

# Republic of China 114th Year Quadrennial Defense Review 2025

An English Translation by Taiwan Security Monitor and Eric Gomez

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# Note From TSM

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The Quadrennial Defense Review is published every 4 years by Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense on behalf of the Executive Yuan for the Legislative Yuan's review. It details the regional and global security threats facing Taiwan and summarizes efforts initiated to minimize and address those threats.

Due to public and academic interest in the document, Taiwan Security Monitor and Eric Gomez have translated and formatted the published QDR, through LLMs and other resources, for research purposes during the period of time in which the MND's official English version of the QDR has not been made public.

For the translation, Gomez utilized ChatGPT's o1 reasoning model. He has previously used o1 to translate shorter MND documents for which o1 provided verifiably accurate translation. As o1 gained more experience it was able to process longer segments faster, taking 35 seconds to translate the Minister's Foreword (1.5 pages of Chinese text) but only 6 seconds to translate Chapter VI and the conclusion (5 pages of Chinese text).

To further verify that the Chinese text was properly translated, TSM researchers used multiple LLMs to create a variety of translations. We then ran analytics to get similarity scores and make note of any differences in translation, proceeding to use by-hand translation and previous MND documents to standardize and verify the accuracy of language used.

While we are confident in this translation, in the event of any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or ambiguities, the original Chinese version, or the eventual official English version, should be deferred to. This document does not represent an official or legally binding interpretation of the original text, thus, authors, journalists, or researchers should not cite this as the official translated version. This document exists only as an unofficial, academic reference until the official English version is published by the Ministry of National Defense.

# MND Minister's Foreword

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The ongoing U.S.-China strategic competition, the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Hamas war, and the PRC's military expansion in the region—together with the convergence of authoritarian powers such as the PRC, North Korea, Iran, and Russia—have caused the risks of global geopolitics to escalate, bringing ever-greater challenges and threatening regional stability. In this era of intensifying strategic competition, some military observers regard the Taiwan Strait as one of the most dangerous regions in the world. The reason is not only that the PRC has never abandoned the use of force to resolve cross-strait disputes; it also stems from the PRC's rapidly increasing military power and its belligerent, militaristic posture abroad. Hence, we must remain vigilant and never forget our national defense. As the ancient Roman saying goes, "If you desire peace, prepare for war." The purpose of strengthening the military preparedness of the Armed Forces and enhancing nationwide defense is not to create a warlike atmosphere but to raise public awareness so that we may resolutely defend the survival of our nation.

In recent years, Beijing has leveraged its military modernization achievements to employ a "regular plus irregular" hybrid threat, undermining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and eroding the public's confidence in our country and our military. Faced with the PRC's potential invasion, we must accelerate the development of our "hard" national defense capabilities and the application of our "soft" power. The Armed Forces continue to integrate the collective strength of the entire populace, building a multilayered deterrent force. By employing asymmetric thinking and strong military capabilities, we aim to thwart Beijing's hegemonic ambitions and make the PRC realize that any attempt or action to seize Taiwan by force will come at a high price and ultimately fail—thus compelling the enemy to perpetually postpone any military adventurism.

We have observed that the PRC's increasingly intensified "gray zone" intrusions and provocations in recent years not only target Taiwan first and foremost; they also extend coercive actions to other countries in the island chains as well as to the South China Sea region. Examples include the Joint Sword

exercises, illegal intrusions by PLA aircraft and vessels into Japan’s territorial waters and airspace, and confrontations with the Philippines near Scarborough Shoal—all of which impose grave challenges to regional stability. The United States releases annual reports on PRC military power, and many nations repeatedly stress the importance of peace in the Taiwan Strait. These developments show that the PRC’s military threat has actually prompted various countries to deepen their cooperation. Taiwan will demonstrate through concrete actions both its determination and capability for self-defense. We also call on the free world to send a clearer message to the PRC and take proactive measures to prevent conflict in the Taiwan Strait through collective strength.

According to Article 31 of the **National Defense Act**, the **Four-Year Defense Review** must be publicly submitted to the Legislative Yuan within ten months after the President’s inauguration. This current edition is the fifth publication since 2009 (the 98th year of the Republic), focusing on reflecting the President’s national defense vision and encompassing the “Four Pillars of Peace Action Plan” in the areas of defense, economy, foreign affairs, and cross-Strait relations. It also reveals key points of future national defense reforms. This is helpful for both our citizens and the international community to understand our national defense, military strategy, and major policy initiatives.

Our nation is one that strives for peace through strength and treasures a free and democratic way of life. Safeguarding our homeland and protecting our people is the most important mission of our Armed Forces. Looking ahead, the Armed Forces bear heavy responsibilities—not only continuing to advance various national defense reforms in a pragmatic manner but also drawing lessons from the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts. We will adopt innovative thinking and technological applications, accelerate the upgrade of our indigenous defense industry, and seize opportunities to join the global defense supply chain. We will also seek new partnerships based on shared democratic values and common ideals, contributing to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world.

Warfare is not just an arms contest; it is also a contest of wisdom and willpower. Therefore, the quality of our personnel is paramount—it is the most valuable asset of the military. From the moment each service member joins, they dedicate themselves to defending our homeland, firmly upholding their

commitment to the people and the nation. This is both the task and mission of our Armed Forces, as well as the most important value and honor of being a soldier. To reflect a management system that advances with the times, the Armed Forces will steadfastly implement a people-centric approach and “subtractive” management thinking—comprehensively reviewing organizational structures, management culture, and training methods—so that our officers and enlisted personnel feel respected, cared for, and looked after. We will actively eliminate the administrative burdens of formalism and focus on the priorities of combat readiness and training. It is our hope that, through the joint efforts of the entire nation and our fellow service members, we can continue to safeguard freedom, democracy, and peace by virtue of our strength and commitment, demonstrating to the international community our firm resolve and capability for self-defense and deterring our adversaries from ever daring to invade.

*[SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR DEFENSE MINISTER, DATE OF 114年3月]*

# Introduction

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The current international geopolitical landscape is fraught with complexity and unpredictability, as power rivalries and regional disputes gradually evolve into long-term global patterns, in turn influencing the situation in the Taiwan Strait.

Situated in a crucial geopolitical location in the Indo-Pacific region, Taiwan has garnered worldwide acclaim for its democratic achievements and occupies a pivotal position in the global semiconductor supply chain. Peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are essential to global security and prosperity, and our nation's robust defense serves as a critical foundation for maintaining this stability. The Ministry of National Defense will continue to increase the defense budget, build up defensive capabilities, expedite defense-related technological innovation and application, and prudently and pragmatically advance defense reforms. Through concrete measures, we will enhance overall defensive strength to counter the PRC's military provocations and threats—preparing for war in order to avert war.

This edition of the **Four-Year Defense Review** centers on the theme of “Building Agile Response Capabilities and Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience to Ensure National Security.” It is organized into six chapters, summarized as follows:

## I. Security in the Taiwan Strait under Shifting Global Dynamics

### Section 1: “Great-Power Competition and Regional Conflicts”

Describes the ongoing U.S.-China rivalry, in which the PRC seeks regional dominance and frequently engages in military provocations abroad, while the U.S. bolsters security cooperation with allies and enhances military deployments throughout the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile, armed conflicts in

regions such as Russia-Ukraine and the Middle East, along with the close military collaboration among the PRC, Russia, North Korea, and Iran, have exacerbated the intricacies and uncertainties of the global security environment.

## **Section 2: “Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait”**

Emphasizes the PRC’s use of legal warfare and its naval and air assets crossing the Strait’s median line and approaching the 24-nautical-mile boundary, intended to alter the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Growing international attention toward the Taiwan Strait is reflected by multiple countries sending vessels to uphold freedom of navigation, underscoring that stability in the region is crucial to broader security and development.

## **Section 3: “The PRC’s Gray Zone Operations Threat”**

Discusses the PRC’s comprehensive employment of gray zone operations—including maritime and aerial incursions, joint military exercises, cyberattacks, and cognitive warfare—to test and wear down our military preparedness and training, while expanding psychological intimidation aimed at undermining civilian morale and the fighting spirit of our forces.

## **Section 4: “Changes in the Operational Patterns in the Taiwan Strait”**

Explains that the PLA has already established all-weather, multi-domain intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities, along with multi-layered strike power, enabling it to impose maritime and air blockades against us and quickly shift to an invasion operation. The Armed Forces’ defensive preparations will thus increasingly focus on immediate readiness training, rapid mobilization, in-depth defense, and sustained resilience to thwart the enemy’s strategy for a swift victory.

## II. Strategic Guidance for National Defense Security

### **Section 1: “National Defense Strategy” Reveals that the Ministry has formulated five national defense strategic objectives:**

- “Strengthen Defense Capabilities and Reinforce Overall Defense,”
- “Reform Defense Affairs and Enhance Organizational Efficiency,”
- “Promote Self-Reliant Defense and Achieve Win-Win Outcomes,”
- “Respond to Disaster Prevention and Changes, Safeguard the Well-Being of the People,”
- “Close Strategic Cooperation to Jointly Maintain Regional Peace.”

### **Second 2: “Military Strategy”**

1. Clarifies that, in response to changes in the overall strategic environment and evolving threats, the Armed Forces adhere to the “Defensive Posture, Layered Deterrence” military strategy. By capitalizing on Taiwan’s geographic defensive advantages and a variety of weapons and equipment, they establish an operational readiness framework oriented toward “Multi-Domain Denial, Resilient Defense.”
2. Defensive operations consider the factors of force, space, and time. Through survivable layered defenses, the Armed Forces disrupt the enemy’s operational activities and inhibit the growth of its combat power. By integrating whole-of-society defense resilience and resources, we ensure our combat effectiveness can be preserved and brought to bear, preventing the enemy from achieving rapid operational success. In peacetime, this makes the enemy reluctant to initiate conflict; if it insists on aggression, it will be forced to accept operational failure.



