

Australian Defence Force Posture Review

As a starting point I would like to highlight the Kimberley area of Western Australia.

This area has the ability to give direct access into the massive gas and petroleum rigs situated from NorthWest Cape up to the Conoco Phillips Rig in the Timor Sea and approximately 500 kilometres to the west of the Australian Mainland. The known reserves of gas, condensate and petroleum is in excess of two thirds of the entire Australian known reserves.

This area is fresh there is little to nil in the way of developments from civilian assets that would prevent the installation of an integrated military facility.

All current and future planned naval assets have the Cambridge Gulf to access the deepwater port of Wyndham from this point they are midway between Northwest Cape and Darwin . This gives those assets the ability to perform their tasks and replenish and refuel without having to continually return to southern ports.

RAAF aircraft have access to all weather strips at Kununurra and Wyndham with alternate strips at the Bradley Training area and the old wartime strips at Truscott, with access to offshore strips at Cocos Island and Christmas Island and the current military strips at Tindal , Darwin and Curtin airbases .

Army land forces based at either Wyndham or Kununurra would be ideal for base protection, or land movement either north south or east to cover the shortfall from Robertson Barracks in Darwin to the south to cover Derby, Broome and Port Hedland to integrate with the Norforce Personnel and south east to link via the Tanami Highway into central and eastern Australia.

Kununurra was selected because of the very obvious facilities of

1. Ord River Scheme fresh water in abundance
2. Hydro electric power system
3. Abundant fresh produce vegetables and fruit
4. Fresh fish, cattle
5. Townsite facilities housing schools medical facilities roads
6. All weather airstrips and regular air services to other capital cities
7. RFDS facilities ambulance
8. Civilian police and court facilities
9. Fuel stations and regular transport companies with regular mail and freight forwarding.

Wyndham was selected because it has the deepwater port and therefore access from Cambridge Gulf allows all current naval and future naval access and the ability to replenish, armament and fuel without having to return to southern ports.