

US Moves to Rebuild Defense Manufacturing Base as Experts Say Reindustrialization is Essential

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The United States is actively reindustrializing its defense industrial base to meet rising strategic competition, especially from China and Russia, and to support sustained wartime readiness. Experts warn that without major reforms, America risks falling behind in munitions, technology, and production capacity.

Across several initiatives, U.S. defense leaders are pushing for a full-scale revitalization of domestic military manufacturing. In April, President Donald Trump signed an executive order instructing the Department of Defense to streamline the acquisition process, emphasize commercially viable technologies, and modernize procurement methods to shorten delivery timelines.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced the launch of the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR), a proposed joint initiative with 14 allied nations and private sector partners. The goal is to increase shared production capacity and make supply chains more resilient across the Indo-Pacific, a region at the center of growing strategic competition.

Yet despite progress, senior officials acknowledge that U.S. production remains insufficient for the demands of a prolonged conflict. Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll cautioned that the current industrial base may be inadequate for sustaining a prolonged conflict with China. He referenced the swift depletion of U.S. missile inventories during a recent Middle East crisis as an example of the system's vulnerabilities.

In response, lawmakers are advancing new legislation to create a Commercial Reserve Manufacturing Network, a structure that would allow civilian factories to pivot to weapons production during emergencies. Congress is also advancing revisions to the Defense Production Act aimed at prioritizing domestic critical mineral sourcing and allocating more than \$10 billion to new munitions initiatives and infrastructure development.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer is actively engaging with technology companies and manufacturing start-ups, urging them to help rebuild the national defense production base. Speaking at a recent industry forum in Detroit, Greer stressed the need for a modern defense economy that is fast, flexible, and scalable.

Internationally, the United States is working with allies under agreements such as AUKUS to develop regional repair and supply hubs intended to reduce logistical delays and enhance equipment readiness. These hubs are expected to reduce logistical bottlenecks and enable more rapid equipment turnaround in potential conflict zones.

From a center-right viewpoint, this reindustrialization effort reflects a necessary shift toward preparedness and strategic independence. With growing global instability, rebuilding America's defense manufacturing capabilities is not just prudent, it's essential to national security and the credibility of allied deterrence.