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EXECUTIVE STATEMENT.

There are plethora of alliances, agreements, shared responsibilities, exchanges, support and political speak that mark Australia’s relationship with New Zealand.

The military umbrella currently sitting on the Australian mainland would probably be sufficient in defence of any alliance.

What is of concern is that in 2000 the New Zealand Government decided not to renew purchases of a more modern combat aircraft. The possible purchase, of say, 24 fighters of the base standard – the Hornet, would be financially prohibitive.

Could New Zealand afford to have those aircraft?

In the military sense probably not. In the technological sense, definitely yes.

This submission deals with the subject of integration, between Australia and New Zealand in one area of the military- the Air Force.

That both countries have a strong indigenous population, with on going indigenous issues being addressed. As indigenous issues generally are directed at the retention and practice of customs, land, language, historical perspectives, cultural practices, tourism and the education of the young in tribal cultural issues, there will probably be fewer indigenous applicants for technical training of an advanced nature. Being indigenous and advanced technical training are not mutually exclusive.

This leaves us with the question of the New Zealand population. How many would be prepared to sign a contract for an initial fifteen years service to cover the period from 2016 to 2031.

As a matter of good management the inclusion of indigenous persons would have enormous benefits to those communities.

The Air Force is becoming a detached service, with deployment of stores and the execution of a military strike being a distance up to several hundred kilometres from the strike zone.

In terms of the Air Force, the more significant subject of this integration, strikes at arms length has always been a feature. Therefore it matters not who sits in the chair, gives the order and or who flies the planes as long as the competence, management and leadership is beyond reproach.

John Young 21 August 2014. Words 325

The following contribution may be published.
NEW ZEALAND.

In 2000 New Zealand chose to withdraw from its purchase of a frontline fighter. This has left several issues unspoken,

- Who will spring to their defence?
- What can be placed in the air by New Zealand?
- Where can New Zealand obtain advanced combat aircraft and technology in keeping with their circumstances?
- Can any serious incursion of New Zealand’s declared territorial zone be militarily manageable?
- Is New Zealand’s landmass of real, not perceived, interest to any of our neighbours?
- What alternatives from a security point of view does New Zealand have?
- Does New Zealand need any defence forces or would a beefed up Customs force provide a competent answer?
- Could New Zealand benefit from an integrated arrangement with Australia?

AUSTRALIA.

Australia has, despite its small population, a defence policy that involves the purchase of ever increasingly sophisticated weaponry, much of which requires little human intervention.

In terms of Australia’s relationship with New Zealand there are a number of agreements on a variety of subjects concerning joint actions and commentary of a political nature on the military.

New Zealand sits to our south by 650 kms. There is no country of note likely to attempt a possession of any part of their islands. However should persons fleeing their natural lands for a safer lifestyle make a substantial number of incursions? One suspects that Australia might provide additional military intervention,

Australia’s current commitments are to purchase 71 advanced F35 fighters to replace the range of Hornets currently in service. This will provide several issues after 2020,
• A glut of fighters,
• An unsustainable service routine to maintain those partially mothballed craft in an operable condition, despite the fact that they had been set aside pending combat or dispersion.
• The sale of some or all of the unused aircraft could only be back to the United States inventory for spares and or mothballing or an approved ally.
• Further extend the service life with upgrades in computerised assets, checks of airframes, engines and rebuilds where necessary.
• Technically having to fly 650 kms there and back seriously reduces the effective time over any disputed area to the south.

INTEGRATION PROCESS.

Historically, military intentional forward asset purchase planning in most of the world and Australia is congenitally dysfunctional. The causes are the lack of political will and bouts of pacifist speak by fringe dwellers in politics and the obvious personal wishes of each service.

Notwithstanding the obvious differences in politics, worldview and a capacity to maintain a substantially improved military asset, the New Zealand government should favour an agreement to a full integration of some military air assets and be prepared to meet a working budgetary contribution.

