

Sélection mensuelle d'articles et de documents sur le renseignement & la sécurité internationale
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ACTUALITÉ DU RENSEIGNEMENT

Intelligence Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2011 - Senate Intelligence Committee

The Select Committee on Intelligence, having considered an original bill (S. 719) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Sensitive Covert Action Notifications: Oversight Options for Congress – CRS, Alfred Cumming

This report describes the statutory provision authorizing Gang of Eight notifications, reviews the legislative history of the provision, and examines the impact of such notifications on congressional oversight.

Covert Action: Legislative Background and Possible Policy Questions – CRS, Alfred Cumming

In committee report language accompanying H.R. 2701 (111th Congress), the FY2010 Intelligence Authorization Act, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) expressed its concern that the distinction between the CIA's intelligence-gathering activities and DOD's clandestine operations is becoming blurred and called on the Defense Department to meet its obligations to inform the Committee of such activities. Perhaps in an effort to bring more clarity to the covert action issue, Department of Defense officials early in the 112th Congress stated that current statute could be updated to reflect U.S. Special Operations Command's list of core task and the missions assigned to it in the Unified Command Plan. But in doing so, they also noted that Section 167 includes "such other activities as may be specified by the President or the Secretary of Defense," which they argued provides the President and the Secretary the flexibility to meet changing circumstances.

Renseignement et intelligence géographique – Hérodote, premier trimestre 2011

Renseignement et intelligence géographique – Yves Lacoste | R Sándor Radó, géographe et agent de renseignement – Guillaume Bourgeois | R Pál Teleki ou les espoirs de renaissance de la nation hongroise dans l'entre-deux-guerres – János Kubassek | Renseignement géographique et culture militaire – Philippe Boulanger | Stratégies militaires et climats – Pierre Pagny | Le milieu aérien, acteur et objet du renseignement – Mickaël Aubout | Étudier le renseignement en France – Amélie Malissard, Bastien Irondele, Olivier Chopin | Une géographie américaine de la menace chinoise – Jean-Loup Samaan | Les logiques d'une passion stratégique : les États-Unis et la défense antimissile – Jean-Philippe Baulon | Le renseignement au Canada – Jean Martin | L'intelligence économique : un enjeu de première importance toujours sous-estimé – Rémy Pautrat

Le milieu aérien, acteur et objet du renseignement – Mickaël Aubout

Le milieu aérien, acteur et objet du renseignement Si la relation entre renseignement et géographie semble évidente, qu'en est-il de celle entre troisième dimension et géographie, l'armée de l'air n'y voyant qu'« une couche de gaz dépourvue d'obstacles » et d'en conclure « c'est donc un milieu qui offre une transparence ». Aussi la mission de renseignement, dans et à partir du milieu aérien, implique-t-elle in fine la conception d'une géographie politique et militaire aérienne.

Le renseignement aérospatial est devenu un levier d'influence dans le jeu des relations internationales. La troisième dimension contribue à forger la vision des décideurs politiques et militaires, et, par là même, influe sur leurs décisions et leurs actions. Avec l'emploi de la troisième dimension dans l'acquisition de renseignement, ce n'est pas seulement une nouvelle capacité de renseignement qui s'ouvre aux autorités politico-militaires, c'est également une nouvelle appréhension du territoire adverse et de son propre territoire qui émerge. La troisième dimension, par l'observation et le ciblage proposé, offre ainsi au commandement une nouvelle conception de la géographie de l'ennemi.

The State Secrets Privilege: Preventing the Disclosure of Sensitive National Security Information During Civil Litigation – CRS

CIA has hemorrhaged top employees to private sector in past decade – Washington Post, 13 April 2011

In the decade since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, private intelligence firms and security consultants have peeled away veterans from the top reaches of the CIA, hiring scores of longtime officers in large part to gain access to the burgeoning world of intelligence contracting.

2010 Targeting U.S. Technologies: A Trend Analysis of Reporting from Defense Industry

As noted in the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive's "Annual Report to Congress on Foreign Economic Collection and Industrial Espionage," the threat to the United States from foreign economic intelligence collection and industrial espionage has continued unabated and foreign entities continue to try to illegally acquire U.S. technology, trade secrets, and proprietary information.

