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
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
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
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
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
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
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Updated: 31 May 2001

Rumsfeld Review Takes Advantage of Unique Moment in History

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 31, 2001 -- The United States must take advantage of this moment in history to examine the state of the world and to review its defenses, said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld, during an interview with American Forces Information Service, said the strategic review he is conducting has no preconceived notions and that any new strategy will be based on facts.

Rumsfeld said the review may or may not change the National Security Strategy of the United States. Last amended in 1995, the document is the blueprint for defending America and American interests.

"When (President Bush) said he wanted a review he didn't say he wanted a new strategy," Rumsfeld said. "He said he wanted a review, and that's what's happening. We have been engaged with the military and civilian side in reviewing ... the nature of the world, our circumstance in that world and the kinds of capabilities that we're going to need. Whether that will result in a new strategy or not depends on what comes out of that process."

He said any changes to the National Security Strategy would have an enormous impact and therefore would have to be carefully considered and done in conjunction with many government agencies and the Congress. For the past decade, for instance, the basis for the U.S. military's size is a requirement to be able to fight and win two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts.

"An awful lot has changed in the intervening period," Rumsfeld said. "Will we change that? I don't know. We're looking at those kinds of things now. It will be thought through very carefully and become part of the Quadrennial Defense Review. It would go through extensive interaction with Congress."

Rumsfeld sees some correlation between the turn of the 20th century and today. Those in power at the turn of the 20th century thought they had seen the end of war. They said the world was too interconnected, too liberal, too pacifist to contemplate war.

"Those who were complacent at the turn of the 20th century were wrong," he said.