

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a strategy
to strengthen multilateral deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop and imple-
ment a strategy to strengthen multilateral deterrence
in the Indo-Pacific region.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL**
4 **DETERRENCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
6 develop and implement a strategy to strengthen multilat-
7 eral deterrence against regional aggression in the Indo-
8 Pacific region by expanding multilateral coordination with
9 United States allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific re-

1 gion, particularly Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Phil-
2ippines, and Australia, including by enhancing multilateral
3 access and basing agreements, command and control
4 structures, intelligence-sharing, and exercises and oper-
5 ations.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection
7 (a) shall—

8 (1) describe current activities and identify fu-
9 ture actions to be taken over the next 5 years by the
10 Department of Defense—

11 (A) to leverage reciprocal access agree-
12 ments between the United States and allies and
13 partners in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly
14 Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines,
15 and Australia, to expand regional access for the
16 military forces of such allies and partners, in-
17 cluding for purposes of enhancing interoper-
18 ability at locations across the Indo-Pacific re-
19 gion, pre-positioning munitions stockpiles, and
20 jointly supporting and leveraging shared facili-
21 ties, operational access, and infrastructure;

22 (B) to improve command and control
23 structures enabling enhanced multilateral co-
24 ordination with allies and partners in the Indo-
25 Pacific region, including through the Combined

1 Coordination Center in the Philippines, the
2 joint force headquarters of the United States in
3 Japan, the Combined Forces Command in the
4 Republic of Korea, and a potential combined co-
5 ordination structure in Australia;

6 (C) to expand intelligence-sharing and
7 maritime domain awareness among the United
8 States and allies and partners in the Indo-Pa-
9 cific region, including through the Bilateral In-
10 telligence Analysis Cell in Japan and the Com-
11 bined Coordination Center in the Philippines;
12 and

13 (D) to expand the scope and scale of multi-
14 lateral military exercises and operations as well
15 as basing infrastructure and posture in the
16 Indo-Pacific region, particularly among the
17 United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea,
18 the Philippines, and Australia, including more
19 frequent combined maritime operations through
20 the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea, and
21 the Aleutian Islands;

22 (2) fully consider strategic and operational con-
23 tingencies for security of likely military and eco-
24 nomic avenues of approach and trade routes across

1 the South, Central, and North Indo-Pacific region;
2 and

3 (3) address the conduct of operations in accord-
4 ance with such strategic and operational contin-
5 gencies.

6 (c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
8 shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as
9 defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code)
10 the written strategy required by subsection (a), including
11 an identification of—

12 (1) any changes to funding or policy required to
13 strengthen multilateral deterrence among the United
14 States and allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific re-
15 gion against regional aggression; and

16 (2) any additional resources required to carry
17 out specific initiatives described in subsection (b),
18 such as expanding regional access to the military
19 forces of such allies and partners, improving com-
20 mand and control structures, expanding intelligence-
21 sharing and maritime domain awareness, and ex-
22 panding the scope and scale of multilateral exercises
23 and operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

24 (d) INTERIM REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not
25 later than March 15, 2027, the Secretary of Defense shall

1 submit to the congressional defense committees (as de-
2 fined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) a
3 report on the progress of the implementation of the strat-
4 egy required by subsection (a), including any resource or
5 authority gaps identified in the ability of the Department
6 of Defense to implement the strategy.

7 (e) INDO-PACIFIC REGION DEFINED.—In this sec-
8 tion, the term “Indo-Pacific region” means—

9 (1) the geographical area encompassing the
10 area of responsibility of the United States Indo-Pa-
11 cific Command; and

12 (2) the Alaska theater of operations, including
13 the entirety of the State of Alaska and the entirety
14 of the oceans or other such maritime features bor-
15 dering the State of Alaska.