

National Security

PRACTICE NOTES

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2007 Trends for Homeland Security in Australia

This *National Security Practice Note* identifies the following key homeland security trends for 2007.

Trends

In 2007, Australia will experience a:

1. growing emphasis on 'mundane' security risks rather than terrorist risks. Increasingly, security measures will focus on the traditional threats such as robbery, workplace violence, vandalism and espionage. There will be increasing complacency and cynicism about the terrorism threat.
2. growing number of issues which are deemed to be important for national security including global warming, energy supply and water scarcity.
3. growing interest in the security of supply chains including food supply, exports and imports, and pharmaceuticals. Highly efficient and multi-national supply chains require low levels of stock holdings and these have become a significant vulnerability which can cause significant economic impacts when the chain is broken following natural disasters, influenza pandemics and conflicts.
4. growing importance of international cooperation by the AFP and the Australian Intelligence Community to reduce the threat to Australia and its interest. These links will be other country's police, military and intelligence services (notably in Indonesia, Philippines, UK and US) and with international organisations such as ASEAN and APEC.
5. growing emphasis on combating homegrown and do-it-yourself terrorism which is undertaken by people with no link to overseas Islamic terrorist groups
6. growing need for more compelling business cases to justify additional expenditure on security measures. There will be a call for more rigorous analysis to demonstrate that the expenditure on security delivers best value for money.
7. growing level of activity aimed at bringing together law enforcement and the private security in providing more secure central business districts and public precincts. This activity will be focused around mechanisms like the UK's Project Griffin model (which is being rolled out in several States) and in response to securing large events like APEC 2007 and World Youth Day 2008.
8. growing pressure to harmonise security personal licensing and legislation in each jurisdiction. Calls for greater competency of security staff will continually be heard but as there will be an inability to increase pay for entry level staff, their competency level will not increase. However the competency at the consulting level of security professionals will continue to grow, initiating the formation of a true security profession and fostering recognition that security is a profession in its own right.
9. growing urgency to boost the number of proficient Arabic, Chinese and arc of instability language speakers in the police, military and intelligence communities. This will be a growing challenge in the light of the implications of the UK case where a first generation UK military translator is being tried for passing on intelligence to their birth country.

Non-Trends

In 2007, Australia will probably:

1. not see a single Commonwealth national security strategy
2. not see many full convictions being secured for terrorism offences. People facing offences relating to planning and organising terrorism and belonging to a terrorist organisation will likely be convicted of more minor charges and receive short jail terms.
3. not see a strengthening of international terrorism organisation in Australia's region
4. not see a diminishing of national security as a key feature in political debate
5. not see a lowering of the counter-terrorism security alert level as the threat of small to medium scale attacks by Islamic extremists will not change.