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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[A Strategy for Comprehensive Peace in Sudan](#)

International Crisis Group – 26 July 2007

Lasting peace in Sudan requires a new strategy, one which tackles its multiple conflicts and potential conflicts in a consistent manner. The overwhelming international concentration on Darfur has come at the expense of the broader quest for peace in the country. Unless a more balanced approach is developed, Darfur will continue to suffer, and new wars are likely. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended Africa's longest-running civil war, contains the detailed provisions and schedule for governmental reforms and a democratisation process leading to national elections in 2009 which can be the building blocks for peacemaking in Darfur and elsewhere. It is in danger of collapse, however, due to government sabotage and international neglect, the latter a cruel irony in that preoccupation to conclude the CPA negotiations led to initial reluctance to address the developing Darfur crisis in 2003-2004. Urgent efforts are needed to build consensus among the main international players on a strategy for obtaining implementation of key CPA benchmarks.

[Elections, Democracy and Stability in Pakistan](#)

International Crisis Group – 31 July 2007

President Musharraf faces the most serious challenge to almost eight years of military rule. Opposition has gathered momentum following his failed attempt to remove the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Moderate political parties, all segments of civil society and the public at large are vociferously demanding restoration of democracy and rule of law and the military's withdrawal from politics. The choice is not whether a transition will come but whether it will be peaceful and orderly, through free and fair elections, or violent. Musharraf and the high command are tempted to retain their power at all costs. Several of their options – particularly emergency – could portend disaster. Rigged or stalled elections would destabilise Pakistan, with serious international security consequences. Especially the U.S., needs to recognise its own interests are no longer served by military rule (if they ever really were) and use its considerable leverage to persuade the generals to return to the barracks and accept a democratic transition through free and fair parliamentary, followed by presidential, elections this year.

[How to Save Iraqi Kurdistan from Itself](#)

Foreign Policy – July 2007

With Gaza under the sway of Hamas, Lebanon paralyzed, and Iraq near collapse, the Middle East has never looked more perilous. But if the United States doesn't move to defuse the dangerous situation in Iraqi Kurdistan fast, Washington could find itself with yet another ticking time bomb.

[The Situation in Iraq](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – 18 July 2007

The current conversation in Washington badly distorts what is happening in Iraq and what our options are. As it has from the very beginning, U.S. strategy has more to do with political needs in Washington than it has to realities on the ground – to our continuing confusion and detriment. Five key considerations provide a more clear-eyed view and may offer a new approach for the way forward. The premise of our current strategy — that a political solution would follow if the violence could be reduced — is false. What is underway today in Iraq is a natural and inevitable struggle for power. The American presence delays what will eventually happen anyway

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[No End in Sight](#)

The National Interest – 24 July 2007

On July 23 *The National Interest* hosted a discussion on the terrorist threat featuring Daniel Byman, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center and the director of the Center for Peace and Security Studies at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Byman noted that after six years of fighting the War on Terror, "the glass is only half full"—a "disappointing" result in light of the top priority given to combating terrorism. The United States views terrorism as its "über-adversary", but in most cases terrorist organizations make "stupid mistakes", get caught by the authorities and "go out of business", Byman said. Al-Qaeda, however, is the exception to this rule.

[Arrested Development – Jemaah Islamiyah Down but Not Out](#)

Janes Intelligence Review – 19 July 2007

Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) suffered a significant setback in June after Indonesian police arrested two of the group's leaders. The separate arrests of Ainul Bahri Abu Dujana, a JI military commander, and Zarkasih alias Nuaim alias Abu Irsyad, its alleged 'emergency amir', suggested that the terrorist organisation had been disrupted. Certainly, for now the group's scope is much reduced. It is no longer a regional organisation; its administrative structure is confined to Indonesia, although individual members remain scattered across the area. Moreover, JI is not active beyond the region and is not affiliated to Al-Qaeda. Its current leaders reject Al-Qaeda tactics and the last funding received from Al-Qaeda in 2003 went to a splinter group led by Noordin Mohammed Top, not the main JI group.

However, although the arrests are likely to affect the group's efficacy, tactics, strategy and threat in the near term, JI is still very much alive. The organisation's intricate web of family, business and social ties should allow it not only to survive but adapt and regenerate. In the near term, JI will be focused on rebuilding and remains dangerous less as a terrorist organisation in its own right than as a recruiting pool for smaller, more hardline groups. One fear now is that some of the fugitive JI members in the southern Philippines have returned, or are in the process of returning, to Indonesia, where they could kindle new support for anti-Western operations.

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[FY08 Budget Request Marks Shift in US Asia-Pacific Security Priorities](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 31 July 2007

Shifting US security priorities in the Asia-Pacific region are evident from the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) budget request for international affairs recently submitted by the US State Department. The State Department offers defence-related support in two main areas: Foreign Military Financing (FMF), which governments use to buy military equipment from the US; and the International Military Education and Training (IMET) programme, which funds training programmes provided by Washington. The overall FMF budget request aims for a modest increase of 1.8 per cent to USD4.54 billion in FY08, while IMET funding would rise by 5 per cent to USD89.5 million. Both figures cover global activity. In East Asia and the Pacific, the proposed FMF allocation would drop by 17.4 per cent to USD31.3 million, while South and Central Asia would remain relatively steady at USD305.9 million. The IMET allocation for the former region would slide by 18.8 per cent to USD7.4 million while gaining 15 per cent to USD10.5 million for the latter.

