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10 USC 130b

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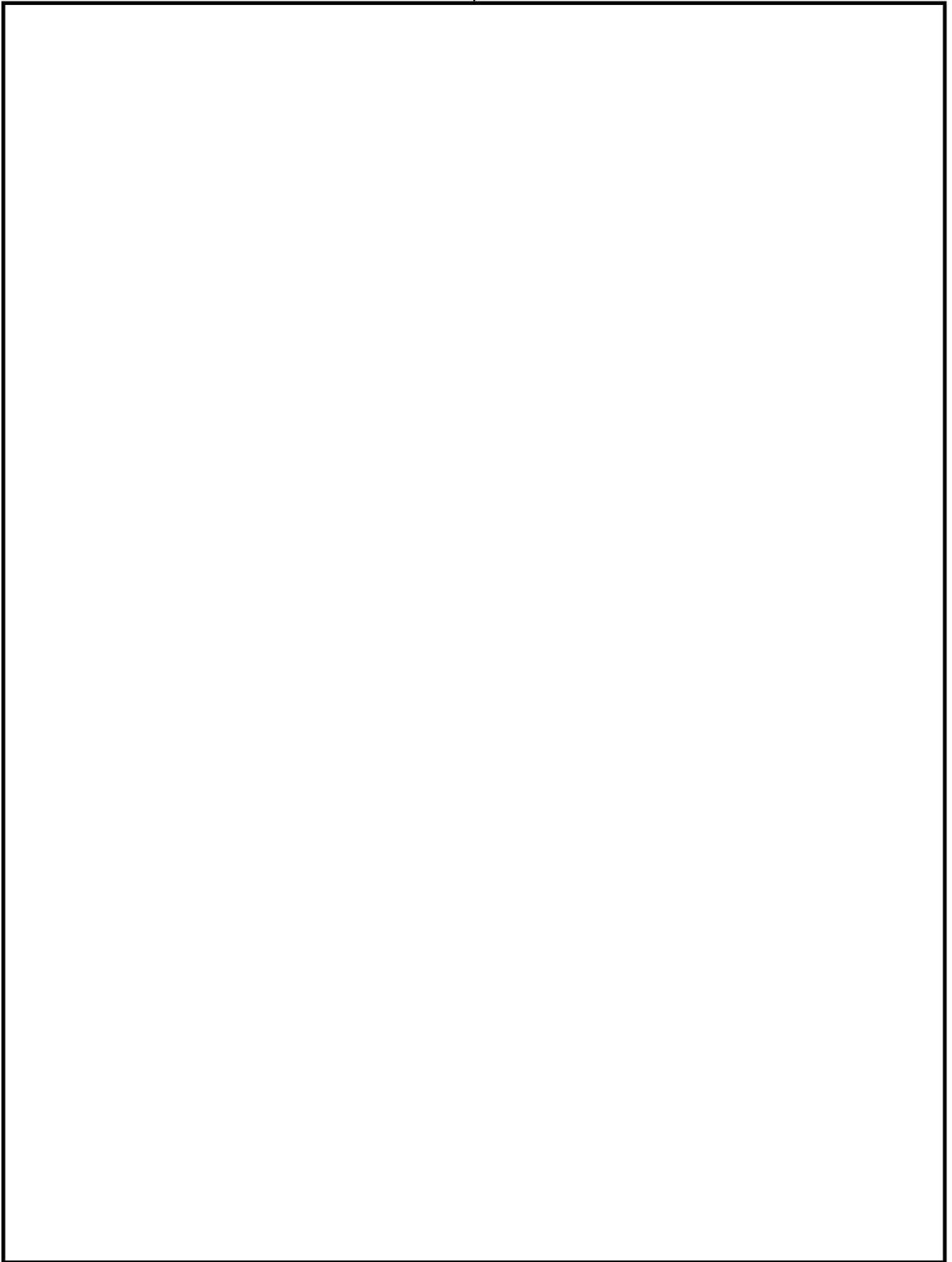
**From:** "Neis, Thomas J CTR JCS OCJCS PA" <thomas.neis@js.pentagon.mil>

**To:**



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<michael.flynn@js.pentagon.mil>,

"Flynn, Michael T BG JCS JS HQ"

"Camp, Donald A." </o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=donald\_a.\_camp">

**Bcc:** "Camp, Donald A." </o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=donald\_a.\_camp">

**Subject:** Chairman's View 7 May 09

[Chairman's View 07 May 09.pdf](#)

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Attached is the latest Chairman's View which addresses AF/PAK Strategy, Budget, and IMAs.

Thank you,

Tom Neis

Tom Neis  
Public Affairs  
Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Pentagon, Room 2D932  
703-697-7649

**CHAIRMAN'S VIEW***A summary of key themes, messages and talking points*

May 07, 2009

***The Message***

This week, the Chairman conducted a press briefing at the Pentagon. He also provided remarks and fielded questions at the Navy League's Sea-Air Space Exposition. Links to these transcripts are located here:

Pentagon Press Briefing: <http://www.jcs.mil/speech.aspx?ID=1166>

Sea-Air Space Exposition: <http://www.jcs.mil/speech.aspx?ID=1178> and <http://www.jcs.mil/speech.aspx?ID=1177>

**AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN REGION**

The military's main effort must shift to Afghanistan. Recent gains made by the Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan emphasize the urgency of applying the necessary resources to combat this growing threat. This is especially true as it pertains to enablers: helicopters, ISR, engineers and medical support.

Benchmarks for the Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy will focus on three areas: economic, governance and security. These three broad categories are crucial to the success of the strategy and must be objectively and regularly assessed beginning at the end of this year.

As seen in the past, Pakistan's forces are making legitimate progress fighting their insurgency. Ultimately, it is their ability to sustain this momentum and bolster its effect by providing humanitarian assistance where needed that will allow them to succeed. We must show patience while Pakistan focuses more effort on counter-insurgency missions.

**Budget**

Winning the wars we are in is our top operational priority. People are our top strategic priority. We must incorporate lessons learned from the wars and take into account the enablers required to support the new strategy in developing future budgets.

Competition exists between the personnel and procurement portions of the budget for funds not committed to on-going operations. While seeking the proper balance is important, taking care of our military people and their families must take precedence.

**Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA)**

The requirement for IMAs will remain at least until target dwell times for Soldiers and Marines are met. The significant contributions that IMAs have made to both wars and in other operations are well known and they will certainly play a significant role in Afghanistan as the priority shifts to that theater.

***From the Podium***

From the Chairman's Pentagon press briefing on May 4, 2009:

*"The main effort and our strategic focus, from a military perspective, must now shift to Afghanistan."*

*"[Afghanistan] isn't about 'can-do' any more; this is about 'must-do.' And we must do more over at least the next two years, starting now."*

*"I remain comfortable that the nuclear weapons in Pakistan are secure, and that the Pakistani leadership and in particular the military is very focused on this."*

**Headlines**

**Afghan Effort Is Mullen's Top Focus** [Washington Post](#)

**U.S. encouraged by Pakistan's moves against militants** [Los Angeles Times](#)

**Advances by the Taliban Sharpen U.S. Concerns** [New York Times](#)

**Adm. Mullen: Pakistan Nukes Secure But...** [CBS News/AP](#)

**Strategic Focus Shifts to Afghanistan, Mullen Says** [AFPS](#)

**Chairman Emphasizes Importance of Personnel in Budget Considerations** [AFPS](#)