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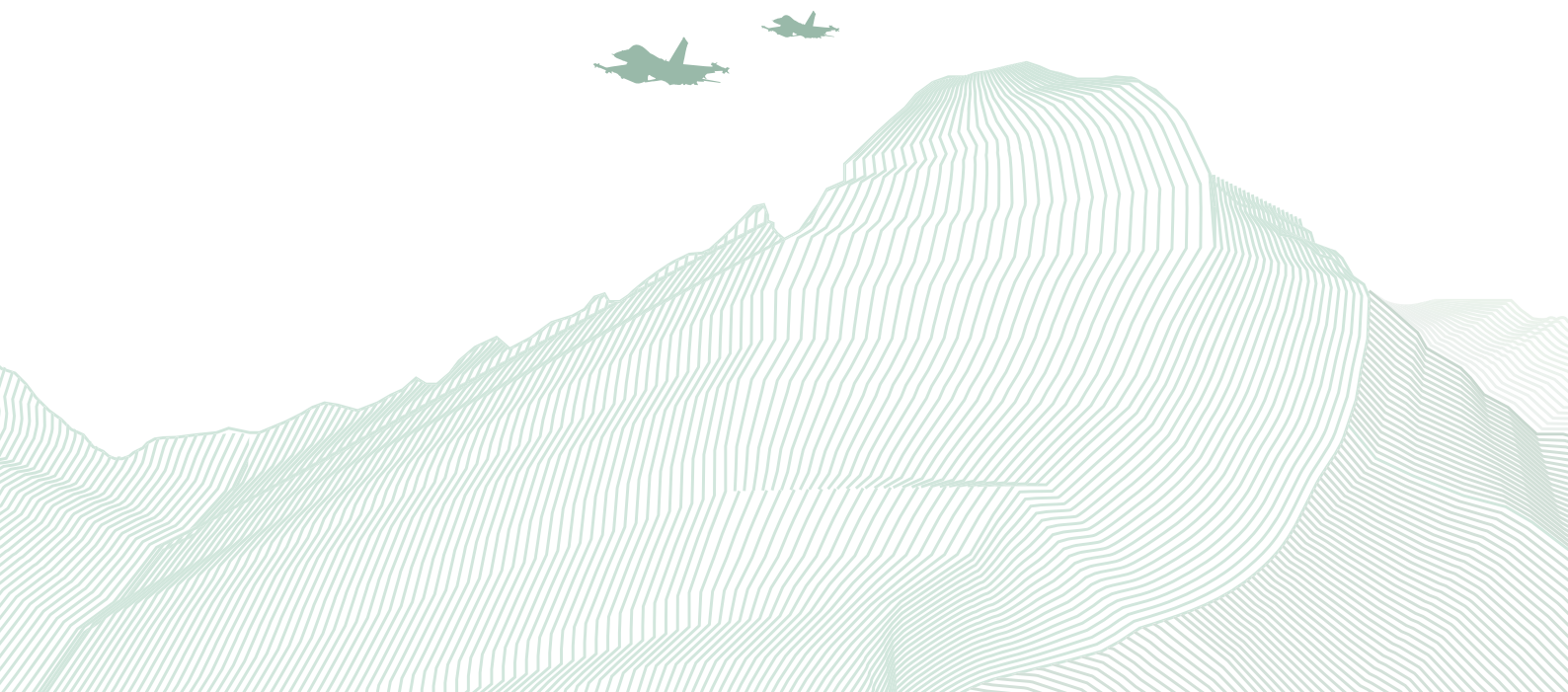

Minister's Foreword

National Defense is the cornerstone to guarantee the security of a nation, and the mission and core value of the ROC Armed Forces is to deter and defeat the enemy's invasion. While the People's Republic of China (PRC) has never renounced the use of force against Taiwan, it is firmly believed that by having optimum readiness through the commitments and diligence to operational training and seizing decisive opportunities to overtake the enemy, we can overcome the threat and against all odds, be the sturdiest shield to defend the nation and the people, and fulfill the goal to maintain the stability across the Taiwan Strait.

The regional situation is becoming more complex and precarious. The PRC is postured as the major threat to our national security. Aside from posing threats of conventional military invasion and continuous war preparation, the PRC has been imposed new security challenges on us, including the using of gray zone tactics, such as the intrusion and provocation by aerial and maritime assets, waging cognitive warfare by verbal intimidation, saber-rattling, and initiating cyberattacks. It is therefore a routine task of the ROC Armed Forces to respond cautiously to those threats to our national security.

Holding a belief that "Saving Our Own Country by Ourselves," and "Being Well-Prepared for War is the Way to Preserve the Peace," the ROC Armed Forces is determined to defend the nation. By improving force buildup, readiness and training, we aim at building a defense power with "Resolute Defense and Multi-Domain Deterrence." No matter facing the traditional and non-traditional threats or the coercive actions of the PRC, the ROC Armed Forces firmly fulfill the duties at all cost to maintain national security and stick to the commitment and responsibility for the nation and the people.

As stipulated in the Article 31 of the National Defense Act, the MND shall "within ten months after each presidential inauguration, publicly submits the Quadrennial Defense Review to the Legislative Yuan." The 2021 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) is the second edition published during the terms of President Tsai Ing-wen. Over the past 4 years, with governmental support in terms of policies and budgets, the ROC Armed Forces has achieved remarkably in the acquisition of weapons and equipment, acceleration of upgrading operational capabilities, transformation of military service system, and domestically-produced aircraft and naval vessel programs, which could let the general public see our efforts and progress. In the future, we will spare no efforts to strengthen our self-defense, and focusing on prioritized policies on defense transformations, so as to maintain our overall defense competitiveness.

First of all, the transition to a volunteer recruitment system has reached the goal of 90% manning ratio. The MND will focus on improving personnel quality at the next stage. We will strengthen the personnel appraisal system and educational efforts for talents to serve in the military. Secondly, by actively bringing new weapon systems into service and steadily strengthening long-range strike capabilities, we are inspiring the morale of the ROC Armed Forces as well as the effectiveness of joint operations. Hence, the MND continue to develop innovative tactics as the weapon performance increases, through reinforcing rapid mobility, precision strike, effective countermeasures, and asymmetric warfare capabilities, and conduct rigorous and realistic combat-oriented training, in an attempt to transform the ROC Armed Forces into a capable force that can fight and win a war.

In addition, our efforts to establish a self-reliant defense have reached initial success. In order to maintain the national security on our own, the MND remains steadfast to develop indigenous weapon systems, endeavor to make major technological breakthroughs, and rejuvenate defense industries and economic development. The ROC Armed Forces has been reforming the reserve force, enhancing its capabilities, and improving mobilization system, so as to construct a solid all-out defense power to deter the enemy.

“To defend our homeland with our lives and all means,” the lyrics are from a song written by Major Chu Kuan-meng, a pilot of the Zhi-hang AFB, who sacrificed his life to safeguard our airspace. His song demonstrated the conviction and belief of all service members, who are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect our nation. To accomplish our obligations and missions, the ROC Armed Forces shows no fear to face adversity or death, and it is the reason that we have won the admiration and support from the people.

The ROC Armed Forces will continue to demonstrate its self-defense determination through the force building and secure the country by its reliable strength. In addition, we will improve the personnel quality by leading the troops in a faithful and pragmatic way. By those efforts, we can build a strong and well-disciplined elite force respected by the people, reshaping the ROC Armed Forces with a brand new look.

Minister

Chiu, Kuo-cheng

March 2021

Introduction

Overviewing the current strategic situations, mainland China, aspiring to become an international superpower, is eager to undermine the international order and regional stability. It has been particularly imposing coercive means of verbal intimidation and saber-rattling, intrusion and provocation by aerial and maritime assets, cyberattacks, and cognitive warfare—forcing us to succumb to their will.

Amidst the rapid-change external situations with full of severe challenges, the ROC Armed Forces is absolutely responsible for defending Taiwan. Only by improving ourselves and striving forward, accelerating force buildup and focusing on defense reform without fear of any difficulties, can we protect the country by our own strength and create a prosperous future for the nation.

The QDR is a guiding document that directs the future development of the ROC Armed Forces. "Striving Forward and Creating a New Prospect" is the motive of the 2021 QDR. The 7 chapters are summarized as follows.

1. Regional Situation: Monitoring Emerging Security Challenges

- To ensure the security of the Indo-Pacific region, the United States continues to strengthen cooperation with regional allies. The PRC is trying to grasp the regional dominance, and its military expansion is destabilizing the region.
- The stalemate hindering the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and sovereignty disputes over the islands in the East China Sea (ECS) and South China Sea (SCS) are seen as regional destabilizing factors.
- The PRC continues to enhance its comprehensive military power and preparation to invade Taiwan, and initiate verbal intimidations and saber-rattling activities by its aerial and maritime assets and manipulating tactics of cognitive warfare.
- Non-traditional security challenges, such as pandemics and composite disasters, continue impacting on global and our national security and can only be tackled through international cooperation.

2. Strategic Guidance: To Ensure Security with Fortified Defense

- Following the President’s national security guidance and evaluating the overall strategic environment, we centered the national strategy on “fortifying national security, dealing defense affairs with professionalism, realizing self-reliant defense, protecting well-being of the people, and expanding strategic cooperation.”
- Considering the threats and challenges posed by the enemy, the military strategy aims at building “Resolute Defense and Multi-Domain Deterrence.”

3. Reinforcing Military Strength: Constructing an Unbreakable Force

- Guided by the military strategy and defense requirements, the ROC Armed Forces implements force buildup and training programs.
- Asymmetric systems, which are small, numerous, smart, stealthy, mobile and hard to be detected and countered shall be buildup and associated with innovative tactics and employments.
- Capabilities of command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (C4ISR), information warfare (IW), and electronic warfare (EW) are to be enhanced. An intelligent network of information, communications, and electronic (ICE) warfare is to be constructed to improve the battlefield management and effectiveness of joint operations.
- Inter-service logistic capacities are to be further integrated to ensure the readiness of weapons and equipment. A civilian and military (civ-mil) logistic support cooperation system is to be established to keep readily accessible resources for operations.
- Reserve force reform, centered on organizing, force structuring, training, and equipping, is to be initiated to improve the mobilization mechanism, and strengthen the capabilities of the reserve force.

