



11-55-CDF 8/4/12
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
PO BOX 7510
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

CDF/OUT/2012/1101

General M.E. DEMPSEY
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear General Dempsey,

It was a pleasure meeting with you recently for the Australia-United States Ministerial discussions (AUSMIN). I greatly appreciated our frank and candid discussions over the course of your visit to Perth. I particularly valued your views on the Indian Ocean and the challenges we face in this strategically important region. I am confident our Alliance relationship will continue to strengthen through our ongoing dialogue and cooperation on issues of common concern and as we progress the United States force posture initiatives in northern Australia.

On behalf of the Australian Defence Force, it is my pleasure to invite you to return to Australia in 2013 for a counterpart visit. Such a visit would provide an opportunity to engage one-on-one with senior Australian civilian and military officials, particularly the Secretary of Defence, Mr Dennis Richardson and the Service Chiefs, and gain a deeper understanding of the Australian Defence Force and the way forward for the United States military presence in Australia.

Your visit would also allow for further discussion on the United States' rebalance towards the Asia Pacific and provide the opportunity to discuss our regional engagement, including possibilities for synchronisation and development of trilateral and multilateral activities and perspectives on key security developments across this complex region.

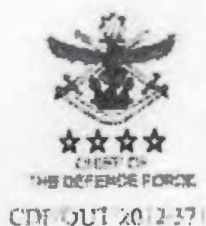
My staff is ready to assist with your visit arrangements. I look forward to welcoming you in Canberra in April or May 2013, at a date convenient to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D.J. Hurley".

D.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC
General
Chief of the Defence Force

24 November 2012



11-05-COM 5114
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
PO Box 9100
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Admiral S.J. LOCKLEAR III, USN
Commander
United States Pacific Command
USAPACOM J01PA
Box 64031
Camp H.M. Smith, HI 96861-4031
United States of America

Sam
Dear Admiral Locklear,

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend the Change of Command ceremony for your promotion to Commander, United States Pacific Command. I also found my engagement with you and your component commanders and deputy commanders to be particularly constructive. As we discussed, I welcome your offer to maintain regular contact outside of our formal dialogues and I would be pleased to take direct calls from you at any time.

On behalf of the Australian Defence Force, I also take this opportunity to invite you to visit Australia as my guest at the next mutually suitable date. This visit during the initial stage of your command would provide you the opportunity to engage directly with Mr Duncan Lewis, Secretary of the Department of Defence, my Service Chiefs, and other senior Australian civilian and military officials. The visit would further permit bilateral discussions on the progress of the agreed force posture initiatives and possibilities for further synchronising our activities in the region, including through the development of trilateral and multilateral activities.

Pending your acceptance of my invitation, my staff is ready to assist with your visit arrangements. I look forward to warmly welcoming you to Australia.

Yours sincerely,

D.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC
General
Chief of the Defence Force

3 May 2012

~~SECRET AS/US~~



**Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Defence**

The Hon. Charles Hagel
Secretary of Defense
Pentagon
Washington D.C.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Chuck

Dear Secretary Hagel

I am writing about the principles of Full Knowledge and Concurrence (FK&C), which provide the framework for our intelligence cooperation.

As foreshadowed during our meeting in Washington on 21 May 2013, I made a Ministerial Statement to the Australian Parliament on FK&C today, Wednesday 26 June 2013. The text was agreed with your officials. A copy of the Statement is attached for ease of reference.

As agreed with your officials, the purpose of this letter is to initiate a process to ensure that the framework for other forms of Defence cooperation are also consistent with the principles of FK&C. I believe this is now appropriate given the expansion of our Defence cooperation over the last couple of years to encompass the annual rotation through Australia of elements of the US Marines and Air Force.

I understand that the timing of any public statement relating to the application of FK&C beyond our intelligence relationship will need to take account of your current negotiations with Afghanistan and the Philippines and be agreed at the time.

I am confident however that, consistent with my informal discussions with Secretary Panetta and with you, we will be able to reach an agreement on a mutually agreed definition of FK&C as it applies to US-Australia Defence cooperation beyond the intelligence relationship.

Yours sincerely

Warmest personal regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Smith'.

Stephen Smith
Encl.

~~SECRET AS/US~~



**Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Defence**

- 5 AUG 2013

The Hon Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defence Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1000
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Chuck
Dear Secretary

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2013 following our meeting during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

I enjoyed speaking with you in Singapore and hearing your views on the United States' priorities for its rebalance to the Asia Pacific. I was also pleased with the outcomes of our trilateral meeting with Japanese Defence Minister Onodera in Singapore. Our agreement on five strategic goals for trilateral cooperation provides the foundation for a dynamic and flexible trilateral defence relationship which will enhance the security and prosperity of the region.

