



Chairman Mike Rogers and Ranking Member Adam Smith
U.S. House Committee on Armed Services

Chairman Roger Wicker and Ranking Member Jack Reed
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services

May 8th, 2026

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

I write on behalf of the Defense Memorandum of Understanding Attachés Group (DMAG), representing all 28 countries holding Reciprocal Defense Procurement (RDP) Memoranda of Understanding with the United States. These RDP agreements underpin our armaments cooperation, enhancing military readiness, driving standardization, and ensuring interoperability across allied forces. Critically, they provide mutually beneficial access to allied and partner defense markets — expanding the industrial base, increasing resilience, and sustaining operational superiority across key geostrategic regions.

The DMAG applauds the important work by your committees which recognizes the importance of international partnerships, in particular the establishment of an Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Armaments Cooperation in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (P.L. 119-60, sec 903). This position will enable the harmonization of our collective efforts and the ability to scale capabilities faster together, providing us with strategic advantage over adversaries and competitors.

In light of the significant drawdown of our munition stockpiles, and the reconstitution timelines that undermine credible deterrence, we urge your committees to continue to act with the greatest urgency to address barriers that impede armaments cooperation and sales transfers. These barriers strain our ability to sustain, produce, and field the capabilities that our integrated defense industrial and technological bases must deliver for the warfighter.

First, we ask the Armed Services Committees, in coordination with the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations Committees, to pursue targeted ITAR reform aligned with the operational realities of allied industrial cooperation and burden sharing. Specifically, we ask that you streamline licensing for proven partners, by eliminating redundant review requirements, and more effectively utilizing existing exemptions, such as ITAR §126.4. These measures would meaningfully accelerate allied capacity to reconstitute stockpiles and sustain shared deterrence.

Second, we recognize the excellent progress enabled by the FY26 NDAA in relation to technology release and the foreign disclosure process. We encourage you to reinforce these processes through the centralized interagency leadership that drives arms transfer and technology release, establishes clear timelines for reviews, improves transparency and accountability across the participating agencies, and adopts a risk-tiered approach that reflects the trusted security frameworks of proven U.S. partners.

Third, we respectfully urge your committees to significantly raise the dollar thresholds which trigger congressional notification of foreign arms sales for key allies and partners. We request revised thresholds be indexed to inflation to prevent future erosion. In addition, we request the elimination of the requirement for further notifications for additional sales of already approved systems, eliminating redundant review cycles for capabilities Congress has already mandated.

The DMAG stands ready to support your committees in advancing these reforms and remains committed to deepening the armaments cooperation that is essential to our shared security.

Sincerely yours,

Sander Oude Hengel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sander Oude Hengel', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair, Defense MoU Attachés Group

Cc:

Chairman Brain Mast and Ranking Member Gregory Meeks
House Foreign Affairs Committee

Chairman Jim Risch and Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen
Senate Foreign Relations Committee