

Military, Law, and more ...

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Secretary of War Pete Hegseth outlines new national defense strategy during speech at Reagan Library

By Matthew Olay
(Dept. of War)

DECEMBER 6, 2025 -During a keynote speech that one Pentagon official speaking on background said represented a preview of the War Department's forthcoming National Defense Strategy, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth today outlined four distinct lines of effort for the department to take, so as to guarantee peace through strength for the U.S. and its allies in the coming years.

While delivering his remarks at the Ronald Reagan National Library's annual defense forum in Simi Valley, California, Hegseth underscored numerous parallels that he believes exist between the military strategies and policies of presidents Reagan and Donald J. Trump, while also emphasizing his view on the current president's commitment to strengthening the U.S. military.

"Make no mistake about it: President Trump is hellbent on maintaining and accelerating the most powerful military the world has ever seen; the most powerful, the most lethal and American-made ... the Arsenal of Freedom," Hegseth said.

He added that the War Department is also working to get back to basics on the topics of restoring the warrior ethos, readiness, accountability, standards, discipline and lethality.

Hegseth also said that the Trump administration and the War De-



Sec. of War Pete Hegseth speaks at the Ronald Reagan National Library's annual defense forum in Simi Valley. (Photo/Courtesy: Dept. of War)

partment are committed to putting America first and avoiding getting into seemingly unending foreign entanglements, as well as prioritizing the nation's security, freedom and prosperity of its citizens.

"We're doing it in a way that leaves not only our nation better off, but the world. Out with utopian idealism, and in with hard-nosed realism," he said.

To achieve those goals, Hegseth said it's necessary to prioritize the aforementioned "four key lines of effort" at the War Department: defending the U.S. homeland and its hemisphere; deterring China

through strength rather than force; increasing burden sharing between the U.S. and its allies and partners; and supercharging America's defense industrial base.

Speaking on the first topic of defending the U.S. homeland and its citizens, Hegseth said that since Jan. 20 and under Trump's direction, the War Department has made increasing security at the southern border and gaining 100% operational control a top priority.

"We did so by surging forces, where our troops partner with [the Department of Homeland

Security] and [U.S. Customs and Border Protection] to seal the border," Hegseth said, adding that the number of illegal border crossings today is at virtually zero.

He added that the War Department is proud to support law enforcement in the deportation of dangerous criminals here illegally and that the War Department and its interagency partners are leaning on the U.S. Mexican counterparts to do their part to combat illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

Hegseth also said that the U.S. border should be the last line of defense rather than the first, and that's why the War Department is prioritizing combatting narco-terrorist throughout the Western Hemisphere.

"These narco-terrorists are the al-Qaida of our hemisphere, and we are hunting them with the same sophistication and precision that we hunted al-Qaida," Hegseth said, adding that our allies in the region are also aiding in combatting narco-terrorism.

On the issue of China, Hegseth said that, thanks to the leadership of President Trump, relations between the U.S. and China are stronger than they have been in many years.

"President Trump and this administration seek a stable peace, fair trade and respectful relations," Hegseth said, adding that the War Department is committed to opening a wider range of military-to-military communications with China's People's Liberation Army aimed at deconfliction and de-escalation.

"This line of effort is based on flexible realism ... an approach aimed not at domination, but rather a balance of power ... that

will enable all of us, all countries, to enjoy a decent peace in the Indo-Pacific, where trade flows openly and fairly, where we can all prosper and all interests are respected," Hegseth said. "That's the world that we see in the Indo-Pacific, and that is what our approach is designed to produce," he added.

On increasing burden sharing with U.S. allies around the world, Hegseth said that many who have shaped U.S. foreign policy have "lost the plot" when it comes to treating our allies as if they are incapable of helping themselves.

"That is, of course, patently ridiculous — not to mention insulting to our allies," Hegseth said, adding that it's important for America's allies and partners to step up to do their part for our collective defense.

Noting that NATO countries have recently agreed to spend 5% of their gross domestic product on their defense, Hegseth said the Trump administration now hopes to apply that template to U.S. allies all around the globe.

"In a few years, thanks to President Trump's visionary leadership, we will have our allies — which include some of the wealthiest and most productive countries in the world — once again fielding combat credible militaries and more state-revived defense industrial industries," Hegseth said.

Along the fourth line of effort — defense industrial buildup — which he believes may be the most important, Hegseth said that "supercharging" America's defense industrial base underwrites all other lines of effort.

"Our objective is simple, if monumental: transform the entire acquisition system to rapidly accelerate the fielding of capabilities and focus on results," he said.

Hegseth said the key to that objective is moving away from the current, prime contractor-dominated, low-competition defense industrial base to "a future powered by dynamic vendor space that accelerates production by combining investment at a commercial pace, with the uniquely American ability to scale and scale quickly."

As his remarks concluded, Hegseth reiterated that the Trump administration is committed to putting America first by pursuing peace through strength.

"We're reviving the warrior ethos, we're rebuilding our great military and — every day — our warriors are reestablishing [deterrence]," Hegseth said.

"We owe safety, freedom and prosperity to the American people; and we will deliver."

