

The attached document is a draft product created by OSD, Personnel & Readiness (P&R), currently being utilized within OSD to attempt to formally define “Strategic Readiness”. The action officers involved are still engaged in conversations at multiple levels within DoD to gain consensus on how to define Strategic Readiness, but have not yet completed the effort. In addition to the attached, the action officers have also offered the following definitions for what are being termed “contributing dimensions”. These definitions are in being considered in the discussion of Strategic Readiness as well:

Resource Allocation: The prudent use of limited resources to create and sustain the types of readiness to address the National Defense Strategy critical challenges and operational problems.

Contribution of Allies and Partners: An accounting for the military capabilities that allies and partners would feasibly contribute to warfighting, to include sustainment of a Joint and Combined Force

Bureaucratic Effectiveness: An understanding of how well DoD's bureaucracy functions both internally and in comparison to the bureaucracies of competitors.

These products are presented for this lesson in order to show how Strategic Readiness is CURRENTLY being discussed within DoD, and to foster a discussion in this lesson as to whether or not OSD, P&R are getting it “right”.

Strategic Readiness Core Dimensions

- Military Effectiveness: The inherent quality, skill, integration, and responsiveness of military forces relative to a competitor's military. Military effectiveness is applicable across all warfare domains. Technological superiority coupled with the operational concepts to exploit asymmetric advantages (i.e. what we know as force modernization) are integral to military effectiveness. A militarily effective force must be able to overcome fundamental military challenges presented by our competitors.
- Operational Readiness: The type of readiness associated with the status of major force elements in relation to the mission they are organized and designed to accomplish (i.e. whether they have the resources and training to fulfill their units' core tasks). Operational readiness makes no explicit judgment regarding military effectiveness. It indicates whether an existing unit or force element is at peak capability for combat according to established standards. Operational readiness informs the answer to whether the Nation has sufficient numbers of deployable and employable units to meet current operational demand.
- Force Posture: The global organization, distribution, and employment of military forces in furtherance of military strategy. Force Posture recognizes three interdependent elements used to define, plan for, and assess U.S. foreign and overseas military presence: forces, footprints, and agreements. Militarily effective and operationally ready forces must be correctly postured to ensure strategic relevance.
- Structural Readiness: Structural Readiness considers the speed that the DoD can develop a Joint Force of sufficient size and capability to defeat the enemy. It involves how quickly DoD can bring existing forces that are not operationally ready at the beginning of military operations to an employable and deployable state in required time. It is constrained by the limits of organized potential capacity/capability in existing forces before mobilization.
- Mobilization Readiness: The swift and deliberate expansion of military forces to close the gap between demand and supply needed for combat. It involves the proper sequencing and synchronization of rapid manpower expansion with the training and equipping of personnel and industrial production.
- Sustainment Readiness: Sustainment Readiness entails how well the nation and its industrial base are able to meet the continual demand signal for ready forces, equipment, materiel, and munitions until conclusion of operations. It involves moving forces and materiel to distant theaters, the logistical sustainment of those forces while employing combat power, AND the rapidity with which the Nation can reconstitute losses due to attrition.
- Resilience: Resilience reflects the ability of military forces, military infrastructure, and critical national infrastructure to absorb, withstand, and when necessary, rapidly recover from the full force of enemy attack in all warfighting domains. Resilience ensures that the DoD and its interagency partners are capable of actively pursuing the NSS and NDS objectives for extended durations under the stress and strain of the resultant hardships of great power conflict.