



**Opening Statement Randall Schriver, Vice Chair
U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission**

November 18, 2025

Thank you, Chair Price. I believe I can speak for all Commission members in saying that we greatly appreciate your dedicated leadership over the past year. I would also like to thank my colleagues, the expert witnesses who shared their insights at Commission hearings, and the Commission staff.

Over the past year, Beijing has talked a big game about being a force for global stability. But as our 2025 Annual Report demonstrates, the reality is that Beijing has only continued to engage in destabilizing activities that threaten the very international order it proclaims to uphold.

We should be clear-eyed about the fact that Beijing is rapidly advancing its capabilities for a potential conflict. In the past year alone, the PLA has introduced a variety of new capabilities that could be used to support an invasion of Taiwan. These include self-propelled landing barges, the world's largest amphibious assault ship, and hypersonic anti-ship missiles that could target U.S. warships—just to name a few.

Beijing's growing capabilities are particularly concerning in light of its increasingly aggressive gray zone activities in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. China's actions raise the risk of a miscalculation that could trigger a larger kinetic conflict. Chinese incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone increased 15,000% over 5 years—from only 20 in 2019 to 3,075 in 2024. And, they are on pace for 33% more incursions than that in 2025.

China's reckless maneuvers targeting the Philippines in the South China Sea have come alarmingly close to killing a Philippines' mariner and potentially triggering the U.S.-Philippines mutual defense treaty. A few months ago, one Chinese ship rammed another, perhaps killing a couple of Chinese Coast Guard sailors.

As we highlight in the report, China's whole-of-government strategy to become the preeminent space power also poses an escalating threat to U.S. national security. The PLA's expanding arsenal of space capabilities are a direct threat to U.S. national security. They multiply China's combat capabilities and could disrupt the ability of the United States to project power and respond rapidly in a crisis in the Indo-Pacific.

This year's report also analyzes how China has formed an "axis of autocracies" with Russia, Iran, and North Korea that enables each of these countries to act more aggressively than they could alone. Russia could not sustain its war in Ukraine without China propping up its economy and supplying its military industrial base. And Iran could not fund its terrorist proxies in the Middle East without China purchasing its sanctioned oil.

China’s deepening cooperation with Russia, Iran, and North Korea also increases the risk of “opportunistic aggression.” We must be prepared for the possibility that Beijing could take advantage of U.S. assets being tied down responding to a conflict in Europe or the Middle East to make a move on Taiwan. One of the Commission’s key recommendations addresses exactly that issue.

China has also been working to cement its hegemony in regions like Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. After decades of systematically expanding its economic presence in these regions, Beijing is now wielding its economic leverage to secure greater military access and security influence.

The Commission investigated these issues on fact-finding trips to the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Cambodia. As we saw firsthand during our visits, Southeast Asian countries are very different from each other politically, economically, and culturally. But they share a geographic proximity to China that affects virtually all aspects of the lives of their citizens. The message delivered to us by interlocutors in all these countries was consistent and clear: deeper economic and security engagement from the United States in Southeast Asia would be welcomed.

Our report offers numerous policy recommendations for how the United States can maintain effective deterrence in the Indo-Pacific, preserve U.S. primacy in the crucial domain of space, and bolster our relationships with allies and partners in key regions like Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Taken together, these recommendations add up to a resounding bipartisan endorsement for strengthening U.S. global leadership in ways that reflect and promote our enduring values—which remain among our greatest advantages in our global competition with China.

We look forward to discussing these recommendations with Members of Congress in the coming weeks. Thank you, and we look forward to your questions.