

Worth Noting

President Requests Reorganization Authority

The President asked Congress for the authority to reorganize the government in recognition of the inefficiencies and redundancies in government and as an effort to streamline the bureaucracy. Specifically, the President seeks the authority to submit government reorganization proposals to Congress which in turn would have the power to approve or disapprove them without modification. This request is essentially a reinstatement of the authorities presidents enjoyed for most of the period from 1932 through 1984.

In his request, the President proposes to consolidate six agencies into one more efficient department to promote competitiveness, exports, and business. The six agencies include the Department of Commerce's core business and trade functions, the Small Business Administration, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

This announcement acknowledges that there is interest at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue in improving interagency cooperation, coordination, and collaboration for a more effective and efficient government. The lead article in this issue of the *InterAgency Journal* represents a bipartisan congressional view of the need to improve interagency cooperation, particularly as it relates to national security. With the President's proposal, interagency issues now have greater visibility and potential attention in Washington. **IAJ**

DoD Announces New Strategic Guidance

President Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced new defense strategic guidance entitled "Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense" on January 5, 2012. This new guidance is intended to reshape future Department of Defense priorities, activities, decision making, and budget requests as the department reduces spending by about \$487 billion over the next decade. The guidance is intended as a blue print for the joint force in 2020 and emphasizes:

- Shifting overall focus from winning today's wars to preparing for future challenges.
- Shifting geographical priorities toward the Asia Pacific region while retaining emphasis on the Middle East and deemphasizing Europe.
- Greater emphasis on projecting power and less emphasis on stabilization and counterinsurgency operations.
- Shifting force structure toward a smaller more agile force while reducing Army and Marine Corps endstrength.