WEBVTT

00:00:03.100 --> 00:00:18.200
<v SPEAKER_1>In this episode of Defence Deconstructed, which we recorded on the 20th of March, 2026, we're talking to Randall Schriver and Mike Kuiken, the chair and vice chair respectively of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, to talk about the commission's 2025 annual report to Congress.

00:00:19.060 --> 00:00:31.820
<v SPEAKER_1>We talked about the work that the commission has done historically, updates on particular areas, including the focused link between China and Iran, and how the report and the commission's works fits into the wider US national security defense ecosystem.

00:00:33.740 --> 00:00:35.860
<v SPEAKER_1>Randy, Mike, welcome to Defence Deconstructed.

00:00:36.700 --> 00:00:37.540
<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for having us.

00:00:38.160 --> 00:00:39.100
<v SPEAKER_3>Thank you very much.

00:00:41.000 --> 00:00:46.160
<v SPEAKER_1>Really happy to have the two of you on to talk about some of the work the commission's done.

00:00:46.160 --> 00:00:53.540
<v SPEAKER_1>I think both the annual report and a bit of an update that is fairly timely on links between the United States and China in Iran.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Randy, maybe before we get into some of the substance of that, could you just talk for a Canadian audience, explain a little bit about the commission, how it was originally constituted, how its work is done and help Canadians understand how we should reflect on the really substantial body of work that the commission does and how that fits in the US national security defense ecosystem.

00:01:16.280 --> 00:01:16.980
<v SPEAKER_2>Happy to.

00:01:17.020 --> 00:01:19.200
<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, we're one of the older commissions in Congress.

00:01:19.220 --> 00:01:31.280
<v SPEAKER_2>We were established in legislation in 2000 and stood up in 2001, and this coincided with the agreement to grant China

permanent normal trade relations and its entry into WTO.

00:01:31.720 --> 00:01:38.280
<v SPEAKER_2>We used to have an annual most favored nation trading status debate as it related to China.

00:01:38.280 --> 00:01:59.180
<v SPEAKER_2>That debate typically was a platform for members of Congress to air their various concerns about China, particularly economic practices that were unfair and caused harm to the United States and our citizens and companies, and growing concerns about security at the time.

00:01:59.840 --> 00:02:15.140
<v SPEAKER_2>This commission was created to keep an eye on all things China and to report to Congress, some of which is mandated, so every year we'll have a chapter on Taiwan, some of which we have latitude to really identify what issues we think we should address in a given year.

00:02:16.700 --> 00:02:30.840
<v SPEAKER_2>And it's a bipartisan commission, and we represent congressional leadership in both chambers, so the Senate Majority Leader gets three picks, Minority Leader three picks, Speaker of the House three picks, Minority Leader in the House three picks, so six Republicans, six Democrats.

00:02:31.220 --> 00:02:39.320
<v SPEAKER_2>And we have generally come together with a consensus report across party lines, and that was the case last year.

00:02:39.680 --> 00:02:56.460
<v SPEAKER_2>We work hard to not only do the deep dive analysis, but come up with what we think are both thoughtful and somewhat forward-leaning recommendations, but also practical that Congress can actually pick up in legislation or other congressional activities.

00:02:56.800 --> 00:03:04.240
<v SPEAKER_2>And so we have built a track record over the course of a couple decades now, of having Congress pick up a lot of our work.

00:03:04.240 --> 00:03:17.480
<v SPEAKER_2>Sometimes it's not in the year that we recommend it, sometimes we're out front and we're kind of trying to look at the horizon or over the horizon and identify issues as they're emerging and make recommendations to Congress.

00:03:17.480 --> 00:03:32.900
<v SPEAKER_2>So sometimes they might have a year or two pass before they see that there's a recommendation in the hopper waiting for them

to pick up and run with based on really good work by the team and the Commission.

00:03:33.140 --> 00:03:34.520
<v SPEAKER_2>So we've got a great staff.

00:03:34.640 --> 00:03:43.480
<v SPEAKER_2>They do a lot of the research analysis and writing and the Commissioners come in and help with the final product and also come up with the recommendations.

00:03:43.480 --> 00:03:45.280
<v SPEAKER_2>So that's the general background.

00:03:46.600 --> 00:03:51.300
<v SPEAKER_3>David, the one thing I'd pile on is that a lot of times the staff is actually looking at Chinese language source material.

00:03:51.540 --> 00:03:59.440
<v SPEAKER_3>So it's not that we're sort of, you know, depending on the think tank industrial complex here in Washington, they are reaching out to these, you know, source documents in China.

00:03:59.920 --> 00:04:04.220
<v SPEAKER_3>And that I think really deepens the level of research and fidelity that we have in our work.

00:04:05.840 --> 00:04:06.340
<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:04:06.340 --> 00:04:09.180
<v SPEAKER_1>And just for listeners, it might not be familiar.

00:04:09.180 --> 00:04:12.840
<v SPEAKER_1>I think this is incredibly substantive work.

00:04:12.840 --> 00:04:20.860
<v SPEAKER_1>So we're going to skim wave tops off of wave tops here with some of the substance, given that the breadth and scope and depth of the analysis.

00:04:21.280 --> 00:04:23.860
<v SPEAKER_1>And maybe, Mike, just ask you to give a bit of a sense.

00:04:23.860 --> 00:04:44.700
<v SPEAKER_1>Before we get into some of the specifics about the 2025 report, you maybe just put in context what you'd say like as a trend over time between the initiation of the commission to today, like what are some of the high level changes in findings or focus, what's evolved since the initiation to where we are today?

00:04:45.500 --> 00:04:53.300
<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, one of the things I would tell you is that I think in early days, that there's probably more of an economic focus and a trade focus to a lot of the work.

00:04:53.380 --> 00:05:01.140
<v SPEAKER_3>And that the sort of security element of our mandate has really grown over time as the Chinese have become more aggressive in the region.

00:05:01.320 --> 00:05:03.080
<v SPEAKER_3>I think that's the sort of big thing I would take away.

00:05:03.080 --> 00:05:12.080
<v SPEAKER_3>And then in the last few years, and this certainly started before I joined the commission, there were a few commissioners that became intensely focused on some of the technology areas of competition.

00:05:12.080 --> 00:05:27.960
<v SPEAKER_3>And this sort of coincided with Congress' deep dive into doing chips in science, a piece of legislation that one sought to sort of increase funding for science and technology research, but also to make that big investment in the chips industry.

00:05:30.100 --> 00:05:33.040
<v SPEAKER_1>Randy, do you have anything you wanted to add just in terms of the evolution?

00:05:33.540 --> 00:05:36.440
<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, maybe just to foot stomp one of the points Mike made.

00:05:36.720 --> 00:05:54.600
<v SPEAKER_2>When the Commission was founded, the original China hawk community was really two groups, religious freedom and human rights on one side, which was a bipartisan endeavor and trade, and particularly US labor concerns.

