

**Statement of the Honorable Thomas G. DiNanno
Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security
U.S Department of State before the
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
March 24, 2026**

**“Arms Control and Transforming International Security
Functions at the State Department”**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of this Committee – thank you for inviting me to testify before you today. It is a pleasure to be back in front of this Committee, and an honor to be appearing for the first time as the confirmed Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

When I was before you as the nominee almost a year ago, I committed to you that as Under Secretary, I would seek verifiable and enforceable arms control agreements that enhance American national security. Without those two components of an arms control arrangement – or the political will to address non-compliance – we are only pursuing the illusion of security. I committed to advancing agreements that prioritize U.S. national security, strengthen those that don't, and reassess our participation in any agreement that constrains the United States or our interests. Sitting before you today, I can attest that I am keeping up with my commitments.

Last month, New START expired. That may have been concerning for some of you, and welcome news to others. The fact of the matter is: the Treaty was always destined to expire. There was no mechanism within the Treaty that would have allowed for its extension – the Biden Administration enacted its full extension provision in 2021. But even if extension was an available option, I still would have come before you to discuss why New START was no longer in the national interest.

As I stated in my remarks in Geneva last month, New START was a vestige of a security environment totally disconnected from the realities of today. Some might even argue that it was already largely obsolete even when it entered into force back in 2010. Why? Because two of its greatest flaws – though certainly not its only two – were that it failed to capture Russia’s non-strategic, or theater-range, capabilities and it failed to account for China’s nuclear weapons program at all. Even when New START was being negotiated, the United States was at a significant disadvantage with respect to Russia’s theater-range systems; indeed, an intolerable disadvantage. I know some of you here raised those very concerns when advice and consent for New START was being debated.

Chairman Risch, I know you understood this challenge and that's why you introduced an amendment that would have acknowledged the interrelationship between non-strategic and strategic offensive arms and that "the disparity between the Parties' arsenals could undermine predictability and stability." Opponents of your language argued that New START set the stage for limits on Russia's tactical nuclear weapons. That argument did not hold up well, as we have seen. But perhaps New START's expiration now sets the stage to address these capabilities through clear-eyed talks and negotiations.

Most critically, China used the opportunity of legally binding U.S.-Russian nuclear arsenal constraints to begin expanding its own nuclear arsenal at a historic, unprecedented pace. In other words, New START's inadequacies were compounded by the emergence of a third, near-peer nuclear rival whose ascendance was enabled by the Treaty itself. Arms control is only one part of my portfolio, expanded as it was by this summer's Department re-organization.

Introduction

I have the honor of being the first confirmed Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security overseeing the new "T" Under Secretariat, which was reorganized in July 2025 to implement Secretary Rubio's vision for efficient

international security affairs focused on core national security issues and President Trump's America First foreign policy. This new portfolio expands what is internally called the "T" Family with two additional bureaus, now totaling five under my purview, plus three offices. The "T" Family reorganization was designed to unite the State Department's primary security assistance and security diplomacy functions. It is my goal and challenge to steer the integration and collaboration of bureau missions, abolish fragmented efforts, and stimulate innovative approaches to address multi-dimensional security challenges. This realignment has strengthened the Department's international security functions. We have made much progress since this summer's re-organization and will continue to integrate our operations in the coming months and years.

Whereas the "T" Family previously consisted of three bureaus -- the Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability (ADS), the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), and the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM), we now have five bureaus: a long overdue merger of the arms control and nonproliferation bureaus into the newly established Bureau of Arms Control and Nonproliferation (ACN); the realignment of the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) into the "T" Family; the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs as well as the newly

established Bureau of Emerging Threats (ET). There is also the Office of the AUKUS Senior Advisor, a unified T Family Executive Office, and a centralized Outreach office focused on congressional, media, and public relations functions.

While the Department's reorganization was an expansive endeavor, I believe the new "T" Family was one of its most impactful and strategic transformations. All told, I now oversee ten programs and with the support of Congress expect to program almost \$9 billion of FY 2025 foreign assistance funding. Including diplomatic engagement funding, this comes to a combined annual budget of \$9.1 billion.

