

DEFSECAN 7 – AN AJASN E NEWSLETTER (JAN 2017)

Please direct feedback and items to [Stuart Pearson](mailto:stuart.pearson@unsw.edu.au) stuart.pearson@unsw.edu.au

Thanks to Kate Delaney & Rhyl Vallis.

Views

“The government needs to show how it’s coordinating Defence with other arms of government, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the intelligence agencies and the Australian Federal Police, in a whole-of-government approach to national security.” Peter Edwards Dec 2016



A basic rule of thumb: the more violence there is the more jihadi violence there will be. Jihadi movements will continue to be fueled until the local flashpoints sparking violence are resolved” ([Wright et al 2016:29](#))

Pentagon’s dystopian [video view](#) of megacities.

Defence White Papers –back editions forward

Peter Edwards’ [reports](#) on 40 years of Defence White Papers and proposes for the future; key words in the current discussion are ‘nimbleness’ and ‘flexibility’, seek the best balance possible between Australia’s local and global interests, according to the circumstances of the day, look to Australian–Indonesian relations in foreign and defence policies, no DWP for 10 years, and the ongoing need for parliamentarians and their principal advisers to be better informed about strategic and defence matters (using Parliamentary Committees).

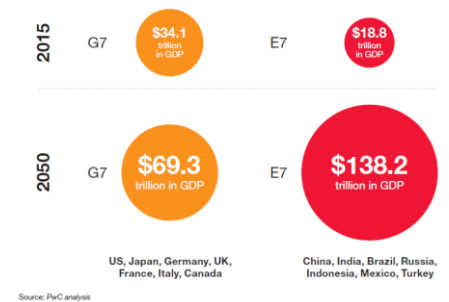
Five megatrends - implications for security

PwC [report](#) on five key megatrends with a specific focus on the various disruptive effects on defense and security:

1. Shift in Global Economic Power,
2. Demographic Change,
3. Rapid Urbanization,
4. Rise of Technology, and
5. Climate Change/Resource Scarcity.

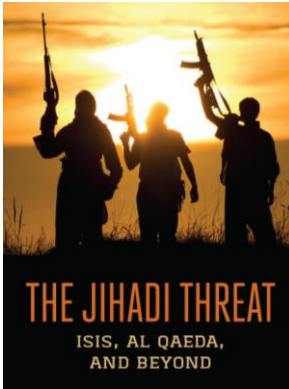
These require whole of society solutions and generate opportunities for technological, collaborative, and commercial benefits.

- What do these megatrends mean to defense and security leaders?
- Where does your organization fit within the overall national security ecosystem?
- Is the proper incentive structure in place to reward strategic thinking? Are you engaging with outside parties to help shape your point of view on where the world is going relative to areas outside of traditional defense and security?
- What is your acquisition and retention strategy as it relates to talent?
- Do you have an articulated focus on driving agility?
- What are you doing to help shape that strategy, and your organization's role in support of it, in order to ensure the strategy's relevance, flexibility and responsiveness?



India – water security

In India, [interstate water](#) allocation problems will become increasingly difficult to resolve due to growing demand and lack a permanent and efficient dispute resolution mechanisms for water allocation from interstate rivers.



Jihadi Threat: ISIS, al-Qaeda, and Beyond

US Institute of Peace & Wilson Centre [report](#) with 20 US experts from think tanks and universities explore the world's deadliest movements, their strategies, the future scenarios, and policy considerations. This update provides analysis and diverse views. But certainly Chapter 6 reads like a short version of [David Kilcullen's](#) work.

Web-based - exchange on environment, conflict and cooperation ([ECC](#))

Gathering knowledge on environmental conflict and cooperation and creating networks among stakeholders from the development, environment, foreign and security communities worldwide. Special focus on climate diplomacy and building resilience to compound climate-fragility risks.

Futures

"Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting over."

Attributed to Mark Twain but the truth is probably not.

