



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

# Newsletter

July 2011

## Promoting National Security and Defence

Patron: Awaiting Confirmation

President: Mr Don Kitchin

Secretary: Commander Otto Pelczar, RFD, RD, RANR (ret)

RUSI of WA, Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle  
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The U.S. Development of Constabulary Forces in Latin America and the Philippines

### **STAY INFORMED:**

Visit the RUSI Website: <https://www.rusi.org.au/index.php>

The 2009 Defence White paper may be found at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/>

### **Maps and information for Force Posture Review:**

<http://www.defence.gov.au/review/posture/>

### **Subscriptions:**

**Town - \$40, Country - \$25, Associate - \$5**

Your subscription, and other charges can be electronically transferred to the RUSI.

**BSB 803-205, Account No 20531718, and include your surname**

## Force Posture Review

Your previous editor, Norman Ashworth and I recall, with a sense of déjà vu, a series of discussions in Perth some years ago regarding the then proposed deployment of defence resources to Darwin and Townsville. Our deliberations were aimed at providing a response to concerns being raised in some quarters in the Eastern states that such redeployments would unbalance the defence of Australia and expose our forces to increased risk in forward locations.

In a subsequent series of RUSI presentations, our members had the opportunity to be briefed on security aspects of the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. We were able to have informed debates on the social, military, political and economic threats posed to Australia directly and indirectly by conflict and instability around the Indian Ocean rim. Our lecture program on the strategic role of China in the region and conflicting territorial and resource claims in the South China Sea, even resulted in some direct intervention from Canberra.

The forthcoming Blamey Oration and the background information released as part of the Force Posture Review will provide an excellent opportunity for members to be fully informed and to engage constructively in the debate regarding defence force deployment.

### FORCE POSTURE REVIEW

Minister for Defence Stephen Smith announced on 22 June that the Government will undertake a Force Posture Review to assess whether the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is correctly geographically positioned to meet Australia's modern and future strategic and security challenges. The Force Posture Review will be undertaken by the Department of Defence and overseen by an expert panel made up of two renowned Australian national security specialists: Dr Allan Hawke and Mr Ric Smith. The results of the Review and the views of the Expert Panel will help provide a strategic context for the next scheduled Defence White Paper in the first quarter of 2014.

The Review will address the range of present and emerging global, regional and national strategic and security factors which require careful consideration for the future, including:

- the rise of the Asia-Pacific as a region of global strategic significance;
- the rise of the Indian Ocean rim as a region of global strategic significance;
- the growth of military power projection capabilities of countries in the Asia Pacific;
- the growing need for the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief following extreme events in the Asia Pacific region; and
- energy security and security issues associated with expanding offshore resource exploitation in our North West and Northern approaches.

The Review will build on the strategic and capability judgments contained in the Defence White Paper 2009 *Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030*, and consider the implications for Force Posture from the array of emerging strategic and security influences. The Review will be informed by the work currently underway in relation to base consolidation, through which Defence is assessing basing requirements and developing options for changes to Defence's estate over the next 25 year period.

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The Force Posture Review will:

- a) as its starting point draw on the security, strategic and capability judgements outlined in the Defence White Paper 2009 *Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030*;
- b) draw on work currently underway in Defence through the 2011 Annual Defence Planning Guidance;
- c) outline the future security and strategic environment and challenges Australia needs to be positioned to respond to up to 2030;
- d) consider the potential strategic and security role of Australia's offshore territories, particularly Cocos and Christmas Islands, for Force Posture requirements;
- e) consider the implications for ADF Force Posture of the need for energy security, including security issues associated with expanding offshore resource exploitation in our North West and Northern approaches;
- f) consider how the future ADF Force Posture will support Australia's ability to respond to a range of activities including: deployments on missions and operations overseas; support of operations in our wider region; and practical engagement with the countries of the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean rim in ways that help to shape security and strategic circumstances in Australia's interest;
- g) assess the impact on the ADF's Force Posture of a range of domestic, demographic and economic issues including: more intense minerals and petroleum resource activities; around Defence training and exercise ranges; urban encroachment on existing Defence facilities; community attitudes to living standards and residential locations; and the need for a more cost-effective approach to basing;
- h) make recommendations in relation to the basing options for Force 2030 across Australia including in relation to: Navy platforms (including the Air Warfare Destroyers, Landing Helicopter Docks, Future Submarines, the ANZAC Frigate and its replacements and offshore patrol vessels; Army's additional northern basing requirements; and Air Force's plans to introduce a range of new aircraft and associated support systems into service; and
- i) consider other relevant issues including population and population spread.

The Review will complement the work currently underway with the United States on the ongoing United States Global Force Posture Review by the joint Australian-United States working group. The expert panel of Dr Hawke and Mr Smith will provide overall guidance to the Defence Force Posture Review. Dr Hawke is a former Secretary of the Department of Defence. Mr Smith is Australia's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and a former Secretary of the Department of Defence.

