



Australian Government
Department of Defence

International Policy Division

The Honourable Richard Marles MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Defence

Visit to Brisbane and Townsville

27 to 30 July 2023

Event Brief Pack

OFFICIAL

Dress

Day/Date	Event	Dress
s22		
Friday 28 July	Defence Ministers' Meeting (DMM) with Secretary Austin	Civilian – Business Attire Military – Service Dress with Ribbons
	Prime Minister's Lunch	Civilian – Business Attire Military – Service Dress with Ribbons
	s22	
	Principals' Dinner	Civilian – Business Casual (Jacket, no tie)
Saturday 29 July	AUSMIN	Civilian – Business Attire Military – Service Dress with Ribbons
s22		

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1050-1235	Defence Ministers' Meeting (DMM) s22		s22
	For the US: Secretary Austin s22		

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Time	Activity	Location	Comments
Friday 28 July			
s22			
1300-1445	Lunch hosted by the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia s22 Invitees: DPM s22 Secretary Austin s22	Persone Restaurant	s22

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Time	Activity	Location	Comments
Friday 28 July			
s22			s22
1820-1850	Pre-dinner drinks with Secretary Austin, s22	TBC	
s22			
1900-2100	AUSMIN Principals' Dinner s22 Invitees: s22 Secretary Austin s22	Black Hide by Gambero	

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Time	Activity	Location	Comments
Friday 28 July			
1830-2030	AUSMIN Reception for senior officials (CDF attending) <i>Guided tour of the 'Gone Fishing' exhibition</i> <i>Cocktails and canapés served in the Pavilion Lounge</i> s22	Pavilion Lounge, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art	s22
s22			

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Time	Activity	Location	Comments
Saturday 29 July			
s22			
0915-0930	DPM to receive Secretary Austin <i>DPM to escort Secretary Austin in to the Drawing Room, welcomed by the Queensland Governor and Queensland Premier for Welcome Tea</i>	Queensland Government House	s22
0920-0930	Acknowledgement of Country by the Queensland Governor s22	Drawing Room, Queensland Government House	
0930-0935	Official AUSMIN family photo <i>Drawing Room, Queensland Government House</i> s22		
0935-0940	Opening Remarks s22		
0940-1110	AUSMIN Session 1	State Dining Room, Queensland Government House	
1110-1125	Morning tea		
1125-1240	AUSMIN Session 2		
s22			

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Time	Activity	Location	Comments
Saturday 29 July			
1250-1350	AUSMIN Session 3 <i>Working lunch provided</i>	State Dining Room, Queensland Government House	s22
1350-1410	Opportunity for Press Conference preparation	Fernberg Room, Queensland Government House	
1410-1440	Joint Press Conference s22 <i>Enter press room and take place at podiums in order:</i> DPM, s22, Secretary Austin DPM to moderate questions, two Australian outlets and two US outlets	Lower Front Lawn, Queensland Government House <i>Wet weather alternative: Investiture Room</i>	

s22

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Event Brief 3

Defence Ministers' Meeting

EVENT DETAILS

Friday 28 July 2023

1020-1230

Defence Ministers' Meeting

Headquarters 1 Division, Gallipoli Barracks

Minister's Role:

Inspect the Honour Guard and General Salute.

Deliver opening remarks to the media.

Host Secretary Austin for the Defence Ministers' Meeting.

s33(a)(iii)

Dress: Business attire for civilians. Service Dress with Ribbons for military personnel.

s22

Attendees:

Host: DPM

s22

Arrival Details:

COMCAR Registration: Sedan, registration TBD

Minister to arrive at (time): 1010

Location of arrival: Headquarters 1 Division

To be met by: Secretary Moriarty and CDF

Location of meeting: Gallipoli Room

Where car to drop: s47E(d)

Is parking for COMCAR available: Yes

Parking where: At rear of Headquarters 1 Division building

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Running Order: (details correct as at 26 July, *please refer to A5 run sheet*)

s22	
1010	DPM arrives at Gallipoli Barracks s22 s22
s22	
1020	DPM greets Secretary Austin on arrival to Gallipoli Barracks
1020-1035	Honour Guard to receive Secretary Austin on Parade s47E(d) s22 s22
1035-1050	DPM and Secretary Austin to make Opening remarks to the Media s22 s22
1050-1230	Move Gallipoli Room, inside Gallipoli Barracks for the Defence Ministers' Meeting (DMM) s22 s22 s22
1230-1300	DPM departs for Prime Minister's lunch

Contact:

s47E(d), Policy Officer – s22

MAJ s47E(d), Visits Officer – s22

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ATTACHMENT 3A: Attendee List – as at 26 July

Australian Attendees

The Honourable Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence

s22



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US Attendees

The Honourable Lloyd Austin III, United States Secretary of Defense

s22



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Event Brief 4

Lunch hosted by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

EVENT DETAILS



LUNCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE
AUSTRALIA-UNITED STATES MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS
GIVEN BY
THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA
FRIDAY 28 JULY 2023

