

**STATEMENT OF INTENT  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND  
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND**

**Introduction**

The strong defense relationship between the United States of America (“United States”) and the Republic of Finland (“Finland”) is a pillar of stability in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe. Our countries are determined to enhance transatlantic security and bilateral defense cooperation and uphold the fundamental principles of international law and security in Europe. Addressing the full spectrum of global and regional security challenges requires close defense and military cooperation, and partnership between our countries.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Ministry of Defense of Finland (MOD) intend to uphold the shared vision of a Europe free, whole, and at peace by enhancing and expanding the bilateral defense relationship. The U.S. DoD and the Finnish MOD recognize that U.S. presence in and around the Baltic Sea undergirds stability in the region, and creates opportunities to increase defense cooperation between our countries.

**Aim**

This Statement of Intent sets out our strategic resolve to deepen and increase the practical cooperation and collaboration between the U.S. DoD and the Finnish MOD by building on current cooperative activities, and implementing new initiatives to work together effectively and efficiently. Expanded defense cooperation between the U.S. DoD and the Finnish MOD complements other bilateral defense arrangements in the region, and multilateral arrangements such as

those with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Nordic Defense Cooperation (NORDEF), and the European Union (EU).

## **Objectives**

We intend to enhance our defense partnership further and to improve our defense cooperation through a wide range of activity areas, including but not limited to:

- Deepening bilateral and multilateral dialogue on defense policy;
- Actively exchanging information at strategic and operational levels as appropriate;
- Enhancing defense capability, readiness, and interoperability;
- Strengthening our ability to work together through training and exercises;
- Increasing armaments cooperation and collaboration in research, development, test, and evaluation; and
- Strengthening U.S. and Finnish capability to act together in multinational operations.

## **Means**

To achieve those objectives, the U.S. DoD and the Finnish MOD intend to:

- Conduct regular bilateral and multilateral strategic defense dialogues;
- Explore opportunities to enhance further Finland's defense cooperation with NATO;
- Increase active operational-level information sharing, discourse, and exercise planning;
- Increase joint training and exercises;
- Identify and pursue possible new initiatives to improve interoperability;
- Increase cooperative research and development, especially in such focus areas as cyber; air and space; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense; arctic technologies; and ship building;

- Identify and pursue means for fostering armaments cooperation, operational testing and evaluation, and building industrial base cooperation, including ensuring security of supply; and
- Develop cooperation in multinational operations (including but not limited to NATO and coalition frameworks), share lessons learned, and look for new opportunities to contribute to international peace and security.

### **Status**

This Statement of Intent is not a legally binding commitment between the United States and Finland under international or national law.

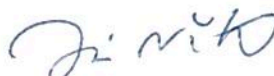
This Statement of Intent does not substitute for or invalidate any existing defense agreements, arrangements or Memoranda of Understanding between the United States and Finland.

The U.S. DoD and the Finnish MOD intend to modify this Statement of Intent as defense cooperation develops. The implementation of this Statement of Intent is intended to be reviewed regularly.

**SIGNED** at Helsinki, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016, in duplicate.



FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA:



FOR THE MINISTRY OF  
DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF FINLAND: