeking a worldwide ban on weapons that interfere with military and commercial satellites. He will thoroughly assess possible threats to U.S. space assets and the best options, military and diplomatic, for countering them, establishing contingency plans to ensure that U.S. forces can maintain or duplicate access to information from space assets and accelerating programs to harden U.S. satellites against attack.
- **Protect the U.S in Cyberspace:** An Obama-Biden administration will work in cooperation with our allies and the private sector to identify and protect against emerging cyber-threats.

Presidential nominees, appointees, and members of the President-elect's Transition Team to the operation of the Federal government and to the resources available to help them begin their service in the new Administration.



**NEWSROOM**

THE BLOG  
LATEST NEWS  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
PRESS ROOM

**LEARN**

THE PRESIDENT ELECT  
THE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT  
THE TRANSITION  
THE INAUGURATION  
THE ADMINISTRATION

**THE AGENDA**

CIVIL RIGHTS  
DEFENSE  
DISABILITIES  
ECONOMY  
EDUCATION  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
ETHICS  
FAITH  
FAMILY  
FISCAL  
FOREIGN POLICY  
HEALTHCARE  
HOMELAND SECURITY

IMMIGRATION  
IRAQ  
POVERTY  
RURAL  
SERVICE  
SENIORS & SOCIAL SECURITY  
TAXES  
TECHNOLOGY  
URBAN POLICY  
VETERANS  
WOMEN  
ADDITIONAL ISSUES

**AMERICAN MOMENT**

SHARE YOUR STORY  
SHARE YOUR VISION

**AMERICA SERVES**

SERVICE PLAN  
FIND A WAY TO SERVE

**JOBS**

APPLY NOW

**ABOUT THIS SITE**

CONTACT  
GSA TRANSITION DIRECTORY  
ACCESSIBILITY  
PRIVACY POLICY