EVENT ORDER

EVENT:	Lunch on the occasion of the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations
DATE:	Friday 28 July 2023
TIME:	1.00 pm – 2.45 pm
VENUE:	Persone (Italian Restaurant), Level 2 Brisbane Quarter
MEDIA:	Australian and United States of America media will be present
DRESS CODE:	Business Attire
KEY ATTENDEES:	<p><u>Australia</u></p> <p>s22</p> <p>The Honourable Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence</p> <p>s22</p> <p><u>United States of America</u></p> <p>s22</p> <p>The Honorable Lloyd J Austin III Secretary of Defense</p> <p>s22</p>

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RUN SHEET:

s22

1.00 pm Guests arrive (order to be determined on the day based on individual programs) and are met by the Prime Minister

s22

The Hon Lloyd Austin III, Secretary of Defense

s22

After greeting, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors proceed to the Chianti Room

1.05 pm Once all guests have arrived, Prime Minister escorts Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Foreign Affairs to position in front of flags

s22

1.10 pm Prime Minister, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Foreign Affairs proceed to the Chianti Room and take their seats

s22

1.15 pm Prime Minister welcomes guests and proposes the Toast –

'THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'

Secretary of State proposes the Toast –

'THE KING AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA'

1.20 pm Lunch commences

2.45 pm Lunch concludes

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Event Brief 8

Pre-dinner drink with Secretary Austin and AUSMIN Principals' Dinner

EVENT DETAILS

Friday 28 July 2023

Pre-dinner drink: 1820-1850 at the s33(a)(i)

AUSMIN Principals' Dinner: 1900-2100 at Black Hide by Gambaro
Level 1, Treasury Casino Building William Street Corner Top of, Queen St,
Brisbane City QLD 4000

Minister's Role:

Pre-dinner drink with Secretary Austin, Foreign Minister Wong and Secretary Blinken
Co-host dinner with Foreign Minister Wong

Dress: Smart casual (jacket, no tie)

s22

Attendees:

Pre-dinner drinks

DPM

The Honourable Lloyd J. Austin III, US Secretary of Defense

Foreign Minister Wong

The Honourable Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State

Dinner

Hosts: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Wong

US attendees:

s22

The Honourable Lloyd Austin III, US Secretary of Defense

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Arrival Details:

s47E(d)

Where car to drop: NA

Is parking for COMCAR available: NA

Parking where: NA

Running Order: *(details correct as at 27 July, please refer to A5 run sheet)*

1815-1820	DPM departs s33(a)(i) for the s33(a)(i)
1820-1850	Private pre-dinner drink with Secretary Austin
1850	DPM departs s33(a)(i) for Black Hide by Gambaro
1900	DPM arrives and Official party seated
1900-2100	Sit down dinner Principals to have dinner in private room.
2100	Dinner concludes – depart restaurant for hotel.


Contact:

s47F , Event Controller - s22

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Vehicle plan – Principals Dinner

s47E(d)



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Event Brief 9

Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations

EVENT DETAILS

Saturday 29 July 2023

0800 – 1440

Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN)

Queensland Government House

Minister's Role:

See run sheet

s33(a)(iii)

Dress: Business attire for civilians. Service Dress with Ribbons for military personnel.

s22

Attendees:

Host: DPM

A full list of attendees is included in Attachment 9A.

Arrival Details:

COMCAR Registration: TBD - Sedan

Minister to arrive at (time): 0820

Location of arrival: Queensland Government House

To be met by: s22

Location of meeting: Queensland Government House, 168 Fernberg Rd, Paddington

Where car to drop: Queensland Government House entrance

Is parking for COMCAR available: Yes

Parking where: On internal road outside Volunteers Hut

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Running Order: (details correct as at 28 July, *please refer to A5 run sheet*)

0800	DPM departs the hotel for Queensland Government House
0820-0830	DPM arrives at Queensland Government House s22
0830-0832	s22
0832-0835	
0835-0905	
0905-0915	Executive time <i>Dining Room, Queensland Government House</i>
0855	s22
0900	
0905	
0915-0920	