Arms Control and Nonproliferation

Under Secretary Rubio's leadership, the State Department has become leaner and more efficient, but also better aligned and suited to meet the challenges of today.

In my address to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva last month, one of my central themes on arms control applies to what this Administration has sought from its State Department reorganization. That is the theme of being "fit for purpose."

The old State Department was dated and static – designed to address diplomacy and national security, but sclerotic and slow moving and thus unable to best

address the challenges of today's security environment. One of the most relevant and important undertakings of the reorganization was the merger of the ADS and ISN bureaus. It is often said that disarmament and nonproliferation are two sides of the same coin. In the old Department, these two bureaus were often at odds with each other. Today, these functions are integrated, aligned, and complementary under the leadership of Assistant Secretary Yeaw.

ACN leads the charge in implementing several of President Trump's executive orders to advance U.S. leadership in nuclear energy, American airspace security, and drone technology. The bureau makes America more secure by preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and destabilizing advanced conventional weapons and related technologies. ACN protects both our national security and American industry through robust export controls, expanding the peaceful use of U.S. nuclear technology with the highest safety, security and nonproliferation standards, and encouraging international partners to do more to address malign proliferation threats.

The bureau also spearheads diplomatic efforts to increase global stability, reduce unintentional escalation, strengthen the enforcement of international bans on chemical and biological weapons, and implement the President's call to achieve a

better agreement on nuclear arms control through strategic stability dialogues. The President has been incredibly clear and consistent on his ultimate objective of a world with fewer nuclear weapons. The New START treaty was not fit for purpose for today's security environment and was fundamentally flawed – particularly as it allowed China's unconstrained, rapid, and opaque nuclear buildup. ACN will play an important role in the future of nuclear arms control. Likewise, the President made a clarion call to action on the biological weapons convention (BWC) during his speech at the UN in September: in addition to seeking to end the development of biological weapons, the President called for strengthening the enforcement of the BWC. Our team in ACN has been working diligently in the Department and with other agencies to bring these efforts to bear.

In just over six months since the merger, ACN has already achieved some key successes. We have entered into force one 123 agreement on civil-nuclear cooperation while completing negotiations with five additional partners, directly in support of Executive Order 14299. The bureau has also secured signature of five nuclear cooperation MOUs and two intergovernmental agreements to advance cooperation with those partners on civil nuclear power programs. Not only does this help us ensure that these countries will adhere to our strict standards for safety, security, and nonproliferation, but the commercial deals these agreements allow

will be lucrative for U.S. nuclear industries and American workers.

ACN has also helped strengthen and speed up how the United States vets visas to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive U.S. technologies. In 2025, such visa denials increased by over 100 percent – mainly for Chinese nationals. We've also issued over 100 demarches to interdict shipments that would aid malign actors in producing illicit missiles; prevented diversion of hundreds of millions of dollars of technology and dual-use goods to adversaries; protected U.S. technology and defense investments from predatory foreign acquisition – particularly by China; and helped partner countries establish foreign direct investment screening that aligns with U.S. national security interests to create a safer environment for American investment abroad. ACN also worked with our PM bureau to reform unmanned aerial systems (UAS) licensing policy to make these regulations easier for U.S. industry to compete globally, while at the same time, more difficult for adversaries to elude our nonproliferation objectives.

We are also in the process of engaging with other nuclear weapon states to advance the President's call for multilateral strategic stability and arms control. We have already made significant progress and have garnered widespread praise and support from other countries for our sound and seminal approach to nuclear arms control. No one can say that the United States has not made an effort to realize a

world with fewer nuclear weapons and to honor our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT, obligation to negotiate in good faith. We need active and willing partners, and we will continue to use the levers and tools at our disposal to achieve the President's objective.