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## Program

### Blamey Oration

**DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS, DR WATT HAS HAD TO DEFER HIS AVAILABILITY FOR THE BLAMEY ORATION. AN UPDATE WILL BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS A NEW DATE IS CONFIRMED**

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2011, AT 1.00 PM**

#### Agenda

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held on 10 August 2010.
2. Presentation of Annual Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet.
3. Library Report
4. Election of Office Bearers and Councilors.
5. Other business of which due notice has been given.
6. General business.

#### Election of Office Bearers and Councilors

Rule 12(1) requires that the following Office Bearers and Councilors be elected at the Annual General Meeting: President, three Vice Presidents, seven Councilors and Treasurer.

Rule 12(4) requires that all candidates for office be nominated on the prescribed form, a copy of which is available from the Secretary.. Nominations should reach the Secretary by Thursday 6 August 2011.

#### Notice of Business

Any member who wishes to give formal notice of business to be considered at the Annual General Meeting should advise the Secretary, by Thursday 6 August 2011.

**A Luncheon (12:00 for 12:30) will precede the AGM and a discussion will follow.**

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## Book Review

### The U.S. Development of Constabulary Forces in Latin America and the Philippines

By Richard L. Millett

Reviewed by Michael Borders

Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies Chief of Operations in **Security and Defense Studies Review** Spring-Summer Issue 2010

In the Combined Arms Center of Fort Leavenworth's "Occasional Paper" entitled: *Searching for Stability: The U.S. Development of Constabulary Forces in Latin America and the Philippines*, by Dr. Richard L. Millett, the reader will not fail to note many important parallels to ongoing U.S. efforts to train military and security forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, it seems that many of the lessons detailed by Millett could be used to avoid the mistakes made in past [mis]adventures of the United States in other parts of the world.

Millett's thorough review of the available literature, primary sources, and first-hand interviews make this book a very useful addition to the bookshelf of military professionals. Indeed, it is a book that should be read by anyone involved in the U.S.' latest efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. While many are at least somewhat familiar with General Petraeus' Counter Insurgency (COIN) doctrine, or perhaps with Colonel Nagl's description of *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife*, the U.S. may fail yet again if the important elements and lessons learned so thoroughly described and detailed by Millett are not carefully reviewed.

Even for the experienced student of U.S. intervention in the domestic affairs of other nations, the excellent historical summaries of involvement in the Philippines, Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic are exceptionally useful reminders of how the path to hell can be paved with the best of intentions. The lack of clear guidance and cogent policy, bureaucratic clashes (what today is called a lack of interagency cooperation), and the role of personalities are underscored in Millett's book. How these factors usually led to either undesired outcomes, or unforeseen or unintended consequences, are unfortunately all too familiar in the ongoing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Finally, Millett offers a set of basic principles and key lessons learned that would prove of great value to our nation's leaders, policy makers, policy practitioners and implementers alike. Perhaps one of the most important points he noted is that U.S. goals and objectives do not always coincide with the host nation's goals and objectives. This is a fact that is unfortunately missed by too many of the aforementioned policy makers and practitioners. As a consequence, this dissonance leads naturally to a problem of expectation management, especially for the U.S., but also for the host nation. He also notes that much or all of our influence is lost as soon as U.S. forces leave. That influence is replaced quickly by the traditions of national culture, regardless of the pre-withdrawal scale of involvement. In many instances, Millett notes that the better trained constabulary forces quickly became a tool of repression for despots. No matter how effective the U.S. is or will be in the training and education of [Iraqi or Afghani] defense and security forces, or in the [limited] efforts at nation

building in each nation, the outcomes long after U.S. forces depart depend much more on the host nation than on anything the U.S. does or fails to do.

Millett's superb review of six case studies makes this point all too clear. None of the nations he studied have the cultural, tribal, linguistic, traditional, or historical backgrounds that do Iraq or Afghanistan. However, his key findings, while not necessarily universal, may help avert some of the problems the United States either faced or even created in its previous efforts in the development of constabulary forces as a part of nation building.

***Searching for Stability: The U.S. Development of Constabulary Forces in Latin America and the Philippines:***

U.S. Army Combined Arms Center Occasional Paper 30;  
Combat Studies Institute Press

**On Line Resources - Knowing Where to Go – Australia's National Security**

The website <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/> provides a single access point for national security information from the Australian Government.

Australia's approach to national security is based on strong cooperative, coordinated and consultative relationships between the State and Territory Governments, the Australian Government, their departments and agencies and international partners.

At any given time Australia faces challenges to our nation's security from a range of sources which can put institutions of state, people, economic assets and technology at risk. These challenges include espionage, foreign interference, terrorism, politically motivated violence, border violations, cyber attack, organised crime, natural disasters and biosecurity events.

This website predominantly provides information on counter-terrorism, the roles of Australia's national security and policing agencies, national security coordination arrangements and the national counter-terrorism plan.

The Emergency Management in Australia website <http://www.ema.gov.au/> provides information about Australian and regional emergency management in a national security context, including content on policy formulation, national emergency operations and the development of national and international capability.

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