



NO "TRAINING BASES", NO "SMART BOMBS TELL THE US TO GIVE US OUR LAND BACK!"

With the re-election of Howard and Bush, Australia's subservience to the United States will increase. We can expect a far greater number of joint exercises between the military of the two countries in coming years and greater integration of Australia's forces in the US military. Security analysts say that Australia will become one of the highest-priority training grounds for the US in the world.

Australia and the US agreed in July to develop a Joint Combined Training Centre which will include state-of-the-art technology that allows commanders to oversee the exercises in real time, then replay missions in debriefs to personnel.

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 expanded at the cost of tens of

millions of dollars. The three facilities will be linked with certain bases in the United States and will be inter-linked through a node in the Pacific War Fighting Centre in Hawaii.

The United States intends to test its latest smart bombs on Australian territory under a deal being worked out between the Bush administration and the Howard Government. (see story page 2). Tests of the new-generation weapons will begin in 2007 at Shoalwater Bay, Delamere and Bradshaw.

"The new bases represent a quantitative leap in the progress of United States interference in Australia's internal and international affairs", Anti-Bases Campaign Co-ordinator Denis Doherty said in a November 5 press release following news reports of "smart bomb" tests.

Dangers

Long time peace activist, Emma in Darwin, comments: "As you probably know, a US fighter jet recently ditched and had to empty its load of armaments into the bush. If they're flying between Queensland and the Northern Territory, who knows where their bombs could land if something went wrong."

Damage to the environment and possible injury to civilians is inevitable. The US Navy regularly puts the life of American civilians and sailors at risk with test firings of depleted uranium weapons. (see story page 7).

A National Guard F-16 fighter jet strafed an elementary school in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey on November 3. About 25 lead 20-mm bullets struck the school and its surrounding

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Editor's Note

The Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition wishes all our members and subscribers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We'd like particularly to thank Jackie for the great job she has done laying out our bulletins and maintaining our web site.

We will all have a big job on our hands fighting against the new wave of U.S. bases announced over the past year. Howard, Bush and co will certainly keep us all busy. We hope more supporters will join us at our meetings next year, held on the third Thursday of each month.

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property, many smashing through the roof and into classrooms, causing dangerous debris to fall. Fortunately, the school was not in session at the time and no one was harmed. The intended target of the night strafing exercise was in the Warren Grove firing range, 3.5 miles away from the school.

In 1999, a bomb falling outside the range ignited an 11,000-acre forest fire, and another bomb, in 2001, scorched 1,600 more acres. In 2002, a fighter jet from the 177th Fighter Wing crashed near a major highway after a bombing run to Warren Grove.

An increase in the number of war games will mean regular influxes of huge numbers of troops. The 2003 Tandem Thrust war games saw 3,000 US troops practice invading countries. The Talisman Sabre war games due in 2007 will see 20,000 US troops move into the Shoalwater Bay area. This will bring more social and environmental problems.

A campaign is needed to close down these bases before they are up and running. Petitions, letters, leaflets, meetings, protests, direct action and more are all needed if we are to win enough support to take the land back from the United States and give it over to constructive, sustainable civilian uses.

US TO TEST "SMART BOMBS" IN AUSTRALIA

This is an edited version of an item on ABC Radio's The World Today, November 5 2004

ELEANOR HALL: The United States is planning to test its latest smart bombs on Australian territory under a deal being worked out between the newly elected Bush administration and the Howard Government.

The tests of the new-generation weapons will take place at Shoalwater Bay in Queensland and at two training areas in the Northern Territory.

And this may be just the start of an even closer defence relationship between the US and Australia.

There is speculation today that there will be a significant increase in the number of joint military exercises between the defence forces of the two nations in coming years.

And security analysts here say Australia is set to become one of the highest-priority training grounds for the US in the world.

STEPHANIE KENNEDY: With the re-election of both John Howard and George W Bush, Australia's relationship with the United States will become closer than ever before.

The two share common views on a range of issues, and their friendship is undoubtedly one of the closest in the history of the two nations.

Professor Ross Babbage, a former senior government advisor has just been in Washington for high level talks with defence and security officials.

He was told the Americans consider Australia one of its two closest allies and they're keen to increase the number of military exercises on Australian soil.

And he says part of those new operational concepts include the experimentation of self-guided smart bombs.