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	<p>DPM to receive Secretary Austin on the first flight of stairs at Queensland Government House.</p> <p>DPM to escort Secretary Austin in to the Drawing Room, welcomed by the Queensland Governor and Queensland Premier for Welcome Tea</p>
0920-0930	<p>Welcome remarks and Acknowledgement of Country by the Queensland Governor</p> <p>s22</p>
0930-0935	<p>Official AUSMIN family photo</p> <p><i>Media will be escorted into the Drawing Room and three photos will be taken:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Governor, Premier, Amb Rudd, Amb Kennedy, DPM, FM, Sec State, Sec Def</i> <i>2. Amb Rudd, Amb Kennedy, DPM, FM, Sec State, Sec Def</i> <i>3. DPM, FM, Sec State, Sec Def</i> <p>s22</p>
0935-0940	<p>AUSMIN opening remarks</p> <p><i>Governor and Premier will depart through front door.</i></p> <p>s22</p>
0940-1110	<p>AUSMIN Session 1</p> <p><i>State Dining Room, Queensland Government House</i></p>
1110-1125	<p>Morning tea</p> <p><i>State Dining Room, Queensland Government House</i></p>
1125-1240	<p>AUSMIN Session 2</p> <p><i>State Dining Room, Queensland Government House</i></p>
1240-1250	<p>Opportunity to refresh</p>
1250-1350	<p>AUSMIN Session 3</p> <p>s22</p> <p><i>State Dining Room, Queensland Government House</i></p>
1350-1410	<p>Opportunity for Press Conference preparation with s47E(d)</p> <p><i>Queensland Government House</i></p>
1410-1440	<p>Joint Press Conference</p> <p>s22</p> <p>Enter press room and take place at podiums in order: DPM, Minister Wong, Secretary Austin, Secretary Blinken</p> <p><i>Lower Front Lawn, Queensland Government House – wet weather alternative: Investiture Room</i></p>
1440-1455	<p>DPM departs for s33(a)(i)</p>

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Contact:

s47E(d) [REDACTED] – Defence Event Controller – s22 [REDACTED]

MAJ s47E(d) [REDACTED], Visits Officer – s22 [REDACTED]

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ATTACHMENT 9A: Attendee List – as at 28 July

Australian Attendees

The Honourable Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence

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US Attendees

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The Honourable Lloyd Austin III, US Secretary of Defense

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Media and Strategic Communication Summary

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DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPENING REMARKS 28 July 2023

- Pleasure to welcome Secretary Austin to Brisbane for the 33rd Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations and to host this Defence Ministers' Meeting today.
- Our Alliance is unprecedented in scale, scope and significance.
- The Indo-Pacific is home to a challenging and complex strategic landscape.
- We must sharpen our focus on what our interests are and how we can work together to protect them.
- Australia and the United States are committed to investing in the security and resiliency of the Indo-Pacific and to upholding the rules-based order that has underpinned the region's prosperity for decades.
 - We all have a stake in the shape of our region and in our collective security.
- Secretary Austin and I are committed to maximising the power of the Alliance – to combine strengths across sovereign boundaries, to innovate together, operate together, and to reinforce our respective capabilities.
 - Real gains are being made in this regard.
 - We are doing the hard yards now.
 - Look forward to consolidating this trajectory over the next few days.

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AUSMIN 2+2 FIRST MEETING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPENING REMARKS 29 July 2023

*Handling note: opening remarks to media. Please ensure all documents on table are closed.
Deputy Prime Minister to speak first, followed by the Foreign Minister.*

- Welcome Secretary Austin and Secretary Blinken to Brisbane for this year's Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN).
- It is at AUSMIN that we set the strategic direction for the Alliance across the breadth of our cooperation – including for defence and security.
- Our partnership is unprecedented in scale, scope and significance.
 - It is built on an enduring foundation of trust, a long record of achievement and a shared vision for upholding the rules-based global order.
- Over 70 years, we have proven highly capable partners, adapting the way we work together to address the challenges of the day.
 - Confident today's discussions will see us once again set a course that maximises the strategic and technological advantage of the Alliance.
- A course that does not just serve our own interests.
 - Today we will make decisions that matter to all those invested in a stable, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.

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Talking Points

**Deputy Prime Minister Visit to Brisbane and Townsville for AUSMIN
27-30 July 2023**

s33(a)(iii)

Framing Messages

- Australia's alliance with the United States is unprecedented in scale, scope and significance.
- Our partnership is built on an enduring foundation of trust, a long record of achievement and a shared vision for upholding the global rules-based order.
- It continues to grow and adapt, commensurate with our strategic circumstances.
- My *National Defence Statement 2023* highlighted the need for Australia to continue to work closely with our ally and principal strategic partner, the United States.
- Close cooperation with the United States is central to achieving balance and stability in the Indo-Pacific.
- Our Alliance strengthens, rather than detracts from, Australia's sovereignty, affording us access to capability, technology and intelligence that we could not acquire on our own.
- The Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) is the primary forum at which the strategic direction for the breadth of our cooperation is set.
- Australia looks forward to hosting the 33rd iteration this year.
- The consultations come after two significant milestones – the commissioning of the USS *Canberra* and the tenth iteration of Exercise Talisman Sabre.
- The Commissioning of USS *Canberra* (22 July) represented the first time a US Navy Ship has been commissioned outside of the United States.
 - It was an opportunity to reflect on our shared history, a friendship forged side-by-side, and a future of ongoing collaboration.
- Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 is a practical demonstration of the impressive interoperability that underpins defence engagement between Australia and the United States.

