

Australian Defence Force

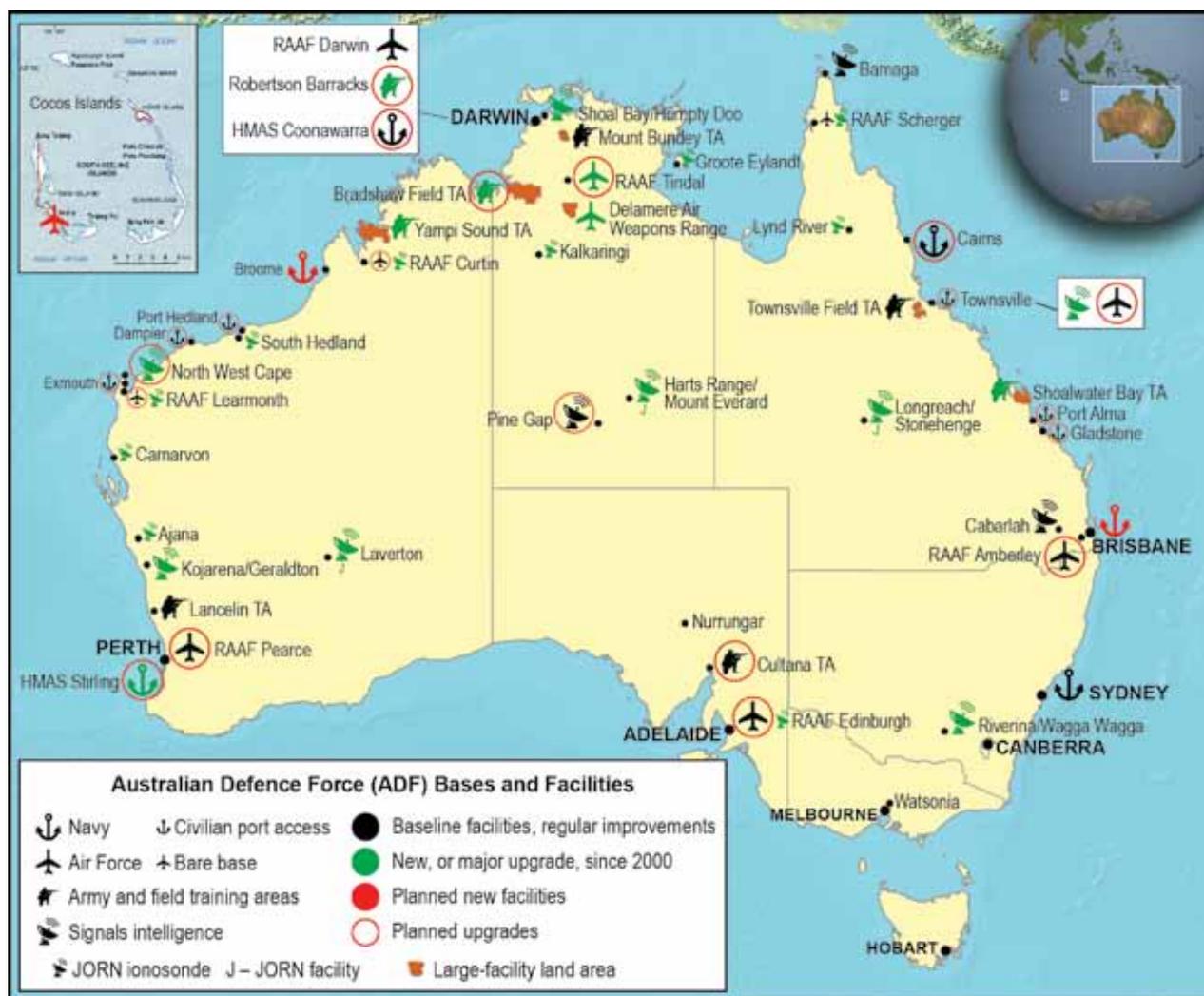
Expansion for UK-USA War Plans

The stunning scale and constant upgrades of U.S. Armed Forces “exercises,” “visits,” and “joint facilities” across Australia expose the heated debate over whether or not permanent foreign “bases” are being

allowed on Australian soil, as nothing but a dialogue between residents of a loony bin. **Figure 1** reveals that Anglo-American strategic demands, and “interoperability” with U.S. forces, are the driving principles, both for officially “joint” facilities, and for those which are simply shared without having that status. Functions such as Australian submarine staffing are starved for resources, but top priority goes to signal intelligence (SIGINT), naval, air, and training facilities for use in the U.S. global Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) program and the Anglo-American confrontation with China.

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FIGURE 1



SIGINT. Any scheme for a nuclear first strike against Russia or China seeks to neutralise their ability to retaliate; their missile launches from land or sea must be detected and intercepted. Upgrading Australia's several SIGINT networks is integral to the U.S. global BMD program for this purpose.

The Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), headquartered in Canberra, administers SIGINT facilities like the famous Pine Gap station near Alice Springs. Pine Gap and the former Nurrungar station in South Australia were central to the global UKUSA agreement on joint SIGINT during the Cold War, but Pine Gap underwent major expansion after the Soviet Union's 1991 collapse. Though information on Pine Gap is still classified, intelligence expert Desmond Ball has testified to Parliament that it handled ground control and processing for geosynchronous satellites doing SIGINT on the Soviet Union, including ballistic missile telemetry; anti-missile and anti-aircraft radar signals; satellite communications, and terrestrial microwave transmissions. Nurrungar did missile launch and nuclear detonation detection via U.S. geostationary military satellites; after its decommissioning in 1999, Defence Minister Brendan Nelson confirmed to Parliament in 2007, that the ballistic missile launch warning function, for sharing with the USA, was handed to Pine Gap.

Australian coastal SIGINT supports the U.S. Navy's growing presence in the Asia-Pacific, as well as providing communications for Australia's Navy and Air Force, which operate jointly with the U.S. military. AUSMIN 2008 agreed on upgrading the NW Cape Naval Communications Station with joint communications systems usable by U.S. attack submarines; in 2010 came approval for the addition of a powerful space sensor there as part of the U.S. Space Surveillance Network, transmitting to the U.S. Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, a key facility for U.S. BMD tests in the Pacific Ocean and part of a command assigned "to deny the benefits of space to adversaries." Signals to and from these facilities are processed and transmitted between Canberra DSD headquarters and the USA through

the Signals Regiment at Watsonia near Melbourne.

The Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station is at Kojarena, east of Geraldton, WA. This major DSD listening facility monitors Russian and Chinese satellites under the UKUSA Agreement and is part of the U.S.-Australian Wideband Global SATCOM system of seven to nine high-capacity military communications satellites, one of them funded by Australia. In 2007, Australia approved construction of an additional U.S. facility at Kojarena, a ground station for the Mobile User Objective System, an ultra-sophisticated satellite communications system with four ground facilities: in Sicily; Virginia and Hawaii, USA; and Kojarena.

The Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN), begun in the 1970s, but operating since 2003 on the basis of a major upgrade done with the U.S. [defence firm Lockheed Martin, is a unique capability. Unlike conventional radars that transmit on a straight "line of sight" and are therefore limited by the Earth's curvature, Jindalee bounces signals off the ionosphere, back to ground receivers. Besides an extraordinary "over-the-horizon" range, the technology gives a from-above view of stealth-technology planes that are invisible to standard radar. The JORN system has an acknowledged range of 3,000-3,500 km, but it may already be greater, covering parts of China. The original Jindalee R&D site, near Pine Gap at Harts Range/Mount Everard, has operational interfaces with Pine Gap; the major receiving/transmission sites (labelled J on the map) are at Longreach, Queensland (Qld), and near Laverton, WA; another 10 ionosonde sites are around Australia (small radar symbols); and JORN administration and processing takes place at the RAAF Edinburgh base in Adelaide.

Joint Combined Training Centre. Since agreements in 2004, the USA has been granted ever greater access to ADF bases for joint and unilateral exercises. Facilities utilised, several of which have been improved for the purpose, include the Bradshaw Field Training Area (TA)—a former cattle station only slightly smaller than the island
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of Cyprus, Mount Bunday TA, and the Delamere Air Weapons Range (over 3,000 sq km), all in the Northern Territory (NT); and the Shoalwater Bay TA (4,500 sq km) and Townsville Field TA in Qld. The U.S.-Australian Talisman Sabre (TS) exercises, held with tens of thousands of troops every two years since 2005, use these ranges, as well as air space over the northern NT, commercial ports at Brisbane, Gladstone, and Port Alma in Qld, the waters of the Coral, Timor, and Arafura Seas, and the Townsville, Darwin, Tindal, and Amberley RAAF bases.

The ADF says TS also trains teams for “defensive and offensive operations in an urban environment,” and has involved the Australian Federal Police and the U.S. FBI, raising the question of whether an included purpose is preparing to enforce the police-state laws passed by the Howard Government in 2002-03. The Delamere Range, the RAAF’s principal bombing range, has also been used since at least 2005 by U.S. forces including B-52, B-1, and B-2 bombers based in Guam.

Northwest mineral cartel defence. Figure 1 shows planned Royal Australian Navy (RAN) upgrades, such as a new east coast fleet base, likely at Brisbane, to supplement Fleet Base East in Sydney. Other existing bases will be expanded to accommodate larger vessels. Certain low-budget upgrades for the RAN and RAAF are also recommended in the 2012 ADF Posture Review: for the Air Force, runway extensions at the Learmonth and Curtin so-called bare bases, non-permanently-staffed facilities used in the large-scale joint and other exercises.

Increased military port access is anticipated at Common Use Facilities at Port Hedland and other western and northern ports, where minerals companies are expanding their export terminals. That’s only fitting, since the ADF Posture Review devotes a whole chapter to the need to defend the raw materials-exporting industries of northern and western Australia—that is, the very Crown cartel companies that are looting the national economy.