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Abstract: The presented text argues that US security policy is transforming into a new organizational structure which I have called security governance. It is argued that the organizational change is the consequence of the reform of security policy after 9/11 and of the US participation in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan. The American engagement in the war on terror and the following US participation in the Iraqi and Afghan stabilization and reconstruction was motivated by an effort to better protect American citizens but it also resulted in extensive organizational, institutional and budgetary changes in the US domestic policy. At the core of the change has been the weakening of security policy as a hierarchical policy with clear institutions, rules and a chain of command and the building of a non-linear horizontal networked policy where multiple agents meet and collaborate on various levels on the basis of flexible structures.

Keywords: security governance, security policy, transformation of security policy, United States, Afghanistan

‘US operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq have highlighted the need for effective interagency coordination mechanisms. ... [A] shift in strategy and the need to respond rapidly and flexibly to dynamic environments requires adaptation of our national security architecture to create and implement a new approach to the organization and use of all instruments of national power to achieve strategic success.’ (USJFCOM, 2010: I-1)

‘In this world it is impossible to draw neat, clear lines between our security interests, our development efforts and our democratic ideals. American diplomacy must integrate and advance all of these goals together. ... So to advance transformational diplomacy we are empowering our diplomats to work more jointly with our men and women in uniform... These experiences [from Iraq and Afghanistan] have shown us the need to enhance our ability to work more effectively at the critical intersections of