

Army trains for action against the people

by Nick G.

Dressed in army combat fatigues, and with their automatic weapons pointing purposefully out from the pages of the *Adelaide Advertiser*, two members of the Army Reserve provide a photographic illustration for a seemingly reassuring story.

According to the text, the Army Reserve 9 Brigade Ready Response Force had been taking part in an exercise

at the Torrens Island Power Station to test "the response required if there was a major security threat to a critical infrastructure site."

Readers of the Murdoch rag could be forgiven for breathing a sigh of relief, for who in suburban Adelaide would want to lose their TV reception or go around with lighted candles because of those dastardly al-Qaida terrorists?

And indeed the only clue as to who has posed the

"threat" to the power supply is a paragraph that notes that "The Army Reserve has been training to assist in major domestic security events since the beginning of the war on terrorism following the al-Qaida attacks against the US on Sept. 11, 2001".

However, the commander of the 160-strong Force involved in the training, Major Hamish McKendrick, told ABC radio that far from being al-Qaida terrorists, the training was directed at an "issue-motivated group who, through their protest, were trying to stop the operation of the plant."

McKendrick described the use of "headquarters personnel to fill in as protesters on a picket line" in response to the interviewer's question of "who gets to be the 'baddies?'".

"This is a test of the use of our personnel to augment security when police forces are stretched," he said.

It hardly needs to be pointed out that the citizens of Adelaide are not going to want to cut power supplies to their own neighbourhoods!

But as the current economic



crisis deepens, and as community concern over a range of unanswered social and environmental concerns deepens, there is every possibility of people's action getting out of hand and posing a threat to the security of the ruling class.

The core element, the last line of defence in the state apparatus of the imperialist-dominated ruling class is the army.

Under the convenient guise

of the so-called 'war against terror', preparations are being made for the use of the armed forces against "issue-motivated groups" of the Australian people.

The working class and other progressive people need to make their own preparations for tighter and stronger organisations to pursue the immediate demands of the situation and to assist in winning anti-imperialist independence and socialism.

Vanguard

Vanguard is a national monthly newspaper which expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist), the CPA(M-L). Readers are encouraged to comment on, criticise or contribute material to *Vanguard*. Articles, digital graphics, cartoons, clippings, comments or a few lines are all very welcome. All material should be sent to:

Vanguard Editorial Staff
PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065

Vanguard strives to provide a Marxist analysis of Australian society, economy and politics. An important aspect of developing this analysis is an intimate knowledge of and close involvement in all aspects of Australian struggle.

The cost of producing a national newspaper is considerable. Readers are encouraged to contribute whatever they can by sending donations to the above address.

The CPA(M-L) may be contacted through *Vanguard* at PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic, 3065.

Email: cpaml@vanguard.net.au

Subscription rates

For *Vanguard*, plus all new leaflets and special broadsheets

* Individuals and organisations: \$15 (GST inc)

* Students, pensioners, unemployed: \$10 (GST inc)



I enclose:

\$..... for *Vanguard*

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

New subscription Renewal

Send to PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065

War games lock in Australia to US strategic interests

by Bill F.

The two yearly *Talisman Sabre* war games commence in July, with more than 23,000 US and Australian air, land and sea forces engaged in bombing and raiding the Australian wilderness at Shoalwater Bay, north of Rockhampton in Queensland.

Apart from the serious environmental destruction visited on this pristine area, the military exercises are intended to more fully integrate Australia's military into the US war machine. The emphasis is on the sort of warfare that involves a major confrontation with a well equipped opponent. This is hardly the sort of threat that Australia is likely to face, unless it was sucked into a conflict with a big power such as China.



While Australia has more reason to be friendly with China, the same cannot be said of US imperialism, which desperately wants to maintain its economic, political and military hegemony over the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. It needs Australia as a secure training and support base on the underbelly of Asia, midway between the massive US bases on Guam near the Philippines, and Diego Garcia in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

www.peaceconvergence.com is organising a number

of events and actions in the Rockhampton region to expose and protest these war games. As their leaflet says, "The Australian military spends over \$60 million per day. This impacts Australia's social fabric because money is spent on supporting US foreign policy, including the purchasing of military hardware unsuitable to defending Australia's shores, rather than community needs such as health, education, sustainable development, etc."

**Close US bases
Stop War Games**