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**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 July 2008 5:06  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 1. Strategy/International [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: Australia and Australian military forces are crucial defenders of human freedom and democratic governance. These forces must be funded and equipped for a world facing threats from Islamist terrorists such as Al Qaida, rogue regimes like Iran and North Korea, internecine ethnic conflicts in areas as diverse as South Asia and Southeast Asia, and a steadily growing Chinese military that will increasingly seek to assert its power during the 21st century.

Australian forces must continue upgrading their superb and highly professional training, continue enhancing their interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces, and increase their ability to conduct unilateral and multilateral offensive and defensive counterinsurgency operations, information warfare, maritime interdiction, ballistic missile defense, and space-based operations against national and transnational enemies. A robust intelligence gathering and analytical apparatus is also essential for achieving these objectives in light of flexible enemies and continually advancing evolving technological developments.

Australia's civilian and military policymakers must also be willing and able to communicate to domestic and international opinion that preemptive military action will increasingly be necessary to defend vital national interests, that only national executive/parliamentary authority is legally and morally required to initiate military operations, and that effective military forces and the willingness to use these forces, instead of vapid rhetorical declarations about peace, are the ultimate arbiter of peaceful national and international security environments. The world should remember that the recent rescue of hostages from Colombia's FARC terrorist group was accomplished through high-quality intelligence and the effective use of military force instead of thru muddlehead pleas by the European Union to release hostages who were being held by bloodthirsty thugs who are nonresponsive to the rhetoric of appeasement.

As an American, I admire and appreciate the work and sacrifices to advance human freedom made by Australian forces throughout the past century. I look forward to our countries continuing to work together to defend and promote freedom during the 21st century.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report