00:05:54.980 --> 00:05:58.720
<v SPEAKER_2>And so that really informed the work of the Commission in early days.

00:05:58.720 --> 00:06:06.600
<v SPEAKER_2>And what we saw from the late 90s on was extraordinary investment on the part of the Chinese into the PLA modernization efforts.

00:06:06.600 --> 00:06:16.160

<v SPEAKER_2>And so all of these things are sort of converging, substantial investment into the PLA and conventional capabilities, but also the merging of technology.

00:06:16.160 --> 00:06:24.860
<v SPEAKER_2>We did a hearing and some analysis on China space last year, which for them is a warfighting domain.

00:06:24.860 --> 00:06:37.700
<v SPEAKER_2>And we've seen tremendous progress in terms of their ISR infrastructure, intelligence surveillance and the architecture they've built to go from sensing to shooter.

00:06:38.780 --> 00:06:41.360
<v SPEAKER_2>And now we're looking at AI quantum.

00:06:41.620 --> 00:06:48.400
<v SPEAKER_2>And again, that bleeds into security when you think of autonomous systems, when you think of complex battle space management.

00:06:48.740 --> 00:06:54.640
<v SPEAKER_2>So we were, I think, originally viewed as a little bit hawkish and a little bit niche.

00:06:55.220 --> 00:07:02.820
<v SPEAKER_2>I think the center of gravity in the United States and the discussion about China has moved and we're probably a little more in the center of things.

00:07:03.100 --> 00:07:12.160
<v SPEAKER_2>Although now we try to make our mark by really looking at those issues that are emerging and maybe underappreciated, not quite in the inbox yet of the Congress.

00:07:12.800 --> 00:07:17.180
<v SPEAKER_2>So I think that's a very good space for us to operate in.

00:07:17.180 --> 00:07:28.100
<v SPEAKER_3>David, the other thing I would say is that because we're pushing into new spaces that are not always sort of the alligator closest to the boat for Congress, that a lot of the work we do is literacy work.

00:07:28.360 --> 00:07:37.420
<v SPEAKER_3>So how do you give members of Congress the sort of bedrock to build on when they, one, need ideas, but two, just need to know what the issues are and how to think about it.

00:07:37.600 --> 00:07:42.580
<v SPEAKER_3>So if you look at last year's report, we had a fairly

substantive section on quantum.

00:07:42.940 --> 00:07:48.160
<v SPEAKER_3>In that section, one of the things we literally did was just explain the quantum information science space.

00:07:48.160 --> 00:07:52.580
<v SPEAKER_3>We did a little bit in the 2024 report and then built on in the 25 report.

00:07:52.580 --> 00:08:06.960
<v SPEAKER_3>But that literacy piece of it is really important when you get into technology spaces because a lot of these things are on the frontier and it's hard to find good sources that have the backing of the government that people can rely on.

00:08:08.420 --> 00:08:08.920
<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:08:08.920 --> 00:08:18.580
<v SPEAKER_1>So as I mentioned at the outset, we need to have you on here for an awful lot longer than we normally have guests for to go through all of the 25 report and substantive details.

00:08:18.580 --> 00:08:34.920
<v SPEAKER_1>But maybe we can pull out a couple of different things and drill into them and as a bit of a focus, then I invite you to maybe, if there's anything really important, you think for allied audience in Canada to be aware of, but we can maybe talk about space, innovation, manufacturing, supply chain, security, Taiwan, and then AI and quantum.

00:08:36.560 --> 00:08:39.140
<v SPEAKER_1>Randy, you touched on space a minute ago.

00:08:39.140 --> 00:08:49.960
<v SPEAKER_1>I think maybe with the frame that Mike just used, what the issue is and how to think about it from that kind of basic literacy, from a Canadian perspective looking at US thinking on this.

00:08:51.100 --> 00:08:58.920
<v SPEAKER_1>Just get you an opportunity to elaborate a little bit of what you offered about the discussion about Chinese space capability and space activity.

00:08:59.820 --> 00:09:03.820
<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, there's a couple aspects to this that I would highlight.

00:09:03.840 --> 00:09:13.540

<v SPEAKER_2>One is the extraordinary surge that China has really promoted in terms of its own capability launches kit in space.

00:09:14.300 --> 00:09:17.360
<v SPEAKER_2>The last five, six years has been extraordinary.

00:09:18.360 --> 00:09:20.880
<v SPEAKER_2>I experienced this in a personal way.

00:09:20.880 --> 00:09:31.440
<v SPEAKER_2>I stepped away from government and came on to the commission a few years later, and I was just astounded by how much they had advanced in a short period of time.

00:09:31.740 --> 00:09:37.180
<v SPEAKER_2>One aspect is really the aggressive nature of their operations in this domain.

00:09:37.440 --> 00:09:40.820
<v SPEAKER_2>Second aspect is they really do see it as a warfighting domain.

00:09:40.820 --> 00:09:57.600
<v SPEAKER_2>I think for a lot of Americans and maybe Canadians, we think of it as the great exploration, the great adventures, flying into space to find that next frontier and going to the moon to plant a flag and all that.

00:09:57.700 --> 00:10:10.400
<v SPEAKER_2>The Chinese from their earliest days of space exploration have also been keenly interested in how it improves their military capabilities, how they can use space as a counter space domain.

00:10:11.300 --> 00:10:18.460
<v SPEAKER_2>We have space-based assets that the Chinese have put up that would complicate our own operation of satellites and sensors.

00:10:19.300 --> 00:10:21.060
<v SPEAKER_2>I think that's the second aspect.

00:10:21.300 --> 00:10:25.740
<v SPEAKER_2>The third is the direct implications on warfighting.

00:10:26.340 --> 00:10:48.900
<v SPEAKER_2>To put it in as concrete terms as I think I can, five, maybe seven years ago, if a US aircraft carrier battle group got underway out of San Diego, in the West Coast of the United States and transited to the Western Pacific, which would be the main theater of conflict, given the contingencies we know about Taiwan, East China Sea, South China Sea.

00:10:49.260 --> 00:10:57.280
<v SPEAKER_2>During that transit, it could have largely been completed without a lot of Chinese tracking and sensing.

00:10:57.840 --> 00:11:10.480
<v SPEAKER_2>Intermittent, maybe, but basically, it would pop up from time to time and then really, the first good look that Chinese would have on these activities would be when we entered the Western Pacific in there near abroad.

00:11:11.000 --> 00:11:13.200
<v SPEAKER_2>Now, they can have persistent coverage of that.

00:11:13.560 --> 00:11:30.340
<v SPEAKER_2>Not only can they see, sense, and track the quality when you get into sensing and tracking, you really hope to have high-quality data that is target-worthy.

00:11:30.960 --> 00:11:36.980
<v SPEAKER_2>So they have the ability now, as soon as we get underway to see, sense, track the whole way and actually target.

