

We are led to believe that Australian troops promote democracy overseas. However, the Australian soldiers fighting overseas demonstrate nothing but our puppet position in the U. S alliance; we serve the economic and strategic needs of U. S. and Australian elites. The Pacific is seen as Australia's area of influence and Australian forces were used to impose martial law in Tonga throughout 2006 in response to the local community pro-democracy riots. The undemocratic intervention by the army in the Northern Territory into indigenous communities under the guise of dealing with the problem of child abuse was an inappropriate and authoritarian use of the army in civilian life.

We demand that the resources produced within our society are shared equally through worker and community control in the means of production, distribution and exchange. As Anarchists we aim to remove the state war machine from society and demonstrate to people that collectively we are powerful and our allies are ordinary people in other countries who wish for the same things, not the ruling elites of their country.

**For more information:**

<http://www.peaceconvergence.com/>

<http://swanislandpeace.org/convergence-2011/what-is-talisman-sabre/>

<http://www.foodnotbombs.net/>

<http://www.anti-bases.org/>

Join the Peace Convergence email list

<http://peaceconvergence.com/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/tsuannounce>

Get in touch with 'Food Not Bombs vs Talisman Sabre 2011'

[bsmn@riseup.net](mailto:bsmn@riseup.net)

<http://www.ibcat.tk>

# War Games on the Barrier Reef?

From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of July this year Talisman Sabre 'War Games' will be conducted, involving joint military exercises requiring the use of 30,000 US and Australian military personnel. The 'War Games' will be practiced in various military bases throughout Australia, the primary training area being Shoalwater Bay, bordering the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.



Join us at the:

**Food Not Bombs Kitchen**

**Brisbane Square**

**1:00 pm, Saturday 16th July**

## What is Talisman Sabre ?

With approximately 30,000 US and Australian military personnel, Talisman Sabre is a massive joint military exercise planned for July this year. It will cost an estimated \$100 million. It will involve firing live ammunition and explosives from both, land bases and aircraft, amphibious assaults, land force maneuvers, and the use of high power sonar and active sono buoys.

## How much does it cost?

On a national level this exercise Talisman Sabre will cost the Australian public \$100million. Last year Australia spent \$32 billion on defence. This ranks our country as the 6<sup>th</sup> highest per capita military spender in the world. This is at a time when the gap between rich and poor has never been higher. When the CEO of the Commonwealth Bank can earn \$16 million a year but homelessness is increasing, Logan city has the highest default rate on mortgages in the country and basic services such as health and education are under funded we need to ask the question; why is \$100 million from the public purse being drained on a two and half week long “War Games”?

## What is the environmental impact?

At a time when over two thirds of Australians are worried about global warming it is of grave concern that the military use of non renewable resources has not been publicly questioned. The United States Military are exempt from adherence to the Australian 1999 Biodiversity and Environmental Act. In the ‘Public Environmental Report- TS11’ issued by the Department of Defence the submission attempts to justify the damage that will take effect on air quality, harm to marine animals through the use of sonar (dugongs, turtles and other vital aquatic life), fire potential, noise pollution, waste disposal, toxic spills and erosion from amphibious craft landing. There are over 25 endangered species listed in the Shoalwater area bordering the

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Byfield National Park. Through issuing the report in December, with the intention of continuing the ‘War Games’ without any community input provided; the Australian Defence Force and United States Military have disregarded the concerns of the Australian public. That is, the Australian tax paying public who are funding the \$100 million ‘War Games’.



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## How does it effect the shoal water community?

These war games impact socially on the area. After the 2005, 2007 and 2009 Talisman Sabre exercises local Rape Crisis Centres reported an increase in sexual assaults. It is obvious that the aggressive atmosphere created by the ‘War Games’ and the authoritarian and hierarchical nature of the structure of armed forces raises issues around power and domination. Recent allegations of sexual abuse in the forces have brought this issue to the public attention.

## War games and the economy

It’s important to realize that particular governments of the day have to answer to the national and multinational companies who wield real power in our society; we’ve witnessed the removal of Kevin Rudd when he wanted to introduce a mining tax. Their economic rationalist policies have seen the massive removal of public held resources into private, corporate hands. Overseas wars on terror divert attention away from unsolved social problems, make corporate profits and through the mainstream media promote a sense of “national identity” with promotion of spectacles like Anzac Day in Turkey every year.