• The independence of each military organisation would remain the same.
• The structure and ranking of each service would remain unchanged.
• Each military would have its own agenda - in concert.
• Each government must have the will and sense of purpose to make such a proposed integration work.
• Consideration of already established protocols with United States manufacturers and any possible interest by the United States government, whose national security may be threatened by an agreement for shared military assets with a party not in the original contract.
• An assessment of personnel currently able to absorb advanced avionics, technical and airframe maintenance in New Zealand.
• An assessment of the Australian components, their availability for larger scale training programmes over the period 2016 to 2018 for ground servicing. For training of air (flying) personnel for the period 2018 to 2023.
An assessment of New Zealand’s progress in the establishment of compatible infrastructure on home ground.

An agreement on cost sharing for the training and subsequent ongoing processes to be expressed as a single figure Per Annum.

An agreement on the ground base/training facilities in either New Zealand or Australia.

Possible financial scenario for the integration process.

The integration process would initially be directed at the Air Force.

An initial look at the two militaries’ shows considerable material differences. One assumes that the professional skills currently in use in New Zealand would be receptive to new and different air assets and weapons with minimum interference to current internal programmes and management.

It is reported that the RAAF’s 71 F/A – 18A/B Hornets will be replaced with 72 fifth-generation F-35A aircraft from 2018.

The Hornet was developed for the US Navy and Marine Corps and has been successful aircraft. It is also used be Canada, Finland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Spain and Switzerland.

The fleet has just undergone a major avionics upgrade to ensure effective operations for the next 10 to 15 years.

The first F35 aircraft will arrive in Australia in 2018 and the first squadron; Number 3 Squadron will be operational in 2021. All 72 aircraft will be operational by 2023.

The timetable for any proposed process of integration is governed by the delivery dates of replacement aircraft.

**CONCEPT.**

- To agree upon the reinstatement of fighter aircraft protocols for New Zealand.
- To agree upon a training programme for technical personnel from New Zealand.
- To agree upon a time schedule for the training of flight servicing personnel.
- To agree upon a programme of flight (air) training for selected personnel.
• To agree upon a financial support programme for the training and the ongoing service of any aircraft accepted into the New Zealand air defence inventory.

• For the New Zealand Government to preselect five hundred (500) potential air force personnel for training in Australia and New Zealand in avionics, airframes and engines for the Hornet fighter.

• This number includes those personnel who are selected for flight training. It is considered necessary that potential pilots who do not have advanced fighter capabilities (skills) be introduced to their new fighter through the construction and servicing programmes for mechanics and fitters.

• That from the personnel selected for training at least fifty (50) be identified as potential pilots prior to the completion of their basic technical training.

• The cost of this basic training to be born by the New Zealand Government.

• The Australian Government would make available 2 X Squadrons or 24 Standard Hornet fighters with spares and servicing oversight for an initial period of their deployment to New Zealand - as they become available after 2018.

• The Australian Government would accept one (1) dollar for each aircraft delivered with an agreement that when the fighters become finally obsolete they be disposed of according to the original purchase agreement with the United States manufacturers.

• That if there are New Zealand flight personnel serving with the RAAF then, should they wish, they could be transferred to the New Zealand Air Force as Training and Management personnel without loss of rank or pay.

• The costs associated with flight and servicing schedules of the twenty-four (24) fighters is the responsibility of the New Zealand Government.

• All servicing schedules would be those currently employed by the Australian Air Force.

• The New Zealand Government may have some discretionary powers in any agreement with Australia.

• The Australian Government would have some discretionary powers and arrangements with the manufacturers and those would remain in force irrespective of where the fighters were stationed.

• It is considered that New Zealand would be well served by the introduction of the advanced fighter technology.

• It is noted that this concept could be viewed as over kill from New Zealand’s point of view. The acceptance, maintenance and advancement of these new military technologies are well in keeping with the
advancement of handheld technologies currently in general use within the population.

- There will be much advancement of pacifist ideals in response to this concept. There will always be the doomsayers and bean counters with their pretensions to normality (civilised) lifestyles. It is regrettable but there are an equal number of those who would be active in their responses, with little regard for the niceties of a civilised and considerate host.

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7. Defence today (Strike publications) Volume 10 #4 – September 2013.
This paper is available for publication at the discretion of the recipient.