

US military and intelligence facilities in Australia - what, where and why?

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Medical Association for the Prevention of War
 Melbourne, 9 August 2012

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The Asia-Pacific pivot: the Obama strategic agenda direction after the Bush disasters

- Unchanged: the counter-terrorism agenda
 - Targetted killings, drones, and intelligence cooperation
- Fundamental US issues with China:
 - strategic partner or strategic competitor?
 - Unquestioned assumptions of “**power transition theory**”:
 - “A revisionist power must come into violent conflict with established powers”
- Obama administration mixed approaches to China
 - dialogue with China as strategic partner for global order
 - Military re-assertion and a framework for containment:
 - Drawing a line under the Iraq and Afghanistan disasters
 - The Pacific pivot – “We’re back to stay”

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Australia and the Pacific pivot

- Deepening ADF integration with US, Japan and NATO
 - “interoperability”
 - shared wars
- Shared planning for Australian participation in US global and regional planning
 - Especially re anti-China “AirSea Battle”
- The invocation of ANZUS – from Howard to Gillard
- The dominant climate in Canberra on China
 - More hawkish than the Washington hawks
 - Suppression of well-founded and balanced intelligence assessments
 - Offering bases before being asked
- Technological integration and consequent dependence

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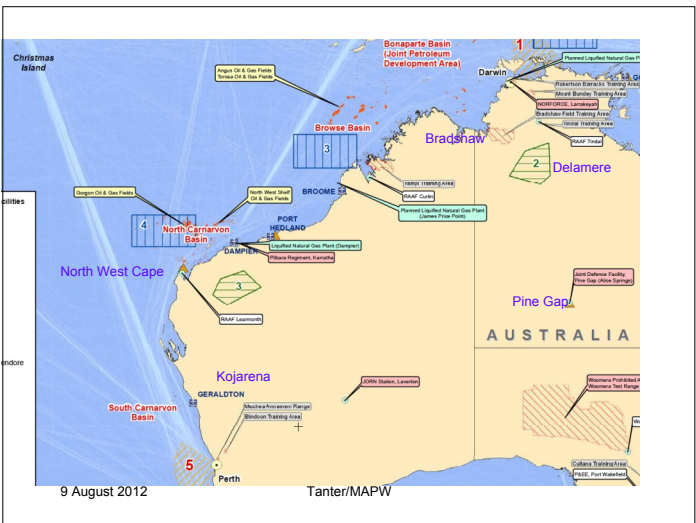
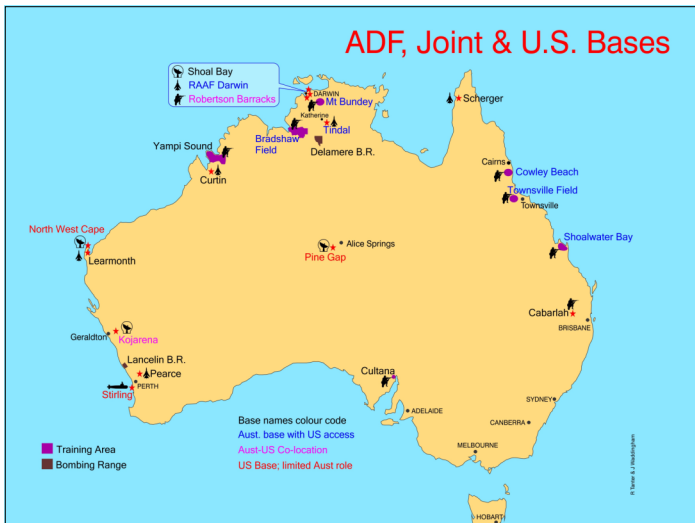