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- This year's iteration – the largest since it began – will involve more countries than ever before [11 in addition to Australia and the United States].
 - Another example of a constellation of partners working together to enhance the stability and resiliency of the Indo-Pacific.
- Look forward to observing Exercise Talisman Sabre in action on 30 July in Townsville.

Talking Points

1. Australia's AUSMIN Agenda

Handling note: for use pre-AUSMIN

- At this year's AUSMIN, we will consider practical measures to:
 - further enhance our longstanding force posture cooperation;
 - take tangible steps towards integrating our technology and industrial bases – important for the realisation of AUKUS;
 - advance Australia's Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise; and
 - continue to synchronise our engagement in the Indo-Pacific in a way that makes a difference to our partners and enhances the resilience of our region.

2. Ukraine


- We condemn Russia's unilateral, illegal and immoral aggression against the people of Ukraine.
 - The invasion is a gross violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.
- The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to support Ukraine's defence.
- Ukraine – like all countries - has the right to make its own strategic choices consistent with its interests.
 - Deprivation of that right by using military force has no place in the modern world.
- That is why Australia supports international efforts from the United States and other partners to ensure Putin's aggression fails and that Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity prevails.
- To this end, Australia has committed \$890 million in assistance to Ukraine, including \$710 million in military assistance.
 - This includes an additional 30 Bushmasters announced by the Prime Minister in the margins of the NATO Summit on 12 July [total 120].

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- Sending significant capabilities (like artillery and vehicles) from the other side of the world shows our strong will to push-back on states seeking to change the international system by force.
- Australia will also deploy a Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail Aircraft to Germany for approximately six months starting in October.
 - This will help protect a vital gateway of international humanitarian and military assistance to Ukraine by providing early warning in the unlikely event of a threat from Russia outside of Ukraine.

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3. Force posture cooperation

Handling note: for use pre-AUSMIN

- First announced by Prime Minister Gillard and President Obama in 2011, Australia-United States force posture cooperation is a long-standing demonstration of our shared commitment to stability in the Indo-Pacific – our region.
 - Our Force Posture Initiatives now include the original Marine Rotational Force – Darwin and Enhanced Air Cooperation Initiatives, as well as Enhanced Maritime and Land Cooperation, and the Combined Logistics, Sustainment and Maintenance Enterprise.
 - Activities across these domains continue to evolve and grow in breadth and complexity.
- Force posture provides a platform for defence cooperation – not only bilaterally – but also multilaterally with our valued Indo-Pacific partners.
 - It enhances our collective capability, interoperability, and ability to respond to regional crises, including natural disasters.
- Last year, we invited Japan to increase its participation in force posture related activities.

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- And we already exercise together with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste, leveraging the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin.
- As our region becomes more contested, force posture cooperation provides a clear signal of our resolve to uphold the global rules-based order.
 - Providing practical contributions to stability and regional balance.
 - Deterring conflict, which would be catastrophic for all.
- The US rotational presence in Australia also provides valued investment in local economies, particularly in northern Australia.
- Australia and the United States are investing in a range of infrastructure projects to enable the ambitious trajectory for force posture cooperation, including facilities to support aircraft and fuel storage, upgrades to training areas, and locations for the prepositioning of stores, munitions and fuel in support of US capabilities.

4. AUKUS

Refer to Addendum B: Talking points on AUKUS legislation introduced to Congress for extensive 'if asked' points on engagement with Congress on AUKUS (at 19 July)

- Welcome ongoing delivery of the AUKUS partnership, including progress on Australia's acquisition of a conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability and the development of advanced capabilities.
- AUKUS is critical to strengthening our individual and collective capabilities and enhancing our ability to protect our interests.
 - Australia sees enhanced defence capabilities as essential for lowering the risk of conflict in our region, as well as contributing to collective security.
 - They make Australia a more capable security partner, better able to support the rules-based order and respond to our changing strategic environment.
- On 14 March 2023 (AEDT) [13 March in the United States], AUKUS leaders announced the Optimal Pathway for Australia's acquisition of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines.
- Since this announcement, the following milestones have been achieved:
 - on 22 June, the Australian Parliament passed the *Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill 2023*, Australia's first legislative step in support of Australia's acquisition of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines;
 - on 1 July, the Australian Submarine Agency was launched;
 - The Agency is responsible and accountable for the management and oversight of the nuclear-powered submarine program;
 - as part of the 2023 Budget, the Australian Government is investing \$128.5 million over four years to fund an additional 4,000 university places