As we pursue arms control, we are also strengthening deterrence. ACN is helping secure Indo-Pacific and European partners' commitment to increased burden-sharing and coordination to strengthen extended deterrence and deter aggression. It cannot be lost on our allies – or our adversaries – that the United States will remain committed to our extended deterrence partners. ACN also is diligently addressing threats from chemical and biological weapons. We continue seeking ways to strengthen the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and uphold the norm against chemical weapons use. We aim to help the organization maintain its credibility while also advancing the mission to destroy any remnant of the Assad-era chemical weapons program. We are leading the charge on strengthening enforcement of the BWC and trying to make the President's vision of an AI verification system for the treaty a reality – not sometime in the distant future, but in the very near term. As I said in my nomination hearing: for these arms control treaties and agreements to be effective, they must be verifiable and enforceable.

Bureau of Counterterrorism

Secretary Rubio's decision to include the Bureau of Counter Terrorism in the T family helps the Department break down bureaucratic silos and prioritize efficient and rapid response to threats. The T Family can now integrate counterterrorism with related security functions to coordinate responses to modern threats like terrorism, proliferation, transnational crime, and malign technology use.

CT delivers security for Americans at home and abroad using the appropriately expanded tools provided by President Trump's executive orders. In implementing E.O. 14157 on designating cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGT), for example, CT has contributed to the Department's designation of 15 new organizations, including Cartel de los Soles, Tren de Aragua, and Clan del Golfo. These designations enhance the U.S. government's ability to protect Americans by disrupting cartel financing, restricting their travel, and enhancing partner law enforcement's suite of tools. CT also implements the E.O. 14161, "Protecting the United States From Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats," to ensure that known and suspected terrorists are added to the U.S. Terrorist Watchlist and to share this information with select foreign governments to prevent attacks

before they occur. Broadly speaking, CT urges countries to use all tools available to deter terrorist groups, such as through watchlisting and working with law enforcement to detect and deter material support or terrorist travel.

By leading the Department's efforts to designate Iranian proxies—including Ansarallah (Houthis) and Iran-aligned militia groups in Iraq—as FTOs, CT has isolated dangerous actors and strengthened the maximum pressure campaign against Iran. CT also works with partners to share information on the activities of these organizations; its diplomatic outreach has helped secure the EU and Australia's designations of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), globalizing U.S. efforts to deny the IRGC the resources it needs to operate. CT has leveraged these designations to galvanize additional political action against Iranian-sponsored threats. It does this, for example, through Iran-focused technical exchanges with European, Latin American, and East Asian partners in the Countering Transnational Terrorism Forum. CT has also trained partners on maritime screening and interdiction efforts in the Red Sea, countering the Iran threat while shifting the burden to other concerned partners.

CT's work countering violence and destabilization from terrorists extends far beyond Iran into all areas of the globe, for example designating the Lebanese and

Sudanese chapters of the Muslim Brotherhood as FTOs and SDGTs in line with Executive Order 14362. CT also is leading international engagement on what our partners describe as a rise in far-left terrorism and extremism and has designated four Antifa-aligned groups in line with the National Security Presidential Memorandum 7. As I mentioned on this issue in Budapest last year, we must stop this destructive cancer before it metastasizes.

To further counter terrorist threats, CT ensures partners and allies carry their share of the global security burden through new, highly focused initiatives empowering foreign partners to stop terrorist travel, disrupt attacks, and protect U.S. citizens and interests. CT carefully oversees counterterrorism programs to train foreign law enforcement organizations to disrupt terrorist recruitment, attacks, transit routes, and apprehensions.

Emerging Threats

U.S. adversaries are developing and deploying advanced technologies in new and disruptive ways that threaten core American interests. Previously, the State Department did not anticipate or respond to how adversaries could weaponize technological changes to undermine U.S. national security. The Bureau of Emerging Threats (ET) was created to close this gap and ensure the Department

meets the demands of a 21st century security environment, in line with Secretary Rubio's calls for the Department to act at the speed of relevance. ET proactively identifies and addresses emerging threats at the nexus of technology and national security, leveraging diplomatic tools and interagency capabilities to counter adversary use of new technologies including in cyberspace, outer space, and undersea, as well as malicious uses of artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing.

