

4.6 – Australia-U.S. Submarine Officer Pipeline Act

The U.S. Submarine Officer Pipeline Act, a bipartisan bill, established an exchange program between the U.S. Navy and the Royal Australian Navy to integrate and train Australian sailors for the operation and maintenance of nuclear-powered submarines. Under the program, a minimum of two Australian submarine officers would be selected each year to participate in training with the U.S. Navy. Each Australian participant will:

- Receive training in the Navy Nuclear Propulsion School
- Enroll in the Submarine Officer Basic Course
- Be assigned to duty on an operational U.S. submarine

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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint training pipeline between the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COURTNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint training pipeline between the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT TRAINING PIPE-**
4 **LINE BETWEEN UNITED STATES NAVY AND**
5 **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that—

1 (1) the AUKUS partnership between Australia,
2 the United Kingdom, and the United States presents
3 a significant opportunity to enhance security co-
4 operation in the Indo-Pacific region;

5 (2) parties to the AUKUS partnership should
6 work expeditiously to implement a strategic roadmap
7 to successfully deliver capabilities outlined in the
8 agreement;

9 (3) the United States should engage with indus-
10 try partners to develop a comprehensive under-
11 standing of the requirements needed to increase ca-
12 pacity and capability;

13 (4) Australia should continue to expand its in-
14 dustrial base to support production and delivery of
15 future capabilities;

16 (5) the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine
17 to the Government of Australia would require the
18 appropriate training and development of future com-
19 manding officers to operate such submarines for the
20 Royal Australian Navy; and

21 (6) in order to uphold the stewardship of the
22 Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, the Secretary of
23 Defense should work to coordinate an exchange pro-
24 gram to integrate and train Australian sailors for

1 the operation and maintenance of nuclear-powered
2 submarines.

3 (b) EXCHANGE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of De-
4 fense, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall
5 carry out an exchange program for Australian submarine
6 officers during 2023 and each subsequent year. Under the
7 program, each year, two Australian submarine officers
8 shall be selected to participate in the program. Each such
9 participant shall—

10 (1) receive training in the Navy Nuclear Pro-
11 pulsion School;

12 (2) following such training and by not later
13 than July 1 of the year of participation, enroll in the
14 Submarine Office Basic Course; and

15 (3) following completion of such course, be as-
16 signed to duty on an operational United States sub-
17 marine at sea.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
20 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-
21 port on a notional exchange program for Australian sub-
22 marine officers that includes initial, follow-on, and recur-
23 ring training that could be provided to Australian sub-
24 marine officers in order prepare such officers for com-
25 mand of nuclear-powered Australian submarines.