

Hindu, 3 June 2008

Australia for practical military cooperation with India

Australia for practical military cooperation with India SINGAPORE: Australia, under the new Kevin Rudd government, intends to engage India in 'closer practical military cooperation, particularly in the Indian Ocean region.' And, 'the starting point is the two countries already have a high degree of trust between one another.' Outlining the 'potential' for a new take-off from this 'platform' of mutual trust and compatible democracies, Australian Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon told Hindu that 'maritime security and counter-terrorism' were already identified for enhanced cooperation 'in the first instance.' India, he said, 'has great expertise in counter-terrorism, and we think we can learn from that.'

Asian Age, 3 June 2008

Navy, Coast Guard must get more funds, powers (Arun Kumar Singh)

A couple of months ago, the French admiral of the Indian Ocean Forces ("Al Indien"), a vice-admiral, was expected to visit New Delhi. The admiral has a modest sea command of one tanker, one frigate and one nuclear submarine (SSN) to look after French interests in the 28m sq km of the Indian Ocean, spread from Africa to Polynesia. At the last minute, the visit was cancelled as a French merchant ship had been hijacked by pirates off Somalia, and the tiny French flotilla, under "Al Indien", was directed to carry out a rescue mission. A fortnight later, the BBC telecast video clippings of a French heliborne commando team from the French Navy landing inside Somalia and capturing the pirates after a successful rescue mission

Hindu, 4 June 2008

'India's naval surveillance a big help to Sri Lanka'

SINGAPORE: India's maritime 'surveillance' has 'helped' Sri Lanka in 'a big way' in facing the challenge from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Emphasising this, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollogama told The Hindu that his country would continue to 'advocate' that the international community take steps to dry up the sources of funding and other forms of support for the LTTE. Outlining Sri Lanka's diplomatic offensive in East Asia, Mr. Bogollogama, who was here to attend the 'Shangri-La Dialogue,' cited Australia for its efforts in moving against suspected pro-LTTE fund-raisers and front-men

Indian Express, 6 June 2008

Navy to upgrade its ageing fleet with six recon aircraft

New Delhi, June 5: After homing into a Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft, the Navy is all set to fill another crucial gap in its surveillance capabilities by acquiring six new medium-range recon aircraft to replace its ageing Islander fleet. A global Request For Proposals (RFP) will be floated shortly by the Defence Ministry to acquire the aircraft that will also play an anti-submarine and anti-ship role. Ministry sources confirmed that several leading manufacturers will be approached for the contract and platforms being looked at, including the Falcon 900 (French), the An-74 (Russia/Ukraine), ATR-42 (European Consortium) and Embraer (Brazilian)