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Monday 13 August 2007

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5. Singapore Wants To Be a Regional Force
6. PNG PM Accuses Australia of Interference in Elections
7. Bali Doctors Investigate Possible Bird Flu Deaths

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1. Police Unite against NT Permit Plan, Simon Kearney, Australian, 2007-08-13Police in all states and territories have rallied to reject the federal Government's planned abolition of the permit system controlling access to Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. Police have also criticised the legislation banning alcohol as unwieldy, saying the laws will create confusion about how officers in Aboriginal communities treat offenders and are open to challenge.
    - Inquiry into the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 and Related Bills,

Submissions and Additional Information received by the Committee, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, 2007-08-13

- Desert Sweep, Nicolas Rothwell, Australian, 2007-08-11

2.
3. Troops to Sit it Out in E Timor Chaos, John Kerin, AFR*, 2007-08-13Australia will delay drawing down troop numbers from East Timor as uncertainty clouds the future of the coalition government. A senior Defence source said that any move to downsize Australia's complement of 1100 troops would, "send the completely wrong signal to those intent on stirring up trouble." * Subscription required.
   - Aust Commander Says Violence Controlled in E Timor, ABC, 2007-08-11
   - Timor's Future, Mark Aarons, ABC, 2007-08-11 [Audio]
   - Operation Astute, Defence Department Australia, 2007-08-13
   - Operation Tower, Defence Department Australia, 2007-01-27

4.
5. Australian Troops Under Renewed Taliban Attack, Tom Hyland, Age, 2007-08-12Australian reconstruction troops in Afghanistan have come under heavy attack twice in recent days in sustained and co-ordinated assaults forming their toughest challenge yet from Taliban fighters. Until now, the reconstruction troops - unlike Australian special forces - have not been involved in intense combat.
   - Tarin Kowt - ADF bases and activities, Australian Bases Abroad, Nautilus Institute
   - Troops in Afghanistan 'Heading for Failure', Jewel Topsfield, Age, 2007-08-13
   - New York Times on Failure in Afghanistan, Barnett R. Rubin, Informed Comment Global Affairs, 2007-08-12

6.
7. Howard Warns Maliki: Act or Face Pullout, Greg Sheridan, Australian, 2007-08-11John Howard has demanded the Iraqi Government make faster progress towards resolving the country's political differences or face the prospect of a withdrawal of Australian troops and those of other Western nations.
8. Singapore Wants To Be a Regional Force, Jakarta Post, 2007-08-10Singapore had an ambition to be a regional police force in Southeast Asia through the defense cooperation agreement it signed with Indonesia in April, said Guspiabri Sumonigeno, the director of the Center for National Policy Studies (CINAPS). "Systematically, Singapore is preparing strategic steps to make it a sole police (force) in the region," he said.
9. PNG PM Accuses Australia of Interference in Elections, RNZI, 2007-08-12Sir Michael says he will raise the issue at the next Pacific Islands Forum meeting. During PNG's election, the Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, called on the Somare government to release a PNG Defence Force report into the escape of wanted Australian lawyer Julian Moti to the Solomons. A leaked copy of the report shows it points the finger of blame at Sir Michael.
   - Papua New Guinea Defence Force Board of Inquiry, Report, Gibbs Salika, Anthony Huai, Daniel Liosi, 13 December 2006- 16 March 2007, EastWest Centre [PDF]

10.
11. Bali Doctors Investigate Possible Bird Flu Deaths, Peter Cave, ABC, 2007-08-13There are fears that the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu may have spread to the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Doctors at Bali's Sanglah Hospital are waiting for test results after the deaths of a 29-year-old woman and her five-year-old daughter. If the tests prove positive, it will be the first confirmed human case of the deadly disease on the tourist island.
    - How Bird Flu Has Spread, BBC [updated regularly]

12.

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