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[IPAN Petition](#)

No War on Iran

Bring our troops in Iraq home now

Please sign and pass on via your contacts & social media- its on the way to 1,500 signatures; help it get there.

[SIGN HERE](#)

The climate crisis and the need for peace

Nick Deane 20 Feb 2020



Syrian war refugees

The climate crisis increases the likelihood of war and war exacerbates

the suffering of millions of people in the Global South.

British academic Professor Jem Bendell concluded “climate-induced societal collapse is now inevitable in the near term”. His position may seem extreme, but Australia’s apocalyptic New Year fires show the crisis is already here.

While more attention has been focused on the physical aspects of a warming planet, Bendell writes about the social impacts: “The evidence before us suggests that we are set for disruptive and uncontrollable levels of climate change, bringing starvation, destruction, migration, disease and war.”

If humanity is to get through this impending catastrophe, it needs to confront the implications of all of these. However, it is the last one — war — that is my focus.

READ ON

With acknowledgment to The Independent, 7th Feb, 2020
Former US Drone Operator recalls dropping a missile on Afghanistan children and says military is “worse than the nazis”.

A former US drone operator is speaking out against the atrocities he says he was forced to inflict during his time in the armed forces and says the American military as ‘worse than the Nazis’.

Brandon Bryant was enlisted in the US Air Force for six years. During his time with the military, he operated Predator drones, remotely firing missiles at targets more than 7,000 miles away from the small room containing his workspace near Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr Bryant says he reached his breaking point with the US military after killing a child in Afghanistan that his superiors told him was “a dog.” Mr Bryant recalls the moment: After firing a Hellfire missile at a building

containing his target, he saw a child exit the building just as the missile struck. When he alerted his superiors about the situation after reviewing the tape, he was told "it was a f***ing dog, drop it."



Child killed by US drone attack

Following that incident, Mr Bryant quit the military and began speaking out against the drone program.

During his time in the Air Force, Mr Bryant estimates he contributed directly to killing 13 people himself and says his squadron fired on 1,626 targets including women and children. He says he has been left suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Spokesperson for IPAN, Mr Stephen Darley commented, " Because Pine Gap contributes targeting information to the US drone operators, Australia has become complicit in the crimes against humanity for

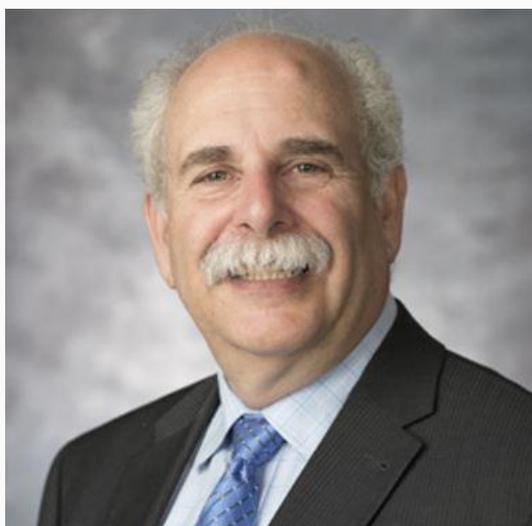
the Australian government to close this US base and extricate Australia from this complicity".

From Dependency to Armed Neutrality: Future Options for Australian National Security

Dr Albert Palazzo
Director of War Studies
Australian Army Research Centre



Strategic & Defence
Studies Centre



About the author

Albert Palazzo is the Director of War Studies in the Australian Army Research Centre, which is a part of the Australian Army Headquarters. He has published widely on Australian military history and on the character of contemporary and future war.

Executive Summary

The power balance in the Western Pacific has entered a period of increased tension and risk as China asserts its growing power and its leaders gain confidence. Simultaneously, the relative power of the United States is declining while the Trump administration is sending inconsistent and confusing signals to its allies on its willingness to invest in the world order that America established.

While the rise of China has occasioned much debate from security commentators, they have been disappointingly silent on the other security risk that Australia must address: climate change. Without giving equal weight to climate change, any recommendations on the future security of Australia can only be incomplete and inadequate. Australia's future security can only be assured by adopting a more holistic methodology than previously practiced. Traditional security challenges, such as the management of state-to-state relations, should be addressed within a framework that includes the natural world. Only by being cognisant of humanity's interaction with the natural world can true national security be achieved.