00:11:36.980 --> 00:11:47.560
<v SPEAKER_2>That's an extremely new and really risky environment in which we would be operating, and that affects all our surface platforms.

00:11:47.560 --> 00:11:52.280
<v SPEAKER_2>That affects as a distant power dealing with the tyranny of time and distance.

00:11:52.280 --> 00:11:55.960
<v SPEAKER_2>We've got to get underway from places like the West Coast and Hawaii.

00:11:57.880 --> 00:12:02.340
<v SPEAKER_2>Given a strategic warning that the Chinese will have now, that's a real game changer.

00:12:03.580 --> 00:12:22.800
<v SPEAKER_3>David, the analogy that I always give for space is everyone's been driving down, I guess, TransCanada would be the analogy for you, and you're humming along at let's say 100 kilometers an hour, and you've been humming along at that speed for a while, and you see this car in the distance of your rear view mirror, and you're like, wow, that car is going fast.

00:12:23.640 --> 00:12:29.740
<v SPEAKER_3>Before you know it, that car is flying by you, your

windows rattle, that noise of the air pressure hitting up against your windows.

00:12:30.180 --> 00:12:33.300
<v SPEAKER_3>The democratic world has been doing incredibly well at space for a long time.

00:12:33.300 --> 00:12:41.460
<v SPEAKER_3>We're that car humming along at 100 kilometers an hour, and the Chinese are catching up fast, and in some areas have really surpassed us.

00:12:41.520 --> 00:12:52.480
<v SPEAKER_3>That is the alarm bell that we tried to ring last year, and I think we're going to try to continue to pull the outer space threat into this year, potentially with some more exploration on this issue.

00:12:52.600 --> 00:12:56.540
<v SPEAKER_3>Then the other thing I thought Randy would touch on it is, the convergence.

00:12:56.880 --> 00:13:03.140
<v SPEAKER_3>Space is one of these really interesting places, and you're going to hear me come back to this theme of convergence, because it is going to be the theme of 2026.

00:13:04.400 --> 00:13:09.540
<v SPEAKER_3>If we're going to survive in space, we need to think about what is the convergence of biotech in space?

00:13:10.220 --> 00:13:13.080
<v SPEAKER_3>How do we feed ourselves in space for enduring periods of time?

00:13:13.600 --> 00:13:17.280
<v SPEAKER_3>What is the convergence of space and energy requirements?

00:13:17.300 --> 00:13:18.800
<v SPEAKER_3>How are we going to build a base on the moon?

00:13:18.800 --> 00:13:20.680
<v SPEAKER_3>How are we going to build a base on Mars?

00:13:20.680 --> 00:13:22.240
<v SPEAKER_3>How are we going to sustain those bases?

00:13:22.240 --> 00:13:23.720
<v SPEAKER_3>And the way we do that is with energy.

00:13:24.020 --> 00:13:30.520
<v SPEAKER_3>And so the first deployments of let's say a small modular reactor might actually be on space or in space.

00:13:30.580 --> 00:13:40.960
<v SPEAKER_3>And so these kind of technology convergences with the space community are going to be very interesting to keep an eye on and undoubtedly will become the frontier of competition as we think about it.

00:13:41.000 --> 00:13:45.320
<v SPEAKER_3>And then I just want to boil down something that Randy said because this is truly what's happening.

00:13:45.360 --> 00:13:50.620
<v SPEAKER_3>The Chinese are doing an incredible job of doing what's called operational preparation of the environment.

00:13:50.800 --> 00:13:56.660
<v SPEAKER_3>The next war in all likelihood, the first sort of indications and warning will come from space or cyberspace.

00:13:56.980 --> 00:14:05.100
<v SPEAKER_3>And the Chinese are doing an incredible job of doing operational preparation of the environment to ensure that that window of indication of warnings really shrinks.

00:14:05.300 --> 00:14:08.140
<v SPEAKER_3>And space and cyber are incredible places to do that.

00:14:08.240 --> 00:14:14.880
<v SPEAKER_3>So that concept of OPE in the military context is incredibly powerful and something to always keep an eye on.

00:14:16.580 --> 00:14:31.300
<v SPEAKER_1>Mike, to stay with you, I think both of you touched a little bit on the AI and quantum and certainly there's been lots of discussion about various efforts by the United States to invest in some domestic technologies.

00:14:32.000 --> 00:14:39.980
<v SPEAKER_1>I guess from a Canadian lens, a bit of a bouncing ball about restrictions on some chip exports, which seems to have waxed and waned a little bit.

00:14:40.400 --> 00:14:51.860
<v SPEAKER_1>Just talk a little bit about what you're suggesting that people be aware of in both of those spaces and how the United States is thinking about the advancements in technology that China is making with both AI and quantum.

00:14:53.800 --> 00:14:55.860
<v SPEAKER_3>There's two stories here, David.

00:14:55.860 --> 00:15:05.680
<v SPEAKER_3>First, we did a recommendation in the 2024 report on quantum, and the idea was to vertically integrate both as the US and with our friends and allies.

00:15:05.680 --> 00:15:07.900
<v SPEAKER_3>That was the recommendation we had in the 2024 report.

00:15:08.100 --> 00:15:13.320
<v SPEAKER_3>Last year, we did a much deeper dive on it and built out the conversation about quantum in a pretty big way.

00:15:13.480 --> 00:15:16.380
<v SPEAKER_3>There's basically three major areas of research in quantum.

00:15:16.380 --> 00:15:20.460
<v SPEAKER_3>One is quantum compute, the other is quantum communications, and the other is quantum sensing.

00:15:22.140 --> 00:15:33.720
<v SPEAKER_3>The focus of a lot of our work this past year was on quantum compute, and the reason we focused on that is the believed to be the technology that is going to be most quickly upon us.

00:15:33.880 --> 00:15:35.620
<v SPEAKER_3>Why is this technology important?

00:15:35.900 --> 00:15:39.160
<v SPEAKER_3>Think about your phone, think about your bank account.

00:15:39.360 --> 00:15:50.700
<v SPEAKER_3>All of these things are built on something called public key encryption, and what a quantum computer in theory will do, and probably will do, is break that public key encryption.

00:15:51.660 --> 00:15:55.740
<v SPEAKER_3>The first nation to get there has an incredible first mover advantage.

00:15:57.120 --> 00:16:04.620
<v SPEAKER_3>Obviously, the theme that we leave you with is this is an urgent task, and we said quantum first by 2030, I think was the tagline of our recommendation.

00:16:05.040 --> 00:16:12.220

<v SPEAKER_3>And the purpose of that is to make sure that the democratic world or the western world are the first in quantum compute.

00:16:12.220 --> 00:16:21.220
<v SPEAKER_3>The other two areas, quantum communications, the Chinese have done a lot of really interesting and good work and seem to be leading the world, honestly, in that ecosystem.

00:16:21.220 --> 00:16:22.260
<v SPEAKER_3>Then quantum sensing.

