Defense Issues, NATO Response to Terrorism

June 2007

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was designated to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2006: NEW CHALLENGES, NEW HORIZONS. United Nations Peace Operations, The United Nations. Web posted March 6, 2007. 2006 was a record-breaker in terms of deployment for peace operations--just under 100,000 uniformed and civilian personnel serving throughout the world. Additionally, there was an unprecedented growth of peace agreements and ceasefires or cessation of hostilities accomplished with UN political and diplomatic support. This annual report provides an overview of each of the areas where support was provided.

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BRIEFING ON RELEASE OF 2006 COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM. Frank C. Urbancic, Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism; Russ Travers, Deputy Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. U.S. Department of State. Washington, DC. April 30, 2007

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U.S.-RUSSIA COOPERATION TOUTED FOR REDUCING NUCLEAR THREAT (State’s Negroponte says Russia a key ally in fight on terrorism.) Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State. 27 April 2007

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STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY. Former Senator Sam Nunn, Co-Chairman, Nuclear Threat Initiative. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 10, 2007

DO THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE NEED A MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM? Testimony of Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Europe and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, May 3, 2007

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NATIONAL SECURITY AND HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE. White House News. Office of the Press Secretary. May 9, 2007

PRESIDENT BUSH ADDRESSES CENTCOM COALITION CONFERENCE. MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida May 1, 2007

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U.S., NATO COUNTRIES AGREE ON NEED TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE LINKAGE (Russia said to be studying U.S. proposal for missile defense cooperation) Jacquelyn S. Porth, USINFO Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State. 20 April 2007

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AL QAEDA STRIKES BACK. Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy. Published in the Foreign Affairs, May 2007
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On a military installation near Dayton, Ohio, not far from where Orville and Wilbur Wright designed a powered aircraft that would be the first in history to successfully fly, scientists are working around the clock to develop amazing future technology for tomorrow’s war fighters.

Breakthrough work of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the focus of a new edition of Pentagon Channel’s monthly documentary, “Recon.”

“Inventing for the Future” debuts May 11 at noon Eastern Time and will be made available via podcast and video on demand.

“Today, thousands of American men and women are in the midst of a war zone,” said Recon host Air Force Master Sgt. Daniela Marchus. “They’re better equipped and trained than ever before, but there is always room for improvement.”


BRIEFING ON RELEASE OF 2006 COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM. Frank C. Urbancic, Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism; Russ Travers, Deputy Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. U.S. Department of State. Washington, DC. April 30, 2007

(...)

Besides meeting the congressional requirements, the 2006 Report aims to inform, to stimulate constructive debate and to enhance our collective dynamic understanding of the global terrorist threat. It should serve as a reference tool to inform policy makers, the American public and our international partners about our efforts, progress and challenges in the war on terrorism.

(...)

The Report also underscores the barbaric nature that the extremists we are fighting pose for us. The vast majority of the victims were innocent civilians and a majority of them were Muslims. Attacks on children were up more than 80 percent, if you can imagine, with more than 1,800 children killed or injured in terrorist attacks in last -- in 2006. The terrorists also targeted workers essential to civilized society. They targeted police. They targeted government leaders. They targeted teachers. They targeted journalists. The international community is working together to confront these extremists because they threaten the right of people everywhere to live in peaceful, just, secure neighborhoods and countries.

http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/rm/07/83999.htm

COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM 2006 (html format)

http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/
U.S.-RUSSIA COOPERATION TOUTED FOR REDUCING NUCLEAR THREAT
(State’s Negroponte says Russia a key ally in fight on terrorism.) Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State. 27 April 2007

Washington -- Russia is one of the strongest partners of the United States in countering the global terrorist threat and in restraining countries from becoming “nuclear weapons states,” says Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte.

In April 25 prepared remarks, Negroponte touted the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction Program as an important aspect of the U.S.-Russian relationship in securing and dismantling weapons of mass destruction in states of the former Soviet Union. Negroponte said the program also encourages “higher levels of conduct in handling these weapons” and supports U.S.-Russian cooperation “with the objective of preventing proliferation.”

Speaking at the EastWest Institute’s 2007 awards dinner in Washington, Negroponte said the threat reduction program has provided funding and expertise for former Soviet states to decommission nuclear, biological and chemical weapon stockpiles, as agreed to by the Soviet Union in disarmament treaties. He added that in recent years, the program’s mission has expanded to enhancing land and maritime border security in some former Soviet countries.

Negroponte also praised U.S.-Russian bilateral cooperation in the Six-Party Talks aimed at eliminating nuclear programs from the Korean Peninsula.

In addition, he commended Russia’s partnership in the successful passage of U.N. sanctions against Iran in December 2006 and March 2007. The sanctions were designed to constrain Iran’s development of sensitive technologies in support of its nuclear and missile programs. http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2007_04/alia/a7042705.htm
Full text of his remarks: http://www.state.gov/s/d/2007/83819.htm


This report sets forth the direction and priorities for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and for the U.S. Department of State (State). It also supports and defines the policy positions that will be used to implement foreign policy and development assistance. This report is submitted as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA).
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82819.pdf
CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)

RESOURCES FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL DIPLOMACY. Secretary Condoleezza Rice. Testimony Before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. Washington, DC. May 10, 2007

"The President believes that the defense of our country depends on close integration of our multilateral diplomacy, our development efforts, and our support for human rights and democratic institutions. That is why President Bush's budget designates the Department of State as a national security agency. We must recognize that our Foreign Service, our Civil Service, and Foreign Service nationals are performing a vital national security role, often in difficult and dangerous posts far away from friends and families and in many cases, shoulder-to-shoulder on the front lines with our men and women in uniform. We are asking our civilians to do far more than just manage an existing international order. We are charging them with helping foreign citizens and their governments to transform their countries, to move them toward peace and freedom, prosperity and social justice. This is the national security mission of our Department of State which we refer to as transformational diplomacy.

