

## Section 7. Australia

### 1. General Situation

Japan shares basic values such as respect for freedom and human rights, and democracy with Australia. Australia, like Japan and the Republic of Korea, is allied with the United States. Australia has been broadly and actively involved in resolving security issues in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific region in addition to those in neighboring areas such as Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.

### 2. Security and National Defense Policy

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made the first National Security Statement to the Parliament in December 2008. In the statement, he stated that the security environment is increasingly fluid and characterized by a complex and dynamic mix of continuing and emerging challenges and opportunities, and identifies self-reliance, the U.S.-Australia alliance, regional engagement, commitment to multilateral institutions particularly the United Nations, and creative middle power diplomacy, as some of the principles of Australian national security.

In May 2009, Australia released a defense white paper titled “Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030” for the first time in the nine years since 2000, which presented national policies for the period through to 2030, based on a strategic outlook for the future. The white paper states that Australia has strategic interests (1) in the defense of Australia against direct armed attack, (2) in the security, stability and cohesion of the immediate neighborhood, which Australia shares with Indonesia and New Zealand, (3) in the stability of the wider Asia-Pacific region, which stretches from North Asia to the Eastern Indian Ocean, and (4) in preserving an international order that restrains aggression by states against each other, and can effectively manage other risks and threats, such as the proliferation of WMD, terrorism, state fragility and failure, intra-state conflict, and the security impacts of climate change and resource scarcity.

It is stated that defense policy should be founded on the principle of self-reliance in direct defense and in relation to the country’s unique strategic interests, but with a capacity to do more when required, consistent with those strategic interests that Australia might share with others, and within the limits of its resources. This defense policy means that Australia must have the military capacity to (1) act independently where Australia has unique strategic interests at stake, and in relation to which it would not wish to be reliant on the combat forces of any foreign power; (2) lead military coalitions where Australia has shared strategic interests at stake with others, and in relation to which it would be willing to accept a leadership role; and (3) make tailored contributions to military coalitions where Australia shares wider strategic interests with others and is willing to accept a share of the burden in securing those interests.

It then gives priorities to the tasks of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as follows: (1) to deter and defeat attacks on Australia by conducting independent military operations without relying on the combat or combat support forces of other countries; (2) to contribute to stability and security in the South Pacific and Timor Leste; (3) to contribute to military contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region; (4) to contribute to military contingencies in the rest of the world.

In order to carry out these tasks, the ADF needs to be more potent in certain areas, particularly undersea warfare and anti-submarine warfare (ASW), surface maritime warfare, air superiority, strategic strike, special forces, Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), and cyber warfare. Specifically, Australia has decided to acquire 12 new Future Submarines, three new Air Warfare Destroyers (AWD)<sup>207</sup>, around 100 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters (JSF) and maritime-based land-attack cruise missiles. The Government is committed to 3 percent real growth in the Defense budget for 2017-2018 and 2.2 percent real growth to 2030.

### 3. Overseas Activities

Australia identifies the security, stability and cohesion of the neighboring region as one of its strategic interests: fragile states in the neighboring region are potential havens for criminals and terrorists, and domestic conflicts would inflict considerable damage on the regional community, including Australia. Thus, Australia is committed to contributing to regional stability by providing active support, including the deployment of military forces<sup>208</sup>.

If the Australian government decided that it is in Australia's wider strategic interests to undertake operations in the Middle East or nearby regions, Australia would do so only after the Government has satisfied itself that the forces have the necessary environment to ensure the success of the operations with the least risk to the deployed forces<sup>209</sup>.

Based on this policy, Australia is deploying about 3,000 personnel abroad out of its 55,000-strong force<sup>210</sup> mainly in the following areas.

Fig. 1–2–7–1 Overseas deployment of ADF  
(As of May, 2009)

Afghanistan (inside Afghanistan)		Approx. 1,090
Afghanistan (outside Afghanistan)		Approx. 800
Iraq		Approx. 145
Timor Leste		Approx. 650
Solomon Islands		Approx. 140
MFO	Multinational Force and Observers	Approx. 25
UNMIS	UN Mission in Sudan	17
UNTSO	UN Truce Supervision Organization	12
UNMIT	UN Integrated Mission in Timor Leste	4
UNAMID	UN / AU Mission in Darfur	8
UNAMA	UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	1
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq	2
Total		Approx. 3,000

Source: The website of the Department of Defence of Australia

#### 1. Timor Leste

Australia has actively supported the political and social stability of Timor Leste since 1999, when the independence movement gained momentum in Timor Leste. ADF leads the International Stabilisation Force, and about 650 personnel are working with about 140 New Zealand military personnel<sup>211</sup>.

