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Week 13

Military Redeployment and Strategic Base Consolidation

"We defend allies. We do not subsidize them indefinitely."

1. The Problem

America has troops in 80 countries at an annual basing cost of \$50-60 billion — some protecting genuine strategic interests, others subsidizing wealthy allies who have chosen to underfund their own defense knowing the United States will cover the gap indefinitely. 221,599 U.S. personnel are deployed overseas as of December 2025, many without a defined mission, measurable outcomes, or realistic exit criteria.

2. The Governing Principle

We defend allies. We do not subsidize them indefinitely. Every overseas presence is evaluated against four questions: Does it directly protect a U.S. security interest or fulfill a treaty obligation with genuine mutual benefit? Is the host nation meeting its own defense spending commitments? Is there a defined mission with measurable outcomes and exit criteria? What is the cost per unit of strategic benefit? Presence that passes all four stays. Presence that fails is reduced, renegotiated, or eliminated on a defined timeline.

3. The Specific Policy

The Four-Question Framework Applied Country by Country

- **Japan — 53,500 troops, stays:** 7th Fleet headquarters at Yokosuka, Marine Corps air stations, Air Force installations. North Korean nuclear capability is real and growing. Chinese military expansion toward Taiwan is the defining strategic challenge of the next decade. Japan is the forward anchor of Pacific deterrence — passes all four questions. What changes: burden sharing renegotiated on American terms. Japan pays host nation support at a renegotiated level reflecting the genuine cost of protection provided.
- **South Korea — 26,722 troops, stays:** the Korean Peninsula is an active armistice, not a peace treaty. North Korea has nuclear weapons and delivery systems. The presence is the deterrent. Stays. Burden sharing renegotiated — same terms as Japan. South Korea pays a renegotiated host nation support level reflecting full cost.
- **Germany — 36,300 troops, stays with conditions:** Ramstein Air Base is the logistics backbone of every U.S. military operation in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center treats casualties from every theater. Germany hit its 2% NATO commitment in 2024 for the

first time. That standard is maintained. Any reduction below 2% triggers a proportional reduction in U.S. basing commitment. You want American troops, you meet American-level commitment.

- **NATO eastern flank — Poland, Romania, Baltic states — maintain and strengthen:** post-Ukraine invasion, the deterrence value of U.S. presence on the eastern flank is not theoretical. It is the difference between Russia stopping at Ukraine and Russia testing Article 5. Every NATO eastern flank member meets the 2% commitment or faces proportional reduction in supplemental U.S. support.
- **Philippines — expanding presence under 2025-2026 access agreements, stays:** new access agreements position U.S. forces to respond to Chinese military action in the South China Sea and toward Taiwan. This is forward positioning for the most likely major conflict scenario of the next decade. The governing standard supports it.
- **Middle East — active operations not subject to drawdown while ongoing:** the 2026 military buildup and strikes on Iran represent the largest U.S. Middle East operation since 2003. Active combat operations are not subject to the four-question drawdown framework while ongoing. You finish what you start with the resources needed to finish it. The four questions apply to permanent basing decisions once active operations conclude. What the platform commits to: no open-ended, permanent, undefined presence without a mission and exit criteria once active operations are complete.
- **The remaining 80-country footprint — reduce:** beyond major strategic installations, the U.S. has troops in approximately 80 countries through advisory missions, access agreements, and rotational deployments — many through institutional inertia rather than strategic necessity. Four-question framework applied to each. Presence that cannot demonstrate progress toward defined objectives ends.

Reinvestment and Redeployment of Savings

- **Redirected savings fund domestic priorities:** military medical personnel from reduced overseas deployments provide bridge staffing for Week 10 rural health clinics while the civilian pipeline builds. Army Corps of Engineers capacity redirected to Week 11 water infrastructure and Week 22 housing construction. Estimated annual savings from footprint reduction: \$10-20 billion per year directed to domestic investment.
- **Guantanamo Bay — close the detention facility, refit for naval ship maintenance:** GTMO detention is legally and diplomatically costly and produces no strategic benefit proportionate to the cost. Close the detention facility. Refit the naval installation as a full-service ship maintenance facility for the Atlantic Fleet, including the Week 17 Federal Maritime LNG Carriers. American ships maintained at an American federal facility.

4. Estimated Cost Savings

Current annual overseas basing cost: \$50-60 billion. Estimated savings from footprint reduction in non-strategic locations: \$10-20 billion per year by Year 4. Burden sharing renegotiations with Japan, South Korea, Germany, and NATO partners generate an estimated \$5-10 billion per year in additional host nation contributions. Total net savings: \$15-30 billion per year redirected to domestic priorities.

5. Year 1 Implementation and Measurable Result

Year 1 measurable result: four-question framework applied to all 80-country overseas presence within 90 days with public report; burden sharing renegotiation initiated with Japan, South Korea, and Germany within 60 days; first tranche of Army Corps of Engineers capacity redirected to Week 11 water

infrastructure by end of Year 1; Guantanamo Bay detention facility closure plan delivered to Congress within 180 days.

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