

DoD China Task Force Announcement

February 10, 2021

On February 10, President Biden announced the upcoming establishment of the Department of Defense China Task Force. This initiative will provide a baseline assessment of DoD policies, programs, and processes on China-related matters and provide the Secretary of Defense recommendations on key priorities and decision points to meet the China challenge.

- The Task Force will have up to 15 civilian and uniformed DoD employees.
- The Task Force will draw from a cross-section of the Department, to include representatives from:
 - Office of the Secretary of Defense
 - Joint Staff
 - Military Services
 - Combatant Commands
 - Intelligence Community
- The Director of the Task Force will be Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ely Ratner.
- The task force will be a “sprint” effort, examining high-priority topics that include:
 - Strategy;
 - Operational concepts;
 - Technology and force structure;
 - Force posture and force management;
 - Intelligence;
 - U.S. alliances and partnerships; and
 - Defense relations with China
- The task force will align its recommendations with interagency partners to ensure DoD continues to support the whole-of-government approach toward China.
- The task force will provide the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense its final findings and recommendations no later than four months after establishment. No final public report is anticipated, although the Department will discuss recommendations with Congress and other stakeholders as appropriate.
- Formal DoD guidance will be issued in the coming weeks.