4. Building Resiliency: Pragmatic Management in Defense Affairs

- We continue to optimize the force management system, strengthen the functions of defense organizations, forge a better sense of unity, and fortify the psychological readiness of military troops.
- Diversified recruitment channels and the associated measures are to be adjusted to improve personnel quality, and ultimately shape the ROC Armed Forces into a fit, elite, and robust modern combat force.
- Cares provided to service members and their family dependents are to be well-improved to protect their rights and benefits, allow them to concentrate on their duties without worries.
- Defense budgets are formulated at an adequate level to support our force buildup and defense infrastructure, through scientific assessment, we can maximize the effectiveness of defense resources.
- All-out defense education is to be further expanded. In order to use our comprehensive national power to deter the enemy's aggression, all-out defense drills will be enhanced to increase our crisis awareness and will to defend against the enemy.

- Emergency response capacities of the ROC Armed Forces continue to support epidemic prevention, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), and protection of our maritime rights and interests.

5. Sustainable Roadmap: Developing Self-reliant Defense

- Budget for research and development (R&D) is to be steadily increased, and R&D capacities in all sectors are to be integrated to develop advanced technologies and weapons, and cultivate professionals in dual-use technologies.
- Seeking breakthroughs in critical defense technologies continuously, so as to develop next generation (next-gen) weapon and equipment, and achieve a self-reliant defense for the nation.
- Complying with the Defense Industry Development Act and its related regulations, combining with civilian technological capacities c to support the development of domestic defense industries, to construct a prosperous environment for defense industries.
- Offset resources are to be combined with local capacities to form a supply chain of defense industries, so as to motivate domestic industries to upgrade and enhance the self-reliant defense.

6. Consolidating Security: Addressing Gray Zone Conflict

- Facing threats of the PRC cognitive warfare, the ROC Armed Forces will follow the guidance of inter-agency reaction mechanism and make use of diversified media to counter effectively.
- In response to the threat of IW from the PRC, the ROC Armed Forces are fortifying information security and management, so as to form an effective information defense in-depth and enhance cyber operation capacities.
- Concerning intrusion and provocation by the enemy's aerial and maritime assets, the ROC Armed Forces continues to watch closely with high vigilance and will further improve the capacity to cope with contingencies and unexpected conditions cautiously.

7. Strategic Cooperation: Creating Strategic Value of Taiwan

- Continue to elaborate the geostrategic value of our nation and cooperate with like-minded countries to contribute collectively to regional peace and stability.
- We continue to deepen the cooperation with the United States on defense and military affairs, expand exchanges with friendly countries, and participate in events hosted by think tanks and the international community, so as to enhance our effectiveness of strategic communication.
- We maintain exchanges and cooperation with various countries on epidemic prevention, HA/DR, and anti-terrorism affairs.

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Regional Situation: Monitoring Emerging Security Challenges

Current situation of the Indo-Pacific region is highly intricate. The strategic competition between the U.S. and the PRC has been impacting the regional geopolitics and economic development. The growth of comprehensive national power and military expansion of the PRC are posing an ever-growing threat to the region and our nation, while non-traditional security issues are also upsetting the security of countries involved. Therefore, we have been keeping a close eye on the changes in the strategic environment and dealing with all emerging security challenges carefully.

Security Situation in the Indo-Pacific Region

The strategic situation in the Indo-Pacific region is mainly influenced by the interaction between the U.S. and the PRC. The U.S. continues to enhance cooperation with allies to fortify regional security, while the PRC keeps expanding its military activities and conducting gray zone operations that cause serious impact on the regional peace and stability. Furthermore, there are destabilizing factors arising from the Korean Peninsula, the ECS, and the SCS.

1. The U.S. Cooperate with Allies to Fortify the Security of the Indo-Pacific Region.

The U.S. continues to cooperate with allies in the Indo-Pacific region and partner countries to address regional security issues, and help them to improve their defense capabilities. The U.S. continues holding combined exercises and assigning aircraft and vessels to conduct freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs) to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region through its military presence and substantive actions.

2. The Rise of the PRC Challenges Regional Balance

The PRC is exploiting its “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI), a comprehensive strategic framework, to enhance its external political and economic leverages. It is promoting “military-civilian integration” to develop key technologies and improve its force projection and long-range precision strike capabilities. In addition, it applies political, economic, and diplomatic clouts and cognitive warfare tactics to shape a strategic environment favorable to its rise, so as to help it attain the reginal dominance.

3. Increasing Security Risks Across the Taiwan Strait

The PRC is actively fostered the military modernization, and strengthening its capabilities to invade Taiwan. Moreover, the various drills and exercises in which its aerial and maritime assets are assigned to frequently intrude our southwest airspace, meanwhile conducting long-distance training over the sea, posing increasing hostility and threats, further escalating the risk of accidents and clashes, and destabilizing the current peaceful condition across the Taiwan Strait.

4. The SCS Becomes a Hotspot Between the U.S. and the PRC

As a vital maritime passage in the Indo-Pacific region, the SCS is of high geostrategic importance. The PRC has been militarizing the islands and reefs in the SCS, causing anxiety among neighboring counties. To maintain the freedom of navigation in the SCS, the U.S. has been conducting air and maritime operations and hosting combined exercises with reginal allies to curb PRC military activities in the vicinity. The disputes in the SCS persist and are prone to cause conflict.

5. Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula Reached a Stalemate

Even though the U.S. and North Korea held two summits, denuclearization progress of the Korean Peninsula is showing signs of stagnating due to the disagreement between both countries. North Korea has persisted in its nuclear weapon programs, conducted missile test launches and exhibited new intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and unilaterally halted communication with South Korea. These actions have caused regional anxiety for future development in Northeast Asia.

6. Intractable Territorial and Sovereignty Disputes

Territorial and sovereignty disputes continue to affect the interactions among reginal countries. Japan unilaterally renamed an administrative area of Diaoyu Islands, whose surrounding waters have been routinely entered by public vessels of the PRC, resulted in tensions between both sides. Besides, the PRC and neighboring countries in the SCS on issues of sovereignty and maritime rights is at odds. Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced a joint declaration after the summit in 2020 to stress that all countries concerned shall maintain self-restraint and refrain from the escalation of clashes. Moreover, the clash and standoff between China and India in the disputed border area is receding, whereas the final settlement is still far away. All these developing situations have increased uncertainties to regional stability.

Military Threats from the PRC

The PRC has never renounced the use of force to invade Taiwan. Since its military reform in 2015, the PRC has strengthened its military power, conducted exercise, simulations and drills to rehearse its operations against Taiwan, and initiated gray zone tactics, posing greater security threats to our country. According to its recent military power development, PRC's operational capabilities against Taiwan include:

1. Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Capabilities

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been regularly assigning air and naval assets, and occasionally anti-submarine reconnaissance, aircrafts, spy ships, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), to our neighboring waters and airspace to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance operations. Coupled with the ongoing deployment of satellites capable of photo-reconnaissance and electronic surveillance, the PLA can exploit multiple means from land, maritime, air, space, electronic, and cyber domains to improve its target acquisition capabilities, so as to monitor military activities in the surrounding of the Taiwan Strait in full-time.

2. ICE Capabilities

All major warplanes of the PLA are able to carry precision guided munitions to attack our command and control (C2) nodes and ISR assets. Its electronic warfare (EW) platforms can coordinate with UAVs to inflict soft-kill and hard-kill. Currently, the PLA is capable of undermining our air defense and sea control C2 systems, and continues to sharpen its capabilities of electromagnetic dominance.

3. Military Coercive Capabilities

When conducting live drills and exercises targeted at Taiwan and intrusion and provocation by air and naval assets, the PRC intentionally uses the media and the internet to conduct propaganda of those activities as a form of psychological warfare to intimidate Taiwanese people. Moreover, it has deployed anti-ship ballistic and hypersonic missiles to demonstrate its capabilities of long-range power projection. PRC aircraft carriers and strategic bombers also routinely conducted cross-island chain training missions to sharpen its capabilities of Anti-Access and Area Denial (A2/AD) to deter foreign militaries from intervening in Taiwan Strait issues.

4. Joint Blockade Capabilities

As part of the military reform, the PLA has been improving its air defense, sea control, and land-strike capabilities, refining aircraft carrier training, upgrading precision strike capabilities of the PLA Rocket Force (PLARF), and rapidly deploying newly-developed missiles. It is now capable of initiating a local blockade over our vital ports and transportation routes and severing our sea lines of communication (SLOC). Consequently, our armament and logistical supplies will be impaired to degrade our operational sustainability.

5. Joint Strike Capabilities

The PRC continues to improve capabilities of its ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, air-to-surface missiles, and long-range multi-launch rockets. All of its ballistic missiles can reach the entire main island of Taiwan, and can work in tandem with its joint firepower of air and naval assets to strike our political, economic, and military high-value targets and critical infrastructure.

6. Joint Landing Operations Capabilities

The PLA Ground Force (PLAGF) continues to refine its training of amphibious combined arms brigade and airborne assault brigade, participates in joint landing drills and exercises with the PLA Navy (PLAN), and improve its strategic airborne and maritime projection capabilities. It could also commandeer civilian cargo ships to supplement its amphibious vessels in landing operations. In addition, the PLAGF has been vigorously developing offensive capabilities that can "shorten early warning time, blockade critical nodes, inflict massive firepower of paralyzing effect, and conduct multi-dimensional landings at multiple locations," so as to quickly occupy our vital ports and airports to support its unloading of troops and supplies.

7. Strategic Support Capabilities

The PRC has been actively developing operational platforms in the air and space domains to strengthen its information advantage on the battlefield. It currently has established the Beidou Navigation Satellite System and related C2 datalinks, capable of supporting cross-theater joint operational C2, target surveillance, air and maritime blockade, and precision strike operations.

