



RECORDS OF DISCUSSION

DEFENSE MoU ATTACHÉS GROUP MEETING

Thursday, April 24th, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hosted at Embassy of Canada

Opening by the Chair

Chair of DMAG opened the meeting and acknowledged the demanding global context impacting the defense sector.

Review of the previous DMAG meeting record of discussion

No comments -> will be published.

Report from the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee discussed the current legislative strategy regarding a joint letter to U.S. congressional committees. This letter aims to introduce DMAG and its position on key issues such as:

- Support for FY24 NDAA provisions.
- Clarification on exemptions from "Buy American" requirements.
- Positioning on executive orders related to acquisition reform.

Key points emphasized the importance of consistent language and the need to craft a message tailored to the new congressional staff.

Report from the Working Group on Industrial Base Cooperation (IBCWG)

Chair IBCWG, Joakim Lewin (SWE):

- Joachim led a discussion on language used in the DMAG letter that supports continued international cooperation.

- The group emphasized the need for clarity when referencing industrial base integration and the use of mechanisms.
- Concerns were raised about the risk of language becoming too vague or redundant when addressing recurring topics such as “Buy American” provisions.
- An issue was raised regarding delays in the Congressional Notification Process:
- Suggestion to make reform of the Congressional notification threshold a policy advocacy priority.

Report from the Working Group on Export Controls (ECWG)

Chair ECWG, Martti Wallin (FIN):

- A detailed review was presented on existing exemptions within ITAR regulations—particularly sections 126 —and their limited practical application.
- Concerns were raised that despite these exemptions, industries continue to default to licensing out of caution. Suggestions included encouraging the U.S. government to issue overarching declarations for programs that fall under current exemptions and to promote use of Open General Licenses.

Report from the Working Group on Cyber (CWG)

Chair CWG, Col Jean-Francois JF Simard (CAN):

- Discussion focused on CMMC (Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification):
- Significant uncertainty around the future of CMMC due to potential deregulation initiatives by the current U.S. administration.
- The program’s survival and rollout strategy, especially internationally, are unclear.
- Concern that the compliance burden conflicts with pro-business deregulation goals.
- Upcoming briefing by Stacey Bostjanick (May 14th, 2025) was announced, which should offer more clarity.

Other Issues Affecting Members

The group discussed the elevation of international cooperation roles within DoD. Proposals for creating an Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) for International Armaments Cooperation were debated. Some members expressed concerns that without restructuring, such a position would lack meaningful authority. Canada, in particular, voiced that it prefers the current engagement structure and sees limited added value in interacting with a “talking head” role at ASD because CAN already had good working relationship at USD level.

- Executive Orders on Acquisition Reform and Foreign Military Sales (FMS):
- Concerns were raised about inefficiencies in licensing and delays in program execution.
- Outreach with DOD, State, Commerce, and allied embassies is underway.

Action Items

Upcoming DMAG Meetings/Events

Host: Embassy of Poland May 19th, 2025

Defense Cooperation Events

N/A

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Stewart is the Executive Vice President for Strategy and Policy at the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). She provides an overview of the upcoming 2025 Vital Signs report, emphasizing its five strategic pillars: budget stability, digital modernization, trade reform, industrial readiness, and resilience. They highlight bipartisan momentum behind acquisition reform, concerns over regulatory burdens, and challenges small businesses face with compliance costs, and cybersecurity requirements. The speech also calls attention to workforce shortages, talent pipeline gaps, and the need to modernize foreign military sales and streamline government-industry collaboration.

DMAG Secretariat

March 25th, 2025