

STOP TALISMAN SABRE

US WAR GAMES ON OUR SHORES

Talisman Sabre is a joint military exercise that takes place every two years in Australia, primarily on the central coast of Queensland at Shoalwater Bay, this year also using other Defence and non-Defence Training areas including Townsville, Stange Bay, Mackay, Bowen, Proserpine (Whitsunday), Bundaberg and Evans Head.

Talisman Sabre 2019 takes place on July 11-24 with activity throughout the whole month at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

These biennial exercises are some of the world's largest military exercises - 2019 will involve 25,000 US and Australian troops (the overwhelming majority US) engaged in land, sea and air warfare practice. They will be joined by New Zealand, Canadian, United Kingdom and Japanese Defence forces.

US troops involved in these exercises deploy to or from real war situations, forward deployed units, or other military operations. Live firing, while not explicitly part of the exercise, is likely to occur either before or after the above dates.

Supporting US Wars

Talisman Sabre is one facet of an expanding US military presence in our region, and Australia's support for it. Australia already houses Pine Gap (US satellite base), allows US bombing flyovers, stations US marines in Darwin, hosts nuclear powered and nuclear weapons capable war ships and opens both its civilian and military infrastructure to the US.

Australia is playing a vital role in acting as a launching pad for US military activity, as an ally in the field, and as the face of the US nuclear umbrella in the Asia-Pacific region. Talisman Sabre threatens our security by further involving us in US led wars such as in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and potentially Iran.



First Nations

Talisman Sabre takes place on Dharumbal land and seas. As is the case around the world, where indigenous land has been used/occupied by military forces, these First Nations people have limited access to their Country, which is determined by the military. The regular rollout of military exercises, not just Talisman Sabre, has an impact on the Dharumbal people and how they understand and practice their culture.

Military Carbon Footprint

The US military is ranked among the world's worst polluters and is the world's greatest organisational consumer of oil. It has a legacy of leaving bases contaminated and radioactive. In 2013, the US jettisoned four bombs on the Great Barrier Reef when they had difficulty dropping them on their intended target, Townshend Island. Be it war or preparations for war, military activity is incompatible with environmental sustainability.

www.PeaceConvergence.org

#StopTalismanSabre #NoMoreUSWars



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Making Peace

Talisman Sabre war games must be stopped and Australia must refuse to support US wars, environmental destruction and indigenous rights abuses. The Peace Convergence encourages people to take peace action in their own region or where ever war games and militarism are taking place.

Shoalwater in the spotlight: Talisman Sabre's key location, Shoalwater Bay, is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The wetlands and sea grass beds are important for migratory birds, Dugongs and other marine and river animals. Only recently identified as a unique species, Snubfin Dolphins have been found in these waters.



Who or what else lives or passes through Shoalwater Bay?

- “Thirty-six water bird species including eleven species of migratory shorebirds,
- The largest Dugong population in the southern Great Barrier Reef,
- Green Turtles,
- One hundred and one listed marine species; and
- Large numbers of whales and other cetaceans, migratory waders and shore-birds.
- A previous survey concluded that SWBTA provides critical habitat for migratory shorebirds and supports more than 20,000 water birds...”

[Talisman Sabre 2017 21-Feb AECOM PER Appendix O O-4]

We think it is unacceptable that the habitat, feeding grounds and transit areas of these creatures are used for shore-scouring amphibious landings and other warfare practice.



4 July #FourthofJuly speakout at Rockhampton Barracks

6 July War is NOT Family Entertainment at Talisman Sabre Open Day 11am Rockhampton Showgrounds

11 July Film Screening at Havachat 20 East St

14-19 July Training Camp: Stop Militarisation of First Nations' Lands

*Also supporting NAIDOC events: Voice. Treaty. Truth
7-14 July*

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