ROSS BABBAGE: There's a new generation of much smaller bombs that is being now in advanced development, and the reason they can be so much smaller is because they're so much more accurate. It really is a case now of not so much a question of do you hit this tank or that tank, the question is do you hit this square foot of this tank or that square foot of that tank, because you're being so accurate, and that's why some of these munitions are different. Some of them are much smaller and more compact, but really the emphasis in this experimentation is not so much going to be the development of new weapons systems themselves, it's going to be how can you best use all this new kit and the information systems that flow with them to best affect.

STEPHANIE KENNEDY: The testing will begin within three years, and there are three sites under consideration, where the testing on new generation weapons could be carried out. Shoalwater Bay near Rockhampton in Queensland, and the Bradshaw training area and the Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Northern Territory.

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A new agreement is currently being hammered out between the two allies, and it has the backing of the Federal Opposition. Labor's defence spokesman Robert McClelland.

ROBERT MCCLELLAND: America is unquestionably the most sophisticated nation technologically in the world and for Australia to be able to share in that technology is obviously to our benefit. What we'd like to ensure is that Australian industry has the opportunity to participate in some of these opportunities.

ELEANOR HALL: The prospect of more US troops training and testing weapons in Australia is likely to raise concerns in some quarters.

IAN TOWNSEND: Shoalwater Bay is on the Tropic of Capricorn, inside the Great Barrier Reef. Nearby is the city of Rockhampton and resort communities on the coast.

They've been living together relatively well for decades, but there's increasing concern amongst many people about the upgrading of the base, about more troops, more exercises and weapons testing. Peter Murray lives in nearby Yeppoon and organised a protest in August when the upgrade of Shoalwater Bay to a joint training facility was announced.

PETER MURRAY: The actual specifics of the weapons is a major concern. We know the Americans are using plutonium and uranium depleted weapons in some of their casings and some of their armoury. Also the use of nuclear

powered ships coming into the region and the prospects of maybe a mishap, which we certainly would hate to see happen.

IAN TOWNSEND: Is there much concern in the local community?

PETER MURRAY: Look, there's been a tremendous... you know, I would say that eight out of 10 people are very concerned.

IAN TOWNSEND: Many locals have long been concerned about the accuracy of weapons being fired on the base.

That's been heightened this morning by reports from the US that a fighter plane has accidentally fired 25 rounds of ammunition at a school in New Jersey, instead of at a military target range more than five kilometres away. No one was hurt, but this makes Peter Murray who lives near the Shoalwater Base in Queensland even more uneasy.

PETER MURRAY: Well my fears there are numbered, obviously because they're going to be testing new technology, there may be some doubts about their accuracy, their effect on the environment and you know, it's a marine mammal breeding area. The dugongs, the whales pass through there every year.

IAN TOWNSEND: Denis Doherty is coordinator the Australian Anti-Bases Coalition, which has held regular protests at American bases in Australia in the past. It's already planning a campaign to fight this new move.

DENIS DOHERTY: We see that as a quantitative leap of US military presence in Australia and we are implacably opposed to it, and we are already organising to resist it. We'll do the full range of non-violent direct action down to petitions and letter writing and protests right across as many states and capitals as we can.

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2004/s1235635.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2004/s1235637.htm>



APOLOGY: In our Spring issue we published an article entitled "*Sinister Milestone: The First Weapon in Space*". It dealt with the launch of a test satellite called the "Near Field Infrared Experiment" which was the first time any nation has put a weapon in space. However, we were later informed that NFIRE was **not** launched as planned and that its kill vehicle load may not be included when it is finally launched in some years' time. We apologise to all our readers that we got this wrong.

GOVERNMENT BIG-TICKET MILITARY SPENDING

With the election over, a triumphant Howard Government is about to embark on a rush of big-ticket equipment purchases, including billions of dollars of military spending.

On October 10 shipbuilders received details of a tender for one of Australia's largest, complex military projects, the \$6 billion navy air warfare destroyers and had nine weeks to lodge their bids.

The two Australian tenders are the Melbourne based Tenix and the Adelaide based Australian Submarine Corporation which is half owned by the government.

Defence dwarfs all other government project expenditure owing to the \$50 billion defence capability plan for 2004-14.

Other expected purchases include \$2 billion for amphibious transport equipment and \$1 billion for multi-mission unmanned aerial vehicles, both in 2005-5, \$1.5 billion for an upgrade of Black Hawk helicopters in 2005-6, and \$15.5 billion for new combat aircraft (replacing the F/A-18 Hornets and F-111s), \$4.5 billion for maritime patrol aircraft (replacing the Orions) and \$1 billion for battlefield airlift helicopters in 2006-7.