By considering both China and climate change this paper provides a more balanced assessment of Australia's future security options. It concludes that the option that best meets the requirements of both challenges is a form of **armed neutrality**.

[READ COMPLETE ARTICLE](#)

Listen to interesting new IPAN podcasts!



Our IPAN website now has a new section, in which you can listen to, or download, audio and video podcasts of interest. See

<https://ipan.org.au/audios-and-videos/>

It is also accessible via the “Resources” tab of the website

At present we have links to a number of interviews on radio 3CR, an IPAN discussion about the “myths of war”, an interview on US TV, and a presentation by Henry Reynolds , as well as links to useful and relevant ABC Radio National programs.

Australia in a changing world

by James O'Neill

Australia has reached the point of making a stark choice: to pursue the foreign policies of the post British occupation and colonisation period, or embrace the challenges and opportunities afforded by its geography, resources and long-term interests. It is difficult to be optimistic that the right choices will be made.

READ ON



IPAN's Voice will provide details of functions being held around Australia this year to remember the successful anti-war campaign led by the Vietnam Moratorium 50 years ago and also provide articles on the campaign to end that war and to end conscription for it.

FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR
- Agent Orange



Huu Loc, aged three. Photo: Ash Anand /
NEWSMODO Source:Supplied



Tu, aged 5. Photo: Ash Anand /
NEWSMODO Source:Supplied

Birth defects caused by Agent Orange

Agent Orange was a powerful herbicide used by U.S. military forces during the **Vietnam War** to eliminate forest cover and crops for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. The U.S. program, codenamed Operation Ranch Hand, sprayed more than 20 million gallons of various herbicides over **Vietnam**, Cambodia and Laos from 1961 to 1971.

Effects of Agent Orange.

Because Agent Orange (and other Vietnam-era herbicides) contained **dioxin** in the form of TCDD, it had immediate and long-term effects. Dioxin is a highly persistent chemical compound that lasts for many years in the environment, particularly in soil, lake and river sediments and in the food chain.

The Vietnam Red Cross estimates that **3 million** Vietnamese have been affected by Agent Orange, ***including 150,000 children born with birth defects***. However, this estimate is based on figures from a survey from the late 1990s, and is in need of revision.

Some Australian Vietnam Veterans were exposed to agent orange and fathered children in Australia with birth deformities- this has never been recognised by the Australian government

United States withdraws from International Treaty banning Landmines

The Australian Arms Control Coalition says:

Prime Minister's deafening silence unacceptable on anniversary of Landmine Treaty

As the world marks the 21st anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, a coalition of civil society groups is calling on the Australian Prime Minister to break his silence on the US government's backslide on landmine use.

Last month the Australian Arms Control Coalition wrote to Prime Minister Scott Morrison urging him to condemn the US Government's decision to lift restrictions on the use of landmines.

The letter asked the Australian Government to rule-out Australian involvement in the laying, shipment and storage of landmines as part of joint operations overseas or on bases here in Australia.

The manufacture and export of landmines or components by Australia must also be ruled-out despite the Government's ambition to become

a top 10 weapons exporter.

READ ON

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Australia

<https://icanw.org.au/>

+61 (0)421 955 066



Your Super and Nuclear weapons

Is AustralianSuper your superannuation fund? We believe they have more than \$130m invested in Northrop Grumman, who make nuclear weapons for the US. This fund is doing a review of its policies so it's a good time for members to get in touch to urge the fund to divest from nuclear arms producers in light of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Write back to me if you're an AustralianSuper member, and Quit Nukes will provide some pointers to make it super easy for you.

Gem Romuld: gem@icanw.org

WILPF Qld members visit ICAN's International Peace Boat



On 21 January two members of WILPF Queensland branch attended the ICAN/International Peace Boat visit in Sydney. A photo exhibition by Mr Okamura was on display. A WILPF banner was displayed and Peace Poppies handed out to participants.

