

National Security

2007 National Security Election

Advancing domestic and national security practice
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Week 5 Roundup

National security issues got some attention last week when both Labor Party and Coalition released several policies. The key ones were:

- Coalition: Release of the Defence veterans support policy
- Labor: Release of Defence Policy, a proposal to create a Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation, and a proposal to extend free basic medical and dental care to spouses and children of Australian Defence Force personnel.

During the week, a few other national security issues got some attention. However none generated significant attention by the media or general public.

These low key issues were:

- Dismissal of the terrorism case against the Sydney medical student Izhar Ul-Haque by ASIO. The NSW Supreme Court judge Michael Adams found the conduct of two ASIO officers who interviewed Mr Ul-Haque prior to his formal AFP interviews had been "grossly improper and constituted an unjustified and unlawful interference with the personal liberty of the accused". One article about the case highlighted that the AFP's federal agent Kemuel Lam Paktsun, the senior case officer on the Operation Newport investigation that led to the arrest of Sydney medical student Izhar Ul-Haque, stated "At the time, we were directed, we were informed, to lay as many charges under the new terrorist legislation against as many suspects as possible because we wanted to use the new legislation."
- The release of the "National Audit of Free Speech" by the former NSW ombudsman Irene Moss which highlighted concerns about government secrecy. Protecting national security was noted as a key justification for restricting information.
- The balance between human rights and national security received some attention at the debate on 6 November between the Attorney-General Philip Ruddock and Shadow Attorney-General Joe Ludwig.

- This week, another 2 week burst of counter-terrorism adverts ('Every detail helps') ran on TV. Both parties supported the campaign which runs every 2 months.
- Both Alexander Downer, Foreign Minister and Attorney-General Philip Ruddock criticised Labor's proposals for Coastguard and the Department of Homeland Security

Interestingly, one of the biggest issues of the week was the critique of the Australian National Audit Office report into the Regional Partnership Program's grants arrangements. Defence received an oblique mention in the report which noted that one of the deficiencies of the Regional Partnership Program was also suffered by Defence. The deficiency was that Defence also sometimes accelerated expenditure on projects, but this was both bad practice and financially damaging to the tax payer.



About the AHSRC

The Australian Homeland Security Research Centre undertakes independent, evidence-based analysis of homeland security (the domestic dimensions of national security).

The Centre's vision is to be one of Australia's leading independent sources of research on domestic security policy and programs for the government, industry, the community and the media.

Many of the Centre's activities are run in partnership with other organisations which reflects its philosophy that collaboration is the key to ensuring optimal outcomes in national security.

The Centre is not aligned with any political party or funded by government grant. The Centre is fully self-supporting and is funded by its commissioned studies, events and sales of publications.

About the author

Athol Yates is the Centre's Executive Director.

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Below are the key national security announcements from last week.

Labor Policy - Asia Pacific Centre For Civil-Military Cooperation

Extract from Labor policy statements.

Federal Labor has committed to setting up a new \$5.1 million Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation (APC-CIMIC) in Queanbeyan, near Canberra.

Recent experience with the breakdown in law and order in fragile states such as East Timor and the Solomon Islands demonstrates the need for a concerted long-term response to stabilisation,

Party launches neglect national security

On 12 November in Brisbane, Prime Minister John Howard launched the Coalition Election campaign. He devoted one paragraph of his speech to national security and it contained no new policy announcements.

Below is the national security content of his launch address:

I recall how we've been able to rebuild the defence forces of this country and how very proud I felt a few weeks ago to go to Enoggera, not far from here, and announce that the trigger point for the establishment of the second of the new battalions that we're able to raise had been reached. And how recruitment levels into the armed forces had grown despite the fact that we have a near full-employment economy. And I'm very proud to say that one of the greatest achievements of this Government has been to increase by no less than 47% in real terms the amount of money that we spend on defence. And we all know what a wonderful job the men and women of the Australian Defence Force have done for us over the past years and what tremendous service they render in our name and in the name of our nation in many trouble spots around the world.