8. Joint Logistic Support Capabilities

In order to unify all individual logistic services, the PLA Logistic Support Force (PLALSF) integrated logistic channels among all PLA forces and coordinated with local governments to strengthen logistic and support capacities. Furthermore, it has established strategic force projection capability and responsive logistic capacities for maneuvering troops and a variety of operations. The PLALSF is expediting to merge its logistic support efforts with the joint operations system, so as to adequately support the forces in a Taiwan invasion scenario and improve the speed of force projection.

Non-traditional Security Challenges

1. Non-traditional Security Challenges Raised Awareness

On the current trends of globalization, emerging security issues, such as composite disaster caused by extreme weather, spread of infectious diseases, and terrorism activities, could all cause massive impact cross borders and boundaries. It cannot be solved without international cooperation. Owing to the close interaction between our nation and the international community, as the world entered the post-pandemic period, various types of non-traditional challenges will continue to have an impact on the security of the world and our nation.

2. Global Pandemic Spread Should be Contained Promptly

The outbreak of COVID-19 from early 2020 has greatly impact on all militaries, including training and operations. They have to consider both the epidemic prevention and all backup measures to preserve the operational readiness, while a proper amount of personnel is assigned to assist in the fight against COVID-19. The ROC Armed Forces cooperates with the Ministry of Health and Welfare to conduct responsive missions to curb the spread of the disease and protect the people and the nation. The ROC Armed Forces will continue to strengthen the responsive capabilities to deal with non-traditional security threats and be the guardian of our nation in anti-epidemic HA/DR missions.

2

Strategic Guidance:

To Ensure Security with Fortified Defense

In compliance with the *Constitution of the Republic of China (Taiwan)*, the *National Defense Act*, and the President's national security guidance, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) has evaluated the comprehensive strategic environment, to formulate defense and military strategies, which provides the guidance on the defense policy implementation and force buildup, so as to establish a robust defense force to ensure our national security.

National Defense Strategy

As the Constitution stipulates, "The national defense of the Republic of China shall have as its objective the safeguarding of national security and the preservation of world peace." The MND has been making efforts to construct a resolute defense and assure peace of the nation with steadfast resolve and robust military strength. Based on the guidance of "no fear of confronting the enemy," the ROC Armed Forces do not compete with the enemy in an arms race, we have been committing ourselves in force buildup and operational preparedness, so as to prevent war, protect our national interests, ensure the national security, and play a major role in defending democracy.

1. Fundamental Concept of National Defense

(1) Safeguarding national sovereignty and the value of democracy and freedom

The ROC Armed Forces will safeguard the integrity of our national sovereignty and the democratic institutions with a solid defense, to demonstrate our determination of "Absolutely No Concession on Sovereignty; No Backing Away from Democracy and Freedom"

(2) Shaping a secure environment without threat

The priority of defense preparedness is to prevent war, deter the external military aggression, make use of the comprehensive defense power to secure our homeland, and raise the cost and risk of PRC invasion, and ultimately protect people's lives and properties.

(3) Being the guardian for national survival and development

The defense strategy is formulated and implemented to construct a credible defense force, integrate defense technologies with civilian capacities, facilitate the reform on defense affairs, and be ta strongly support to the prosperity and development of the nation.

(4) Maintaining peace and stability of the region

As a firmly peacekeeper, the ROC is dedicated to maintain the peaceful status-quo across the Taiwan Strait. We will collaborate with like-minded countries to share more responsibilities and make more contributions to regional peace and stability.

2. Goals of the Defense Strategy

(1) Fortifying national security

In response to severe military challenges directly from the PRC, the ROC Armed Forces shall develop effective defensive capabilities with an asymmetric concept to deter the enemy's military actions, so as to achieve the goal of war prevention and peace maintenance.

(2) Dealing defense affairs with professionalism

Considering contemporary types of high-tech war and our defense requirements, the effectiveness of our defense organization shall continue to be optimized, and the reform of defense affairs shall be pursued pragmatically, so as to cultivate quality personnel and forge a modern, knowledgeable, and professional elite force.

(3) Realizing a self-reliant defense

Our nation has been striving for a self-reliant defense, and has gained concrete achievements in recent years. We continue to promote the integration of civ-mil technologies, and prioritize domestic suppliers to fulfill our needs to acquire weapon and equipment and conduct maintenance activities, so as to facilitate the upgrade of associated civil industries, invigorate developments for defense technologies, and meet our requirements for defense and national security.

(4) Protecting well-being of the people

Facing non-traditional security threats, the ROC Armed Forces, based on the principle of "HA/DR and anti-epidemic efforts are equivalent to operations," will arrive to engage in disaster relief operations rapidly, so as to protect our homeland and the well-being of the people. In addition, to maintain the sovereignty of our territorial sea, the ROC Armed Forces shall assist in protecting our maritime rights.

(5) Expanding strategic cooperation

The Indo-Pacific region is of significance to global political and economic development. In recent years, the PRC's military expansion has significant impacts on the regional stability, which needs regional cooperation to deal with. Taiwan is located at a critical geostrategic point in the West Pacific, and we continue to strengthen our strategic cooperation with the international community to jointly maintain the peace and stability in the region.

Military Strategy

The military strategy of the ROC Armed Forces is "Resolute Defense and Multi-domain Deterrence" that aim at developing joint capabilities with all-out defense and make use of long-range and multi-domain deterrence measures to create advantages to discourage enemy's aggression and ensure homeland security.

1. Secure Territory with Resolute Defense

The ROC Armed Forces continues to enhance ICE capabilities to ensure the security of our C2 nodes, critical assets, and critical information infrastructure, and improve our force protection and preservation, so as to enhance our joint countermeasures and defensive capabilities. The all-out defense strength and the natural barrier of the Taiwan Strait shall also be exploited to achieve a multi-layered defense in depth. Our operational sustainability shall be strengthened to achieve a strategic endurance.

2. Multi-domain Deterrence by Joint Capabilities

With the concept of the asymmetric warfare, multi-domain deterrence measures shall be used to perform joint capabilities to deter the enemy's aggression in multiple domains. If the enemy launched attack to invade Taiwan, Our guiding principles were to "resist the enemy on the opposite shore, attack it at sea, destroy it in the littoral area, and annihilate it on the beachhead," and impose multiple interdictions and joint fire strikes to degrade its capabilities, disrupt its offensive and prevent it from landing, so as to ultimately defeat its aggression.

3

Reinforcing Military Strength:
Constructing an Unbreakable Force

Force buildup and operational preparedness are the essential missions of our national defense. Guided by the military strategy and defense requirements, the ROC Armed Forces mapped out the development of joint capabilities, and continue to force buildup. Through efforts to pursue asymmetric capabilities, reform on reserve force, integrate logistic capacities, and improve C4ISR, IW, and EW capabilities, we will strengthen our military force to become more agile, multifunctional, flexible, and swift in response to contingencies and more credible to can deter and defeat any aggression.

Planning for Joint Capabilities

Based on the military strategy of "Resolute Defense and Multi-domain Deterrence," the ROC Armed Forces has orientated the development of joint capabilities toward building fundamental and asymmetric capabilities. We continue to review the acquisition and priority of weapons and equipment, bring the results into force buildup plans, fortify combat readiness, enhance the quality of realistic training, and upgrade joint capabilities.

1. Force Buildup Goals

Following the military strategy and the force buildup direction towards "technology oriented, IW/EW superiorities, l joint interdiction and homeland defense," the ROC Armed Forces continues to establish fundamental as well as asymmetric capabilities and strengthen reserve force and all-out defense. Concerning weapons and equipment acquisitions, we shall first pursue self-reliant development and production. If the demanding acquisition cannot be fulfilled in time by domestic industry or for the equipment which can rapidly improve combat capabilities, we will resort to coproduction or foreign military sales (FMS) channels. The future force buildup goals are as follows:

(1) Long-range strike

Air-launched missiles with highly extended range and stand-off attack weapon systems are to be developed to inflict precision strike against the enemy, stretch out the depth of strategic defensive operations, and conduct the multi-domain deterrence.

(2) Counter-air operations

To gainair superiority, new fighters and long-range air defense and anti-missile defense systems are to be developed and acquired. Air defense assets from the services shall be integrated into a kill-chain of seamless air and missile defense, an efficient high-low mix, and multi-layered defensive construct, so as to achieve local air superiority and have advantage over defensive operations.

(3) Sea control operations

To ensure our fundamental capabilities to maintain sea control and the security of SLOCs, the battleships must to be upgraded. There are also plans to acquire shore-based, shipborne, and air-launched anti-ship missiles and new naval mines. Furthermore, coastal mobile asymmetric anti-ship capabilities are to be strengthened against the enemy vessels in transit. Along with natural barriers by the Taiwan Strait, we will degrade and defeat the enemy's landing operations.

(4) Homeland defense

New tanks will be acquired and the existing in service will be upgraded. The equipment of special operations is to be improved. Field air defense and asymmetric anti-armor capabilities are to be strengthened. Furthermore, we are developing a minefield management system, enhancing interdiction capabilities on the beach, and fortifying our combined arms battalions. With the reform on the reserve force system, we hope to achieve a unity of power from the regular and reserve forces and ensure our homeland security.

(5) IW/EW and cyber operations

To ensure capabilities available at all operational phases, the IW/EW & cyber defense and surveillance & countermeasure capabilities continue to be enhanced. A next-gen tactical area communications system is specifically being constructed for the purpose.

(6) Joint C2 and ISR

All Coast Guard Administration (CGA) ISR assets, such as vessels, radar sites, UAVs, and electronic surveillance platforms, are integrated with the ROC Armed Forces to seamlessly monitor adversarial activities, obtain early warning information in airspace and maritime region to react to contingencies in-time.

2. Combat Training and Preparations

(1) Establishing a realistic combat training regime

- Current threats of the enemy and settings of our defense operations are incorporated into realistic combat training scenarios, which will be strictly rehearsed and evaluated in sequential tiers of training: home station, specialized, base, and joint operations, so as to fulfill the demands of "real combat training" and "training with realistic enemy situations."

- Live and realistic trainings, drills and exercises of individual service branch, multiple service branches, and joint operations are conducted with an opposing force, so as to construct real combat training sessions to integrate all forces. These sessions are focused on developing multiple expertise and skills for service members and training individual units to perform joint ISR, joint C2, and joint fire support and coordination tasks.

