

Australia Becomes Base Of US-UK Ops in Asia

The buildup of military capabilities in Australia is shepherded by constant consultations with US and UK strategic planners, highlights of which are outlined here. The facilities named are discussed in the articles and located on the map (Figure 1).

1995. The Royal Institute of International Affairs

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(the old British imperial Round Table organisation) calls, in “Economic Opportunities for Britain and the Commonwealth,” for using Commonwealth cultural and business networks as a launch pad to extend British influence worldwide—particularly in Asia, where Australia should serve as a “stepping stone.” British foreign investment here then ranked second—\$74.5 billion in 1994—but would soar to \$427 billion in 2008, surpassing US investment.

1999. Vladimir Putin becomes acting President of Russia, going on to election in his own right in 2000. He halts Russia’s slide into economic and strategic oblivion.

11 September 2001. British/Saudi attacks on New York and Washington unleashes a (still ongoing) blizzard of domestic police-state measures in the USA, Australia, the UK, and elsewhere, as well as endless foreign wars.

13 December 2001. President George W. Bush gives Russia notice of US unilateral withdrawal from the 1972 bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, followed the next year by launching of a global ballistic missile defence (BMD) program.

2003. Australia-USA agreement is signed to start preparations for biennial Talisman Sabre (TS) joint military exercises. Beginning in 2005, TS takes place in both countries, and involves tens of thousands of troops. By 2011, the estimated cost is \$100 million.

2004. Australia-US Ministerial (AUSMIN) consultations finalise far-reaching BMD agreements; establishment of a massive Joint Combined Training Capability (JCTC) in Australia; and de facto integration (“interoperability”) of the US and Australian militaries. Included is Australian participation in the Nimble Titan global BMD exercise under the US Strategic Command.

2005. AUSMIN announces that Delamere Air Weapons Range and RAAF Darwin will “support an enhanced Strategic Bomber Training Program,” including US B-52, B-1, and B-2 aircraft.

March 2006. British PM Tony Blair visits Australia to inaugurate Australia-United Kingdom Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN), the “highest level of formal strategic consultations” with Britain.

2007. AUSMIN announces US strategic and military communication system to be constructed at the Geraldton (Kojarena) Australian Defence Satellite Communication Station.

January 2008. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband tells the *Herald Sun* that “Britain will relaunch itself as an Asian power with the help of former

colony Australia in its biggest foreign policy shift since the Cold War.” He demurs, “We are not seeking to recreate the Empire.”

2008. AUSMIN announces new joint US-Australian facilities at Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt at North West Cape, including for communications with US attack submarines.

April 2008. Kevin Rudd becomes the first Australian PM to attend a NATO meeting.

May 2009. Australian Defence White Paper, “Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030,” advocates massive military buildup for a coming US-Australian war against China.

October 2009. At AUKMIN Miliband gushes over Rudd and “the internationalism of Australia” in promoting the “climate change” scam and half a dozen other British imperial schemes. The biennial AUKMIN becomes annual.

2010. At AUSMIN, a new Space Situational Awareness Partnership is signed as part of the US Global Space Surveillance Network.

January 2011. William Hague makes the first visit to Australia by a British foreign secretary in 20 years, with Defence Secretary Liam Fox. Hague proclaims that, although “our partnership with Australia is one of our greatest assets in world affairs already,” the UK will further upgrade the relationship as part of a “decisive change” in foreign policy towards Asia.

November 2011. PM Julia Gillard, as agreed at AUSMIN 2010, introduces the Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011 to ratify the far-reaching Australia-United States Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty, already approved by the US Congress.

March 2012. The Australian Defence Force Posture Review advocates huge expansion of joint US-Australian military facilities, particularly in northern and western Australia.

May 2012. Gillard announces the next phase of Australia’s “largest-ever capital works program,” a \$40 billion plan to build 12 new submarines, and \$16 billion for purchase of US Joint Strike Fighter planes. AUSMIN 2010 had agreed that “high interoperability of submarine systems was strategically important for both countries,” and “the high level of submarine interoperability between Australia and the United States ... will extend into Future Submarine acquisition program.”

2013. Australia to take possession of the first of its three US Aegis ABM systems, to equip new Advanced Warfare Destroyers.