To succeed in this critical work for the American people, we are making important changes to our Department's organizations both in terms of roles--the roles our people are playing and how we are structuring our foreign assistance programs. We believe strongly that this is a challenging time for America, for our goals of promoting democracy and for the resultant peace that it would bring. But I can tell you that I am very, very proud to lead the men and women of the Department of State. They are great patriots. They're doing hard jobs and I look forward to being before you to talk about the resources that they need to do their job well."
http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2007/may/84629.htm

STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY. Former Senator Sam Nunn, Co-Chairman, Nuclear Threat Initiative. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 10, 2007

"In 1948, at the dawn of the nuclear age, General Omar Bradley said, "The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living."

If he were alive today, it might surprise General Bradley to know that we have made it 62 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki without the use of a nuclear weapon. But that fact should not give us a false sense of confidence that we will make it the next 62, or even the next 20 years.

We do have important preventive efforts underway -- including the Nunn-Lugar threat reduction programs, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the G8 Global Partnership, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the rollback of Libya's nuclear program and UN Resolution 1540."
DO THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE NEED A MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM?
Testimony of Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Europe and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, May 3, 2007

(...)The missile and nuclear threat from Iran is developing. That country already possesses hundreds of medium range Shahab-3 and short-range ballistic missiles. Iran is developing follow-on medium range systems that will be capable of reaching targets in southeast Europe. Iran has expressed its intent to develop space launch vehicles (SLVs), which is cause for some concern given the similarities between SLV technology and that found in longer-range ballistic missiles. The Intelligence Community estimates that Iran could develop long-range missiles capable of reaching all of Europe and the United States by 2015 if it chooses to do so.

Iran’s worrying development of a threatening capability is matched by threatening rhetoric, including direct threats to Europe. As an example, let me offer recent remarks by Iranian President Ahmadinejad made last October 20 in Tehran. Referring to possible war between Israel and the Palestinians, he stated, “We have advised the Europeans that the Americans are far away, but you are the neighbors of the nations in the region. We inform you that the nations are like an ocean that is welling up, and if a storm begins, the dimensions will not stay limited to Palestine, and you may get hurt.”

There may be other threats that develop in the region of the Middle East or elsewhere. As Defense Secretary Gates told European Allies and the Russians last week, we must think twenty years ahead, and consider the threats we may face.
http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/110/fri050307.htm

THE WHITE HOUSE

NATIONAL SECURITY AND HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE. White House News. Office of the Press Secretary. May 9, 2007

This directive establishes a comprehensive national policy on the continuity of Federal Government structures and operations and a single National Continuity Coordinator responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of Federal continuity policies. This policy establishes "National Essential Functions," prescribes continuity requirements for all executive departments and agencies, and provides guidance for State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector organizations in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated national continuity program that will enhance the credibility of our national security posture and enable a more rapid and effective response to and recovery from a national emergency.
PRESIDENT BUSH ADDRESSES CENTCOM COALITION CONFERENCE. MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida May 1, 2007

"America is joined in this fight by more than 90 nations, including every country represented in this room. An era of new threats requires new forms of engagement, new strategies, and new tactics. So we have reinvigorated historic alliances, such as NATO, and formed new and dynamic coalitions to address the dangers of our time. Our broad coalition has protected millions of people. We have worked to stop the spread of dangerous weapons. We have taken the fight to the enemy where they live, so we don't have to face them where we live. This is a record that all our countries can be proud of, and the United States of America is proud to stand with you."


THE U.S. AND NATO

U.S., NATO COUNTRIES AGREE ON NEED TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE LINKAGE (Russia said to be studying U.S. proposal for missile defense cooperation) Jacquelyn S. Porth, USINFO Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State. 20 April 2007

Washington -- U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Eric Edelman, citing successful coupling of NATO and U.S. defense programs during the Cold War, said April 19 that such partnerships remain a good idea today “even though we’re now in a post-Cold War era, facing new challenges and new threats.”

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer concurred, saying “the principle of the indivisibility of security” is a view held unanimously by the 26 NATO members.

Edelman, who is under secretary for policy, Assistant Secretary of State John Rood and Missile Defense Agency Director Lieutenant General Henry Obering traveled to NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, to address the North Atlantic Council and the NATO-Russia Council about plans to negotiate the deployment of 10 ground-based interceptor missiles to Poland and a radar system to the Czech Republic as a way to broaden the effectiveness of the anti-missile shield.


THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE


(…)the greatest intelligence failure of the past two decades was the CIA's failure to understand and sound an alarm at the rise of jihadist fundamentalism. It is Wahhabi extremism and the call to holy war against infidels that gave us the perpetrators of Sept. 11 and much of the terrorism that has followed. In his attempts to blame others for CIA shortcomings, Tenet cannot say, "I told the president that our Saudi allies were financing thousands of mosques and schools around the world where a hateful doctrine of holy war and violence was being inculcated in young potential terrorists." Fatefully, the CIA failed to make
our leaders aware of the rise of Islamist extremism and the immense danger it posed to the United States.
http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.26162.filter.all/pub_detail.asp

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

AL QAEDA STRIKES BACK. Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy. Published in the Foreign Affairs, May 2007