00:16:22.360 --> 00:16:28.940
<v SPEAKER_3>Quantum sensing is one of these things that I sort of understood as a principle before we left for our trip last year.

00:16:29.140 --> 00:16:32.840
<v SPEAKER_3>But once you sort of talk to people about it, the opportunity of it is truly incredible.

00:16:33.580 --> 00:16:37.140
<v SPEAKER_3>I don't know how many of your listeners are old enough to remember standard definition televisions.

00:16:37.280 --> 00:16:39.300
<v SPEAKER_3>Let's pretend like they are for now.

00:16:39.780 --> 00:16:48.580
<v SPEAKER_3>But imagine going from your standard definition television, not to a 4K or an 8K or a 12K, but to like a 100K television.

00:16:48.580 --> 00:16:57.340
<v SPEAKER_3>So that X-ray that you got on your leg or the MRI that you got on your head, the fidelity of it just became incredible.

00:16:57.380 --> 00:17:11.080
<v SPEAKER_3>The ability to potentially see things underwater, the ability to see things through the ground, you know, like, deeply, highly deeply buried targets is just a real opportunity to quantum sensing community.

00:17:11.080 --> 00:17:13.820
<v SPEAKER_3>So that's an area that we focused a little bit on.

00:17:13.820 --> 00:17:16.180
<v SPEAKER_3>Again, in this area, it was about literacy, right?

00:17:16.900 --> 00:17:19.320
<v SPEAKER_3>Members say, yes, I support quantum.

00:17:19.420 --> 00:17:20.600
<v SPEAKER_3>And I mean, that's good.

00:17:20.600 --> 00:17:34.100
<v SPEAKER_3>That's where you sort of put, you want the policymakers to be, but you also want to make sure that there's some of that foundational work that's been done to help them understand quantum and then also to sort of see what the specific opportunities are.

00:17:34.120 --> 00:17:35.140
<v SPEAKER_3>Randy, what did I miss?

00:17:37.040 --> 00:17:37.980
<v SPEAKER_2>I think you're good.

00:17:38.280 --> 00:17:43.600
<v SPEAKER_2>I think that's a very good description of our work and our objectives in this area.

00:17:44.580 --> 00:17:47.020
<v SPEAKER_1>And what about when it comes to artificial intelligence?

00:17:48.680 --> 00:17:51.060
<v SPEAKER_3>So we were doing AI before it was cool.

00:17:51.840 --> 00:18:01.460
<v SPEAKER_3>The 2024 recommendation was that the United States should consider we use the word Manhattan style project to race to an artificial general intelligence capability.

00:18:01.620 --> 00:18:04.980
<v SPEAKER_3>We actually made this recommendation before the 2024 election.

00:18:05.380 --> 00:18:08.260
<v SPEAKER_3>So I always try to get us credit for being ahead of the curve on this one.

00:18:08.260 --> 00:18:16.460
<v SPEAKER_3>You can now see that the US government through Project Genesis and a variety of other initiatives are sort of racing or plowing ahead on this sort of idea.

00:18:17.460 --> 00:18:37.940
<v SPEAKER_3>The way that I try to get folks to think about it, and this is going back to this idea of convergence, David, is that AI in and of itself is a very incredible technology and presents all kinds of interesting opportunities, but the acceleration that it is going to provide to certain research ecosystems is going to be what's really

interesting.

00:18:38.040 --> 00:18:43.860
<v SPEAKER_3>And you're starting to see this already in biotech, you're seeing this in space, you're seeing this in advanced materials.

00:18:43.920 --> 00:18:46.600
<v SPEAKER_3>I think you'll end up seeing it in quantum as well.

00:18:46.820 --> 00:18:55.040
<v SPEAKER_3>And then I think you're going to see it in cybersecurity as well, I think AI has an incredible ability to accelerate offensive and defensive cyber operations.

00:18:55.040 --> 00:18:57.980
<v SPEAKER_3>So I think you're going to see some convergence there as well.

00:18:58.060 --> 00:18:59.560
<v SPEAKER_3>That's how I've been thinking about it.

00:18:59.660 --> 00:19:03.600
<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, AI will probably also figure out ways to make data centers more efficient too.

00:19:04.440 --> 00:19:11.560
<v SPEAKER_3>As data centers become more efficient, as you can sort of squeeze more juice out of the lemon or the orange, there could be opportunities there as well.

00:19:12.920 --> 00:19:25.960
<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, I think Mike's description of the 2024 recommendation Manhattan-like project was an interesting experience because generally that was met with an eye roll.

00:19:26.280 --> 00:19:33.460
<v SPEAKER_2>Why this Manhattan-like project and not all the other 10 Manhattan-like projects that have been proposed to us?

00:19:33.780 --> 00:19:43.740
<v SPEAKER_2>But we actually welcome that question because it was a little bit gimmicky and sort of brand promotion, but it started a conversation that we were eager to have.

00:19:43.740 --> 00:20:04.180
<v SPEAKER_2>I think whether you're talking about quantum, whether you're talking about AI, I think there's still a general impression that we can thwart and prevent the Chinese from surging forward and even surging ahead through combination of means, export controls, and collaborative work with partners and allies.

00:20:04.180 --> 00:20:07.540
<v SPEAKER_2>But the fact of the matter is we have to do both.

00:20:07.540 --> 00:20:12.180
<v SPEAKER_2>We have to thwart where we can, but really run faster ourselves.

00:20:12.920 --> 00:20:27.080
<v SPEAKER_2>If you look at our recommendations across these sectors or spaces, quantum, AI, biotech, most of it is about the run faster side, and what we need to do to promote that in the United States and among our allies.

00:20:29.520 --> 00:20:37.740
<v SPEAKER_1>Team 212CD brings together Germany, Norway, and Canada in a uniquely integrated submarine partnership, one that is already underway and already producing.

00:20:38.320 --> 00:20:47.260
<v SPEAKER_1>At its core stands TKMS, the world's most experienced builder of conventional submarines, offering Canada a low-risk, NATO-aligned, and economically transformative solution.

00:20:47.660 --> 00:20:49.180
<v SPEAKER_1>This is not a paper concept.

00:20:49.380 --> 00:20:55.380
<v SPEAKER_1>This is a proven program, a live production line, and a generational opportunity for Canada's economy and sovereignty.

00:20:56.040 --> 00:20:59.620
<v SPEAKER_1>Rested allies, world-class platform, generational benefits.

00:21:00.040 --> 00:21:02.060
<v SPEAKER_1>Team 212CD for Canada.

00:21:04.740 --> 00:21:17.160
<v SPEAKER_1>So on the run faster, I'm assuming that that's in part how you would frame the overall approach in innovation, manufacturing, and what's got to be done to position American ally technology.

00:21:17.160 --> 00:21:19.260
<v SPEAKER_1>You just talk a bit about some of those broaders.

