



Shaping a way ahead: The importance of deterrence

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'Deterrence' in White Papers

• 1976	10	• 2009	34
• 1987	10	• 2013	27
• 1994	13	• 2016	14
• 2000	07	• 2017*	10

* DFAT White Paper

125 mentions (mostly fleeting) in 42 years!



Yawn!

‘The first Strategic Defence Objective is to deter, deny and defeat any attempt by a hostile country or non-state actor to attack, threaten or coerce Australia.’

DWP 2016 (5.20)



Themes

- Extended Nuclear Deterrence
- Alliance
 - ('complicates an adversary's planning')
- ADF = deterrence
 - (Tick and flick!)
- Overmatch
- Cyber

‘Only the nuclear and conventional military capabilities of the United States can offer effective deterrence against the possibility of nuclear threats against Australia.’

2016 DWP (5.20)

Alliance

‘If Australia were threatened by a major power with military capabilities beyond our capacity to deter or defeat, **we would depend on direct support from allied combat forces.**’

DWP 2013 (3.38)

ADF = Deterrence

‘Our international weight is underpinned by a strong Australian Defence Force and a willingness to deploy hard power to protect our national interests. **Our military strength is a deterrent against armed coercion ...**’

Overmatch

- ‘...regionally superior **submarines** with a high degree of interoperability with the United States are required to provide Australia with an effective deterrent ...’
- ‘A potent **strike and air combat capability** is essential to our ability to deter attempts to coerce or attack Australia ...’

DWP 2016 (4.25, 4.40)

‘The Government has authorised the Australian Signals Directorate to **use its offensive cyber capabilities to disrupt, degrade, deny and deter** offshore cyber criminals.’

We could do better ...



An Australian deterrence strategy?

- Four elements:
 - Strengthening END
 - Conventional (theatre?) deterrence
 - Resisting coercion
 - Cyber
- Wildcards ...
 - Deterrence without the alliance
 - Strategic shocks

Strengthening END

- Important to strengthen credibility of US END. Therefore ...
- Stop hiding from the issue!
 - Support Space Situational Awareness
 - BMD
 - OTHR
 - Engage Japan
 - USMC in Darwin ('the tripwire')

Conventional Deterrence

- Does JSF really do everything we need?
- Team with US on Future Bomber
- What's our strategy to prevail in the region?
- 'Regionally superior submarine' = Nuclear propulsion
- Hypersonic R&D

Resisting coercion

- The flip side to deterrence is not to be deterred ...
 - South China Sea
 - Interference in domestic politics
 - Values?

Cyber deterrence

‘For some issues, including in cyberspace, our ability to deter others will be enhanced by a **willingness to use offensive capabilities to respond to threats.**’

DFAT WP 2017

Deterrence without the alliance?

‘... only the nuclear and conventional military capabilities of the United States offer effective deterrence against the possibility of nuclear threats against Australia and other allies of the United States such as the Republic of Korea and Japan. **Without extended deterrence, more countries in the Indo–Pacific would need to re-assess their security and defence capabilities.**’

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Shocks



Questions

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