
Defense Report

AUSA



Sharing the Burdens of Freedom Requires Strong Alliances

The national interests of the United States are at stake everywhere, necessitating our engagement in mutual defense treaties stretching from Seoul to Berlin. So whenever problems arise within some of our security alliances, we should not threaten to withdraw our deployed forces into the confines of "Fortress America." We must have the means and the will to protect those interests wherever they may be threatened.

The 40 percent of the U.S. Army deployed around the world is not there solely for the protection of Europeans or Asians, but primarily in our own national interests. These worldwide deployments are the best evidence possible to friend and foe alike that the United States will react instantaneously to any threat to our security.

American interests overseas are constantly being threatened by global instability which in turn could endanger our society at home. The most unsettling influence of all is the unrelenting arms buildup of the Soviet Union far beyond that which is necessary for the defense of its national territories. As the American military establishment, at home and abroad, and our great economic power are not in themselves enough to assure our national security, the reality of the Soviet threat requires us to pursue cooperative security relationships with friendly states. Any U.S. reversion toward isolationism could have serious long range implications for the prosperity and freedom of our allies as well as our own country. Such a drastic change in international relations would present the Soviet Union with an open invitation to expand its influence to the detriment of our national interests and responsibilities as a world leader.

As visible proof of America's commitment to the preservation of freedom, we must continue to provide the forward deployed Landpower of the United States Army as a shield of strength to deter aggression throughout the world. We must also encourage, without threatening, our alliance partners to maintain their collective strength and to keep open the lines of communication among all those nations united in their resolve to limit Soviet expansion.