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- targeted at STEM disciplines to grow the expertise needed for the program;
and
 - on 7 July, the first three Royal Australian Navy Officers graduated from the US Navy's Nuclear Power School.
- Legislative proposals to enable critical elements of the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine pathway are under consideration by Congress.
 - The legislation would authorise the transfer of up to two in-service Virginias to Australia, and enable the maintenance of US submarines in Australia (and the United Kingdom) under Submarine Rotational Force – West.
 - The Australian Government has committed to a fair and proportionate investment in the US industrial base to support increased US production, maintenance capacity and force structure.
- Our pursuit of other advanced capabilities under AUKUS will deliver asymmetric capability that contributes to deterrence in the short-term.
 - The six key technology areas chosen for Pillar II – artificial intelligence and autonomy, advanced cyber, quantum technologies, undersea warfare, hypersonics and counter hypersonics capabilities, and electronic warfare – are those that will make a significant contribution to the future of warfighting.
- As a demonstration of this, in April 2023, in the United Kingdom, AUKUS partners deployed jointly developed Artificial Intelligence algorithms on coalition autonomous systems for the purpose of collaborative Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions in real time.
 - The aims of the trial were to:
 - support Artificial Intelligence-enabled swarmed operations, increasing the number of tools and platforms available to the operators;
 - evolve Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous technologies to better succeed in more complex and contested missions; and
 - jointly create, validate and deploy Artificial Intelligence for autonomous systems as one cohesive team.
 - Further demonstrations will be held over the next 18 months, including for advanced trilateral maritime undersea intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities, and hypersonic systems.

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5. The United States and Australia in the Indo-Pacific

Handling note: for use pre-AUSMIN meeting


- The United States' long-term commitment to the Indo-Pacific has underpinned the stability and prosperity of our region for many decades.
 - A United States that is present, engaged and responding to the region's priorities is fundamentally in our interest.
 - A robust US diplomatic, economic and security regional presence is essential to maintaining a balance of power.
 - Our force posture cooperation with the United States in Australia makes an important contribution in this regard.
 - It creates new opportunities to exercise and train with regional partners and has an important deterrent effect.
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- Australia and the United States recognise the paramount role played by the region's institutions and the critical contribution they make to regional security.
 - ASEAN sits at the core of our vision for an open, inclusive and resilient region, where all countries – big and small – are free to exercise their sovereignty.
 - The Pacific Islands Forum, of which Australia is a member, drives Pacific responses to Pacific security challenges.


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6. Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023

- Exercise Talisman Sabre is a practical demonstration of the impressive interoperability that underpins defence engagement between Australia and the United States.
- It is the largest Australia-United States bilaterally planned exercise and a key opportunity to engage in high-end, multi-domain warfighting.
- This is the tenth and largest iteration of the exercise, in terms of geographic spread and the number of participating partners *[over 30,000 personnel from 13 participating and 4 observers in New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia]*.
- This is an example of a constellation of partners working together to enhance the stability and resilience of the Indo-Pacific.
- For the first time, personnel from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and His Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga will embed with Australian Army units; a demonstration of the deep security integration and solidarity between the ADF and the Pacific family.
 - For just like Australia and the United States, the ADF and the militaries of the Pacific stand side by side to support each other and the broader region at difficult times.

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7. USS *Canberra* commissioning

- The historic commissioning of USS *Canberra* in Australia showcased the deep historical ties, and strong modern day partnership between the Royal Australian Navy and the US Navy.
- It was the first time a US Navy Ship had been commissioned outside of the United States.
- The commissioning allowed us to reflect on our shared history, on a friendship forged side-by-side, and a future of ongoing collaboration.
- The USS *Canberra* is the second US ship named in honour of HMAS *Canberra I*.
 - The first was lost during the Battle of Savo Island in the Solomon Islands campaign in 1942 where the United States and Australia fought side by side.

AUSMIN Announcements

Handling Note: these messages are embargoed at PROTECTED until after AUSMIN announcements are made public on 29 July 2023.

8. AUSMIN 2023 headline announcements

- Today we agreed to put the right enablers in place to maximise the strategic and technological advantage of our long-standing Alliance.
- We further consolidated the ambitious trajectory of our force posture cooperation, building on the announcements we made in 2022.
 - We agreed to new activities across the air, land, maritime and logistics domains and to scope new infrastructure investments across the northern network of bases [consistent with the Defence Strategic Review].
- We agreed to make it easier to transfer technology, share information, collaborate, innovate, and operate together, no matter the scenario.
- And we agreed to invest in Australia's Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise.
 - The United States will transfer the technology we require to establish a domestic munitions production capability in Australia as quickly as possible.
 - This will make Australia a more self-reliant ally and expand the combined industrial power of the Alliance.

9. Force Posture at AUSMIN 2023

- Secretary Austin and I reaffirmed our commitment to advance Enhanced Force Posture Cooperation across the land, maritime, and air domains, and Logistics, Sustainment and Maintenance Enterprise, including by:

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- continuing to progress upgrades at northern bases, including RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal, as well as scoping new investments at RAAF Bases Curtin and Scherger;
- increasing rotations of US capabilities in Australia – including US Navy Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft, and an Army Watercraft;
- welcoming more frequent and longer nuclear-powered submarine visits to Australia, an important precursor to Submarine Rotational Force-West in 2027; and
- enabling the prepositioning of US Army stores and materiel following Exercise Talisman Sabre, a first step towards the longer-term establishment of an enduring Logistics Support Area in Australia.
- The declaration of Space as a new Force Posture Initiative will enable increased cooperation between Australia and the United States in this critical operational domain.
 - It reflects the importance of protecting vital systems in space for our defence capabilities, our national security, and our way of life.
- Australia and the United States have a long history of cooperation in space, including the Space Surveillance Telescope and C-Band Radar. The presence of US personnel, capabilities, and supporting infrastructure in Australia provides a platform for defence cooperation – not only bilaterally, but also multilaterally with our valued Indo-Pacific partners.
 - Enhancing our collective capability, interoperability, and ability to respond to regional crises, including natural disaster events.

