

Australia Readies for World War: Tragedy, or Just Plain Farce?

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Australia is deep into preparations for a British-directed, Obama-led, nuclear world war against Russia and China. Indeed, our nation is a key chess piece in that war. Should such a war unfold, we will be hit by Chinese nuclear weapons, and perhaps by Russian ones as well.

This reality was the subject of a secret chapter in Australia's 2009 Defence White Paper, which envisaged an armed showdown initiated by the USA and Australia against China, beginning with Australian submarines blockading China's sea lanes, followed by China's hitting the Pine Gap radar installation with a missile. *The Australian* of 2 June summarised, "A secret chapter in the Rudd government's 2009 defence white paper detailed a plan to fight a war with China, in which the navy's submarines would help blockade its trade routes, and raised the prospect of China firing missiles at targets in Australia in retaliation."

Such an attack on Pine Gap, a joint US-Australian facility, vital to US global signals intelligence and its ever expanding global Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system, would almost certainly unleash a US nuclear reprisal and world war. The 29 March 2012 issue of *Global Times*, an official Beijing paper written for foreign readers, editorialised that "North Korea and Iran are named by Washington as the targets of the missile defense system, though it is clear the real targets are China and Russia." Moreover, the editorial warned, "Installing a missile defense system in Asia disrespects China's nuclear policy. The US is seeking to shift the regional balance. A strong response from China should be expected. An overarching missile defense system would force China to change its long-held nuclear policy." As all experts know, "change its long-held nuclear policy" refers to abandonment of China's pledge

of "no first use" of nuclear weapons.

Shocking though it may be, the prospect of Australia being bombarded by nuclear missiles should come as no surprise. After all, the British Crown is preparing for nuclear war, and Australia has never been anything but a (sometimes) restive colony within the British Empire. How could Australia not be in the thick of it?

For the past decade, under the British-steered foreign policies of Presidents Bush and Obama, the United States has been building a worldwide BMD system, intended to make possible a US first strike against Russia and China. Since no later than 2004, when Australia signed a far-reaching BMD agreement with the USA, we have been a linchpin in that mad scheme. Obama's much ballyhooed November 2011 visit to Australia, with the agreement finalised to host 2,500 US Marines at Darwin permanently, was just the latest step in this escalating process of establishing "joint" US-Australian facilities. In the words of one military analyst, "Taken together, the result of these policy and force structure changes may well be, from a Chinese perspective, that Australia is not so much hosting US military bases, as becoming a virtual US base in its own right."¹

The British Created the Cold War

The Australian Defence Signals Directorate, like all our military and intelligence agencies, is so deeply integrated into its British and American counterparts as to constitute a single entity. The modern form of this integration began after the end of World War II; it has escalated over the past decade.

By 1945, the United States had created an agro-industrial powerhouse without precedent in world history. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt intended to wield this power to rid the world of economic back-

1. Richard Tanter, "After Obama—The New Joint Facilities," Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability (nautilus.org), March 2012. The author is a professor at the University of Melbourne and former senior curriculum consultant for the Deakin University/Australian Defence College Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies.

wardness and colonial looting by the British Empire, which still controlled much of that world. FDR's son and aide Elliott Roosevelt reported in his book *As He Saw It*, that his father said as much to the arch-imperialist British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, driving the latter "apoplectic." But with Roosevelt's death on 12 April 1945, Vice President Harry S Truman, a corrupt, ignorant stooge of Wall Street and the British, became US President. Instead of the alliance of China, the Soviet Union, and the United States, which FDR had envisioned as breaking the British Empire, the British orchestrated the Cold War. The threat of nuclear war has hung over the world since then.

Standing with his puppet Truman in Fulton, Missouri on 5 March 1946, Churchill announced the Cold War. The crux of the matter, he thundered, was to confront the Soviet Union by a "special relationship between the British Commonwealth and Empire and the United States"—primarily a military relationship that would establish supranational armed forces and oversee the "continuous rise of world organisation": in other words, world government.