00:21:19.380 --> 00:21:31.720
<v SPEAKER_1>I recognize that that would cross over into a number of different particular technology areas, but what's the general thrust of what you've been suggesting, Randy, when it comes to what the US

should be considering in terms of innovation, manufacturing, specific responses?

00:21:32.540 --> 00:21:50.520
<v SPEAKER_2>Well, this is an area where the Chinese have done extremely well, and we've been in a way our, maybe it's not fair to say our own worst enemy, but for a lot of reasons, we've held back on, for example, promoting efficiencies through advanced robotics.

00:21:50.700 --> 00:21:54.240
<v SPEAKER_2>People saw that as a threat to jobs, threat to the labor market.

00:21:55.200 --> 00:22:04.580
<v SPEAKER_2>We've had other restrictions that have basically well intentioned, killed our shipbuilding industry and guaranteed that it would be concentrated in China.

00:22:04.980 --> 00:22:19.720
<v SPEAKER_2>And so, yeah, there's definitely a run faster aspect to how we need to think about this great project of reindustrialization of the United States, this great project of recreating and reimagining the defense industrial base.

00:22:20.560 --> 00:22:26.040
<v SPEAKER_2>That's not just resources, that's not just money, that's how you do things and how you think about things.

00:22:26.420 --> 00:22:44.140
<v SPEAKER_2>And so, again, if you look at the arc of the commission, a lot of the early work was dealing with unfair and malign practices of the Chinese currency, manipulation, over capacity and dumping, and a lot of non-tariff barriers to trade, et cetera, et cetera, right?

00:22:44.320 --> 00:23:02.740
<v SPEAKER_2>And now we've got to think about a near pier, certainly when it comes to things like advanced manufacturing, a definite pier, and how we, in some cases take a page out of their book, but in other cases really tap into the entrepreneurship and really some of the best parts of our history.

00:23:02.740 --> 00:23:09.920
<v SPEAKER_2>Mike often talks about the post-World War II era, how we could do big things and how we can do creative and entrepreneurial things.

00:23:09.920 --> 00:23:13.020
<v SPEAKER_2>We just haven't really thought that way for a while.

00:23:13.440 --> 00:23:25.780

<v SPEAKER_2>We thought about an economy that was optimized for profit and optimized for cost, and that led to a concentration of a lot of the manufacturing across the globe really ending up in China.

00:23:26.280 --> 00:23:28.020
<v SPEAKER_2>We've got to have a national security lens.

00:23:28.020 --> 00:23:39.320
<v SPEAKER_2>We have to have a kind of approach that not only thinks about profit and cost optimization, it thinks about our future security.

00:23:40.200 --> 00:23:44.280
<v SPEAKER_1>We can pivot from there off the national security lens.

00:23:44.780 --> 00:23:50.880
<v SPEAKER_1>Mike, just talk a little bit about some of the observations and the trend with regards to supply chain.

00:23:51.540 --> 00:23:53.080
<v SPEAKER_1>So lots of focus on that.

00:23:54.200 --> 00:23:59.360
<v SPEAKER_1>Obviously, that everybody suddenly became conversant in the word supply chain after the pandemic.

00:24:00.960 --> 00:24:03.940
<v SPEAKER_1>What's kind of the arc of what the Commission's focused on in that respect?

00:24:05.720 --> 00:24:09.880
<v SPEAKER_3>The concept that I didn't hear Randy mention was this idea of interlocking flywheels.

00:24:10.380 --> 00:24:12.600
<v SPEAKER_3>This is something that we had in the Commission's report.

00:24:14.480 --> 00:24:20.960
<v SPEAKER_3>The idea there is that you learn from manufacturing things, and as you get better at manufacturing things, you go faster.

00:24:21.620 --> 00:24:31.300
<v SPEAKER_3>You also have a parallel research and development cycle from that learning piece of it, and then you also have a foundational, very early basic science piece of it.

00:24:31.760 --> 00:24:48.200
<v SPEAKER_3>The idea that we tried to incorporate into last year's Made in China 2025 report or chapter was this idea that the Chinese have very effectively taken those three sort of flywheels that I just

talked about and made them collectively go faster by the gains that they pick up from each piece of it.

00:24:48.400 --> 00:25:00.480
<v SPEAKER_3>And it has really allowed them in a lot of areas to not only accelerate their research, but accelerate their ability to scale research and sort of take it from idea to production line very quickly.

00:25:00.660 --> 00:25:04.580
<v SPEAKER_3>And that is something that I think we don't fully appreciate all the time.

00:25:04.580 --> 00:25:09.240
<v SPEAKER_3>And the places where you're really seeing incredible gains by the Chinese is in the pharmaceutical space.

00:25:09.480 --> 00:25:14.840
<v SPEAKER_3>One of the areas that we talked about in the commission's report last year was the biotech community.

00:25:14.900 --> 00:25:24.520
<v SPEAKER_3>And so the biotech community, at least when I was on the hill, if you said the word biotech, a member of Congress's brain would sort of say pharma, like it was like automatic, like those two things were linked.

00:25:24.520 --> 00:25:29.060
<v SPEAKER_3>But the Chinese have been able to build this incredible infrastructure layer in the biotech community.

00:25:29.160 --> 00:25:38.100
<v SPEAKER_3>And the consequence of that is not only are they doing incredibly well in pharmaceuticals, and you can see this in cancer drugs, you can see this in their ability to work with peptides.

00:25:38.560 --> 00:25:49.420
<v SPEAKER_3>But the other place you're starting to see it is their ability to do biomanufacturing of materials, of new and innovative ideas in the biotech space where there are going to be incredible opportunities.

00:25:49.600 --> 00:25:57.840
<v SPEAKER_3>And the riff I usually give people, David, is, you know, the Western democratic world unlocked physics and chemistry as a general purpose technology.

00:25:57.840 --> 00:26:04.820
<v SPEAKER_3>And if, at least when I grew up in Canada, there are three science classes you took, chemistry, physics, and biotech or

biology.

00:26:07.100 --> 00:26:11.040
<v SPEAKER_3>That third science has never been unlocked as a general purpose technology.

00:26:11.040 --> 00:26:22.440
<v SPEAKER_3>And the first nut country that does that has an incredible opportunity to work on the units of measurement, work on the standards, the norms, and really sort of write the rule book in that space.

00:26:22.440 --> 00:26:34.740
<v SPEAKER_3>And one of the things that we thought about was how can we really increase literacy and accelerate some of the ideas that have been on the working table for a long time and put those into the policymakers' hands.

00:26:37.980 --> 00:26:46.800
<v SPEAKER_1>Maybe one last kind of thematic discussion before we turn to allies and partners, both on China's part and on America's part.

00:26:46.800 --> 00:26:48.140
<v SPEAKER_1>Talk a little bit about Taiwan, Randy.

00:26:48.140 --> 00:26:58.200
<v SPEAKER_1>So what's obviously lots of focus about what's happening across straits, implications of some different conflicts more recently.