The mission of the Defense Security Service (DSS) is to support national security and the warfighter, secure the nation's technological base, and oversee the protection of both U.S. and foreign classified information in the hands of industry. This report is based on information obtained from DSS outreach and partnerships with stakeholders and customers, and includes the agency's analysis of suspicious contact reports received from cleared industry.

Protecting Classified Information and the Rights of Criminal Defendants:

The Classified Information Procedures Act – CRS – Edward C. Lui, Todd Garvey

A criminal prosecution involving classified information may cause tension between the government's interest in protecting classified information and the criminal defendant's right to a constitutionally valid trial. In some cases, a defendant may threaten to disclose classified information in an effort to gain leverage. Concerns about this practice, referred to as "graymail," led the 96th Congress to enact the Classified Information Procedures Act (CIPA) to provide uniform procedures for prosecutions involving classified information.

If classified information is to be introduced at trial, the court may allow substitutes of classified information to be used, so long as they provide the defendant with substantially the same ability to present a defense and do not otherwise violate his constitutional rights. Among the rights that may be implicated by the application of CIPA in a criminal prosecution are the defendant's right to have a public trial, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, and to have the assistance of counsel. CIPA may also be implicated by the obligation of the prosecution to provide the defendant, under Brady v. Maryland, with exculpatory information in its possession, and to provide the defendant with government witnesses' prior written statements pursuant to the Jencks Act.

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PRIVATISATION DU RENSEIGNEMENT & DE LA SÉCURITÉ

Department of Defense Contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan: Background and Analysis CRS – Moshe Schwartz, Joyprada Swain

The critical role contractors play in supporting military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq necessitates that the Department of Defense (DOD) effectively manage contractors during contingency operations. Lack of sufficient contract management can delay or even prevent troops from receiving needed support and can also result in wasteful spending. Some analysts believe that poor contract management has played a role in permitting abuses and crimes committed by certain contractors against local nationals, which may have undermined U.S. counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. This report provides a detailed analysis of contractor personnel trends and contracting dollars obligated in U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), Afghanistan, and Iraq.

La privatisation du renseignement américain - Romain Foliard

L'« externalisation » ou la « privatisation » de la sécurité n'est pas un phénomène nouveau, surtout aux États-Unis, mais il s'est largement développé et devient particulièrement visible à partir de 2003 avec la guerre en Irak. Plusieurs « bavures », dont celle concernant la société Blackwater [la plus connue des sociétés de sécurité

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FORCES ET OPÉRATIONS SPÉCIALES

SAS faces recruitment crisis - Brigadier Richard Dennis

The SAS is facing a recruitment crisis because soldiers do not have time to train for demanding selection tests, the head of the infantry has warned.

Brigadier Richard Dennis said it needed better quality applicants, in a letter leaked to the Daily Telegraph. But Brig Dennis said high tempo and «unrelentingly demanding» Afghan operations were combining to «mitigate against special forces recruitment»

U.S. Sends New Elite Forces to Afghanistan As Drawdown Looms

Although it is rarely discussed in Washington, the Afghan conflict has morphed into a shadow war that pits small teams of so-called «hunter-killers» from the Rangers, the Army's Operational Detachment-Delta, the Navy's Seal Team Six, and other secretive U.S. units against plain-clothed militants from the Taliban, the Haqqani network, and other Islamist fighting organizations.

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U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF): Background and Issues for Congress **CRS, Andrew Feickert, Thomas K. Livingston**

Special Operations Forces (SOF) play a significant role in U.S. military operations, and the Administration has given U.S. SOF greater responsibility for planning and conducting worldwide counterterrorism operations. U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) has close to 60,000 active duty, National Guard, and reserve personnel from all four services and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians assigned to its headquarters, its four components, and one sub-unified command. The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) directs increases in SOF force structure, particularly in terms of increasing enabling units and rotary and fixed-wing SOF aviation assets and units. USSOCOM Commander, Admiral Eric T. Olson, in commenting on the current state of the forces under his command, noted that since September 11, 2001, USSOCOM manpower has nearly doubled, the budget nearly tripled, and overseas deployments have quadrupled; because of this high level of demand, the admiral added, SOF is beginning to show some “fraying around the edges” and one potential way to combat this is by finding ways to get SOF “more time at home.” Admiral Olson also noted the effectiveness of Section 1208 authority, which provides funds for SOF to train and equip regular and irregular indigenous forces to conduct counterterrorism operations.

