

**AUSTRALIA - UNITED STATES
JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
ON INTEROPERABILITY**

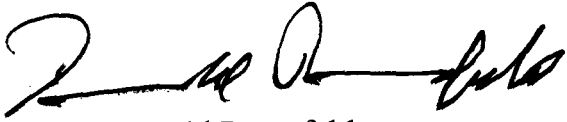
The Alliance relationship between Australia and the United States is an expression of commitment by both nations to work in close partnership in times of conflict, and to build peace and security, both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region. The Alliance provides the means by which both nations can build and deploy defense capabilities that enable them to deter and, as necessary, to defeat threats to Australian and United States security interests. Successful security cooperation within the framework of the Alliance, both now and into the future, rests on the foundation of high levels of interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and the United States armed forces.

To ensure the Alliance retains a strong practical foundation, the following Principles will guide Australian and United States decision making on bilateral interoperability issues on all levels. The Principles will inform the development and implementation of the Interoperability Implementation Program (Annex A), with progress and forward planning to be reviewed and endorsed annually through the Australia-U.S. Ministerial meeting (AUSMIN). This Statement of Principles (SoP) provides no authority for either Australia or the United States to commit resources in connection with any activities pursued under this SoP. Such authority will be derived specifically from national capability development projects that may be undertaken separately by Australia and the United States.

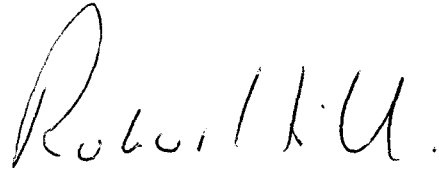
Principles

- Australia and the United States will seek to exchange views of strategic direction through consultation, dialogue, intelligence cooperation and information exchange.
 - Australia and the United States will develop and implement collaborative strategic and operational military planning, when our two Governments agree that this would be necessary to protect our shared security interests.
 - Australia and the United States will support military capabilities that enable the United States and Australia to conduct effective combined military operations in support of our shared security interests. In doing so, we acknowledge that interoperability is a key consideration in our bilateral relationship.
 - Australia and the United States will collaborate closely to ensure military cooperation activities and programs that underpin interoperability are continually exercised and adjusted to reflect changing needs in a changing world.
 - Australia and the United States will collaborate closely in defense research, development, test and evaluation to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, our mutual security interests are served in exploiting advances in military technology.
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- Australia and the United States will share technology, material and information where collaborative capability development and acquisition, including collaborative production, meet our shared security interests.



Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
July 7, 2004



Robert Hill
Minister for Defence
July 7, 2004

ANNEX A

PROPOSED INTEROPERABILITY ACTIVITIES

- Australia and the United States will endorse an Australia- United States Joint Statement of Principles on Interoperability.
 - Australia and the United States will scope options for the development of a Joint Combined Training Centre Concept.
 - Australia will maintain data link interoperability with U.S. forces as the United States fields its Link 16 air combat information system and Cooperative Engagement Capability air tracking system.
 - Australia will participate in the U.S. Joint Tactical Radio System program.
 - In collaboration with the United States, Australia will adopt the Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System (CENTRIXS) as the ADF coalition operational network.
 - Australia will procure combat identification equipment that is compatible with U.S. forces and upgrade its participation to Level 3 (Technical Participation) in the U.S. Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrator covering combat identification.
 - Australia will accept the US invitation to participate in the Collaborative Force Analysis, Sustainment and Transportation Application (CFAST) operational planning and wargaming tool.
 - Australia will select a refueling system for its new Air-to-Air Refueling aircraft that is capable of supporting U.S. combat aircraft.
 - Australia and the United States will align ground Forward Air Controller (FAC) standards and procedures enabling certification for combined operations.
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