00:26:58.960 --> 00:27:03.940
<v SPEAKER_1>Just paint a bit of a picture about the commission's thinking about Taiwan and where that sits today.

00:27:05.200 --> 00:27:07.640
<v SPEAKER_2>We're moving into an area of much greater risk.

00:27:07.920 --> 00:27:15.560
<v SPEAKER_2>Part of that is the ops tempo, the operational tempo in the Taiwan Strait area and an area surrounding Taiwan.

00:27:16.440 --> 00:27:20.360
<v SPEAKER_2>What some describe as the gray zone, enhanced coercion.

00:27:20.360 --> 00:27:31.040
<v SPEAKER_2>What we're seeing is daily activity of flights across the center line from the PLA, a persistent presence of PLA Navy on the east coast of Taiwan.

00:27:31.980 --> 00:27:38.740

<v SPEAKER_2>The degree of coercion and intimidation activities is quite intense.

00:27:38.900 --> 00:27:44.740
<v SPEAKER_2>Now, it also has an effect on our intelligence and our warning.

00:27:47.240 --> 00:27:59.980
<v SPEAKER_2>If you think about our ability to understand, are the Chinese moving from exercising and demonstrations of force to an actual operation, either kinetic or something more aggressive?

00:28:00.640 --> 00:28:05.520
<v SPEAKER_2>That all is diminished by the fact that they're out there operating in the way they are every day.

00:28:05.840 --> 00:28:10.940
<v SPEAKER_2>Admiral Poparo has used the phrase, this is no longer exercising, this is rehearsal.

00:28:11.680 --> 00:28:13.340
<v SPEAKER_2>Part of that is just the level of activity.

00:28:13.340 --> 00:28:16.180
<v SPEAKER_2>Part of that is the pieces that they're adding.

00:28:16.240 --> 00:28:20.020
<v SPEAKER_2>It's not just crossing the center line as a demonstration of force.

00:28:20.220 --> 00:28:27.000
<v SPEAKER_2>They're adding new elements to these operations like communication links between domains, surface to air.

00:28:27.000 --> 00:28:43.640
<v SPEAKER_2>They're adding the logistics piece as not only a demonstration that they have the capability but trying to do it in real time and in connection with these coercion operations to prove that if they took that right turn and got more aggressive that they could do it seamlessly and with virtually no warning.

00:28:43.960 --> 00:28:45.160
<v SPEAKER_2>That's the environment.

00:28:45.160 --> 00:28:47.940
<v SPEAKER_2>We're looking at ways that we can regain warning.

00:28:47.940 --> 00:28:50.480
<v SPEAKER_2>We're looking at ways we can improve our posture.

00:28:50.900 --> 00:28:53.200
<v SPEAKER_2>We have a law, the Taiwan Relations Act.

00:28:53.960 --> 00:29:00.320
<v SPEAKER_2>A lot of people are familiar with one element of it, which requires us to make arms available to Taiwan.

00:29:00.860 --> 00:29:07.180
<v SPEAKER_2>We are by law required to make available to Taiwan weapons of a defensive character for their sufficient self-defense.

00:29:07.180 --> 00:29:08.580
<v SPEAKER_2>We sell arms to Taiwan.

00:29:08.800 --> 00:29:15.920
<v SPEAKER_2>There's another part of that law that says the US must maintain the capacity to resist force if asked to do so by national command authority.

00:29:16.260 --> 00:29:20.060
<v SPEAKER_2>Our law requires us to be able to defend Taiwan.

00:29:20.220 --> 00:29:22.600
<v SPEAKER_2>That's separate apart from a political decision.

00:29:22.600 --> 00:29:23.040
<v SPEAKER_2>Would we?

00:29:23.780 --> 00:29:27.260
<v SPEAKER_2>We don't have a treaty alliance, so we're not under obligation.

00:29:27.380 --> 00:29:29.360
<v SPEAKER_2>But our law says we have to be able to do it.

00:29:29.920 --> 00:29:38.300
<v SPEAKER_2>One of our recommendations this year was for the defense enterprise, probably through Indo Paycom, to prove they're in compliance with the law.

00:29:38.620 --> 00:29:41.000
<v SPEAKER_2>Prove that you have the capacity to resist force.

00:29:41.000 --> 00:29:43.040
<v SPEAKER_2>To our knowledge, they've never been asked to do that.

00:29:43.120 --> 00:29:48.500
<v SPEAKER_2>We'd welcome that in an unclassified setting to the extent they could do it, but also in a classified setting.

00:29:48.880 --> 00:29:57.740
<v SPEAKER_2>The purpose is not to embarrass anybody or shine a light on deficiencies, it's to identify gaps and get our defense enterprise back in compliance with the law if they're not.

00:29:58.120 --> 00:30:01.420
<v SPEAKER_2>We had another recommendation that related to our own posture.

00:30:01.880 --> 00:30:10.060
<v SPEAKER_2>We have about 100,000 forward-deployed forces in the Indo-Pacific, but they're highly concentrated in two places, Korea and Japan.

00:30:10.060 --> 00:30:13.280
<v SPEAKER_2>Within Japan, they're pretty concentrated in one place, which is Okinawa.

00:30:14.160 --> 00:30:20.540
<v SPEAKER_2>We have posture opportunities in places like the Philippines, where we haven't had bases since the early 90s.

00:30:20.720 --> 00:30:27.960
<v SPEAKER_2>We have posture opportunities in the Pacific Islands, places in Japan where we haven't been present before, like the Southwest Island chain.

00:30:28.220 --> 00:30:41.900
<v SPEAKER_2>One of our recommendations was to promote those activities and maybe even partner with Taiwan and get their financial contributions to build out those access opportunities for the purposes of deterrence and the safety and security of Taiwan.

00:30:41.900 --> 00:30:43.880
<v SPEAKER_3>David, a couple of things just to pile on here.

00:30:44.720 --> 00:30:52.020
<v SPEAKER_3>If your listeners haven't traveled around the region or looked at a map recently, the things that Randy just said all sound sort of very simple from a military perspective.

00:30:52.940 --> 00:30:56.000
<v SPEAKER_3>The distances that you travel in Asia are incredible.

00:30:56.000 --> 00:31:02.080
<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, just getting to Asia from Toronto, from Washington, DC., or anywhere on the East Coast of North America is an incredible task.

00:31:02.180 --> 00:31:11.780

<v SPEAKER_3>Now imagine trying to push tens of thousands of service members across the ocean and finding places to put them in advance of a potential military operation is just absolutely incredible.

00:31:11.960 --> 00:31:16.540
<v SPEAKER_3>Then the other thing I would just pile on here, Randy does an incredible job of going through the military piece of it.

00:31:16.800 --> 00:31:20.200
<v SPEAKER_3>I just want to go back to the AGI recommendation for a second.

00:31:20.200 --> 00:31:30.240
<v SPEAKER_3>The reason I want to do this is because I want you to think about basically the most fundamental and important thing in racing to an artificial general intelligence capability, and that's advanced chips.

