

DEFSECAN 8 – AN AJASN E NEWSLETTER (APR 2017)

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Thanks to Kate Delaney & Rhyll Vallis for feeding this.



Tom Burton: there is no manual for fighting cyclones. Australia's new focus on prevention, mitigation, learning and large-scale behavioural change. [Link](#)

How big is the manual for an aircraft carrier? [Link](#)



Peter Varghese, We cannot afford to be too narrow in where we put our foreign policy focus. Australia is not a global power but we do have interests across the globe. Asia and the United States will always be central to our interests but we also need to spread our risks and seek out other opportunities. [Link](#)

Preparedness Forum – Defence 2017

Defence Preparedness 2017-8 opened its meeting to some extra agencies (AFP, APMC, AG, Red Cross EMA) as it considered the Global Challenges. Highlights were: Judge Alice Hill who spoke about Climate Change and National Security ([link](#)), the considerations of threats and the way regional and agency preparedness for Defence Response Options (DRO) was discussed. The new message was: more of Whole of Government thinking (security chiefs), greater transparency and contestability pressures, tighter links between Government-strategy-Defence and iterative policy making. Interesting insight from this preparedness group was that the focus of "risk" is not having the capability when required. The time series environmental data was interesting and links between natural hazards and deployments were well made. Future issues included– climate, cyber and space and the technological singularity.

Australian National Security law

Poll result in 2016 on *Attitudes to National Security* revealed that 56% of Australians believe that the government 'could do more' to prevent a terrorist attack. 2015 it was only 39%. The strong message that the most recent poll sends to Australian governments is that there is a mandate to strengthen national security laws in the face of the threat posed by Islamic State. However, the problem with this figure – and with governments acting in reliance upon it – is that previous polls have shown that a large number of Australians lack a clear understanding of the laws already in place. [Web site](#)

Resilience

[Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience](#) has Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience thesaurus, 14 handbooks 46 manuals and a podcast series about building resilience.



Data Science Methods for Defence

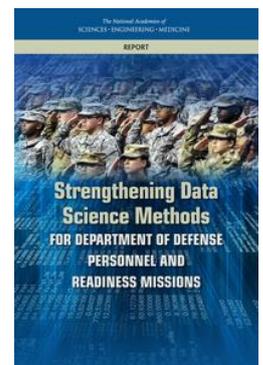
A new report from the US [link](#)

Whole of Government

Thought leader Julie Bishop in her [28 Mar 2017](#) speech to Global Heads of Missions is pretty clear. The phrase "whole of government" is strong.

Climate change survey of Victorians

Finds "50–60% believe there has been an increase in the occurrence of environmental events in this state over the past ten years" and almost all, 95%, believe that the Australian Government should be taking action on climate change and 68% that it should be leading action. [link](#)



Conflict data

The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) has recorded ongoing violent conflicts since the 1970s it released the complete global version of the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset, [UCDP GED 5.0](#). It contains 128 264 observations and covers 1989-2015, disaggregated to the level of the individual days and towns/villages.

The data is available [here](#) and with maps.

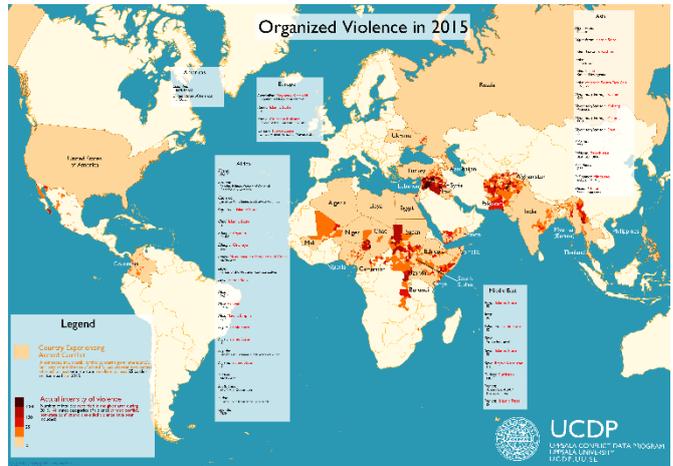


Image credit: Melander, Erik, Therése Pettersson, and Lotta Themnér (2016) *Organized violence, 1989-2015. Journal of Peace Research 53(5):727-742.*