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..... GUERRE DE L'INFORMATION

PSYOP Soldiers: Winning the War – One Friendship at a Time **By 1st Lt. Amy Abbott – Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team**

L'affaire des « F16 israéliens de Tabuk »

Retour sur un fait divers oublié, à classer à la rubrique « Psyops ». Le 13 juin 2010, l'agence iranienne Fars News publie un communiqué sibyllin faisant état de la présence d'avions de chasse israéliens sur la base saoudienne de Tabuk dans le Nord du Royaume.

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..... CYBERMENACES

Best Practices for Keeping Your Home Network Secure – National Security Agency

The Symantec Internet Security Threat Report (ISTR) Volume 16

Our main report is available for download as a single PDF file. It includes all the notable and important information on the threat landscape of 2010, without the volumes of supporting metrics usually found in the appendices.

One point of interest in this most recent report is the continued prevalence of malicious code propagation through the sharing of malicious executables on removable media. This propagation mechanism has been ranked at the top for quite some time now, with no signs of coming down.

FBI's ability to address national security cyberthreats today

DOJ report critical of FBI ability to fight national cyber intrusions

The report went on to say that the FBI's strategy of rotating agents every three years among FBI field offices, in an effort to encourage a variety of work experiences, hinders the agents' cybersecurity abilities. That's because upon transfer, these agents may not be assigned a cybersecurity function at the new office, wasting their expertise.

The DOJ also said many field office cyberforensic and analytical capabilities were «inadequate.» The report was also critical of the FBI's inter-agency cybersecurity task force to share investigation information with other task force members.

Russia-U.S. Bilateral On Critical Infrastructure Protection – Working Towards Rules for Governing Cyber Conflict **Rendering the Geneva and Hague Conventions in Cyberspace – Karl Frederick Rauscher & Andrey Korotkov**

Cybersecurity is the new challenge for continued cooperation between Russia and the United States as well as the entire international community. This is an area where there is precious little trust or international cooperation, and no real agreed norms for behavior. At the same time, countries everywhere are increasingly concerned about the intentions and capabilities of non-state actors. Yet the globe's netizens, businesses and public officials rely on the fact that some complex system they don't understand will keep functioning. The global economy itself is now completely dependent on digital tools, which means it is increasingly vulnerable to disruption by state or non-state actors. This is a dangerous situation. There's an urgent need for international cooperation on this most strategic of issues. If we fail in this task, global stability could be as threatened as it would be by a nuclear exchange.

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..... TERRORISME

Clashes Erupt Between Khyber Tribesmen and Lashkar-e-Islam Militants – The Jamestown Foundation

The Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI), a Mangal Bagh-led militant organization based in the Khyber Tribal Agency, is facing a serious threat to its existence after recent clashes with an LeI splinter group comprised of Zakakhel tribesmen. Efforts by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to forge a peace deal between the warring groups have failed. The Ansar-ul-Islam (AI), an arch-rival of the LeI, has now joined hands with the Zakakhel and the resulting clashes have forced hundreds of local families to flee the area.

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Terror, Security, and Money: Balancing the Risks, Benefits, and Costs of Homeland Security **Centre for Infrastructure Performance and Reliability (CIPAR), University of Newcastle**

The cumulative increase in expenditures on US domestic homeland security over the decade since 9/11 exceeds one trillion dollars. It is clearly time to examine these massive expenditures applying risk assessment and cost-benefit approaches that have been standard for decades. Thus far, officials do not seem to have done so and have engaged in various forms of probability neglect by focusing on worst case scenarios; adding, rather than multiplying, the probabilities; assessing relative, rather than absolute, risk; and inflating terrorist capacities and the importance of potential terrorist targets. We find that enhanced expenditures have been excessive: to be deemed cost-effective in analyses that substantially bias the consideration toward the opposite conclusion, they would have to deter, prevent, foil, or protect against 1,667 otherwise successful Times-Square type attacks per year, or more than four per day. Although there are emotional and political pressures on the terrorism issue, this does not relieve politicians and bureaucrats of the fundamental responsibility of informing the public of the limited risk that terrorism presents and of seeking to expend funds wisely. Moreover, political concerns may be over-wrought: restrained reaction has often proved to be entirely acceptable politically.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Terrorism Investigations – CRS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI, the Bureau) is the lead federal law enforcement agency charged with counterterrorism investigations. Since the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attacks, the FBI has implemented a series of reforms intended to transform itself from a largely reactive law enforcement agency focused on investigations of criminal activity into a more proactive, agile, flexible, and intelligence-driven agency that can prevent acts of terrorism. This report sets forth possible considerations for Congress as it executes its oversight role. These issues include the extent to which intelligence has been integrated into FBI operations to support its counterterrorism mission and the progress the Bureau has made on its intelligence reform initiatives. In addition, these issues will also be relevant during confirmation hearings for a new director. The statutory 10-year term of current FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III expires in September 2011. A new director will be subject to Senate confirmation.