The Australia-United States Alliance is built on a long history of trust based on common values and practical cooperation. I agree that as our militaries transition from over a decade of operations in Afghanistan it is important our forces continue to work together to consolidate and build upon our current high levels of interoperability. The United States Marine Corps initiative in northern Australia is a good example of such cooperation, demonstrating the strength of our Alliance. The recent iteration of Exercise Talisman Saber further demonstrated the strength of our military to military relationship and provided a unique opportunity to enhance civil-military-police collaboration. The relationships formed between the Australian and United States government and policing agencies during the exercise will serve to strengthen bilateral partnerships within the Indo Pacific region

I look forward to seeing you later this month at the ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting Plus in Brunei.

Yours sincerely

Best wishes

Stephen Smith
Stephen Smith



**Senator the Hon David Johnston
Minister for Defence**

MA13-003884

General Martin Dempsey
Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
200 Joint Staff Pentagon
WASHINGTON DC 20318-9999
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear General Dempsey

It was a great pleasure to meet you during my visit to the United States (US) for the Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) on 20 November 2013.

Forged through two world wars, the Australia-United States (US) Alliance remains the foundation of Australia's security arrangements and our defence relationship has been further strengthened by 10 years of operations together in Iraq and Afghanistan. I look forward to implementation of the agreed outcomes from AUSMIN, including defence cooperation in the increasingly important domains of space, cyber and ballistic missile defence. I am confident these measures will ensure the Alliance continues to develop and strengthen as we adapt to contemporary and future challenges.

Australia and the US are both committed to working together in the Asia-Pacific in a manner that strengthens the enduring contribution of our Alliance to the region's prosperity and security. The US force posture initiatives in northern Australia are an important element of our practical cooperation. I was pleased by the signing of the joint Statement of Principles during AUSMIN, which provides a common vision for progressing these initiatives in northern Australia and welcome the agreement reached to negotiate a binding agreement governing their full implementation. This will provide a range of direct capability benefits to both our countries, as well as opportunities for greater cooperation with other countries in the Asia-Pacific.

I look forward to the relationship between our two countries continuing to prosper as the force posture initiatives are implemented in full.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Johnston'.

David Johnston

19 DEC 2013



**Senator the Hon David Johnston
Minister for Defence**

MA13-003884

Secretary Charles Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1000
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Chuck,
Dear Secretary

Thank you for your generous hospitality during my visit to the United States (US) for the Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) on 20 November 2013. I found our discussions informative and I am very pleased with the outcomes we agreed.

Forged through two world wars, the Australia-US Alliance remains the foundation of Australia's security arrangements and our defence relationship has been further strengthened by 10 years of operations together in Iraq and Afghanistan. AUSMIN provided a valuable opportunity to renew and strengthen the Alliance and I look forward to implementation of the agreed outcomes, including defence cooperation in the increasingly important domains of space, cyber and ballistic missile defence. I am confident these measures will ensure the Alliance continues to develop and strengthen as we adapt to contemporary and future challenges.

Australia and the US are both committed to working together in the Asia-Pacific in a manner that strengthens the enduring contribution of our Alliance to the region's prosperity and security. The US force posture initiatives in northern Australia are an important element of our practical cooperation. I was pleased that we signed the joint Statement of Principles during AUSMIN, providing a common vision for progressing these initiatives in northern Australia, and I welcome our agreement to negotiate a binding agreement governing their full implementation. This will provide a range of direct capability benefits to both our countries, as well as opportunities for greater cooperation with other countries in the Asia-Pacific.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to further strengthen our important Alliance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David'.

David Johnston

19 DEC 2013



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
10-38 DCF Suite
Overseas of Defence
PO Box 7000
CANBERRA ACT 2610

CDF/KXJT/2014/904

Lieutenant General T.G. Robling
Commander
United States Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
Camp F.M. Smith
Hawaii 96861-4139
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Lieutenant General Robling,

Thank you for the invaluable contribution you have made to the Australia-United States defence relationship during your distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps, enhancing the defence and security cooperation between our two countries. Your insights into developments in the region have been greatly appreciated.


Of particular note, as Commander United States Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, is your personal support for the establishment and implementation of the Marine Rotational Force - Darwin under the United States Force Posture Initiatives in northern Australia. Our ability to successfully increase the rotations from 200 personnel in 2012 to 1,150 personnel in 2014, including all the elements of a Marine Air Ground Task Force for the first time, is testimony to the strength of our cooperation, and I am pleased you had the opportunity to visit the Marines and Australian Defence Force personnel in Darwin in April this year, and to talk to them about the rotations.

