
Sent: Tuesday, 19 August 2008 10:42
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 1. Strategy/International [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Phillip Dean

Submission: My concern is whether we are preparing for the right war. We seem to be focussed on high tech sexy high intensity conventional warfare and platforms - with little focus on small scale low intensity which more and more seems to be the environment we will have to fight, given the US dominance of 'traditional' conventional warfare capabilities.

To engineer a significant shift would not be easy - but it does seem we are being blind to reality in spending billions on high tech platforms that never fire a shot in anger, while the real work is being done by Special Forces that are probably a tiny fraction of the total Defence budget.

Can I suggest you read the Land Warfare Studies Centre working paper number 132 - Square Pegs for Round Holes.

Abstract is below and link to full document.

http://www.defence.gov.au/army/lwsc/docs/WP_132.pdf

Abstract - "Western militaries are moving too slowly to adapt to the needs of future warfighting. The reality of nuclear weapons and the United States hegemony have prescribed the options for current and potential adversaries, leaving them with few viable approaches. One such is 'complex irregular warfare', a type of war that deliberately uses an asymmetrical approach in an attempt to dislocate Western strength. Countering this approach has significant implications for Western militaries.

This paper concludes that: there will be increasing tensions between the services and strains on the joint community, that training for high-intensity war and adjusting for low-intensity is not the right answer, that there is a pressing need to embrace multi-agency operations, and that the West needs to adjust further to the realities of US leadership. Otherwise, we are destined to maintain and upgrade our high-end, industrial-age square pegs and be condemned for trying to force them into contemporary and increasingly complex round holes".

And may I congratulate you on how you are running the community consultation - I attended the Canberra one - and was most impressed with how it was handled, in particular how Stephen Loosely handled some interjections.

This process re-affirms my pride in Australian democracy.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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