Upgrades to northern bases

Handling note: figures in AUD reflect spending by Australia; figures in USD reflect spending by the United States.

- In response to the Defence Strategic Review, Defence was directed to improve the ability of the Australian Defence Force to operate and resupply from Australia's northern bases.
- At AUSMIN, we confirmed our commitment to pursue additional upgrades together, with an initial focus on RAAF Base Scherger and RAAF Base Curtin.
- This will build on existing works at RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal, including:
 - air maintenance support facilities at RAAF Darwin delivered in 2019;
 - parking apron upgrades at RAAF Darwin delivered in 2020;
 - an explosive ordnance storage area at RAAF Tindal delivered in 2022;
 - bulk fuel storage at RAAF Darwin delivered in 2023;
 - bulk fuel storage at RAAF Tindal for completion in 2024;
 - upgrades at Robertson Barracks for completion in 2026; and

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- airfield works at RAAF Tindal for completion by 2027.

US Navy Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft rotations - Enhanced Air Cooperation

- Welcome increased rotations of US Navy Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft in Australia.
 - This will see aircraft, such as the US P-8 Poseidon, flying from Australia and flying with Australian aircraft.
- India has also undertaken a number of P-8 flights from Australia; look forward to this continuing.
- Also keen to enhance our engagement and interoperability with Japan's equivalent maritime patrol aircraft, increasing our shared maritime domain awareness.
- Enhanced maritime awareness contributes to regional stability by reducing the risk of miscalculation and escalation.
 - It also helps counter illegal fishing, human trafficking and piracy.
 - It is a growing area of collaboration with the United States and others.

s33(a)(iii)

Expeditionary port visits – Enhanced Maritime Cooperation

- Committed to more regular US expeditionary nuclear-powered submarine port visits to Australia.
- Our primary focus is preparing HMAS *Stirling* for the commencement of the Submarine Rotational Force-West from 2027.

US Army Watercraft rotations – Enhanced Land Cooperation

- Welcome US commitment to our Enhanced Land Cooperation Initiative through regular rotations of a US Army Watercraft to Australia.
 - This will enhance interoperability with the ADF and facilitate regional engagement opportunities, including in the context of disaster response.
 - A rotation of this capability is occurring during Exercise Talisman Sabre.

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OFFICIAL – EMBARGOED

- The rotational presence of US Army Watercraft will assist the Australian Army as it seeks to accelerate the development of its littoral manoeuvre capability [as called for in the Defence Strategic Review].

Prepositioning of stores and materiel

- The US Army is conducting a proof of principle of initial stores and materiel in Australia following Exercise Talisman Sabre.
- This is a first step towards the longer-term establishment of an enduring Logistics Support Area in Australia.
- Welcome the opportunity to deepen our logistics interoperability and resilience and enhance our ability to respond to regional contingencies together.
 - Focus will be on deployable fuel storage and distribution equipment, and construction engineering equipment.

Trilateral cooperation with Japan

- The trilateral grouping brings together the United States, our closest ally, and Japan, our indispensable partner, to pursue our shared vision for an open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific.
 - A region where sovereignty is respected and power is exercised in a responsible manner to enhance stability.
- Keen to progress our ambitious trilateral agenda, as outlined at the 3 June Trilateral Defence Ministers' Meeting in Singapore.
 - We are developing a roadmap which will set the strategic direction.
 - And ensure we are aligned as the tempo of our countries' cooperative activities increases.
- Welcome the artillery training Japan has conducted in Australia alongside the Australian Army and Marine Rotational Force – Darwin in the last few weeks as part of Exercise Southern Jackaroo.
 - This type of training is a first for the relationship.
 - Look forward to continuing to build Japan's participation in force posture-related activities, including enhancing F-35 training and cooperation.

s33(a)(iii)

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s33(a)(iii)

11. Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO)

