



## Establishing an America First Arms Transfer Strategy

### **Administration Policy:**

President Trump issued an executive order (EO) titled [Establishing an America First Arms Transfer Strategy](#). The “America First Arms Transfer Strategy” should ensure that foreign arms purchases expand U.S. manufacturing capacity, reinforce supply chains, promote technological superiority, and increase burden-sharing by partners. The EO states that American-made military equipment dominates global defense markets, and this advantage should be used more deliberately to advance U.S. foreign policy.

The EO also states that foreign purchases should support domestic production and encourage innovation without increasing production backlogs for the United States or its allies. The EO prioritizes sales to partners that invest in their own defense, play a critical role in U.S. strategy, and contribute to U.S. economic security.

The EO directs the Secretary of War to develop a prioritized sales catalog of key platforms to encourage allied purchases. It also directs the Department of Commerce to strengthen advocacy for U.S.-produced defense exports and better align Foreign Military Sales (FMS) and Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) with strategic objectives.

The EO requires relevant agencies to eliminate inefficiencies in the arms transfer system by streamlining processes, clarifying Enhanced End Use Monitoring criteria, reviewing Third-Party Transfer requirements, improving interagency coordination, and providing earlier notice to partners regarding contracting timelines.

The EO establishes a Promoting American Military Sales Task Force, chaired by the National Security Advisor or designee, to oversee implementation, accelerate priority cases, and improve accountability across the arms transfer enterprise. The EO requires regular interagency coordination and the publication of quarterly performance metrics on FMS and export license processing to increase transparency.

### **Background:**

- [The Arms Export Control Act of 1976](#) authorizes the U.S. President to regulate the export and import of defense articles and services, and governs congressional notification requirements for major arms sales, including FMS and certain DCS, and sets the procedures and review periods before such transfers can proceed.
- The a fact sheet from the White House can be found [here](#).