### III. Building a Force That Can Defeat the Enemy

#### Section 1: “Constructing Asymmetric and Resilient Capabilities”

1. Explains that the Armed Forces, in strengthening their combat capabilities, uphold four principles: **“Building Asymmetric Capabilities,” “Enhancing Operational Resilience,” “Improving Reserve Forces,”** and **“Bolstering Gray Zone Response Capabilities.”** These principles boost overall deterrence and endurance in combat.
2. They will continue enhancing the joint operational command system; develop various long-range precision-strike weapons; and fortify in-depth homeland defense. The core of force restructuring focuses on mature technology integration, unmanned vehicles, and artificial intelligence. They will plan and acquire both surveillance/reconnaissance and attack-type unmanned aircraft. In tandem with the induction of new weapons, unit structure and force composition will be continually adjusted. Each theater of operations will align its forces according to its defense readiness objectives.
3. Emphasizes strategic sustainability and resilient defense by implementing mission-based command, decentralized operations, and multi-layered backups. Through dispersed deployments and protection of combat power, the Armed Forces can effectively conduct defensive operations.
4. Utilizes emerging technologies to support cyber, information, and electronic warfare, creating high-performance electronic intelligence, surveillance, and jamming equipment. By applying cybersecurity, offensive-defensive cyber tools, information security measures, and cloud-based backups, the Armed Forces’ digital resilience is further strengthened.

## **Section 2: “Implementing Realistic Combat Training”**

1. Emphasizes that, guided by joint operations concepts, the Armed Forces adopt a “live forces, real terrain, real time” approach to all realistic combat training. This includes building simulated battlefield environments, conducting joint exercises, adversarial drills, and live-fire exercises.
2. Key priorities include:
  - Incorporating new weapons into training exercises and evaluations as they are phased into active service among primary combat units,
  - Establishing a dedicated unmanned aircraft training center,
  - Strengthening the training of conscripts so they possess the fundamental capabilities to undertake essential combat readiness tasks.

## **Section 3: “Enhancing the Combat Power of Reserve Forces”**

1. Explains that reserve training will be progressively strengthened based on each reserve unit’s mission profile, including drills to integrate regular and reserve forces in coordinated operations. At the same time, military-civilian coordination will be improved to enhance the efficiency of material prepositioning, supply, and transportation, thereby increasing operational sustainability.
2. Key focus areas include:
  - Incrementally expanding the number of junior leaders in reserve units each year,
  - Increasing both the quota and frequency of female volunteer reservists,
  - Establishing a talent database for mobilization,

- Modernizing reserve force equipment and improving maintenance capabilities,
- Utilizing civilian resources to train reserve forces,
- Jointly validating the nationwide defense mobilization mechanism.

#### **Section 4: “Refining Logistical Support Effectiveness”**

1. Emphasizes a mobile approach to dispersing prepositioned supplies and integrating maintenance capacities across the three services, thereby boosting the efficiency of wartime material resupply. In addition, a logistics information integration system is being developed to establish a unified operational picture for logistics, facilitating real-time monitoring of various consumables and the coordination of material support for frontline operations.
2. Key focus areas include: forward prepositioning of supplies; wartime stockpiles of provisions; overseas exchanges; integration and enhancement of maintenance capabilities across the three services; and upgrades to the logistics information system.

#### **Section 5: “Psychological Strength and Morale”**

1. Explains plans to hold diverse educational events in partnership with local communities and schools, leveraging social media and other civilian resources to promote basic national defense education. Additionally, a mental health care plan for the Armed Forces is being formulated, integrating psychological counseling and health education resources to provide a variety of counseling and support channels for military personnel.
2. Employs big data and artificial intelligence technologies, together with flexible and precise communication strategies, to swiftly identify the PRC’s cognitive warfare activities. This includes verifying and

clarifying disputed information, effectively countering hostile narratives, and disseminating accurate information.

### **Section 6: “Responding to PRC Intrusions”**

1. Explains that, when confronted with PRC intrusions, the Armed Forces operate in accordance with the “**Maritime Mission Comprehensive Support Agreement**” and the “**Regulations for Handling Contingencies during Routine Combat Readiness**”, coordinating their response with the Coast Guard Administration and other relevant agencies.
2. Based on potential PRC military operations, the Armed Forces design various scenario assumptions, integrating them into unit readiness training. Continuous reviews and revisions of the rules of engagement ensure that frontline units have a clear legal basis for taking response or countermeasures.

## **IV. Priority Tasks in Advancing Defense Reforms**

### **Section 1: “Stable Budget Growth and Proper Allocation”**

Emphasizes providing sufficient defense resources to fulfill the requirements of force development and preparedness. Explains that the government will maintain a gradual increase in the total defense budget, aligning with actual operational needs and major military investment and defense self-sufficiency programs. The plan is to allocate funds appropriately for acquiring and maintaining key equipment and spare parts, ensuring the most effective use of financial resources.

### **Section 2: “Introducing Innovative Technology Applications”**

1. States that the Ministry will expedite defense innovation by leveraging the private sector’s strengths in advanced technological research and production, thereby establishing an asymmetric advantage in the defense of the Taiwan Strait.

2. Will actively adopt emerging commercial off-the-shelf technologies, such as artificial intelligence and unmanned systems, to bolster defensive capabilities and resilience. In reference to the practices of the United States and Europe, the Ministry will gradually formulate laws and ethical standards pertaining to military AI, ensuring alignment with international norms.

### **Section 3: “Self-Reliant Defense and Diversified Weapon Acquisitions”**

1. Notes that, according to the principle of “domestic production first, supplemented by foreign purchases” set forth in the National Defense Act, Taiwan aims to enhance its capacity to independently research, develop, and produce weapons, equipment, and critical modules. This includes implementing the domestically produced aircraft and naval vessel policies. Additionally, by leveraging available foreign military and commercial markets, the Armed Forces can swiftly acquire practical combat power.
2. Through measures such as certified vendor programs and financial incentives, the government encourages and assists the upgrading of the domestic defense industry. The National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology is establishing an “**Aerospace and UAV Industrial Park**” and collaborating with the Ministry of Economic Affairs to participate in the “**Non-Red UAV International Supply Chain.**”

### **Section 4: “Professional Talent Development and Retention”**

1. Indicates that the Armed Forces will continue to refine recruitment processes, personnel evaluation, leadership training, and measures to retain both officers and enlisted personnel. This ensures the availability of manpower for core operational and training requirements, as well as for the operation and maintenance of weapons systems.
2. Key elements include:

- Expanding specialized military training programs and establishing courses in AI, unmanned vehicles, communications, and cyber warfare, in addition to sending personnel abroad for advanced education.
- Emphasizing on-the-job training and humane management.
- Adjusting service member compensation.
- Improving civilian staff expertise in defense affairs.
- Creating a positive workplace environment to ensure long-term workforce retention.

### **Section 5: “Modernizing Force Management”**

1. Explains that the Armed Forces continue to promote legislative initiatives such as the “**Military Personnel Rights Protection Act**” and the “**Armed Forces Punishment Act**,” balancing the protection of service members’ rights with the need to maintain discipline. Reforms also seek to reduce administrative burdens on personnel, improve the quality of housing and living facilities, and enhance childcare services.
2. In addition, the Armed Forces will implement proactive inspection programs, strengthen flight safety management, and reinforce anti-corruption education to improve the prevention and control of potential security risks.

## **V. Nationwide Defense Mobilization to Support Sustained Operations**

### **Section 1: “Enhancing the Mobilization Mechanism and Civil Defense Capabilities”**

1. Explains that, in accordance with the **All-Out Defense Mobilization Preparatory Act**, the Ministry continues working with various government agencies and local governments to integrate nationwide

defense resources and conduct drills, advancing civil defense education and response training. This facilitates a rapid shift from peacetime to wartime operations, harnessing the collective strength of the nation.

2. Key points include: issuing exercise orders once signs of a potential invasion emerge, rapidly assembling personnel and equipment; conducting manpower and materiel mobilization assessments and building an integrated database; strengthening civil defense training and usage, inventorying strategic resources, preparing social welfare and medical services, and enhancing communication and network security. In addition, mandatory military training now includes civil defense courses so that, upon discharge, servicemen returning home can continue contributing to local defense.

## **Section 2: “Cross-Agency Collaboration”**

1. Outlines that whole-of-society defense involves multiple government ministries. In coordination with the Executive Yuan’s Office of Homeland Affairs, the Ministry integrates resources from sectors such as energy, communications, and transportation, thereby helping protect critical infrastructure.
2. Through joint exercises like Urban Resilience Drills and the Zi-Qiang (Self-Reliance) Exercises, an effective resource coordination and response mechanism is established, ensuring efficient military-civilian cooperation during wartime.

## **Section 3: “War-Related Disaster Protection and Relief”**

Describes how the Armed Forces collaborate with relevant agencies and local governments—via joint response and command centers—to build communication and cooperation platforms, strengthen practical training in disaster prevention and war casualty care, and maintain substantial wartime medical capacities to handle war-related disaster rescue missions.

## **VI. Regional Linkages to Strengthen Collective Deterrence**

### **Section 1: “Deepening Taiwan-U.S. Military Exchanges and Cooperation”**

States that our country continues to advance military exchanges with the United States, deepening bilateral cooperation in policy dialogue and visits, intelligence sharing, operational issue research, joint war-gaming, military technology R&D, and the defense industry.

### **Section 2: “Expanding Security Partnerships with Allied Nations”**

Emphasizes our nation’s commitment to collaboration with other allies, expanding cooperative efforts in fields such as intelligence, scientific research, cybersecurity, and countering gray zone and cognitive warfare threats. Additionally, through engagement with foreign think tanks and academic institutions, we seek continued international attention and support for security in the Taiwan Strait.

