



**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub-Committee
Chairman, Hon Bruce Scott, MP**

CANBERRA

31 March 2004

**Australia's Defence Relations with the United States
CANBERRA PUBLIC HEARING: FRIDAY, 2 APRIL 2004**

The Defence sub-committee of the Joint Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee will conduct a public hearing in Canberra as part of its inquiry into Australia's defence relations with the United States.

The hearing will be on Friday, 2 April starting at 9.30am in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House, Canberra.

Since World War Two, Australia and the US have developed strong defence relations. In particular, the last decade has seen a new level of defence relations encompassing Australian involvement in the first Gulf War, the invoking of the ANZUS Treaty, and Australian involvement in US led coalitions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The *Defence Update 2003* commented that Australia's alliance with the US 'remains a national asset' and the 'United States' current political, economic, and military dominance adds further weight to the alliance relationship.'

The sub-committee will examine the Australian-US alliance focusing on how it can be developed to best meet each nations' security needs both in the Asia Pacific region and globally.

The sub-committee will take evidence from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR), Australian Defence Association, Future Directions International and a number of defence analysts.

DITR commented that the 'US export licensing process is an impediment to Australian industry pursuing opportunities in the JSF program.' These issues will be examined at the hearing.

Future Directions International commented that 'Australia's close defence relationship with the US offers many positives and is strategically very important, particularly during a period of dynamism and uncertainty in World affairs.'

HEARING PROGRAM

Friday, 2 April, Main Committee Room

9.30am	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
10.30am	Australian Defence Association
11.15am	Future Directions International
1.00pm	Dr Carlo Kopp
2.00pm	Professor William T Tow and Dr Russell Trood
2.45pm	Professor Paul Dibb
3.30pm	Adjournment

For comment, contact Mr Bruce Scott, Chairman, on 6277 4949 or 0427 743 126.

For information, phone the sub-committee secretary, Mr Stephen Boyd on (02) 6277 2368 or visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/usrelations/usindex.htm>.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Defence Sub-Committee

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