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Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

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

Thursday 22 February 2007

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1. [Special Forces May Return to Afghanistan](#), AAP, SMH, 2007-02-22 Australian special forces may return ahead of an anticipated spring offensive by Taliban and al-Qaeda forces. Defence Minister Brendan Nelson says a small defence force survey team will travel to Afghanistan to determine the shape of a larger commitment. The government is tipped to almost double its military commitment to Afghanistan with 450 extra troops expected to join more than 500 personnel already there.

- [Afghanistan's Endangered Compact](#), International Crisis Group, 2007-01-29
 - [Afghanistan \(Complex Emergency\)](#), Relief Web
- 2.
3. [Howard to Increase Australian Training Force in Iraq](#), Brendan Nicholson, Age, 2007-02-20 Mr Howard said yesterday up to 70 more military instructors would go to Iraq within four months. It is believed they will join about 30 Australian Army instructors operating at the big US base at Tallil in southern Iraq. Australians are training Iraqi non-commissioned officers and junior officers. Others are teaching more advanced counter-insurgency courses to Iraqi soldiers at the US base at Taji in Iraq's north.
 - [Britain, Danes Bring Troops Home](#), Peter Wilson, Australian, 2007-02-22
 - [Humanitarian Agenda 2015 Briefing Paper - Coming to Terms with the Humanitarian Imperative in Iraq](#), Greg Hansen, Tufts University, Friedman School and Feinstein International Center, 2007-01-01 [PDF]
 - [An ECC Professor's Observations of Iraq](#), Jabria Jassim, Daily Herald, 2007-02-20
 - [Iraq](#), News Centre, United Nations
 - [Iraq \(Complex Emergency\)](#), Relief Web
- 4.
5. [Australian Delegation to Reopen Ties with Pyongyang after Nuclear Pledge](#), Michelle Grattan, Age, 2007-02-21 Australia will send a diplomatic mission to North Korea within weeks for talks on rebuilding relations following last week's breakthrough deal on the rogue nation's nuclear program. The Australian-North Korean diplomatic relationship is seen as significant because it puts Australia in a stronger position for direct dialogue than, for example, the US, which does not have diplomatic relations.
 6. [Australia Implements UN Security Council Sanctions against Iran](#), Media Release, Foreign Minister, 2007-02-21 Australia has taken action to implement fully in Australian law the UN Security Council sanctions against Iran. Sanctions were imposed following Iran's failure to comply with UN demands that Iran suspend uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities. All sanctions contained in UN Security Council Resolution 1737 are reversible should Iran suspend its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities.
 7. [Jakarta Criticised on Papua Rights](#), BBC, 2007-02-21 At least 18 people in Papua are serving jail sentences for peacefully expressing political views, Human Rights Watch (HRW) says. An official in Papua denied anyone had been jailed for peaceful protest. Jakarta has been fighting a low-level insurgency for decades, with small, armed groups attacking economic and military targets in the province. There is also non-violent protest from a much wider section of society.
 - [Protest and Punishment: Political Prisoners in Papua](#), Volume 19, No. 4(C), HRW, February 2007
- 8.
9. [The Privatisation of Maritime Security - Maritime Security in Southeast Asia: Between a Rock and a Hard Place?](#) Carolin Liss, Working Paper No.141, Asia Research Centre, February 2007 [PDF] An increasing number of Private Security Companies (PSC) are offering and conducting maritime security services in Southeast Asia, in addition to security provided by Southeast Asian states and their government agencies. This paper discusses whether or not PSCs are an alternative or viable supplement to government efforts to protect national waters, shipping lanes and other maritime assets.
 - [Port Privatisation: The Asia Pacific Experience Workshop](#), Asia Research Centre, 2006-07-17

- [Container Security Initiative](#), Wikipedia
 - [Coastwatch Surveillance in Australia](#), Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Estimates (p116 onward), 2007-02-13 9 [PDF]
- 10.
11. [Can Southeast Asia Afford to Wait? Coping with Floods and Humanitarian Emergencies](#), Mely Caballero-Anthony, RSIS Commentary, 2007-02-09 [PDF] Flood and landslides caused by heavy rainfalls in parts of Southeast Asia seem to have become normal occurrences. One wonders how much more warning does it take for states to prioritise human security in their security agenda? Unfortunately, as vividly illustrated by the latest floods in Jakarta, many states in and outside Southeast Asia are least prepared to cope with these complex humanitarian emergencies.

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