### **Section 3: “Aligning with Secure Supply Chain Systems”**

Explains that we will continue promoting defense industry cooperation with allies and strategic partners to jointly develop a more robust and resilient supply chain. This includes establishing a tiered system for evaluating and certifying defense industry vendors, encouraging domestic manufacturers to obtain foreign licensing and technology transfers, and assisting the domestic defense industry in joining international “Non-Red” supply chains to expand our national defense industrial base and capacity.



# Chapter I: Security in the Taiwan Strait

## Under Shifting Global Dynamics

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The defining features of the current international strategic environment are the ongoing competition between the United States and China, alongside several concurrent regional conflicts, creating a relatively complex and uncertain situation. Many countries have progressively increased their defense investments to address potential threats. In the Indo-Pacific region, the PRC's growing military power and coercive actions have intensified security threats in the Taiwan Strait.

### **Section 1: Great-Power Competition and Regional Conflicts**

The PRC continues to accelerate the modernization of its armed forces and has repeatedly taken unilateral actions in an attempt to alter the international order and the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and other regional strife in the Middle East, the United States, Europe, and Indo-Pacific countries—seeking to counter the increasingly close collaboration among Russia, the PRC, North Korea, and Iran—have been boosting defense spending, enhancing military preparedness, intensifying defense technology R&D, and expanding military security cooperation. This heightened military strengthening among nations to ensure their own security underscores the interlinked nature of global security affairs, which depend on a concerted international response.

#### **I. The PRC's Pursuit of Regional Dominance**

1. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has continually expanded its long-range force projection and nuclear capabilities, thereby augmenting its strategic deterrence. Its military activities in the Western Pacific have recently become more frequent and more aggressive—for example, carrier group exercises and intercontinental ballistic missile tests—and it frequently engages in provocations and gray-zone operations in the South China Sea and East China Sea. These actions aim to challenge existing international norms through

military coercion.

2. Alongside its growing comprehensive power and pursuit of great-power ambitions in the region, the PRC has used the Belt and Road Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the BRICS framework to advance its major-power diplomacy. By drawing in developing nations worldwide, it seeks to expand its political and economic influence and establish a system of values and global presence distinct from that of the United States and Europe.

## **II. The United States Deepens Indo-Pacific Cooperation to Maintain Regional Stability**

1. In recent years, the U.S. has strengthened its security cooperation with allies such as Japan, the Philippines, and Australia, bolstering its military presence in the Western Pacific. Examples include stationing Marine Littoral Regiments in Hawaii, Japan, and Guam, planning to reopen bases on Pacific islands, and the possibility of long-term deployment of medium-range missile systems in the Philippines. These measures enhance the U.S. forward-deployed and mobile combat power in the region and help first-island-chain nations increase their overall deterrent capabilities.
2. Looking ahead, the U.S. government is expected to maintain high tariffs, technology controls, and sanctions lists as tools for its “America First” policy agenda, countering the PRC in key technology arenas. Concurrently, it will employ diverse military and diplomatic channels to work alongside Indo-Pacific allies in preserving regional peace and stability, resisting the PRC’s expanding influence, and securing America’s global leadership.

### **III. The Russia-Ukraine War's Impact on the Global Security System**

Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, there has been a profound effect on security in Europe and worldwide. NATO members have adjusted their foreign and defense policies, substantially increasing defense budgets and reinforcing collective defense mechanisms. In response to varying degrees of sanctions imposed by Western nations, China, Russia, and North Korea have sought even closer strategic collaboration. Additionally, the war has driven up the prices of basic commodities, including food, energy, and rare minerals—causing supply-chain disruptions and high inflation, and compounding global trade and economic challenges.

### **IV. Geopolitical Conflicts Affect Regional Stability**

Recent hostilities among Israel, Hamas, Iran, and Lebanon's Hezbollah have deteriorated security in the Middle East, triggering a humanitarian crisis and exerting a negative impact on the global economy. In the South China Sea, the PRC continues its militarization efforts and has confronted the Philippines in multiple territorial disputes, making the region a hotspot of conflict. Meanwhile, North Korea amended its constitution to designate South Korea as its top adversary, supplies military aid to Russia in order to deepen their alliance, and continues to develop nuclear weapons and test intercontinental ballistic missiles—factors that further destabilize Northeast Asia.

## **Section 2: Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait**

The PRC continues to employ a combination of military, diplomatic, legal, and economic methods to pressure and coerce us, aiming to erode our international standing, alter the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, and deter foreign intervention. In recent years, however, the PRC has frequently resorted to military harassment and gray-zone tactics against Taiwan. Many countries have responded by more clearly

emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, reflecting heightened international concern over security in the region.

## **I. Using Legal Warfare to Expand Jurisdiction Around the Taiwan Strait**

Currently, PLA aircraft and vessels deliberately cross the Strait's median line and come close to our 24-nautical-mile contiguous zone, continuing to intrude on Taiwan's main island and outlying islands. Additionally, the PRC denies that the Taiwan Strait constitutes international waters, thereby attempting to negate international legal norms and impede other countries from exercising freedom of navigation and overflight in the Strait.

## **II. Peace and Stability in the Taiwan Strait Are Critical to Global Development**

Our country is on the frontline of preventing the expansion and incursion of communist authoritarianism, serving as a beacon of freedom and democracy in the Indo-Pacific region. We also play a pivotal role in the high-tech semiconductor supply chain. Situated at the center of the first island chain, Taiwan occupies a critical geopolitical position for global maritime trade and international air routes. Any crisis in the Taiwan Strait would have worldwide repercussions, making the unhindered passage of sea and air routes through the Strait essential to global prosperity and growth.

## **III. Growing International Attention to Taiwan Strait Security**

The United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand have all deployed naval vessels through the Taiwan Strait to affirm freedom of navigation, underscoring a broad international consensus against unilateral changes to the status quo. The U.S. and the international community are increasingly vigilant regarding potential PRC military adventurism in the Taiwan Strait, and democratic nations in the region are stepping up coordination and cooperation to form a deterrent against aggression. Under these conditions—where challenges and opportunities coexist—our country must leverage pro-Taiwan sentiment

abroad, make concrete contributions as a reliable international partner, and work alongside allies to address global challenges and uphold regional security.

### **Section 3: The PRC's Gray Zone Operations Threat**

Gray zone operations refer to strategies undertaken below the threshold of conventional warfare, employing diverse non-traditional or irregular means—coercion, harassment, or conflict—to achieve political, strategic, or military objectives. In recent years, the PRC has frequently targeted Taiwan with gray zone actions such as naval and air intrusions, cyberattacks, and cognitive warfare. Its aim is to test and wear down our combat readiness and training, while intensifying psychological intimidation. Our country must flexibly adjust its responses and coordinate with allied nations, ensuring the PRC cannot undermine morale among our populace.

#### **I. Maritime and Aerial Intrusions**

Leveraging drones, civilian aircraft, Coast Guard vessels, maritime militia fishing boats, and naval warships in coordination, the PRC conducts joint combat readiness patrols, targeted military exercises, and planned combined training in the waters near our main island and outlying islands. By entering our Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), sailing in restricted or prohibited maritime areas, and crossing the Taiwan Strait's median line, the PRC tests our military's response capabilities and rules of engagement. These frequent deployments and heightened vigilance accelerate the wear and tear on our equipment and reduce the forces available during wartime.

#### **II. Cyberattacks**

During peacetime, the PRC exploits the internet for widespread infiltration, collecting intelligence on our military and critical infrastructure, probing for cybersecurity vulnerabilities and weaknesses, and conducting hacking or disinformation campaigns. In wartime, it would launch large-scale cyberattacks on our critical infrastructure and command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR)

systems to disrupt government agencies and military operations, thereby supporting its broader military objectives.

### **III. Cognitive Warfare**

The PRC aggressively employs social media to spread false or contentious information—both in Taiwan and internationally—sometimes releasing exaggerated or fabricated videos claiming, for instance, that “PLA aircraft have approached Taiwan’s main island.” Economically, it leverages its trade advantages to woo Taiwanese enterprises and citizens into endorsing the PRC’s political stances. Militarily, by showcasing advanced weaponry, conducting missile tests, and holding various combined exercises, the PRC attempts to project a deterrent effect and shape public opinion in its favor.

## **Section 4: Changes in the Operational Patterns in the Taiwan Strait**

With the PRC’s growing military capabilities, evolving tactics, and the introduction of new technologies—such as unmanned systems and artificial intelligence—the nature of potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait continues to change. These developments lead to shortened warning times, increased battlefield transparency, accelerated operational tempos, and diversified means of attack. In a wartime scenario, the PLA may combine actions across land, sea, air, space, cyber, electromagnetic, and cognitive domains in an attempt to paralyze our forces, rapidly invade Taiwan, or impose isolation or blockade measures to force our capitulation. The Armed Forces will thus place greater emphasis on immediate readiness, rapid mobilization, in-depth defense, and sustained resilience to thwart the enemy’s plans for a swift victory.

### **I. PRC Operational Characteristics Against Taiwan**

#### **1. All-Weather, Multi-Domain Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR), and Command and Control**

The PRC is actively expanding its space-based satellites; various manned and unmanned aerial reconnaissance platforms; ground-based radars and electronic surveillance stations; intelligence vessels; and

cyber intelligence systems—establishing an all-weather, multi-domain ISR and command-and-control network to conduct large-scale campaigns against Taiwan. They also employ jamming systems and cyberattacks to disable or degrade our C4ISR capabilities and undermine our ability to conduct joint operations.

## **2. Maritime and Aerial Blockade Drills Gradually Restrict Taiwan’s Surrounding Lines of Communication**

In recent years, the PRC has built a large inventory of navy and coast guard vessels that can work in tandem to isolate or blockade key ports and shipping routes around the main island of Taiwan, disrupting strategic material transport and commercial activities. Deployed forces at sea and in the air, positioned around our territory, could rapidly execute a blockade or transition to a direct invasion of Taiwan.