These are just the latest steps in the accelerating militarisation of Australia.

Just before the government went into caretaker mode in September, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced that it would buy 12 MRH-90 European troop-lift helicopters at a cost of \$1 billion.

The controversial \$300 million Defence joint operational headquarters at Bungendore, near Canberra, was passed by a committee just before the election. The government is seeking to privately fund the project and to lease it back for 30 years.

The 2004/05 federal budget allocated \$3.8 billion for military capital investment, a figure that will rise to \$4.3 billion in 2005/06 and \$4.6 billion the following year.

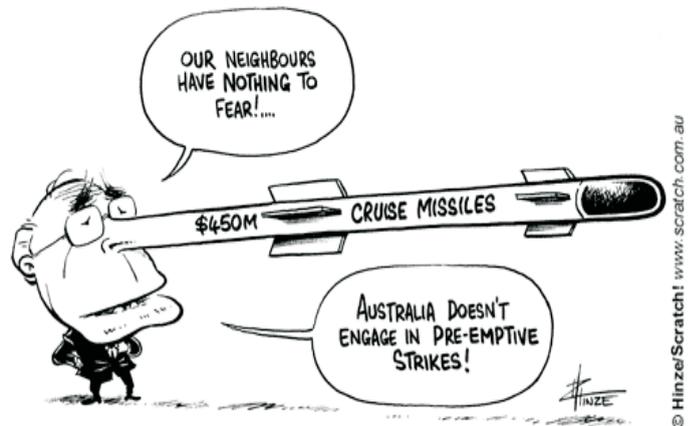
The Defence Capability Review introduced changes in the scope of the naval shipbuilding program and increased projected expenditure by between \$1.3 billion and \$1.8 billion, paving the way for the start of the biggest naval shipbuilding program Australia has seen.

The Federal Government's February 4 Defence Capability Plan outlined \$50 billion military spending over the next ten years and involves an approximate 30 per cent increase in major capital expenditure.

Discussions were held during August in Adelaide, Sydney, Newcastle, Perth, Melbourne, Cairns and Hobart, intended to give "people ... an opportunity to meet Defence officials and discuss business", according to Defence Materiel Organisation Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Gumley.

According to the Department of Defence, the briefings provided "opportunities for industry to become directly involved Australia's Defence capabilities". The Australian military-industrial complex is expanding.

Sources: Defence Department press releases "Warship Tenders lead big-ticket spending" by Verona Burgess, Australian Financial Review, October 18 2004.



US MILITARY BASES

The United States has dramatically expanded its military presence in the Middle East and Central Asia and now has bases or shares military installations in Afghanistan, Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTESTER KILLED IN FRANCE

Sébastien Briat, a 21 year old anti-nuclear protester, has died in north-eastern France after being run over by a train carrying nuclear waste from France to Germany.

The 21-year-old man, who had chained himself to the railway near the city of Nancy, lost a leg after he was crushed by the train and died despite receiving emergency treatment at the scene.

The authorities said the accident happened in the early afternoon in the town of Avricourt after a group of eight people gathered near the main Paris to Strasbourg line, on which the nuclear transport train was travelling.

Earlier the train, which was carrying treated nuclear waste from the French plant at La Hague to Gorleben in northern Germany, was delayed for two hours near Nancy as police removed two protesters who had also chained themselves to the railway lines.

The AABCC is outraged that such an inhumane act could happen against a young, principled peaceful demonstrator and joins with other peace groups around the world in expressing our condolences to his family and fellow peace and environmental activists.

YOU CAN RUN — BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

New technology developed by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation will help military surveillance analysts to locate hard-to-find moving targets. The Department of Defence media release which announced this did not mention any possible civilian surveillance function for the new technology.

Thanks to a new computer processing method, analysts will improve their ability to detect previously inconspicuous moving targets.

DSTO scientist Dr Robert Caprari says the "Video Moving Target Indication" (VMTI) technology, applied to surveillance video, effectively highlights moving targets and suppresses background clutter.

"We have developed a technique that enables us to turn what are hard to see targets into ones that are highly conspicuous to a human surveillance analyst," he said.

Source: Department of Defence media release, 17 August, 2004

SPIN DEATH OR ALLEGORY

The United States military once charged into the field with operation names such as *Torch* (North Africa 1942), *Chromite* (Korea 1950), *Masher* (Vietnam 1996) and *Killer* (Korea 1951).

