

## Why We Vigil

Our vigil is just as important now as it was late in 2002. The military, industrial and congressional complex is getting restless again demanding more money, *and get this*, because we have squandered so much money on the war on terror. Just as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid must now be cut because we have this huge debt . . . and this insane system just rolls on and on. Peace. Norm

### **Military Shifts Focus to Threats by Russia and China, Not Terrorism** **By HELENE COOPER New York Times JAN. 19, 2018**

WASHINGTON — The United States is switching its priority to countering Chinese and Russian military might after almost two decades of focusing on the fight against terrorism, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday, unveiling a national defense strategy that Pentagon officials say will provide a blueprint for years to come.

Now a new administration is again seeking to leave the terrorism fight behind. Mr. Mattis described increased “global volatility and uncertainty, with great power competition between nations a reality once again.”

“We will continue to prosecute the campaign against terrorists, but great power competition — not terrorism — is now the primary focus of U.S. national security,” Mr. Mattis said.

“As hard as the last 16 years of war have been, no enemy in the field has done more to harm the readiness of the U.S. military than the combined impact of the budget control act’s defense spending caps, and nine of the last 10 years operating under continuing resolutions, wasting copious amounts of precious taxpayer dollars,” he said.

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### **Mattis unveils new strategy focused on Russia and China, takes Congress to task for budget impasse. By Dan Lamothe January 19, 2018 The Washington Post**

The United States must build up its military to prepare for the possibility of conflict with Russia and China, according to a new Pentagon strategy released Friday by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis

“We will continue to prosecute the campaign against terrorists, but great-power competition — not terrorism — is now the primary focus of U.S. national security,” Mattis said in a speech at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. “This strategy is fit for our time, providing the American people the military required to protect our way of life, stand with our allies and live up to our responsibility to pass intact to the next generation those freedoms we enjoy today.”

The new National Defense Strategy describes the United States as “emerging from a period of strategic atrophy,” and assesses the United States must make a sustained financial investment in the military to overcome it. The strategy was formed after years of frustration from senior military leaders that the Pentagon’s fleet of aircraft, vehicles and ships have been worn down in seemingly endless warfare.