## **3. Seizure of Ports, Beaches, and Airfields as the Primary Objective for Island Invasion**

After gaining air, sea, and electromagnetic superiority, the PLA would, under the cover of joint fire support, employ various amphibious transports—including conscripted civilian roll-on/roll-off ferries—together with helicopters and transport aircraft to conduct multi-echelon assaults on Taiwan’s main island from the sea and air. Their priority would be to seize critical ports, beaches, and airfields to establish a lodgment for follow-on ground forces.

## **4. Combining New-Generation Equipment with Traditional Weapons for Multi-Layered Fires**

In a PLA attack on Taiwan, real-time intelligence support would enable the use of diverse missiles and long-range rockets, in concert with maritime and aerial strike forces, for precision attacks on key targets and forces on land while seeking to annihilate our primary naval assets. Once the PRC achieves air, sea, and electromagnetic advantages, it would continue employing aerial firepower and long-range rockets—paired with unmanned aircraft and loitering munitions—to suppress our ground forces and weapons platforms,

degrading our capacity to counterattack.

**5. Integrating Military and Civilian Operations to Rapidly Shift Force Posture**

The PRC plans to harness civilian mobilization and transportation resources for military operations, including roll-on/roll-off ferries, semi-submersible ships, civilian aircraft, and road/rail systems for moving equipment and supplies. They conduct drills and validate operational plans to address limitations in military transport platforms and to obscure indicators of an imminent invasion, thus complicating our early warning and constraining our military's reaction time.

**6. Expanding Strategic Weapons to Deter International Involvement in a Taiwan Strait Conflict**

To deter or prevent foreign military intervention, the PRC's "anti-access/area denial" strategy includes the use of anti-ship ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, cruise missiles, nuclear-powered submarines, and aircraft carrier groups. These strategic assets allow the PRC to establish localized military superiority within the first and second island chains and the South China Sea region, threatening or striking nearby countries' critical air and naval bases in order to block allied forces from coming to our aid.

## **II. Transformations in Warfare in the Taiwan Strait**

**1. Reduced Strategic Warning Time and Ambiguous Indicators**

In the event of an invasion, the PLA's offensive posture could become evident only very shortly beforehand, making it harder to confirm intentions. The transition from peacetime to wartime could occur rapidly and unpredictably.

**2. Increased Battlefield Transparency**

With the proliferation of commercial imaging satellites, global communications, and positioning systems, forces must prioritize



concealment, cover, and signature management. They must also be more capable of swiftly dispersing and then concentrating to preserve combat power under enemy fire.

### **3. Long-Range Weapons and Unmanned Systems**

Rapid advancements in long-range weaponry and unmanned platforms enable both sides to engage battlefield targets from greater distances, blurring the lines between front and rear areas. Ammunition and supplies will be in high demand, and securing these resources will be critical to the success or failure of offensive and defensive operations.

### **4. Severe Threats from Offensive Electronic Warfare and Kinetic Strikes**

The enemy's electronic warfare efforts, in tandem with kinetic attacks, present a significant hazard. The effectiveness of our communications, positioning, and navigation systems will be pivotal to maintaining the combat effectiveness and survivability of our forces.

### **5. Extensive Use of Unmanned Systems**

Large numbers of unmanned platforms—including AI-equipped combat drones and loitering munitions—are reshaping ground and air defense operations. They can also be used in coordinated strikes against maritime targets and in long-range attack missions.

### **6. Multi-Domain Attacks Against Our Homeland**

Once conflict erupts, the adversary is likely to employ conventional, hybrid, and irregular forces to launch multi-domain assaults on our territory. Effective national defense will rely on the total support of society, rapid mobilization of all resources, and protection of governmental and essential civilian functions. Without such comprehensive preparedness, it will be difficult to sustain defensive operations.

## Chapter II: Strategic Guidance for National Defense Security

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Based on the President’s “Four Pillars of Peace” framework for national security and the Executive Yuan’s defense policy guidance, the Ministry of National Defense sets forth overall defense administration, defense affairs reform, and the allocation and utilization of defense resources. It implements an all-out national defense posture and develops asymmetric warfare capabilities, builds security partnerships and exchanges with allied nations, and formulates concepts for force establishment and employment. Under the overarching plan for defensive operations, the Ministry advances force restructuring and readiness preparations accordingly.

### Section 1: National Defense Strategy

In accordance with the **Constitution of the Republic of China** and the **National Defense Act**, Taiwan’s national defense aims to ensure the security of the nation and its people, as well as to uphold global peace. The national defense strategy must address the PRC’s urgent gray-zone intrusions and severe wartime threats, while also taking a long-term, comprehensive view of defense development to establish robust, sustainable defense and deterrence capabilities.

#### I. Fundamental Concepts of National Defense

##### 1. Preventing War and Preserving Peace

Rely on a strong defense force to resist external aggression and protect national sovereignty, territory, and the safety of citizens.

##### 2. Planning Rapid Response and Long-Term Resilience

Develop defensive capabilities that can adapt quickly to modern, multifaceted warfare and threats across multiple domains; achieve this through research, development, and the integration of new technologies.

**3. Establishing a Whole-of-Nation Consensus to Defend Our Homeland**

Unite the military, civilians, and various government agencies to build societal defense resilience.

**4. Maintaining Strategic Autonomy in the International Security Environment**

Actively participate in military exchanges and foster security partnerships, leveraging collective power to address regional threats and challenges.

## **II. Goals of the National Defense Strategy**

**1. Strengthening Defense Capabilities and Building Comprehensive Resilience**

Guided by the principle “prepare for war to avoid war, be able to fight to stop war,” the Armed Forces employ asymmetric thinking to enhance self-defense capabilities, deterring the enemy from embarking on military adventurism and thereby preventing the outbreak of conflict and preserving peace.

**2. Reforming Defense Affairs and Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness**

In anticipation of high-tech, modern warfare and evolving defense missions, continue to improve the effectiveness of defense organizations, reform defense affairs, and cultivate a high-quality, modern, knowledge-based, and professional military force.

**3. Promoting Self-Reliant Defense and Achieving Mutual Benefits**

Through programs such as domestically produced aircraft and naval vessels, a “national drone team,” and the application of innovative technologies (e.g., AI), deepen civil-military technological integration and self-reliance in equipment production and maintenance. These efforts will upgrade Taiwan’s defense technology and defense

industry, achieving a win-win outcome for both national defense and the economy.

4. **Responding to Disasters and Safeguarding Public Welfare**

In the face of non-traditional security threats like natural disasters and pandemics, the Armed Forces will—under government direction—play a key role in emergency rescue and relief, stabilizing public morale. Additionally, they will utilize regional joint defense mechanisms, cooperating with government agencies at all levels to protect critical infrastructure and coordinate emergency responses. In accordance with the government’s maritime policies, the Armed Forces will strengthen maritime surveillance and conduct joint patrols with the Coast Guard to safeguard fisheries, thereby defending national maritime rights and interests.

5. **Strengthening Strategic Cooperation for Regional Peace**

The Armed Forces will steadfastly fulfill their responsibilities as guardians of peace, standing shoulder to shoulder with global democracies to form a community of peace that exerts deterrent power. Together, they will safeguard stability in the Taiwan Strait and the prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

## **Section 2: Military Strategy**

To address the overall strategic environment and the threats posed by the enemy, the Armed Forces adhere to the **“Defensive Posture, Layered Deterrence”** military strategy and adopt a **“Multi-Domain Denial, Resilient Defense”** approach to operational preparedness. This serves as the guiding framework for force development and readiness planning. Factoring in force, space, and time, the defense plan extends forward into peacetime preparations and responses to gray zone intrusions, employing strategies such as **“rapid readiness,” “asymmetric methods,” “decentralized operations,” “denial over control,”** and **“raising the risk to enemy mission execution.”** Through survivable, layered defenses—integrating the nation’s overall defensive resilience and resources—our

combat power is preserved and effectively employed, disrupting the enemy's operations and preventing it from gaining momentum. In peacetime, we aim to deter the enemy from rashly initiating conflict; in wartime, we force the enemy to abandon its operational goals.

## **I. Multi-Domain Denial: Establishing a Multi-Layered Defense in Depth**

### **1. Employing an Attrition Strategy and Asymmetric Warfare Thinking**

In light of various enemy threats and operational patterns, the Armed Forces devise tactics and strategies to defeat the adversary, guided by principles of **mobility, agility, lethality, cost-efficiency, and concealment**. A mission-oriented defense system spans land, sea, air, space, and cyber domains. Early warning of enemy incursions is facilitated by shared intelligence across command links, producing a common operational picture at all levels. This real-time data integrates closely with front-line combat units to form a rapid-reaction “kill web.” When the enemy attacks, we strike precisely at its vulnerabilities, maximizing our comprehensive defensive effect.

### **2. Extending the Defensive Battlespace and Strengthening Military-Civilian Integration**

If an invasion is launched, we capitalize on the geography of the Taiwan Strait and our national territory—favorable for protracted defense—by extending the battlespace outward and reinforcing internal military-civilian integration. In alignment with the operational phases of “**routine crisis management, readiness deployment, joint anti-landing, littoral and beach combat, in-depth defense, and protracted warfare,**” we focus on attriting enemy forces, deploying multi-layered defenses to prevent the adversary from capturing key objectives. Simultaneously, through joint operations of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and reserve forces, we will disrupt and degrade the enemy's progression through maritime transit, lodgment, consolidation, breakthrough, and force buildup. Leveraging

advantageous terrain and defensive fortifications, we repeatedly inflict losses whenever the enemy attempts a new wave of assaults. This compels the enemy to pay a steep price and eventually proves unable to sustain its operations, leading to overall failure and the abandonment of its plan to seize Taiwan.

### 3. **Addressing the PRC's Varied Gray Zone Operations**

Guided by the principle of **“be prepared for war but do not seek war; if war comes, do not evade it,”** the Armed Forces proactively coordinate and enhance various surveillance and early-warning systems—radars, satellites, early warning aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and naval vessels—to refine joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities and response mechanisms. In cooperation with cross-ministerial resources, we continually monitor and study PLA operational patterns, updating rules of engagement and contingency plans in order to respond appropriately to the PRC's provocations.