- Computer wargame simulations continue to be applied to improve the efficiency of the chain of command for joint operations and to facilitate force-on-force training.

- The acquisition of new fighters, tanks, and high-performance combat vessels will be scheduled along with training, doctrines development, simulators building, and composite training sites construction. A complete training system will be conceived to maximize the new joint capabilities.

(2) Refining military training for conscripts

- To reinforce the fundamental capabilities of the ROC servicemen, the MND continues to draft conscripts for a four-month muster-call training course in accordance with the Act of Military Service System and the manning and skills requirements of the reserve force.

- The 2-phase training course:

  • Basic Military Training for the first 5 weeks: The curriculum contains drill and command, physical training, and rifle marksmanship. Furthermore, combat fitness training and a 20 km tactical march, which incorporates realistic battlefield scenarios and combat drills based on given operational tasks, are to be added in the curriculum in order to enhance conscripts' physical condition, strengthen their fundamental combat skills and capabilities, and lay a solid foundation for their next training phase.

  • Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Training in the following 11 weeks: The session is designed to provide necessary courses that correspond to conscripts' designated MOSs, and offer enhanced real combat training to improve their combat skills. To reach a consistency between training and operations and meet the demands for defensive operations, all conscripts after the training are to be listed and categorized in the mobilization system of the reserve force according to their respective MOSs.

Developing Asymmetric Capabilities

There is a significant difference of defense resources between the ROC and mainland China. Conventional warfare of attrition or arms race is not viable options for our nation. The ROC Armed Forces continues to develop tactics and skills with innovative thinking, combined with flexible application of basic and asymmetric capabilities and accustomed to a new battlefield environment. The purpose is to make the PRC to face unacceptable consequences if it were to initiate a military conflict and thus deter its intention to wage a war.

1. Actively Developing Asymmetric Capabilities

(1) Asymmetric warfare is about "evading enemy's strengths and exploiting their weaknesses." The ROC Armed Forces continues to construct asymmetric capabilities to strike the operational center of gravity and key nodes of the enemy. The geographic advantages of the Taiwan Strait shall be tapped to shape favorable conditions for us to disrupt the operational tempo of the enemy, frustrate its attempts and moves of invasion at decisive points to "strike a dispersed enemy with a united blow," and achieve the final victory to defeat the enemy.

(2) Strengthening the asymmetric capabilities

- Asymmetric capabilities that are small, numerous, smart, stealthy, mobile, and hard to be detected and countered shall be built up.

- To improve multi-domain strike capabilities, coastal mobile anti-ship missiles, light and rapid maritime force, and advanced naval mines are to be integrated as a multi-layered maritime strike power. In addition, highly maneuverable and rapidly spreadable field air defense and anti-armor capabilities are to be strengthened. Moreover, new offensive and defensive technologies of EW and cyberwarfare, as well as multi-functional unmanned systems for surveillance and strike continue to be acquired.

- The ROC Armed Forces continues to fine-tune the force structure, develop asymmetric tactics and skills, and reach training benchmarks. Han Kuang series exercises continue to be held to validate and re fine the asymmetric capabilities.

2. Creating synergy between Asymmetric and Fundamental Capabilities.

(1) Fundamental capabilities can be effective in peacetime air and maritime patrols, guarding the homeland, and responding to contingencies. During wartime, they can be applied to conduct operations of long-distance interdiction, joint counter air, control, and ground defense.

(2) Asymmetric capabilities are primarily used to disrupt the enemy's operational tempo and delay, weaken, and paralyze their offensives, so as to seize battlefield initiatives and create advantages and opportunities for victory.

(3) Asymmetric and fundamental capabilities shall complement one another perfectly as a comprehensive and robust power for defense operations. Both capabilities shall be applied coordinately and the combination of direct and indirect approaches ("Qi zheng xiang sheng") to fail the enemy's military action according to their plan, deter their invasive attempts effectively.

Enhancing C4ISR, IW, and EW Capabilities

In response to the spectrums of modern operations and considering evolving technological trends of information and artificial intelligence, in order to gain IW and EW superiorities in the battlefield, the ROC Armed Forces integrates all critical C4ISR assets into a resilient and intelligent interlinked system for ICE warfare and continue to strengthen the cyberwarfare and EW capabilities, so as to enable real-time battlefield information, effective battlefield management, and improved effectiveness of joint operations.

1. Improving ISR Systems

(1) The ROC Armed Forces continues to improve and integrate major ISR assets and its datalinks, so as to expand the surveillance range, optimize a common operational picture (COP) for the services, and strengthen overall ISR assets and early strategic warning capability.

(2) Intel-gathering mechanism is to be strengthened and incorporates diversified intel-sharing channels to be an integral part of the joint operations mechanism, so as to monitor situations in all directions and increase battlefield transparency.

(3) To ensure ISR assets effectively supporting combat operations, the ROC Armed Forces continues to strengthen the protection for hardware, facilities, and backup assets, enhance mobility of radar vehicles, and obstruct enemy's attacks on our ISR assets.

(4) The ROC Armed Forces continues to develop and acquire a variety of UAVs for surveillance and reconnaissance that are more survivable, highly efficient and easily deployable to monitor target activities in the battlefield and create an asymmetric operational advantage.

2. Introducing Intelligent C2 Systems

(1) The ROC Armed Forces continues to integrate surveillance assets, C2 nodes, and weapon platforms of the services, to obtain real-time battlefield intelligence and improve the C2 effectiveness to unify the comprehensive power.

(2) Artificial intelligence and advanced technologies continue to be applied to construct a digital battlefield environment with integrated situational awareness of operations, to provide automated operational evaluation and smart decision-making advice, speed up operational responses, and strengthen C2 effectiveness of joint operations.

3. Sharpening IW and EW Capabilities

(1) Cyberwarfare, electronic, surveillance and countermeasure, and secured C2 capabilities continue to be strengthened to support military operations.

(2) Intelligent cyberwarfare capabilities continue to be sharpened and applied in the management of information battlefield and cybersecurity realms in peacetime and, during wartime, they can be used in cyberwarfare as a part of the joint operations.

(3) The ROC Armed Forces continues to develop and acquire electronic surveillance equipment, and deploy them in multiple dimensions and layers to enhance the capabilities to collect against enemy's electronic spectrum. A database of electromagnetic parameters is maintained to facilitate our electromagnetic protection and EW efforts in wartime and create our battlefield dominance.

Integrating Logistic Capacities

The ROC Armed Forces continues to organize all logistic resources and maintain a joint logistic information platform to ensure the readiness of all major weapons and equipment and sustain their commissioning status. Following the guidance of a self-reliant defense and policy of outsourcing to the private sector, the ROC Armed Forces is outsourcing the maintenance of operational assets and using civilian resources for force preservation, so as to reduce the cost of logistic support and maintain the major operational assets effectively.

1. Enhancing the Precision-Driven Logistic Capacities

(1) Integrating maintenance resources

- According to the general cycle of maintenance, we divide it into long-term, mid-term, and short-term programs. The ROC Armed Forces is managing a complete maintenance database for risk factors, such as asset configuration changes, accuracy of spare parts management, maintenance quality assurance, and diminishing manufacturing sources.

- The ROC Armed Forces continues to generate and integrate maintenance capacities, provide inter-service support, and sustain a constant flow of supplies through acquisition channels, such as FMSs, commercial sales, and outsourcing to domestic suppliers, so as to ensure the cost-effectiveness to maintain all assets.

- According to current maintenance system, the ROC Armed Forces continues to strengthen the inspection and testing activities, and create self-sufficient maintenance capacities for high-tech precision components, so as to improve the overall maintenance capacities.

- Multiple training pathways, such as professional training, inter-service field trips, and outsourced training, are to be applied to improve the proficiency of technical personnel, and increase the effectiveness of overall logistic operations.

(2) Generating precise logistic information

- By integrating all maintenance capacities into the Armed Forces Logistic Information Management System (LIMS) as a universal platform, aided by life-cycle management of all military assets and circumspect control of logistic costs, so that weapons and equipment are readily available for joint operation missions.

- LIMS for Force Application continues to be fine-tuned to monitor the logistic operation of all military units in real-time, so as to provide active and forward maintenance support and supplies, streamline logistic processes, and offer fast and efficient logistic support.

2. Establishing Civ-Mil Logistic Cooperation System

(1) Outsourcing maintenance activities

Under the precondition of retaining core maintenance capabilities in the military, the ROC Armed Forces has been established outsourcing pathways for commercial maintenance to strengthen overall maintenance capacities and ensure the readiness of all assets.

(2) Cultivating and employing private sector capacities

Following the policy of outsourcing to the private sector, the ROC Armed Forces has been pacing outsourcing activities and will review and refine all associated measures to utilize civilian resources to enhance the logistic capacities, lower logistic costs, so as to increase wartime effectiveness of logistic support system.

Reforming Mobilization of Reservists

The reserve force and mobilization are critical to national survival in wartime. To comprehensively strengthen the reserve force, the ROC Armed Forces is committed to reforming the reserve system and review and refine the organization, force structure, training, and equipping of the reserve force. The objective is "being ready to fight when mobilized" and a close cooperation with the regular force to effectively exert all-out defense and the potential of the total force.

1. Merging Individual Mobilization Units

Following the guidance of "unity of regular and reserve forces," individual mobilization offices in charge are merged to plan, implement, and oversee the "management, organization, recall process, and training" of the reserves. The MND initiates inter-agency coordination to integrate mobilization efforts to support military operations. Mobilization offices are set up in each service and theater of operations to coordinate between the regular and reserve force in defensive operations.

2. Strengthening the Reserve Force

According to operational requirements of the ROC Armed Forces, reservists are categorized into three mission types: garrisoned in beachhead, operational depth and urban terrain, and HVT protection. All theaters of operations and air/naval bases are assigned with reserve units for HVT protection. The reserve force, the Special Police forces and civil defense units will execute the joint missions to secure critical infrastructures.

3. Reinforcing Recall Training

To preserve a fair and just military service system, achieve purposeful and adequate manning, and follow the requirements for homeland defense operations, practical training courses of beachhead garrisoning, urban warfare, anti-airborne, and HVT protection are provided to recalled reservists, whose allowances, benefits, insurances, and rewards for their employees continue to be raised and upgraded, so as to protect their rights and benefits and inspire their morale.