Al Qaeda is a more dangerous enemy today than it has ever been before. It has suffered some setbacks since September 11, 2001: losing its state within a state in Afghanistan, having several of its top operatives killed, failing in its attempts to overthrow the governments of Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. But thanks largely to Washington's eagerness to go into Iraq rather than concentrate on hunting down al Qaeda's leaders, the organization now has a solid base of operations in the badlands of Pakistan and an effective franchise in western Iraq. Its reach has spread throughout the Muslim world, where it has developed a large cadre of operatives, and in Europe, where it can claim the support of some disenfranchised Muslim locals and members of the Arab and Asian diasporas. Osama bin Laden has mounted a successful propaganda campaign to make himself and his movement the primary symbols of Islamic resistance worldwide. His ideas now attract more followers than ever.
http://www.brookings.edu/views/articles/riedel/20070501.htm

FIGHTING A RUTHLESS FOE IN IRAQ. Michael E. O'Hanlon, AEI Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies. Published in The Washington Times, April 24, 2007

In its 230 years of independence, the United States has faced a wide range of military opponents. We started of course with the British; the North fought the slave-holding South in the Civil War; we fought native Americans as well as the Mexicans and Spanish during other parts of the 19th century; we opposed Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany in World War I and Adolf Hitler as well as the Japanese in World War II; during the Cold War we waged war against North Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese communists.

Against this historical backdrop, two facts stand out about our collection of enemies in Iraq, with a particular focus on the ex-Ba'athists and the terrorists who produced the bulk of the violence over the conflict's first three years. First, they are a small group relative to the population within which they are found. And second, even by the standards of our nation's past enemies, they are a despicable lot.
http://www.brookings.edu/views/op-ed/ohanlon/20070424.htm

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE


This paper provides an in-depth analysis of Sheikh Muhammad-Sodiq Muhammad-Yusuf. Muhammad-Yusuf is a prominent theologian and spiritual leader with a wide following in Uzbekistan. Olcott examination of Muhammad-Yusuf provides a window into Uzbekistan’s religious life, and
she states that it is “important that both domestic and international actors understand the influence of Islam in Uzbekistan to understand the potential problems facing the nation and the Central Asian region more generally.”

CENTER FOR ARMS CONTROL AND NON-PROLIFERATION

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MISSILE DEFENSE SLOWED.

On May 2, 2007, the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee completed its markup of H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.[1] The full-committee markup is scheduled for May 9 with House floor action coming as early as the week of May 14-18. The Senate Armed Services Committee has tentatively scheduled its Defense Authorization markup for the week of May 21-25.[2]

The House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee draft bill was unanimously approved 11-0 and provides $51.4 billion for nuclear weapons, missile defense, and space programs for 2008. The subcommittee cut $1.3 billion from the Bush Administration’s original $52.7 billion request.

This analysis includes sections on: Reliable Replacement Warhead Program (RRW); Complex 2030; Missile Defense; Military Space Technologies; Stockpile Stewardship (SSP) and Life Extension Programs (LEP); Conventional Trident Modernization; Nuclear Weapons Complex; U.S. Nuclear Force Posture.
http://www.armscontrolcenter.org/archives/002285.php

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS)

IRAQI PERCEPTIONS OF THE WAR: PUBLIC OPINION BY CITY AND REGION.
Anthony H. Cordesman. CSIS. May 2, 2007

The patterns of conflict in Iraq have grown steadily more complex with time, adding sectarian and ethnic conflicts to what began as a largely Ba’athist dominated resistance in mid-2003. There are now five major patterns of violence:

• Sunni Islamist extremist insurgents,
• Iraqi Arab Sunni versus Arab Shi’ite conflict
• Iraqi Arab versus Iraqi Kurdish ethnic conflicts
• Arab Shi’ite on Arab Shi’ite struggles
• Arab Sunni on Arab Sunni violence

These divisions, however, tell only part of the story. Many Iraqis have divided or multiple loyalties, and the patterns of violence in one area may well differ from another. This becomes far clearer from the detailed results of a recent public opinion poll by ABC News, USA Today, the BBC, and ARD. This poll provided important insights into the overall trends in Iraqi “hearts and minds,” but it also provided an important window into just how much Iraqis differ by major city and province. It also shows that any successful effort at
counterinsurgency and conciliation must carefully consider all of the patterns in Iraqi perceptions and civil conflict.


Key Challenges:
- Continuing threat from Neo-Salafi extremist groups; Risk of Sunni Shi’ite divide.
- Lingering uncertain “victory” in Iraq or forced withdrawal.
- Challenge of Iran in political terms, proliferation, asymmetric warfare.
- Problem of restructuring securing posture in the Gulf.
- Need for decisive action in Afghanistan.
- Pakistan as unstable ally.
- Regional impact of perceptions of war on terrorism, Iraq War and Arab-Israeli conflict.

SECURITY THREATS AND RESPONSES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. Besian Bocka, Jasenka Jocic, Adrienn Petrovics, and Rossen Tsanov. CSIS. April 23, 2007

On April 2-3, 2007 the CSIS New European Democracies Project and the CSIS Defense Industrial Initiatives Group (DIIG) hosted a two-day conference entitled Security Threats and Responses: Regional Perspectives, as the first part of the series “Central and East Europe’s Security Agenda.”

The conference focused on pan-European and Transatlantic security priorities, such as the U.S. proposal for missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic; defense industrial base integration and modernization; internal and external challenges to NATO transformation; collaborative EU and NATO strategies toward frozen conflicts in Eastern Europe; and European energy security. The event featured key security experts, political analysts, and officials from the U.S. and Central-East European (CEE) region.
http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/ceereportfile.pdf

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS


Experts say it is quite likely the next terrorist attack in the United States will not be the work of well-trained al-Qaeda operatives sent from abroad, but rather that of an American citizen. As al-Qaeda leaders focus more of their energy on trying to inspire others to commit acts of terror, most security and counterterrorism officials believe their message will resonate with at least some small number of Americans. Such fears tend to focus on American Muslims, and experts say this is logical given recent events in Europe. Yet the American Islamic
community also has proven one of the government’s best resources for preventing the emergence of homegrown Islamic terrorists.