On 14 November in Brisbane, the Leader of the Opposition, Kevin Rudd, launched Federal Labor's campaign. He did not mention defence during the address. The only security issue mentioned related to the "insecurity of water supply".

reconstruction and peace-building in our region. That is why Federal Labor is establishing an Asia-Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation (APC-CIMC).

We need to streamline coordination between security, economic, emergency management, institution-building and non-government organisations to help avoid continuing instability and revolving door military deployments.

Federal Labor's proposed Centre will:

- Better coordinate existing resources to act as a focal point for Government agencies in the coordination of stabilisation, reconstruction and peace-building missions;
- Coordinate training for such missions between different agencies, involving participants from all concerned sectors (including NGOs);
- Conduct governance training for public officials from states in the Asia Pacific region to bolster governance before conflict situations emerge and strengthen peace building operations after they do;
- Liaise with international partner institutions such as the UN Peace Building Commission, Japanese Terakoya, United States Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization and UK Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit, to enhance cooperation and mutual reinforcement;
- Liaise with other relevant emergency management bodies, both national and international, on disaster management and co-ordination;
- Develop doctrine, interagency exchange and training on disaster and crisis management, coordination and preparation; and
- Contribute to the development of international doctrine and policy on stabilisation and peace building missions;
- Facilitate the development of an integrated interagency approach to campaign planning for complex peace and stabilisation operations;
- Enhance conflict prevention by the coordination of cooperation, engagement and development programs to identify and target fault lines in vulnerable States;

The location of the Centre in Queanbeyan will have many advantages. Placed near the Australian Defence Force Headquarters, Joint Operations Centre at Bungendore, the Australian Federal Police International Deployment Group facility at Majura, the NGO peak body ACFID, AusAID, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Defence - Queanbeyan is an ideal place. The residents of

Queanbeyan will also benefit from the creation of an internationally significant institution in their local area. A large number of talented people from around Australia and the Asia Pacific region will make use of the Centre's facilities.

In an opinion article published in the Australian Newspaper, Robert McClelland, ALP's foreign affairs spokesman, provided the following comments to justify the need for the Centre.

When it comes to foreign policy, the Howard-led Coalition is big on self-congratulation. But after 11 years in office it has little to show in terms of foreign policy outcomes with respect to some of our closest neighbours.

More often than not, the Howard Government has resorted to revolving-door military deployments, which do little more than address the symptoms rather than the causes of instability. Its approach has not been proactive. It has been complacent, neglectful and short-sighted. We need a new approach.

Labor firmly believes the time has well and truly come for Australia to review its strategy for dealing with fragile states in our region. A revolving door of military deployments to countries such as East Timor is not a long-term, sustainable solution. And our hardworking and professional soldiers are the first to admit it. What's required is more sophisticated and broad-based measures to address the underlying social, economic and ethnic pressure that produces civil unrest.

That is a key reason why Labor committed this week to establishing the Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Co-operation. If elected we will establish this centre in Queanbeyan in NSW to ensure that our country and the broader region have a centre of excellence to develop the skills and co-operative relationships required to address fragile states in the long term.

This centre will streamline co-ordination between security, economic, emergency management, institution-building and non-government organisations to help reduce instability and revolving door military deployments.

The centre will be ideal for involvement in programs such as the US-run Global Peace Operations Initiative, which aims to train a certain

number of peacekeepers from each region to deal with troubles that may arise.

The Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Co-operation will be a centre of international prestige. But the benefits to national agencies within Australia will also be significant, with the centre having an important domestic as well as regional role.

Australia has no permanent mechanism for co-ordinating the involvement of personnel in training programs outside their own department, agency or organisation.

Our soldiers, police, diplomats and aid workers do undertake training but they seldom do it together.

Labor's new centre will allow this joint training and cross-fertilisation of ideas and perspectives to occur.

