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## Australia

## 1 General Situation

Australia shares basic values with Japan such as respect for freedom and human rights, and democracy, and is allied with the United States, as are Japan and the Republic of Korea. Although the main focus is on neighboring regions such as

Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands, Australia has been broadly and actively involved in resolving international security issues such as the problem in Afghanistan.

## 2 Security and Defense Policies

In May 2009, Australia released the defense white paper titled “Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030” for the first time in nine years since 2000, which presented national defense policies for the period to 2030 based on a strategic outlook for the future. The white paper states that Australia has strategic interests in (1) the defense of Australia against direct armed attack; (2) the security, stability and cohesion of the immediate neighborhood, which Australia shares with Indonesia, New Zealand, and other countries; (3) the stability of the wider Asia-Pacific region, which stretches from North Asia to the Eastern Indian Ocean; and (4) 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 the defense policy should be founded on the principle of self-reliance in the direct defense of Australia 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 the case 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 appropriate 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 armed 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; and (4) to contribute to military contingencies in the rest of the world.

In order to carry out these tasks, the ADF will need to be more capable 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.

The government has reviewed the defense force posture including relocation of bases since June 2011 to assess whether the ADF is correctly geographically positioned to address current and future strategic and security challenges. The review’s final report of the expert panel was released in May 2012<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Australian Department of Defence indicates that this review will address issues including the rise of the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean rim as regions of global strategic significance, the growth of military power projection capabilities of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and energy security and security issues associated with expanding offshore resource exploitation in the North West and Northern region. Following the progress report released in January 2012, the final report was released in May 2012, which includes recommendations for the strengthening of base facilities and expansion of the presence of the Australian forces in the Northern region, and strengthening and expansion of naval and air force bases. Concomitantly with the release of the final report, the Australian government announced its intention to deliver a new defense white paper in the first half of 2013 rather than initially scheduled 2014 because of the significant developments internationally and domestically, such as the ADF’s drawdown from Afghanistan and global financial crisis.

## 3 Relations 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.

### 1 Relations with the United States

Australia recognizes that the strategic stability of the 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 Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America (ANZUS Treaty)<sup>1</sup>. Australia attributes the ADF's activities in Afghanistan to the importance of the alliance. The close alliance is being maintained through Australia's involvement in the review of U.S. strategy regarding Afghanistan and Pakistan, and a series of discussions for the preparation of the Quadrennial Defense Review.

The Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN), a cabinet-level meeting of foreign and defense ministers, have been held nearly every year<sup>2</sup>. Also, in November 2011, the governments of both countries announced the Australia-United States Force Posture Initiatives, including the deployment of U.S. Marines and U.S. aircraft in Australia.

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Through joint training exercise including "Talisman Saber"<sup>3</sup>, Australia and the United States are committed to improving

interoperability to jointly deal with conflicts, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. In addition to participating in the U.S.-led F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Project, Australia intends to cooperate in missile defense<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, they are promoting cooperation in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), military satellite communications and intelligence.

### 2 Relations with China

Australia understands that China possesses strategic influence that extends beyond East Asia, and that U.S.-China relations are the most important factor for strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Australia also understands that China's increased defense spending has, if not explained enough, the potential to give its neighbors cause for concern<sup>5</sup>, and China is facing pressure for transparency. Australia and China are carrying out Australia-China Strategic Defense Dialogues regularly to further mutual understanding and cooperation in common areas of interest and, conduct exchanges to develop Australia-China defense relations<sup>6</sup>.

### 3 Relations with Southeast Asian countries

Australia emphasizes cooperation with the various countries of Southeast Asia to fight against terrorism and crime in the region, and engages in security related cooperation with

<sup>1</sup> A trilateral security treaty between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, which went into effect in 1952. The United States has suspended its obligation to defend New Zealand since 1986 because of New Zealand's non-nuclear policy.

<sup>2</sup> At the AUSMIN in September 2011, a joint communique was released to affirm collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region and the two nations signed a joint statement on cyberspace. The joint statement said that, mindful of their longstanding defense relationship and the ANZUS Treaty, the two would consult together and determine appropriate options to address the threat in the event of a cyber attack that threatens the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of either Australia or the United States.

<sup>3</sup> Talisman Saber is a biennial joint exercise between the United States and Australia, first carried out in 2005, and aims to improve readiness and interoperability in operations ranging from traditional wars to peacekeeping and humanitarian aid. In 2011, it included 22,500 troops participating from the United States and Australia in amphibious assault training, urban combat training, and airborne training.

<sup>4</sup> Australia announced its participation in the U.S. missile defense program in December 2003. At the AUSMIN in 2004, the United States and Australia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that provides a 25-year framework for missile defense system development and testing (details of the MOU have not been disclosed). In August 2004, Australia selected the Aegis air warfare system as the combat system for new air warfare destroyers (AWD). It is suggested that the AWD would support the ballistic missile defense system.

<sup>5</sup> The 2009 Defence White Paper states that "China will also be the strongest Asian military power, by a considerable margin... But the pace, scope and structure of China's military modernization have the potential to give its neighbors cause for concern if not carefully explained, and if China does not reach out to others to build confidence regarding its military plans. China has begun to do this in recent years, but needs to do more. If it does not, there is likely to be a question in the minds of regional states about the long-term strategic purpose of its force development plans, particularly as the modernization appears potentially to be beyond the scope of what would be required for a conflict over Taiwan."