- The Australian Government's response to the Defence Strategic Review identified the manufacturing of longer-range munitions in Australia and acquisition of long-range strike systems as one of Australia's top national defence priorities.
- Australia's Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise is central to achieving this objective.
- Pleased to announce today our intent to formalise cooperation with the United States on Australian production and maintenance of guided weapons.
- We also welcome US support for Australia's planned Guided Weapons Production Capability.
- The ability to manufacture and maintain guided weapons and their critical components here in Australia will expand the Alliance's collective industrial capacity and position Australia as part of the solution to increase missile production to meet soaring global demand.
 - It brings Australia and the United States even closer to genuine integration of our defence industrial bases, where it makes sense.
 - Defence is now working with Lockheed Martin on a detailed plan for the establishment of the Guided Weapons Production Capability, which would commence with manufacturing Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) missiles.
 - These missiles are being used to great effect by Ukraine in resisting Russia's illegal invasion and are in high demand globally.
 - They are also being introduced to the Australian Army, along with the associated HIMARS launchers.
 - Australia can potentially help the US meet surging global demand for GMLRS missiles, while using them as an industrial stepping stone towards building longer range missiles later this decade.
 - Manufacturing GMLRS will catalyse the creation of industrial infrastructure, skilled workforce and local component manufacturing to underpin manufacturing a range of missile types.

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s33(a)(iii)

12. Technology transfer and information sharing


- In a tougher strategic environment, it is vital that we harness the strategic and technological potential of the Alliance by combining strengths and pooling resources across sovereign boundaries.
- Grateful for the Biden Administration's willingness to pursue a national exemption to export control licensing for Australia and the United States.
- On the precipice of historic reform that will transform our ability to effectively deter, innovate, and operate together.
- Australia will remain closely engaged with the United States as this legislation progresses through Congress.
- The exemption would be an important step towards realising the intent of AUKUS, and help enabling the transfer of in-service Virginia class submarines to Australia.
- It also has the potential to be of significant benefit to Australian businesses and research institutions that are engaging in defence collaboration, research, co-development, or sales activities with the United States.
 - It would encourage innovation, genuine cooperation, and enable defence industry to speed up development and deliver military capability sooner.
 - The Government will continue to engage with relevant sectors in Australia.
 - And with our stakeholders across the US system.

s33(a)(iii)


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s33(a)(iii)



13. Regional materiel co-development, co-production, and co-sustainment

- Australia and the United States endeavour to work together to develop, produce and sustain defence capabilities.
 - Collaborating with the United States on capability development, production and sustainment reaffirms our commitment to integrated deterrence and supports a free, open, prosperous, stable and secure Indo-Pacific.
 - Co-development, co-production and co-sustainment initiatives reinforce and promote innovation and supplier diversity, which assists in building more resilient supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region and globally
 - This is a priority for both nations.
 - Partnering with the United States across the capability life cycle will strengthen the industrial base of both nations and support critical capabilities.
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14. Collaboration on asymmetric capabilities

- Australia and the United States have a long history of science and technology cooperation in the defence space, enabling the delivery of advanced capabilities across the Alliance.
 - We have committed to accelerate collaboration on critical technologies to create an asymmetric advantage in an age of heightened strategic competition.
- Australia and the United States have strong alignment across the continuum from research and development through to acquisition and sustainment.

15. Collaboration between the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator and the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

- There are opportunities for collaboration between Australia's newly established Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator and the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency and Strategic Capabilities Office, including exploring synergies for planned programs.
- The Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator will transform our approach toward the research, development and the acquisition cycle.

16. Combined Intelligence Centre - Australia

- Pleased to announce our intent to establish the Combined Intelligence Centre – Australia (CIC-A), an Australia-US collaborative defence intelligence analysis centre in the Defence Intelligence Organisation in Canberra, by 2024.
- The Centre will further enhance collaboration between the Australian Defence Intelligence Organisation and the US Defense Intelligence Agency, focused on analysing issues of shared strategic concern in the Indo-Pacific.
- Comprising analysts from both organisations, it will undertake strategic defence intelligence assessments of mutual benefit to Australia, the United States.

s33(a)(iii)

17. Australia and the United States in the Pacific

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- Australia is of the Pacific.
- We welcome the United States' continued focus on our part of the world, and look forward to working together in consultation with our Pacific partners.
- Pleased to be consolidating our partnership with the United States Coast Guard, through:
 - the deployment of a US Coast Guard cutter to complement Australia's long-standing Pacific Maritime Security Program in the region.
- Together – and in consultation with Pacific Island countries – we want to reinforce Pacific island countries' sovereign capacity to protect their vast maritime domains.
- Welcome the inaugural inclusion of personnel from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and His Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga as embeds with Australian Army units for Exercise Talisman Sabre; a demonstration of the deep security integration and solidarity between the ADF and the Pacific family.
- Welcome growing US defence cooperation in the Pacific, through, for example, Exercise Puk Puk in PNG [an annual engineering exercise which Australia has conducted bilaterally for over 20 years] and Exercise Cartwheel in Fiji [a US-Fiji exercise in which Australia now participates].