In terms of breaking down bureaucratic silos and sharing information, this will be of tremendous benefit for all involved.

The centre will also develop doctrine, inter-agency exchange and training for disaster and crisis management, co-ordination and preparation. We must pick up the lessons of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and heed the warnings of a possible pandemic by better co-ordinating not only Australia's but also the region's preparations and response capacity.

Successful nation-building and capacity development in fragile states in our region requires something far more long-term than reactive military interventions. By building partnerships through better co-operation, Australia can do much to build a more stable, safe and prosperous neighbourhood.

Labor's Defence Policy

18 page document

On 12 November, Labor released its Defence policy. It contained no new substantive initiatives but expanded on its intentions to deal with defence procurement and industry involvement.

Below are some key statements from the policy.

Labor's first priority is the defence and security of our

nation, its people and their interests.

Defence policy is a core component of Australia's national security strategy. In an increasingly interdependent world, defence and national security cannot be achieved without effective international relationships – bilateral, regional and multilateral. Labor's approach to Australian defence is built around three fundamental pillars:

- Australia's alliance with the United States.
- Australia's active membership of the United Nations.
- Comprehensive regional engagement.

The Policy recommits Labor to developing a new Defence White Paper which support five ADF strategic tasks of:

1. Ensuring Australian defence self reliance.
2. Controlling the air and sea approaches to our continent.
3. Contributing to the security and stability of our immediate neighbourhood.
4. Contributing to coalitions of forces to protect our wider national interests beyond our immediate neighbourhood.
5. Undertaking occasional tasks in support of peacetime national priorities.

The Policy also recommits Labor to:

- Ensuring that preliminary work on Australia's next generation of submarines
- Re-introducing a naval shipbuilding capability to Australia
- Undertaking a full audit of the Defence budget
- Maintaining defence spending including a minimum annual 3% real growth until 2016.

Key statements on defence procurement and industry involvement include:

- Fundamental change is needed to overcome the failures in Defence procurement that have become normal under the Howard Government.
- The efficient and timely delivery of new equipment is more important than ever at a time of increased demands on Australia's Defence resources.
- Labor will undertake a formal evaluation of the effectiveness of the reforms to the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) that were implemented following the 2003 Review of Defence Procurement.
- Labor will also task and resource the Australian National Audit Office to undertake independent evaluations of the top 30 major defence equipment projects on an annual basis.

- A Rudd Labor Government will ensure that as much of the Defence budget as possible is spent in Australia. Labor will emphasise preference for Australian content and require tenderers to develop detailed strategies for involving Australian industry to the greatest extent possible.
- To ensure that Australians receive maximum benefits from their spending on Defence, a Rudd Labor Government will introduce new reporting obligations on Defence to include in its Annual Report a specific section outlining Australian involvement in major equipment acquisition projects.
- A Rudd Labor Government will also:
 - o Implement new systems to provide better access for Australia's small and medium enterprises to information on minor capability projects.
 - o Formalise assessment processes in the DMO for unsolicited capability proposals that are submitted by industry.
 - o Further expand and encourage the links between the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and the Australian defence industry to ensure better technology transfer to Australian industry.

At the media interview on 12 November, Mr Rudd spoke more on Defence procurement and indicated the strength of feeling about the issue. These comments are listed below.

And Defence procurement is a massive rolling policy failure on the part of the current Government. There have been billions of dollars worth of wasted dollars, billions of wasted dollars in defence procurement. It is a rolling scandal and we are determined in Government to ensure that we've got the processes in place to make sure there is rational long term planning for our equipment requirements, our Defence platform requirements, which is in turn consistent with a strategic doctrine laid down in the whitepaper.

If you look at the history of defence material acquisition over the 11 years that this Government has been in office, it is a rolling financial scandal. One project after another. Billions of dollars worth of wasted taxpayers' dollars. It is quite plain that the defence acquisition systems currently in place in the bureaucracy in Canberra have not been working properly

Coalition policy – Supporting Our Veterans

Extract from Coalition policy statements.