## **II. Resilient Defense: Strengthening Whole-of-Society Defense Mechanisms**

### 1. **Bolstering Defense Capabilities and Operational Survivability**

In the face of external military threats, the Armed Forces work diligently to enhance defense capabilities, resilience, and asymmetric combat power. Key efforts include improving unit mobility for flexible dispersal based on battlefield conditions, implementing redundancy by deploying multiple backup systems for critical equipment to avoid a single point of failure, pre-positioning essential logistic supplies in key theaters to speed up resupply, and strictly controlling electronic signatures while concealing and shielding troop movements. Once indications of an attempted invasion arise, the Armed Forces will rapidly mobilize and rely on peacetime training that synchronizes active-duty and reserve units—thus assembling forces capable of high readiness in peacetime and effective

survivability in wartime. Before directly engaging the enemy, we preserve as much combat power as possible. We then use terrain, obstacles, and other measures to sustain the fight, striking at opportune moments to deny enemy advances.

## **2. Harnessing All-of-Society Defense Resilience**

Through comprehensive integration of the nation's resources, the Armed Forces combine military and civilian capabilities to support combat operations. This includes safeguarding critical infrastructure, preserving core social functions, and ensuring continuity of government. In addition, we continue to improve reserve mobilization efficiency, upgrade equipment and training for reserve units, and coordinate them with active-duty forces. By fully tapping into our wartime potential, we seek strategic endurance—making the PRC realize that even at great cost, it will not achieve its aims, thereby deterring it from resorting to force.

## **3. Enhancing Cooperation with Allied Nations**

Strengthening alliances is fundamental to building resilient defenses. Positioned at a critical junction along the first island chain, Taiwan serves as a strategic outpost connecting the Western Pacific and the South China Sea, playing a pivotal role in countering authoritarian expansion and maintaining peace within the Indo-Pacific deterrence and defense structure. By expanding and deepening military exchanges, we bolster security ties and joint action with our allies, employing tangible means to counter the enemy's provocations and coercion.

## **Chapter III: Building a Force That Can Defeat the Enemy**

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In line with the “Defensive Posture, Layered Deterrence” military strategy, the Armed Forces anticipate future threats, technological developments, forms of warfare, and operational scenarios. They actively promote the transformation of reserve force capabilities and integration of military-civilian efforts, enhance logistical support and training effectiveness, strengthen cyber and electronic warfare capabilities, and fortify psychological resilience—creating a robust force equipped to meet the demands of future warfare.

### **Section 1: Constructing Asymmetric and Resilient Capabilities**

The Armed Forces continue to develop asymmetric warfare capabilities, prioritizing the rapid augmentation of reserve forces and reducing the operational attrition caused by gray-zone intrusions. During wartime, they focus on preserving combat power and swiftly restoring functionality to ensure sustained fighting capability.

#### **I. Integrating Deterrence and Asymmetric Capabilities**

##### **1. Enhancing Joint Operational Command Mechanisms**

Develop an array of long-range precision-strike weapons, integrating intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities into a kill chain. This allows strikes against the center of gravity and key nodes of any enemy landing operations, thereby delaying and disrupting the enemy’s operational plans and tempo, ultimately forcing their mission to fail.

##### **2. Guiding Principles for Force Modernization**

Adhering to four core principles—“Building Asymmetric Capabilities,” “Strengthening Operational Resilience,” “Enhancing Reserve Forces,” and “Bolstering Gray-Zone Response Capacity”—the Armed Forces reinforce deterrence and endurance in



combat, safeguarding regional security and resisting invasion by force.

### **3. Strengthening In-Depth Defense**

Continue to bolster homeland defense capabilities with increased procurement of man-portable and vehicle-mounted anti-armor weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other asymmetric assets designed to precisely strike various enemy landing craft in littoral waters, on beaches, and at ports.

### **4. Acquiring ISR and Attack-Type Unmanned Systems**

Through holistic planning, acquire both surveillance/reconnaissance and attack drones; conduct modular upgrades in line with future operational requirements to ensure these systems remain at the cutting edge in terms of performance.

### **5. Integrating Mature Technologies and New Domains**

Focus on the rapid adoption of mature technologies, unmanned vehicles, artificial intelligence, and network-centric electronic and information warfare. In coordination with the induction timeline for new weapon systems, continually revise and adjust primary combat, defense, and reserve units' organizational equipment and manpower structures.

### **6. Adjusting Force Deployments According to Operational Strategy**

In each theater of operations, defense deployment is refined based on specific preparedness strategies. The Navy is establishing **littoral strike groups** designed to enhance mobility, agility, lethality, cost-effectiveness, and stealth in strike and operational capabilities.

### **3. Supporting Cyber, Information, and Electronic Warfare with Emerging Technologies**

#### **1. Establishing a Cyber Warfare Simulation and Training Environment**

- Develop large-scale hacking and cybersecurity training scenarios.
- Conduct joint exercises with government agencies and the private sector, leveraging interagency intelligence-sharing to strengthen offensive and defensive cyber capabilities.
- Incorporate new cybersecurity tools and AI-driven technologies to reinforce cybersecurity measures and continuous monitoring, thereby effectively maintaining situational awareness of Armed Forces network security.

#### **2. Building High-Performance Electronic Intelligence, Surveillance, and Jamming Capabilities**

- Continue systematic battlefield preparation and real-world, real-time training to master operational procedures under various threat scenarios, including those involving unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- Develop exercise tasks and offensive-defensive drills to validate electronic warfare technologies and capabilities.

#### **3. Improving Spectrum Management**

- Allocate peacetime training and wartime frequency bands according to ISR requirements and different UAV types (land-based or shipborne) and their communication protocols.

#### **4. Employing Cloud Technologies**

- Integrate and construct a multi-cloud distributed architecture to facilitate swift failover of backup systems, ensuring continuous system functionality.

- Adopt a zero-trust framework and multi-layered cybersecurity measures to enhance data transmission security and stability, thereby bolstering the Armed Forces' digital resilience.

## **Section 2: Implementing Realistic Combat Training**

By conducting highly realistic adversarial exercises and cross-service training, the Armed Forces aim to enhance their real-world combat capabilities. Alongside the integration of new weaponry, they are expanding training modules and intensity levels, strengthening professional combat skills across all units and boosting immediate readiness.

### **I. Integrating Real-World Scenarios to Build Realistic Exercise Training**

#### **1. Adapting to Diversified Threats and Rapidly Changing Environments**

In response to the enemy's multifaceted threats and the rapidly evolving operational context, the Armed Forces conduct all training from a joint operations perspective, employing live forces, real terrain, and real-time methods.

#### **2. Constructing Realistic Battlefield Environments**

Under conditions approximating actual combat, training activities validate various operational tasks through joint exercises, adversarial drills, and live-fire training.

#### **3. Centering Exercises on Joint Operations Plans and Missions**

All exercises focus on joint operations plans and assigned missions. Through these training activities, personnel become thoroughly familiar with their area of responsibility, battle positions, and contingency regulations—aiming for high readiness in both peacetime and wartime.

#### **4. Developing and Employing Diverse Simulators**

The Armed Forces use a range of simulation systems designed to replicate real-world scenarios, thereby honing service members' decision-making and adaptability under battlefield conditions.

## **II. Integrating New Weapons into Training and Evaluation**

### **1. Phased Incorporation of Modern Weapons**

Primary combat units integrate new weapon systems based on their induction timelines. These systems undergo testing and evaluation at training bases, coupled with live drills that foster genuine combat proficiency.

### **2. Establishing a UAV Training Center**

A dedicated center is formed to train and certify UAV instructors, thereby expanding the pool of personnel skilled in operating unmanned aerial systems.

### **3. Incorporating Unmanned Vehicles into Defense Operations**

Unmanned systems are included in defense operational planning. Corresponding tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) are developed to manage both the defensive and offensive use of drones.

## **III. Gradually Strengthening Conscripts' Training and Readiness**

### **1. Adjusting Conscription Duration to Improve Immediate Combat Capabilities**

In response to enemy threats, and to enhance overall readiness, the Armed Forces have reinstated a one-year term of mandatory military service starting in 2024 (Year 113 of the Republic).

### **2. Progressive Training Phases for Conscripts**

Enlisted servicemen undergo phased basic, garrison, and base-level

instruction. The curriculum includes training on man-portable air-defense and anti-armor systems, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles, ensuring these personnel can effectively fulfill combat readiness duties.

### **Section 3: Enhancing the Combat Power of Reserve Forces**

Reserve forces reinforce their training (educational call-ups, or “educational mobilization”) according to their mission profiles, conducting tactical exercises in actual locations and refining their ability to coordinate with active-duty units. Simultaneously, the military-civil integration process is improved, enhancing the prepositioning, supply, and transport of materials to boost the overall sustainability of combat operations.

#### **1. Strengthening the Mobilization System’s Resources**

1. Gradually increase the number of junior officers in reserve units each year, enabling independent execution of call-up training and equipment maintenance responsibilities, in pursuit of “mobilize in place, form units in place, and fight in place.”
2. Continue expanding both the quota and training iterations for female volunteer reservists. Concurrently, assist reserve units in accumulating call-up training experience, refining data collection on readiness preparations and safety, and progressively perfecting the procedures for managing and training female reservists.
3. Establish a digital talent database for mobilization by integrating data on specialized civilian skill sets managed by various government agencies. Medical, information technology, unmanned systems, and engineering heavy-machinery operators—among other high-demand military specialties—will be prioritized based on operational requirements.

## **2. Modernizing and Upgrading Unit Equipment**

1. Realign reserve unit structures and update weaponry to meet defensive operational missions, troop dispositions, and training requirements—ultimately striving for equipment standardization with active-duty units.
2. Gradually replace communication gear and acquire new unmanned aerial vehicles, man-portable air-defense systems, and anti-armor weapons.
3. Expand the pool of personnel and facilities for repairing and supporting various types of weaponry. This ensures adequate wartime logistics to support combat missions.