Stop Killer Robots Coalition Report



We had an action outside Parliament with the trusty white boiler suits, which also included messaging around our letter writing initiative. We have already delivered letters to roughly 50 MPs/Senators, with several delivered in person with meetings. We are trying to continue developing support from our opposition and independents/minor parties. We look forward to seeing Senator Jordon Steele John's photo with us and promotion of our activities through his social media

Philippines President Duterte scraps key bilateral security pact with U.S.

RICHARD JAVAD HEYDARIAN- Asia Times 12/2/20

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has effectively ended his country's century-old alliance with the United States, a shock move that will have ramifications for the region's strategic balance of power including in the hotly contested South China Sea.

The Philippines gave the US official notice on Monday (February 11) that it will abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), a security pact that allows for the US to station troops on a rotational basis on Philippine soil and provides legal basis for hundreds of annual joint military exercises and activities.

[READ COMPLETE ARTICLE](#)



SCHOOL STRIKE 4 CLIMATE

School Strike 4 , May 15th

Scott Morrison's government is continuing to approve massive new coal, oil & gas projects that are fueling this crisis, destroying lives, health, and homes, devastating ecosystems and changing the world as we know it.

The majority of Australians want a government that will mobilise all of society to tackle the crisis. But our government isn't listening to the people, so we need to organise and mobilise like never before to transform our politics. And point it towards climate justice.

We need action which puts the wellbeing of people and our planet first, and action which honours First Nations people who have been caring for this land for over 60,000 years

We urgently need governments who are committed to:

1. No new coal, oil and gas, including Adani's mine
2. 100% renewable energy generation and exports by 2030
3. Funding for a just transition and jobs for fossil fuel workers and their communities

On May 15 school students are inviting everyone to join us for our biggest ever #climatestrike to launch the next phase of our fight for climate justice

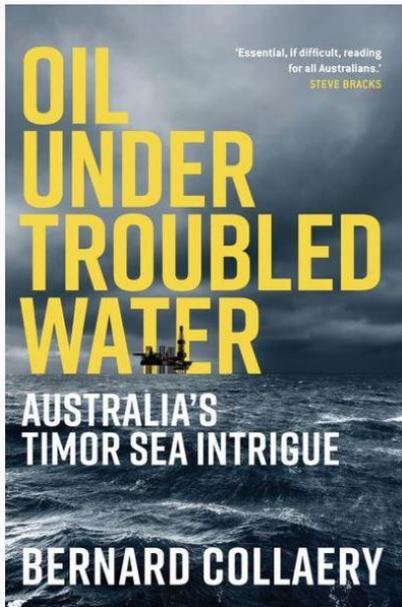
50 Years in Jail for whistleblowing on the ADF



My name is David McBride. I am facing 50 years in prison for blowing

the whistle on the Australian Defence Force's unethical, harmful and highly politicised leadership. As I continue to fight these unjust criminal charges, I am asking for your support to access expert legal representation.

READ ON .



Book Launches

Canberra: 10th March; Manning Clark Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre ANU, 6pm; Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

Further info here

Sydney: 17th March; Gleebooks, Glebe; 6pm for 6.30pm; Phone 02 9660 2333

Melbourne: 15th March; Cinema Nova, Carlton, 6pm



RADIOACTIVE EXPOSURE TOUR
APRIL 10-19, 2020

A journey into the South Australian desert to visit uranium mining and nuclear sites, to meet people campaigning for a nuclear-free future, and to enjoy Lake Eyre, the Flinders Ranges and other special places.

CONTACT
Lavanya - 0468 490 768
radexposuretour@gmail.com

MORE INFO
melbournefoe.org.au/radtour2020

RAPID Public Response Arrangements to any imminent major military conflict, invasion or war

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, military invasion or war actually breaking out, IPAN organisations in the following states, urge everyone to rally :

In Melbourne, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening- bring banners and placards - family and friends

In Adelaide, on Parliament Steps at 4.30 pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

In Newcastle, at the Clocktower, Hamilton, 4.30pm that evening- bring banners and placards and tell family and friends

In Canberra, on the median strip at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Ave.

Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

**provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*

**provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*

**provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*

** provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to :

ipan.australia@gmail.com and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the IPAN co-ordinating committee. **Disclaimer:** Voice publishes a range of articles which reflect the broad movement for an independent and peaceful Australia but not all articles will necessarily reflect IPAN's position."

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