I look forward to working with Lieutenant General Toolan, continuing our work to deepen the cooperation between the United States Marine Corps Forces, Pacific and the Australian Defence Force, in the region.

As I am unfortunately unable to attend your change of command and retirement ceremony on 15 August, I have asked Major General Rick Burr, currently embedded as the Deputy Commander General, United States Army Pacific, to represent me.

47F

Yours sincerely,


M.D. BUNKER, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

17 August 2014

47F



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
R1-08 CDF Suite
Department of Defence
PO Box 7800
CANNERRA NSW ACT 2600

CDF/OUT/2014/905

Lieutenant General J.A. Toolan
Commander
United States Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
Camp H.M. Smith
Hawaii 96861-4139
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Dear Lieutenant General Toolan,

Congratulations on your appointment as Commander United States Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

Australia remains committed to working with the United States (US) in the Asia-Pacific to strengthen the enduring contribution of our Alliance to the region's security and prosperity. I look forward to working with you to continue progressing the implementation of the rotational deployments of personnel from the US Marine Corps Forces, Pacific to Darwin under the US Force Posture Initiatives, which are an important new element of our defence cooperation and collaboration in the region.

I wish you every success in your new role, and look forward to working with you to progress our shared goals in the region.

Yours sincerely,



M.D. BINSKIN, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

12 August 2014



Australian Government
Department of Defence

**Acting
Secretary**

**Telephone: 02 6265 2851
Facsimile: 02 6265 2375**

SEC/OUT/2014/151

13 May 2014

Robert O. Work
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defence Pentagon
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010
United States of America

Dear Mr Work

I write to congratulate you on your appointment as the Deputy Secretary of Defense. This appointment is a well-deserved and further builds on what has already been a distinguished career.

You commence the position at an interesting time for the Department of Defense and the Australia-United States alliance. I am pleased to see that the United States' rebalance towards the Asia-Pacific remained a key focus of the recent Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). As a longstanding ally, Australia has supported the United States' role in the Asia-Pacific and continues to do so, most recently through our force posture initiatives in Northern Australia. Australia and the United States also share similar fiscal challenges. Finding ways to address these challenges jointly and collaborate to achieve mutual benefit will be increasingly important.

I greatly valued the opportunity to meet with some of your staff during my visit to the United States earlier this year. The visit reinforced to me the strength and depth of our bilateral relationship, reflected in the open and frank discussions that we are able to share. I look forward to working with you to further build on these close working relationships.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Sargeant'.

Brendan Sargeant



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

☆☆☆☆

CDF/OUT/2015/915

General M. Dempsey
Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
200 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20318-9999
USA

Dear Marty

On behalf of the Australian Defence Force, thank you for the important contribution you have made to the defence relationship between Australia and the United States as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff over the last four years.

During your tenure, the strength of our Alliance has continued to grow, with our troops working side by side in various theatres to support global security and aid our friends. From our coalition efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan to our mutual support to those facing natural disasters or humanitarian crises, your guidance and leadership has been invaluable.

I would also like to thank you for your personal commitment to the Asia-Pacific rebalance and the continued positive implementation of the Australia-United States force posture initiatives. As strategic weight shifts to the Asia-Pacific, our ability to work together effectively to address shared security concerns will be essential to ensuring prosperity and stability for all in the region.

I greatly appreciated our candid discussions during your visit to Sydney earlier this year on the future of our defence organisations and the strategic priorities in the Asia-Pacific and further afield. Our strong Alliance relationship is testament to the close and frank working relationship our two nations have been able to foster.

Lastly, thank you for your support to Australia in response to MH-17. This was a particularly difficult time for Australia, and the support through the Alliance was deeply appreciated.

47F

Yours sincerely,

MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

R1-5-CDF Suite
PO Box 7900
Canberra BC ACT 2610

21 August 2015



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

☆☆☆☆

CDF/OUT/2015/916

General J. Dunford
Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
200 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20318-9999
USA

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This appointment is well-deserved and recognises what has already been a distinguished career.

The strength of the Australia-United States Alliance today is testament to the working relationship our nations have fostered through more than a decade of cooperation in coalition operations. As you know from your time as Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, our forces have developed a close and mutually beneficial relationship and continue to serve side by side in theatres across the world.

