

Memorandum

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

September 30, 2026

Overview

The Secretary of War has signed a [memorandum](#) that, **effective immediately**, establishes FORTRESS America, a comprehensive, Future Year Defense Program-aligned program that will reinforce the U.S. Military's ability to fight and win under any circumstances by securing sustained access to the critical capabilities, infrastructure, and resources on which it depends. FORTRESS America is designated as a priority and synchronized program. All Military Departments, Defense Agencies, and Field Activities **shall support its execution without reservation**.

FORTRESS America

Within 30 days of this order, the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment (USW A&S) is directed to stand up the FORTRESS America Program Office. This office will report directly to USW A&S who will appoint a member of the Senior Executive Service to lead operations, assisted by a two-star military advisor.

Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment, Michael Duffey, has directed 8 senior officials within multiple branches and departments to take steps in operationalizing the initiative, with Mr. Richard "Matt" O'Malley being designated as the Interim Director.

FORTRESS will be organized around five pillars:

- **Space and spectrum resilience:** Securing end-to-end mission assurance across space and electromagnetic domains by hardening satellite links; boosting positioning, navigation, and timing resilience; and integrating agile electronic protection to deny adversary interference.
- **Installation hardening and cyber resilience:** Modernizing force protection, structural fortification, zero-trust industrial control systems, command-and-control, and continuity-of-operations architectures.
- **Energy independence:** Ensuring resilient, sovereign, and uninterrupted power generation, distribution, and microgrid autonomy across all critical installations and operational nodes.
- **Supply chain and defense industrial base (DIB) resilience:** Securing domestic and allied supply lines, mitigating single points of failure, and insulating critical materiel pipelines from disruption.
- **Strategic defense reserve:** Building robust inventories, emergency capacity, and stockpile depth to sustain protracted military contingencies.

These pillars will ensure guaranteed access to materials, energy, industrial capacity, and secure infrastructure.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

Contractors, vendors, and resellers engaged with the Department of War should be aware of the following signals:

- Cyber hardening and resilience are a named priority – Vendors should advocate their solutions towards this motion
- Supply chain and DIB security are critical, with vendors aligning to current policies, such as CMMC, being foundational
- Funding is allocated through the Future Year Defense Program – No immediate budget allocated, with future program budgets being aligned in a multi-year format.

Vendors should expect the establishment of the program office in 30 days and should tailor their messaging around homeland resilience and security.