18. Mini-lateral engagement in the Indo-Pacific

Cooperation with Japan and India


- We have seen significant progress in our trilateral cooperation with Japan over the past year including:
 - increased trilateral intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance cooperation and enhanced operational engagement;
 - for instance, Australia will join US-Japan Exercise Yama Sakura 2023 as a participant for the first time later this year; and
 - we are increasing complex and high-end trilateral exercises like Exercise Southern Jackaroo 2023 which will involve complex trilateral artillery fires for the first time.
- Look forward to building Japan's participation in force posture-related activities, including enhancing F-35 training and cooperation.
- And Building upon the intent we shared at this year's Trilateral Defence Ministerial Meeting, we will enhance trilateral Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) cooperation with Japan
 - including through IAMD policy discussions.
- Pleased that Australia will host maritime Exercise Malabar for the first time in August with Indian, Japanese and US maritime forces.

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- An exciting opportunity to bring the navies of India, Japan and the United States together to deepen relationships and understanding between our people and capabilities.
- And reinforces Australia's commitment to working closely with our regional partners in support of an open, secure and resilient region.
- Regular and ongoing international collaboration and partnerships are critically important to regional maritime security.

s33(a)(iii)



Cooperation with the Philippines and Indonesia

- We are deepening our cooperation with the United States and the Philippines, including by:
 - expanding Australia's contribution to Exercise Balikatan; an annual training exercise conducted between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States military designed to enhance interoperability; and
 - Participating in Exercise Sama Sama, an annual bilateral navy-to-navy exercise between the Philippine Navy and the US Navy.
- We are pleased the number of Indo-Pacific partners participating in and observing Exercise Talisman Sabre is growing this year – to include Indonesia and the Philippines as first-time participants (amongst others) in August.
- Australia is pleased to continue our trilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief cooperation with Indonesia and the United States under Exercise Bhakti Kanyini.

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Cooperation with the Republic of Korea

- Australia and the United States share the same vision as the Republic of Korea for a free, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.
- Korea's new National Security Strategy [7 June 2023] presents opportunities for deepened bilateral, trilateral and minilateral defence cooperation.
 - We are already realising this through Korea's significant participation in Exercise Talisman Sabre and involvement in Indo-Pacific Endeavour this year.
 - As well as Korea's announcement of its intent to contribute to Operation Render Safe to help dispose of unexploded ordnance in the Pacific.
 - Welcome this momentum and look forward to enhancing our regional defence cooperation with Korea, along with allies and likeminded partners.

s33(a)(iii)

19. Climate change


- Climate change is a pillar of our alliance with the United States.
 - My *National Defence Statement 2023* highlighted that the effects of climate change across the region are amplifying our challenges.
 - It is a national security issue that has significant implications for Defence.
 - It matters deeply to Australia, and it matters deeply to our Pacific family.
 - It demands urgent action.
- We committed today, building on the Senior Official's Working Group on Climate Security Risk established at the last AUSMIN, to strengthen coordination on climate security initiatives, such as:
 - enhanced information sharing;
 - collaboration on climate risk assessments; and

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- integration of climate considerations into existing military exercises and planning.
 - This will be a key to pursuing action on climate change as a pillar of the Alliance.
 - And will also allow us to better focus our efforts on areas that matter most to our neighbours in the Indo-Pacific.

s33(a)(iii)



Contact officer: s47E(d) , Strategic Communications Adviser, s22

Contact officer: s47E(d) , Policy Officer, US Alliance Policy, s22



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Australia-United States Defence Ministers Meeting

Opening Remarks

- Pleasure to welcome Secretary Austin to Brisbane for the 33rd Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations and to host this Defence Ministers' Meeting today.
- Our Alliance is unprecedented in scale, scope and significance.
- The Indo-Pacific is home to a challenging and complex strategic landscape.
- We must sharpen our focus on what our interests are and how we can work together to protect them.
- Australia and the United States are committed to investing in the security and resilience of the Indo-Pacific and to upholding the rules that have underpinned the region's prosperity for decades.
 - We all have a stake in the shape of our region and in our collective security.
- Secretary Austin and I are committed to maximising the power of our Alliance – to combine strengths across sovereign boundaries, to innovate together, operate together, and to reinforce our respective capabilities.
 - Real gains are being made in this regard.
 - We are doing the hard yards now.
 - Look forward to consolidating this trajectory over the next few days.

OPENING REMARKS

Handling note: Media will be present for the opening remarks. Deputy Prime Minister to speak first, followed by the Foreign Minister.

Deputy Prime Minister Marles:

- Welcome Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin to Brisbane for this year's Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN).
- It is at AUSMIN that we set the strategic direction for the Alliance across the breadth of our cooperation – including for defence and security.
- Our partnership is unprecedented in scale, scope and significance
 - it is built on an enduring foundation of trust, a long record of achievement and a shared vision for upholding the rules-based global order.
- Over 70 years, we have proven highly capable partners, adapting the way we work together to address the challenges of the day
 - confident today's discussions will see us once again set a course that maximises the strategic and technological advantage of the Alliance.
- A course that does not just serve our own interests
 - today we will make decisions that matter to all those invested in a stable, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.

s22