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**To:** Sydney Morning Herald <[letters@smh.com.au](mailto:letters@smh.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 25 February 2018  
**Subject:** US to expand Marine deployment in Darwin

The public has never been given any plausible rationale for the presence of US marines in Darwin. With no prior debate, their arrival was announced in the Australian Parliament by US President Obama in 2011. Now we learn, in news from America (24 Feb 2018) that the numbers are to expand more swiftly than had been previously agreed. Once again, no rationale for this development has been offered and there has been no discussion of it in this country.

The ADF can look after our nation's defence. Australia does not need US marines in Darwin. Their presence sends a bad message to our neighbours in the region. The only party deriving any strategic benefit from this is the USA.

The marines should not be here.

What supposed 'problem' does the presence of the marines solve? What 'need' has been satisfied by their presence? These are questions to which our government should have, but has so far failed to express, ready answers.

Sincerely

Nick Deane

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