Obama unveils strategy for slimmed-down military

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama put his personal stamp today on a retooled Pentagon strategy for absorbing hundreds of billions of dollars in defense budget cuts, marking a turning point in U.S. strategy after a decade of war.

In a rare appearance before the Pentagon press briefing room, the president announced that the military will be reshaped over time with an emphasis on counterterrorism, maintaining a nuclear deterrent, protecting the U.S. homeland, and “stopping and deterring aggressions by any potential adversary.”

The new strategy moves away from new military missions, and Obama announced new capabilities or defense initiatives. He described a U.S. military force that will remain much of its recent focus, with the exception of fighting a large-scale, prolonged conflict like the newly ended Iraq mission or the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

As we end today’s wars and reshape our armed forces, we will ensure that our military is agile, flexible and ready for the full range of contingencies,” he wrote in a preamble to the new strategy, which is titled, “Staying U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense.”

The strategy limits at a reduced U.S. military presence in Europe and says Asia will be a bigger priority. It emphasizes improving U.S. capabilities in the areas of cybersecurity and missile defense.

Obama’s decision to announce the strategy himself underscores the political dimension of Washington’s debate over defense savings. The administration says smaller Pentagon budgets are a must but will not come at the cost of sapping the strength of a military in transition, even as it gets smaller.

Obama also wants the new strategy to set a pivot point in his stewardship of defense policy, which has been burdened throughout his presidency by the wars he inherited and their drag on resources. The new strategy moves the U.S. further from the longstanding goal of being able to successfully fight two major regional wars — like the 2001 War to eject Iraqi forces from Kuwait or a prospective ground war in Korea — at the same time.

Rentals Association of Wenatchee Valley

Meeting Date: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th, 2012
Eagles Lodge Building
1208 No. Wenatchee Ave., across from Red Lion

Meeting starts at 5:30pm, Bullet Board Networking • Bullet price is a $3.00
If you choose to go to Dinner, there is a $15 charge at the door.

Meeting follows at 5:45pm

Speaker: Jeff Neher with Cardell, Nahre Company, PLLC

Topic: Tax law changes, and how they affect landlords.

The public is invited. If you are not a member, information will be available.

For more information, contact Loretta Watson 884-1940 or Bill Oel 669-2511