[Link](#)

One of the distortions of authoritarianism is that it neuters representative and mobilizing hard-power institutions—labor unions, political parties, and so on—that normally act to check and balance the government. [Link](#)

[Why are so many people faking how many hours they work?](#) Report on a report from The Horizon Tracker

Hate being bitten by Mossies? A [review](#) shows scientifically what to do: apply to all exposed skin and reapply, routinely review academic studies of mosquito repellent effectiveness and safety, particularly for picaridin- and p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD)-based repellents, and diethyltoluamide (DEET) poses minimal health risk.

Let's face it, China's military now dominates ASEAN

"China has built six large islands, three substantial air bases and three sizeable electronic surveillance installations. China has effectively moved some 1100km closer to Australia, deep into the geographic heart of the ASEAN region," writes [Peter Layton](#). He suggests that, "Given Australia's limited resources, the key ASEAN states we need to work with are the closest: Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia."

French Cybercom

Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian likened the impact of hacking on warfare to the effect of the first aircraft on conflicts in the early 20th century. A cyberattack could be an act of war and a country that failed to stop them could be called *responsible*. France's 2600 new specialists by 2019 happens a month after UK funded \$2.2B on cyber-defence. [Link](#)

States of Fragility (2016)

OECD [report](#) says violence (i.e. armed conflict, fatalities and refugee flows) is at the highest level in over two decades.

Climate change driving more risks

Insurance Business chief risk officer for Zurich, the Asia Pacific is among the most vulnerable regions to the effects of climate change. "Climate change is exacerbating more risks than ever before in terms of water crises, food shortages, constrained economic growth, weaker societal cohesion and increased security risks." And suggests insurers can cooperate to develop responses to the challenges that arise in the future. [link](#)

103 swarming drones

Swarms of 103 miniature drones from several US F/A-18s in an exercise. The likeliest use of the swarms — which can sneak through air defense systems like the noble warrior pigeon of old — will be surveillance. [\[BBC\]](#)

Security fatigue – “bombarded by an unrelenting onslaught of security decisions, many people fail to pay full attention to security, with some taking the attitude that they’re too small to be worth attacking”.

Military Expenditure Database attests to real **increase in world military spending** SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2016)



Insight Report
The Global Risks Report 2017
12th Edition



“Closing civil society space” refers to actions by governments and others that, intentionally or otherwise, result in the prevention, limitation or eradication of civil society activities. Global Risk Report 2017: 29



AJASN next meeting
23 March 2017

Security fatigues

Countering views that one is, ‘too small to be worth attacking’ or ‘no one can stay completely alert all the time’, requires a healthy security culture that makes risky behavior more difficult than simple to follow measures.

[Link](#)

Arab Politics beyond the Uprisings: ... an Era of Resurgent Authoritarianism

This [report](#) explores the ongoing political energy that continues to shape the Arab world.

The Global Trends - Paradox of Progress

US National Intelligence Council unclassified strategic assessment of a trend through to 2035 that is both more dangerous and richer with opportunity includes the [Trends Transforming The Global Landscape](#)

The 2017 Global Risks Report

This includes great *summariphics* – the best three are shown below and available proper size via the link are: 1. risk-trends interconnections; 2. trends (2007-2017); 3. perception landscapes. The wide ranging analysis includes Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Warfare (page 49)) and a useful description of the five factors exacerbating geopolitical risks (p. 18) and table of global risks (p. 61).



[Link](#)

Profile of pro horizon scanner’s contribution

Helen Lavoix’s 2016 update [Horizon scanning and monitoring for anticipation: definition and practice](#) and her 2010 [Enabling Security for the 21st Century: Intelligence & Strategic Foresight and Warning](#) and [2007](#) works are recommended. She founded [The Red \(Team\) Analysis Society](#).

Evaluating biosecurity is difficult

A review by the powerful ANAO shows the difficulty of assessing the benefits to be derived from implementing new biosecurity legislative frameworks. [Link](#)