Indonesian Jihadism: Small Groups, Big Plans – International Crisis Group

Violent extremism in Indonesia increasingly is taking the form of small groups acting independently of large jihadi organisations. This is in part a response to effective law enforcement that has resulted in widespread arrests and structural weakening of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), Jama'ah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT) and other organisations accused of links to terrorism. But it is also the result of ideological shifts that favour "individual" over "organisational" jihad and low-cost, small-scale targeted killings over mass casualty attacks that inadvertently kill Muslims.

The report looks at detailed case studies of small violent groups that have emerged in Indonesia in 2009 and 2010 in Medan and Lampung, on Sumatra, and in Bandung and Klaten, on Java. All involved at least one former prisoner; three of the four had links to JAT but operated independently of JAT control. Three of the four also involved mosque-based study groups that evolved into hit squads, and all were committed to the idea of *ightiyalat*, secret assassinations. In none of them was poverty a significant driver of radicalisation.

Al-Qaeda's Persistent Sanctuary – Real Instituto Elcano

Since the mid-1990s, al-Qaeda's senior leadership has enjoyed a sanctuary in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Today, al-Qaeda continues to present a grave threat from this region by providing strategic guidance, overseeing or encouraging terrorist operations, managing a robust propaganda campaign, conducting training and collecting and distributing financial assistance. As demonstrated over the past year, key al-Qaeda operatives such as Ilyas Kashmiri have been involved in plots to conduct Mumbai-style attacks in Europe, target a newspaper in Copenhagen that published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad and bomb New York. The US, for example, has narrowly escaped several imminent attacks. Faisal Shahzad, who was trained in Pakistan, constructed several bombs, placed them in the back of his Nissan Pathfinder sports utility vehicle and drove into Times Square in New York City on a congested Saturday night in 2010. Only fortune intervened, since all three bombs malfunctioned. It may be tempting to focus predominantly on terrorist threats to the West from Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Egypt and other countries in the Arab world because of the widespread unrest and on-going violence, but this would be a dangerous mistake.

Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects

Lashkar-e-Taiba (the Army of the Pure or LeT) is one of Pakistan's oldest and most powerful jihadi groups. Yet despite its long and bloody history, LeT only began generating significant attention outside South Asia after launching a multi-target attack on the Indian city of Mumbai in November 2008. The boldness of the Mumbai attacks and target selection suggested LeT continued to prioritize jihad against India, but was moving deeper into al-Qaeda's orbit.

This paper seeks to explain how LeT became so powerful, as well as to address the evolving nature of the threat that LeT poses and, more broadly, to provide a general overview of the group. It argues that to understand LeT, one must recognize the two dualities that define it. The first is that it is a missionary and a militant organization that for most of its history has placed an equivalent emphasis on reshaping society at home (through preaching and social welfare) and on waging violent jihad abroad. The second is that its military activities are informed both by its pan-Islamist rationale for jihad and its role as a proxy for the Pakistani state. LeT was able to grow into a powerful and protected organization in Pakistan as a result of its ability to reconcile these dualities.