[Philippines, US Move Towards Closer Training Ties](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 18 July 2007

The Philippines and the US are in talks to upgrade their joint military training activities, with proposals under discussion to develop several training areas on Philippine territory. A separate initiative could further see some limited involvement by the Republic of Korea (ROK, South Korea) Marine Corps. "Discussions among US forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are ongoing regarding development of a National/Combined Training Centre (NTC/CTC), most likely to be situated at Fort Magsaysay," a source close to the talks told *Jane's*. "The intent is to develop a training area suited for a sizeable AFP unit to conduct combined-arms live fire and manoeuvre

training with up to a [US Marine Corps] Marine Expeditionary Unit-sized air-ground task force."

[Moscow Strengthens Missile Defence with Planned S-400 Deployment](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 19 July 2007

Russia is set to deploy the fourth-generation S-400 (Triumpf) self-propelled low-to-high altitude surface-to-air missile system to defend Moscow by the end of July, Russian Air Force spokesman Alexander Drobyshevsky announced on 16 July. "One regiment and a command point will be put into combat duty at the end of the month," Drobyshevsky said. The system is scheduled to operate out of Elektrostal in the Moscow region.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Another Aircraft Joins Military Drone Market](#)

National Defense Magazine – July 2007

Xcelaero Corp. of San Luis Obispo, Calif., has unveiled a subscale, subsonic drone that is designed to carry common target and training payloads. The NXT 400, which remains in development, is operated by a three person crew and flies in excess of 400 miles per hour up to 30,000 feet. Upon arriving on site, the crew can have the aircraft up and flying in about three hours, says a spokesman. The drone is intended for use by the Air Force, Navy and Army.

[Army Eyes Next Generation Power Sources](#)

National Defense Magazine – July 2007

The Army is investigating potential applications of high energy batteries and Stirling engines, among other technologies, said Mike Brundage, chief of power applications at the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. The Army is interested in lithium ion carbon monofluoride (Li/CFx) batteries to replace the BA-5590 standard military battery, he said at a conference hosted here by the National Defense Industrial Association.

[New Prosthesis Could Help Keep Troops in the Fight](#)

Space War – 25 July 2007

A new prosthesis under development will give servicemember amputees more flexibility and help them better perform their military jobs if they choose to stay on active duty. A preview of the new technology July 17 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here drew key staff and several servicemember amputees. The open forum allowed users to see improvements in prototype form and ask developers questions or offer suggestions.

[US Marine Corps Begins Transitioning to Shadow Tactical UAS](#)

Space War – 20 July 2007

United Industrial Corporation has announced that its AAI Corporation subsidiary has begun training U.S. Marine Corps personnel to fly and maintain Shadow tactical unmanned aircraft systems (TUAS) in preparation for the service's transition later this year to the Shadow surveillance, reconnaissance, and intelligence-gathering system.

[Sensors May Monitor Aircraft For Defects Continuously](#)

Space War – 20 July 2007

Networks of sensors mounted on commercial aircraft might one day check continuously for the formation of structural defects, possibly reducing or eliminating scheduled aircraft inspections. Like nerve endings in a human body, in situ sensors offer levels of vigilance and sensitivity to problems that periodic checkups cannot, says Dennis Roach, who leads a Sandia National Laboratories team evaluating some of the first sensor systems for aircraft.

MILITARY OPERATION

[Iraq Withdrawal Will Be Condition Driven, Says UK Armed Forces Minister](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 26 July 2007

Any decision to withdraw from Iraq will be condition driven, and not brought about by political or financial pressure from the UK, Minister for Armed Forces Bob Ainsworth told the House of Commons Defence Select Committee on 24 July. Giving evidence for a report on UK operations in Iraq, he said: "We are there in lower numbers than we were; we've handed over three areas we had direct control over. Basra is more difficult ... we are there to achieve conditions."

[Troops Converse with Iraqis Via Compact Translator](#)

National Defense Magazine – July 2007

Troops in Iraq now have access to a voice-to-voice translator that was developed by IWT Inc. and Laguna Industries Inc., two California technology companies. Users, who include Army, Special Forces, Marine, Coast Guard and Navy personnel, simply speak into the Voice Response Translator. They are able to issue short instructions or ask brief questions to Iraqi citizens.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[Talking Iran at the UNSC Table](#)

The National Interest – 30 July 2007

We've heard from a series of international diplomats that the drafting of the next UN Security Council sanctions resolution on Iran is now slated to begin in September. That's a delay of roughly sixty days, despite no hint of a breakthrough in negotiations on the Iranian nuclear program. There are a few reasons. First, Iran's "transparency" initiative, while so far only reopening a site for inspections that was closed several months ago, and refusing to provide broad access to Iranian nuclear program, is a sign nonetheless of forward progress. Russia and China have privately expressed their desire to give the Iranians the opportunity to offer further concessions. In addition, the Europeans want to give the Iranian-U.S. talks on Iraq (the second round of which occurred last week) a chance to work. But adding to both of these points, the Bush Administration is so focused on their September Iraq deadline that they have to hold off to have the operational bandwidth for any serious Iran push.

[The N-Team](#)

The Indian Express – 29 July 2007

The United States and India announced the completion of negotiations on the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal on July 27. A recent *Indian Express* article by Pranab Dhal Samanta discusses the individuals and crucial moments that provided the political climate for the two countries to reach an agreement.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[Indonesian Papua: A Local Perspective on the Conflict](#)

International Crisis Group – 26 July 2007

Most outside observers see only one dimension of conflict in Papua – the Indonesian government vs. the independence movement – but it is much more complex. Tensions among tribal groups and between indigenous Papuans and non-Papuan settlers, as well as competition over political power and access to spoils at the district and sub-district levels, are also important. The issues vary substantially from one region to another. National and international attention has tended to focus on the northern coast and the central highlands, with relatively little on the districts in the south, which have long felt excluded from politics in the Papuan capital, Jayapura.