As a longstanding ally, Australia strongly supports the United States' role in the Asia-Pacific. Our ability to work together effectively to address shared security concerns will be key to ensuring prosperity and stability for all in the region. The Australia-United States force posture initiatives in particular are testimony to the strength of our existing cooperation, and offer a strong basis from which to continue to grow and adapt our Alliance to meet future needs.

I look forward to meeting you soon, potentially at AUSMIN 2015, to further progress discussions on Alliance issues.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

R1-5-CDF Suite
PO Box 7900
Canberra BC ACT 2610

20 August 2015

2015



**The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Minister for Defence**

Reference: MC15-001470

Dr Ashton Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1000
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Dr Carter

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the US Pacific Command and US Pacific Fleet change of command ceremony scheduled for 27 May 2015 in Hawaii, USA. While I regret that I am unable to attend the ceremony due to prior commitments, I am pleased to advise that the Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, will represent the Australian Department of Defence at this event.

The Australian Government remains committed to our alliance with the United States and to supporting a continued US presence in the Asia-Pacific. Under the Alliance, Australia's close cooperation with US Pacific Command and its component commands plays a vital role in promoting stability and prosperity in the region, while advancing each country's defence and security interests. Our shared commitment to regional stability is evident in our continued cooperation to implement the force posture initiatives in northern Australia, which are driving closer collaboration between our forces and provide unique opportunities to train together and to engage with strategic partners in our region.

I am confident that through our continued close cooperation, the Alliance is well placed to meet contemporary challenges in the Asia-Pacific.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Andrews'.

KEVIN ANDREWS MP



COPY

**The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Minister for Defence**

2/15

Reference: MC15-001117

Admiral Samuel J Locklear, III
Commander
US Pacific Command
Camp HM Smith, HI 96861-4028

Dear Admiral Locklear

Thank you for your letter of 8 January 2015 congratulating me on my appointment as Minister for Defence.

Australia remains committed to our close defence relationship with the United States (US). We not only share a goal of maintaining the interoperability of our forces, gained through our joint and combined operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but are equally committed to the advancement of a peaceful, prosperous and secure Asia Pacific region. Australia continues to support the US rebalance to the Asia Pacific, including through the force posture initiatives, which are driving closer collaboration between our forces and provide unique opportunities to train together and to engage with strategic partners in our region.

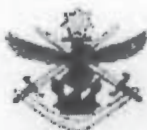
Under your leadership, I am pleased that Australia and US Pacific Command have continued to achieve new heights of cooperation, interoperability and friendship. I look forward to this relationship continuing to grow, to enable Australia and the US to collaboratively meet our shared security challenges in the region.

s47F

Yours sincerely

KEVIN ANDREWS MP

6 MAY 2015



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

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CDF(S)/OUT/2016/114

Admiral H. Harris
Commander US Pacific Command
HAWAII USA

Dear Harry


Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2016 in which you outline the proposed activities to be conducted in, from or through Australia by the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) during its 2016 rotation.

Australia looks forward to welcoming the 2016 MRF-D contingent of up to 1,250 MRF-D personnel, for their fifth rotation through Darwin. This year we have a number of opportunities for engagement with other regional forces. On current planning, our forces will exercise with Japanese Self Defence Forces in Exercise SOUTHERN JACKEROO, in Shoalwater Bay Training Area and we will conduct a trilateral survival training exercise, KOWARI, with a small contingent from the Peoples Liberation Army. I also note that, for 2016, Exercise KOOLENDONG will incorporate forces from New Caledonia, and elements of the MRF-D are likely to deploy from Australia to New Caledonia. I welcome advice from you in due course on the final participant list and schedule for Exercise KOA MOANA.

As part of our regional engagement activities, and to continue to promote the US Force Posture Initiatives in the region, I propose we implement an international observer program for Exercise KOOLENDONG. Subject to your agreement, I propose our teams work together to implement this program. 33a(iii)

This proposed schedule of activities presents valuable joint and combined training opportunities for our forces, and will contribute to improving cooperation between Australia, the United States and regional partners. Headquarters Joint Operations Command, through the Force Posture Initiative Support Team (FSCT) located in Darwin, will again provide support to the MRF-D during its rotation in 2016. Australia remains committed to supporting the US rebalance to the Asia-Pacific and the Marine rotations through Darwin are a tangible demonstration of this support. We are committed to continuing our work together towards a Marine Air Ground Task Force of around 2,500 Marines and equipment, and this was confirmed in Australia's Defence White Paper.

33a(iii)



Yours sincerely,



MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

R1-5-CDF Suite
PO Box 7900
Canberra BC ACT 2610

7 April 2016