



Defence treaties under review

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties will examine two treaties relating to defence matters at a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 22 September 2014.

The Committee will consider *The Force Posture Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America* which will facilitate full implementation of the two force posture initiatives announced in 2011. These arrangements currently involve the annual rotation of approximately 1150 US Marine Corps and Air Force personnel in northern Australia. This figure is expected to increase to around 2500 personnel in coming years.

The second treaty under consideration will facilitate defence cooperation between Australia and Japan, enabling the two countries to work together on areas of future research interest and mutual benefit through the transfer of defence equipment and technology.

Committee Chair Wyatt Roy MP said that both treaties will provide enhanced opportunities for Australia's defence forces.

"The US treaty will provide a legal, policy and financial framework to govern the expanding US force posture initiative. It will provide important protections and assurances for both countries while the Japanese treaty will provide significant opportunities for Australia to access innovative technology," he said.

The Committee will also examine a treaty between Australia and the US to share visa and immigration information which will allow automation of the existing immigration information sharing process. The Committee Chair said that replacing the manual process with an automated system will substantially increase the speed, efficiency and volume of the exchange of information between the two countries.

Public Hearing: Monday 22 September 2014, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

- 11.00am** **The Force Posture Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America**
- 11.30am** **Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology**
- 12.00pm** **Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America for the Sharing of Visa and Immigration Information**
- 12.30pm** **Close**

The hearing will be broadcast through: www.aph.gov.au/live

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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