

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9836

To amend title 14, United States Code, to require the establishment of the Center of Expertise in Indo-Pacific Maritime Governance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 14, United States Code, to require the establishment of the Center of Expertise in Indo-Pacific Maritime Governance, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pacific Ready Coast
5 Guard Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTER OF EXPERTISE IN INDO-PACIFIC MARITIME**
2 **GOVERNANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 324. Center of Expertise in Indo-Pacific Maritime**
7 **Governance**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commandant of the
9 Coast Guard shall establish a Center of Expertise in Indo-
10 Pacific Maritime Governance (in this section referred to
11 as the ‘Center’). The Commandant shall model the Center
12 after the International Law Enforcement Academies and
13 the Department of Defense Institutes.

14 “(b) MISSION.—The Center shall be used to provide
15 and facilitate education, training, and research in mari-
16 time governance best practices, including how to build re-
17 gional state capacity.

18 “(c) ASSISTANCE.—To assist the Center in carrying
19 out the mission under subsection (b), upon request of the
20 Center, the head of any Federal agency may grant to the
21 Center access to the data, archives, and other resources
22 of that agency, and may detail any personnel of that agen-
23 cy to the Center.

24 “(d) JOINT OPERATION WITH PARTNER COUN-
25 TRY.—The Commandant shall seek to engage with appro-
26 priate representatives of a foreign country selected at the

1 discretion of the Commandant to reach an agreement for
 2 the operation of the Center. Any such agreement shall pro-
 3 vide for such country to furnish necessary administrative
 4 services and facilities for the Center, including by—

5 “(1) directly providing such services;

6 “(2) providing the funds for such services; or

7 “(3) coordinating with officials of an institution
 8 of higher education located in such foreign country
 9 for the provision of such services.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
 12 at the end the following new item:

“324. Center of Expertise in Indo-Pacific Maritime Governance.”.

13 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL PLAN FOR COAST GUARD OPERATIONS IN**
 14 **THE PACIFIC.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 14, United
 16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 17 lowing new sections:

18 **“§ 5116. Annual plan for Coast Guard operations in**
 19 **the Pacific**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31,
 21 2024, and annually thereafter, the Commandant of the
 22 Coast Guard, in consultation with the Secretary of State
 23 and Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate
 24 congressional committees a plan for Coast Guard oper-
 25 ations in the Pacific region for the year after the year

1 during which the plan is submitted. Such plan shall in-
2 clude, for the year covered by the plan, each of the fol-
3 lowing elements:

4 “(1) A list of objectives for Coast Guard en-
5 gagement in the Pacific region in support of Depart-
6 ment of State and Department of Defense missions.

7 “(2) An assessment of the capabilities of the
8 Coast Guard to support Department of State and
9 Department of Defense missions in the Pacific re-
10 gion.

11 “(3) A list of any areas in the Pacific region
12 where an increased Coast Guard presence would bet-
13 ter support Department of State and Department of
14 Defense missions.

15 “(4) The projected demand for Coast Guard en-
16 gagement in the Pacific region from the Department
17 of State and the Department of Defense for the year
18 covered by the plan and the subsequent 10 years.

19 “(5) An assessment of whether the Coast
20 Guard will be able to meet such projected demand
21 for the year covered by the plan, including a list of
22 any factors limiting the ability of the Coast Guard
23 to meet such projected demand.

1 “(6) A summary of the resources needed for the
2 Coast Guard to meet such projected demand for the
3 year covered by the plan, including—

4 “(A) staff;

5 “(B) infrastructure, including shore infra-
6 structure;

7 “(C) administrative and logistical support;
8 and

9 “(D) technology.

10 “(7) Any other matter as determined relevant
11 by the Commandant.

12 “(b) FORM.—Each plan under subsection (a) shall be
13 submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classi-
14 fied annex.

15 “(c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than February
16 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall
17 provide to the appropriate congressional committees a
18 briefing on the annual plan required under subsection (a)
19 submitted during the preceding year.

20 “(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
21 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congres-
22 sional committees’ means—

23 “(1) the Committee on Transportation and In-
24 frastructure of the House of Representatives;

1 “(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
2 House of Representatives;

3 “(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the
4 House of Representatives;

5 “(4) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
6 Transportation of the Senate;

7 “(5) the Committee on Appropriations of the
8 Senate; and

9 “(6) the Committee on Armed Services of the
10 Senate.