Today's warlords prance into battle heralded by appellations such as *Enduring Freedom* (Iraq 2003) and *Provide Comfort* (Turkey 1991) -- titles that suggest an impending invasion from self-help authors, rather than an army of cold steel (not to imply that the self-help literati isn't a force to be scared of).

Seems the war on vicious operation names was launched in 1972 when the U.S. Chief of Staff began to see a link between bloodthirsty calls to arms and the tidal wave of anti-war sentiment on the home front.

Thus the Department of Defence issued Directive 5200-IR, naming guidelines that effectively stomp any attempt at wit, intimidation, or "bellicosity inconsistent with traditional American ideals".

Straight-talking Lieutenant General Matthew Ridway, proud father of *Operation Killer*, always thought the guidelines sucked. "I am not convinced," he wrote, "that the country should not be told that war means killing."

Source: Sydney Morning Herald Radar

“The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice.”

Mahatma Ghandi



“The things that will destroy us are: terrorism, greenies and high interest rates.”

John Howard

from Leunig cartoon.

AIR FORCE PURSUING ANTIMATTER WEAPONS

The U.S. Air Force is quietly spending millions of dollars investigating ways to use a radical power source -- antimatter, the eerie "mirror" of ordinary matter -- in future weapons.

The most powerful potential energy source presently thought to be available to humanity, antimatter has been intensively studied by physicists since the 1930s. Every type of subatomic particle has its antimatter counterpart. But when matter and antimatter collide, they annihilate each other in an immense burst of energy.

More cataclysmic possible uses include a new generation of super weapons

During the Cold War, the Air Force funded numerous scientific studies of the basic physics of antimatter. With the knowledge gained, some Air Force insiders are beginning to think seriously about potential military uses -- for example, antimatter bombs small enough to hold in one's hand, and antimatter engines for 24/7 surveillance aircraft.

More cataclysmic possible uses include a new generation of super weapons -- either pure antimatter bombs or antimatter-triggered nuclear weapons; the former wouldn't emit radioactive fallout. Another possibility is antimatter-powered "electromagnetic pulse" weapons that could fry enemies' electric power grids and communications networks, leaving them literally in the dark and unable to operate their societies and armed forces.

The US Air Force has forbidden its employees from publicly discussing the antimatter research program. Before the ban, however, on March 24, Kenneth Edwards, director of the "revolutionary munitions" team at the Munitions Directorate at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida was keynote speaker at the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts (NIAC) conference in Arlington, Va.

In that talk, Edwards discussed the potential uses of a type of antimatter called positrons. The energy from colliding positrons and antielectrons "is 10 billion times ... that of high explosive," Edwards said.

Unlike regular nuclear bombs, positron bombs wouldn't eject plumes of radioactive debris. When large numbers of positrons and antielectrons

collide, the primary product is an invisible but extremely dangerous burst of gamma radiation. Thus, in principle, a positron bomb could be a step toward one of the military's dreams from the early Cold War: a so-called "clean" superbomb that could kill large numbers of soldiers without ejecting radioactive contaminants over the countryside.

But talk of "clean" superbombs worries critics. "'Clean' nuclear weapons are more dangerous than dirty ones because they are more likely to be used," said an e-mail from science historian George Dyson of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., author of "Project Orion," a 2002 study on a Cold War-era attempt to design a nuclear spaceship. Still, Dyson adds, antimatter weapons are "a long, long way off."

Physicist Kelvin Lynn, head of the Center for Materials Research at Washington State University, is enthusiastic about antimatter because he believes it could propel futuristic space rockets.

"I think," he said, "we need to get off this planet, because I'm afraid we're going to destroy it."

Source: Keay Davidson, Chronicle, October 4, 2004



SWARMS

Swarms of small expendable unmanned aircraft may become part of Australia's defence arsenal in the future.

A Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) research team is designing "collective intelligence" for groups or swarms of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The aim is to develop an intelligent and communicating network.

US NAVY TESTING DU WEAPONS IN FISHING AREAS

Opposition to the new US "training bases" in Australia and plans to test "smart bombs" in Australia has been reinforced by news that the US Navy routinely puts human lives at risk by testing radioactive, toxic ammunition in prime fishing areas off the coast of Washington.

