

APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, March 15, 2010

Recommended Citation

"APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, March 15, 2010", APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, March 15, 2010, <https://nautilus.org/apsnet/apsnet-15-march-2010/>

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1. [Warning on delays for fighter jets](#), Simon Mann and Kirsty Needham, Age, 2010-03-13

Australia could be delivered aircraft with stripped-back war fighter capabilities, in addition to facing further cost blow-outs to the Joint Strike Fighter program, a leading analyst has said. The price for each of the US-built new-generation fighter jets that will form the centrepiece of Australia's future air defences is nearing \$122 million - more than double the 2001 estimate.

- [Joint Strike Fighter: significant challenges remain as DOD restructures program](#), United States Government Accountability Office, 2010-03-11, [PDF, 186KB]
- [F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program](#), Media Release, Department of Defence, 2010-03-12

2. [Thales in Combet sights](#), John Kerin, AFR*, 2010-03-15

Defence Materiel Minister Greg Combet has ordered a review of all "poor value for money" long-term Defence contracts with industry as part of a \$20 billion drive to cut wasteful spending.

*[Subscription required]

- [Defence must face tougher scrutiny](#), Brian Toohey, AFR*, 2010-03-13

*[Subscription required]

3. [Japan angry on nuclear shift](#), Dennis Shanahan, Australian, 2010-03-15

Diplomatic tensions between Australia and Japan are spreading beyond the emotional issue of whale hunting in the Antarctic, as Japanese resentment grows at Kevin Rudd's decision not to attend a nuclear disarmament meeting in Washington next month.

- [“Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons”](#). Joint Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Media Release, 2010-02-21

4. [Change with a few rough edges](#), Hamish McDonald, SMH, 2010-03-13

As Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gets into his second five-year term, Yudhoyono has been showered with accolades in Canberra as a political game-changer. The question among many analysts, though, is how permanently has SBY changed the game in Jakarta.

5. [Aussie soldiers capture senior Taliban leader](#), Mark Dodd, Australian, 2010-03-15

Australian special forces and the Afghan National Army have captured a senior Taliban militant in a joint operation in southern Oruzgan province.

- [Taliban commander captured in Afghan-led SOTG operation](#), Media Release, Department of Defence, 2010-03-14

6. [East Timor threatens to scuttle gas development](#), ABC News, 2010-03-13

East Timor's president Jose Ramos-Horta says his country is serious about making sure its interests are not ignored in the development of the Greater Sunrise Gas field.

7. [Nuclear weapons: arms control, proliferation and nuclear security](#), Special Report Issue 29, Rod Lyon, ASPI, 2010-03-11

The nuclear arms control agenda currently enjoys a prominence that it has not had since the first half of the 1990s. This report explores a range of issues, including President Obama's Prague commitments, the looming Global Nuclear Security Summit, and the scheduled Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference.

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