HERITAGE FOUNDATION


Efforts to expand the U.S. missile defense shield into Europe by locating additional installations in Poland and the Czech Republic represent the culmination of an idea first conceived in Europe during World War II.

(…)Today, the situation is even more perilous as the whole of the West faces threats from rogue states such as Iran and North Korea as well as non-state actors such as al-Qaeda and Hezbollah.

(…)Third site installations allow America to extend its own security umbrella and protect its European allies at the same time. For Warsaw and Prague, this would be a milestone in marking their integration into the transatlantic security community. They would be providing a significant contribution to the NATO Alliance and a making powerful statement in support of NATO's principle of mutual defense.


Post-Cold War security requires a new nuclear weapons policy, operational doctrine, arsenal, and infrastructure. Congress needs to accelerate the Reliable Replacement Warhead program, require a design that is accurate and effective against both hardened and mobile targets, and ensure that the RRW program is not limited by inadequate funding or unnecessary constraints on testing.


Last year, the Bush Administration and Congress missed an opportunity to strengthen the Navy's attack submarine fleet when they failed to appropriate funds that had been authorized for the long lead-time items necessary to start procuring the Virginia-class attack submarine at the rate of two per year in fiscal year 2009. As a result, the Navy will not start procuring two Virginia-class submarines per year until 2012, and the attack fleet will fall below the 48 submarines required for meeting operational requirements at an acceptable level.
of risk for a 16-year period. Without action from Congress, this problem will not solve itself.

Attack submarines provide invaluable capabilities to the Navy and the nation. These ships can gather intelligence, provide surveillance and reconnaissance, support special operations forces, conduct covert strikes against land targets with cruise missiles, conduct offensive and defensive mine operations, and counter enemy submarines and surface ships. Today, some 40 percent of the requests for submarine missions from the military’s combatant commanders go unfulfilled.


THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WELCOME A NEW ERA FOR KOSOVO. Sally McNamara. Heritage Foundation WebMemo #1427. April 18, 2007

Kosovo will enjoy stability and security only when its final status is settled. While independence may eventually achieve stability and security, the international community must continue to guarantee both in the short term. International supervision will be necessary to ensure that Kosovo’s transition occurs without Serbian pressure or aggression. In the longer term, the United States, through NATO, should offer a security guarantee to Kosovo to deter any belligerence by Belgrade. By recognizing Kosovo's independence and guaranteeing its security, the world community will send a powerful message that Kosovo’s sovereignty will be protected and that interference will be met with repercussions.


INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP (ICG)

COLOMBIA’S NEW ARMED GROUPS. ICG Latin America Report N°20. 10 May 2007

(…) there is growing evidence that new armed groups are emerging that are more than the simple “criminal gangs” that the government describes. Some of them are increasingly acting as the next generation of paramilitaries, and they require a more urgent and more comprehensive response from the government.

Since early 2006, the Organization of American States (OAS) Peace Support Mission in Colombia (MAPP/OEA), human rights groups and civil society organisations have insistently warned about the rearming of demobilised paramilitary units, the continued existence of groups that did not disband because they did not participate in the government-AUC negotiations and the merging of former paramilitary elements with powerful criminal organisations, often deeply involved with drug trafficking. Worse, there is evidence that some of the new groups and criminal organisations have established business relations over drugs with elements of the insurgent Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN). At the same time, the government’s plan for reintegrating demobilised paramilitaries has revealed itself to be deeply flawed.

These alerts have to be taken seriously since conditions now exist for the continuity or re-emergence either of old-style paramilitary groups or a federation of new groups and criminal organisations based on the drug trade.
AFTER THE NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR BREAKTHROUGH: COMPLIANCE OR CONFRONTATION? ICG Asia Briefing N°62. 30 April 2007

The North Korea nuclear talks finally achieved a breakthrough on 13 February 2007, when the six parties struck a general denuclearisation deal. Pyongyang agreed to dismantle its nuclear facility at Yongbyon and admit International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors within 60 days in exchange for energy aid and security assurances. Many vital details must be settled by further talks, and that first deadline has passed without the North yet admitting the inspectors. Although it has said it will within 30 days, the fear has been raised that the deal may prove another failed attempt to bring Pyongyang into the international mainstream. However, the U.S. and other members of the six-party talks should continue to push forward by adopting and putting forward a serious, phased negotiation strategy that offers specific economic rewards and security assurances for specific actions taken by the North to achieve denuclearisation.

While the 13 February deal was very much a step in the right direction, it nevertheless offers more questions than answers. Critical details, such as a timetable for denuclearisation, remain to be worked out. It will take time to overcome six decades of enmity and mistrust between the U.S. and North Korea. Convincing Pyongyang to give up its nuclear card, which it may see as the ultimate guarantee for regime survival, will certainly be difficult. The stalling of implementation due to delay in freeing up the North Korean funds at Macao’s Banco Delta Asia (BDA) illustrates how seemingly simple steps can become obstacles that tie up the whole process. Despite the challenges and uncertainties, however, resolving the nuclear issue is vital for regional peace and stability.