00:31:30.620 --> 00:31:34.800
<v SPEAKER_3>There's one place in the world where these advanced chips are made, and it's Taiwan.

00:31:35.580 --> 00:31:39.940
<v SPEAKER_3>There's this great book written by Russell Shorto a number of years ago called The Island at the Center of The World.

00:31:39.940 --> 00:31:41.640
<v SPEAKER_3>It's a story about Manhattan.

00:31:43.220 --> 00:31:56.380
<v SPEAKER_3>You're going to get rid of one of my book recommendations at the end because of this, David, this book is incredible because it tells a story of the Dutch basically colonizing Manhattan and Manhattan has obviously become the island of the Center of The World.

00:31:56.420 --> 00:32:13.160
<v SPEAKER_3>If we look today, Taiwan truly is the island at the Center of The World, whether it is the chips that go in the AI racks that we use to have our conversation with Claude or Chachi PT or anything like that, or the microphones that we're talking into, the AirPods in my ear, the light behind Randy.

00:32:13.420 --> 00:32:20.260
<v SPEAKER_3>These things all require either advanced chips or foundational chips and the vast majority of them come out of Taiwan.

00:32:20.740 --> 00:32:30.620
<v SPEAKER_3>As you think about the importance of deterring China from acting against Taiwan, it is truly vital to the democratic world that we are serious about this.

00:32:30.740 --> 00:32:42.600
<v SPEAKER_3>All of the things Randy talked about in terms of the importance of Indo-Pekan being resourced and prepared to defend it, or at least for political leaders to have the opportunity to make a decision to defend it is vital, I think.

00:32:43.000 --> 00:32:46.740
<v SPEAKER_3>Not just to the United States, but also to Canada and Europe and beyond.

00:32:48.140 --> 00:32:51.420
<v SPEAKER_1>This episode of Defence Deconstructed is brought to you by Irving Shipbuilding.

00:32:51.600 --> 00:32:53.840
<v SPEAKER_1>Canada's national shipbuilder is currently hiring.

00:32:54.100 --> 00:33:02.160
<v SPEAKER_1>For more information on the many jobs and opportunities currently available, please visit www.shipsforcanada.ca slash careers.

00:33:04.020 --> 00:33:08.760
<v SPEAKER_1>The last part that I wanted to touch on was allies and partners.

00:33:08.940 --> 00:33:10.480
<v SPEAKER_1>I'm kind of on both sides of this.

00:33:11.160 --> 00:33:16.560
<v SPEAKER_1>Randy, talk a little bit about the evolution of the Commission's observations about the axis of autocracy.

00:33:17.300 --> 00:33:22.720
<v SPEAKER_2>Well, it's come into clear focus with the events of the last four or five years.

00:33:24.960 --> 00:33:28.460
<v SPEAKER_2>We would have probably talked about ideological alignment.

00:33:28.460 --> 00:33:36.580
<v SPEAKER_2>We probably would have talked about relationships that were marriages of convenience rather than true partnerships.

00:33:36.580 --> 00:33:44.360
<v SPEAKER_2>But now we're seeing in the battle in Ukraine, we're seeing North Korean military personnel deployed to the front lines.

00:33:44.360 --> 00:33:47.680

<v SPEAKER_2>We're seeing China materially support Russia.

00:33:48.540 --> 00:34:03.280
<v SPEAKER_2>Even the more recent conflict in Iran, what you're seeing is a lot of Chinese support, not just buying oil and not just getting Iranian assistance to skirt the various risks and dangers to transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

00:34:03.480 --> 00:34:10.380
<v SPEAKER_2>But we're seeing Chinese contributions to Iranian drone capabilities and other types of material support.

00:34:11.400 --> 00:34:22.220
<v SPEAKER_2>We've seen this come from concept and marriage of convenience mentality to actual practical cooperation among these countries.

00:34:23.480 --> 00:34:28.380
<v SPEAKER_2>That leaves open the question, what about future contingencies?

00:34:29.580 --> 00:34:31.780
<v SPEAKER_2>We've just talked about Taiwan for a few minutes.

00:34:32.360 --> 00:34:46.040
<v SPEAKER_2>If there is a Chinese move against Taiwan, would North Korea do enough to maybe hold down US forces on the Korean Peninsula, enough of a faint or maybe even an opportunistic move of aggression themselves?

00:34:46.640 --> 00:34:49.800
<v SPEAKER_2>Russia is still a Pacific country with Pacific capabilities.

00:34:49.980 --> 00:34:55.820
<v SPEAKER_2>Would they come in and support China in some way, even if it's at the level that China is supporting Russia now?

00:34:56.180 --> 00:35:02.240
<v SPEAKER_2>That would be a substantial issue for us if we chose to do things to defend Taiwan.

00:35:03.000 --> 00:35:17.400
<v SPEAKER_2>I think this is an axis that because of the last few years, we can't just take it as, well, these countries have their own histories and issues that will prevent them from really coalescing around great projects together.

00:35:17.440 --> 00:35:33.100
<v SPEAKER_2>No, we're seeing them in the real world, in real time,

with practical cooperation that is assisting in ways that are very difficult for us to counter without our own partners and allies, which is another topic we're happy to get into.

00:35:33.140 --> 00:35:36.460
<v SPEAKER_3>David, the way I, Brandy's riff is perfect.

00:35:36.460 --> 00:35:52.640
<v SPEAKER_3>The way I think about these drones is the Chinese have effectively commoditized the most vital parts of these drones, and that has lowered the cost of warfare for China, or sorry, for Russia in Ukraine and for the Iranians, as we look at what's happening today in the Middle East.

00:35:52.760 --> 00:36:03.220
<v SPEAKER_3>And that commoditization really changes the risk matrix for any political leader as they think about what a conflict looks like and whether or not to engage in it.

00:36:03.780 --> 00:36:05.840
<v SPEAKER_1>Finally, and Randall, you just alluded to this.

00:36:05.860 --> 00:36:26.160
<v SPEAKER_1>I guess, since from both of you, Randall, to get you to start, how is the U.S.-China Economic Security Review Commission approaching the United States dealing with a China challenge in an American context, or how much of it fits in the Commission's view within a wider alliance and partnership framework?

00:36:27.320 --> 00:36:36.820
<v SPEAKER_2>The Commission has always taken an interest in our alliances and partnerships, and I think as a general matter, would be on the side of promoting them as being vital.

00:36:37.100 --> 00:36:42.920
<v SPEAKER_2>Really, an asymmetric advantage we've had in the Indo-Pacific for many years is our network of alliances.

00:36:43.940 --> 00:36:48.240
<v SPEAKER_2>We, as a Commission, take a look at China plus a region every year.

00:36:48.240 --> 00:36:50.040
<v SPEAKER_2>We've looked at China and the Middle East.

