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STRAHNET ATLAS

(Strategic Highway Network)

HIGHWAYS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

**Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
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THE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY CORRIDOR NETWORK (STRAHNET) AND STRAHNET CONNECTORS

STRAHNET is a system of public highways that are a key part of the deployment of the United States Armed forces. It provides defense access, continuity, and emergency capabilities for movements of personnel and equipment in both peace time and war. It is a network of roadways consisting of 62,657 miles, including the 46,898-mile Interstate System and 13,959 miles of other important public highways. STRAHNET Connectors (approximately 1,800 miles) are additional highway routes linking over 204 important military installations and ports to the STRAHNET. Many installations have multiple access/egress routes to the STRAHNET, but the connector should be the most direct and highest functional class roadway. Many factors are considered in determining the best route for a connector, including coordinating with many agencies that would have valuable input in the decision making process.

As the Department of Defense (DOD) designated agent for public highway matters, per the Defense Transportation Regulations, the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Transportation Engineering Agency (SDDCTEA) is the proponent for STRAHNET and STRAHNET Connectors. MSDDCTEA identifies STRAHNET and the STRAHNET Connector routes in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the State departments of transportation, the military services and installations, and strategic seaports. Together, STRAHNET and the STRAHNET Connectors define the minimum defense public highway network needed in order to support the military mission.

To ensure that defense important roadways were being considered as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) strategic plan, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 provided for the inclusion of STRAHNET and STRAHNET Connectors into the National Highway System (NHS). Federal oversight will help ensure optimum maintenance levels for the NHS, thus assuring that the roads can support a military deployment. With DOD's current emphasis on continental US-based military units, the NHS will play an increasingly important role in new deployment scenarios. The ISTEA Act of 1991, helped with the designation of the National Highway System (NHS), which would focus federal resources on roads that are most important to interstate travel, economic expansion, and national defense that connect with other modes of transportation. The ISTEA legislation required that U.S. DOT submit a list and description of proposed NHS routes. Based on the USDOT's proposals, the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 identified a 160,955-mile network. On July 6, 2012, the President signed into law Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21) surface transportation plan. This reauthorization consisted of several changes from the past reauthorizations, one being that the NHS will be expanded to include principal arterials. Although the number of roadway miles will increase significantly with the new addition, the funding will not.

The NHS includes the Interstate Highway System as well as other roads important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility. The NHS was developed by the USDOT in cooperation with the states, local officials, and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The importance of having a complete and current STRAHNET and STRAHNET Connector Atlas cannot be understated in today's world of limited funding sources. The designation of a connector route for an installation allows individual state transportation departments to fund improvements and upgrades from funding sources dedicated solely for the NHS. Without the connector designation, route improvements can only be funded with local/state dollars or must compete with a larger pool of routes for approximately the same amount of non-NHS funds.