

APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, October 31, 2005

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APSNet for 20051031

Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

Monday 31 October, 2005

Bi-weekly report from the Nautilus Institute at RMIT, Australia.

1. [Howard On Target With The Military](#)
2. [Hill's Future In Doubt](#)
3. [Defence Spending Criticism Irks Senior Analyst](#)
4. [High Levels of Radioactive Contamination In French Polynesia](#)
5. [Pacific Community Concept Welcomed By Forum](#)
6. [Anxious Media Look To Law, Not Faith, To Guard Reporting Rights](#)
7. [Without Answers, Terror Laws Should Be Rejected](#)

1. Howard On Target With The Military

Greg Sheridan, Australian 2005-10-29 Within Australia, Howard has come to dominate not only the national security debate but also specifically the public expression of our [national military culture](#). This is an elusive but important political phenomenon.

2. Hill's Future In Doubt

Patrick Walters, Australian, 2005-10-31 John Howard has put off major decisions on the direction of the defence force and the [defence budget](#) until next year, prompting renewed speculation about the departure of the minister, Robert Hill.

3. Defence Spending Criticism Irks Senior Analyst
Geoffrey Barker AFR, 2005-10-28Michael O'Connor, a senior defence analyst lashed out at Treasury Secretary Ken Henry's warning on future [defence budget reductions](#). O'Connor also rejected the claim that slower population growth would have serious consequences for defence recruiting. (this url link requires a paid subscription)
4. High Levels of Radioactive Contamination In French Polynesia
NZPA, NZH, 2005-10-29The French Pacific Territory president Oscar Temaru has accused the French Government of a high-level cover-up over health and environmental consequences of [nuclear testing](#). In July, Mr Temaru set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the tests. It is due to report back in November.
5. Pacific Community Concept Welcomed By Forum
Interviewer Graeme Dobell, Radio Australia 2005-10-28Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific support a plan to create a [Pacific Union](#). Speakers: Secretary General of Pacific Islands forum Greg Urwin; Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Don Mckinnon; Australian Prime Minister John Howard; French Polynesia's President Oscar Temaru.
6. Anxious Media Look To Law, Not Faith, To Guard Reporting Rights
Tom Allard, SMH 2005-10-31The media are deeply worried that the [proposed anti-terrorism laws](#) will infringe on the work of journalists and substantially curb freedom of speech.
7. Without Answers, Terror Laws Should Be Rejected
Hugh White, Lowy Institute 2005-10-31Australia's [legal framework for tackling terrorism](#) is examined in order to judge whether the "benefits of the [proposed] new laws outweigh the costs".

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