A re-elected Coalition Government will:

- Establish an Aged Care Transition Programme, including a range of new resources to support the transition of veterans into responsive and appropriate aged care, with funding of \$23 million over three years;
- Provide \$14.4 million in additional funding over three years for a new programme, ESO Assist, to help ex-service organisations to better provide assistance, training and advocacy for veterans and members of the services community;
- Help more than 280,000 members of the veteran community meet the cost of household bills by increasing the Utilities Allowance from \$107.20 to \$500 a year;
- Introduce a programme allowing practice nurses attached to a doctor's surgery to undertake home visits for veterans;
- Extend regional access to counselling and support for veterans and their families;
- Expand and enhance our highly successful Saluting Their Service commemorative programme, with maximum grant levels increasing from \$4000 to \$10,000;
- Provide a new grants stream to assist communities to erect statues of Victoria Cross winners at their place of birth;
- Introduce additional initiatives to assist younger veterans, families of Vietnam veterans, ex-service organisations and Australian Defence Force members leaving their service;
- Continue to ensure that veterans enjoy a high level of service provided by a standalone Department of Veterans' Affairs that is properly resourced to meet present and emerging needs of a changing veteran community; and
- Ensure the world's best service delivery to veterans, ex and current service personnel by maintaining the DVA Veterans' Affairs Network (VAN) offices across regional Australia. This package of practical, innovative measures builds on a very strong Coalition record of support for veterans and their families. Since coming to office we have nearly doubled funding of veterans' affairs to more than \$11 billion. In the past 18 months alone we have:
- Provided more than \$600 million to ensure the high-quality health care available to veterans with a Gold or White Card keeps step with medical fees;

- Legislated to ensure that 140,000 veterans and ex-defence personnel receiving veterans' affairs disability pensions, and 114,000 war widows and widowers, benefit from more than \$470 million in increased financial assistance; and
- Committed \$13.5 million to fund a world-first study into the intergenerational impact of war service on the health and welfare of the children of Vietnam veterans. These measures for the benefit of the veteran community would not have been possible without the Coalition Government's strong and experienced management of the Australian economy.

Labor's policy to extend free basic medical and dental care to spouses and children of Australian Defence Force personnel

Extract from Labor policy statements.

A Rudd Labor Government will invest \$33.1 million to extend free basic medical and dental care to spouses and children of Australian Defence Force personnel.

Federal Labor's four year plan will extend free basic medical care to 12,000 ADF spouses and children by funding 12 Defence Family Healthcare Clinics.

These clinics will extend the free GP and dental care currently available to ADF personnel to their dependant spouses and children.

The location of the first two Defence Family Healthcare Clinics are at:

- Lavarack Barracks, Townsville - to provide coverage for around 4000 dependant spouses and children at all six defence facilities in and around Townsville; and
- Robertson Barracks, Darwin - to provide coverage for around 3650 dependant spouses and children at all seven defence facilities in and around Darwin;

For 10 of the clinics, the GP will work half a day, 5 days a week with a full time nurse five days a week. A dentist and dental nurse will work five days a week. For the larger facilities at Lavarack and Robertson GP services will be scaled up progressively with two full time GPs servicing families by the end of 2009-10, along with two full time dentists.

1st National Defence Capability Development Symposium

Brindabella Business Park, Canberra



27 & 28 November 2007

Program Chair: Trevor Thomas, Australian Defence Business Review

Highlights

- Capability development processes in Defence: Where have we come from and where are we going?
- Simulation for capability development concept acquisition & evaluation: Overview of the JDSSC process
- Update on implementation of the Defence Simulation Plan
- How do others do it? Automotive design simulation: A whole-of-nation opportunity for national security providers
- Capability development for the Border Protection Command
- Effects based capability planning, exercises and other tools to identify and close capability gaps

Unique Opportunity: Site Visits to Simulation Labs