



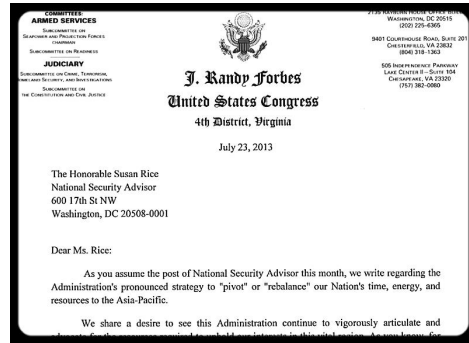
Whole of Government Asia-Pacific Strategy Review

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This past summer a bipartisan group in the House of Representatives sent a [letter](#) to newly appointed National Security Advisor Susan Rice, urging the administration to lead an interagency *Asia-Pacific Strategy Review* for the purpose of implementing the Asia-Pacific Rebalance. The letter calls for clear policy guidance for the Department of Defense, State Department, Congress, and others outside of the White House. In this protracted period of Congressional gridlock in Washington, the U.S. policy towards the Asia-Pacific is one of the few areas attracting bipartisan attention, and Congress is seeking clarity and support from the White House.

The Administration response came on October 9 in a letter from State Department Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative affairs Thomas Sullivan. The letter did not go so far as to reject the need for an Asia-Pacific Strategy review; instead it referenced the [2010 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review \(QDDR\)](#) as the basis for State Department and USAID strategy and guidance while highlighting ongoing efforts to implement the rebalance and coordinate with interagency and foreign partners. The QDDR provides a blueprint for the State Department and USAID, but it falls short of providing guidance to other government departments and agencies.

Successful implementation of the Asia-Pacific rebalance will require the coordination of all the relevant U.S. government agencies, but at present there is no single government-wide plan for executing the policy. The Department of Defense released its latest [strategic guidance](#) in 2012 (two years after the QDDR), but a collection of strategy documents from different agencies does not necessarily equal a clear, unified, implementable plan, and according to Congress, this is precisely what is needed for the rebalance to succeed.

Image derived from a letter published via [forbes.house.gov](#).