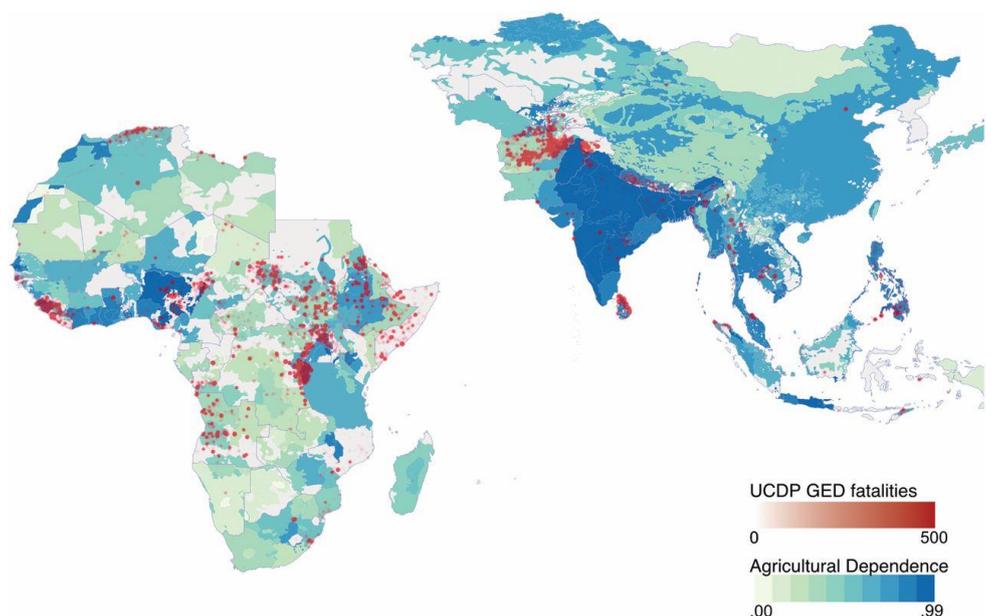
“We do have a few advantages, perhaps the greatest being that we don’t have a strategic plan” — [Warren Buffett](#)

Are humans inherently selfish? [link](#) Nope. People prefer to do what is best for the greater good but not if they focus on individual success or success relative to individuals.

Using Asia and Africa, the research used data on armed conflicts 1989-2015 and ethnic settlement in the region, high-resolution agricultural land use, and drought vulnerability. Model reveals that drought-related conflict is limited under most circumstances, the findings indicate that among politically marginalized ethnicities subsisting in rural economies dominated by agriculture, a drought increases the likelihood that ongoing violence is sustained. Making the agricultural sector more resilient to climatic extremes plus strengthening the political status and economic well-being of the rural populations is necessary.

von Uexkull, Nina, Mihai Croicu, Hanne Fjelde, and Halvard Buhaug. 2016.” [Civil conflict sensitivity to growing-season drought.](#)” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, published online ahead of print. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1607542113. (Open access).

Turkey referendum: Vote expanding Erdogan powers 'valid'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39618614>



Predictions on [Cyber Security](#) for 2018:

1. Ransomware;
2. increasing political and media influence;
3. Improved Cyber Situational Awareness: focus on people, processes and technology;
4. Threat Intelligence sharing – collaboration across vendor platforms;
5. Social Media in the business world; and
6. Mandatory breach notification.

Tomorrow's Tech and What it Means for Cybersecurity
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0te_OJYtNc

Cardboard gliders

Funded by DARPA's Inbound, Controlled, Air-Releasable, Unrecoverable Systems program (ICARUS) program, this [application](#) is to cheap delivery of aid; "In an emergency or disaster scenario, large numbers of the gliders could be dropped from a single cargo plane in much the same way as parachute deliveries are done today" but better control than a chute.



