Speech delivered by Adam Graycar and Rebecca Tailby:

"People smuggling: national security implications"

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Human Smuggling: a Security Threat to Australia?
Introduction to illegal migration

- The international migration population is estimated to be approximately 100 million people - about 2% of the current world population.

- The smuggling and trafficking of human beings has increased throughout the world, owing to globalisation and other factors.
→ growing involvement of organised crime groups
→ illicit migration an issue with major security implications
Definitions

**Smuggling**: the procurement of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national, with the objective of making a profit.

**Trafficking**: the recruitment, transportation or receipt of persons through deception or coercion for the purposes of prostitution, other sexual exploitation or forced labour.
The Players

- Immigrants
- Smugglers and traffickers
- Law enforcement
Immigrants

- Escape from extreme poverty and unemployment
- Improve earnings and standard of living
- Escape from persecution, conflict or war
- Escape from ecological crisis or degradation
- Human rights abuses
Smugglers

- increasing involvement of transnational organised crime groups
- motivated by profit
- people smuggling is low risk, high gain
characteristics of sophisticated smuggling syndicates:

- well-equipped forgery workshops
- flexibility of operations
- established centres in transit countries
- well-financed
- contacts with corrupt officials
- diverse range of criminal activities
- use of violence
Law Enforcers

- immigration: DIMA
- customs: ACS
- police: Federal and State police

Australia has a “whole of government” approach to people smuggling.

- Law enforcement capacity strengthened by punitive anti-people smuggling legislation
The Australian experience of people smuggling

- thousands of people smuggled here each year, by air and sea

- traditionally, main route was by air:
  - 98/99 unauthorised arrivals: 926 by sea, 2106 by air

- recently, explosion in boat arrivals:
  - 99/00 unauthorised arrivals: 4174 by sea; 1694 by air
People smuggling: a security threat to Australia?

- People smuggling is a form of transnational crime
- Nature of threats posed: threats to...
  - internal order and stability
  - social harmony
  - economic stability
  - international relations
Nature and level of threat

- Australia’s attractiveness as a destination country for smuggling
  - proximity to SE Asia coupled with Australia’s comparative stability
  - international visibility due to Olympics
- Economic threat posed by illegal migration and work forces
  - Cost of illegal immigration is $200-300 million annually
  - Cheap migrant labour and avoidance of tax system in certain sectors
influence on social and ethnic tensions

migrants come from source countries experiencing high ethnic tensions - carryover?

local social and political tensions in response to illegal immigrants

unrest within detention centres

subversion of government policy on legitimate migration
other threats

- illegals are of unknown “character”
- potential continuation of militant beliefs or insurgency
- exploitation of refugee system
- increasing involvement of organised crime in smuggling and resultant threats posed by these criminal actors and enterprises

- tensions in international relations as a result of government responses to people smuggling
The Reforms

- “Organised People Smuggling”
- “Slavery and Sexual Servitude”
- Increased Powers for Coastwatch
Global Initiatives

- Australia is actively engaged in international fora as part of its fight against people smugglers.
- Ministerial delegations targeting people smuggling and organised crime.
UN Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings

- launched by UNODCCP
- policy oriented research and technical cooperation
- AIC is providing expert research advice to the programme, and is involved in the Demonstration Project in the Philippines
- Future research into trafficking of Filipinos to Australia
Conclusions

- recent rapid acceleration in the rate of people smuggling to Australia is a matter of real concern
- increasing sophistication of people smuggling operations, and involvement of organised crime
- these together pose a number of threats to Australia’s security
threat is enhanced by Australia’s attractiveness as a destination country

Federal government has implemented legislation and various policies

Human smuggling is, however, a transnational activity, and domestic efforts must be supported by international cooperation