



## **RECORDS OF DISCUSSION**

### **DEFENSE MoU ATTACHÉS GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hosted at Embassy of Canada

### **Opening by the Chair**

Colonel Simard welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda.

### **Review of the previous DMAG meeting record of discussion**

No comments -> will be published.

### **Report from the Executive Committee**

**Membership List & Communication Issues:** Some emails have been bouncing, and several members did not receive communications. Sebastian will share an updated membership list to ensure no one is missed for upcoming events, including the December meeting.

**International Industrial Collaboration:** The Senate version of a proposal for international industrial collaboration has been included in legislation, supported by the NDIA. There is caution within DMAG about pushing for additional personnel due to sensitivities, so industry groups are advised to lead these efforts. DMAG will follow up with the Sullivan office and wait for industry action.

**Proposal for Ohio Visit:** A proposal was received for a trip to Ohio in April 2026, similar to the Arizona trip this year. The visit would include meetings with state legislators, industry companies, and key political stakeholders. Key companies like Anduril (Arsenal One) and would be involved, and discussions with people like Congressman Turner are planned. A tentative date of April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, was suggested. Coordination with Lynndy Smith (who hosted the Arizona trip) is ongoing to ensure alignment. The visit proposal emphasizes Ohio's growing role in defense industry and aims to strengthen state-level relationships. The idea has garnered support from local industry leaders and could help shape future political engagements.

**International Award Voting:** Voting is ongoing for the recipient of the International Award, with Mike Vaccaro leading in votes. The other candidate is Dak Hardwick, and it was also possible to choose a

self-nominated candidate. Votes will be finalized by the end of the week, with the winner announced at the December meeting.

Vacant Work Group Chairs: Two workgroup chairs are still vacant: one for the Expert Control working group (with Kinga Paulik from the Netherlands as a candidate) and one for the Communications group (Peter Winter from Switzerland is suggested). Formal announcements for these roles will be made in December.

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

Chair IBCWG, Joakim Lewin (SWE):

- Joakim provided an update on upcoming training for the RDP MOU and SOSA, scheduled for next week at the Norwegian Embassy. Participants were reminded to confirm their attendance.
- Discussion on future training sessions, with the possibility of outsourcing to CSIS, and a potential longer training session in the spring to cover recent changes in the administration's policies.
- Emphasis on the value of this training, particularly for new members, to improve understanding of industrial base cooperation agreements and processes.

### **Report from the Working Group on Export Controls (ECWG)**

Deputy Chair ECWG, Graham Farnsworth (UK):

- Chair and Plans: The Working Group on Export Controls is still awaiting the official appointment of a chair. Once appointed, the group plans to meet within the next month, likely after the Christmas holidays, to discuss areas of focus. A proposal will be drafted and shared with the group either before the December meeting or by January.
- New Legislation: There is new legislation related to ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations), specifically the ITAR Licensing Reform Act. This bill has already passed the House and may impact export controls, including the designation of priority nations and possible exclusions for certain articles.
- DMAG White Paper on Defense Export Reform: The DMAG had previously written a white paper on defense export reform, which may need to be updated in light of current legislative changes, including the new ITAR reform bill. There is a proposal to collaborate with Joakim and other stakeholders, such as the FPG, to review the latest House and Senate bills and adjust the white paper as necessary before the next NDAA.
- Next Steps: Discussions with Joakim and the FPG are planned for December, January, and February to address any necessary updates to the white paper and ensure alignment with ongoing legislative proposals.

### **Report from the Working Group on Cyber (CWG)**

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

- CMMC Certification Timeline:
  - Level 1 Certification: Begins on November 10, 2025, for all contractors applying for defense contracts in the U.S.
  - Level 2 Certification: Required starting November 10, 2026.
  - Level 3 Certification: Starts on November 10, 2027.
- U.S. Government Shutdown Impact: The government shutdown is still affecting progress. Efforts are ongoing to secure a meeting with Ms. Condon and Ms. Bostjanick from the CIO office to provide updates on cybersecurity and CMMC developments once they are available.

- Potential Online Seminar/Q&A: There was interest in hosting an online seminar or extended Q&A session with the CIO team on CMMC. However, this is not confirmed yet. In the meantime, the Working Group is encouraging members to submit specific questions about CMMC to help tailor the content if the seminar happens.
- Action for Member Nations: Countries are advised to consider how they will integrate these certification requirements into their national frameworks, depending on their specific needs and decisions.
- Acknowledgement of Briefing: The last detailed briefing was well received and appreciated, with thanks given for the work that went into it.

## **Other Issues Affecting Members**

- Engagement Challenges with DOD & State Department:
  - The government shutdown has hampered efforts to engage with the Department of Defense (DOD) and State Department (DOS). Regular meetings have been postponed or canceled, especially with key individuals like Eric Ver Hage.
  - Some members report difficulty reaching DOD policy teams, which are currently understaffed. There's hope that once the shutdown ends, engagement will resume.
- Impact of Government Shutdown on Export Control Processes:
  - The shutdown is affecting the approval of export licenses, especially with the Department of State (DDTC) only processing licenses related to national security emergencies. This is causing delays in exports, such as items produced in Canada that require DSP-5 licenses for export.
  - The impact is being felt across the defense industry, particularly in Canada, as companies struggle with delays in obtaining necessary licenses and components.
- FMS Reform Update (Politico Report):
  - According to a recent article, the Pentagon plans to announce a shift in the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) office, moving it under the Acquisition and Sustainment (ANS) department. This reform aims to streamline processes but may face challenges due to current staffing shortages.
  - It's expected that this move will help prioritize certain countries and defense items for export. The change is anticipated to be discussed in detail at an upcoming defense industry gathering on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Import Tariff Issues (Norwegian Suppliers):
  - Some smaller companies in Norway are facing challenges with U.S. import duties and exemptions due to difficulties accessing the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) system. This has created complications for small defense suppliers trying to navigate duty-free import processes.
  - Once companies understand how the system works and gain access to PIEE, the process seems to improve. However, there is some frustration among smaller companies about these hurdles.

## **Action Items**

### **Upcoming DMAG Meetings/Events**

Host: British Embassy in Washington, D.C. – December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **Defense Cooperation Events**

N/A

**Guest Speaker:** Jerry McGinn, Director of the Center for Industrial Base and Senior Fellow at CSIS, shared his extensive background in national security and industrial policy. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the U.S. defense industrial base, addressing challenges like scaling production, innovation measurement, and small business involvement. McGinn also highlighted opportunities for international collaboration, particularly in co-production and exportability, stressing the need for greater integration of allied nations' capabilities into the U.S. defense strategy, with a focus on modularity, intellectual property, and more efficient Foreign Military Sales (FMS) processes.

DMAG Secretariat

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025