The Cold War gave birth to institutions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), the Central Eastern Treaty Organisation (CENTO) covering the Middle East, and so forth. Crucial for Australia was the 1946 UK-US Agreement on defence and intelligence, particularly signals intelligence (SIGINT), among the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. This was "perhaps the single most important intelligence agreement ever reached, and perhaps the most important security agreement after World War II."² Australia was integral to its implementation. An officially "joint" facility with the USA at the North West Cape became the major Southern Hemisphere communications base for US nuclear-armed submarines, while the Pine Gap and Nurrungar electronic listening stations were tasked to intercept Soviet communications and monitor their radar



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development, missile launches, and bomb tests.

Such facilities made Australia a target for Soviet nuclear weapons, as all Australian leaders understood, but rarely acknowledged in public. One such admission came from Minister of Defence Kim Beazley on 11 August 1997, in parliamentary testimony that "we accepted that the joint facilities were probably targets" of the USSR. Former Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Dibb, author of the "Fortress Australia" defence policy now being scrapped, was more blunt in *The Australian* of 10 September 2005:

"We judged, for example, that the SS-11 ICBM3 site at Svobodny in Siberia was capable of inflicting one million instant deaths and 750,000 radiation deaths on Sydney. And you would not have wanted to live in Alice Springs [near Pine Gap], Woomera [by Nurrungar] or Exmouth [on the N.W. Cape]—or even Adelaide [where SIGINT offices were]."

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By a formal agreement signed in July 2004, Australia became a charter, and obviously major US partner, in the strategic plan for a showdown with China. Our defence and foreign policies are now guided by that strategy, as formalised at meetings of the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) and the Australia-UK Ministerial Dialogue (AUKMIN)

The USA makes a splash with its high-profile military and intelligence buildup in Australia, typified by Obama's visit last year. But the British Empire remains the guiding hand. Greg Sheridan, foreign editor of *The Australian*, wrote on 27 December 2007 about startling discoveries he had made while preparing his book on the intensifying US-Australian alliance:

"In researching it I was astonished at just how intimate the US-Australian military and intelligence relationships have become. But the most surprising thing I discovered while writing the book did not directly concern the Americans at all. Rather, it was the astonishing,

2. Greg Sheridan, *The Partnership: The Inside Story of the US-Australian Alliance Under Bush and Howard* (Sydney: New South Wales, 2006, p. 107).

continuing, political, military and intelligence closeness between Australia and Britain... Everywhere I went in the US-Australia alliance, I found the Brits.”

Moreover, wrote Sheridan in the book, “In some ways, in the assessment area, the Australian relationship with the UK is even more intimate than it is with the US.”

‘Interoperability’

The 2004 AUSMIN conference laid down a program of joint US-Australian training and creation of a Joint Combat Training Centre (JCTC). Then-Defence Minister Robert Hill described its purpose: “Under the concept, facilities at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland and the Bradshaw Training Area and Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Northern Territory will be further developed and able to be linked with American facilities. Our initial priority will be to upgrade the Shoalwater Bay facility to support the first of the Taslisman Sabre series of biennial joint training exercises... Talisman Sabre will see tens of thousands of Australian and US military personnel undertake land, sea and air training in operations such as full-scale amphibious landing, airstrike bomb runs using live munitions as well as high-tech computer simulated scenarios... We also plan to further develop and link Bradshaw and Delamere into the training centre so that similar training exercises can be undertaken there.”

The stated purpose of these measures was to create such a high degree of “interoperability” between the US and Australian defence forces, that they would effectively become a single entity. The merger was described by the Department of Defence at a 2006 parliamentary inquiry into Australia’s Defence Relations with the United States: “A mature JCTC should not be seen as a test range or even a series of ranges. The JCTC should function as a training system that links training management systems, training areas, simulations, headquarters and units. It is proposed that the JCTC should be linked to the US Pacific Command’s Pacific War-fighting Center and the US Joint Force Command’s Joint National Training Capability as part of the US Global Joint Training Infrastructure.”

Tragedy or Farce?

Now the [Prime Minister Julia] Gillard government has “embarked on the nation’s biggest-ever capital works project,” *The Australian* reported 3 May. The price tag is a staggering \$56 billion. Was this the announcement of a long-overdue infrastructure program to address our collapsed physical economy and mass un-

employment? Not on your life. It was \$40 billion to build 12 state-of-the-art submarines to replace the Navy’s six aging Collins-class subs, and another \$16 billion committed to purchasing up to 100 of the advanced Joint Strike Fighter, under development by the USA, to replace Australia’s F/A-18 fighter-bombers and F-111 bomber fleets. The submarine portion, in the words of the government’s own press release, is “the largest and most complex Defence project ever undertaken by Australia.”

