

The Army Future Force: Decisive 21st Century Landpower

Strategically Responsive, Full Spectrum Dominant



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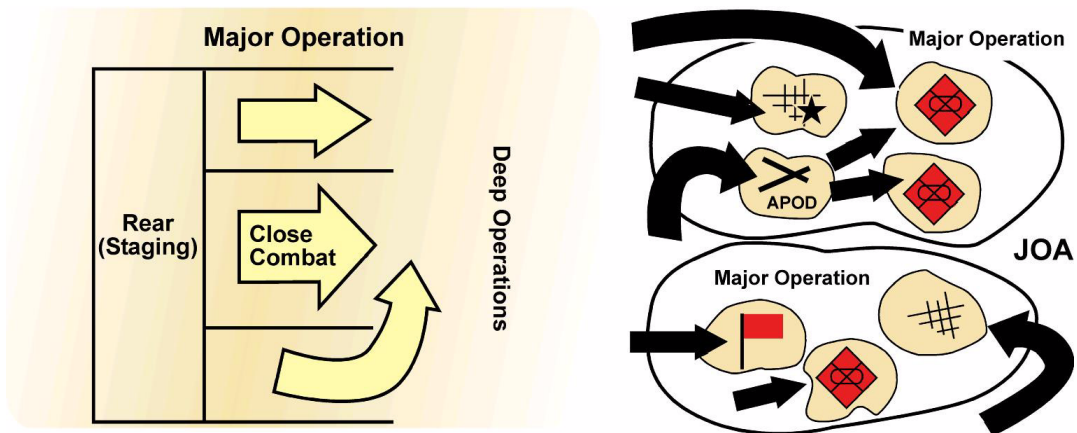


What's Different About the Future Force?

The chart below summarizes the expected operational benefits of Army Future Force concepts to the conduct of joint operations through a contrast between past capabilities and those projected in the Future Force.

Operational Benefits of Army Future Force Concepts

From	To
Stove-piped, staff-centric command and control	Joint-integrated, network-centric battle command; enables decision superiority and self-synchronization
Fight after force buildup at major air/seaports Time-consuming force projection	Immediate employment of forces arriving rapidly through multiple austere entry points
Sequential, contiguous, linear operations	Simultaneous operations, distributed throughout joint operations area, within a non-linear framework
Attrition-based campaign with massed formations	Direct attack of centers of gravity with precision effects; defeat through disintegration
Gaps in situational understanding; uncertainty; Intelligence by contact and direct observation	Global, robust, near real-time joint intelligence Sensor networks integrated from space-to-mud Improved situational understanding
Large logistics structure with large forward footprint	Reduced log structure and small footprint through reach-back and distribution-based sustainment
Effective combined arms operations	Greater synergy of integrated joint operations





**From the Commanding General
US Army Training and Doctrine Command**



This pamphlet presents a brief summary of the Army Future Force Concept. It is intended as a primer, with particular emphasis on providing a vivid picture of how the Future Force will conduct land operations in the future, fully integrated within a rapidly evolving joint framework. The ideas presented below have emerged as a result of years of research, wargaming, experimentation, and operational lessons learned by the Army, our sister Services, and the joint community. At each stage of Future Force development, the Army has worked hard to ensure compatibility with emerging joint concepts and the strategic mandates that are driving joint transformation. Consistent with those mandates, the Army is actively seeking ways and means to incorporate Future Force qualities and capabilities identified through this process into current force structures as rapidly as possible. Detailed exposition of the operational themes and principles described below is provided within the family of Future Force concepts cited on the back cover of this pamphlet. We welcome comments and collaboration from all readers.

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The Army Future Force: Decisive 21st Century Landpower

The US Army is pursuing the most comprehensive transformation of its forces since the early years of WWII, when GEN George Marshall and LTG Lesley McNair oversaw the creation of the global fighting machine that achieved victory in Europe and the Pacific. Today, Army Transformation is nested within and dependent upon joint transformation, guided by the strategic mandates embodied within the National Security Strategy, National Military Strategy, Defense Planning Guidance, Quadrennial Defense Review, Joint Vision, and Defense Transformation Planning Guidance. Joint transformation and these strategic mandates unequivocally affirm the critical role of *landpower* to dominate the highly complex land environment that comprises the heart of most joint operations. There is an enduring and unavoidable challenge to control terrain, people, and resources on land, where political authority resides.