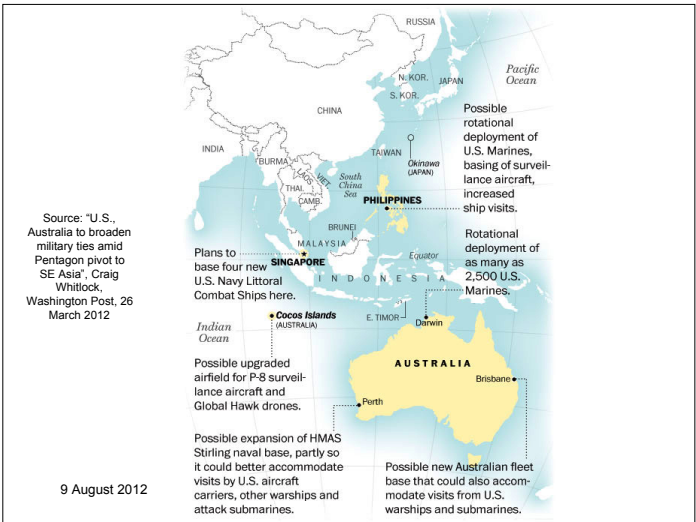
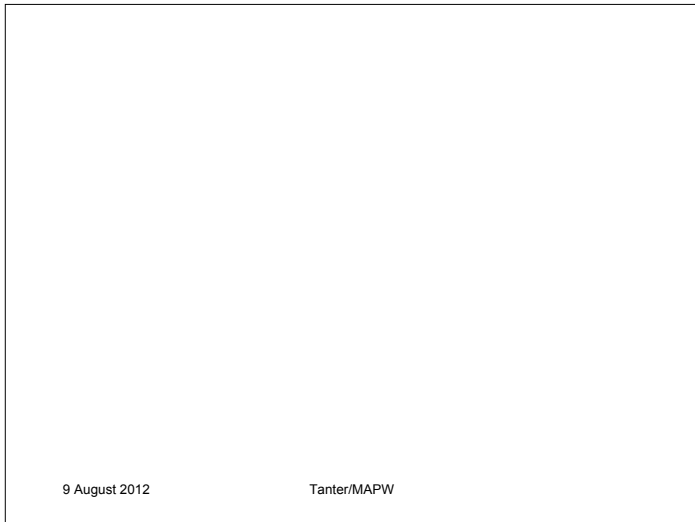
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Australian bases to which the United States has access	Australian bases co-located with United States facilities	Primarily United States bases, with a limited Australian role
RAAF Tindal	Robertson Barracks (Darwin)	Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt (North West Cape)
RAAF Darwin	Australian Defence Satellite Communications Ground Station (Kojarena, Geraldton)	Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap
HMAS Coonawarra, Darwin		
Bradshaw Field Training Area		
Delamere Air Weapons Range		
Mount Bundeby Training Area		
Joint Australia-US Combat Training Centre		
Shoalwater Bay Training Area		
Townsville Field Training Area		
Cowley Beach Training Area		
HMAS Stirling, Fremantle		
Cocos Islands		

Principal locations of United States military and intelligence presence at Australian facilities

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What has Australia signed up to?

- Obama visit agreements on “permanent rotation”
 - Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)
 - 2,500 at any one time, and ongoing command and logistics presence
 - US Air Force
 - To RAAF northern airfields and training ranges
 - US Navy
 - to HMAS Stirling still being negotiated
- AUSMIN agreements 2004-2012
 - North West Cape
 - Australian Defence Satellite Communications Ground Station, Kojarena/Geraldton
 - Bradshaw Field Training Area
 - Delamere Air Weapons Range
 - Mount Bunday Training Area
 - Joint Australia-US Combat Training Centre
- The transformation of Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap

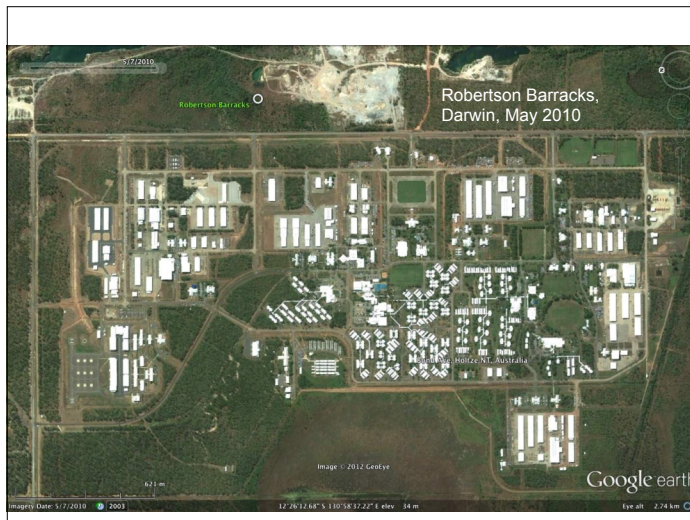
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Darwin : Robertson, RAAF Darwin, East Arm Wharf, Defence Support Hub



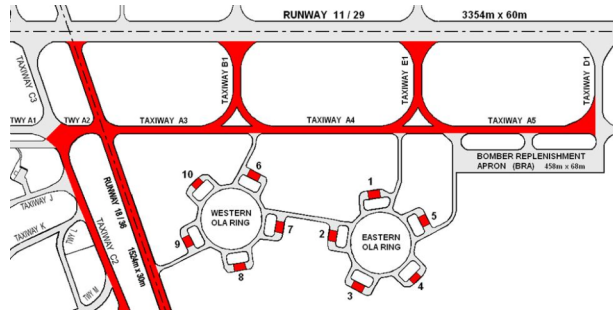
9 August 2012 Source: Land Development Corporation, www.landdev.gov.au/industrial/defence/index.shtml



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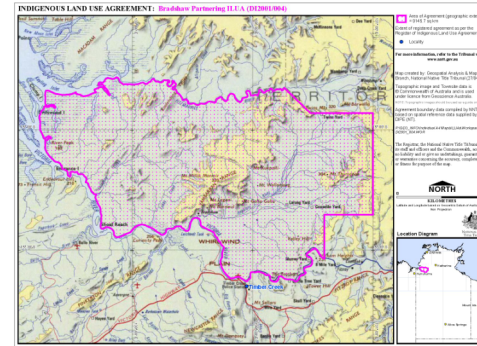
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RAAF Darwin ordnance loading areas (OLA) (Darwin International Airport)



9 August 2012 Source: Annex E to Review of Access to Air Force Airfields by Civil Aircraft, RAAF, September 2010.
www.airforce.gov.au/aboutus/publicconsultation/raaf-darwin/raaf-darwin-map-w

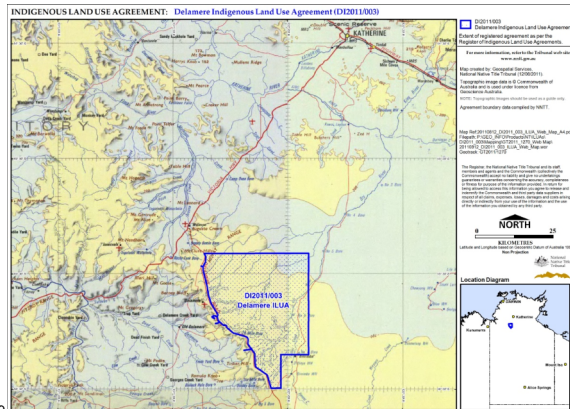
Bradshaw Field Training Area (8,700 sq.kms. just smaller than Cyprus)



