

Press release: Foreign Secretary arrives in Sydney for AUKMIN 2017

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson arrives in Australia to attend the annual meeting of UK and Australian Foreign and Defence Ministers

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson arrives in Australia today (Tuesday 25 July 2017) to attend AUKMIN, the annual meeting of UK and Australian Foreign and Defence Ministers, which will take place on Thursday. The Secretaries of State will discuss regional security and defence, East Asia, the future of Europe, terrorism and promoting our common values.

During the visit he will also:

- Meet with Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop, to discuss the bilateral relationship, cyber security and the Commonwealth
- Deliver the Lowy Institute's annual Lowy Lecture on Thursday evening, speaking about the UK-Australia relationship, Britain in Asia and Britain in the world
- Take a tour of the Sydney Opera House, and meet with representatives of UK company Laing O'Rourke, who are currently refurbishing the Opera House
- Visit the Tyro Fintech hub, to promote collaboration between the UK and Australian fintech sectors
- Meet with the leaders of top UK investors in Australia, and with major Australian investors in the UK to discuss UK-Australia trade and business opportunities

The Foreign Secretary said:

The bonds of kinship between Britain and Australia are deep and enduring. It is fantastic to be back in Australia, my first time as Foreign Secretary. Our relationship is based on shared history, interests and values, with large numbers of our nationals making each other's countries home.

I look forward to strengthening even further our partnerships on global challenges and opportunities, such as North Korea, the fight against extremism and terror, modern slavery and trade. Talks with

businesses and government on boosting trade between us when we leave the EU will also be at the top of agenda. I can't wait to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

The Foreign Secretary's visit to Australia is the last stop in a three country trip. He held two days of positive talks in Japan last week, before moving on to New Zealand and finally Australia.

Further information

Collection: River Medway Partnership

How the River Medway Partnership plans to reduce flood risk on the River Medway.

Policy paper: Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankments scheme

Updated: Update on the scheme.

The Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankments scheme is being delivered by the Environment Agency in partnership with Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

News story: Chief of the Defence Staff strengthens bonds with India

Under the umbrella of the 2015 Defence and International Security Partnership (DISP), Sir Stuart met senior Indian military figures, including the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), currently Admiral Sunil Lanba; the Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat; and the General Officer Commanding in Chief Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Praveen Bakshi. Sir Stuart also met with the Indian Defence minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, and the

National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval.

Sir Stuart's exchanges centred on the continued growing defence relationship through the recently established Capability Partnerships, the joint threats of terrorism and extremism faced globally, upcoming exercises and UN Peacekeeping among other topics.

UK Chief of the Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach said:

My interactions with the civilian and political officials have served to underpin our already strong bonds. Our shared values provide a platform on which, as partners, we can contribute to regional and global security and jointly develop cutting edge capabilities for our armed forces. Whether beating terror, securing peace and stability through better peacekeeping or sharing operational knowledge and technology, as defence partners, we are world beaters.

The Chief of the Defence Staff visited Delhi and Kolkata over four days. In addition to meetings with senior military and civilian officials, he laid a wreath at India Gate in commemoration of the 74,000 Indians who served and died in the First World War.

Chief of Defence Staff Sir Stuart Peach presents a memento to Admiral Sunil Lanba PVSM AVSM ADC, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
Copyright British High Commission India.

Sir Stuart also interacted with students at the prestigious National Defence College, India's principal establishment for strategic learning for senior Indian and selected international Defence officers. His trip was completed by a visit to the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd, the premier Warship building Company in India.

The UK's and India's Armed Forces continue to benefit from a close relationship and Sir Stuart's visit fortifies this. Both countries' Armed Forces are undergoing a transformation in some guise and the learning experiences from each other in areas like the joint aircraft carrier projects, to combatting terrorism, develops best practice between global partners.

[Policy paper: Middle Medway flood resilience scheme](#)

Updated: Alteration to layout 10 October 2017.

Details of the Middle Medway flood resilience scheme.