Reagan National Defense Survey shows 62% of Americans want Ukraine to defeat Russia

From Newsmax Wire

Poll: Strong, Bipartisan US Support for Ukraine Over Russia

A widening majority of Americans want Ukraine to defeat Russia and support sending U.S. weapons to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's country, according to a new survey.

The findings from the Reagan National Defense Survey show 62% of Americans back Ukraine over Russia, with majorities of both Republicans and Democrats aligning behind Kyiv.

Support for sending U.S. weapons has climbed as well, rising nine percentage points to 64% compared to last year.

The data suggests Americans are increasingly skeptical of Russia's intentions and more supportive of a firm U.S. posture abroad, an outlook that fits with the "peace through strength" approach.

The survey also found deep distrust of Moscow when it comes to any negotiated settlement.

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"Across other questions that we have in the poll, they perceive Russia as an adversary. They perceive Ukraine as an ally."

Seventy percent of respondents said they don't trust Russia to honor a peace agreement it might sign with Ukraine. That includes 61% of Republicans and 77% of Democrats — evidence that concerns about Russia as a hostile power aren't limited to one party. When asked about end goals in the war, the largest share (45%) of respondents favored liberating all territory occupied by Russian forces. That was the top preference for both parties.

About a quarter said they could support Ukraine conceding some Russian-held territory in ex-

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Tennessee Highway Patrol arrests Georgia homicide suspect for triple murder in Gwinnett County, Georgia

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dec. 6, 2025 — The Tennessee Highway Patrol arrested a man early Saturday who was wanted in connection with a triple homicide in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

THP made the arrest with assistance from the Metro Nashville Police Department, the Robertson County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement partners in Georgia.

Shortly after midnight, THP received information that the suspect was traveling west on Interstate 24 in Rutherford County. Authorities shared the vehicle description, license plate number and the suspect's identity. Troopers located the vehicle in Davidson County and monitored it as it continued north on Interstate 65 before heading west

"This was a complex, fast-moving situation, and the teamwork among agencies ensured a safe resolution," Perry said. "We are grateful for the cooperation that helped bring a dangerous suspect into custody without harm to the public or our troopers and officers."

on Interstate 24 toward Robertson County. Additional law enforcement units positioned themselves to assist in stopping the vehicle.

The suspect had reportedly said he would not surrender. Metro Nashville's Air One unit, which helped track the vehicle, was instrumental in keeping law en-

forcement personnel and the public safe.

The suspect exited the interstate at the 19-mile marker in Robertson County (Maxey Road exit), where troopers conducted a high risk traffic stop and took him into custody without incident.

Col. Matt Perry praised the coordinated efforts that led to the arrest. "This was a complex, fast-moving situation, and the teamwork among agencies ensured a safe resolution," Perry said. "We are grateful for the cooperation that helped bring a dangerous suspect into custody without harm to the public or our troopers and officers."

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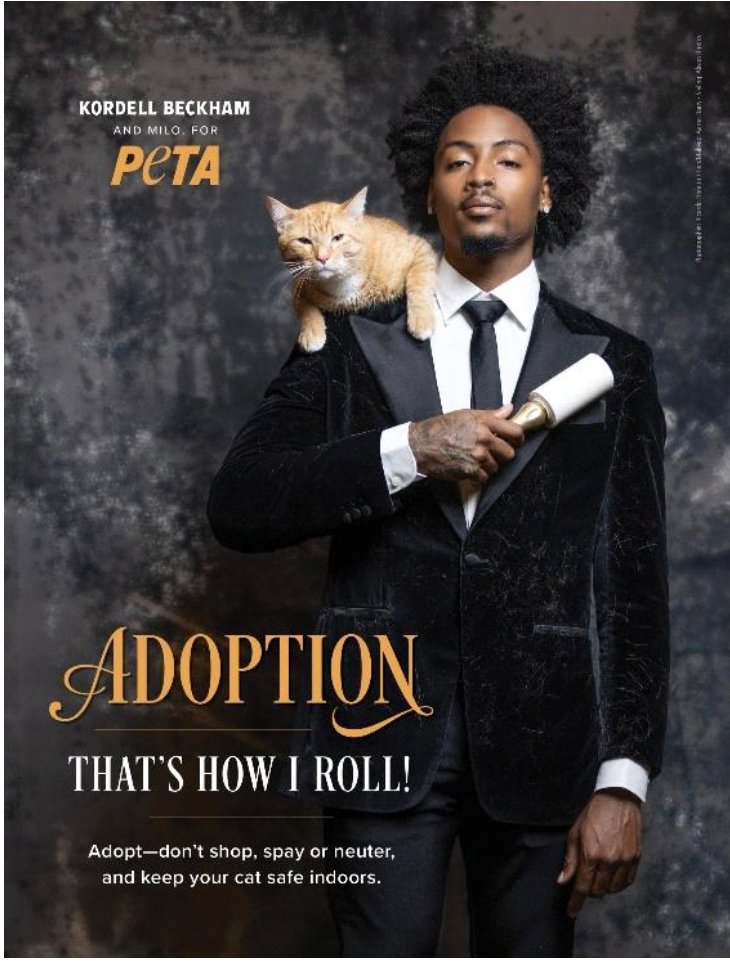
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The 'E' in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.
-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

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Coming in February 2026.



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