00:36:50.500 --> 00:36:52.780
<v SPEAKER_2>This year, we're looking at two regions.

00:36:52.780 --> 00:36:59.620
<v SPEAKER_2>We're looking at China and Latin America with a hearing

that we held yesterday and some coming travel.

00:36:59.620 --> 00:37:07.160
<v SPEAKER_2>But we're also looking at China in India and how the Indians' concerns about the trajectory that China is on.

00:37:07.160 --> 00:37:08.840
<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I shouldn't even say just the trajectory.

00:37:08.840 --> 00:37:18.440
<v SPEAKER_2>The fact that they've had major dustups on the border, places like Ladakh and Doklam in the last four or five years, add to that the trajectory.

00:37:18.440 --> 00:37:26.180
<v SPEAKER_2>What opportunities are there for the United States to strengthen the U.S.-India relationship, the Quad, and other forms of cooperation.

00:37:27.000 --> 00:37:48.620
<v SPEAKER_2>So, I think as we look at things like Prime Minister Takeichi's visit here to Washington, we as a commission will take great interest in what they actually discuss about the alliance and the full spectrum of issues, whether that's cooperation on critical minerals and supply chain, whether that's posture in the Southwest Island chains of Japan, et cetera.

00:37:48.620 --> 00:37:57.540
<v SPEAKER_2>So, this is a critical piece for us to counter China and the complexity and really mass of the challenge that they pose.

00:37:57.540 --> 00:38:04.900
<v SPEAKER_2>And I think I could speak for all my fellow commissioners, that partners and allies are a very key piece for us to be able to do that effectively.

00:38:05.660 --> 00:38:09.740
<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, I completely agree with Randy, David, a couple of things.

00:38:09.740 --> 00:38:10.780
<v SPEAKER_3>One, our client is Congress.

00:38:10.780 --> 00:38:23.300
<v SPEAKER_3>And anytime Congress has something in front of it, whether it's the National Defense Authorization Act or any of the other big pieces of legislation where the issue of alliances comes up, every time those provisions pass with overwhelming majority.

00:38:23.300 --> 00:38:30.060

<v SPEAKER_3>So I think from the perspective of our client, we know where our client is on these issues and we sort of think about it in a similar way.

00:38:30.220 --> 00:38:45.680
<v SPEAKER_3>And then the second point I would make is, honestly, David, the reason I reached out to you and a couple of the other, a couple of European and Asian and Oceania podcast folks was we need to make sure we're talking to our partners and allies from the commission perspective too and the audiences that are around them.

00:38:45.680 --> 00:38:55.080
<v SPEAKER_3>And so Canada is obviously a key part of the sort of the defense industrial base as we think about it in the US perspective and the manufacturing industrial base more broadly.

00:38:55.240 --> 00:38:58.500
<v SPEAKER_3>So that's why we're here and sort of having this conversation.

00:38:59.820 --> 00:39:21.880
<v SPEAKER_1>Well, I appreciate you doing that because I think in places, it's not as evident as it had been historically about how the United States is thinking about some of those relationships and whether or not they are core to some of the national security considerations the way they had been a couple of years ago, given some of the things that have happened politically in the last few years.

00:39:21.880 --> 00:39:28.860
<v SPEAKER_1>So very much appreciate, Randall, you and Mike, for coming on Defence Deconstructed to talk about some of the commission's work.

00:39:29.920 --> 00:39:34.600
<v SPEAKER_1>The last question we always asked all of our guests, I'll start with you, Mike, what are you reading these days?

00:39:36.060 --> 00:39:50.060
<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, I just finished the book that I cheated on and told you about The Island at the Center of The World, which was a fantastic book, that actually my former boss during my job interview to work with him, Chuck Schumer, had told me when he saw my last name.

00:39:50.140 --> 00:39:57.940
<v SPEAKER_3>So I finally finished that book now that I'm not in the hamster wheel of government every day anymore.

00:39:58.040 --> 00:39:59.780
<v SPEAKER_3>I think that's the only one I've been reading right now.

00:40:00.000 --> 00:40:02.060
<v SPEAKER_3>Other than that, I'm sure the same as you.

00:40:02.080 --> 00:40:03.580
<v SPEAKER_3>The kids don't read anymore, David.

00:40:04.400 --> 00:40:07.900
<v SPEAKER_3>We just listened to the podcast and the TikTok.

00:40:08.300 --> 00:40:08.800
<v SPEAKER_3>Randy?

00:40:09.260 --> 00:40:11.080
<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I guess I'm a throwback generation.

00:40:11.080 --> 00:40:14.100
<v SPEAKER_2>I still read quite a bit and I have a couple books going right now.

00:40:14.100 --> 00:40:18.620
<v SPEAKER_2>But one that I would mention is a book called The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides.

00:40:18.820 --> 00:40:21.960
<v SPEAKER_2>It's about Captain Cook's last voyage.

00:40:21.960 --> 00:40:26.260
<v SPEAKER_2>This is a topic that's been covered by other historians and authors.

00:40:26.260 --> 00:40:41.360
<v SPEAKER_2>But this particular book is informed by a lot more resources and input from the indigenous populations of the various islands and countries that Captain Cook visited on his last voyage.

00:40:41.360 --> 00:40:42.480
<v SPEAKER_2>It was his third voyage.

00:40:43.300 --> 00:40:44.360
<v SPEAKER_2>There's no spoiler.

00:40:44.360 --> 00:40:46.600
<v SPEAKER_2>We know how it ends, but I'm not quite there yet.

00:40:46.620 --> 00:40:48.440
<v SPEAKER_2>So we'll see.

00:40:48.440 --> 00:40:49.620
<v SPEAKER_3>We won't spoil it, Randy.

00:40:50.680 --> 00:40:51.500
<v SPEAKER_1>What's that?

00:40:51.760 --> 00:40:53.120
<v SPEAKER_3>We won't spoil it for you.

00:40:54.760 --> 00:40:57.440
<v SPEAKER_1>Randy, Mike, thanks very much for joining us today on Defence Deconstructed.

00:40:57.440 --> 00:40:58.340
<v SPEAKER_1>Really appreciate it.

00:40:58.800 --> 00:40:59.320
<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for having us.

00:40:59.320 --> 00:41:00.220
<v SPEAKER_3>Thanks for having us, David.

00:41:01.460 --> 00:41:03.440
<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for listening to Defence Deconstructed.

00:41:03.660 --> 00:41:09.040
<v SPEAKER_1>For more of our work, go to cgai.ca or follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook.

00:41:09.120 --> 00:41:15.420
<v SPEAKER_1>If you like what we do and want to keep us going, think of donating to us at cgai.ca slash support.

00:41:15.720 --> 00:41:18.000
<v SPEAKER_1>Defence Deconstructed is brought to you by our team in Ottawa.

00:41:18.340 --> 00:41:22.220
<v SPEAKER_1>Music credits go to Drew Phillips, and this episode was produced by Jordyn Carroll.