West Africa's Growing Terrorist Threat: Confronting AQIM's Sahelian Strategy

Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has undertaken increasingly frequent and effective attacks in the past year, posing a dangerous and growing threat in Africa's Sahel region. Reversing this trend presents a particularly complex challenge as AQIM has simultaneously strengthened ties to local communities and regional criminal networks. Efforts to counter AQIM will require collaborative region-wide strategies that feature complementary security and development

The New Terrorism: Understanding Yemen – Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute

Yemen is failing. Not only is it the Arab world's poorest nation and challenged by mass protests, it is home to a resurgent al-Qaeda, a northern Shi'ite uprising and a revitalized southern secessionist movement. Yemen's 1990 North-South unification is not working. Today, Yemen stands alongside Pakistan as one of the most important al-Qaeda strongholds in the world and many of that organization's most dangerous operations have originated there. Judging from their actions, the extremists are both motivated and highly capable. In brief, the underlying sources of instability in Yemen are insoluble over the short run. The country is running out of oil and water. Its leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh, is proving incapable of holding the country together without force. Transitioning Yemen towards a more democratic system will only mean a hardening of tribal divisions and a deepening of the corruption, clientelism and cronyism that are rife throughout the country.

The North Caucasus: Russia's Volatile Frontier—Center for Strategic and International Studies

Continued violence and unrest in the North Caucasus have created a major area of instability for the Russian Federation. Although Chechnya is relatively more stable, for now, under the brutal dictatorship of Ramzan Kadyrov, neighboring republics including Ingushetia, Dagestan, and others have experienced significant increases in the frequency of violence. The entire region is plagued by extreme poverty, high unemployment, and corrupt and often incompetent governance. Additionally, the prevalence of radical Islamic influences as well as growing competitive nationalist identities further increases the challenges for governance and stability.

The Russian federal government seeks to insulate the rest of the country from the overflow of violence in this volatile region, but terrorist attacks in the past year on the Moscow Metro and again on the train between Moscow and St. Petersburg demonstrate how hard this is to manage. Kuchins, Malarkey, and Markedonov examine the socioeconomic trends in the region, the role of Islam and rise of radicalism throughout the Caucasus, nationalism and growing ethnic tensions, and the external factors influencing the North Caucasus.

Skyjacking: A CIA Analysis and History

A July 1982 CIA study on "terrorist skyjacking". The use of "Skyjacking" to describe airline hijackings makes this report worthwhile by itself because SKYJACKING is a boss word and deserves to be resurrected from its linguistic purgatory. This 24-page CIA report is a statistical study with historical commentary on the rise and prevalence of terrorist skyjackings and presumably garden-variety skyjackings since the first "terrorist skyjacking" took place in 1968 when the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) seized an El-Al jet liner.(1) The CIA's statistics reveal a great deal of common wisdom challenging information.

Jihad in Saudi Arabia. Violence and pan-islamism since 1979, Thomas Hegghammer (Cambridge University Press, 2010) • Les Islamistes saoudiens. Une insurrection manquée, Stéphane Lacroix (PUF, 2010)

Politique Etrangère volume 76, n°1, paru le 21 mars 2011 – revue des livres par Jean-Pierre Filiu

Le chercheur norvégien Thomas Hegghammer et son collègue français Stéphane Lacroix sont deux des représentants les plus prometteurs de la nouvelle génération d'arabisants. Parfaitement à l'aise dans la langue du Prophète, ils ont consacré des années de recherche minutieuse à l'étude de l'Arabie Saoudite, pays déjà en soi d'accès ardu, et ils ont choisi d'approfondir la connaissance de l'islamisme local dans ses différentes facettes et avec toutes ses retombées internationales. Ils avaient déjà rédigé ensemble un article de référence sur le soulèvement messianique de La Mecque en novembre 1979 (« Rejectionist Islam in Saudi Arabia: The Story of Juhayman al-'Utaybi Revisited », International Journal of Middle East Studies, 2007). Après avoir soutenu leurs thèses de doctorat, tous deux sous la direction de Gilles Kepel, ils les ont retravaillées, l'un à Harvard et à Princeton, l'autre à Stanford, pour en tirer la matière de ces deux ouvrages appelés à marquer durablement le champ de la recherche sur l'Arabie Saoudite et l'islamisme contemporain.

Half Of U.S. Food Imported, At Risk Of Bioterrorism

A few months after the Obama Administration bragged about enacting "sweeping" legislation to protect the nation's food supply, experts at a federal symposium reveal that half of what Americans eat comes from foreign countries not covered by the measure.

