

# Australian Defence Business Review

The Defence & National Security Capability Reporter

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## Theatre ballistic missile defence

What Brendan Nelson signed up to  
at the 2006 AUSMIN talks

**This Edition:** Aussie BAMS Set for MUAS Beauty Contest, 'Archangel' Watching Over Project Air 6000, 'Globemaster III' Redefining RAAF Airlift, Implications for Defence of the Nuclear Debate, AUSMIN/AUKMIN Talks, ADF Hardening for the Long War, DCP 2007/08 Update

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*Cover photo: THAAD anti-ballistic missile test at the 'White Sands' range in New Mexico. To meet strict range-space limitations, THAAD missiles burn off energy by conducting an Energy Management System manoeuvre at launch, hence the unique 'corkscrew' effect captured in the photograph.*  
US MISSILE DEFENCE AGENCY PHOTO



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■ Trevor J Thomas  
Editor-in-Chief 041 263 1399

Responding to John Howard's call in 2006 for a rational debate on the options for Australia in developing its indigenous nuclear capabilities, this issue of ADBR looks in detail at broad trends for the nation in terms of the emergence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threats, and accelerated moves by the Department of Defence to bring forward options for a start to Australia's acquisition of ballistic missile defence (BMD) capabilities over the 2007-2018 Defence capability planning horizon.

Like some readers of this journal, the fact that Australia might now be in the midst of a concerted program to develop a comprehensive BMD regime has caught your Editor a little off-guard, as with long years of rhinoceros hide accumulated in response to regular exhortations by politicians that the sky is falling in – especially around the time of election campaigns – manic rhetoric frequently rebounds off such skin into the waste paper basket.

Communiqués issued in December after two rounds of senior ministerial discussions - relating to the more established AUSMIN meetings, as well as the just-established AUKMIN dialogue (*refer article page 17*) - found the pepper up my nose, with subsequent research revealing quite well developed concepts for Australia's potential early acquisition of BMD capabilities, and set down for initial consideration in around six months time in concert with selection of the preferred design for the project Sea 4000 air warfare destroyers.

So if the Prime Minister was looking for some real debate on nuclear options for Australia, including implications of the former for the rapid development of an indigenous weapons capability 'in waiting' by the ADF - as a precursor to any serious deterioration in the means and methods by which the introduction of WMDs into Australia's near region have so far been prevented - then hopefully the following pages provide a basis for discussion.

On another matter, and if you were watching television over the Xmas/New Year break and were wondering why new Opposition Leader, Kevin Rudd, was being interviewed on the beach in Queensland - and similarly, why Prime Minister Howard cut short his break to suit-up for his own media interviews - hello! - 2007 is a Federal election year and the campaign has got off to an early start.

Rudd's appointment of Joel Fitzgibbon as new Defence shadow (maligned by some due to his previous enthusiasm for Mark Latham), nevertheless gives Labor an opportunity to refresh its views on national security directions, and perhaps sink some of the more extreme positions taken under Kim Beazley. Heading this list might be the former rejection of the Joint Strike Fighter in favour of the 'not for export' F-22 'Raptor', as well as the belief Australia needs more, smaller amphibious ships, rather than the two iron-bottomed monsters now up for contention as part of Joint Project 2048.

In a set back to his own Prime Ministerial ambitions, Dr Brendan Nelson's retention as Minister for Defence (whilst colleague Malcolm Turnbull has been propelled into the inner Cabinet), uncomfortably leaves Nelson slugging away at attempts to tame a Defence organisation renowned for its ability to throw up a litany of public relations nightmares, whilst others are now free to embroil themselves with electors in the campaign proper. Just keep in mind, if the situation really turns sour in Iraq, Turnbull is one of the few who could honestly claim he had nothing to do with it.

John Howard's clever political strategy of reshuffling his Cabinet in a manner that sees those in marginal electorates elevated to positions where they are now entitled to extra staff and additional electorate office allowances, has also seen Senator Sandy Macdonald replaced by Peter Lindsay MP, as Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Defence. Lindsay, of course, only holds a 6% margin in the Queensland seat of Herbert (which encompasses the garrison settlement of Townsville), so will appreciate the extra resources.

With regular stouches on such sensitive topics as Australia's long-term relationship with the United States in the post-Bush era, and the future of the ANZUS alliance (should a Rudd Labor Government start burning political capital in Washington by moving to quickly wind-down the ADF's presence in Iraq), all expected to flare when Parliament recommences next week, it is more than likely that Ministerial efforts to dampen-down bad press for the Government in defence and national domestic security matters will reach feverish pitch. So watch out for the activity anticipated around release of the ANAO's MV 'Delos' (now HMAS 'Sirius') acquisition report.