Full report: http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4782&id=4795&l=1

IRAQ AND THE KURDS: RESOLVING THE KIRKUK CRISIS. ICG Middle East Report N°64. 19 April 2007

With every day and each exploding bomb that kills schoolchildren or shoppers, hopes for peaceful resolution of the Kirkuk question recede. The approach favoured by the Kurds, constitution-based steps culminating in a referendum by year’s end, is bitterly opposed by Kirkuk’s other principal communities – Arabs and Turkomans – who see it as a rigged process with predetermined outcome. Their preference, to keep Kirkuk under federal government control, is rejected by the Kurds. With all sides dug in and the Kurds believing Kirkuk is a lost heirloom they are about to regain, the debate should move off outcomes to focus on a fair and acceptable process. For the Kurds, that means postponing the referendum, implementing confidence-building measures and seeking a new mechanism prioritising consensus. The U.S. needs to recognise the risk of an explosion in Kirkuk and press the Kurds, the Baghdad government and Turkey alike to adjust policies and facilitate a peaceful settlement.

Full report: http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4795&l=1
MEMORIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (MIPT)


Geared toward keeping industry and law enforcement professionals informed of homeland security issues, the May 2007 issue provides country reports and patterns with regards to global terrorism, clarification of natural gas disasters in regards to maritime security, and announces a program to support the emergency response community. 


COLLEGE CAMPUSES ARE VULNERABLE TO TERRORISM: ALL-HAZARDS PREPARATION IS KEY. W. Roger Webb, MIPT Board Member. MIPT, May 2007

College and university presidents have considered the possibility that their campus might someday be the target of a terrorist attack, but few have instituted any precautions. Most members of the academic community have never allowed themselves to consider the awful prospect. But, after the recent tragic events on the campus of Virginia Tech University, it is more appropriate than ever to think about the unthinkable and to initiate a reasonable campus alert approach.

This is not a call to “lock down” the campus or to spread fear amongst the student body. However, this is a strong recommendation that, given the quality of existing intelligence information, it would be imprudent to ignore the signs or do nothing in preparation.

This report discusses college campus security and its relation to terrorism stating that all-hazards preparation is key.


TERRORISM & ENERGY SECURITY: TARGETING OIL & OTHER ENERGY SOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE. Schmid, Alex P. MIPT Insight, Spring 2007, pp. 1-8. AA07116

Summary: In this report prepared exclusively for the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT), Schmid, an MIPT Senior Fellow and former U.N. counterterrorism officer, discusses the challenges of global energy security. He notes the vulnerability of energy infrastructure, and their attractiveness as targets of “small deed / large consequence” attacks. Schmid argues that a comprehensive strategy will not only have to address the issue of disruption of energy flows, but it will also have to come to grips with the way our communication systems and financial systems react to terrorist challenges. This is the first of a series by MIPT Senior Fellows.

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY (NDU)

*Joint Forces Quarterly* no. 44, Second Quarter 2007. NDU.

This Forum’s objective is to present a handful of security cooperation challenges and developments that bear scrutiny and demand resources dedicated elsewhere concurrent with the prosecution of the war on terror. Because the topic of our Special Feature is U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), our original intent was to select Forum articles that detail international relations issues within the USEUCOM area of responsibility. An excellent article, however, submitted by Special Operations Command, Pacific, and featured in the last issue, inspired a followup contribution from a professor at the National War College that deals with Southeast Asia. In an age of “barbarism emboldened by technology,” it is tempting for military thinkers to view the world through the prism of the terror threat, but older and more conventional points of friction, such as relations with Russia and China, are legion. The ability of the United States to engage effectively the vast panorama of emergent international security issues before they become major problems is difficult at the best of times, but doing so during the course of a long, asymmetric conflict requires the careful orchestration of all instruments of national power, economy of force, and persistence.

http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Press/jfq_pages/i45.htm


For the first time in modern history, a rising China and a reemerging Japan are facing one another as East Asia’s preeminent powers. The choices Beijing and Tokyo make over the next few years regarding management of their bilateral relationship may well prove to be some of the most consequential for international order in the 21st century. In early 2006, Sino-Japanese relations were close to a post–Cold War low, but following the retirement of Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro, relations have improved under his successor, Abe Shinzo. However, the sources of tension in the relationship are deeply rooted and will likely intensify over time unless addressed by political leaders. Sources of tension include the unprecedented rise of both nations as Asian powers; the fact that neither Tokyo nor Beijing appears content to play a secondary role in Asia; questions about shared history that will continue to cast a long shadow over the bilateral relationship and will feed and be influenced by nationalism; and the disputes over East China Sea resources, which have made the use of force a possibility—-with consequences that could lead to conflict.

http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Research/SRapr07.pdf

Despite 15 years of international peacekeeping and security assistance, the West Balkans are still beset with major security challenges that will severely test the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) in 2007. Bosnia-Herzegovina still requires the presence of NATO and EU police and peacekeepers and, along with newly independent Montenegro, needs help in building basic institutions. The same is true for Kosovo. As the United Nations addresses Kosovo’s “final status,” Kosovar and Serbian interethnic relations will likely grow more unstable, possibly with ripple effects in Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Among the instruments for enhancing Balkan stability today are NATO’s Partnership for Peace and the EU’s Stabilization and Association Agreements, along with an array of subregional organizations promoting cooperation.
NATO and EU members—Hungary, Slovenia, and Greece, along with Romania and Bulgaria, who joined the EU in January 2007—now provide a core for coordinating NATO and EU programs in promoting West Balkan security sector reform, encouraging regional collaboration, and providing a credible roadmap for Euro-Atlantic integration.