This leaves the nation vulnerable to bioterrorism via tainted food, according to experts participating in the FBI's International Symposium on Agroterrorism. The annual event, taking place in Kansas City this week, aims to protect the world's food supply from terrorism through information-sharing and collaboration among governments, the private sector and academia.

PROLIFÉRATION ET TRAFIC D'ARMES

Scraping the Barrel: The Trade in Surplus Ammunition – Small Arms Survey Issue Brief

Scraping the Barrel examines the relevance of the trade in surplus ammunition to transfer controls. While most of the transfers described in the Issue Brief were authorized by both the supplying and the purchasing governments—there were some that were carried out in violation of applicable international law, such as legally binding embargoes or moratoria ; explains the significance of the international surplus ammunition business, with examples of surplus transfers involving Europe, the United States, Afghanistan, and Iraq. It also discusses more detailed case studies of surplus transfers in African conflict zones—including West Africa and the Great Lakes region—that featured prominently in recent reports of the UN Groups and Panels of Experts.

Merchants of Death': The Problem of Landmines in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam – CLAWS

Landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) are counted among the most serious obstacles to post-war societies.1 They have hampered the sustainable development of many countries across the world. Landmines often deprive the affected populations of the basic amenities including access to potable water, health facilities and the use of arable land, among other things.2 According to estimates, between ninety-five million, and one hundred and ten million mines are scattered throughout sixty-four countries of the world.

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CRIMINALITÉ ET MAFIAS

Central America Regional Security Initiative: Background and Policy Issues for Congress March 30, 2011 - Peter J. Meyer, Clare Ribando Seelke – CRS

Central America faces significant security challenges. Criminal threats, fragile political and judicial systems, and social hardships such as poverty and unemployment contribute to widespread insecurity in the region. Consequently, improving security conditions in these countries is a difficult, multifaceted endeavor. Because U.S. drug demand contributes to regional security challenges and the consequences of citizen insecurity in Central America are potentially far-reaching, the United States is collaborating with countries in the region to implement and refine security efforts.

Transnational Crime in the Fishing Industry: Asia's Problem? – RSRS - Euan Graham

The neglected nexus of transnational organised crime and the fishing industry is a global problem, with particular relevance to Asia.

Afghanistan's Drug Career: Evolution from a War Economy to a Drug Economy Afghanistan Analysts Network – German Institute for International and Security Affairs

This new AAN thematic report (with SWP Berlin) by German scholar Citha D. Maass looks into the beginnings and the evolution of drug production in Afghanistan during its three decades-long war. Starting with the Western-supported anti-Soviet jihad in 1979, drug production became a major base for the country's war economy. After the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, the US rehabilitated the former mujahedin leaders who – as the Taliban regime had done – funded themselves to a large extent by trafficking drugs and turned into 'war entrepreneurs'. From 2002 onwards, President Hamed Karzai co-opted these war entrepreneurs into the new political system. As a result, a new drugs economy consolidated, beginning in 2005, resulting in a new regulative system in post-war Afghanistan which she terms a 'criminalized peace'.

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CONFLITS ARMÉS

Strained Alliances: Iran's Troubled Relations to Afghanistan and Pakistan Danish Institute for International Studies

This report offers a critical examination of Iran's influence in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Two points are made: that Iran's top priority is its own regime's survival and its regional policies are directed by its national security concerns. Secondly, that Iran's engagements in Afghanistan are clearly guided by the presence of the US. Iran's predominant interest is in stabilizing Afghanistan, but as long as Afghanistan is neither safe nor stable, Iran will play a double game and engage with its regional neighbours according to the US-Iran equation. Deterrence, counter-containment and competition are the keywords in these complex relations. The report outlines Iran's reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, its political platform and 'soft power', and the bonds of mutual dependency in terms of water rights, refugees and drug trafficking. It examines Iran's alleged military interventions and the reasons for playing this double game. Lastly, the report discusses Iran's tense relationship with Pakistan with regard to both Afghanistan and the troubled region of Baluchistan.