The Navy insists the use of depleted uranium off the coast poses no threat to the environment. Commander Karen Sellers, a Navy spokeswoman in Seattle, also said there are no hazards to the servicemen and women on board the ships.

But a coalition of Northwest environmental and anti-war activists are considering seeking an injunction to halt the tests.

"The Navy is willing to put us all at risk, including its own sailors, to improve its war-fighting capabilities," said Glen Milner, of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

Seattle environmental attorney David Mann asked, "How can the Navy fire depleted uranium rounds and spread radioactive material into prime fishing areas off our coast?"

Milner says, "It just makes sense that if DU can contaminate land and get into the food chain, then it would do the same thing in the sea."

Robert Alverson, President of the Fishing Vessel Owners Association in Seattle, said he was "very troubled" and asked "How would the Navy feel about eating fish caught there?"

*Source: "Toxic ammo is tested in fish areas"
by Larry Johnson, Seattle Post.*

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/103402_fife09.shtml

DOUBTS ABOUT US ANTI-MISSILE SYSTEM

At a newly constructed launch site on a tree-shorn plain in central Alaska, a large crane crawls from silo to silo, gently lowering missiles into their holes. The sleek white rockets, each about five stories tall, are designed to soar into space and intercept warheads headed toward the United States.

Following his re-election, Bush is expected to activate the anti-missile facility soon and to claim fulfillment of a 2000 presidential campaign pledge to build a nationwide missile defense.

In addition to 16 interceptors already ordered for the Alaska site at Fort Greely -- plus four for an alternate California site at Vandenberg Air Force Base -- the 2005 budget provides money for 10 more interceptors in Alaska. Talks also are underway with several countries about establishing an interceptor site in Europe.

Bush has also funded an expanded array of missile defense projects, including land- and sea-launched interceptors, an airborne laser, and space-based weapons.

So far, Bush has spent \$31 billion on missile defense research and development, and his plans call for an additional \$9 billion to \$10 billion a year for the next five years. Beyond that, the administration has provided no final price tag. In 2005, the cost of missile defense will consume

nearly 14 per cent of the Pentagon's entire research-and-development budget.

Difficulties

Unexpected difficulty in producing a new booster rocket has stalled intercept tests since December 2002. The booster's job is to carry a "kill vehicle," a 120-pound package of sensors, computers and thrusters. Once in space, the kill vehicle separates from the booster and closes in on an enemy warhead, destroying it in a high-speed collision.

This leaves the administration proceeding with deployment after only eight intercept tests -- the most recent conducted 21 months ago. Five tests resulted in hits, but all used the same limited test range in the Pacific and employed surrogates for tracking radars as well as for the booster.

A key X-band radar -- a towering structure being built to float at sea on two motorized pontoons the size of Trident submarines -- will not be ready for another year at least. Also still in development is a satellite network to replace a three-decade-old constellation of early-warning satellites. Both the X-band and the new satellites are critical in assisting the kill vehicle to distinguish the warhead from decoys and debris.

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DOUBTS ABOUT US ANTI-MISSILE SYSTEM

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Doubts

There are serious doubts, even within the Pentagon, about whether a system that is on its way to costing more than \$100 billion will work. Several key components have fallen years behind schedule and will not be available until later. Flight tests, plagued by delays, have yet to advance beyond elementary, highly scripted events.

The notion of building first and improving later lies at the heart of the administration's approach, which defense officials have dubbed "evolutionary acquisition" or "spiral development."

Normally, when a weapons system is conceived, the Pentagon sets specific requirements that must be approved by a committee of senior military officers. The project is then assessed periodically by the Defense Acquisition Board, a group of high-ranking defense officials from various offices.

This accountability apparatus has been shunted aside in the case of missile defense. No requirements document was drawn up, and the traditional reviews and assessments have been bypassed. Instead, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), which is responsible for developing the

system, has been allowed to devise its own goals, test schedules and program reviews.

The paucity of realistic test data has caused the Pentagon's chief weapons evaluator, Thomas P Christie, to conclude that he cannot offer a confident judgment about the system's viability. He estimated its likely effectiveness to be as low as 20 per cent.

This contrasts with a prediction from the MDA of more than 80 percent effectiveness. The difference reflects disagreement over which test data to include in computing the estimates.

Christie wants to count all flight results, including earlier test failures. The MDA argues that causes of those failures have been fixed, so the data can be discarded. Its estimates are based largely on computer simulations and testing of individual components.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A58080-2004Sep28.html>

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