

AUKUS Reception and Dinner

Monday 3 April 2023 | 1700h-2100h | The Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Ave NW

Pyne & Partners is co-hosting this event with Northrop Grumman Corporation.

You (HOM) have been invited to provide remarks (5 minutes) in between the main course and dessert. The US Secretary for Navy, Secretary the Hon Carlos Del Toro, and Representative Rob Wittman (R-Virginia 1st District) will both speak before you.

The Hon Christopher Pyne, Chairman of Pyne & Partners, is leading a business delegation to Washington DC and New York between 30 March to 4 April 2023, coinciding with the Sea Air Space Exposition 2023 in Washington DC. The delegation includes Senator James Paterson (Senator for Victoria), and Ms Meryl Swanson MP (Member for Paterson), and industry participants.

Pyne & Partners is not officially affiliated with the AUKUS programs.

KEY MESSAGES

s33(a)(iii)

- Our region is being reshaped and AUKUS is one response to the challenges posed by our deteriorating strategic environment.
 - With the world's largest military modernisation program, China operates nuclear-powered submarines, including both nuclear and conventionally armed.
 - We do not oppose any nation's right to invest in and develop defence capabilities. However, a lack of transparency around military capabilities can fuel insecurity.
- Australia's investments in defence capability are prudent responses to this build-up, and will make Australia a more capable defence partner to regional countries.
- AUKUS complements our collective efforts to meet the challenges posed by our strategic circumstances and ensure the Indo-Pacific remains stable, secure and prosperous.
- The submarine pathway, paired with new partnerships in advanced defence capabilities, will strengthen the national security of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States for decades to come.
- The addition of Australian nuclear-powered submarines will strengthen Australia's defence capabilities and our collective submarine presence in the Indo-Pacific.
 - The sale of Virginias to Australia in the early 2030s will ensure Australia has no capability gap,

s33(a)(ii)

- The announcement of American and British submarines beginning rotational deployments to Australia's West Coast will also advance the collective security in the region – building on

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already ironclad force posture commitments and fostering new opportunities for training and coordination.

- Our pursuit of **Advanced Capabilities** under AUKUS aims to bolster our interoperability and joint capabilities to maintain and extend our capability edge by: aligning national priorities, amplifying our collective strength, and accelerating the development and acquisition of these capabilities for mutual strategic benefit.

Australia is not naïve to the responsibilities that lay ahead, and we are already making progress to build our capabilities to safely operate, maintain and steward this technology.

s33(a)(iii)

- Australia will invest significantly to build new nuclear-powered submarine construction facilities in South Australia.
 - This will increase our allied production capability of nuclear-powered submarines, which in its own right will have a significant deterrent impact.
- Australia will build new maintenance and repair capabilities that will directly benefit US submarines rotating through HMAS Stirling.
 - This will increase our collective capacity to improve our forces in peacetime and meeting operational needs in times of crisis.
- Our intent is to enable deeper cooperation across the three nations' defence industries is unwavering.
- Australia will invest to lift the capacity of Australian industry to contribute to the AUKUS SSN supply chains, leveraging the strengths of existing Australian suppliers.
 - This will help ease pressure on the US supply chains and enhance the resilience of our AUKUS supply chains overall.
- AUKUS partners are working to leverage our innovation, and improve our technology transfer and information sharing to ensure rapid, tangible collaboration.
- This will deliver technology advantage, strengthen economic relationships and build stronger, more resilient defence supply chains.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Background

s33(a)(iii)

Pillar One

- Embedded Personnel and Port Visits. Australian military and civilian personnel will embed with the United States Navy, the United Kingdom Royal Navy and their respective submarine industrial bases. The United States plans to increase SSN port visits to Australia beginning in 2023, the United Kingdom will increase visits to Australia beginning in 2026.
- Submarine Rotational Forces. As early as 2027, the United Kingdom and the United States plan to establish a rotational presence of one UK Astute class submarine and up to four U.S. Virginia class submarines at HMAS Stirling near Perth, Western Australia (SRF-West).
- Sale of Virginia Class Submarines. Beginning in the early 2030s, pending approval from the U.S. Congress, the United States intends to sell Australia three Virginia class submarines, with the potential to sell up to two more if needed.
- SSN-AUKUS. With UK submarine design and advanced U.S. technology the AUKUS partners will deliver a submarine that meets Australia's long-term defence needs while bolstering trilateral industrial cooperation. Australia and the United Kingdom intend to start building SSN-AUKUS in their domestic shipyards before the end of this decade. The UK intends to deliver its first SSN-AUKUS to the UK Royal Navy in the late 2030s. Australia plans to deliver the first Australian-built SSN-AUKUS to the Royal Australian Navy in the early 2040s.

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Pillar Two

- Our pursuit of **Advanced Capabilities** under AUKUS aims to bolster our interoperability and joint capabilities to maintain and extend our capability edge by: aligning national priorities, amplifying our collective strength, and accelerating the development and acquisition of these capabilities for mutual strategic benefit.
- Trilateral partners are pursuing six lines of effort – artificial intelligence and autonomy, advanced cyber, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare.
- To enable this work, AUKUS partners are also working to leverage our innovation and information sharing capabilities to ensure rapid, tangible, collaboration.

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Secretary of the Navy, The Hon Carlos Del Toro

DPM Marles met Del Toro in Australia, 16 Jun and subsequently in DC on 13 Jul 2022.

Navy Service Highlight: Del Toro was the first Commanding Officer of guided missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG-84)

KEY MESSAGES

s33(a)(iii)

- SECNAV travelled to Australia on 18 Jun 2022 to visit Marines and Sailors on rotation with the Marine Rotation Force Darwin (MRF-D). Recognised the historic relationship between US-AUS 'Australia has been by our side and we will always be by their side in the fight for freedom for all those around the world.'
- SECNAV Del Toro has been a strong advocate of Australia and the role we play in a free and open Indo-Pacific.

s33(a)(iii)

Industrial collaboration

- There have significant breakthroughs in collaborative efforts and we continue to work with US government agencies to overcome barriers to industrial base, supply chain and technology collaboration.

s33(a)(iii)

- Seek SECNAV's Del Toro ongoing support and endorsement.

USS Canberra

- USS Canberra (Littoral Combat Ship) will commission in Sydney on 22 Jul 2023.
- Significant for Navy to Navy relationship as this is the only US Warship to carry the name of a foreign capital city.
- SECNAV fully supports this and is the lead push from US.

s33(a)(iii) and s47C(1)

s33(a)(iii)

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s47C(1)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

s33(a)(iii) and s47C(1)

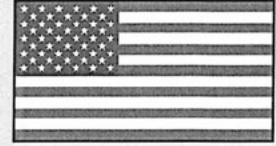
s33(a)(i) and s47C(1)

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Representative Rob WITTMAN

Representative (R-Virginia-[VA]-01)

US House of Representatives



Form of Address: Congressman

Committees:

Vice Chair, House Committee on Armed Services

- **Chair, Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee**
- **Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee**

House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the US and the Chinese Communist Party

House Committee on Natural Resources

- **Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee**
- **Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Subcommittee**

Rep. Rob Wittman was first elected to serve the first congressional district of Virginia in December 2007. His district is adjacent to Naval Base Norfolk as well as the major shipbuilding facilities in Newport News, Virginia – including one of the shipyards that builds Virginia-class attack submarines (Huntington Ingalls). Many of his constituents are employed either by the shipyards themselves, or by the supporting industry in the region. **s33(a)(iii) and 47C(1)**

With degrees in biology and public health, Wittman worked for years for local governments and the state of Virginia as an environmental specialist prior to joining Congress.