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Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

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

Monday 23 April 2007

1. [Diggers Securing Mideast Peace: Nelson](#)
2. [UK Troops in Iraq Hand Over Province](#)
3. [Iran, US take their fight to Afghanistan](#)
4. [Sergeant Who 'Threatened to Kill' Faces Timor Inquiry](#)
5. [Fiji: EU's Roadmap](#)
6. [Indonesia and Italy Sign Defense Agreement](#)
7. [ALP May Send Force to Darfur](#)

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1. [Diggers Securing Mideast Peace: Nelson](#), AAP, Age, 2007-04-22 Defence Minister Brendan Nelson has paid a secret visit to Australian troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf, telling them they play a crucial role in securing peace in the Middle East. The unannounced visit to the Middle East comes as Australia is boosting its military commitment to Afghanistan to tackle a resurgent Taliban and after a deadly week in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.
 - [Top US Officers See Mixed Results from Iraq 'Surge': Sectarian Killings Decrease in Capital; Suicide Bombings across Country Rise](#), Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post, 2007-04-22
 - 2.
 3. [UK Troops in Iraq Hand Over Province](#), Reuters, Age, 2007-04-18 British forces handed over security of the southern Iraq province of Maysan, the fourth province to be transferred to Iraqis
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under a plan to eventually allow the withdrawal of foreign troops.

- [Iraq: The British Endgame](#), Richard Norton-Taylor, Guardian, 2007-04-21
- [Iraq Governorates](#), UK Ministry of Defence, 2003 [JPG]

- 4.
5. [Iran, US take their fight to Afghanistan](#), M K Bhadrakumar, Asia Times, 2007-04-20
In the latest US offensive against Iran, Tehran is implied to be arming the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan. Washington could not be further off the mark, as Tehran has a fundamental problem with the Taliban's virulent anti-Shi'ite ideology. Certainly, though, the Iranians are not above meddling in Afghanistan's affairs, if only to make the US realize that its support of anti-Iranian terrorism from Afghan soil comes at a heavy price.

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608 San Miguel Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707-1535 | Phone: (510) 423-0372 | Email:
nautilus@nautilus.org