
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Australia's Defence Relations with the United States

Report of the Delegation to the United
States 28 June to 13 July 2005

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Canberra

Cover Photos:

. Cover 1: Senators David Johnston and Alan Ferguson prepare to mount an Abrams tank at the testing facility at the Joint Services Manufacturing Centre in Lima Ohio.

Cover 2: Delegation leader Senator Alan Ferguson and Deputy Leader the Hon Graham Edwards MP after laying a wreath on behalf of the Australian Parliament at the US tomb of the unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C.

Cover 3: The delegation poses with the Australian Military Attache to the US, Brigadier Garry Bornholt after laying a wreath at the US Korean war memorial.

Cover 4: Delegation members Mr Steve Gibbons MP, Senator Alan Ferguson and Mrs Joanna Gash in discussion with Chairman Saxton of the US House Armed Services Committee.



Foreword

The *Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America* (the ANZUS Treaty) is a key element supporting Australia's national security. The Treaty has operated for more than 50 years and appears to remain relevant in a strategic environment increasingly challenged by terrorism and non-state actors.

The Treaty was first invoked following the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States (US). The response to these attacks has required Australia and the US to achieve unprecedented levels of interoperability, with Australian Defence Force elements from all three services operating as part of US led coalitions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Defence Sub Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade established an inquiry into the state of the Australia's Defence Relationship with the US. To confirm elements of the evidence to the inquiry and to gain first hand the US perspective of military and strategic policy issues relating to Australia and the Asia Pacific region, the Parliament sent a delegation of seven members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to the United States in July 2005 for an extensive series of inspections and briefings. This report describes the observations of the delegation. The report will in turn contribute to the final committee report into the Australia - US defence relationship.

The delegation itinerary allowed the members to address a broad range of strategic and Defence aspects of Australia's relationship with the US. This report will describe the delegation's observations in five broad topics. Chapter One will discuss the delegation observations on Defence interoperability drawn from meetings with the leaders of the two US regional Combatant Commands where Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel are training or conducting operations. These visits included briefings at Headquarters Pacific Command and a meeting with General John Abizaid, Commander of US Central Command.

Chapter Two of the report will discuss the delegation findings on the impact of the alliance on strategic affairs in the Asia Pacific region. These observations are the results of meetings with two respected US strategic 'Think Tanks' which provide policy advice to all elements of the US Government and bureaucracy. These visits to the RAND Corporation and the Strategic Studies Institute were invaluable in gaining a US perspective of key strategic issues, such as the developing US relationship with China, India and Indonesia.

Chapter Three will describe the delegation visits to US military elements. These visits were selected to give the delegation an awareness of the scope of the US Military and to introduce elements with which the ADF may in future seek to benchmark. The delegation itinerary included meetings with the leadership of 1st US Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), recently returned from Iraq, and the USS Bonhomme Richard – a US amphibious ship recently returned from service in the Arabian Gulf and Indonesia, where it conducted Tsunami relief.

Chapter Four of the report will discuss delegation observations of three major US defence industry organisations. These visits were designed to observe progress on major Australian defence projects such as the Abrams Tank and the Joint Strike Fighter, to discuss Australian industry involvement and to get a sense of the scale of the massive US defence industry.

In the last component of the visit to the US, the delegation sought to determine whether the strength and understanding of the defence relationship extends to all levels of the US Government. Chapter Five will describe the perspective gained through meetings with the Australian Embassy staff in Washington and at the United Nations, senior US Department of Defense officials and the leaders of selected peer Congressional Committees. These meetings were all informative of the impact and importance of the Australia US alliance.

Exposure to this range of issues and experiences could only be achieved as a result of a very well orchestrated program. The delegation thanks the Australian Embassy staff in Washington for developing and coordinating a first rate program. In particular the delegation thanks their US based escort, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hofman, for his patient insights into the US and its military culture. The delegation also wishes to thank the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the Consulates in Hawaii and Los Angeles for their support and the benefit of their considerable experience.