## **3. Strengthening Coordination Between Reserve and Active Forces**

1. Through the live-forces phase of the Han Kuang Exercises, practice “regular-reserve coordinated” combat operations. In wartime, reserve units join primary combat and garrison forces to safeguard local government command centers and critical infrastructure, helping maintain governmental and societal functions.
2. Extend call-up training to 14 days, with an increased focus on marksmanship, combat instruction, and civil-defense cooperation. During training, personnel familiarize themselves with the terrain of their assigned area, enhancing abilities for urban-rural defense and in-depth protective operations.
3. During call-ups, units conduct drills aligned with their assigned combat missions, including the defense of critical infrastructure, transfer of casualties to designated emergency hospitals, joint defensive operations with relief stations, and sheltering in air-raid facilities. These exercises involve the military police, national police, firefighting teams, and

civil-defense units—thereby validating the nationwide defense mobilization system.

## **Section 4: Refining Logistical Support Effectiveness**

To ensure sustained operational capability and efficiency, the Armed Forces are dispersing prepositioned supplies, increasing tri-service maintenance capacities, and expanding logistics information systems—strengthening the overall logistics support network.

### **1. Dispersed Prepositioning of Supplies**

1. Establish multiple depots at critical tactical locations. Once signs of an imminent invasion appear, various supplies are dispersed around key sites through a mobile approach, reducing the transition time between peacetime and wartime, while improving resupply efficiency.
2. Increase baseline stockpiles of rations on outlying islands. Move supplies forward to sub-depots in each unit, and expand the inventory of ready-to-eat combat rations according to unit characteristics.

### **2. Enhancing and Integrating Tri-Service Maintenance**

1. Through programs such as “Building Mainstay Weapons Equipment Capabilities,” “Integrating Rotary-Wing Maintenance,” “Trial Repair and Manufacturing of Major Components,” and “Integrating Missile System Maintenance,” the Armed Forces establish and consolidate specialized and general-purpose maintenance capabilities across the three services.

2. **Via project management meetings and other channels related to foreign military purchases (對外軍購)** with original manufacturers, specialized maintenance personnel are dispatched to the United States, French forces, or the relevant manufacturer for training and exchange. This fosters the release of critical maintenance expertise from the original manufacturer and elevates the maintenance skills of our personnel.

*Note: The reference to “foreign military purchases” could involve acquisitions from the United States, among other countries. This may be relevant to U.S. arms sales.*

### **3. Expanding the Logistics Information System**

1. Develop a logistics information integration system with full life-cycle management functions, hosted in the cloud and shared among all services. This system provides real-time insight into the maintenance status of key equipment and supports timely redistribution of repair parts and supplies based on available inventory.
2. Create a common logistics operating picture, allowing real-time tracking of combat and support units, as well as referencing equipment, facilities, and transport assignments—facilitating prompt resource management in support of front-line operations.

## **Section 5: Psychological Strength and Morale**

Psychological strength stems from service members’ unwavering beliefs, camaraderie, and determination to resist the enemy. From the moment they enlist, personnel undergo education and training to build mental fortitude and cultivate a



dedication to defending the homeland. Additionally, the Armed Forces strive to eliminate superfluous bureaucratic requirements by adopting “subtractive management,” letting personnel concentrate on combat readiness and training, thereby solidifying morale.

## **1. Solidifying Beliefs and Boosting Morale**

- i. Employ national defense education, including basic knowledge for new recruits and reserve call-ups, to instill a correct understanding of national security and counter-cognitive warfare. Regular Jǔguāng (“military education”) programs reinforce ethical soldierly conduct.
- ii. Coordinate with government agencies, local governments, the all-out national defense mobilization system, educational institutions at all levels, and community organizations to host diverse educational events. Use social media to produce content and occasionally hold civil instructor training sessions on national defense topics, harnessing civilian teaching resources to advance public awareness of national defense.
- iii. During new recruit training and before base-level field exercises, provide simulated battlefield stress training. Leveraging realistic scenarios and scientific assessments, personnel experience combat stress firsthand, thereby reinforcing mental resilience.

## **2. Integrating Counseling and Medical Resources**

- i. Develop a “Military Mental Health Care Program,” incorporating grassroots leadership, psychological counselors at

all levels, and military mental-health facilities into a unified care system. This system connects horizontally to civilian counseling resources and family support programs, offering diverse counseling methods and self-help channels for military personnel.

- ii. Expand the ranks of Armed Forces psychological counselors by hiring civilian psychologists and certified social workers. In partnership with military hospitals, implement mental-health education and a suicide prevention reporting system—ensuring thorough awareness of personnel’s emotional well-being and timely counseling support.

### **3. Maintaining Information Superiority**

- i. Utilize a variety of communication channels and allied strategic messaging systems to jointly counter PRC propaganda.
- ii. In response to the PRC’s use of deepfake AI technology to spread disinformation—fabricated videos undermining troop and civilian morale, altered satellite images to confuse reconnaissance, and contentious messaging—the Armed Forces employ big data and AI to identify and analyze the perpetrators’ objectives and methods, ensuring rapid fact-checking, clarification, and trace-back accountability.
- iii. Any message suggesting “Taiwan’s surrender” is disinformation. Facing the PRC’s military threats, the Armed Forces—coordinating with other government entities—will

resolutely convey to both international and domestic audiences that our government and society are utterly determined to defend the nation to the very end.

- iv. Adopt flexible, precise communication strategies, including using AI-driven virtual news anchors to produce multilingual video content. Strengthen online and social media platforms, and establish collaborative initiatives with key opinion leaders to counter PRC cognitive warfare through diverse media channels.

## **Section 6: Responding to PRC Intrusions**

In the face of the PRC’s combination of verbal intimidation and tangible military threats—often backed by overt or covert tactics within its cognitive-warfare spectrum—the Armed Forces, together with interagency support, have established communication channels and integrated ISR systems to promptly detect enemy movements. They coordinate with relevant organizations to counter and neutralize these incursions.

### **1. Monitoring the Taiwan Strait Situation**

Following the “Maritime Mission Comprehensive Support Agreement” and the “Regulations for Handling Contingencies During Routine Combat Readiness,” whenever PRC naval or government vessels operate in nearby waters, the Navy and the Coast Guard promptly notify each other and deploy appropriate forces to respond.

### **2. Scenario-Based Training**

Building on the PRC’s possible military actions, various scenarios are incorporated into unit readiness training. Operational zones integrate

tri-service ground units, the Coast Guard, coastal patrol, military police, national police, intelligence, prosecutors, investigators, firefighters, and medical personnel—defining responsibilities to form a comprehensive response system capable of addressing both military and non-military intrusions.

### **3. Reinforcing the Legal Basis of Nationwide Defense**

Promote public awareness of the legal aspects of gray-zone intrusions and disseminate information on the PRC's attempt to subvert international norms. Work with allied nations to form a legal-affairs coordination mechanism, shaping favorable legal interpretations for our nation.

### **4. Standing Rules of Engagement (SROE) and Mission Rules of Engagement (MROE)**

- The Armed Forces have established permanent SROE that serve as guidelines for every unit.
- The development of MROE proceeds, regulating peacetime and wartime operations in compliance with relevant international laws.
- These engagement rules—subject to continuous review, expansion, or amendment—are applied in annual exercises and ad hoc responses, providing frontline units with clear authorization to counter PRC gray-zone threats.

# Chapter IV Priority Tasks in Advancing Defense Reforms

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To address new defense challenges and security demands, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) adopts optimized resource allocation, introduces innovative technology, promotes defense self-sufficiency, utilizes diverse channels for weapons acquisition, recruits professional talent, and improves force management—supporting the sustained development of national defense capabilities.

## Section I: Stable Budget Growth and Appropriate Allocation

In light of safeguarding national security, meeting government fiscal constraints, and spurring overall economic development, the MND prudently formulates budgets and allocates resources. It seeks stable growth in defense funding and makes appropriate use of special budgets to fulfill the comprehensive operational needs of the Armed Forces.

### 1. Forward-Thinking, Pragmatic Budget Planning

- Future budget priorities include building asymmetric capabilities, strengthening defense resilience, enhancing reserve force capabilities, and bolstering gray-zone response capacities.
- In line with project timelines, the MND will maintain an overall upward trend in defense budgets.
- As declared by the President, a special budget will be prioritized to bring defense expenditures above 3% of GDP, providing a boost to defense force development.

## **2. Sound and Appropriate Resource Allocation**

- Applying a zero-based budgeting approach, the MND reviews annual policy needs and prioritizes military investment plans.
- It coordinates with major military investment programs—including domestically produced aircraft and naval vessels—to allocate financial resources efficiently.
- Additionally, it forecasts and plans early for funding required to procure and maintain main combat systems and spare parts, thereby preserving a high level of readiness for weaponry and equipment.

## **Section II: Introducing Innovative Technology Applications**

With the rapid advancement of unmanned systems, cyber and electronic warfare, surveillance technology, communications, AI, and emerging weapon concepts, these capabilities have become essential on the modern battlefield. Defense force modernization thus requires agile and flexible utilization of civilian technologies to tackle swiftly changing battle environments.

### **1. Applying Key Innovative Technologies**

1. Leverage the private sector's R&D and production strengths to accelerate defense innovation, thereby establishing an asymmetric edge in defending the Taiwan Strait.
2. Form a National Defense Innovation Task Force, prioritizing unmanned systems, counter-unmanned systems, AI applications, communications, and cybersecurity—fields where civilian research efforts are already substantial. By conducting industrial capability assessments, business intelligence analyses, and technological exchanges, the MND monitors domestic and international trends in emerging technologies, informing the acquisition needs of the Armed Forces.

3. Drawing on regulations for AI development set by NATO and the United States, the MND is drafting guidelines and ethical standards for the research and employment of military AI. The goal is to establish responsible, traceable, trustworthy, and controllable AI development principles that comply with international norms.

