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Die Transformation der US-Streitkräfte (RMA)

Auf der Grundlage der Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) und der neuen strategischen Konzeption Joint Vision 2020 befinden sich die US-Streitkräfte in einem Transformationsprozess. Dazu gehört die Einführung neuer Waffensysteme, die Verstärkung der Informationstechnologie und die Entwicklung neuer Nuklearwaffen. Zu dieser Transformation nimmt Rear Admiral Wachendorf Stellung. Seine Aussagen widerspiegeln seine persönliche Auffassung und sind nicht notwendigerweise mit jenen der Regierung der Vereinigten Staaten, des Department of Defense oder des Secretary of the Navy deckungsgleich. A. St.

Welche Ziele werden mit der Transformation der Streitkräfte der USA verfolgt?

The goal of transformation involves exploiting new technology to deter, dissuade and, if necessary, defeat any adversary on the battlefield. It strives to exploit information age technology to achieve an order of magnitude increase in the capability of military forces. We recognize that the Cold War is over, yet many of our military forces that were designed for Cold War military operations remain. Our view of the future is that the world has changed since the Cold War. We cannot predict when, where, or against whom we may be required to fight. Therefore, one goal of our military transformation is to emphasize mobility, flexibility, and lethality of our forces. It is not expected that all our military forces will transform in a short period of time. This would be very expensive and might exclude the ability to incorporate new technologies that are not yet mature enough for implementation. For these reasons, another goal of our transformation is to accomplish transformation with use of prototypes and experiments, rather than massive implementation across all forces. We note the historical example of German «blitzkrieg» forces during the early portions of World War II. These forces had great impact, yet they constituted a relatively small portion of the German military.

Welcher Zeitplan liegt der Transformation zugrunde?

Transformation is a process, not a program related directly to platforms. There is no specific timetable, although each of the military services is developing transformation roadmaps to coordinate their transformation planning. Wherever possible, the benefits of transformation should be jointly shared between all the military services. Some joint transformation projects have already been implemented. These include joint precision-guided munitions and unmanned air vehicles for intelligence and strike missions.

Welche neue Waffensysteme sollen durch den Transformationsprozess eingeführt werden?

All weapon systems are included in transformation, as are sensors, communications and the way we employ our weapon systems. Examples include the Army's Beyond the Line of Sight Networked Fires and Navy's Naval Fires Network which includes the ability to rapidly convert all source targeting information to fire artillery rounds as far as 100 miles with very high accuracy in a very short period of time from target identification to ordnance arriving on target and follow this up with near real time damage assessment. One of the many challenges with doing this is ensuring that friendly air and ground maneuver forces are not endangered by this rapid firing cycle. Another transformation example is converting strategic missile submarines to SSGNs capable of launching large numbers of conventional cruise missiles, covert delivery of Special Forces, and employment of unmanned vehicles. Transformation is not always associated with a specific platform or weapon system. Consider the example of USS Kitty Hawk, one of the oldest ships in the Navy. USS Kitty Hawk is 41 years old, but has state of the art C4ISR capability. During the war on terrorism in Afghanistan, this allowed the ship to function very successfully as an afloat forward staging base for Special Forces while retaining the ability to function as a traditional aircraft carrier with 50 attack aircraft, all of which are precision guided munitions delivery capable.

Welche Auswirkungen wird die Transformation auf die Zukunft der Teilstreitkräfte der USA haben?

The primary responsibility of each service chief is to train, organize and equip the forces of that service. Wherever possible, the transformation of military forces will be implemented across all military services. Services will retain their core competencies. For example, the Navy will have primary responsibility for maritime superiority. The Air Force will have primary responsibility for space systems. It should be transparent to the warfighter which service is supporting his mission. In most cases, support will be provided by more than one service. The emphasis is on the capability transformation delivers, not on the service that provides that capability.

Sind die Nuklearstreitkräfte Teil der Transformation?

Yes, all military forces are included in transformation. The 2001 Nuclear Posture Review recommended significant reductions in the number of nuclear weapons. It also recommended supplementing traditional nuclear forces with improved non-nuclear strike, defense and surveillance capabilities and improvements to the military infrastructure that supports strategic weapons to allow improved readiness and, if circumstances warrant, increased capability of strategic systems. The intent of the Nuclear Posture Review is to reduce our dependence on offensive nuclear weapons by adding defenses and non-nuclear strike capabilities. ■

Rear Admiral Wachendorf graduated with distinction from U. S. Naval Academy in 1974 with majors in mathematics and Soviet Area Studies- Russian. He has served afloat on both nuclear powered attack and strategic missile submarines of the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets including command of USS Parche (SSN-683). He commanded Submarine Development Squadron Five in San Diego, California.

Rear Admiral Wachendorf's shore assignments included Deputy Assistant for CNO/VCNO Decision Coordination, Branch Head for Anti-submarine Warfare, Chief of Nuclear/Counter proliferation Division (J-5) on the Joint Staff. He was the Executive Assistant to the Director of Plans, Policy and Strategy (J-5) during the war in Kosovo. He currently serves as Director, Strategy and Policy Division (N51), in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

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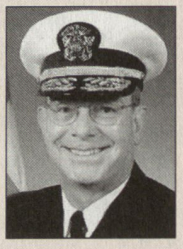

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