Finally it is important to report one consistent message from the extensive series of meetings and visits undertaken by the delegation. In almost every agency visited by the delegation, the outstanding performance of the Australian Defence Force, alongside their alliance partners in training and on operations, was commented on favourably before any other topic of discussion. This performance earns Australia great credit around the world and all Australians should be proud of these achievements.

**Senator Alan Ferguson,
Chairman and Delegation Leader
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.**



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Membership of the Committee

Chair Senator A B Ferguson

**Deputy
Chair** Hon G J Edwards, MP

Members Senator the Hon N Bolkus (to 30/6/05) Hon D F Jull, MP
Senator G. Campbell (from 23/6/05)
Senator the Hon P Cook (to 30/6/05) Hon J E Moylan, MP
Senator A Eggleston Hon G D Prosser, MP
Senator B Harradine (to 30/6/05) Hon B C Scott, MP
Senator S Hutchins Mr R C G Sercombe, MP
Senator D Johnston Hon W E Snowdon, MP
Senator L J Kirk Mr C.P. Thompson, MP
Senator K Lundy (to 23/6/05) Mr M B Turnbull, MP
Senator J A L Macdonald (to 23/6/05) Ms M Vamvakinou, MP
Senator C.M. Moore (from 23/6/05) Mr B H Wakelin, MP
Senator M A Payne Mr K W Wilkie, MP
Senator N. Scullion (from 17/8/05)
Senator N J Stott Despoja
Senator R.S. Weber (from 23/6/05)
Hon B G Baird, MP
Mr R C Baldwin, MP
Mr P A Barresi, MP
Mr M Danby, MP
Mrs T Draper, MP
Mrs J Gash, MP
Mr S W Gibbons, MP
Mr B W Haase, MP
Mr M Hatton, MP

Secretary Dr Margot Kerley
**Defence
Adviser** Lieutenant Colonel Fergus McLachlan



Membership of the Delegation

Leader (Chairman)	Senator A B Ferguson	
Deputy Leader (Deputy Chair)	Hon G J Edwards, MP	
Members	Hon B C Scott, MP	Mrs J Gash, MP
	Senator S Hutchins	Mr S W Gibbons, MP
	Senator D Johnston	
Secretary and Defence Adviser	Lieutenant Colonel Fergus (Gus) McLachlan	
Delegation Escort (US)	Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hofman	



Inquiry Terms of reference

Since World War Two, Australia and the United States (US) have developed strong defence relations. In particular, the last decade and a half has seen a new level of defence involvement encompassing Australian participation 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.'

How should the Australian-US alliance be developed to best meet each nation's 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 Australian-US 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.



List of abbreviations

ADF	Australian Defence Force
AEWC	Airborne Early Warning and Control (Aircraft)
AIM-D	Army Integrated Management Tank - Digital (M1 Abrams)
AOR	Areas of Responsibility
ANZUS Treaty	Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States
AWD	Air Warfare Destroyer
DMO	Defence Materiel Organisation
DSTO	Defence Science and Technology Organisation
EWC	Expeditionary Warfare Centre (Raytheon)
FLIR	Forward Looking Infra Red
FMS	Foreign Military Sales
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GWOT	Global War on Terror
ICTs	Industry Capability Teams
IMET	International Military Education and Training
ITARs	International Traffic in Arms Regulations
JCTC	Joint, Combined Training Centre
JSF	Joint Strike Fighter
JSMC	Joint Systems Manufacturing Centre
MARFORPAC	US Marine Forces Pacific
MAGTF	Marine Air Ground Task Force
MBTs	Main Battle Tanks

I MEF	1 st Marine Expeditionary Force
MEU	Marine Expeditionary Unit
RAND	RAND Corporation (Contraction of Research and Development)
RIMPAC	Rim of the Pacific Exercise
ROE	Rules of Engagement
ROK	Republic of Korea
SAS	Special Air Service
SSI	Strategic Studies Institute
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
US	United States of America
USCENTCOM	US Central Command
USPACOMD	US Pacific Command
USN	United States Navy
USS	United States Ship