4. Improving Equipping

Based on the TO&E, the reserve force are equipped by supplies from balancing out with horizontal units, warehouse stocks, refurbished items, items transferred from the regular force, commandeered items, and acquisition programs. The equipping is implemented in several phrases by years to strengthen reserve capabilities.

4

Building Resiliency:
Pragmatic Management in Defense Affairs

Defense affairs involve a myriad of considerations. The ROC Armed Forces continues to grasp the trends in defense management and development, and adequately integrate and distribute defense resources. Important defense affairs involving force management, recruitment system, well-being and caring services, defense financial resources, and civil protection operations continue to be optimally handled, so as to increase the efficiency of defense policies and make good progress of the military.

Force Management System

The ROC Armed Forces are characterized by decent ethics of discipline, loyalty, duty, honor, efficiency, and execution of orders. To inherit and magnify these virtues, we continue to push for various reform initiatives and efforts to optimize our force management system, strengthen the functions of defense organizations, better solidify internal unity, to improve the entire quality of the military troops.

1. Enhancing Quality of Leadership

(1) All leadership courses provided in military educational institutions continue to be refined across the board with curriculums for new knowledge and skills to improve leadership for attendees, enhance the efficiency of force management, so as to shape a highly solidified combat power and demonstrate the unity of the ROC Armed Forces.

(2) All combined arms brigades have been assigned with professional legal officers to ensure legality for all operations. In addition, concerning legal cases involving service members, a communication channel is set up with judicial agencies to allow them to thoroughly understand the unique nature of military service and force management, and deal with the cases in a proper and timely manner, so as to well preserve leadership and maintain military discipline.

(3) To reshape the organizational culture, the ROC Armed Forces continues to maintain an adaptive leadership with the core idea of using “humanity as its essence and knowledge as its leverage” to become an “innovative and responsive, caring and enlightened, professional and efficient” modern military force.

2. Rectify the Organizational Climate

(1) We continue to enhance our supervision and on-site inspection activities to find potential problems, carefully deal with cases of complaints, bring the cases of misconduct and negligence to light, and exert punishments on the basis of “criminal penalties and disciplinary sanctions in parallel,” so as to deter and punish the unlawful and illegal activities.

(2) To contain internal risks, the ROC Armed Forces continue to monitor the administrative operations that are prone to inciting malfeasances with an objective management system, so as to strengthen the preventive measures and lower the risks for corruption and malfeasance.

(3) The ROC Armed Forces continues to maintain an incorrupt administrative system with the external and internal monitoring, so as to foster prevailing values of probity, loyalty, and legality for all units.

(4) We continue to delegate professionals, scholars or citizen groups to incorruption study and assist in corruption risk surveys. By promoting civ-mil dialogue and cooperation, the ROC Armed Forces will keep pursuing the incorruption and transparency of military force.

3. Maintaining Discipline

(1) The goals of current recruitment have been reached, and the ROC Armed Forces continues to keep a personnel system stressing high discipline and law-abiding, to exert the functions based on a principle of "rigid evaluation and weeding-out," to render a military force of discipline and honor, and win the support from the people.

(2) The ROC Armed Forces continues to focus on enhancing internal evaluation, shortening weeding-out process, strengthening the legal investigation system, boosting legal education, improving mental health consultation system, and establish mutual respect between genders. The potential risks should be under control and eliminated in advance. Delinquent service members are sure to be charged, punished or discharged, so as to maintain a highly disciplined military force.

4. Strengthening Grievance Procedures and Investigation Mechanism

(1) Providing unimpeded grievance procedures. Personnel-in-charge is to be provided with proper training, so as to offer timely caring services and responses. At the same time, personal information remains to be protected to secure individual rights and benefits.

(2) A lawful, objective and just administrative investigation system has been in place, and it has been constructed as a three-tier independent legal investigation mechanism with Justice Officers at its helm. The legal cases are to be carefully classified, reviewed, and dealt with legal investigation and inspection working in parallel, according to the contents.

Recruitment System

The essence of the recruitment is to build an elite force. The ROC Armed Forces continues to strive for establishing themselves as a "compact, elite, and robust" modern defense force. Under the full support of the government, our voluntary force has reached the goal of 90% manning ratio, and the transformation of the military service system has been accomplished. We continue to strengthen the personnel quality and retain an elite and competent military power.

1. Maintaining a Sustainable Recruitment and Stable Retention Mechanism

(1) The ROC Armed Forces is attempting to expand more diversified recruiting channels, continue to sponsor "reserve officers training corps" (ROTC), "defense-specific courses for bachelor's degree," and "defense-specific primary courses" in senior high and vocational schools, so as to construct a sustainable recruiting mechanism in the education system, recruit talent to join the military, and raise the overall personnel quality.

(2) We will consider both educational background and military occupational specialty during the position arrangement, in order to make the best of each one's proficiency. Furthermore, slots of non-commissioned officers (NCOs) are to be increased and improve their career development. Enlistees are also encouraged to pursue NCO ranks, so as to provide more promising career tracks and retain quality personnel.

(3) Complementary measures for recruitment continue to be refined. Occupational and retention bonuses remain to be offered to give sufficient incentives to retain young personnel to serve and ensure the manning capacities of all units.

2. Cultivating Modern and Quality Personnel

(1) A personnel appraisal system is established to choose qualified ones for advanced studies and occupational courses, and retain competent ones and weed out those unfit. Before commissioning, cadets are to be strictly evaluated, so as to provide qualified personnel to execute the assigned missions.

(2) The advanced and postgraduate education continues to be refined and incorporated with civilian academic exchanges. Training courses of FMS and mid/high rank management, and short-term training for specific professions are to be provided. Moreover, to follow our national policy to promote bilingualism, English ability of service members continues to be enhanced to raise the competency to pursue excellence.

(3) The ROC Armed Forces continues to select exceptional service members to be research fellows in domestic and foreign think tanks to broaden global views and strategic knowledge and expand the talent pool of international affairs and policy analysis

3. Connecting with Civil Occupations

(1) Service members are encouraged to off-duty learning to acquire diversified professions and skills. Retiring members are to be assisted to enroll in occupational courses to pave a way for their careers after retirement.

(2) In coordination with career consultation and job-matching drives from the Veterans Affairs Council (VAC) and the Ministry of Labor (MOL), the MND continues to provide assistance and support for retirees to seek careers after military service, and encourage civil enterprises, social groups, and private schools to employ them, so as to develop a lasting career track to connect their expertise and the needed professions in the society and create a win-win situation for both the military and civilian sectors.

Welfare Services

Service members form the foundation of the ROC Armed Forces, and their families support them with warmth and comfort. The MND continues to offer thoughtful caring services to improve the quality of living and working for service members, allow them to fully concentrate on their duties.

1. Protecting Rights and Well-Being of Service Members

(1) Protecting rights and privileges of service members

Rights protection Legal cases concerning rights of service members remain to be handled properly and justly with the participation of scholars and experts as reviewers through collegiate system, so as to protect both rights of interested parties and maintain the leadership in units.

(2) Beneficial measures for livelihood

Commissaries selling clothing and mobile post/base exchanges (PX/BX) have been set up to provide a variety of discount offer to optimize beneficial measures for service members, dependents, and retirees.

(3) Diversified channels for advanced studies

Service members are encouraged and sponsored to off-duty learning. In-service "accredited courses for degrees and certificates" have been held in the northern, central, southern, and eastern parts of Taiwan, as well as offshore islands, so as to provide multiple education pathways for service members to improve their knowledge level or expertise, which are useful to the unit missions or personal career development in military.

(4) Reconstructing military installations

As instructed by the President to take good care of service members and improve their living quarters, the MND has set up "Xin An Program" to expedite the progress to reconstruct military installations with amenities like local communities. We have been reviewing renovation demands of installations in use to improve the living quality for service members, the entire environment of installations, and boost the morale of troops.

(5) Legal services

Legal services, such as legal consultation, settling disputes, documental assistance, lawsuit assistance, continue to be enhanced to solve legal issues, so as to protect the rights of service members and their dependents.

(6) Medical services

The MND continues to provide medical preferential measures for service members and their dependents; improve medical services in rural areas, upgrade medical technology and equipment of military hospitals, which will gradually reach the level of advanced medical centers, and optimize healthcare and medical services.

2. Refining Caring Services for Dependents

(1) Childcare service

Following the policy of the government to promote public childcare services, the MND continues to work with civilian childcare providers to offer better services and has been planning to establish childcare facilities, so as to accomplish the goal of "having a carefree livelihood for service members and let their dependents live without worries."

(2) Quality of living for dependents

Living quarters for service members continue to be renovated to reach a higher standard of living. The MND is pushing for projects to construct modern living buildings in urban areas, so as to improve overall amenities and quality of living.

Defense Fisical Planning

To cope with ever increasing threats from the enemy, meet the demands of defensive operations, and support force buildup and operational preparedness, it is necessary to maintain a steady growth of defense budget, so as to invest sufficient resources in defense development to strengthen the comprehensive power of the ROC Armed Forces, and demonstrate our self-defense determination.

1. Allocating Defense Finances

(1) Under the principle of "adequate budgeting, effective allocation and application," the MND continues to draft up budgetary plans with thorough considerations of its future operational requirements, fiscal conditions, priorities of ongoing programs, and urgency of policy execution. Defense finances shall be first allocated to personnel expenditures, and then focusing on fostering R&D capacities for a self-reliant defense, acquisition of advanced weapon systems, strengthening readiness for major operational assets, and improving living quarters for service members, so as to speed up the progress of force buildup and enhance the military power.

(2) Guideline for finances allocation

- Personnel

  Personnel finances shall fulfill the needs of recruitment, and assigned according to the current force scale, while referring todifferent pay grades and fluctuation of personnel resources.

- Maintenance

  In order to meet logistic requirements for spare parts and maintenance, we shall consider the acquisition of new weapons and equipment, retiring obsolete assets, quantity of supplies in storage, and consumption rates of parts, to allocate the budget reasonably, so as to maintain the readiness for all assets and meet the needs of operational preparedness.

