

Note from AFA President -- Pacific warning and GTMO

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, Civic leaders, and DOCA members, a couple of items to bring to your attention.

First, Australia has just released a new White Paper. I came across it because of a Wall Street Journal editorial where the author says, "In the preface to a sweeping defense review released Saturday, Australian Defense Minister Joel Fitzgibbon writes: 'The biggest changes to our outlook . . . have been the rise of China, the emergence of India and the beginning of the end of the so-called unipolar moment; the almost two-decade-long period in which the pre-eminence of our principal ally, the United States, was without question.'"

A link to the editorial can be found on our website: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124174053175598779.html>

A link to the entire White paper is here:

http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/docs/defence_white_paper_2009.pdf

As I read it, I am reminded that most nations of the world publish Defense White Papers. It contributes to stability for all countries to publish what they think about defense. For example you can find China's most recent White paper at: http://www.gov.cn/english/official/2009-01/20/content_1210227.htm

Second, GTMO has been in the news recently. I waited for the issue to die down a bit before bringing you some information on it. Here are a couple of pieces that I think have merit:

One is by Senators Graham (a former USAF JAG) and McCain (who has a unique perspective on POW/detainee issues): <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124157680630090517.html>

The second is by Charles Kauthammer ... and is a bit political ... but brings you a viewpoint that you may not have considered: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/30/AR2009043003108.html>

For your consideration.

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