The primary goal of Army Transformation is the development of the **Future Force**—a *strategically responsive, precision maneuver force, dominant across the range of military operations*. Optimized for strategic versatility, this lighter, more agile force will dominate land operations in any future conflict, executing seamless transitions from peacetime readiness to smaller scale contingencies or major theater war. ***The ultimate measure of success of the Future Force, therefore, will be its contribution to future joint operations, in concert with interagency and multinational partners.*** In keeping with this fundamental guideline, the force is being designed to sharply expand the options available to the joint force to achieve rapid decision, whether that is to swiftly defeat the efforts of regional aggressors, win decisively in extended conflict, or execute lesser contingency operations.

The Joint Operational Framework

In sharp contrast to the sequential, deliberate campaigns of the 20th century, future joint operations will emphasize rapid strategic response by all joint arms, followed by the conduct of synchronized shaping and decisive operations, distributed throughout the entire joint operations area (JOA). The joint force commander must establish early control of all battlespace dimensions—air, land, sea, space, and information--and focus power against the critical elements of the adversary's structure—*key capabilities, decisive points, and centers of gravity*—moving thereby from the attrition-based campaigns of the past to more rapid decision via disintegration of the enemy's forces and will to fight. Overall, the joint commander will:

- Enter the conflict on his terms and rapidly seize the initiative
- Build momentum early by integrating joint fires, maneuver, and sustainment to shape the battlespace, achieve assured access, gain information superiority, and set conditions for decisive operations.
- *Achieve decision early* through sustained, *coherently joint operations* that destroy enemy forces, paralyze the enemy's ability to respond, collapse his military integrity, and compel defeat through destruction, dislocation, and disintegration.

Although the joint force will often be able to swiftly defeat the efforts of regional adversaries, it must also possess campaigning qualities to win decisively in extended conflict. The Army Future Force will provide both prompt strategic response and the sustained operational tempo and *necessary presence* needed to execute extended

campaigns when they occur. As a full spectrum force, the future Army will also be designed to transition smoothly between combat and stability operations or to conduct both kinds of operations simultaneously during a joint campaign, while also accounting for the needs and protection of local populations.

The Future Force Operational Concept

Fully integrated within the joint framework described above, the Future Force will make critical contributions to campaign success in three main areas:

- ***Operational maneuver from strategic distances*** will strengthen deterrence and preclusion, improve joint force strategic responsiveness, and provide higher levels of strategic and operational agility to joint commanders throughout the campaign.
- Rapidly deployed Army formations will conduct ***entry and shaping operations*** that help assure access, wrest the initiative from the enemy, begin the process of fracturing the enemy's coherence, and set conditions for success.
- As battlespace shaping continues, the Future Force conducts ***decisive operations*** to achieve *accelerated decision* through *disintegration*, based on: simultaneous, distributed operations; control of operational tempo; and direct attack of decisive points and enemy centers of gravity.

First, ***operational maneuver from strategic distances*** is the rapid projection of scaleable and modular combined arms formations, tailored in *force capability packages* to meet the requirements of each contingency. These force packages could include, for example, flexible deterrent options (e.g., missile defense units), early entry command and control elements, forcible entry, and aviation strike forces to support assured access--a critical DPG goal--followed by other ground formations configured to meet joint operational requirements throughout the course of the campaign.

Development of advanced air/sea lift platforms not dependent on improved ports, will significantly reduce Army response times—from mid-90s standard of 5+ divisions in 75 days to 5 divisions in 30 days. Deploying in combined arms configurations, units will *begin operations immediately on arrival*, avoiding the delays experienced in the past. Use of multiple, parallel routes will *increase force throughput* to close the gap

between early entry and campaign forces, reducing the higher risk and operational pauses of 20th century operations. Moreover, projected reductions in sustainment requirements and reliance on *strategic-to-tactical battlefield distribution* will reduce the heavy logistical infrastructures that hampered past operations and constrained responsiveness. Overall, these improvements will *strengthen the strategic speed and power* of the joint force.

