



RECORDS OF DISCUSSION

DEFENSE MoU ATTACHÉS GROUP MEETING

Thursday, December 4th, 2025, 2:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hosted at British Embassy Washington

Opening by the Chair (Acting Chairperson, Graham)

The Acting Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Members were thanked for attending, and apologies were noted from those unable to join. No new members were identified at the table. The Chair acknowledged strong attendance and noted logistical adjustments due to higher-than-expected participation.

The Chair highlighted recent developments of relevance to DMAG, notably Secretary Hegseth's speech on the 'Arsenal of Freedom', emphasizing industrial base reshaping, accelerated acquisition, modularity, spiral development, FMS reform, and the potential integration of DCSA and DTSA functions into acquisition. Members were invited to share national perspectives on how these messages had landed domestically.

Discussion followed on cultural change within DoD, concerns regarding the 'frozen middle', accountability under the Principal Accountable Officer (PAO) construct, and differing perceptions between policy intent and execution. Members also noted outreach by senior U.S. leaders inviting international partners to identify specific barriers requiring change.

Review of the previous DMAG meeting record of discussion

No comments -> will be published.

Report from the Executive Committee

Since the EXCOM meeting was first postponed and subsequently canceled, there are no updates to report.

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

Chair IBCWG, Joakim Lewin (SWE):

- The IBCWG provided an update on recent legislative and policy developments affecting acquisition and industrial base reform.

- Key points included:
 - Congressional activity related to acquisition reform, including the FORGE Act and the SPEED Act.
 - Discussion of how elements of these proposals may be reflected in the upcoming NDAA.
 - Initial focus on analyzing NDAA text once released, with a longer-term goal of assessing impacts on allied industry access to the U.S. market and opportunities for cooperation.
 - Recognition that potential reforms may require statutory change to enable meaningful transformation.
- Members noted that these reforms were explicitly referenced by senior U.S. leadership as enablers of acquisition change. Further analysis will continue into spring.

Report from the Working Group on Export Controls (ECWG)

Deputy Chair ECWG, Graham Farnsworth (UK)/Chair ECWG, Kinga Paulik (NL):

- The ECWG Chair confirmed her appointment and outlined the group's planned approach.
- Key actions and themes:
 - A questionnaire will be circulated to member nations seeking:
 1. The top three export control bottlenecks faced under U.S. regulations.
 2. Preferred approaches for addressing those challenges.
 - Responses will be analyzed to identify common themes and prioritize efforts.
 - Potential focus areas include:
 - Use and expansion of exemptions (including lessons from AUKUS).
 - Licensing predictability and processing timelines.
 - Enhanced training on export control exemptions.
 - Greater alignment with FMS processes, including recent changes to the FMS-only list.
 - Coordination with the FMS-focused Policy Group (FPG) Working Group was encouraged where interests align.
- Members were urged to respond promptly once the questionnaire is issued.

Report from the Working Group on Cyber (CWG)

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

An informal update was provided in the absence of CWG leadership.

Key points:

- CMMC Level 1 requirements are now included in all DoD contracts, focusing on basic cyber hygiene.
- Phase 2 (CMMC Level 2) is expected next year, introducing more stringent requirements.
- Members were encouraged to engage early with the responsible DoD offices, which were described as constructive to work with.
- Work continues on coordination between cyber requirements and personnel security processes, including background checks.

Other Issues Affecting Members

- The Communications Working Group was noted as not yet fully active; follow-up will occur with the designated chair.

- Members were encouraged to raise issues proactively to enable DMAG to produce tangible outputs and influence policy collectively.
- The importance of continued awareness and coordinated engagement with U.S. policymakers was emphasized, noting past successes through unified DMAG action.

Action Items

Upcoming DMAG Meetings/Events

January DMAG Meeting: Tentatively planned at the Netherlands Embassy unless another host volunteers.

Members agreed, where possible, to continue holding meetings on the last Thursday of the month to aid planning and deconfliction.

Defense Cooperation Events

Ohio Defense Industry Military Summit:

- Dates confirmed (April 27th–30th, 2026).
- Agenda largely developed; additional volunteers requested to assist with coordination.
- Cost estimates and logistics to be refined and shared to support national funding requests.

Guest Speakers:

Michael Laychak (Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA))

Michael F. Miller (Director for the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA))

Michael J. Vaccaro (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Defense Trade Controls, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC))

The guest speakers emphasized that the U.S. government is prioritizing faster, more efficient defense trade and security cooperation processes while maintaining strong technology protection, driven by executive orders and senior-level attention. They highlighted reforms to licensing, acquisition, and interagency coordination aimed at supporting allies, strengthening the defense industrial base, and responding to strategic competition, particularly with China. Across their remarks, they repeatedly encouraged industry and partners to engage early, provide feedback, and work collaboratively with U.S. agencies to identify problems and accelerate delivery of critical capabilities.

DMAG Secretariat

December 22nd, 2025