- Military investment

  We shall carefully review available defense finances resources in the future and according to our force buildup goals and timelines, to acquire new weapons and equipment.

2. Scientifically Assessing Cost-Effectiveness

(1) Cost-effectiveness assessments of military investment programs continue to be implemented via scientific and quantified methods of analysis with perspective of joint operation planning, so as to maximize the effectiveness of defense resources.

(2) Cost-effectiveness assessment for force deployment and employment in overall defensive operation continue to be implemented by using simulation & modeling tools and mathematic methods, so as to figure out capabilities' weakness and suggest solutions for military investment decision.

(3) On the basis of full life-cycle management, a database on costs of ROC Armed Forces weapon systems continues to collect cost information on acquisitions, personnel operations, and logistic support, to improve the analytical capacities on cost-effectiveness and increase the quality of planning for force buildup.

All-out Defense

All-out defense is a demonstration of our comprehensive national power and people's will to resist hostilities, which can be exhibited to deter invader. We will continue to deepened all-out defense education, release defense-related information, and conduct periodical drills and exercises, so as to strengthen citizen's consciousness of national security. Then let them realize that everyone has reponsibility for national security, and give further support to our national defense.

1. All-out Defense Education

(1) The MND continues to coordinate governmental agencies, local governments, schools, and civil groups to integrate related resources and strengthen civil-military interaction, so as to expand the effectiveness of all-out defense education.

(2) Open house activities, media receptions, and the events alike continue to be hosted to give the people a close understanding of the ROC Armed Forces, increase their recognition of military preparedness. Furthermore, mainstream social media are to be used to timely disseminate defense-related information, to win the support and appreciation from the people.

(3) A professional image of the ROC Armed Forces continues to be shaped through diversified means, such as producing topic-specific TV programs, image-building video clips, and conducting effective media marketing, which can also elaborate the defense policy and enhance all-out defense consensus.

2. All-out Defense Exercises

(1) Defense mobilization exercise
Min An exercises continue to be held to validate the preparation of mobilization and cooperative and coordinating mechanism of civil-government-military, and strengthen the mobilization effectiveness at central and local government levels, as well as between military and civilian sectors. We also invite friendly countries and international rescue organizations to be observers to exchange views. Recently the anti-epidemic drills have been incorporated into exercise, so as to improve HA/DR skills.

(2) Civ-mil air defense exercise

We continue strengthen Wan An exercises and use the air-raids-evacuation inquiry system set up by the Ministry of Internal Affairs to validate air defense intelligence transmission mechanism and the volume of air-raid shelters, so as to fine-tune the means and reaction capacities of civ-mil air defense preparation. Through the exercises, the people can experience and familiarize the evacuation procedures during air raids, and make the all-out defense be well-implemented.

(3) Material mobilization exercise

Zi Chiang exercises continue to be conducted. By using material mobilization information system with data of certifications and owners, we validate commandeering processes, military transport mobilization, integration of civ-mil medical resources, and mobilization of industries for military supplies, so as to effectively strengthen the capacities of the ROC Armed Forces to mobilize materials and support the operations.

Protecting the People

To defend the nation and protect the people, the ROC Armed Forces continues to reinforce its capabilities to tackle with non-traditional security challenges and assist in HA/DR, anti-epidemic, emergency medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions, and protection of maritime rights, so as to safeguard the lives, properties, and well-being of the people.

1. Disaster Prevention and Response

(1) As stipulated in the Disaster Prevention and Response Act and the Regulation of the ROC Armed Forces to Assist in Disaster Prevention and Response, the ROC Armed Forces are prepared to conduct HA/DR missions on the basis of having "forward deployment, prepositioned forces, and timely prevention and rescue. Under the unified command of the Executive Yuan, we will coordinate with related governmental agencies and local governments to rapidly deploy forces, vehicles, and supplies.

(2) The ROC Armed Forces continues to monitor hazardous potentials in the affected region and organize HA/DR resources in normal condition. Once the alarmed is triggered, we will provide immediate support to local governments to conduct the HA/DR mission and reduce the damage.

2. Anti-Epidemic Responses

(1) The Military Epidemic Command Center (MECC) was established to be a coordination and cooperation platform with the central government, so as to improve epidemic control and prevention of various diseases and ensure the health condition of service members, maintain the combat power.

(2) The MND continues real-time monitoring the epidemic situation development, assist in the anti-epidemic measures according to the governmental policies, such as support and produce anti-epidemic supplies, provide quarantine and disinfection services, set up shelters, collect specimens, receive patients, and provide health services. The ROC Armed Forces is committed to supporting the entire anti-epidemic operations, maintaining health and safety of the people.

3. Emergence Rescue Support

(1) Without interference with regular mission, the MND directs all forces and military medical personnel to assist in urgent MEDEVAC, and continues to enhance proficiency training and provide proper equipment, so as to strengthen MEDEVAC expertise of the ROC Armed Forces.

(2) In response to the requirements in adverse weather, occasions of transportation cut-off, or major festive events, the MND continues to care about the people and provide urgent transportation support, coordinated with the Ministry of Transportation, and timely assign military transport planes or vehicles to fulfill the urgent needs.

4. Protection of Maritime Rights

(1) Following the assigned responsibilities of ocean management stipulated in the National Ocean Policy White Paper, the MND works with associated governmental agencies to protect the sovereignty of the offshore islands and the rights of our territorial sea and exclusive economic zones (EEZs).

(2) The MND continues to deploy air and naval assets to operate with CGA vessels to conduct routine joint escort mission for fishery activities in the waters of our EEZs.

(3) The ROC Armed Forces and coast guard continues to conduct joint exercises to enhance our maritime responsive capabilities, maintain the security of our territorial sea, and protect the rights of the people.

5

A Sustainable Roadmap: Developing Self-reliant Defense

National security must be fully controlled by ourselves. Given the principle of "no pursue of outsourcing if there are domestic capabilities in R&D or manufacturing, and lift self-contained technological level to offset technological gap" as revealed in Article 22 of the National Defense Act, the MND consistently moves toward self-reliant defense, so as to achieve indigenous advanced weapons and equipment, support force buildup and operational preparedness efforts, and boost defense industries development with a harmonized environment where national defense and industries are mutually supportive.

Boosting Defense Technologies

Based on assessment of PLA's threats, operational requirements, defense finances, and envision of technological trends, the ROC Armed Forces elaborates comprehensive goals for R&D efforts of expected weapon systems. Domestic capacities shall be exploited to develop advanced technologies and make critical technological breakthroughs. The ROC Armed Forces remains committed to pursuing self-development of weapons and equipment, so as to demonstrate the determination for self-defense.

1. Promoting Development of Advanced Technologies

(1) With trends of advanced technological development and demands of defensive operations in mind, the MND has planned the short, medium, and long-term R&D goals for new weapon systems, and drafted up the guidelines for defense technological development. All R&D programs are being implemented according to planned timelines with a steady flow of budget. Critical advanced technologies, such as aerospace vehicles, precision guidance, radar, communications, underwater detection, and cybersecurity, remain to be pursued.

(2) In order to pave a solid foundation for developing defense technologies, the MND has cooperated with the Academic Research Center for Defense Technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), to solicit project proposals from academic circles in order to tap their expertise to develop advanced technologies and make technological breakthroughs, and long-lastingly cultivate talented professionals for civ-mil dual-use technologies.

2. Strengthening the connection of Civ-Mil Technologies

(1) As instructed by the Development of Defense Technological Industries Review Commission of the EY, the MND continues to unite resources from the MOST, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), etc., to solidify the connection with industrial, governmental, academic, and research sectors, and jointly stimulate the development of technology and industry.

(2) The MND has been implementing R&D programs with civ-mil dual-use nature, so as to render defense technologies into civilian applications and push for industrialization, which leads to upgrade of industrial technologies level, and promote development in defense industries to support economic development.

(3) In coordinated with the R&D timelines for weapon systems, the MND verifies our domestic technological capacities, and integrates supply chains for main systems, subsystems, and modular components, so as to pave a solid foundation for new weapon systems, such as next-gen fighter aircraft, new naval vessels, ICE assets, precision-guided missiles, armored vehicles, and intelligent unmanned aerial and submersible vehicles.

Promoting Domestically Produced Arms

In line with EY's instruction to foster "5+2 innovative industries," shipbuilding, aerospace, and cybersecurity among defense sectors have made phased achievement. With its existing foundation, the MND continues to strive for making breakthroughs on key technologies and developing next-gen weapons and equipment.

1. Strategy to Push for Domestic Production

According to the force buildup concept, the ROC Armed Forces shall conceive short, medium, and long-term goals in terms of domestic production from the top down. Evaluation of domestic production capacities shall be conducted to prioritize domestic acquisitions, which is beneficial to establish self-reliant defense and meet the future operation requirements.

2. Speeding up R&D and Production for New Weapons and Equipmen

Following the force buildup plan, the ROC Armed Forces reviews defense technological levels, combine with superior industrial technological capacities, and expedite the R&D and production progress of developing new advanced trainer aircrafts, main and subsidiary naval vessels, wheeled armored vehicles, missiles, rockets, UAVs, radars, ICE assets, and individual combat weapons.

3. Developing Future Weapons and Equipment Sustainably

According to the plan for joint capabilities, the ROC Armed Forces continues to develop advanced weapons and equipment, concurrently push for R&D efforts for avionics, stealth, hardened shelters, and submarine platforms, and strengthen the self-production capability for full-functional systems, so as to comprehensively improve the technical level of our new air, surface, and underwater weapons and equipment. The MND continues to steadily allocate an adequate budget to stimulate participations from domestic industries in our R&D and production drives, to actively develop our next-gen fighter aircraft, naval vessels, missiles, ICE assets, and combat vehicles

Optimizing Conditions for Self-Reliant Defense

Following the self-reliant defense policy and EY's initiative for 6 core strategic industries, the MND continues to optimize favorable conditions for developing defense industries, expedite the processes of R&D and self-production of weapons, and take the lead of technological upgrades, so as to achieve a win-win result of fulfilling the demands for national defense and generating economic benefits.

