

Amendment to H.R. 4909

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017

Offered by Mr. Forbes

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 4909, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Intermediate-Range Ground-Launched Missiles

The committee is concerned that strategic competitors have fielded large numbers of theater ballistic missiles and ground-launched land-attack cruise missiles. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), in particular, possesses a large and growing inventory of these long-range ground-launched weapons that enables the PRC to hold targets at risk throughout a broad expanse of the Western Pacific. The PRC's possession of these missiles compels the United States and its allies and partners to confront the prospect that the PLA could strike a large set of targets with high value, including critical bases and infrastructure, with very little warning. The committee notes that the PRC's possession of these missile capabilities has resulted in the United States and its partners devoting a great deal of energy and resources to ballistic and cruise missile defense.

The committee notes that the United States, by contrast, is prohibited from fielding such systems by the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with the Russian Federation and several other former Soviet Republics, which prohibits the parties from fielding surface-to-surface ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (330-3,400 miles). The committee also notes that prior to the ratification of this treaty, the U.S. military possessed two medium-range surface-to-surface missile systems: the Army's MGM-31 Pershing II medium range ballistic missile (MRBM), and the Air Force's BGM-109G Gryphon ground-launched cruise missile (GLCM), a variant of the Navy's ship-launched Tomahawk.

The committee is interested in ascertaining whether conventional land-based surface-to-surface missiles would have military value to the United States, or to its allies, as a means of promptly striking time-sensitive and other high-value targets, as well as denying enemy use of adjacent waters. The committee believes that the possession of such capabilities by the United States could impose upon potential aggressors defensive costs, including those associated with developing and deploying ballistic and cruise missile defenses and suppressing and deterring missile launch, thereby helping the United States to improve its position in potential long-term

military competitions. In addition, while the committee is mindful of the potential implications of these systems for regional stability, the committee also believes that Russian violations of the INF Treaty cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely without implications for the long-term viability of the treaty if only the United States abides by it. Lastly, the committee notes that research and development of such systems is not prohibited by the INF treaty.

The committee therefore directs the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command to conduct a study on the potential military benefits of conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers and to provide the results to the congressional defense committees by not later than April 1, 2017. Such study shall address the following:

- (1) Whether such systems could contribute to more effective offense and defense, assurance and deterrence, against major powers in Europe, the Middle East and in the Western Pacific, including by evaluating the roles that medium and intermediate-range ground-launched fires played prior to U.S. ratification of the INF treaty;
- (2) The role of such systems in land-attack (including left-of-launch ballistic and cruise missile defense) and anti-ship capability;
- (3) How such systems could contribute to "cross domain operations" as described in the U.S. Army Operating Concept (TRADOC Palm 525-3-1): "Future Army forces will support Joint Force freedom of movement and action through the projection of power from land across the maritime, air, space, and cyberspace domains."
- (4) The estimated cost of developing and procuring such systems.
- (5) The potential force structure that would be required to deploy such systems, with and without long-range fires being strictly associated with ground maneuver units; and
- (6) The relative costs and benefits of potential INF-compliant long-range strike systems, such as boost-glide weapons, in comparison to systems prohibited by the INF Treaty.

The committee further directs that this study shall be resource-unconstrained and should not assume that resources would be provided at the expense of current or projected Total Obligational Authority for the U.S. Army. The Commander shall submit this report in unclassified form, with a classified annex if necessary.

The committee notes that elsewhere in the Act accompanying this report, it has recommended an increase in resources for the conventional prompt global strike development program, and it recommends a legislative provision regarding potential near-term limited operational capability for a conventional prompt strike system.