

- ▶ *Protect the American People, Homeland, and American Interests.* The most solemn responsibility of the President and the United States Government is to protect the American people, both at home and abroad.
- ▶ *Disrupt, Degrade, Dismantle, and Defeat al-Qa'ida and Its Affiliates and Adherents.* The American people and interests will not be secure from attacks until this threat is eliminated—its primary individuals and groups rendered powerless, and its message relegated to irrelevance.
- ▶ *Prevent Terrorist Development, Acquisition, and Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction.* The danger of nuclear terrorism is the greatest threat to global security. Terrorist organizations, including al-Qa'ida, have engaged in efforts to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—and if successful, they are likely to use them.
- ▶ *Eliminate Safehavens.* Al-Qa'ida and its affiliates and adherents rely on the physical sanctuary of ungoverned or poorly governed territories, where the absence of state control permits terrorists to travel, train, and engage in plotting. In close coordination with foreign partners, the United States will continue to contest and diminish al-Qa'ida's operating space through mutually reinforcing efforts designed to prevent al-Qa'ida from taking advantage of these ungoverned spaces.
- ▶ *Build Enduring Counterterrorism Partnerships and Capabilities.* Foreign partners are essential to the success of our CT efforts; these states are often themselves the target of—and on the front lines in countering—terrorist threats. Assisting partners to improve and expand governance in select instances is critical, including strengthening the rule of law so that suspected terrorists can be brought to justice within a respected and transparent system.
- ▶ *Degrade Links between al-Qa'ida and its Affiliates and Adherents.* Al-Qa'ida senior leaders in Pakistan continue to leverage local and regional affiliates and adherents worldwide through formal and informal alliances to advance their global agenda. Al-Qa'ida exploits local grievances to bolster recruitment, expand its operational reach, destabilize local governments, and reinforce safehavens from which it and potentially other terrorist groups can operate and attack the United States. Together with our partners, we will degrade the capabilities of al-Qa'ida's local and regional affiliates and adherents, monitor their communications with al-Qa'ida leaders, drive fissures between these groups and their bases of support, and isolate al-Qa'ida from local and regional affiliates and adherents who can augment its capabilities and further its agenda.
- ▶ *Counter al-Qa'ida Ideology and Its Resonance and Diminish the Specific Drivers of Violence that al-Qa'ida Exploits.* This Strategy prioritizes US and partner efforts to undercut al-Qa'ida's fabricated legitimization of violence and its efforts

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