

CDAF MEETING BRIEF

ADAC

ADAC refers to the Australia-United States (US) Ministerial Defence Acquisition Committee, established in 1998 under an AUSMIN Charter, to cooperate in areas of defence that are of mutual interest to both countries.

ADAC was established in 1998 under an AUSMIN charter and submits a formal progress report to the AUSMIN forum each year.

The Eighth Australia-United States (US) Ministerial Defence Acquisition Committee (ADAC) was hosted by the Chief Executive Officer Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), Dr Steve Gumley, in Perth from 5 – 8 March. This year's ADAC was co-chaired by Dr Gumley and his US counterpart, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (AT&L), the Honorable Ken Krieg.

ADAC is a high level strategic meeting, annually alternated between Australia and the US, that gathers senior level representatives from the Australian Department of Defence (DoD) and their respective counterparts from the US DoD and State Department. ADAC's purpose is to discuss matters of mutual interest to both countries in acquisition, research and development, interoperability, logistic support, export policy and related areas.

The eighth meeting was attended by a group of 80 delegates including the Secretary of Defence, Mr Ric Smith. The meeting convened with Dr Gumley and Mr Krieg recognising the special nature of the defence relationship between the two countries as well as the importance of ADAC in strengthening those relationships.

Dr Gumley noted that ADAC provides a unique environment for engagement and stressed its importance for major projects such as the Joint Strike Fighter, Airborne Early Warning and Control and Air Warfare Destroyer. "It's a strategic level forum where I can talk one on one with my counterpart and discuss ways to collaborate on matters that are important to both our countries as well as the progress to date and roadblocks in the system. This will ultimately translate to improved capability and interoperability in our platforms and systems and provide better support for the ADF."

Reports presented at ADAC included those from the five working groups, established under the ADAC framework, to progress ADAC priorities at the working level throughout the year. These working groups (WG) are in the main areas of mutual interest and include: the Acquisition, Technology and Development WG; Requirements Harmonisation WG; Logistics WG; Electronic Warfare WG and Special Programs WG. On-going progress reports were also presented from the three Service-to-Service acquisition forums, namely the: Air Senior National Representatives (ASNR); Senior National Representative (Army) (SNR-A); and Navy Senior Acquisition Review (SAR).

The ADAC meeting was complemented by an orientation program of Western Australia's (WA) defence and marine industry. As part of the program, a tour was organized to HMAS Stirling where the group toured facilities including the MK 48

torpedo maintenance facility, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation's research laboratories as well as the submarines HMAS COLLINS and HMAS RANKIN. Site visits to the Australian Marine Complex as well as to WA shipbuilder Austal provided the group with exposure to some of the state's industrial capabilities.

Mr Krieg was appreciative of the entire program and commented that it had "raised the bar" for all future ADACs in terms of content, format and hospitality shown by the Australians.

The next ADAC is scheduled in February 2007 at Orlando Florida.