PEW

CLOSENESS TO TROOPS BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR WAR — BUT NOT BY MUCH.
Michael Dimock, Associate Director, Research. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. May 9, 2007

Nationwide, more than a quarter of adults in America (27%) say they have a very close family member or friend who has served in the current military effort in Iraq or Afghanistan. As one might expect, those with close contacts tend to be more supportive of the Iraq war and President Bush's policies with regard to it.
(…)To a large extent, the differences in opinion between those who are and are not closely connected to a servicemember reflect a sizeable partisan difference - 32% of Republicans have a very close friend or family member who has served, compared with just 18% of Democrats.
http://pewresearch.org/pubs/473/closeness-to-troops-boosts-support-for-war-but-not-by-much

RAND


Terrorist groups — both inside and outside the al Qaeda network — sometimes form mutually beneficial partnerships to exchange “best practices.” These exchanges provide terrorist groups with the opportunity to innovate (i.e., increase their skills and expand their reach).
Understanding how terrorist groups exchange technology and knowledge, therefore, is essential to ongoing and future counterterrorism strategies. This study examines how 11 terrorist groups in three areas (Mindanao, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and southwest Colombia) have attempted to exchange technologies and knowledge in an effort to reveal some of their vulnerabilities. The analysis provides the Department of Homeland
Security and other national security policymakers with insight into the innovation process and suggests ways that government policies can create barriers to terrorists’ adoption of new technologies.


Responding to agricultural bioterrorism with pathogenic agents that are communicable from animals to humans (zoonotic diseases) requires effective coordination of many organizations, both inside and outside of government. Action must be simultaneously taken to address public health concerns, respond to the agricultural dimensions of the event, and carry out the necessary law enforcement investigation. As part of a project focused on examining public health preparedness in Georgia, an exercise was carried out in July 2005 examining the intentional introduction of avian influenza (H5N1) in commercial poultry operations. The attack scenario, which was written to occur during an already severe human influenza season, enabled exploration of a range of issues associated with public health preparedness for major disease outbreaks including pandemic influenza, coordination of a multiagency response operation at multiple levels of government, and effective management of interdisciplinary response activities. The exercise is described and broader policy lessons regarding preparedness planning are discussed. http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2007/RAND_RP1250.pdf


This report describes an approach to high-level decision support for a Joint Forces Air Component Commander in combat operations or a Chief of Staff in defense planning. Its central theme is the fundamental importance of dealing effectively with uncertainty, whether in effects-based operations, building the Air Force’s Commander’s Predictive Environment, or planning future forces with the methods of capabilities-based planning.

Because many features of the future cannot be predicted with reasonable confidence, it is better to proceed with the expectation of surprise developments and to have skill in recognizing adaptations and making them than it is to treat uncertainty merely as an annoyance. This report sketches the framework of a high-level decision-support environment that is top-down, expresses concepts in simple and intuitive language, deals explicitly with risk and uncertainty, and provides the capability for decisionmakers to readily discover and question the bases for key assumptions and assessments. It can accommodate both “rational-analytic” and “naturalistic” decisionmakers, allowing them to produce strategies that are flexible, adaptive, and robust (FAR).
Two explicit methods and their related tools are described. The first involves portfolio-style thinking and analysis, a good mechanism for balancing risks and other considerations in choosing a course of action. The second is a novel modification of foresight exercises that addresses the need to include humans effectively in dealing with uncertainty. A more extensive discussion of available methods and enabling technologies is also presented, along with some recommendations about investment priorities.


For the first time since the design of the first nuclear submarine, the U.S. Navy has no nuclear submarine design program under way, which raises the possibility that design capability could be lost. Such a loss could result in higher costs and delays when the next submarine design is undertaken, as well as risks to system performance and safety. The authors estimate and compare the costs and delays of letting design capability erode vs. those of alternative means of managing the workload and workforce over the gap in design demand and beyond. The authors recommend that the Navy consider stretching out the design of the next submarine class and starting it early, or, if that seems too risky, sustaining design resources at the shipyards, their vendors, and in the Navy itself that exceed those supported by the demand.


Recent acts of terrorism and statements by terrorist organizations have focused attention on the economic damages that can be produced by terrorist activities and the desire of some terrorists to inflict economic harm in pursuit of their goals. Based on a review of the relevant literature, this report describes the range of economic effects of terrorist activities. It examines in detail the September 11, 2001, attacks and the extended terrorist campaign waged by the Provisional Irish Republican Army as examples of two extremes of terrorist economic targeting: high-impact, episodic terrorism and lower-level, but extended, campaign terrorism. From these examples, the authors develop a framework capturing the full range of costs that may result from economic targeting and use it to explore the range of defensive measures that might be used to respond to this threat.


The Department of Defense has suggested that “blending” active component and reserve component workforces in military units must be implemented more broadly to better capitalize on the capabilities and strengths of the reserve components, thus leading to a more flexible, capable force. RAND researchers examined existing organizational designs that facilitate integration of the reserve and active workforces to ascertain whether changed personnel management practices are needed to help implement those organizational designs. They reviewed service reports and directives and other relevant literature on the subject, including the organizational change literature, and interviewed service officials and subject matter experts. They conclude that workforce integration efforts aimed at improving operational accomplishment of mission, balancing operations tempo, and increasing capital asset utilization would be more successful than efforts aimed at other goals, such as resolving personnel management differences. The authors recommend that adapting what works within a service to other functional areas in the service is a better near-term workforce integration strategy than replicating forms of integration across services; that the services should provide policy guidance for workforce integration; and that the services should consider performing more evaluation of workforce integration against the goals they have set out for it. 


THE STANLEY FOUNDATION

COURSE CORRECTIONS IN AMERICA’S WAR ON TERROR. Peter Brookes and Julianne Smith. The Stanley foundation. May 2007

Few Americans would have a hard time explaining how the world and their lives have changed since September 11, yet many would struggle to identify the exact source of the current terrorist threat or gauge the war’s progress to date. Many complain about threat fatigue, even weariness, with a concept that has proved difficult to define. Against whom, exactly, is the United States waging war? When will we know that this war is won? How much longer will the struggle last? What sacrifices will need to be made? And what changes in strategy and tactics are required as the United States and its allies prepare for what is likely to be a long twilight struggle? The paper authors lay the ground for consensus on the nature of Islamic extremism, give an assessment of progress to date, and point the way ahead as the United States and its partners fight what many now refer to as the "Long War."