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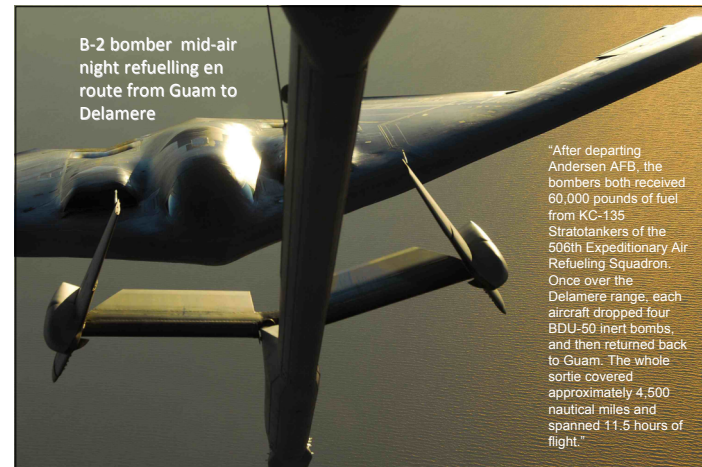
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Delamere Air Weapons Range (3,000 sq. kms.)



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B-2 bomber mid-air night refuelling en route from Guam to Delamere



"After departing Andersen AFB, the bombers both received 60,000 pounds of fuel from KC-135 Stratotankers of the 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. Once over the Delamere range, each aircraft dropped four BDU-50 inert bombs, and then returned back to Guam. The whole sortie covered approximately 4,500 nautical miles and spanned 11.5 hours of flight."

Source: Green Lightning Exercise Strengthens US, Australian Ties, Aero Ngps Network, 23 October 2006; and B-2 [ALUQUEZ](#) Gallery, Department of Defence, 27 July 2007. [raaf-darwin-map-w](#)

B-52 Stratofortress leaving Guam for Delamere Air Weapons Range bombing practice, 2006



“Green Lightning
Exercise Strengthens
US, Australian Ties”

Source: Green Lightning Exercise Strengthens US, Australian Ties, Aero News Network, 29 October 2006
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Michael Leunig on Delamere Air Weapons Range



I LOVE A SUNBURNT COUNTRY
AN AMERICAN BOMBING RANGE
THE OLD LAND OF THE GUM TREE
HOW VERY SAD AND STRANGE.

I regret I no longer have the original reference for this work by Michael Leunig. Presently sourced from
9 August 2012 <http://www.blogger.com/V/Da5Gh/EYfS8Q2Xp2Z/Tanter/MAPW/0/0xTM51600-bfeyepCountry0.JPG>

Australian Defence Satellite Communications Ground Station, Kojarena/Geraldton

- US Australian ground station for the US Mobile User Objective System (MUOS)
 - a narrow - band networked satellite constellation for UHF satellite communications enabling secure all - weather and all - terrain 3 - G mobile telecommunications.
- Australian ground station for US Wideband Global SATCOM system
 - high data rate satellite communications in the Ka and X-band frequencies
 - tactical command and control, communications, and computers; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR); battle management; and combat support information.
 - Australia paid \$1 bn. for one; gets access to all seven

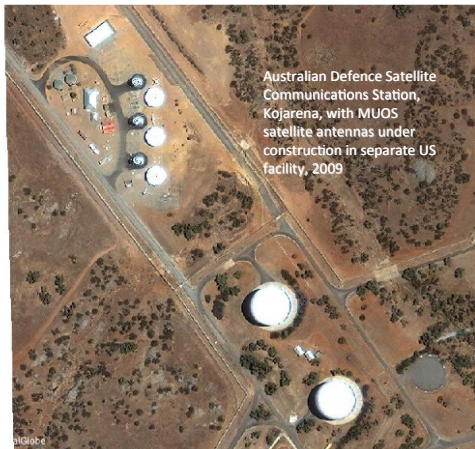
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Australian Defence Satellite
Communications Station,
Kojarena - 2010

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Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station, Kojarena, with MUOS satellite antennas under construction in separate US facility, 2009

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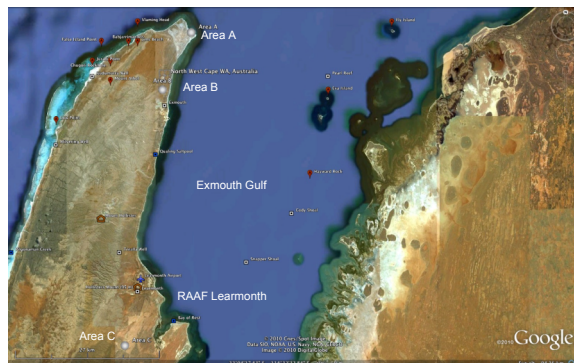
North West Cape, nuclear attack submarines, and the militarisation of space

- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America Relating to the Operation of and Access to an Australian Naval Communications Station at North West Cape in Western Australia (2008)*
 - Renewed or expanded US access to VLF submarine communications
- *Space Situational Awareness Partnership Statement of Principles (2010)*
 - Sensors including radars to be emplaced as part of US Space Surveillance Network at North West Cape and elsewhere (unspecified)
- Space Object Identification: Detecting and monitoring all objects in orbit 200 kms to 36,000 kms
 - Monitoring space junk (debris) for the global public good
 - Monitoring satellite location, character and intent for US Joint Space Operations Centre under the US Air Force Space Command
- Space Fence
 - S-band (2-4 GHz) phased array radars at North West Cape, and either Ascension Island or Kwajalein or both depending on budget

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Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt (North West Cape)



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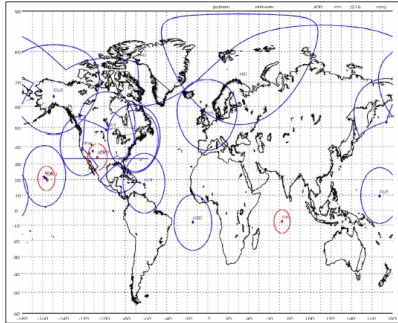
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Area A: VLF antennas and masts

Source: View from Bundegi beach to antennae array at night, 2008, heldtouring.com

US Space Surveillance Network assets:
 Blue: RADAR sensor coverage at 800 km altitude;
 Red: electro-optical telescope sensor coverage at 800 km altitude.



Source: Phillip D. Anz-Meador, International Guidelines for the Preservation of Space as a Unique Resource, Appendix B: Space Situational Awareness via Space Surveillance, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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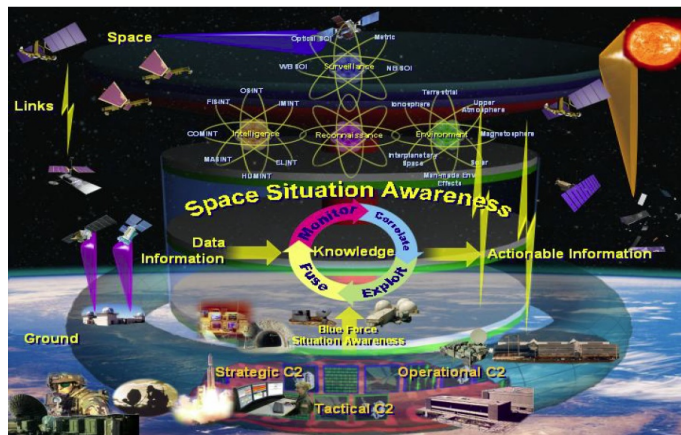
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PAVEPAWS (Phased Array Warning System) Clear Air Force Base, Alaska



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Source: Russell F. Teehan, Responsive Space Situation Awareness in 2020, Blue Horizons Paper, Center for Strategy and Technology, Air War College, April 2007

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Pine Gap: the great expansion

- Two different functions of Pine Gap:
 - Command, control and data download of US geo-stationary signals intelligence (SIGINT) satellites over SEA and the Indian Ocean
 - Remote Ground Station for geostationary thermal imaging early warning satellites (DSP/SBIRS)
- Both now more important than ever
 - SIGINT for missile telemetry and launch preparations, radar, microwave transmissions, satellite communications
 - DSP/SBIRS for missile launch early warning, nuclear and conventional post-attack assessment, and for missile defence
 - Both closely involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
 - SIGINT collection, processing and distribution globally integrated
- Australian involvement in all parts of Pine Gap
 - Personnel in all sections
 - Australian DSP/SBIRS downlinks
 - Australia receives SIGINT data

