

## **Appendix 134 - National Defense Report, Republic of China (2002)**

Source: Ministry of National Defense

July 27, 2002

(Preface and Introduction)

The essence of maintaining national security is not merely to establish a military force, but also to obtain a strong strength to defend the nation through the support and commitment from the people. Consequently, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) is dedicated itself to the transparentization of national defense affairs by publishing the National Defense Report periodically with an aim at elaborating concepts in national defense and results in policy-implementation so as to win the support from the people. It is expected that through these efforts the people may have a clear understanding on the current national defense policies, then extend their precious support to the Ministry, and participate in the national defense affairs so as to reach a comprehensive consensus on all-out defense.

The National Defense Law and the Organization Law of the Ministry of National Defense took effect on March 1, 2002. These two laws incorporate concepts like "convergence of military administration system and military command system, and civilian control of the military," which have constituted a major reform in our national defense organization. This achievement has demonstrated the resolute adherence of the ROC Armed Forces to pursue legalization in national defense affairs; furthermore, it has laid down a solid foundation for "all-out defense" and "nationalization of the ROC Armed Forces," which have imposed unprecedented influences on the military. At the juncture of the implementation of these two laws, the 2002 National Defense Report obviously is exceptionally meaningful, and it will offer an in-depth analysis on concepts and visions of the implementation of these two laws so as to show our determination to lead our national defense organs toward democratization.

During the preparation period of the Report, the United States suffered terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; thus, the concerns over national security have once again attracted spotlights around the globe. Despite of being an abstract concept, national security efforts are aimed at assuring "national survival," which means to maintain "the security of territory, the people and their living style," and prevent "threats of aggression." The ROC Armed Forces has been long enduring intimidations from the "verbal attacks and saber rattling" from the People's Republic of China (PRC), and our endeavor to maintain combat readiness is indeed full of challenges. Especially, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is vigorously transforming itself under its strategic guideline of "winnig a local war under high-tech conditions," and the threat it is posing is more alarming to our national survival and development. In order to negate the increasing threats from the PRC's military satellites, technology of ballistic missile, and information warfare, the ROC Armed Forces will assume a posture of "effective deterrence, resolute defense" under the fundamental concepts of "prevention of war,"

"maintaining stability in the Taiwan Strait," and "defending the national soil." Besides, it will spare no efforts to follow the guideline of "preempting information & electronic superiorities, keeping hostile unlimited warfare at bay, combining operations to command the air and the sea, assuring safety of ground operations, and defeating intruding enemies," to continuously strengthen its prowess in information & electronic arenas, and integrate weapon systems of the ROC Armed Forces so as to establish a "compact but delicate, highly capable" and modernized military force.

Owing to the fast development of modern technology, the nature of war has changed from converging forces to converging knowledge and technology. As a result, improving the quality of military personnel and demonstrating the efficiency of precision weapons play key roles to perform combat capabilities. Facing such directions, the ROC Armed Forces has to grasp the contemporary trends, get rid of stereotypes, and create innovative initiatives. With an eye to adapting changes in national financial structure and carrying on the modernization of national defense, the ROC Armed Forces will fine-tune its organization through "adjusting high echelon organization" and "streamlining force structure" so that it can reasonably trim its personnel expenses, and flexibly regulate military investment and operating expenses so as to substantively enhance its combat capabilities. However, the most important facet of the force reduction efforts is to "broadly withhold reserve force." Based on "the regulations for preparation of all-out defense mobilization," the MND will promote the concept of "the combination of national defense and the people's livelihood" in the future. It is expected that through gaining cohesion from the people, the concept of "all-out defense" can be realized to establish an overall defense capability with the people's full participation. Only after maintaining superiority in "tangible combat strength" and "intangible psychological awareness" dare the enemy not rashly wage a war so that the goal of "prevention of war" can thus be achieved.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the advisors and staff members involved because the Report cannot be made public without their dedication. Besides, I shall say the diligence and the hard work that the ROC Armed Forces has shown have achieved positive results because the content of the Report cannot be enriched without its commitment to national defense. In addition, it is expected that people from all walks of life can offer comments and guidance, and render concerns and support to the national defense affairs so as to motivate the ROC Armed Forces to pursue improvements, which can provide a more solid and sound foundation for the everlasting survival and development of the Republic of China.

Tang Yiau-ming  
Minister of National Defense, ROC July 2002

#### Introduction

1. Following the steps of the previous five editions, the 2002 National Defense Report was circumspectly completed by the MND in accordance with the national status quo, national defense situations and policies implementation of policies. Especially, organizational changes, new defense policy concepts, courses and

perspectives after the passage of the "National Defense Law" and "Organization Law of the Ministry of National Defense" are incorporated within this report. Aside from Preface, this report is divided into 7 parts - "International Security Environment and Military Situation," "National Security and Defense Policy," "National Defense Resources," "ROC Armed Forces," "National Defense Management," "Important National Defense Policy- Implementation," and "ROC Armed Forces and Society." Relevant statistics and data start from July 2000 to June 2002.