(….) It is no small task to protect 50 states, 95,000 miles of coastline, and 7,500 miles of land border from terrorist attack. Living in a free, open society makes us fundamentally more vulnerable to terrorism. There is arguably no such thing as absolute security in any society. The United States is as deeply integrated as any nation with the world beyond its borders, and that is to its benefit. Over 300 million visitors come to the United States every year. Nine
million seaborne containers enter the United States annually at 361 commercial ports. Many firms depend on the global market for goods and labor to keep their businesses running and prosperous. Parts of our critical infrastructure—including the Internet, aviation, and energy sectors—are integrated internationally. But this openness and integration has a downside as well. The fundamental challenge is to protect the United States without disrupting the American way of life or infringing upon our cherished civil liberties.


**A FULL-COURT PRESS AGAINST NUCLEAR ANARCHY.** Steve E. Biegun and Jon B. Wolfsthal. CSIS. April 30, 2007

A small-yield nuclear weapon detonates near the White House. How often have we wondered whether this might happen or worried that it will happen? What have we done to prepare in case it should happen? And most critically, have we done all that we could do—and would do, with the benefit of hindsight—to make sure it does not happen? These are the questions we must address, as will many future generations of Americans, unless urgent action is taken now.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/070401_wolfsthal_stanley.pdf


Determining the proper size of America’s armed forces is one of the most central questions of US defense policy. Whatever advances are made in weapons technology, military missions are executed by people. If there was any doubt before, the Iraq war proved that technology will not let us cut back on personnel. This issue has become the subject of heightened debate, and Kagan and O’Hanlon are issuing a joint contribution to the discourse: a rigorous argument for increasing the Army and Marines by at least 100,000, based in part on sobering examinations of a few varied scenarios. Sound US grand strategy must proceed from the recognition that, over the next few years and decades, the world is going to be an unsettled and dangerous place—with Al Qaeda and its associated groups as a subset of a much larger set of worries. The only serious response to this international environment is to develop armed forces capable of protecting America’s vital interests throughout this perilous time. Doing so requires a military that is capable of a wide range of missions, including not only deterrence of great power conflict (in potential flashpoints such as Korea, the Taiwan Strait, and the Persian Gulf) but also a variety of Special Forces activities and stabilization operations. For today’s US military, which already excels at high technology and is increasingly focused on re-learning the lost art of counterinsurgency, this is first and foremost a question of finding the resources to field a large-enough standing Army and Marine Corps to handle personnel-intensive missions such as the ones now under way in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many soldiers and marines are facing their third tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and historical evidence suggests that it is the third tour that begins to erode morale and reenlistment most seriously. Even if that conclusion cannot be proven, we must worry that at some point our
remarkable men and women in uniform will begin to crack—the fact that they have been so resilient and dedicated to date does not prove that they will keep going at the same pace forever.

STRATEGIC STUDIES INSTITUTE. U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE


Recent books and journal articles published in China provide new insights into nuclear doctrine, operations, training, and the employment of the People’s Liberation Army’s (PLA) strategic rocket forces. The major insights come from exploiting sections of a doctrinal text published for PLA institutions of higher military education by the Chinese National Defense University, A Guide to the Study of Campaign Theory (Zhanyi Lilun Xuexi Zhinan). In the view of many in the PLA, the military power of the United States, the potential to use that power to coerce or dominate China, and the ability to threaten China’s pursuit of its own its interests, presents a latent threat to China. Additionally, China’s own threats against democratic Taiwan, and the fact that PLA leaders believe that the United States is likely to come to Taiwan’s assistance in the event of Chinese aggression in the Taiwan Strait, magnifies the threat that PLA officers perceive from the United States. This perceived threat drives the PLA to follow U.S. military developments more carefully than those of other nations and to be prepared to counter American forces. The PLA is mixing nuclear and conventional missile forces in its military doctrine. Also, some in China are questioning whether the doctrine of “no-first-use” of nuclear weapons serves China’s deterrent needs.

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN SECURITY COOPERATION AFTER ST. PETERSBURG. Dr. Richard Weitz. SSI Monograph. May 07, 2007

Type: Until Russia and the United States experience a change on government in 2008, the prospects for additional strategic arms control agreements, limits on destabilizing military operations, and joint ballistic missile defense programs appear unlikely. Yet, near-term opportunities for collaboration in the areas of cooperative threat reduction, third-party proliferation, and bilateral military engagement do exist. Until Russia and the United States experience a change on government in 2008, the prospects for additional strategic arms control agreements, limits on destabilizing military operations, and joint ballistic missile defense programs appear unlikely. Yet, near-term opportunities for collaboration in the areas of cooperative threat reduction, third-party proliferation, and bilateral military engagement do exist.
BIODEFENSE RESEARCH SUPPORTING THE DOD: A NEW STRATEGIC VISION.
Colonel Coleen K. Martinez. SSI Monograph. April 2007

The author examines the productivity of the Department of Defense’s biodefense research program over the course of more than 35 years, coupled with changes in the global research environment since the events of September 11, 2001. Where the deployment of a biologic agent of mass destruction is largely an unpredictable risk, the outcome certainly could be catastrophic for an unprotected population. An urgent moral imperative is cast upon the federal government, then, to objectively assess the application and management of its biodefense research resources.


