



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

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OVERVIEW

- The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is a **voluntary agreement** among states to work together to deter, intercept or disrupt illicit WMD trade.
- The PSI strengthens national and collective capacities to interdict transfers to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern.
- The PSI is part of the broader counter-proliferation architecture, that includes United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs), export controls, and other treaties and agreements.

BACKGROUND

- The PSI is a US initiative from 2003 to fill a gap in the international counter-proliferation framework.
- The gap was revealed when Spanish authorities could not seize a cargo of scud-missiles bound from North Korea to Yemen.

AIMS

- The PSI is aimed at **strengthening interdiction capabilities** by:
 - conducting exercises to test capabilities; and
 - promoting cooperation.
- It is aimed at **strengthening international norms** against the proliferation of WMD
 - not at preventing or hindering legitimate international, economic, scientific or technical cooperation.
- It does not create any new international norms
 - states implement measures **within existing international law**.

STRUCTURE

- The PSI has no permanent chair or full-time secretariat or other formal structure.
- The **Operational Experts Group (OEG)** is a “steering group” comprising of 21 countries which meets annually.
- Members include:
 - Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.
- Singapore will host the 2017 OEG meeting.

REVIEWING PROGRESS

- The **High-Level Political Meeting (HLPM)** in Warsaw in 2013 and the **Mid-Level Political Meeting (MLPM)** in Washington in 2016 reviewed progress in the PSI.
- The MLPM in 2016:
 - highlighted the importance of exercise rotations;
 - called on states to continue strengthening national laws; and
 - urged states to join international conventions such as the 2005 SUA Protocol and the Beijing Convention.
- France will host the next HLPM in 2018.

CRITICAL CAPABILITIES AND PRACTICES

- The **Critical Capabilities and Practices (CCP)** effort is a collection of tools and resources to assist states to strengthen capacities and practices.



CRITICAL CAPABILITIES AND PRACTICES

- The CCP toolkit covers **four categories**:
 - Preventing Proliferation-Related Activity
 - : having in place appropriate legal authorities to prohibit and prevent proliferation activity;
 - Inspection and Identification
 - : the ability to inspect air, land and sea cargo and identify illicit proliferation-related materials;
 - Seizure and Disposition
 - : the ability to undertake appropriate action to seize and dispose of interdicted materials; and
 - Rapid Decision-making
 - : developing a framework for decision-making

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The PSI offers the opportunity to participate in multinational exercises.
- The **Asia Pacific Exercise Rotation (APER)** commenced in 2014
 - the United States , New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, the Republic of Korea and Japan host APER on a rotating basis
 - Australia will host ‘Pacific Protector 17’ in September 2017 in Cairns.

CAIRNS



Implementing UNSCR 1540 and the Australia Group

PACIFIC PROTECTOR 17

- Pacific Protector 17 will include:
 - a table top exercise;
 - a live exercise;
 - a port exercise; and
 - an academic session.

OUR REGION





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