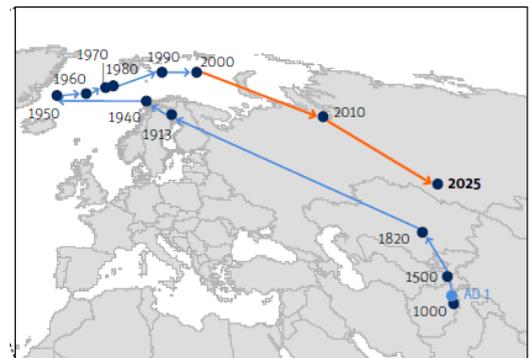
Following the ambulances insurance industry

Rather than following ambulances the insurance industry is a lead-in to likely costly problems. [From Risk to Return: Investing in climate change adaptation.](#)

They seek investment opportunities and funding solutions for environmental upgrades, resilience projects and climate change adaptation in real assets. Suggests; clearer responsibilities, assessment of infrastructure at risk, advisory groups, global finance and investment.

Forward 2035

Futures report was produced by Defence Science and Technology Organisation in 2014 [link](#) included this figure showing the shifting economic centre of gravity between AD 1-2025.



"The scale, size and complexity of megacities need to be understood – this cannot be underrated and we might even refer to warfare in this environment as "complex warfighting on steroids". In particular, the crossover between military and civilian technologies and infrastructure that's challenging today's military force is likely to be amplified and accelerated in megacities."

Australian Homeland Security Department

Talk of Australian Department of Homeland Security (aka US in 2002). Malcolm Turnbull previously not a supporter of a security super-department. Risk is hard co-ordination but would also further militarise Australia's security agencies [Link](#)

Foresight tools

Why and how to use foresight tools to manage climate security risks. The short version [link](#) and the long version (93 pages) [Planetary Security: Peace and Cooperation in Times of Climate Change and Global Environmental Challenges](#), This has great maps of global security challenges.

New Resources - sageinternational including STRATFOR 2017 Annual Forecast Preview

Global Risk Briefing by Bloomberg [link](#)

In the *Age of Consequences* on 4 Corners 20 March 2017 made quite an impact when distinguished former members of the US military and senior policy makers who warn that climate change is not only real, it's a threat to global security.



Previous edition [link](#)

Reminders

Did I miss something?
[Stuart Pearson](#)

AJASN next meeting
9 & 10 August 2017

Biosecurity of Australian honey bee

They provide critical environmental and economic estimated to be \$4 billion per annum, through their pollination services. Faces increasing threats from invasive pests and diseases, including the Asian honey bee and the Varroa mite. [Safe Keeping: inquiry into the biosecurity of Australian honey bees](#). The House of Representatives [Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources](#) report recommends:

- strengthening the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program
- investigating the use of technology to enable greater public involvement in detection programs
- analysing pest bee risk ratings at Australian ports, including airports
- commencing an analysis of bee smuggling into Australia
- undertaking R&D into selective breeding of honey bees.

F-35 jet program is everything wrong with US military procurement

The program to give America and its allies a unified fighter jet platform with specialized versions for the service branches has been going since the 1980s. [Businessweek's Paul Barrett](#) doesn't uncover massive fraud or corruption. Instead he finds a far more insidious problem: creep. Creep of mission, of requirements, of timelines, and of cost. It turns out designing one jet airframe to serve vastly different mission requirements might not have been such a great idea after all.

German cybercommand

[German military to launch cyber command](#) with a status equal to that of the army, navy and air force, meant to shield its IT and weapons systems from attack.

Age of Consequences for ADF - mobilisation

The securitisation of climate change (ie the current track) has consequences. Pasgaard et al 2017 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2017.02.001> writes about them. In Australia they also include:

- Navy and low lying Estate renewal (response is patchy - Williamstown RAAF Base is being renewed but will also be flooded by seas level rise)
- Being ready for more Humanitarian and civilian stuff (this is now an 'extra tasking' seen as possible) - so expect more Defence people on the street.
- Non-state-on-state war-fighting and security operations will be more common & that means whole of government (AFP, DFAT) working together
- Defence sees itself as long-term and strategic, above and beyond politics, trusted and responsible (narratives are important after all)
- Big problem - 'we' are the enemy - how does Defence protect us from ourselves? (*Securitisation* is surrender to power, What does mobilisation look like? Who is calling for it? Who pays for it?)

PNG watch

Cash or program aid – a delicate balance PNG request that Australian government return to direct budgetary support (rather than aid) was a surprise and has consequences. [link](#)

Violence and Water Scarcity - Quadruple Famine

An international food crisis, 20 million people in Somalia, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen -scale not seen since World War II. [link](#)