



APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, October 12, 2006

Recommended Citation

"APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, October 12, 2006", APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, October 12, 2006, <https://nautilus.org/apsnet/apsnet-for-20061012/>

APSNet for 20061012

Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

Twice weekly report from the Nautilus Institute at RMIT, Australia.

Thursday 12 October 2006

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1. [Dr Strangelove in Pyongyang](#), Tim Savage and Peter Hayes, OpenDemocracy, 2006-10-10The Six Party Talks are now dead. Now, the US and China, the two great powers involved directly with North Korea, have to work together to develop a viable strategy to engage North Korea and restart negotiations, possibly in a new tripartite forum. If the US baulks at engaging North Korea, then China and Russia will simply cut their own deals with Kim Jong Il in order to re-stabilize the situation.
 - [DPRK Nuclear Weapons Testing](#), GlobalSecurity.org
 - [Resources on North Korea](#), NTI, 2006-10-10
 - [The North Korean Plutonium Stock Mid-2006](#), David Albright and Paul Brannan, Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), 2006-06-26 [PDF]

- [Nuclear Weapons Programs Worldwide: An Historical Overview](#), Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS)
 - [Imagery Brief: Suspected North Korean Nuclear Test Site](#), David Albright and Paul Brannan, Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) 2006-10-10 [PDF]
- 2.
3. [Over the Horizon: Long Term Implications of Australia's Engagement in the 'Arc Of Instability'](#), Michael Dillon, New Matilda, 2006-10-10 Fragility in East Timor, the Solomons, [and] PNG calls into question current Australian policy. These same factors are at work within Aboriginal Australia, [categorised as] part of the broad bloc of Melanesian societies. Failures of Australian governments to resolve issues of Indigenous disadvantage in Australia ... should give us pause when we contemplate the challenges of influencing neighbouring governments' policies.
 4. [Charting a Course within Societies in Flux](#), Mick Keelty, SMH, 2006-10-12 The Australian Federal Police have been steeped in the Western tradition of impartiality, but is that best suited to international peacekeeping operations in morally ambiguous circumstances? The call for a judicial inquiry into the riots by the Solomon Islands Government should silence any critic of the AFP who thought we were being precious when we [insisted on] immunity from prosecution as part of the conditions applying to our earlier deployments to PNG.
 5. [Timor Leader Told to Stand Down](#), Lindsay Murdoch, Age, 2006-10-12 The ICG has warned that East Timor's crisis is far from over and suggests the country's President, Xanana Gusmao, should consider quitting politics. The group also warns that the report of a UN inquiry into violence in the capital, Dili, in April and May will be "explosive" and says Australian and other international security forces in the country should be ready for new protests and demonstrations.
 - [Executive Summary and Recommendations, Resolving Timor-Leste's Crisis](#), Asia Report No. 120, International Crisis Group, 2006-10-10
 - [Resolving Timor-Leste's Crisis](#), Asia Report No. 120, International Crisis Group, 2006-10-10 [PDF]
 - [E Timor Calls for Aussies to Stay](#), Simon Kearney, Australian, 2006-10-11
- 6.
7. [Iraqi War Deaths Number 655,000: Report](#), Reuters, Age, 2006-10-12 About 655,000 Iraqis have died from the Iraq war, exceeding previous estimates, researchers say. But US President George W Bush is disputing the findings and a top US commander put the toll at 50,000. Deaths are occurring at more than three times the rate seen before the March 2003 invasion, said researcher Gilbert Burnham of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Maryland.
 - [Mortality after the 2003 Invasion of Iraq: a Cross-Sectional Cluster Sample Survey](#), Gilbert Burnham, Riyadh Lafta, Shannon Doocy, Les Roberts, Johns Hopkins, The Lancet, 2006-10-11 [PDF]
 - [Troops May Stay in Iraq until 2010: PM](#), Australian, 2006-10-12
- 8.
9. [The Long Shadow of the Past](#), Geoffrey Barker, AFR*, 2006-10-12 Australia will eventually have some 700 troops in Afghanistan as part of the 42,000-strong US, Canadian and European force now under the command of NATO. That force is expected to secure a country that is 50 per cent larger than Iraq, where there are 150,000 US-led coalition troops. The question is whether 42,000 troops, and 30,000 poorly equipped Afghani soldiers, can suppress the Taliban, and at

what cost.

* [Subscription required](#).

10. Afghanistan: Briefing NotesBackground
 - [Country Profile: Afghanistan](#), BBC [updated regularly]
 - [Afghanistan](#), ReliefWeb [updated regularly]
 - [Orguzan Province](#), Wikipedia [updated regularly]
11. Political situation - 2006
 - [Afghanistan: On the Brink](#), Ahmed Rashid, New York Review of Books, Volume 53 (11), 2006-0-22
 - [Rescuing Afghanistan: A Balance Sheet](#), William Maley, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2006-07-19
12. Security
 - [International Security Assistance Force \(ISAF\)](#) [updated regularly]
 - [Afghanistan: Security Updates](#), ReliefWeb [updated regularly]
 - [Orguzan Province](#), Wikipedia [updated regularly]
13. Australia-Afghanistan Relations
 - [Country Information - Afghanistan](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) [updated regularly]
 - [Operation Slipper](#), Department of Defence [updated regularly]
 - [Operation Slipper](#), Wikipedia [updated regularly]
14. Casualties
 - [Operation Enduring Freedom: Casualties](#), iCualties.org [updated regularly]
 - [Afghanistan: Civilian Casualties from Anti-Insurgency Conflict Mount](#), IRIN (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 2006-07-14

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