

**EIGHTY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
August 31, September 1, 2, 2004**

**Resolution No. 162: The Transformation Of The Armed Forces
Origin: Maryland
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security**

WHEREAS, The current national security strategy, contained within the Quadrennial Defense Review, establishes a new strategy for American's defense that would embrace uncertainty and is premised on the idea that to be effective abroad, America must be safe at home; and

WHEREAS, A central objective of the strategy is to shift the basis of defense planning from a "threat-based" model to a "capabilities-based" model for the future; and

WHEREAS, The strategy requires adapting existing military capabilities to new threats and circumstances, while experimenting with the development of new capabilities or the transformation of U.S. forces, capabilities and institutions to extend America's asymmetric advantages well into the future; and

WHEREAS, Transforming America's defense for the 21st Century will require a long-standing commitment from our Country and its leaders, but the challenges are here and now: They include protecting our critical bases of operation, including the U.S. homeland, and projecting and sustaining U.S. forces in distant environments as well as preemptive actions to confront threats before they emerge; and

WHEREAS, Transformation includes assuring our information systems and providing persistent surveillance, tracking and rapid engagement of adversarial forces by U.S. and allied joint operations; and

WHEREAS, Over time, the promise of transformation will be realized as resources translate into new concepts, capabilities and organizations that maximize our warfighting effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2002, confirmed the Government's strategic direction as well as the soundness of such planning principles to include its emphasis on homeland defense, on offensive action against global terrorism, on surprise, on preparing for asymmetric threats like terrorism, on developing new concepts of deterrence, and the need to balance the different dimensions of risk; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Nashville, Tennessee on August 31, September 1, 2, 2004, That The American Legion urge the United States Government and our Armed Forces, as we contend with the difficult challenges of the war on terrorism, to continue to proceed on the path of transforming America's armed forces into a modern force capable of providing for the security of all Americans, strengthening and expanding military capabilities, and in honoring America's commitments worldwide as well as on the home front.

