



Treaties Committee approves US/Australia defence logistics treaty

An agreement to strengthen logistics cooperation between the armed forces of the United States and Australia has been approved by the Treaties Committee.

The committee today tabled its report on the *Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between Australia and the United States of America to Amend and Extend the Agreement on Cooperation in Defense Logistics Support*.

The Exchange of Notes will extend the *Agreement on Cooperation in Defense Logistics Support* for a period of eleven years, and ensure that Australia's bilateral defence logistics cooperation with the US remains on a sound footing. The Agreement's continued operation is important to the Australia/US military relationship because it enables the reciprocal provision of military support. It also provides for the establishment of maintenance programs which enhance industry capability and contribute to Australia's military preparedness and interoperability with US forces.

Committee chair, Kelvin Thomson, said Australia's relationship with the United States is Australia's most important defence relationship.

"The ANZUS alliance – now in effect for over 60 years – is the cornerstone of our relationship with the US, and subsequent agreements such as this one help facilitate that defence relationship," Mr Thomson said.

"Given the increased cooperation between the US and Australian defence force over the past decade, this Exchange of Notes is both logical and practical. It will help facilitate ongoing operations in Afghanistan as well as the deployment of US marines to the Northern Territory."

The committee also approved an extension to the *1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology*.

"This *Regional Cooperative Agreement* is a useful mechanism in providing a regional framework for initiating cooperative projects and coordinated research between International Atomic Energy Agreement Member States in the Asia-Pacific," Mr Thomson said.

"Its continued operation over a forty year period provides tangible evidence of its usefulness."

The committee's views on these treaties are covered in Report 127, which is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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