



RECORDS OF DISCUSSION

DEFENSE MoU ATTACHÉS GROUP MEETING

Friday, February 27th, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Hosted at Embassy of Italy

Opening by the Chair

The meeting was opened by the host from the Italian Embassy, who welcomed participants and thanked members for attending. The host highlighted the unique features of the embassy building, noting that it is Italy's largest embassy in the world and contains historical artifacts and artwork from Italy.

The Chair thanked the Italian Embassy for hosting the meeting and noted the strong attendance. The Chair also acknowledged the quality of the Italian hospitality and refreshments.

Review of the previous DMAG meeting record of discussion

No comments -> will be published.

Report from the Executive Committee

Ohio Industry Visit

- Planning continues for the upcoming DMAG visit to Ohio, following the previous delegation trip to Arizona.
- The trip is expected to take place in August, with detailed invitations and budget information to be circulated soon.
- Members were encouraged to raise questions with the organizer when additional details become available.

Annual DMAG Letter to the U.S. Congress

- The Industrial Base Cooperation Working Group has begun drafting the annual DMAG letter to Capitol Hill.
- Members will be consulted to provide input on the key themes and tone of the letter.

Reciprocal Defense Procurement Memoranda of Understanding (RDP MOUs)

- The Committee discussed increasing U.S. scrutiny of RDP MOUs.
- Recent developments include:
 - A bipartisan congressional letter calling for greater review.
 - A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report examining the agreements.
 - Review activity by the Made in America Office.
- Members were encouraged to inform their national authorities about the evolving debate and share insights where appropriate.

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

Chair IBCWG, Joakim Lewin (SWE):

- Defense Sales Data
- According to data from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA):
- Total foreign defense purchases from the U.S. in FY25: \$331 billion
- \$227 billion – Direct Commercial Sales (DCS)
- \$104 billion – Foreign Military Sales (FMS)
- Members noted that these figures illustrate the importance of international demand for sustaining U.S. defense production capacity.

Industrial Base and Demand Signals

- Participants highlighted that international procurement plays a critical role in providing long-term demand signals that allow industry to expand production capacity.

U.S. “America First” Arms Transfer Strategy

- The Working Group discussed the implications of the executive order on arms transfer strategy, including:
- Efforts to strengthen the U.S. defense industrial base
- Increased export advocacy
- Potential development of a defense sales catalog
- Two interpretations of the proposed catalog were discussed:
 - A public list of key defense products for international sales
 - A classified list recommending specific purchases to partner nations.

European Defense Procurement Policy

- The Working Group also examined developments in the European Union’s defense procurement directive.
- Key points included:
- Proposed “European preference” rules requiring 65% European content.
- Strong reactions from the U.S. government, which views the proposal as inconsistent with existing RDP MOUs.
- The proposal remains in consultation and may take several years to implement.

Members emphasized the importance of maintaining transatlantic defense industrial cooperation.

Report from the Working Group on Export Controls (ECWG)

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

Key themes identified so far include:

- Increasing transparency in export licensing processes
- Improving speed and efficiency of approvals
- Ensuring better visibility of existing exemptions

Members were asked to provide feedback on the top three to five issues they believe should be addressed in the letter.

It was also suggested that DMAG engage with the America First Arms Transfer Task Force, which was established under a recent executive order.

The group discussed the possibility of inviting Katherine Katina, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy, to a future DMAG session.

Report from the Working Group on Cyber (CWG)

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

The Cyber Working Group provided an update on developments related to Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) 2.0.

Key points included:

- Implementation is currently in Phase 1, with self-assessment requirements in place until November 2026.
- More complex requirements will begin in Phase 2, when formal certification assessments become mandatory.
- Level 2 certification is expected to be particularly challenging for some international partners.

The Working Group encouraged broader participation from DMAG member nations to improve diversity and collaboration.

Additional engagements are planned with organizations such as:

- Aerospace Industries Association
- National Defense Industrial Association

These engagements aim to improve understanding of CMMC requirements and best practices.

Other Issues Affecting Members

Members discussed several broader strategic issues:

- Potential contradictions in U.S. policy signals regarding allied defense industrial autonomy.
- Concerns that protectionist measures could push partner nations to invest more heavily in domestic defense industries.
- The importance of maintaining open and integrated global defense supply chains.

Members noted that international cooperation remains essential for sustaining production capacity and technological development.

Action Items

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Provide feedback on export control priorities for DMAG policy letter	All Members	By March 15 th , 2026
Encourage additional participation in the Cyber Working Group	All Members	Ongoing

Upcoming DMAG Meetings/Events

March 26th, 2026 – DMAG meeting hosted by the Canadian Embassy (tentative, including lunch session)

June 2026 – DMAG meeting hosted by the Netherlands

Additional hosts are sought for April and May meetings

Defense Cooperation Events

Members discussed several upcoming defense industry and policy events, including:

- Industry conferences organized by the National Defense Industrial Association
- Policy discussions related to arms sales reform and defense industrial base development.

These events may provide additional opportunities for engagement with U.S. government stakeholders.

Guest Speakers:

The guest speaker, Gracelin Baskaran (Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)), explained that critical minerals have become strategic assets essential to economic security, defense technologies, and energy systems, making them a rare area of bipartisan cooperation in U.S. policy. She argued that the United States is vulnerable because it has limited mineral reserves, weak processing capacity, and insufficient stockpiles—while China dominates global processing and is stockpiling key materials. The speaker emphasized that improving mineral security will require long-term investment, stronger international partnerships, expanded mining and processing capacity, and a comprehensive “mine-to-manufacturing” strategy rather than fragmented policies.

DMAG Secretariat

March 12th, 2026