Central Asian Security Trends: Views from Europe and Russia Strategic Studies Institute – United States Army War College

The war in Afghanistan has added considerably to the strategic significance of Central Asia due to its proximity to the conflict. Moreover, the continuation of the war increasingly involves the vital interests of many other actors other than the U.S. and NATO forces currently there. This monograph, taken from SSI's conference with European and Russian scholars in 2010, provides a comprehensive analysis of the means and objectives of Russia's involvement in Central Asia. It also provides Russian perspectives concerning the other actors in Central Asia and how Moscow views the policy significance of those efforts.

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Fighting Small Wars in the New Century – RSIS

Organized into four distinct but inter-related thematic panels, this two-day workshop will draw upon the multidisciplinary expertise of several subject matter experts to elucidate the complexity of fighting contemporary small wars and provide a forum of discourse for middle management and Senior SAF officers. The selected speakers are established academics and practitioners with substantial experience in policy and doctrine formulation. The first panel will tackle various aspects of Security, Stability, Transition and Reconstruction (SSTR) both conceptually and in operational terms—with an emphasis on the military's role in such operations. The second panel will address the salience of media, information and public opinion in the credibility-centric wars of the twenty-first century. The third panel will focus on national and institutional approaches to small wars, low intensity conflict (LIC) and counter-insurgency (COIN)—particularly on issues that bear a direct relevance to the SAF's Contemporary Operating Environment (COE). The final two panels will come to grips with the challenges posed by asymmetry as well as possible approaches and intellectual tools that can be used to address such challenges.

SIGIR's quarterly report on Iraq reconstruction – April 2011: Quarterly Report To Congress

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..... RISQUES INTERNATIONAUX

Non-Governmental Organizations' Activities in North Korea – CRS, Mi Ae Taylor, Mark E. Manyin

The role of NGOs in North Korea may re-emerge as a congressional interest, as the Obama Administration has expressed interest in restarting humanitarian assistance to North Korea. During the Bush Administration, five large U.S. NGOs were part of a food delivery program that enjoyed some success. Some believed they were more effective than international organizations at navigating the North Korean system to get aid where it was needed. But some organizations opted to cease their operations when North Korean restrictions became too onerous.

Concept of United Islamic Entity in South East Asia – Maloy Krishna Dhar

Turkey-U.S. Defense Cooperation: Prospects and Challenges – CRS

Soulèvements populaires en Afrique du Nord et au Moyen-Orient (IV): La voie tunisienne – Crisis group

Thailand: The Calm Before Another Storm? – International Crisis Group

Nearly a year after the crackdown on anti-establishment demonstrations, Thailand is preparing for a general election. Despite government efforts to suppress the Red Shirt movement, support remains strong and the deep political divide has not gone away. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's roadmap for reconciliation has led almost nowhere. Although there have been amateurish bomb attacks carried out by angry Red Shirts since the crackdown, fears of an underground battle have not materialised. On the other side, the Yellow Shirts have stepped up their nationalist campaigns against the Democrat Party-led government that their earlier rallies had helped bring to power. They are now claiming elections are useless in "dirty" politics and urging Thais to refuse to vote for any of the political parties. Even if the elections are free, fair and peaceful, it will still be a challenge for all sides to accept the results. If another coalition is pushed together under pressure from the royalist establishment, it will be a rallying cry for renewed mass protests by the Red Shirts that could plunge Thailand into more violent confrontation.

Saudi Security in a Time of Change – Center for Strategic and International Studies

The MENA region has begun a process of political change and turmoil that will take years to play out, and which could destabilize some MENA countries for a decade or more as a worst case. There is a tangible risk that Saudi Arabia will be affected in the short term, and it will take continued leadership and vision for Saudi Arab to deal with its longer-term internal challenges. Saudi Arabia is scarcely immune to protest and dissent, and has long struggled with the challenges of reform. What is most striking about the Kingdom over the past months of crisis, however, is the lack of any major challenge to government and the way it functions.

As a result, the most serious challenges to Saudi stability may be structural. These are challenges that will only emerge over time, and then only threaten Saudi stability if its government is unsuccessful in continuing to evolve towards reform and in meeting the needs of its people.

