

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE POSTURE REVIEW

Outline of the security environment Australia needs to be positioned to respond to up to 2030

Afghanistan is in a state of civil war ; the ability of the security forces to take over from the NATO allied forces is troubled by:

- [1] a high desertion rate \approx 30%
- [2] Bad governance—corruption at all levels
- [3] Continued support of the Taliban from Pakistan :- men , money and materiel
- [4] Poor treatment of prisoners of war
- [5] Large crops of opium ; which in many areas funds the war against the government
- [6] Stalemate or insufficient progress in the war

Continued bombing of the Taliban leadership is advisable , to put pressure on our enemies to begin peace talks. If the allied forces cannot defeat our enemies we will have to talk to them . Peace talks could take many years.

Africa :- The horn of Africa has been over populated for over 40 years and will suffer famine with every major drought ; the civil and border wars multiply the scale of the suffering ; large flows of refugees will continue to destabilise the region .

The Congo is probably the resource richest country in Africa ; civil wars in the east and continued poor governance will keep the country poor .

Brazil is the economic giant of South America . We can expect Brazil to fill any vacuum left by the U.S. in central and South America , through U.S. economic decline.

China`s re-armament seems to be in balance with it`s growing economic power as is ours. The possession of a small fleet of nuclear submarines ;two aircraft carriers and a small fleet of large destroyers [aircraft carrier destroyers], does not make China a super power ; or to be in a position to challenge the U.S. militarily.

The continued decline of North Korea with the flow of refugees across China`s border ; independence factions in Xinjiang and Tibet provinces ,and continued work to out flank Taiwan [with the aim of starting serious negotiations for re-unification with the mainland] will be minor considerations in the Chinese economy and foreign policy. The ``New Economic Zones`` and the successful take-over of Hong Kong ,will be China`s biggest assets in the Taiwan re-unification.

China`s booming economy will be slowed down, as the shortages of labour become common, , to aid control of inflation . Large Chinese investment funds will continue to compete with Aust. and U.S. interests in globally which will create ,tensions; more so with U.S. and Europe ,than Aust.

China's territorial disputes with Vietnam, Philippines, and Korea will cause minor tensions ; China's increasing economic power rather than military threat, will bring about a compromise resolution. The problem which will cause China the greatest level of ill will with its neighbours is its inherent culture of masculinity and gender imbalance [an excess of 150 million men]. Tensions will be at their worst when provincial governments [1] offer scholarships to young women of neighbouring countries.

[2] Subsidised holidays for young men to visit neighbouring countries to bring home a bride.

The countries most affected will be ; -Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, India's main security concerns will be within its immediate sphere Pakistan, - Kashmir, Afghanistan, Nepal, Shrilanka, Bangladesh, Burma ; as well as the usual internal concerns ; -tensions with its Muslim, Sikh, and Christian communities; and rebel factions in Assam .

Indonesia's democratic government is dependant on continued growth in the economy . A lack of good governance and an over large military budget, has kept Indonesia poor in the past. A boom in resource development gives some reasons for optimism; for a more normal development of their prosperity base, in the following decades. The peace in Aceh is a good sign of realistic forward thinking ; however religious minority groups are still under threat from extremists .

Israel's hard line policy, toward the Palestinians has so efficiently put the entire Palestinian population into the hands of political extremists ; we can assume this gives some advantage to Israel's national agenda . We can expect this situation to continue to destabilise the entire region .

Pakistan's low level civil war can be expected to further destabilise the state ; entrenched sympathy for the Taliban, especially in the tribal areas, will continue to fuel the civil wars, in both Pakistan and Afghanistan . Extremists within the Pakistani military establishment, may continue to goad the Indian government, by supporting further attacks by militants against the Indian mainland .

The U.S. will down size its armed forces and their world wide commitments by 2030 ; due to budgetary constraints . We can expect the defence budget to fall towards 10 percent of G.D.P. down from 17 percent before the G.F.C. ; we can expect reductions to the size of U.S. garrisons, both in Asia and Europe, early retiring or mothballing of parts of the naval fleet and reduction in numbers of the full time army. We can expect China, India, Japan, and Australia to take a greater role in security issues of the India-Pacific region.

The U.S. still maintains a large garrison in Iraq, the civil war ended when the loyal Sunni militias were re-armed and the Sunni elected politicians joined the parliament ; about the time of the U.S. troop surge. Small rebel factions [as few as 200 plus sympathisers] will continue to cause serious disruption, mostly through bombings of civilians.; this is no longer a U.S. military problem.

With a little help from U.S. Intelligence, Iraqi armed forces are more than capable of coping with the insurgents. They should withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible. [see appendix 3]

Australia's intelligence sharing with U.S. ,U.K.,N.Z.,and Canada is one of our most important defence assets .

Proposed greater use of Australian defence facilities by the U.S. should be made to be a reciprocal arrangement .; in exchange for U.S. use of our facilities; Australian use of facilities in Diego Garcia, Guam, Pearl Harbour, and west coast U.S. should be negotiated.

There will be further attacks against the U.S. and Australia by extremists ; persons involved in these attacks would be best handled as enemy combatants ;- prisoners of war .[ref. Geneva convention-

Prisoners of War . 1957.]

A tribunal will need to be set up ,to establish whether any person [extremist] detained is a criminal or an enemy combatant ; criminals are tried in civil courts ; enemy combatants are held as prisoners of war ,in a specially set up camp [facility]. P.O.W.'s have rights under the Geneva Convention; eg;-

[1] They are paid the equivalent of half a frank[Swiss] a day,while in captivity.

[2]Have access to a kiosk , where they can buy ;-supplimentary food, writing materials, shaving gear etc.

[3]Send and receive mail from home

[4]Be visited by a Red Cross or U.N. representative regularly to ensure their rights are protected.

The advantages of establishing a P.O.W. camp are ;-

[1] P.O.W's are detained for the duration of hostilities ;in the present climate – almost indefinitely.

[2] P.O.W's have no civilian visitors apart from U.N. or Red Cross inspectors.

[3] If P.O.W's are sick or no longer capable of being combatants , they can be exchanged for allied P.O.W's.

[4] P.O.W's can be used as bargaining chips, in peace talks with our enemies .

[5] We can avoid the debacle that the Bush regime caused , when they disallowed enemy combatants their rights under the Geneva Convention ; avoid prisoner abuse [which caused a rush of recruits to the AlQaida franchises].

[6] Avoid the release of enemy combatants by civil courts, after completion of their jail sentence ;to re- join enemy forces .

[7] Provide incentive for our enemies to keep captured allied soldiers alive, for future P.O.W. exchanges [instead of killing them ,as they have thus far.]

[8] P.O.W's can be tried for war crimes [eg.-killing civilians],their sentence can be served after hostilities have ceased.