



SECRETARY OF WAR
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

SEP 30 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Establishment of FORTRESS America as a Department of War Program for the Defense of the American Homeland

Effective immediately, I establish FORTRESS America as a program of the Department of War. FORTRESS America will serve as the nation's insurance policy— a comprehensive, Future Year Defense Program-aligned program that reinforces the United States military's unmatched ability to fight and win under any conditions by securing sustained access to the critical capabilities, infrastructure, and resources on which it depends. The program aligns basing and infrastructure projects to ensure they are collectively advancing toward greater independence. It puts America first, and it does what should have been done long ago.

FORTRESS America strengthens the Nation's military capacity from the inside out, organized around five pillars: energy independence; supply-chain and defense-industrial base resilience; a strategic defense reserve; installation hardening and cyber resilience; and resilience in space and spectrum. Together these pillars guarantee assured access to the materials, energy, industrial capacity, and secure infrastructure on which American military power depends. Through these pillars, we will synchronize efforts across every installation. This is not a retreat. It is the foundation from which American strength is projected — a homeland that cannot be starved out, shut down, or cut off.

The Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment is directed to stand up the FORTRESS America Program Office within thirty (30) days of the date of this memorandum. The Program Office shall report directly to the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment who will appoint a member of the Senior Executive Service to lead the day-to-day operations, assisted by a two-star Military Advisor, and shall begin as a lean core cell that scales to full operating capability within months — delivering results in weeks, not years.

FORTRESS America is a priority and synchronized program. All Military Departments, Defense Agencies, and Field Activities shall support its execution without reservation. We will put America first, we will defend the American homeland, and we will build a permanent structure equal to the moment. We begin today.



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