Urban Fragility and Security in Africa – Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Africa's rapid urbanization is a new and underappreciated driver of state fragility. Fostered by prospects of economic opportunity, conflict-related displacement, and environmental pressures in rural areas, Africa's cities are growing by an estimated 15 to 18 million people each year. With more than 40 percent of Africans below the age of 15, many of them destitute, Africa's cities have become densely concentrated centers of unemployed young men. This is a combustible mix that can intensify violent crime, gang activity, illicit trafficking, links to transnational organized criminal syndicates, and political instability. The repercussions affect virtually every country on the continent. The slums of Kibera (Nairobi), Karu (Abuja), Soweto (Johannesburg), Camp Luka (Kinshasa), Bonaberi (Douala), and elsewhere are already largely no-go zones for state security forces. And as urbanization accelerates, the security problems are likely to grow worse.

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Regional Workshop on Dealing with Energy Vulnerabilities – RSIS Centre for NTS Studies

Much literature on energy security in East Asia has focused on the dynamics of competition over resources, and how conflicts could arise from this. While this analytical perspective identifies potential risks and is conducive to the proposing of pre-emptive solutions to likely problems, it also risks precluding necessary attention to the possibilities for cooperation between states in the region.

This report comprises the proceedings of a regional workshop on energy security held on 9–10 December 2010. The workshop reviewed case studies of how countries in East Asia have managed to overcome their respective vulnerabilities and thus meet their energy needs. It aims to contribute to the exploration of cooperation-based solutions for addressing energy security in the region.

Resource Scarcity, A Global Security Threat? – Institute for International and Security Affairs

For a decade we have been living through a period of great turbulence in the commodity markets. Rising and sometimes highly volatile prices, strong geological and market concentration, and state intervention in the commodity markets all stoke fears of future supply bottlenecks and an expectation of ensuing international tension and violent confrontation. The list of recent incidents is long: the gas dispute between Russia, Ukraine and the EU; food revolts in Haiti, Tunisia and Algeria; China's trade conflict with the United States and the EU over export restrictions imposed on many metals; and the confrontation between China and Japan over China's export ban on rare earths to name just a few.

The central questions of the study 'Resource Scarcity – A Global Security Threat?' are therefore: Under what circumstances does resource scarcity lead to conflicts? And how can latent and acute conflicts over scarce resources be contained and regulated?

Iranian Reaction to the Great Syrian Revolt – The Jamestown Foundation

In response to the uprisings spreading throughout the Arab world, Iran has reacted in such a way to maximize its power and potential influence in the region. Until April, Tehran had largely framed the current events in terms of the renewal of the 1979 Islamic revolution. This official narrative has been undermined by the growing unrest in the secular Arab state of Syria, which forced Iran to break its silence on the matter and provide new narratives for domestic consumption. Tehran's challenge, however, is to successfully spin the recent events in order to explain the uprisings in secular Syria while still sticking to its original description of the region's unrest as an "Islamic Awakening." Such a narrative is important for a continued alliance between Damascus and Tehran, which has been relatively strong since 1980, especially in the aftermath of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. By assisting Damascus with the necessary intelligence and security measures to deal with its opposition movement, Tehran will be able to secure its relationship with the key Arab state, and will continue to thwart Arab adversaries like Iraq and Saudi Arabia. If successful in its reaction to the events in Syria, Tehran will be able to reinforce its national interests and expand its reach in the region. If Syria is unsuccessful in subduing its revolt and goes the route of Egypt, then Iran will lose a major strategic ally and access to Hezbollah in Lebanon, which could have a major impact on Iran's position in the Middle East.

Gaza: The Next Israeli-Palestinian War? – International Crisis Group

Will the next Middle East conflagration involve Israelis and Palestinians? After the serious escalation of the past week in which eight Gazans, including children, were killed in a single day, and the 23 March 2011 bombing in Jerusalem, that took the life of one and wounded dozens, there is real reason to worry. The sharp deterioration on this front is not directly related, nor is it in any way similar to the events that have engulfed the Middle East and North Africa. But the overall context of instability and uncertainty undoubtedly has made a volatile situation even more so. Israelis' anxiety is rising and with it the fear that outside parties might seek to provoke hostilities to divert attention from domestic problems and shift the focus back to Israel. Hamas has been emboldened by regional events and is therefore less likely to back down from a challenge. The combination, as recent days have shown, has proven combustible.

The Challenges of Maritime Security

In this week's ISN Podcast, CNA's Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt discusses the important challenges facing maritime security and developments in collaborative activities among the major powers, especially in regions where the risks to sea-borne passage and global trade are substantial.

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