## **2. Shaping an Ecosystem of Defense Innovation**

1. Incorporate commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) technologies into military operations. Provide incentives for companies to adapt or harden existing products at a reasonable cost to meet battlefield requirements.
2. Expand national defense procurement opportunities for private companies, encouraging further private investment and R&D.
3. To bolster self-sufficient production capabilities, the MND implements the “Advanced National Defense Technology Research Program.” Under the oversight of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and leveraging the seven “**Defense Technology Research Centers**”, experts from domestic academic and research institutions are commissioned to develop key technologies. The National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology (NCSIST) then integrates these technologies and transfers the results to the private sector, thereby driving industrial upgrades.

## **Section III: Self-Reliant Defense and Diversified Weapon Acquisitions**

The MND’s defense investments align with four of the “**Five Pillar Industries of Trust**”—namely, semiconductors, AI, defense, and security—prioritizing R&D in advanced semiconductors and AI applications. This approach seeks to build UAV supply chains and a certified cybersecurity environment, stimulating domestic demand and spurring industrial development. Simultaneously, multiple channels

for weapons procurement will be maintained to balance military security needs with defense self-reliance.

### **1. Realizing Defense Autonomy and Establishing a UAV Development Hub**

1. Combine R&D achievements from domestic industry, academia, and research institutions with Taiwan's technological strengths to advance cutting-edge research and self-reliant weapon system development. This entails progressively increasing local production of key components to achieve a secure, locally sourced model for manufacturing and maintenance.
2. In line with current and future battlefield trends, NCSIST focuses on technologies with proven initial market applications or a higher Technology Readiness Level (TRL). The aim is domestic development of weapon systems or critical components.
3. Coordinating with weapon system R&D timelines, the MND works to overcome technical bottlenecks. By tracking the latest developments in military aviation worldwide, it acquires or develops equipment suited to Taiwan's air combat requirements. A long-term, phased strategy obtains key technologies and equipment for naval vessels—fulfilling the goals of domestically produced aircraft and ships.
4. NCSIST is establishing an **“Aerospace and UAV Industrial Park,”** encouraging aerospace and UAV firms to set up operations there, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Asia UAV-AI Innovation Application R&D Center. This initiative promotes UAV and aerospace industry growth and participation in the **“Non-Red UAV International Supply Chain.”**



## 2. Diversified Acquisition Channels for Quality Equipment

1. In accordance with Article 22 of the National Defense Act—emphasizing “**domestic production first, supplemented by foreign purchases**”—the Armed Forces will procure from overseas commercial or military markets any weapon system not yet available or quickly producible domestically. This ensures faster formation of viable combat power.
2. Through multiple acquisition pathways, we **request that the United States expedite our induction training**, thereby reducing the time needed to achieve full operational capability.

*Note on U.S. Arms Sales: The specific mention of seeking American assistance in accelerating equipment acceptance and training indicates reliance on U.S. arms exports or cooperation.*

## 3. Utilizing Policy Tools to Drive Defense Industry Upgrades

1. Enforce the “National Defense Industry Development Act,” establishing a certified vendor system and offering grants or subsidies to encourage R&D and promote industrial upgrading.
2. Aligning with defense requirements, enable qualified companies to identify profitable markets, expand production capacities, and increase the domestic R&D and manufacturing ratio—fortifying the defense industry’s sustainable development and strengthening supply chain resilience.

## Section IV: Professional Talent Development and Retention

The Armed Forces continuously refine recruitment processes, personnel evaluations, leadership training, and incentives for service members to stay in uniform—ensuring sufficient personnel for core operational missions and weapon system operation and maintenance.

## **1. Expanding Human Resource Reserves with a Future-Oriented Perspective**

1. Enhance the military's understanding of modern emergent technologies and evolving warfare. Plan courses in AI, unmanned vehicles, communications, and network warfare, while sending personnel abroad to study advanced scientific and technological fields. Establish in-service training and professional certification systems.
2. Encourage individuals with science and engineering backgrounds to pursue studies at domestic or international research institutions, acquiring cutting-edge skills. Meanwhile, the MND and NCSIST recruit personnel with STEM expertise, accumulating practical experience to cultivate high-caliber technology officers.

## **2. Emphasizing In-Service Training and Benefits to Retain Talent Long-Term**

1. Adopting a people-centered approach, the Armed Forces continuously review management practices and adjust volunteer force stipends, combat allowances, and other compensation, boosting incentives to extend or re-enlist.
2. Upon return from foreign military academies, service members are given priority appointments to key command positions or specialized roles, such as foreign liaison officers, advancing in line with their expertise.
3. Further improve in-service training programs and encourage personnel to pursue degrees or certifications during off-duty hours, deepening their professional knowledge.
4. Assign responsibilities to newly inducted personnel gradually—starting with simpler tasks and transitioning to more complex ones—to help them adapt to military life.

### **3. Cultivating High-Quality Civil Service Personnel and Enhancing Civilian Professional Skills**

1. To improve civil-military integration and educational results, the MND organizes specialized training courses tailored to various military disciplines for civil servants, thus strengthening their expertise in national defense affairs. It also selects outstanding mid- to senior-level civil servants for in-service military education, linking these achievements to promotion mechanisms to foster a pool of defense-focused civilian professionals.
2. In support of the national bilingual policy, the MND holds English/foreign language training programs and offers multiple development pathways, boosting civil servants' language skills and in-service competitiveness.
3. To encourage civil servants to pursue long-term careers, the MND publicly recognizes those who have served for extended periods and achieved promotions. It also recruits via civil service examinations and from other governmental agencies, increasing the appointment rate of civil servants within the Ministry.

## **Section V: Modernizing Force Management**

While preserving the Armed Forces' established traditions of honor, discipline, and strict adherence to orders, the MND also addresses contemporary leadership requirements by practically reviewing organizational structures, management culture, and training methods—aiming to boost organizational effectiveness.

### **1. Revitalizing Military Discipline Education and Protecting Service Members' Rights**

1. Advance legislation for the “Military Personnel Rights Protection Act” and the “Armed Forces Punishment Act” and

their associated regulations, safeguarding legal relief channels for military personnel while maintaining unit discipline.

2. Within the bounds of legal requirements, reduce superfluous administrative burdens stemming from formalistic management, fostering service members' sense of personal responsibility.
3. Continue renovating and constructing barracks through concentrated budget allocations, upgrading living facilities, offices, recreational areas, and on-base housing to improve troops' quality of life.
4. Align with the government's push for publicly accessible childcare, contracting nonprofit organizations to handle enrollment, operations, and management—meeting the childcare needs of service members.

## **2. Enhancing Inspectorate Efficiency and Implementing Risk Management**

1. Embed the concept of preventive oversight into daily operations and decisions at all levels, raising awareness of risk management throughout the military. Proactive inspectorate work reduces potential safety hazards.
2. Drawing upon best practices from civilian airlines and academic research, the Armed Forces incorporate these insights into formulating flight-safety policies and management processes. Service branches also exchange lessons learned and management approaches, improving overall risk management.

## **3. Ensuring a Clean, Ethical Military and Shaping a Corruption-Free Culture**

The MND promotes anti-corruption education within the Armed Forces, organizes professional instructor training and advanced study sessions to sharpen the identification of corruption risks, and

implements early-warning and preventive measures. By partnering with public and private sectors to form a collaborative network and exchanging anti-corruption practices, the MND strives to improve assessments of the “Government Defense Integrity Index,” highlighting the Armed Forces’ ethical and transparent image.

*Notable Mention of U.S. Arms Sales*

- ***Section III (2):*** “...through multiple acquisition pathways, we request that the United States expedite our induction training...” This statement references seeking U.S. support in delivering and fielding foreign-purchased defense equipment, indicating ***U.S. arms sales or related collaboration.***

# Chapter V: Nationwide Defense Mobilization to Support Sustained Operations

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To cultivate a robust democratic society and safeguard national security, our nation established the **All-Society Defense Resilience Committee** on June 19, 2024 (Year 113 of the Republic) under the Office of the President. This committee conducts a holistic review and proposes countermeasures. In alignment with this vision, and referencing the approaches of Western democracies, the Armed Forces have built an interagency military-civil coordination mechanism to support disaster relief and military operations. Through regular exercises, they validate mobilization systems and emergency response capabilities.

## Section I: Enhancing the Mobilization Mechanism and Civil Defense Capabilities

In accordance with the **All-Out Defense Mobilization Preparatory Act**, the Armed Forces continually collaborate with government agencies and local authorities to integrate national defense resources and conduct drills. This cooperation strengthens civil defense education and response training, facilitating a swift transition from peacetime to wartime and harnessing the collective might of society.

### 1. Strengthening All-Out Defense Forces

1. If there are clear signs that the enemy will invade, an exercise order will be issued immediately to call up reserve

servicemembers from the three services. Under the guidance of each theater command, reserve units will be augmented to join active-duty forces, expediting personnel and materiel preparations for combat.

2. Under the Executive Yuan's all-out defense mobilization mechanism—and via the mobilization meetings held by central and local governments—personnel, materiel, and other readiness tasks are integrated into a digital information system for managing and tracking mobilization. These measures maintain the emergency response capabilities of government agencies during wartime and ensure the public's basic needs.
3. By co-locating offices and strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, efforts are intensified in areas such as civil defense training, strategic resource inventories, social welfare and medical readiness, and communications network security. We also seek to share experiences with like-minded countries to refine our reserve mobilization policies.

## **2. Collaborative Training to Strengthen Civil Defense**

1. Under normal circumstances, municipal and county (city) governments manage their local civil forces, forming civil defense teams to handle civil protection tasks. In emergencies, the Ministry of National Defense coordinates with local joint response command centers to centrally direct and employ these civilian forces in support of national defense missions.
2. Mandatory military training now includes civil defense courses, teaching conscripts self-help and mutual assistance skills. Upon returning home after discharge, they continue to contribute to local defense.