#### 2. Solomon Islands

Australia has actively supported the stability and development of Solomon Islands since ethnic disputes intensified there in the late 1990's. The operation has been led by the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)<sup>212</sup> since July 2003. About 140 ADF personnel comprise the military component of RAMSI together with the forces of New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, and engage in providing security for RAMSI's multinational Participation Police Force.

### 3. Afghanistan

Australia announced its support for the United States immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 under the U.S.-Australia alliance, and dispatched its troops to Afghanistan in October 2001. Australia has engaged in Afghanistan aiming to prevent the proliferation of terrorism and to prevent Afghanistan again becoming a safe haven for terrorists through assisting the country in ensuring peace and stability. The Rudd Administration has indicated its long term military commitment in Afghanistan<sup>213</sup>. In April 2009, the government announced a deployment of additional 450 personnel<sup>214</sup>, whereby about 1,550 soldiers will engage in reconstruction activities or in the training of the Afghan National Army in Oruzgan province. Australia has also participated in Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the Persian Gulf since March 2004.

### 4. Iraq

Following the dispatch of about 2,000 ADF troops for the use of force against Iraq in March 2003, Australia has been engaged in reconstruction activities since July 2003. Combat forces withdrew in June 2008<sup>215</sup> and there are currently about 150 personnel stationed in Iraq providing security and support for the Australian embassy in Iraq. Prime Minister Rudd said that Australia would shift its emphasis of commitment to economic development, personnel training and humanitarian initiatives<sup>216</sup>.



ADF troops in Afghanistan [Australian Government, Department of Defence]

## 4. Relationship with Other Countries

Australia attaches importance to its alliance with the United States and intends to strengthen cooperation through security policies with neighboring countries in order to maintain the stability of the region<sup>217</sup>.

### 1. The United States

Australia recognizes that the strategic stability of Asia-Pacific region relies significantly on the presence of the United States, and emphasizes the importance of its alliance with the United States based on the ANZUS Treaty (the Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America)<sup>218</sup>. In addition to annual Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN), and joint exercises such as Talisman Saber<sup>219</sup>, Australia has dispatched warships, combat aircraft and special forces to the military operations in Iraq and the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan, thereby maintaining a close alliance with the United States. Australia announced that it would participate in the U.S.-led F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program. In preparation for the delay in that program and for the retirement of F-111, in March 2007, Australia decided to purchase F/A-18 Super Hornets. Furthermore, Australia seeks to promote interoperability with the United States through the expansion of U.S.-Australia joint exercise facilities located in Australia<sup>220</sup>. The government has also suggested cooperation in missile defense<sup>221</sup>.



Joint press conference after AUSMIN in April 2009 [Australian Government, Department of Defence]

## **2. Southeast Asia**

Australia values cooperation with Southeast Asian countries as a way to address terrorism and crime in the region<sup>222</sup>. As regards its relations with Indonesia, after the Bali terrorist bombings in 2002 and 2005, and the one that occurred in front of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in September 2004, the two countries developed closer cooperation against terrorism<sup>223</sup>. Furthermore, in November 2006, they signed an agreement on the framework for security cooperation, which states defense cooperation in a broad area.

Australia carries out joint exercises with Malaysia and Singapore, focusing on non-traditional threats, such as terrorism and maritime security, within the framework of the Five Power Defence Agreement (FPDA) (entered into force in 1971). Australia also conducts security cooperation with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## **3. New Zealand**

Even after the United States suspended its defense obligations toward New Zealand under the ANZUS Treaty in 1986, following the adoption of a non-nuclear policy by New Zealand, Australia has regarded the Treaty as effective between Australia and New Zealand.

New Zealand is an important partner for Australia in ensuring stability in the neighboring region. The two countries have been strengthening cooperation in joint military tasks by enhancing interoperability through joint exercises and operations in the region.