Is this some kind of bad joke? It is an open secret that not only have the Collins submarines been a technical disaster, but we lack enough submariners to man more than one or two subs at any one time! Our industrial base has been so savaged, that we had to subcontract even much of the ill-fated Collins sub project to hundreds of companies across twelve countries.

Who will build the new subs? Who will oversee the project? Who will man the subs? Not Australians, at any point in the process! They will be built mostly or entirely abroad, and Gillard has already hired David Gould, a 35-year veteran of “Nuclear Plans and Operations” at the UK Ministry of Defence, to oversee the project. The most promising staffing option is unemployed British submariners, according to a 27 December 2011 story in *The Telegraph* (UK) about a Royal Australian Navy recruiting trip to Britain.

To pay for the big-ticket items like advanced submarines, fighter aircraft, and BMD infrastructure, other aspects of our defence forces have been slashed relentlessly. Our Navy’s submarine force has been decimated in wave after wave of “efficiency reviews” over several decades, while most of our remaining qualified electrical and mechanical engineers have quit the military to go to work for Rio Tinto or other British-owned mining companies, for the sake of far higher pay and even for better working conditions.

ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corp.] reported in April 2009 on the life of submariners who work rotating shifts of six hours on, six hours off, around the clock, seven days a week. One submariner reported, “I remember during one workup being on watch in the control room with people so exhausted we were all slurring like drunks. There were several deep draft ships around and I couldn’t even see through the periscope properly I was so tired. It was very dangerous.”

These are the crews who will be deployed to block China’s sea lanes?

While cowboys, anglophile toadies, and political hacks like Mike Pezzullo puff out their chests and bask in

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SIGINT. Any scheme for a nuclear first strike against Russia or China seeks to neutralise their ability to retaliate; their missile launches from land or sea must be detected and intercepted. Upgrading Australia's several SIGINT networks is integral to the U.S. global BMD program for this purpose.

The Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), headquartered in Canberra, administers SIGINT facilities like the famous Pine Gap station near Alice Springs. Pine Gap and the former Nurrungar station in South Australia were central to the global UKUSA agreement on joint SIGINT during the Cold War, but Pine Gap underwent major expansion after the Soviet Union's 1991 collapse. Though information on Pine Gap is still classified, intelligence expert Desmond Ball has testified to Parliament that it handled ground control and processing for geosynchronous satellites doing SIGINT on the Soviet Union, including ballistic missile telemetry; anti-missile and anti-aircraft radar signals; satellite communications, and terrestrial microwave transmissions. Nurrungar did missile launch and nuclear detonation detection via U.S. geostationary military satellites; after its decommissioning in 1999, Defence Minister Brendan Nelson confirmed to Parliament in 2007, that the ballistic missile launch warning function, for sharing with the USA, was handed to Pine Gap.

Australian coastal SIGINT supports the U.S. Navy's growing presence in the Asia-Pacific, as well as providing communications for Australia's Navy and Air Force, which operate jointly with the U.S. military. AUSMIN 2008 agreed on upgrading the NW Cape Naval Communications Station with joint communications systems usable by U.S. attack submarines; in 2010 came approval for the addition of a powerful space sensor there as part of the U.S. Space Surveillance Network, transmitting to the U.S. Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, a key facility for U.S. BMD tests in the Pacific Ocean and part of a command assigned "to deny the benefits of space to adversaries." Signals to and from these facilities are processed and transmitted between Canberra DSD headquarters and the USA through

the Signals Regiment at Watsonia near Melbourne.

The Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station is at Kojarena, east of Geraldton, WA. This major DSD listening facility monitors Russian and Chinese satellites under the UKUSA Agreement and is part of the U.S.-Australian Wideband Global SATCOM system of seven to nine high-capacity military communications satellites, one of them funded by Australia. In 2007, Australia approved construction of an additional U.S. facility at Kojarena, a ground station for the Mobile User Objective System, an ultra-sophisticated satellite communications system with four ground facilities: in Sicily; Virginia and Hawaii, USA; and Kojarena.

The Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN), begun in the 1970s, but operating since 2003 on the basis of a major upgrade done with the U.S. [defence firm Lockheed Martin, is a unique capability. Unlike conventional radars that transmit on a straight "line of sight" and are therefore limited by the Earth's curvature, Jindalee bounces signals off the ionosphere, back to ground receivers. Besides an extraordinary "over-the-horizon" range, the technology gives a from-above view of stealth-technology planes that are invisible to standard radar. The JORN system has an acknowledged range of 3,000-3,500 km, but it may already be greater, covering parts of China. The original Jindalee R&D site, near Pine Gap at Harts Range/Mount Everard, has operational interfaces with Pine Gap; the major receiving/transmission sites (labelled J on the map) are at Longreach, Queensland (Qld), and near Laverton, WA; another 10 ionosonde sites are around Australia (small radar symbols); and JORN administration and processing takes place at the RAAF Edinburgh base in Adelaide.

Joint Combined Training Centre. Since agreements in 2004, the USA has been granted ever greater access to ADF bases for joint and unilateral exercises. Facilities utilised, several of which have been improved for the purpose, include the Bradshaw Field Training Area (TA)—a former cattle station only slightly smaller than the island
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of Cyprus, Mount Bunday TA, and the Delamere Air Weapons Range (over 3,000 sq km), all in the Northern Territory (NT); and the Shoalwater Bay TA (4,500 sq km) and Townsville Field TA in Qld. The U.S.-Australian Talisman Sabre (TS) exercises, held with tens of thousands of troops every two years since 2005, use these ranges, as well as air space over the northern NT, commercial ports at Brisbane, Gladstone, and Port Alma in Qld, the waters of the Coral, Timor, and Arafura Seas, and the Townsville, Darwin, Tindal, and Amberley RAAF bases.

The ADF says TS also trains teams for “defensive and offensive operations in an urban environment,” and has involved the Australian Federal Police and the U.S. FBI, raising the question of whether an included purpose is preparing to enforce the police-state laws passed by the Howard Government in 2002-03. The Delamere Range, the RAAF’s principal bombing range, has also been used since at least 2005 by U.S. forces including B-52, B-1, and B-2 bombers based in Guam.

Northwest mineral cartel defence. Figure 1 shows planned Royal Australian Navy (RAN) upgrades, such as a new east coast fleet base, likely at Brisbane, to supplement Fleet Base East in Sydney. Other existing bases will be expanded to accommodate larger vessels. Certain low-budget upgrades for the RAN and RAAF are also recommended in the 2012 ADF Posture Review: for the Air Force, runway extensions at the Learmonth and Curtin so-called bare bases, non-permanently-staffed facilities used in the large-scale joint and other exercises.

Increased military port access is anticipated at Common Use Facilities at Port Hedland and other western and northern ports, where minerals companies are expanding their export terminals. That’s only fitting, since the ADF Posture Review devotes a whole chapter to the need to defend the raw materials-exporting industries of northern and western Australia—that is, the very Crown cartel companies that are looting the national economy.

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the power of their great American and British comrades in war preparations against China, people with real military experience at the highest levels in Australia, personally responsible for making command decisions that may decide the life or death of men and women in actual warfighting, have sounded a different note. Peter Leahy, Australian army chief in 2002-08, for instance, quoted in *The Australian* of 12 April 2012, warned: “As a sovereign nation Australia should maintain the ability to say ‘no’ to the US and separate itself from their actions.” Pointing to the ever greater US military presence in Australia, he said, “These are momentous decisions with far-reaching consequences. They potentially implicate Australia in a series of actions that could lead to increased tension and even conflict with China. War is improbable but not impossible. Australia needs to be careful that it does not make inevitable the future that it should fear the most.”

Another former army chief, Lt. Gen. John Sander-son, echoed Leahy. The newspaper reported Sander-son’s view “that Australia’s future lay in building a proper strategic relationship with its Asian neighbours.” He said, “This is where we live. And if there is anything about this relationship with the Americans that impairs our ability to build on that relationship then we should have a much deeper strategic debate.”

When all is said and done, to whom would you rather entrust the lives of yourself and your loved ones? To veteran commanders who have had to think through the implications of actual warfare, or to the wet dreams of Rambos like Mike Pezzullo? According to his own account, Pezzullo was received by Chinese officials with “cold fury” when he visited Beijing following the release of his White Paper.