#### Part 1. International Security Environment and Military Situation

This part provides an overview of international security environment and international military status, highlighting the threats to security, regional development status, arms transfer and proliferation, trends in the development of military technology and the change of the nature of war. Among which, the PRC's status and development of the PLA are described in detail so that the current security environment of the ROC can be clearly portrayed to be a concrete basis for defense policy-making.

#### Part 2. National Security and Defense Policy

From the prospective of national interests and goals, national security strategies and policies are made in accordance with analysis regarding the ROC's national security. As a major part of the report, part 2 elaborates the ROC's defense policies, military strategies, force restructuring status as well as the concept of "all-out defense."

#### Part 3. National Defense Resources

This part lists the available resources of manpower, material, and finance for national defense purposes, explains current policies regarding these resources and provides analysis on the reasonable requirement of defense expenditure.

#### Part 4. ROC Armed Forces

This part describes the overall status of the ROC Armed Forces, including the information regarding missions, current status, organizations, major weapon systems of regular forces, logistic support units and reserves. Especially, it's the first time to incorporate electronic and information warfare units within the Report.

#### Part 5. National Defense Management

This part explains how the ROC Armed Forces adopts modern corporate management principles to its national defense management. In this part, human resources, regulations, expenditures, mobilization, logistics, forces, communications and electronic information are of great concerns within the domain of national defense management.

#### Part 6. Important National Defense Policy-Implementation

This part summarizes major reforms and administrative programs of the past two years, especially those having great influence on the military reforms. In this part, information regarding restructuring of defense organizations, unit trainings, military exchanges, defense technologies and human rights for servicemen is provided in order

to make the general public have a clear understanding on these programs.

#### Part 7. ROC Armed Forces and Society

This part serves to detail the importance of relation between the ROC Armed Forces and society. Facing rapid social changes, the ROC Armed Forces, following the demand for transparency, civil rights and broad civil service, maintains benign interaction with the general public.

2. At present, the interests of the ROC are as follows: assurance to national survival and development, preservation of security and social welfare, and protection of democracy and basic human rights.

3. Currently, the military development of the PRC still gives high priority to responding to Taiwan issue and foreign interventions that may involve the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. As a result, strategies, tactics and armament developments of the PRC emphasize on obtaining electromagnetic superiority, preempting the command of the air and the sea, and conducting joint landing operations and fighting-off an aircraft carrier group. Because of its thirst to military modernization, the PRC has not only been continuously importing new armaments, but also expanding military expenditures. Therefore, the PRC indeed is posing a great threat to the ROC as time goes.

4. In order to be responsive to the international strategic environment and the PRC's military threat, the ROC's basic concepts towards current defense policy are "prevention of war," "maintaining stability in the Taiwan Strait," and "defending the national soil," while its guidelines are "enhancing all-out defense," "legalizing national defense affairs," "establishing modern national defense capabilities," "creating crisis management mechanism," "promoting regional security cooperation" and "realizing three assurances policy."

5. After the enactment of the "National Defense Law" and "Organization Law of the Ministry of National Defense," the concepts of "convergence of military administration system and military command system," "civilian control of the military" and "professional division of labor among military administration, military command and military armament systems" are thus realized. Due to the newly established defense mechanism as "responsibility corresponding with authority" and "expertise corresponding with relevant level," it's hoped that the ROC Armed Forces can fully focus on the combat trainings and readiness, thus forming a modernized and competent force.

6. Aside from transferring defense technologies into domestic private sectors so as to help form an autonomous defense force, the defense technology policy of the ROC will not permit obtaining, producing and fielding NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) weapons, and will firmly follow international conventions in this regard.

7. Considering restraints in national security and governmental financial resources, current drafting policy of the ROC Armed Forces shall adopt coexisted recruitment-

conscription system, which is suitable for our national status quo. In the future, such policy may be gradually adjusted to address adoption of recruitment system with conscription system as supplement. Besides, paying taxes has been the consensus of the ROC Armed Forces. However, in light of the special nature of the military undertaking, the MND will submit a thorough taxation plan, which will not decrease salaries of the servicemen, to meet the governmental policy.

8. Compared to the climbing military budget of the PRC, which even tripled during the last decade, the ROC's military budget has been on the decline and the military balance between the two sides is truly tilting. In line with the growth of overall national economic development, the MND expects its military budget can be sufficiently kept so as to maintain the combat readiness of the ROC Armed Forces and the national security.

9. When disaster arises, the ROC Armed Forces always actively conducts relevant rescue missions and disaster relief operations in the first place. In order to eliminate further casualties and damages, the ROC Armed Forces will spare no efforts to assist the reconstruction works so as to realize the spirit of organic community, create a close relationship with the general public, and at last achieve the goal of all-out defense.

The remainder of this report can be found at:  
[http://www.straittalk88.com/uploads/5/5/8/6/55860615/2002\\_july\\_taiwan\\_national\\_defense\\_report.pdf](http://www.straittalk88.com/uploads/5/5/8/6/55860615/2002_july_taiwan_national_defense_report.pdf)