As a framework to organize its assessment, the 2010 QDR used risk categories, described below, that have been employed since 2001:

- *Operational risk:* the ability of the current force to execute strategy successfully within acceptable human, materiel, financial, and strategic costs. Consideration of operational risk requires assessing the Department's ability to execute current, planned, and contingency operations in the near term.

- *Force management risk:* our ability to recruit, retain, train, educate, and equip the All-Volunteer Force, and to sustain its readiness and morale. This requires the Department to examine its ability to provide trained and ready personnel in the near term, midterm, and long term.

- *Institutional risk:* the capacity of management and business practices to plan for, enable, and support the execution of DoD missions. It encompasses the ability to develop effective and efficient organizations and processes over the near term, midterm, and long term.

- *Future challenges risk:* the Department's capacity to execute future missions successfully, and to hedge against shocks. Here most consideration is given to the Department's ability to field superior capabilities and sufficient capacity to deter/defeat emerging threats in the midterm and long term.

Ongoing efforts to rebalance the joint force, including those taken during the course of this QDR, help better position DoD not only to prevail across a range of missions but to do so in the challenging current and likely future security environment. However, existing and emerging issues could complicate the Department's ability to execute the defense strategy. Therefore, on the basis of an enterprise-wide review, this QDR risk assessment identifies those key shortfalls or complex problems that threaten the Department's ability to successfully execute its priority objectives, and that consequently require the sustained attention of DoD's senior leadership.

Operational Risk

Key issues that pose risk to operational missions in the near term include providing sufficient enabling capabilities, building partnership capacity, and securing DoD systems in cyberspace.

A failure to provide sufficient enablers would constrain ongoing operations in multiple ways and would constitute particular risk to achieving the near-term goals of prevailing in Afghanistan and Iraq. Key capability enablers are currently stressed and will remain so in the near- to midterm environment because they play a critical and potentially growing role in ongoing operations. Examples detailed previously include intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), vertical lift and associated logistics assets, electronic warfare, and language and culture skills, along with