

## **MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE RELEASES PUBLIC VERSION OF SPECIAL BUDGET [TRANSLATION]**

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The Ministry of National Defense (MND) today released a public version of the Special Act for the Procurement Program to Enhance Defense Resilience and Asymmetric Capabilities, with detailed classified information redacted and marked with their security classifications.

Minister of National Defense Wellington Koo, on April 20, delivered a special report to the Legislature's Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee on the Special Act for the Procurement Program to Enhance Defense Resilience and Asymmetric Capabilities. To explain the arms procurement plan to the public at the same time, the MND today released a public version of the report.

Items fully blacked out include equipment and systems jointly developed and procured by Taiwan and the United States; mobile obstacle-emplacement equipment; the Taiwan Tactical Network and force-awareness application suite; AI-enabled and C5ISR systems; air defense and anti-ballistic missile systems; and soft-kill/hard-kill integrated counter-UAS systems. For other procurement items, only partial details were redacted, although **the overall procurement amounts were specified.**

According to the report, the NT\$1.25 trillion special budget includes NT\$81 billion for the M109A7 self-propelled howitzer and NT\$160 billion for the "long-range precision strike missile" item, namely the HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system.

The budget also allocates NT\$335 billion under the "unmanned vehicles and counter-UAS systems" category. This includes eight types of those: the Albatross II UAV, littoral surveillance UAV, vertical takeoff and landing intelligent UAV, littoral attack UAV, anti-armor UAV missile system, soft-kill/hard-kill integrated counter-UAS system, man-portable counter-UAS system, and suicide unmanned surface vessel.

Under the category of air defense, anti-ballistic, and anti-armor missiles, a total of NT\$550 billion has been allocated. Of the systems that remain visible, only the Chiang-Kong Medium-Range Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile System, the FGM-148 Javelin, and the BGM-71F TOW 2B Anti-Tank Guided Missile can be identified. Based on the report's formatting and context, two air defense missile items and one anti-armor missile item were redacted. However, according to related media reports, the air defense items are likely the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) and the Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS).

As for AI-enabled and C5ISR systems, the only disclosed items are an AI decision-support system and the Taiwan Tactical Network (TTN) and Team Awareness Kit (TAK), with a combined budget of NT\$10 billion. Based on international examples of AI-assisted decision-support systems, this could refer to systems similar to the AI-enabled military decision tools provided to the U.S. military by companies such as Palantir or Anthropic, which can automatically analyze imagery, identify and prioritize threats, and provide recommendations for decision-makers. If the procurement is not sourced from abroad, it may instead rely on a sovereign AI model from Taiwan. It is understood that although Taiwan lags behind the United States in training chips, capital, and scale, an expert AI model designed specifically for military missions would

still meet the armed forces' operational requirements.

In addition, the budget includes NT\$50 billion for “equipment related to sustaining combat endurance,” including the establishment of production lines for ammunition components and spare parts, general-purpose ammunition procurement, and mobile obstacle emplacement equipment. Another NT\$64 billion has been allocated for “equipment and systems jointly developed and procured by Taiwan and the United States,” but this entire category has been redacted because it involves cooperation with the U.S. side.