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Pine Gap now a National Reconnaissance Office facility, with CIA, NSA and uniformed military personnel

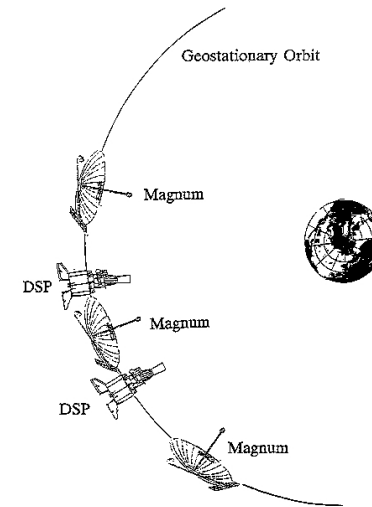
Special Collection Elements resident at Pine Gap

Service	Branch	Unit
US Navy	Navy Information Operations Command	U.S. Naval Detachment Combined Support Group
US Air Force	Air Intelligence Agency	Detachment 2, 544th Information Operations Group
US Army	704th Military Intelligence Brigade	Remote Detachment, Alice Springs, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion
US Marines	Marine Cryptologic Support Command	Sub-Unit 1, Alice Springs, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion

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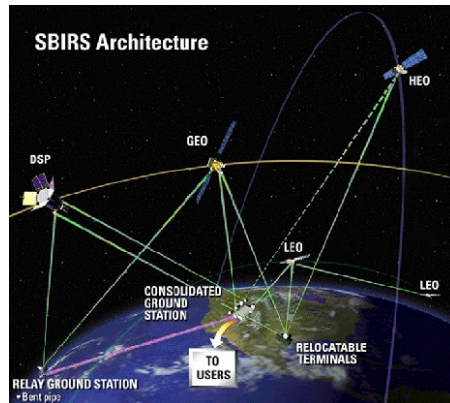
Geo-stationary orbit, 33,000 kms above the earth's surface - schematic



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Space-Based missile launch detection

Pine Gap remote ground station for DSP satellites and SBIRS satellites

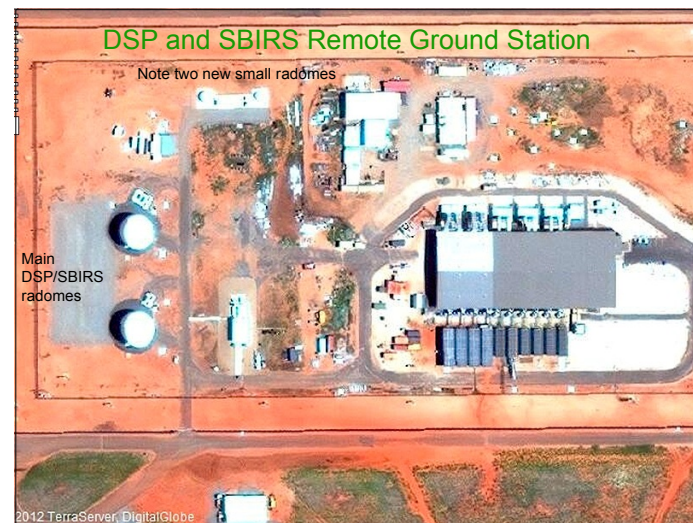
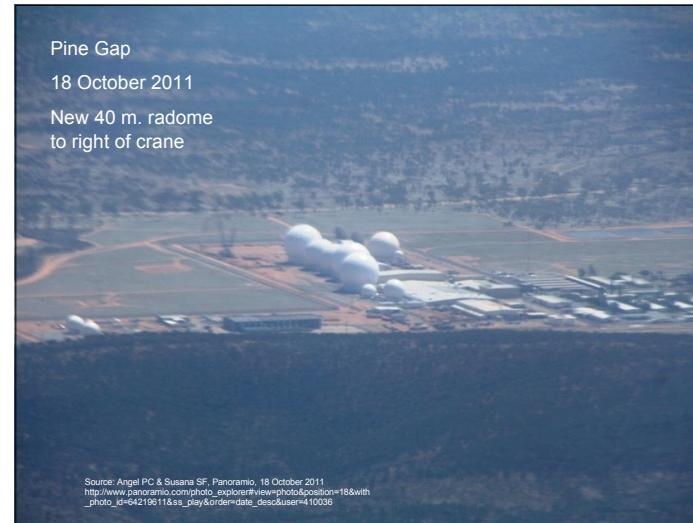


