



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

CANBERRA

17 June 2004

**US AMBASSADOR TO APPEAR AT HEARING**

**AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES  
Canberra Public Hearing: Monday, 21 June 2004**

The Defence sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade 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 Monday, 21 June starting at 9.30am in Committee Room 1R4, 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 nation's security needs both in the Asia Pacific region and globally.

The sub-committee will take evidence from the United States Government and Dr Ron Huisken.

The United States Government stated that 'Australia's invocation of the ANZUS Treaty demonstrated the continuing relevance and vitality of the treaty at a time when threats to national security come not only from states, but also non-state actors.'

The sub-committee will examine the nature and applicability of the ANZUS Treaty and other aspects of the Australia-US alliance including intelligence sharing and US engagement in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Dr Ron Huisken noted that 'Australia's alliance relationship with the US is valued because of our potential contribution to shaping US policies to better serve regional needs and interests.' Australia's role and influence in the alliance will be examined.

**HEARING PROGRAM**

**Monday, 21 June 2004**

**Committee Room 1R4**

**Parliament House, CANBERRA**

9.30am United States Government

10.30am Dr Ron Huisken

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>.

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