



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

CANBERRA

26 November 2003

**Inquiry into
Australia's defence relations with the United States**

The Defence sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will conduct an inquiry into Australia's defence relations with the US.

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 focusing on but not limited to:

- the applicability of the ANZUS treaty to Australia's defence and security;
- the value of US-Australian intelligence sharing;
- the role and engagement of the US in the Asia Pacific region;
- the adaptability and interoperability of Australia's force structure and capability for coalition operations;
- the implications of Australia's dialogue with the US on missile defence;
- the development of space based systems and the impact this will have for Australia's self-reliance;
- the value of joint Defence exercises between Australia and the US, such as Exercise RIMPAC;
- the level of Australian industry involvement in the US Defence industry; and
- the adequacy of research and development arrangements between the US and Australia.

**The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is Monday, 16 February 2004. More information about the inquiry can be found on the committee's website at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/index.htm>**

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