1. Accomplishing Regulations on Defense Industry Development

Abiding by the Defense Industry Development Act and associated regulations, the MND conducts level reviews of regulated military materials, and incorporate defense companies as potential suppliers, so as to create a supply chain of defense articles and expand their market scale.

2. Encouraging Participation of Civil Industries

Civilian companies are encouraged to participate in R&D and production of weapons and equipment, and supply chain of defense supplies. The MND attempts to expand the defense market scale, raises its self-production rate, exploits superior civilian technological capacities, and strengthens its R&D and production efforts for a wide range of weapons and equipment.

3. Expanding Defense Industry Scale

The MND continues to release defense resources to domestic suppliers, and actively provide assistances aiming to raise their technical level to overcome the gaps, and ultimately construct a self-reliant national defense.

Fostering Local Capacities of Supply and Maintenance

The MND unifies civilian industrial capacities by applying resources of industrial cooperation (offset) and local superior industrial technologies into establishment of the supply chain for defense industry. Throughout the efforts of gradually improving self-production rate for critical modular components, local supply and self-sufficient maintenance abilities could be constructed.

1. Realizing Offset Mechanism

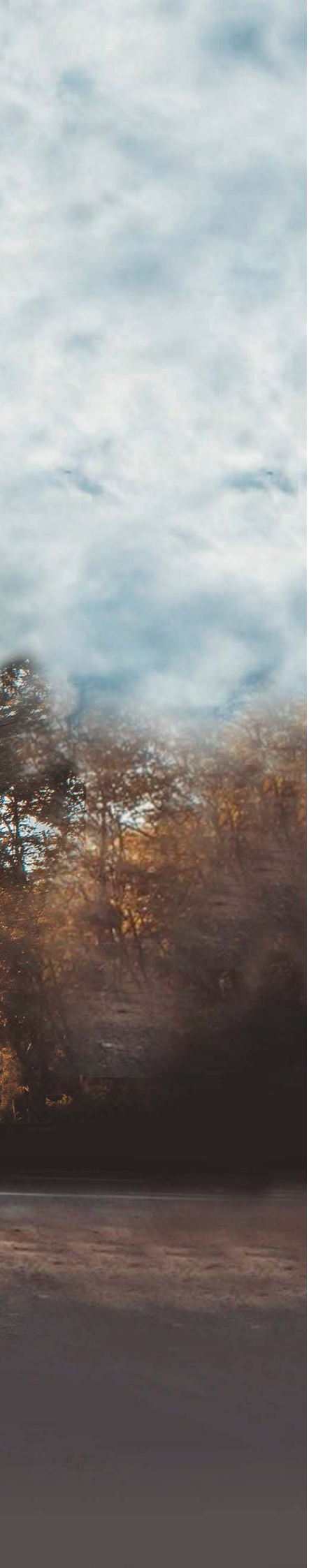
As instructed by the President to "effectively exploit offset resources to stimulate industrial development," the MND employs the offset mechanism to strive for transfer of key technologies, promotes cooperation between domestic and foreign suppliers, and assists to join the OEM (original equipment manufacturers) supply chain, so as to establish maintenance for depot level and production capacities, upgrade our domestic industries, and boost the strength of self-reliant defense.

2. Establishing Maintenance Capacities for Military Aircraft

The Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC), being the lead contractor of F-16 Maintenance Center, integrates domestic industrial capacities and shortens maintenance schedule, so as to satisfy our demands for self-reliant maintenance capacity, improve readiness for all assets, ensure air defense capabilities, and expand growth drivers for defense industry.

3. Integrating Local Industrial Technologies

Through development programs for new aircraft, vessels, and armored vehicles, the MND constructs a system for domestic design, production, and maintenance, so as to strengthen our manufacturing and maintenance technologies, and concurrently create diversified economic benefits and employment opportunities.



6

Consolidating Security: Addressing Gray Zone Threat

Gray zone exists in an ambiguous realm between peace and war, and is characterized by having a mix of indirect force application and paramilitary or low-intensity military means to harass, coerce, and attempt to ignite conflicts to undermine national security and regional stability. In recent years, the PRC has been frequently using gray zone tactics, such as cognitive warfare, IW, and incursion by aircraft and vessels, aiming at weakening morale, depleting the resources of the ROC Armed Forces, and eroding the national security, which urgently require precautions and responds.

Countering Cognitive Warfare of the PRC

Cognitive warfare, which is not confined by time and space, is aimed at influencing the mentality and will of the opponents. Over the years, the PRC has been using the "three warfare" tactics: psychological warfare, public opinion warfare, and legal warfare, to disseminate confusing disinformation and hurl verbal attacks and saber-rattling threats across the board to create divisions among the people. In order to counter PRC's cognitive warfare tactics, the ROC Armed Forces has established a prompt reaction mechanism by using diversified media channels to clarify false information, clear doubts or apprehension in the society and solidify mental defense of the people and service members. Meanwhile, strategic communication is also conducted to make timely clarification and win the understanding and support from the international community.

1. Cognitive Warfare Conducted by the PRC

(1) The purposes of PRC's cognitive warfare

Politically, it is used to suppress Taiwan's international space, and compel to accept PRC's political demands. Economically, it is used to make the most of commerce and trade advantages of China to solicit the approval of the people and business circles in Taiwan. Militarily, it is used to expand the effects of military coercion by media and internet propaganda through a show of force and ever-growing numbers of intrusions and provocations along our surrounding waters and airspace.

(2) The means of PRC's cognitive warfare

The cognitive warfare is an extension of the PRC's "three warfare" and united front tactics, stressing that the propaganda has to permeate "into the island (Taiwan), every household, everyone's head, and ultimately individual's mind." It is combined with modern media and internet hacking, trying to sway public opinions, manipulate public perceptions, create fear and suspicion among the people, and eventually destroy their trust to Taiwan government. Currently, it primarily uses social media to spread disinformation that is massively and quickly produced, carefully packaged, and mixed with real information to be believable, and funneled through diversified circulation channels.

2. Building Countermeasures

(1) Making the best of technological toolkits
The MND makes use of new technological toolkits such as big data systems to predict the patterns of PRC threats and possible means of cognitive warfare, filter and sift out controversial messages, verify and report the results, trace the sources, provide clarifications and evaluations, and make the best of diversified means to amplify countermeasure effects. In addition, the MND maintains awareness of domestic public opinions and draw up publicity strategies by timely utilizing video clips or printed media to harden the psychological defense of the people.

(2) Availing of diversified media to win support
Following people's preferences and habits to absorb information, the MND takes actions actively by expanding its broader use of the internet and social media for publicity purposes, so as to multiply its effects, improve people's comprehension of public information and recognition to national defense, and support the force buildup efforts of the ROC Armed Forces.

(3) Appealing to the international community for a concerted effort
Taiwan continue to communicate with regional countries to improve their understanding, broaden the friendly sphere in the international community, and win over international support and cooperation, so as to collectively counter the threat of PRC's cognitive warfare.

Responding to IW Threats

In parallel with information technology development and prevalence of internet applications, hackers and malicious programs are quickly evolving and posing ever greater challenges to cybersecurity. The enemy can manipulate applicable IW means to infiltrate and sabotage major networking systems and influence daily routines and social orders. The ROC Armed Forces operates all cybersecurity management mechanisms in place, and strengthens protection capacities and raises a secure barrier against IW threats.

1. IW of the PRC

(1) Over the years, the PRC has completed military reorganization and has been aggressively improving its capability for cyber operations. At this stage, the PRC has placed its IW focus on gathering intelligence through its cyber force, grabbing information from the military, industrial, and commercial sectors, aiming to control Taiwan's critical nodes, and compiling a target list for cyberattacks in its future operations.

(2) In a possible wartime situation, the PRC may initiate attacks on Taiwan's critical information infrastructure and military-related information systems to disrupt Taiwan governmental operations, cause disabilities towards military and police force, and severely impact national security and social stability.

2. Optimizing Cybersecurity and Information Protection

(1) The ROC Armed Forces Cybersecurity and Information Protection Center is in charge of monitoring military networking activities in full-time, and continues to enhance system efficiency. The Center, with redundant backups, has been performing rigorous cybersecurity management works, such as network snooping, endpoint detection and response (EDR), and cyber auditing, so as to ward off hacking activities by PRC cyber force.

(2) As instructed by the policy of "cyber security represents national security," the MND has established partnerships with governmental agencies and cybersecurity institutions. Through joint cybersecurity and communication mechanism, the MND routinely holds emergency reaction drills and shares cybersecurity information, so as to construct a joint civ-mil arrangement for cybersecurity. Furthermore, as requested by the EY, the MND executes cybersecurity checks and infiltration tests on our critical infrastructures and collects all hacking patterns to improve overall capacities of contingency response.

(3) The MND continues to nurture cybersecurity talents by enhancing cybersecurity courses in the military educational institutions, providing cybersecurity training for individual units, and introducing technological capacities from academic, research, and civilian sectors, so as to increase cyber operational capabilities of the ROC Armed Forces.

Addressing PRC's Harassments

With the expansion of its comprehensive national power, the military might of the PRC has been growing rapidly. Its strategy and means towards Taiwan are becoming diversified. Aside from the aforementioned cognitive warfare and IW, it has been using various military intrusion and provocation activities to probe our early warning capabilities and reactions and continues with its military coercive actions. With a rock-solid preparedness, the ROC Armed Forces integrates comprehensive capabilities and maintains constant vigilance to deal with any possible contingencies.

1. PRC's Harassment Means

The PRC imposes gray zone harassments and coercive effects across the Taiwan Strait via various activities such as repeatedly assigning aircraft and vessels, conduct drills and exercises. These activities are categorized as follows:

(1) Air intrusion to Taiwan Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ)
The PRC has been assigning various kinds of aircraft and UAVs to intrude the southwest area of our ADIZ in a regular base. It attempts to intensify PLA's surveillance and reconnaissance activities, probe and disturb ROC's air defense measures, squeeze reaction ability in time and airspace, and threaten the aerial security of the Taiwan Strait.

