**Overarching Message**

NATO-member Turkey’s provocative and aggressive behavior under the Erdogan regime shuns American values, challenges American security interests, and threatens NATO allies and strategic partners of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East.

**Turkey continues to demonstrate it is an unreliable and dubious NATO ally**

* Turkey has acquired the Russian-made S-400 missile defense system, which as raised concern among NATO members.
* It has been reported that Turkey tested the system against an F-16 in November 2019.
* Turkey’s acquisition of the S-400s is a violation of U.S. law – the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) – and subjects Turkey to U.S. sanctions under CAATSA.
* Turkey’s acquisition of the S-400s also emboldens Russia’s malign activities that are aimed to drive a wedge into NATO.

**Turkey threats to NATO ally, Greece, and U.S. Strategic Partner Cyprus**

* Turkey deliberately instigated a migrant crisis on its land and sea border with Greece, and consequently, the European Union.
* Turkey has escalated its violations of Greece’s airspace and territorial waters to unprecedented levels, including issuing two illegal NAVTEX notices during the past month that encroached upon Greece’s continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) near the Greek island of Kastellorizo– the second one after the State Department urge Turkey to halt operations.
* U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt and State Department officials have stated that Greek islands are entitled to continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
* Turkey has violated repeatedly the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus, most recently in August 2020, and on one previous incursion, Turkey’s violation prompted a response from U.S. ambassador to Cyprus Judith Garber, who urged Turkish authorities to “halt these operations;” and in yet another instance in December 2019, Turkey engaged with an Israeli research ship and deported it out of Cypriot waters.
* Turkey maintains 40,000 troops on Cyprus in violation of international law and has illegally occupied 37% of the island of Cyprus since its 1974 invasion of the island.

**Turkey Violates International Law and Norms**

* Turkey has conducted a military incursion into Syria that prompted the House of Representatives to pass overwhelmingly (by a 403 to 16 vote) bipartisan legislation, H.R.4695, to sanction Turkey and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has passed a companion bill, S.2641.
* Turkey has engaged with Libya, signing a maritime boundary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been dismissed as null and void and devoid of any legal standing by the international community; and by doing so, Turkey has violated the UN Security Council’s arms embargo on Libya that prompted the EU to send a naval mission to the area to enforce the blockade.
* President Recep Tayyip Erdogan took formal action to change the status of Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from a museum to a mosque, threating its Universal Value.
* Turkey suppresses the religious freedom of minorities, including the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in violation of U.S. law (the International Religious Freedom Act).