



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hearing Statement of Transportation & Maritime Security Subcommittee Ranking Member Shri Thanedar (D-MI)**

### ***Projecting Presence and Power in the Indo-Pacific: An Examination of the United States Coast Guard's Contributions to Maritime Security***

**September 28, 2023**

The United States Coast Guard faces tremendous challenges in the wide-open waters of the Indo-Pacific, from limited resources and expanding demands on their mission, to aggression from malign state actors and a changing climate.

But the Coast Guard is also well positioned to partner with the State Department, the Department of Defense, and allied nations in the region to support diplomacy, disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and law enforcement to uphold the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific.

I am eager to hear from our witnesses today on how the Coast Guard can best support diplomatic solutions to counter aggression and lawlessness from the People's Republic of China and other nations that violate international sovereignty and global law, including through partnerships with other large nations like my country of birth, India.

I am also interested to learn more about how the Coast Guard is best positioned to assist small island nations in the Indo-Pacific to invest in a climate-resilient future and safeguard their own maritime sovereignty.

The Chinese fishing fleet has shown alarming disregard for the law and threatens the fishing stock that is vital to many nations and families across the region.

One thing is certain: with a government shutdown only days away, Congress must act immediately to ensure operations in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe are fully funded for this Fiscal Year.

Our national security and the livelihoods of millions of Americans depend on us this week, and we cannot fail them. The uncertainty created by the right-wing Republicans harkens back to the 2019 shutdown that left Coast Guard members working without pay for weeks. We must respect the sacrifice and service of our military families and provide them the paychecks they earn.

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