11 **“§ 5117. Annual budget display for Coast Guard oper-**
12 **ations in the Pacific**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 15,
14 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commandant of the
15 Coast Guard shall submit to the appropriate congressional
16 committees a detailed budget display for Coast Guard op-
17 erations in the Pacific region for the fiscal year after the
18 fiscal year during which the budget display is submitted.
19 The Commandant shall base such budget display on the
20 projected demand for Coast Guard engagement in the Pa-
21 cific region as identified in the most recent annual plan
22 developed under section 5116 of this title. Such budget
23 display shall include, for the year covered by the budget
24 display, the following information:

1 “(1) With respect to procurement accounts,
2 amounts displayed by account, budget activity, line
3 number, line item, and line item title.

4 “(2) With respect to research, development,
5 test, and evaluation accounts, amounts displayed by
6 account, budget activity, line number, program ele-
7 ment, and program element title.

8 “(3) With respect to operation and maintenance
9 accounts, amounts displayed by account title, budget
10 activity title, line number, and subactivity group
11 title.

12 “(4) With respect to military personnel ac-
13 counts, amounts displayed by account, budget activ-
14 ity, budget subactivity, and budget subactivity title.

15 “(b) FORM.—Each display under subsection (a) shall
16 be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a clas-
17 sified annex.

18 “(c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than February
19 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall
20 provide to the appropriate congressional committees a
21 briefing on the budget display required by subsection (a)
22 for the fiscal year after the fiscal year during which the
23 briefing is provided.

24 “(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
25 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congres-

1 sional committees’ has the meaning given such term in
 2 section 5116 of this title.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
 5 at the end the following new items:

“5116. Annual plan for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific.

“5117. Annual budget display for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific.”.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF STANDING INDO-PA-**
 7 **CIFIC MARITIME GROUP.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
 9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
 10 the Coast Guard shall submit to the appropriate congres-
 11 sional committees a report on the feasibility of establishing
 12 a standing Indo-Pacific maritime group, modeled after the
 13 Standing NATO Maritime Groups, to conduct humani-
 14 tarian and law enforcement missions in the Indo-Pacific
 15 region.

16 (b) CONTENTS.—The Commandant shall include in
 17 the report required under subsection (a)—

18 (1) findings on how such maritime group could
 19 enable the Coast Guard to work more effectively
 20 with partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region
 21 on—

22 (A) multilateral humanitarian missions;

23 (B) anti-piracy missions;

24 (C) emergency responses;

1 (D) maritime domain awareness issues;
2 and

3 (E) the prevention of unregulated and un-
4 reported fishing efforts; and

5 (2) any other matters as determined relevant by
6 the Commandant.

7 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FORWARD OPER-**
8 **ATING BASES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
11 the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Commander of
12 the United States Indo-Pacific Command, shall submit to
13 the appropriate congressional committees a report on es-
14 tablishing forward operating bases in the Indo-Pacific re-
15 gion.

16 (b) CONTENTS.—The Commandant shall include in
17 the report required under subsection (a)—

18 (1) a description of gaps in Coast Guard oper-
19 ations in the Indo-Pacific region, including any
20 logistical problems;

21 (2) a list of locations selected for the establish-
22 ment of such forward operating bases, including mo-
23 bile forward operating bases;

24 (3) a description of why each location on such
25 list was selected;

1 (4) the cost of establishing such forward oper-
2 ating bases;

3 (5) the non-monetary resources and approvals
4 needed to establish such forward operating bases, in-
5 cluding authorizations and cooperation agreements;
6 and

7 (6) a timeline for completing by not later than
8 January 1, 2030, the establishment of such forward
9 operating bases.

10 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON COAST GUARD ATTACHÉS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
13 the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Secretary of
14 State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees a report on Coast Guard attachés serving in em-
16 bassies in the Indo-Pacific region.

17 (b) CONTENTS.—The Commandant shall include in
18 the report required under subsection (a)—

19 (1) the number of such attachés actively serving
20 in such embassies;

21 (2) a list of any such embassies where an in-
22 creased allocation of such attachés could better sup-
23 port United States objectives in the Indo-Pacific re-
24 gion; and