Chronology

Australia Becomes Base Of US-UK Ops in Asia

The buildup of military capabilities in Australia is shepherded by constant consultations with US and UK strategic planners, highlights of which are outlined here. The facilities named are discussed in the articles and located on the map (Figure 1).

1995. The Royal Institute of International Affairs

(the old British imperial Round Table organisation) calls, in “Economic Opportunities for Britain and the Commonwealth,” for using Commonwealth cultural and business networks as a launch pad to extend British influence worldwide—particularly in Asia, where Australia should serve as a “stepping stone.” British foreign investment here then ranked second—\$74.5 billion in 1994—but would soar to \$427 billion in 2008, surpassing US investment.

1999. Vladimir Putin becomes acting President of Russia, going on to election in his own right in 2000. He halts Russia’s slide into economic and strategic oblivion.

11 September 2001. British/Saudi attacks on New York and Washington unleashes a (still ongoing) blizzard of domestic police-state measures in the USA, Australia, the UK, and elsewhere, as well as endless foreign wars.

13 December 2001. President George W. Bush gives Russia notice of US unilateral withdrawal from the 1972 bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, followed the next year by launching of a global ballistic missile defence (BMD) program.

2003. Australia-USA agreement is signed to start preparations for biennial Talisman Sabre (TS) joint military exercises. Beginning in 2005, TS takes place in both countries, and involves tens of thousands of troops. By 2011, the estimated cost is \$100 million.

2004. Australia-US Ministerial (AUSMIN) consultations finalise far-reaching BMD agreements; establishment of a massive Joint Combined Training Capability (JCTC) in Australia; and de facto integration (“interoperability”) of the US and Australian militaries. Included is Australian participation in the Nimble Titan global BMD exercise under the US Strategic Command.

2005. AUSMIN announces that Delamere Air Weapons Range and RAAF Darwin will “support an enhanced Strategic Bomber Training Program,” including US B-52, B-1, and B-2 aircraft.

March 2006. British PM Tony Blair visits Australia to inaugurate Australia-United Kingdom Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN), the “highest level of formal strategic consultations” with Britain.

2007. AUSMIN announces US strategic and military communication system to be constructed at the Geraldton (Kojarena) Australian Defence Satellite Communication Station.

January 2008. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband tells the *Herald Sun* that “Britain will relaunch itself as an Asian power with the help of former

colony Australia in its biggest foreign policy shift since the Cold War.” He demurs, “We are not seeking to recreate the Empire.”

2008. AUSMIN announces new joint US-Australian facilities at Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt at North West Cape, including for communications with US attack submarines.

April 2008. Kevin Rudd becomes the first Australian PM to attend a NATO meeting.

May 2009. Australian Defence White Paper, “Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030,” advocates massive military buildup for a coming US-Australian war against China.

October 2009. At AUKMIN Miliband gushes over Rudd and “the internationalism of Australia” in promoting the “climate change” scam and half a dozen other British imperial schemes. The biennial AUKMIN becomes annual.

2010. At AUSMIN, a new Space Situational Awareness Partnership is signed as part of the US Global Space Surveillance Network.

January 2011. William Hague makes the first visit to Australia by a British foreign secretary in 20 years, with Defence Secretary Liam Fox. Hague proclaims that, although “our partnership with Australia is one of our greatest assets in world affairs already,” the UK will further upgrade the relationship as part of a “decisive change” in foreign policy towards Asia.

November 2011. PM Julia Gillard, as agreed at AUSMIN 2010, introduces the Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011 to ratify the far-reaching Australia-United States Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty, already approved by the US Congress.

March 2012. The Australian Defence Force Posture Review advocates huge expansion of joint US-Australian military facilities, particularly in northern and western Australia.

May 2012. Gillard announces the next phase of Australia’s “largest-ever capital works program,” a \$40 billion plan to build 12 new submarines, and \$16 billion for purchase of US Joint Strike Fighter planes. AUSMIN 2010 had agreed that “high interoperability of submarine systems was strategically important for both countries,” and “the high level of submarine interoperability between Australia and the United States . . . will extend into Future Submarine acquisition program.”

2013. Australia to take possession of the first of its three US Aegis ABM systems, to equip new Advanced Warfare Destroyers.