

“Strengthening Security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Act”

Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) introduced legislation to strengthen the U.S. commitment to security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific. The proposal increases critical capabilities to support U.S. military readiness, deter aggression, and to respond rapidly to crises. It also bolsters our strong alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Included in the measure are provisions to:

Strengthen U.S. Military Readiness and Increase Critical Capabilities in the Region

- Positions sufficient forces forward and invest in critical military capabilities to deter aggression and respond rapidly to crises.
- Requires the DoD to provide a clear statement of the defense objectives and priorities in the Indo-Asia-Pacific and the resources required for those goals.
- Authorizes \$1B to improve critical munitions inventories and enhance munition capabilities.
- Authorizes \$1B to procure Terminal High Altitude Area Defense interceptors (THAAD) or lower-tier air and missile defense interceptors, and \$15M for missile defense exercises with Japan, South Korea, and Australia for defense against the ballistic missile forces of North Korea.
- Reaffirms U.S. extended deterrence commitments to the Asia-Pacific region, including maintaining robust nuclear capable bombers.
- Requires a plan to maintain a forward-stationed combat aviation brigade in South Korea to better position the Armed Forces for major contingencies on the Korean Peninsula.
- Requires a plan to incorporate cyber planning with joint planning exercises in the Indo-Asia-Pacific, enhance operations and strategic communication strategies to counter Russian, Chinese, and North Korean information warfare, and identify potential areas of cooperation on cybersecurity with allies and partners.
- Authorizes \$100M for enhanced joint training and exercises to improve force readiness across the full-spectrum of threats in the region.

Reinforce Partnerships to Achieve Common Objectives of Peace and Security

- Reaffirms security commitments to the Governments of Japan and South Korea, including the expansion of defense cooperation.
- Recognizes that North Korea poses a threat to the United States, Japan, and South Korea, and encourages deeper trilateral defense cooperation including through expanded exercises, training, and information sharing that strengthens integration.
- Recognizes the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the importance of United States defense engagement with ASEAN to discuss shared challenges, particularly in the maritime domain and for greater information sharing among ASEAN partners.
- Condemns any assertion that limits the right of freedom of navigation and overflight and calls for the U.S. to regularly conduct freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea.
- Reaffirms security commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act and recognizes the Six Assurances, including helping Taiwan provide for its own self-defense, seeks opportunities to expand training and exercises, and encourages Taiwan’s continued investments in asymmetric military capabilities.
- Recognizes the United States-Australia defense alliance, emphasizing our shared values and interest in closer defense and security cooperation.