PREPARING FOR THE NEXT WAR

The course was about how we structure civil/mil in the US. We covered the relations among and between the services, the reserves, contractors, OSD, Congress, the President, the parties, media, the public and our allies. Key issue: centralization/decentralization.

We have an Empire (and plan to maintain it - Primacy and Preemption) and are just beginning to come to grips with its implications as a result of al Qaeda attack, Iraq and the attitude of "allies" and others.

Let's consider some questions:

1. What are the likely threats to US security in next 15/20 years?
2. What forces, budget, strategy do we need to meet these threats?
3. What factors shape the forces/budget/strategy we have? How are they affected by threats?
4. How do Jointness, the AVF, and technology trends affect ability to meet challenges?
5. Is a transformation of the military necessary to meet the threats?
6. How will the creation of a domestic security agency (Homeland Security Dept.) affect the politics of defense?
7. Will the Republican and Democrat party positions on defense change?
8. Will the balance between the executive and legislative branches change because of changes in threat and/or politics?
9. What services or parts of the services, if any, are in jeopardy?
10. Is the Empire viable? Will the US public support it? Will our "allies" support it?
11. Are there any domestic threats to the Empire? Think again.