Second, lethal Army formations will conduct ***entry and shaping operations*** throughout the campaign to seize the initiative, shape the battlespace, and set conditions for decision. Use of multiple unimproved entry points will help overcome enemy anti-access measures and increase the chances of achieving operational surprise or preemption. Integrating fires, maneuver, and information operations, ground forces will ensure friendly freedom of action, while denying the same to the adversary. The Future Force will also conduct *forcible entry* against critical objectives at any point in the campaign.

Third, once successful entry and shaping operations wrest the initiative from the enemy and begin to strip away his key capabilities, the Future Force combines and applies its multidimensional capabilities in ***decisive operations*** to achieve *accelerated decision* through:

1. ***Simultaneous, distributed operations.*** Army formations will conduct simultaneous operations, distributed across the entire JOA within a non-linear battlespace. Superior situational understanding, based on advanced C4ISR capabilities embedded at all levels, will permit commanders to operate non-contiguously, bypassing what is less important, to focus operations against the forces and capabilities that are most critical to the quick defeat of the enemy. Advanced capabilities with respect to mobility, long-range precision fires, ISR, manned aviation, agile sustainment, and advanced, networked C3 will further enable the force to optimize disintegrating effects against the enemy and self-synchronize its own actions in response to highly dynamic battle conditions.
2. ***Continuous operations and overwhelming operational tempo.*** Adaptive Future Force commanders will conduct continuous operations with few significant pauses, controlling an operational tempo that overwhelms the enemy's capability to respond. Unrelenting pressure will seriously hinder the enemy's ability to regroup or reconstitute forces, resulting in physical destruction and psychological exhaustion at a pace not achievable today.

3. **Direct attack of enemy decisive points and centers of gravity.** The Future Force will directly attack enemy key capabilities, decisive points, and elements of centers of gravity through air-ground precision maneuver and fires. In pursuit of this aim, the force will execute **joint-enabled operational maneuver** by land, air, and sea, routinely integrating joint assets and capabilities, to extend the reach of the joint force commander, achieve key campaign objectives, and *expose any part of the enemy force to destruction or dislocation.*

Two critical enabling capabilities are common to all the themes above. First, high levels of **situational understanding** must be maintained to ensure the most effective application of power from each component of the future Army. Situational understanding further enables the force to evolve from estimate-based planning conditioned by uncertainty to effects-based planning that exploits knowledge. Second, **decisive tactical combat**, based on *small unit excellence* and *well-trained soldiers* imbued with the *warrior ethos*, will always dominate action at the point of the spear in the *close fight*. In this sense, tactical victories by FCS equipped and modernized, combined arms battalions and brigades are the building blocks for operational success, particularly as they are enabled to exploit the **quality of firsts**, i.e., the capability to *see first, understand first, act first, and finish decisively.*

In conclusion, the Army Future Force will provide joint force commanders a much broader array of multidimensional options in any future contingency. *As a knowledge-based force*, the Army will exploit the power of advanced information technologies and space-based capabilities to enable *network-centric battle command*, fully integrated within the emerging joint, interagency, and multinational framework. Unlike today's predictably staged and sequenced operations, the force will respond within a matter of days, enter the JOA through multiple points to preempt enemy actions, assure access, seize the initiative, and shape the battlespace. The force will accelerate decision by conducting simultaneous operations, distributed within a non-linear battlespace. Multiple, simultaneous actions, executed throughout the JOA at high tempo, will deny the enemy sanctuary and rapidly achieve the operational disintegration required to ensure success in the joint campaign to achieve national objectives. Strategically versatile and adaptive to any threat or environment, the Army Future Force will meet America's enduring need for landpower to achieve decision in conflict and then to "Win the Peace" post-conflict to ensure the long-term stability and security vital to the nation's interests.



The Family of Army Future Concepts:

- Capstone Concept
- Unit of Employment
- Unit of Action
- Maneuver Support
- Maneuver Sustainment
- Battle Command/C4ISR
- Aviation
- Army Space
- Force Projection
- Fires/Effects
- Special Operations
- Air & Missile Defense

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