



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

CANBERRA

24 March 2004

Australia's Defence Relations with the United States
CANBERRA PUBLIC HEARING: FRIDAY, 26 MARCH 2004

The Defence sub-committee of the Joint Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee 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 Friday, 26 March starting at 9.00am in Committee Room 2R1, 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 nations' security needs both in the Asia Pacific region and globally.

The sub-committee will take evidence from the Department of Defence (Defence), ASPI and a range of other organisations and individuals. Defence commented the 'ANZUS Treaty gives shape, depth and weight to the Australia-US alliance and remains today the foundation of a relationship that is one of our greatest national assets.'

Defence commented that 'interoperability with US forces and the ability to contribute to multinational coalitions are central themes in Australia's policies, acquisition programs and training plans.' These and other views will be examined during the hearing.

HEARING PROGRAM

Friday, 26 March, Committee Room 2R1

9.00am	Department of Defence
11.00am	Returned and Services League of Australia
11.45am	Professor Paul Dibb
1.30pm	Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)
2.30pm	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3.15pm	Adjournment

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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