ET's remit is unbounded in terms of domain, extending from the entire tech stack to underseas to cyberspace to outer space. On space security, ET leads diplomatic efforts to mitigate adversarial weaponization and exploitation of space assets. This includes countering China's use of space-enabling infrastructure in third countries—such as in the Western Hemisphere—to provide Beijing with a security advantage over the United States. ET's work in this domain was demonstrated by the recent inspection of China's Zhongshan station in Antarctica to verify compliance with the Antarctic Treaty, the first U.S. inspection of Zhongshan since 2012. ET also advances the Administration's priorities under Executive Order 14369, "Ensuring American Space Superiority," by encouraging allies and partners to invest in space security and shoulder their fair share of the collective burden.

On cybersecurity, ET leads the Department's efforts, alongside the Cyber and Digital Policy Bureau, to protect the United States against national security threats in cyberspace. In support of the President's new Cyber Strategy for America, the Bureau employs a proactive posture in a whole-of-government effort to disrupt, deny, and degrade adversary cyber aggression using our diplomatic toolkit and the full suite of U.S. government capabilities. ET also leads the Department in mitigating AI-related threats to national security—including promoting American AI security as the international gold standard and imposing costs on adversaries who engage in malicious behavior with AI systems.

In the undersea domain, ET uses diplomatic tools to disrupt, deter, and impose costs on adversary threats to critical undersea infrastructure like subsea cables and pipelines.

Through these and other efforts, ET keeps U.S. foreign policy at pace with technological change. It shifts the Department from a reactive posture against adversarial "Sputnik moments," to an anticipatory, strategic approach toward maintaining and advancing U.S. global power.

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

INL leads the Department's counternarcotics and anti-crime law enforcement efforts, which are top priorities for President Trump and Secretary Rubio. Through targeted security assistance, rewards and visa restrictions, and diplomatic engagement, INL delivers results that advance the America First agenda by degrading narco-terrorist organizations, disrupting drugs and crime harming American communities, and expanding U.S. strategic advantage and access in regions vital to U.S. national security.

INL enables U.S. and foreign law enforcement to dismantle cartels by depriving them of illicit proceeds, targeting their operations and leadership, and facilitating the arrest, prosecution, and extradition of key members and facilitators. One of INL's most successful tools is its support to 61 vetted units, where U.S. law enforcement agencies partner with foreign law enforcement units on operations and investigations with a U.S. nexus. Over the past year, these INL-supported vetted units resulted in the prosecution of 22 cartel operatives in Mexico and the arrest of FTO leaders across the Western Hemisphere.

INL protects Americans by countering the most significant drug and crime threats – disrupting U.S.-bound flows of illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine as well as cyber-enabled crime and predatory schemes defrauding Americans of

billions of dollars annually. In 2025, INL helicopters in Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, and Peru facilitated the eradication of 44,456 hectares of coca – approximately two-and-a-half times the size of Washington, D.C.; the seizure of 401 metric tons of cocaine and cocaine base; the destruction of 3,250 drug laboratories; the incineration of 207 metric tons of precursor chemicals; the law enforcement missions that resulted in the capture or neutralization of more than 200 narco-terrorists; and the destruction of illegal mining equipment responsible for tens of millions of dollars in annual FTO and transnational criminal organization revenues.

INL ensures the United States is the security partner of choice by strengthening the border and maritime security of key partners, enhancing foreign law enforcement cyber capabilities, and providing trusted U.S. technologies to replace untrusted Chinese-origin alternatives. For example, in 2025, INL enabled Vietnamese maritime law enforcement agencies to triple patrols in their exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea in response to Chinese grey zone activity.

Political-Military Affairs

The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM) serves as the principal link between the Department of State and the Department of War, advancing U.S. national

security objectives through diplomacy, defense trade, and security assistance. PM advances an America First foreign policy by safeguarding the homeland and preserving the United States' technological advantage through rigorous enforcement of export and acquisition controls, as well as defending U.S. technology from exploitation, diversion, or misuse. PM leverages security assistance to enable partners to defend against shared threats and shoulder more of the operational burden-sharing.