Source: Space-Based Infrared System, Wikipedia, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space-Based_Infrared_System

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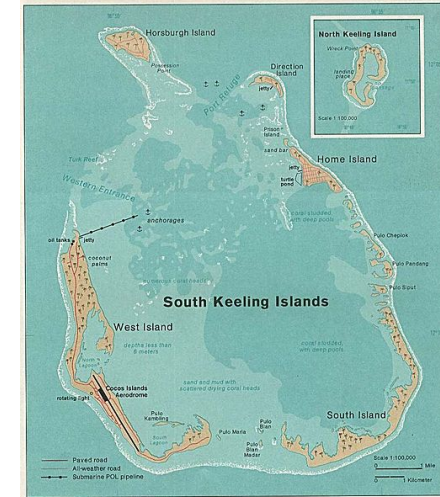
Cocos Island base plans

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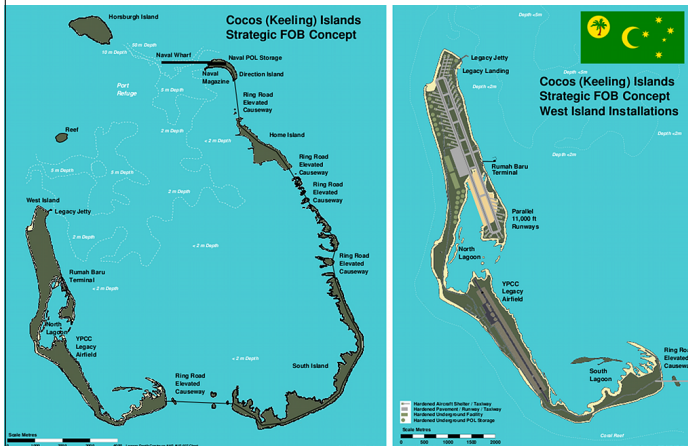
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Cocos (Keeling) Islands

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Karlo Kopp, Cocos basing proposal, AirPower Australia



Cocos Islands - by island community (2006 and 2011 Census data)

		2006			2011		
		Cocos Islands	Home Island	West Island	Cocos Islands	Home Island	West Island
People	Total	572	412	160	550	418	132
	Ancestry						
	Malay				105	98	7
	Indonesian				86	83	3
	Australian				122	71	51
	Javanese				33	33	0
	English				77	0	77
Religion	Islam	431	407	24	417	404	13
	Uniting Church	17			3		-3
	Anglican	26			20	0	20
	Catholic	30			15	0	15
	Seventh Day Adventist	48			9	0	9
No religion				44			
LOTE	Malay	395	370	25	404	394	10
	Indonesian	5	5				
	German				3		
	Portuguese					3	
	English only spoke	147	21	126	131	10	141
Median weekly incomes	Personal	341	292		478	412	
	Family	1220	987		1140	983	
	Household	1020	828		1420	1125	
Occupation	Labourers	33	26				
	Managers	30	8				
	Professionals	30	12				

What now?

- Buiding resources for an informed democratic debate about security and defence
- Understanding Australian interests vs. US interests
- What are the consequences of our current and projected force structure and basing arrangements?
- Thinking deeply about China and making genuinely realistic assessments about China
- What actual security threats does Australia face?
- What intelligence and military force structure does Australia need for actual threats?
- What are the alternatives, and what are the consequences for the bases?

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