



ASSURANCE

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Complementing [extended deterrence](#), where the objective is to influence the decision-making of an adversary, assurance involves easing the fears and sensitivities of allies and partners.

US assurance of allies and partners is conveyed through various alliances, treaties, and bilateral and multilateral agreements. For example:

- ✦ The [Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the US and Japan](#) specifies a commitment to defense cooperation, regular consultations, and peace and security in the Far East.
- ✦ The [Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea](#) declares the countries' shared determination to defend themselves and preserve peace and security in the Pacific area.
- ✦ The [North Atlantic Treaty](#) reaffirms the goal of promoting stability, uniting efforts for collective defense, and for the preservation of peace and security among [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) partners.

The Air Force contributes to assurance through [shows of force](#), which shape both allied and adversary beliefs. These shows of force could include the deployment of dual-capable aircraft to a tense region or operational test launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

As threats increase, allies and partners could demand tangible assurance from the US. This, in turn, could drive demands on force structure and capability requirements.

For additional discussion on effects, see "[Practical Design: The Coercion Continuum](#)" in AFDP 3-0, [Operations and Planning](#).
