



Mutual benefit in defence treaties with the US and Japan

Defence arrangements with the United States and Japan are the focus of a report released today by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

The defence force posture initiatives announced in 2011 paved the way for the rotational deployment of US Marines to northern Australia for exercises and training during the dry season. This year's rotation involved approximately 1500 personnel and that number will grow to around 2500 in the coming years.

The Force Posture Agreement examined in this report will provide the legal, policy and financial framework required to fully implement the two initiatives.

Committee Chair, Wyatt Roy MP says the Agreement will ensure respect for Australian sovereignty and laws while facilitating access for US forces to Australian owned facilities.

He added that the regular influx of growing numbers of US personnel is expected to provide considerable economic benefit to the Northern Territory.

The report also examines an Agreement between the US and Australia for the sharing of visa and immigration information, allowing the automation of the existing immigration information sharing process and increasing speed and efficiency.

The Japan-Australia Agreement for the transfer of defence equipment and technology will enable Australia to access Japan's world renowned capability in this area, enabling the two countries to work together to identify and develop potential areas of mutual benefit.

Mr Roy said, "This Agreement is part of the broader move to deepen Australia-Japan defence cooperation in a range of areas including training and exercises, personnel exchanges, maritime security and peacekeeping."

The full report is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct> or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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