## What's coming ...

**21-22 February 2007:** 'Complex Project Management: Best Practice Strategies for Achieving Project Excellence', hosted by IQPC at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney. Surf [www.iqpc.com.au](http://www.iqpc.com.au) for details.

**19-22 March 2007:** 12th Australian International Aerospace Congress, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne. Surf [www.aiac12.com](http://www.aiac12.com) for details.

**20-25 March 2007:** Australian International Air Show & Trade Expo, Avalon Airport, Victoria. Surf [www.airshow.net.au](http://www.airshow.net.au) for details. [This event is supported by ADBR]

**20-25 March 2007:** 'LanDef 2007', showcasing Defence Technology & Systems for the Asia-Pacific, Avalon Airport, Victoria. Email [expo@landef.com.au](mailto:expo@landef.com.au).

**27-29 March 2007:** 'Global Security Asia', Singapore. Surf [www.globalsecasia.com](http://www.globalsecasia.com) for details.

**17-20 April 2007:** Latin America Aero & Defence (LAAD 2007) exhibition, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Email [ettany@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ettany@optusnet.com.au).

**15-16 May 2007:** 'The Future ADF: Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future', jointly sponsored by RUSI/ADFA, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra. Email [aust.rusi@defence.com.au](mailto:aust.rusi@defence.com.au) for details. [This event is supported by ADBR]

**4-7 June 2007:** 12th Simulation Technology and Training (SimTect 2007) Conference & Exhibition, at the Brisbane Convention Centre. Surf [www.simtect.com/2007](http://www.simtect.com/2007). [This event is supported by ADBR]

**5-7 June 2007:** Undersea Defence Technology Conference & Exhibition (UDT Europe 2007), La Mostra d'Oltremare, Naples, Italy. Surf [www.udt-europe.com](http://www.udt-europe.com).

**18-24 June 2007:** 47th Paris Air Show, Le Bourget, Paris, France. Surf [www.paris-air-show.com](http://www.paris-air-show.com) or [www.gifas.asso.fr](http://www.gifas.asso.fr) for details.

**20-21 June 2007:** 'Smart 2007' conference, Sydney Convention &

Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. A Freight Logistics forum will also be held on 21 June. Surf [www.smartconference.com.au](http://www.smartconference.com.au).

**26-27 July 2007:** 'Naval Networks: The Dominance of Communications in Maritime Operations', 5th biennial King-Hall Naval History Conference, Canberra. Surf [seapower.conferences@defence.gov.au](mailto:seapower.conferences@defence.gov.au) for details.

**20-23 August 2007:** Defence + Industry (D+I) 2007 Conference, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace. Surf [www.defenceandindustry.gov.au](http://www.defenceandindustry.gov.au). [This event is supported by ADBR]

**3-6 September 2007:** 14th Asian Aerospace International Expo & Congress, Asia World Expo Centre (adjacent to airport), Hong Kong. Email [ettany@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ettany@optusnet.com.au).

**11-14 September 2007:** Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi 2007) exhibition, London Docklands, UK. Email [ettany@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ettany@optusnet.com.au).

**19-22 September 2007:** Aviation Expo/China 2007 (12th Event), CIEC, Beijing. Email [laura@beijingaviation.com](mailto:laura@beijingaviation.com) or surf [www.beijingaviation.com](http://www.beijingaviation.com) for details.

**23-25 October 2007:** 12th India International Civil & Defence Equipment/Systems (IICDES) Exhibition & Conference, The Ashok Hotel, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Email [satcon@nde.vsnl.net.in](mailto:satcon@nde.vsnl.net.in).

**7-10 November 2007:** Tri-Service Defence & Security Asia 2007, Impact Exhibition & Convention Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. Email [anna@cmpthailand.com](mailto:anna@cmpthailand.com) or Surf [www.asiandefence.com](http://www.asiandefence.com) for details.

**29-31 January 2008:** Pacific 2008 International Maritime and Naval Exposition, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Surf [www.pacific2008.com.au](http://www.pacific2008.com.au) for details.

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# Aussie BAMS players gearing up for MUAS beauty contest

The Government's mandating of the US Navy's Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) system as the technology baseline for phase 1 of project Air 7000, along with the development of a strategy to leverage US multi-mission unmanned aerial system solutions, has opened up a new opportunity for Australian industry participation in global military projects likely to rival the much touted 'Team Australia' effort in the Joint Strike Fighter project.

■ Canberra Bureau Report

The fine detail of the Government's first pass decision on multi-mission unmanned aerial system (MUAS) solutions continues to emerge with a series of industry briefings, and the imminent release of a Request For Tender (RFT) Exposure Draft for the new Industry Capability Partner (ICP) for MUAS.