## **Section II: Cross-Ministerial Collaboration**

Following guidance from the National Security Council, the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee, and the Executive Yuan, the Ministry of National Defense serves as one of the primary staff entities overseeing this framework. The All-Out Defense Mobilization Agency assigns dedicated personnel to manage and coordinate the five key action plans, thereby enhancing the central and local governments' capacities to respond to disasters. Meanwhile, the Armed Forces integrate Urban Resilience (all-out defense mobilization, air defense) exercises and contingency plans, aligning government and civilian resources to protect critical infrastructure. This creates an effective mechanism for resource allocation and emergency responses, ensuring coordinated military-civilian operations during wartime.

### **1. Protecting Critical Infrastructure**

1. For infrastructure and assets vital to national security, public safety, societal continuity, and economic livelihoods, the government refers to the Executive Yuan's "National Critical Infrastructure List." Taking into account overall defense plans and available force levels, key infrastructure is incorporated into the Armed Forces' protection strategies to maintain functionality and recovery capacity.
2. In wartime, the military collaborates with local governments, law enforcement, firefighters, civil defense organizations, and specialized protection units to undertake crisis management and protect critical infrastructure. During peacetime, these tasks are integrated with major Armed Forces exercises under the guidance of the Executive Yuan's Office of Homeland Security, using scenario-based drills to validate security measures.

### **2. Coordinating Military-Civil Defense Mechanisms**

1. Town-level resilience drills and the Zi-Qiang (Self-Reliance) Exercises are held regularly, testing local government mobilization readiness and response effectiveness.



2. Key tasks include wartime disaster command and control, alarm issuance, evacuation, rescue operations following wartime damage, the establishment of relief stations, distribution centers, and first-aid posts, as well as ensuring the supply and emergency production of essential goods. These measures test the local government's crisis-response capabilities, prompting continuous updates to mobilization databases and integrating civilian manpower and materiel in support of military operations.

### **Section III: War-Related Disaster Protection and Relief**

Anticipating complex natural disasters and significant wartime damage, the Armed Forces, in conjunction with government agencies and local authorities, plan ahead to integrate military-civilian healthcare systems and emergency response frameworks. They also stockpile critical resources for wartime medical treatment to manage war-related disaster relief missions effectively.

#### **1. Wartime Disaster Protection and Response**

1. Each theater command and local government form joint response command centers, establishing communication and coordination platforms. These centers track the capacity of designated emergency hospitals and manage casualty care. If needed, they activate industrial mobilization production contracts to obtain or produce wartime medicines and medical supplies.
2. During the Han Kuang Exercises, wargames and live drills simulate the operation of various joint mechanisms. Under peacetime conditions, each unit conducts disaster-prevention surveys, prepares rescue personnel and equipment for its assigned zones, and deploys liaison officers and pre-stationed forces the moment a disaster is imminent.
3. In the event of a major domestic disaster or prolonged relief requirements that exceed the capabilities of active-duty forces, reserve

forces undergoing their annual call-up can be employed as reinforcements. Theater commands exercise centralized command and control. Practical disaster-relief training is also integrated into call-up sessions.

## **2. Expanding Wartime Casualty Care Capacities**

1. Drawing from U.S. training in battlefield casualty care, the Armed Forces are organizing **Forward Surgical Teams**. During wartime, these teams are activated in conjunction with second-level medical units, delivering resuscitation and surgical intervention to severely wounded individuals who cannot be immediately evacuated.
2. A wartime casualty care training framework is established. Each service branch and theater command sets up dedicated training centers to teach troops how to perform self-aid or buddy-aid under enemy fire.
3. Military hospitals within each theater command increase burn and intensive-care beds, store artificial skin, stockpile medicines, and expand blood reserves to meet battlefield medical requirements.
4. Joint exercises are carried out with military, public, and private medical institutions, improving the Armed Forces' experience in delivering wartime medical support.

# Chapter VI: Regional Linkages to Strengthen Collective Deterrence

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Facing strategic challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, Taiwan firmly upholds the universal values of freedom and democracy. By deepening security ties with allied nations and playing a vital role in international supply chains, Taiwan advocates for a regional joint defense mechanism. Through close collaboration with democratic allies—and by uniting the strength of the democratic camp—we seek to deter the PRC’s potential use of force, thereby confronting geopolitical risks together.

## Section I: Deepening Taiwan-U.S. Military Exchanges and Cooperation

The United States is Taiwan’s critical strategic partner, maintaining close military cooperation and helping bolster our self-defense capabilities. Building on our existing foundation, the Armed Forces will continue to sustain Taiwan-U.S. communication channels and pursue multidimensional, multilevel security collaboration—jointly preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

### 1. Bilateral Interaction and Cooperation

1. Under the **Taiwan Relations Act** and the “Six Assurances,” Taiwan and the U.S. have in recent years expanded interactions across various fields, deepening cooperative initiatives to ensure an effective deterrent against adversaries. In the future, plans include high-level strategic and national security policy dialogues, reciprocal visits, joint exercise observation, intelligence sharing, operational issue discussions, joint war-gaming, R&D on armaments, and defense industry

collaboration—progressively broadening and deepening our partnership.

2. Through current Taiwan-U.S. military interaction frameworks and mechanisms, Taiwan articulates its policy stance and defense self-sufficiency objectives, prioritizing strengthened bilateral cooperation in operational interoperability, the defense industry, and reserve mobilization—jointly tackling new forms of threats and challenges.

## **2. Promoting Mutual Trust via Strategic Communication**

Taiwan maintains in-depth discussions with the United States on policies and strategic matters. We focus on areas such as defense R&D, cybersecurity, and operational training experience, enabling the enhancement of our overall ISR, long-range precision strike, and command-and-control capabilities. In doing so, we reinforce the security partnership between both sides.

*Note: Although not explicitly labeled as “arms sales,” close Taiwan-U.S. defense ties and U.S. assistance in “R&D on armaments” and “operational interoperability” customarily involve or relate to weapons procurement, technology transfers, and other forms of defense support.*

## **Section II: Expanding Security Partnerships with Allied Nations**

Taiwan’s strategic location has recently received greater international attention. As a responsible member in the region, the Republic of China (Taiwan) will leverage growing support from democratic communities worldwide. By uniting countries with shared values across the region and the globe, we aim to form a multilateral security network to address potential threats and risks, defending the values and way of life associated with democracy and freedom.

## **1. Broadening International Exchanges with Allied Nations**

1. Foster increased security interaction with friendly nations in intelligence-sharing, research collaboration, cybersecurity defense, and countering gray-zone operations and cognitive-warfare threats—collectively building a regional defense mechanism.
2. Through the Ministry of National Defense and the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, Taiwan engages foreign think tanks via exchanges, visits, and participation in international forums—developing academic and policy dialogues with countries around the globe. Strengthening strategic communication and worldwide engagement garners ongoing attention and support for security in the Taiwan Strait.

## **2. Building Allied Security Capabilities**

Taiwan actively promotes close cooperation with nations sharing common strategic interests. Through personnel exchanges, topic-based discussions, technological collaboration, and forms of military assistance, these ties reinforce defense and military cooperation. We seek to establish international joint-defense arrangements that deliver collective security and deterrent effects.

## **Section III: Aligning with Secure Supply Chain Systems**

By adopting innovative technologies, ramping up production capacity, and diversifying supply channels, Taiwan can reduce dependence on a single source of key components and bolster the self-reliance of its defense industry. We remain committed to deepening ties with allies and strategic partners, creating a sturdier, more flexible defense supply system that can withstand complex and shifting security challenges.

## **1. Safeguarding Defense Supply Security**

- i. Develop tiered evaluation and security screening protocols for defense-industry contractors, applying defense security controls based on the categorization of military products. For contractors handling controlled defense items, carry out security audits to exclude firms and personnel from the PRC, ensuring the safety of production facilities and preventing leaks of sensitive information.
- ii. Lay a foundation for supply chain collaboration with friendly nations, enabling priority delivery of key weaponry and defense materials and expediting military procurements.

## **2. Advancing International Cooperation on Armaments**

- i. Under the “National Defense Industry Development Act,” encourage domestic firms to acquire manufacturing licenses and technology transfers from foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)—stimulating the growth momentum of Taiwan’s defense industry. By participating in international defense-supply chains, Taiwan highlights its strategic importance, while strengthening ties with allies to build regional partnerships.
- ii. Assist local defense industries in achieving global integration, expanding industrial infrastructure and capacity through cooperative ventures with friendly nations. This approach fosters innovation and sharing of defense information, reducing barriers to collaboration. By joining forces with democratic partner nations, we can help construct a safer, more resilient “Non-Red” supply chain.

## Conclusion

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In light of the current volatile international climate, Taiwan will continue facing a complex mix of strategic challenges and ever-increasing security threats from the PRC. Only by maintaining vigilance and preparedness—upholding the principle of “forewarned is forearmed”—and by relentlessly strengthening force development and combat readiness, enhancing our defense capabilities, and working alongside like-minded allies can we exert a deterrent effect and turn crises into opportunities.

The Ministry of National Defense will vigorously pursue innovative reforms in defense administration, steadily increase the defense budget, and continuously push forward force modernization, intensified training, and whole-of-nation defense preparedness.

Looking ahead, the focus of our national defense work—based on overall force development and readiness plans—will be on boosting the military’s operational resilience, refining the reserve force, and leveraging emerging technologies to amplify our defensive advantages. At the same time, we will perfect military-civil integration to effectively counter gray-zone threats and deter enemy invasion.

Given the rapid transformations in defense challenges and modes of warfare, **the support and collective effort of our entire citizenry** is an indispensable key to maintaining national defense. Through close cooperation between the military and the people, we can undertake comprehensive preparations, cultivate a society-wide defense resilience with a high capacity for swift adaptation, and realize the principle that “everyone is responsible for protecting our nation.” In so doing, we will contribute to long-term peace and development in the Taiwan Strait and the surrounding region.