The author argues that to understand China’s motivations and decisions, we need to also understand how it sees the world. In order to accomplish this, the author examined China’s scholars, journalists, and leaders. China has two main types of national security threats: traditional (the U.S., Japan, and India) and nontraditional (social and economic disparities, environmental degradation, and energy insecurity). The author has determined from her research that for China to overcome these threats, its leadership must not only look outward to foster cooperation but inward to make internal reforms.


The author sees a clash between the nationalist identity in China and in Taiwan that represents a new challenge for U.S. policy. “Similarly, the rise of pan-Korean nationalism in South Korea, and an unpredictable North Korean regime that has succeeded in driving a wedge between Seoul and Washington, has created another highly combustible zone of potential conflict.” This paper explores these identities and offers suggestions as to how the U.S. might respond to this new nationalism in order to promote stability and peace.


“The author assesses the interests of the United States in Central Asia and the challenges to them. These challenges consist of the revival of the Taliban, Russo-Chinese efforts to oust U.S. strategic presence from the area, and the possibility of internal instability generated by the regression of local regimes form democratizing and liberalizing policies. The author then recommends policies designed to meet those challenges to American policy in this increasingly more important area of the world.”


UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE


Taliban fighters have re-emerged in full force in Afghanistan and insurgency-related violence has increased to record levels, resulting in 2,732 fatalities between September 1, 2006, and February 25, 2007. According to the United Nations, the 35,460-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), along with the 8,000 troops deployed under the United States-led coalition command, has begun its own offensive against the insurgency in the south, targeting opium growing regions and Taliban safe zones. From safe havens in the Pakistan border areas, the Taliban are now pursuing a long-term strategy of exploiting their control of remote villages to gain control of districts and then regions. Thus, a conflict that had been pushed down on the U.S. and international agendas is now reemerging. As the Taliban regroups and continues its insurgency, the international community is faced with the need to re-evaluate and strengthen its own plan of action.


The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast-Asian Nations (ASEAN) Mission’s mandate to monitor and support the peace process in the Aceh region of Indonesia was completed in December 2006. The peace process was brought about by the inauguration of a newly elected, democratic government in Indonesia, the Free Aceh Movement’s (GAM) willingness to give up its demand for independence, and the devastating tsunami in December 2004. The EU and ASEAN are now in a position to stand by the people of Aceh in the ongoing peace, reconciliation and post-conflict process and to build on this experience and use it as a model for future cooperation in dispute resolutions.

http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr184.pdf [pdf format, 8 pages]

THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE FOR NEAR-EAST POLICY

Over the past decade, Washington has stepped up its public diplomacy efforts toward Iran, particularly in the area of Persian-language broadcasting. Despite their good intentions, however, many of these initiatives are flawed in ways that hinder their goals and do little to reverse anti-American sentiment in Iran. From widespread mistranslation on the State Department's Persian website to terrorists appearing on Voice of America as "political activists," these flaws are keeping U.S. government broadcasting from effectively reaching the Iranian people.

In this Washington Institute Policy Focus, Mehdi Khalaji -- a former Persian-language producer for Radio Farda and the BBC -- takes a comprehensive look at the various U.S.-based broadcasting initiatives aimed at Iranians young and old. From government outlets to privately funded projects, he examines the results of their efforts and offers constructive criticism on key issues such as promoting professional journalistic standards, navigating accusations of propaganda, and overcoming obstacles on Capitol Hill. He also analyzes European and other foreign broadcasting efforts, both to broaden the picture of the Iranian audience and to foster a clearer understanding of weaknesses in the American approach.


In 2007, two crucial political developments will unfold in Turkey: the AKP-controlled parliament will select a new president, and the public will vote in nationwide legislative elections. Both events come at a time when Turkish popular sentiment toward the West has weakened significantly, paralleling Ankara's recent shift toward engagement with countries like Iran and Syria. Given the secular opposition's fractured state in advance of the elections, many are wondering whether the outcome will accelerate or reverse these troubling trends.

In this Washington Institute Policy Focus, Turkish Research Program director Soner Cagaptay offers a comprehensive look at the various factors that make 2007 a pivotal year for Turkish democracy, secularism, and foreign policy. Beginning with an outline of AKP policymaking, he demonstrates how the current government's rule has been accompanied by a number of problematic developments, including the erosion of checks and balances on the executive branch and the muting of opposition forces in the media and judiciary. Given the potential impact of further political consolidation along these lines, Washington should do all it can to help preserve Turkey's secular, pro-Western legacy.

THE WORLD BANK


“This paper suggests a new factor that makes civil war more likely; the inability of political actors to make credible promises to broad segments of society. Lacking this ability, both elected and unelected governments pursue public policies that leave citizens less well-off and more prone to revolt. At the same time, these actors have a reduced ability to build an anti-insurgency capacity in the first place, since they are less able to prevent anti-insurgents from themselves mounting coups. But while reducing the risk of conflict overall, increasing credibility can, over some range, worsen the effects of natural resources and ethnic fragmentation on civil war. Empirical tests using various measures of political credibility support these conclusions.”

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]
http://www.wwz.unibas.ch/forschung/dokumente/Keefer_WPS4185.pdf [pdf format, 29 pages]

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS


The author argues that Pakistan, driven by both external tensions with its neighbors and internal ethnic, political and religious conflicts, is at best a questionable ally in the war on terrorism. Through a case study of post-partition Pakistani politics, the author suggests that the U.S. could to mitigate the new “Pakistan Question” by practicing the region’s historical tradition of “raja-mandala”: balancing opposing spheres of power and exploiting the rivalries between them. By building up an alliance with India and Afghanistan and taking aggressive action to cut off aid to Pakistan, the author says that the U.S. can use the principle to pressure Islamabad to reconcile its inner contradictions to contain and eventually eliminate the terrorists in its midst.