The ICP approach – which seeks to draw local firms into this rapidly evolving area of technology – can be considered a win for domestic Defence Industry, which has lobbied Government intensively against an immediate MUAS acquisition since the original Northrop Grumman RQ-4A 'Global Hawk' Australian demonstration in 2001 elevated an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) acquisition into the 2000 Defence Capability Plan (DCP).

This was done in the form of the nomination of an RQ-4 'Global Hawk' UAV system acquisition under phase 2 of the then Joint Project 2062, and associated Australian industry involvement plan. The effect of this industry push, when combined with other factors contributing to delays in Government decision-making – in terms of the ADF's ability to more rapidly field a UAS force – has been previously analysed (see *ADBR, Vol.25, No.9 – September-October 2006, p29*).

The Exposure Draft due for circulation in late-January, along with the subsequent RFT, is waiting on Government analysis of the results of the DSTO-led North West Shelf (NWS) UAS trial. These activities focused on

MUAS integration with other ADF capabilities, including an actual demonstration over the NWS by General Atomics' 'Mariner' UAS, and a 'virtual' trial of the 'Global Hawk' – against similar operational constructs – conducted at Northrop Grumman's Cyber Warfare Integration Network (CWIN) node, at Rancho Bernardo in California.

The DSTO's Deputy Chief Defence Scientist, Dr Ian Sare, stated 12 December that the final report on the 'real-world' phase of the trial was to be presented to government, by the end of 2006, "for use in helping to define requirements for the MUAS acquisition."

As previously reported in ADBR, the knowledge-base leading from analysis of the trials is aimed at guiding the Government to "interim first pass" approval in 2007, in line with a US down-select on their own BAMS solution. Depending on when the eventual RFT is released, the time-lapse between 'first pass' and 'second pass' approval might also include selection of the ICP.

The chosen ICP will then act as the Australian representative within the BAMS project, placing

Australian industry into the core of the project, as is said to have been similarly achieved with the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) project.

The early entry of Australia into BAMS, and the carving out of a unique position as the only international partner, is likely to generate much more substantial work for local industry than the aggregate of US\$100m (December 2006), so far said to have been generated by competitive tendering in the JSF's US\$150m (Australian contribution) Systems Design and Development phase.

On the assumption that Australian industry involvement in BAMS is likely to be of a scale not less than that achieved on the JSF program, yet with the division of workshare being passed back to native industry as a percentage of buy-in – and based on forecast UAS numbers – Australian involvement could be expected in the order of 10-20% of the overall project.

The key role of the ICP will be to act as the Australian Lead Systems Integrator (LSI), which involves tasking to develop UAS ground environments and provide Through Life Support (TLS). Due to the lack of an identifiable product at this stage against which relative merits could be compared, ICP selection is set to mirror the approach taken for the air warfare destroyer shipbuilder.

In short, this was undertaken along the lines of a 'beauty contest'. Prospective ICP tenderers

will thus outline their company (or Team's) attributes and demonstrated capabilities, and state how these could be leveraged into the critical Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) domain and other UAS proficiency areas.

First off the mark 15 December 2006 with confirmation of their teaming for the Air 7000/1 ICP opportunity, were BAE Systems Australia (BAES) and L-3 Communications Integrated Systems (L-3 IS). Heading the attributes list, BAES Australia claims substantive in-country expertise in autonomous systems technologies, while L-3 IS brings large scale systems integration and maritime surveillance expertise.

Accordingly, the two companies' joint expertise in complex systems integration, management and support should place them in an advantageous strategic position to secure development of the Australian integrated ground environment, along with support for MUAS introduction.

BAES have been building an East Sale (Victoria)-based Integrated Product Team (IPT) as a globally-focused UAS ground environment and autonomous systems house, leveraging the key role being played in several UK Ministry of Defence-funded developments.

More recently, BAES Australia announced 8 December the global company had been awarded a £124m contract for development of a "world-class" UAS demonstrator, code-named 'Taranis'. Other potential ICP bidders include: Tenix Defence Aerospace, Thales Australia, Raytheon Australia, and Boeing Australia – who in the main all possess substantial experience in international UAV programs and offer DMO-valued 'reach back' to overseas parents as a means of reducing program risk.

The US BAMS competition involves a three-way tussle between: Northrop Grumman (offering the RQ-4B 'Global Hawk' Block 20 as the base platform), Lockheed Martin with the General Atomics 'Mariner' UAV, and General Dynamics, with an optionally manned/or unmanned version of the Gulfstream G550.



**SECOND FLIGHT FOR THE 'LIGHTNING II':** As the only international partner in the US BAMS program, Australian industry is looking for a much bigger share of work than has so far been won in the JSF Systems Development and Demonstration phase. LOCKHEED MARTIN PHOTO

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