The bureau's work drives American prosperity by cutting regulations, streamlining acquisitions, and fast-tracking key cases. This ensures the United States remains a global leader in the national security innovation base, in line with Executive Orders 14265 and 14268. One of the most consequential reforms in the past year has been overhauling the list of items restricted to government-to-government transfers. After a thorough review, PM reduced this list by nearly a third, from over 125 items to 87, and narrowed controls to only the most sensitive sub-systems. We also updated our export policy for advanced Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or UAS, now treating requests for advanced UAS similarly to manned fighter aircraft to reflect technological advances and the needs of our partners. These changes ensure our partners get the capabilities they need to advance our mutual security objectives while protecting sensitive U.S. technologies.

PM also co-leads on “Establishing an America First Arms Transfer Strategy” under Executive Order 14383 to align U.S. arms transfers with national security priorities and revitalize America’s defense industrial base. Supporting over one million American jobs, this work links national security to economic growth and preserves the competitive advantages of the defense sector.

Beyond managing arms transfers, PM builds strong security partnerships and supports peacekeeping operations, aligning U.S. foreign policy and military strategies to promote global stability and protect American interests. Following a thorough review of U.S. security assistance under Executive Order 14169, PM has reprioritized key programs—including Foreign Military Funding, International Military Education and Training (IMET), Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs-Conventional Weapons Destruction (NADR-CWD), and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO)—to advance the President’s America First foreign policy agenda.

AUKUS

The FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act created the Office of the AUKUS Senior Advisor to lead robust diplomatic, security, and defense

cooperation among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The reorganization has allowed the AUKUS Senior Advisor to streamline regulatory processes across T bureaus and collaborate more seamlessly with the T Family. This has allowed the office to more effectively remove boundaries and red tape to rapidly deliver capabilities for the warfighter and wins for U.S. business. For example, the office has worked with the PM bureau to authorize a blanket Foreign Military Sales Third Party Transfer for the UK and Australia, expanding the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) exemption's practical use.

AUKUS has gained new momentum under President Trump's leadership and implementation is progressing rapidly, thereby strengthening the trilateral partnership as we move "full steam ahead." Last year, the partnership achieved significant milestones: Australia enabled a U.S. submarine to receive unexpected repairs before participating in an exercise, two U.S. submarines conducted maintenance visits in Perth, and the United Kingdom began its historic first foreign maintenance in Perth just last month and is increasing its presence in the Indo-Pacific.

AUKUS directly supports America's national strategic interests by strengthening allied deterrence in the Indo-Pacific and enhancing burden sharing. The office

advances several Executive Orders by supporting the restoration of the U.S. maritime industrial base (E.O. 14269), the modernization of defense innovation (E.O. 14265), and the improvement of the foreign defense sales system (E.O. 14268). For example, Australia has transferred \$2 billion to uplift our submarine industrial base, and Australian sailors are now serving on U.S. submarines and training at U.S. shipyards through Foreign Military Sales. The Office of the AUKUS Senior Advisor remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing U.S. leadership, strengthening our alliances, and ensuring a secure and prosperous future for America and our partners in the Indo-Pacific.

Conclusion

The T Family's reorganization and ongoing work directly advance the National Security Strategy by taking an America First approach to international security and arms control. We are advancing the Strategy's call for peace through strength by modernizing our arms control and nonproliferation efforts, countering adversaries' malign activities, and ensuring that American technological and military advantages are protected and expanded. T Family's integrated approach reflects the Strategy's emphasis on streamlining government and directing every element of national power on core U.S. interests. The T Family is delivering measurable results by protecting the homeland, supporting U.S. industry and innovation, and

prioritizing U.S. security interests worldwide.

As we continue integrating into the new T Family, we will identify additional ways we can collaborate with other bureaus to align mission sets and priorities, making the Department more efficient and effective in implementing the Secretary's vision for a safer, more secure, and more prosperous America. We will provide strategic and targeted foreign security assistance that puts U.S. interests first. We will leverage U.S. leadership to advance our priorities while shifting some of the costs of these programs from the U.S. taxpayer to our international partners and will promote reforms in international organizations that have for too long taken U.S. contributions for granted. We will protect American technological superiority, economic competitiveness, and national security. And we will bring about an arms control renaissance that strengthens and modernizes the international arms control architecture to ensure it is fit for today's – and the future's – security environment.