<sup>6</sup> In September 2010, the frigate of the Australian Navy visited China and held joint exercise with Chinese naval vessels, including live firing practices, helicopter operations and search and rescue training. In November 2011, humanitarian and disaster rescue exercise was conducted in China participated by military experts of Australia and China. In June 2012, Minister for Defence Stephen Smith visited China and conducted the inaugural Australia-China Defence Minister's Dialogue.

Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos<sup>7</sup>.

Australia sees Indonesia as having the most important defense relations in neighboring regions<sup>8</sup>. Given the terrorist bombings in Bali in 2002 and 2005 and the terrorist bombing in front of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in September 2004, Australia has deepened counterterrorism cooperation<sup>9</sup> and the two countries concluded a framework agreement regarding security cooperation which described cooperation across a wide range of defense relationships in November 2006<sup>10</sup>. Also, in January 2009, the two countries signed the Australia Indonesia Joint Statement on Defence Cooperation<sup>11</sup> which focuses on counterterrorism, maritime security, intelligence, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and peacekeeping. Australia is also carrying out combined and joint exercises with Malaysia and Singapore regarding non-traditional security challenges such as maritime security, humanitarian aid, and disaster relief, as well as working to expand the ability to cope with traditional threats, under the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) framework<sup>12</sup>.

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The joint exercise Bersama Shield held under the framework of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (April 2012) [Australian Department of Defence]

## 4 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. Therefore, Australia is committed to contributing to regional stability by providing active support, including the deployment of military forces.

If the Australian government decides that it is in Australia's

wider strategic interests to undertake operations in the Middle East or other remote regions, Australia would do so only after the Government has satisfied itself that its forces have the necessary environment to ensure the success of the operations with minimum risk to the deployed forces.

Based on this policy, Australia deploys approximately 3,300 personnel abroad out of its 57,000-strong force<sup>1</sup> mainly in the following areas<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>3-7</sup> With regard to cooperation with South-East Asian countries, Australia emphasizes such areas as peacekeeping, maritime security and defense sector reform, in addition to counterterrorism. In July 2004, the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism was signed between Australia and ASEAN. Australia also signed a memorandum of understanding for counterterrorism with Brunei and Thailand in 2002 and with the Philippines in 2003, respectively. Australia also signed a memorandum of understanding for defense cooperation with Vietnam in October 2010.

<sup>8</sup> 2009 Defence White Paper.

<sup>9</sup> In addition to signing a memorandum of understanding for counterterrorism in February 2002, Australia and Indonesia jointly held a regional summit regarding counterterrorism in March 2007.

<sup>10</sup> The agreement, which is called the Lombok Agreement, took effect in February 2008. Its goals include the cooperation in the war on terror and transnational crimes, defense, law enforcement, counterterrorism, intelligence, maritime and aviation security, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and response to contingencies.

<sup>11</sup> Since 2010, Australian and Indonesian navies have jointly carried out annual maritime patrol duties every April.

<sup>12</sup> In addition to the joint army, navy, and air force exercise called "Bersama Shield" carried out annually around Malaysia and the South China Sea, the training exercise called "Bersama Padu" was also held in 2006 and 2010.

Australia signed a memorandum of understanding for counterterrorism with Malaysia in August 2002. Further, in addition to a permanent Australian Air Force presence in Malaysia's Butterworth air base, the Malaysian military receives training in Australia based on the Australia-Malaysia joint defense program drafted in 1992, and joint exercises are carried out every year. Australia signed a memorandum of understanding regarding defense cooperation with Singapore in August 2008.

<sup>4-1</sup> The breakdown of the military forces is as follows: Army: approx. 28,200 personnel, Navy: approx. 14,300 personnel, Air Force: approx. 14,100 personnel.

<sup>2</sup> Australia has sent personnel at headquarters and military liaison officers to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan since September 2011, and as of June 2012, 17 officers are engaged in the mission.

## 1 Timor-Leste

Australia has actively supported the political and social stability of Timor-Leste since 1999, when the independence movement gained momentum there. The ADF leads the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), and about 400 troops are working with about 80 New Zealand troops<sup>3</sup>.

## 2 Solomon Islands

Australia has actively supported the stability and development of the Solomon Islands since ethnic disputes intensified there in the late 1990s. The operation has been led by the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) since July 2003<sup>4</sup>. About 80 ADF troops 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 is participating as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to prevent the proliferation of terrorism and to prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for terrorists by providing support to enable Afghanistan to become a peaceful and stable country. Currently, an approximate 1,550 troops are engaged in reconstruction support activities in Uruzgan Province and the training of Afghan National Security Forces<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, approximately an additional 800 troops are operating around the region in support of the Afghanistan mission<sup>6</sup>.



Activities by the Australian Army in Afghanistan [Australian Department of Defence]

- <sup>3</sup> In April 2006 demonstrations by rebels in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, turned into riots, and the ADF was dispatched in response to a request from the Government of Timor-Leste. As the security conditions of Timor-Leste had improved, the Australian Department of Defence reduced the number of troops from 650 to 400 by February 2010. And the mission of the ISF would shift its emphasis on improving the capability of the Timor-Leste military.
- <sup>4</sup> The activities began with participation of South Pacific nations, led by Australia, in response to a request for assistance from the Government of the Solomon Islands, where a deteriorating security situation triggered by tribal conflict was out of control. The 15 participating countries include Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga.
- <sup>5</sup> Since the withdrawal of Dutch troops from Uruzgan Province in August 2010, the Australian forces have played extended roles in detainee management and others.
- <sup>6</sup> Sea patrol aircraft, transport aircraft, and a frigate are operating in the Middle East region. Since May 2009, in addition to their anti-terrorism mission, the patrol aircraft and frigate are on the mission of responding to piracy.