(2) Air and maritime long-distance traning over the sea
A long-distance training task force of the PLAN and the PLA Air Force (PLAAF) has been conducting exercise for joint operations in our surrounding waters and airspace as well as the Western Pacific, in order to strengthen their maritime maneuvering and replenishment, air refueling, chain of command, and the performance of joint operations.

(3) Carrier cross-regional cruise training
In order to establish an area denial capability and impose threats towards Taiwan, the PLAN has assigned a carrier group transiting through the Taiwan Strait to the Western Pacific. The cross-regional cruise training aims to sharpen the carrier's abilities of prolonged maritime deployment and the carrier-based fighters' capabilities for all-weather operations.

(4) Maritime activities around our waters
The PRC has been intensifying its maritime patrol activities on the waters confronting Taiwan. It has been assigning spy boats and survey vessels to collect intelligence and hydrological information, conduct seabed terrain survey, enhance battlefield management, and strengthen its capability of sea control.

(5) Military operations with coercive effects
By building tactical training bases with facilities mocking Taiwan targets and demarcating no-fly zones to conduct joint landing exercises and various simulated drills of invasion against Taiwan, the PLA has been increasing the intensity of practical operational training and coercion against Taiwan.

2. Enhancing Responses

Facing various intrusions and provocations initiated by the PRC, the ROC Armed Forces follows the guidance of "Absolutely No Concession on Sovereignty; No Backing Away from Democracy and Freedom" to steadfastly demonstrate our determination and competency to defend the homeland and vigorously strengthen all necessary responses.

(1) Tightly monitoring situations across the Taiwan Strait
The ROC Armed Forces uses joint ISR systems and exchange intelligence with allies and friendly countries to tightly monitor potential hostile activities, so as to ensure the capability of early warning and take initiatives by timely response.

(2) Cautiously reacting to contingencies
The ROC Armed Forces regularly deploy air and maritime forces to patrol airspace and waters around Taiwan, and maintain ground forces on offshore islands and Taiwan for proper operational preparedness and timely reaction to contingencies. When facing contingencies, the ROC Armed Forces shall rapidly assign sufficient forces to secure our territorial waters and airspace by following the principles of "no evasion or provocation", "avoid triggering and escalating conflict", and "the nearer the enemy is, the tougher response from ROC would be ".

(3) Working with the CGA to deal with emergencies
The ROC Armed Forces continues to coordinate with the CGA closely, share information, and conduct joint ISR missions to strengthen mutual reactive capabilities to handle maritime contingencies. In peacetime, the ROC Navy maintains interoperability with the CGA. In a wartime situation, all CGA vessels are to be incorporated into the order of battle to take part in joint operations, as stipulated in the *ROC Armed Forces Regulations for the Defensive Operational System during Transitioning between Peace and War.*

(4) Revising regulations to address adversarial situation
Based on regional situations and changes of adversarial threats, the MND continues to evolve and update the scenarios and reactive actions as stipulated in the ROC Armed Forces Regulations on Peacetime Contingencies Responses, so as to effectively react to any provocations from the PRC.

7

Strategic Cooperation: Creating Strategic Value of Taiwan

At this critical moment with intensive attention from the globe towards the Indo-Pacific region and a volatile situation across the Taiwan Strait, the ROC remains firmly committed to defending its system of democracy and freedom and maintaining stability across the Taiwan Strait with its rock-solid defense force. Taiwan continuously expands security cooperation with like-minded countries and displays strategic value and the force for good to make contribution to regional peace and prosperous development.

Elaborating Geostrategic Advantages

Taiwan is located at a critical node of the first island chain and SLOCs, linking the Western Pacific, the SCS, and the Indian Ocean. The southern part of the Bashi Channel and northern part of Miyako Strait are considered the important waterways with geostrategic significance where restrain PRC's watercourses through the island chain. Facing PRC's growing ambition to expand its external influence, Taiwan continues to act as a key partner for regional security and demonstrate its indispensable role in strategic perspectives.

1. Protecting the Value of Democracy and Freedom

As a model of democracy and freedom in the Indo-Pacific region, Taiwan is a trustworthy partner in the international community, and will continue to seek alliance of common values and strive for international security cooperation and dialogue, so as to jointly curb the damages on the values of democracy and freedom caused by PRC's military expansion and cognitive warfare, and maintain security, peace, and stability in the region.

2. Ensuring Security Around the Taiwan Strait

A firm existence of Taiwan represents the first line of defense against the expansion and invasion of totalitarian regimes. The ROC Armed Forces is dedicated to force buildup and combat readiness to raise defense capabilities, applying to ensure the security around the Taiwan Strait, maintain smooth air and maritime transportation, and push for sustainable prosperity for the Indo-Pacific region.

3. Sharing Strategic Intelligence and Early Warning

Taiwan, located at a strategic position on the first island chain in the Western Pacific, maintains full time vigilance to seamlessly monitor movements and signs of PLA forces. A mechanism of mutual security recognition and strategic early warning will be constructed through cooperation with allies.

4. Maintaining Regional Maritime Security

Taiwan is surrounded by sea, so shares maritime security interests with countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The ROC Armed Forces, following the International Law of the Sea and governmental policies, work with related governmental agencies to secure our rights of territorial waters and exclusive economic zones (EEZ), and have join maintenance with all countries for the maritime security in the region.

5. Constructing a Joint Digital Defense for Cybersecurity

Taiwan has advanced capabilities of information technologies and practical experiences in cyber defense. The MND follows the instruction by the government and seizes the opportunities when the global supply chain of high-tech products is under reconstruction. By working with industrial, governmental, academic, and research sectors, cybersecurity capacities will be strengthened and trustworthy partnerships with allies could be established. The goal of maintaining cybersecurity could be accomplished by enhancing the exchange of cybersecurity technologies, information sharing, and efficiency on reporting internationally regarding cybersecurity incidents and reactions.

Expanding Defense Exchange and Cooperation

Taiwan continues to strive for the participation of security framework and dialogue mechanism among the Indo-Pacific region, deepen military exchanges with the U.S. and other friendly countries, and establish the strategic partnership to collectively maintain regional security.

1. Military Exchanges

(1) Taiwan-U.S. military exchange and cooperation

The U.S. is our most important strategic partner. The defense and military exchange and cooperation with the U.S. are vital to the security around the Taiwan Strait. Under the Taiwan Relations Act and the "Six Assurances," Taiwan continues to upgrade the comprehensive defense capabilities through various FMS programs and cooperation with the U.S., so as to ward off PLA threats. As military cooperation has already established at multiple levels, Taiwan and the U.S. will continue to promote high-level policy dialogues, intelligence exchanges, operational research and studies, personnel training, armament development, and defense industry cooperation based on our defense requirements, so as to improve joint combat capabilities and interoperability.

(2) Military exchanges with friendly countries

Taiwan continues to seek military exchange and cooperation with democratic and friendly countries through mutual visits, topic-specific seminars, observation on exercises and drills, cybersecurity, military medicine, and striving for assigning military representatives, to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation and solidify the bond with friendly countries around the world.

2. International Strategic Communication

(1) Promoting exchange with think tanks

The MND and the Institute for National Defense and Security Research (INDSR) continue to promote international think tank exchange and strengthen dialogue channels with strategic study groups of advanced countries, so as to increase the effectiveness of strategic communication and win international recognition and support by highlighting security situations across the Taiwan Strait and the key role of Taiwan in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) Fostering international participation

The ROC Armed Forces continues to raise global awareness of Taiwan's dedication and contribution to regional security through international participation, such as earning good performance under the Government Defense Integrity Index (GDI) surveys. It demonstrates a modern and clean image of the ROC Armed Forces to bind the defense policies with internationally recognized standards.

Propelling Non-traditional Security Cooperation

The non-traditional security threats to a nation's survival and development have caught worldwide attention. Aside from the routine operations, the ROC Armed Forces has taken the responsibility to deal with sudden and non-traditional threats. As a citizen of the world, the ROC Armed Forces are willing to share experiences and build up new military capabilities through international exchanges, so as to collectively decrease the damages caused by these threats and pursue the security and well-being for the humanity.

1. Cross-border Epidemic Prevention

Taiwan is recognized by many countries for its exceptional anti-pandemic achievements upon the rage of COVID-19. The MND will give impetus to establishment of communication mechanisms with other countries on the topics of preventive medicine, biosafety, and epidemic control, etc., in attempt to expand the cooperation on cross-border prevention of infectious diseases.

2. HA/DR

The MND continues to promote HA/DR exchanges and establish cooperation models with the international community to share capacities and experiences of the ROC Armed Forces.

3. International Counterterrorism

Throughout participation of training programs provided by friendly nations and the annual conference of International Special Operations Forces, and establishment of a task force for exchanges on special operations, Taiwan enhances international cooperation on counterterrorism to maintain border security.

Conclusion

Facing the upcoming complex security situations in Taiwan Strait and the region, Taiwan must to persistently fortify its comprehensive national power. In addition to managing diplomatic and Cross-Strait relations cautiously, maintaining a solid and robust defense is a top priority. “A solid defense brings national security” and “peace through strength” are not just slogans but weighty undertakings and goals demanding full dedication.

Over the past several years, the government has increased the defense budget, and invested in military buildup. The capabilities of the ROC Armed Forces has consequently been strengthened. Moreover, our defense policies have won the international recognitions. In the face of future challenges, the key points of the ROC national defense and force buildup endeavors are: (1) accelerating the development of asymmetric capabilities to deter the enemy from invading Taiwan, maintain the peace and stability in Taiwan Strait and the region, and counter the gray zone threats imposed by the PRC, so as to protect the precious democratic system; (2) supporting the self-reliant defense and constructing a prosperous environment for defense industries; (3) realizing defense reform and optimizing the force organization and efficiency in a pragmatic approach, so as to modernize the combat force to gain advantages in the future war and able to deal with both traditional and non-traditional threats.

Force buildup demands persistence. The MND will follow the guidance of the national defense strategy, military strategy, and policy goals as revealed in the QDR to elaborate the following defense programs and focus resources on priorities. Constructing a defense power pragmatically that can always in people’s confidence, be relied on by the nation, and be trusted by our allies and friendly countries, so as to fortify a rock-solid power for sustainable peace and prosperity in Taiwan Strait and the region.

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