Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security
School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy
College of Asia and the Pacific
The Australian National University

Date: Thursday 12 May 2011
Time: 12:30 pm
Venue: Room 115, ITAMS Building
Innovation Campus, University of Wollongong
North Wollongong, New South Wales

PRESENTS: ‘A RETURN TO JIHAD IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES? SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP AND TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM’

Abstract

Over the past decade, Thailand has experienced rapid growth in the number of Internet users and today it is reported that around one third of the Thai population is regularly online. These Internet users have readily become producers of content, and the proliferation of local language material sees Thai ranked in the top 20 global Internet languages. Thai security and policing agencies have embraced these trends and now maintain a wide variety of official websites. In this paper I sketch out a methodology for studying Thailand’s various police, military and paramilitary forces through their online outputs, with a particular focus on the Border Patrol Police Bureau (known in Thai as the Kong banjakan tamruad trawn chaidan). Alongside their well-established border security mandate, the Border Patrol Police are currently committed to counter-insurgency efforts in Thailand’s restive southernmost provinces and have also played important roles during political protests in Bangkok and elsewhere. In this unpublished paper I pay special attention to how Border Patrol Police websites approach issues of operational security, personal security, hierarchy, organisational memory, and tributes to fallen comrades. My analysis of this online research material emerges from an ongoing collaboration with Professor Des Ball who is working towards explaining the role of the Border Patrol Police in a uniquely comprehensive fashion. From this perspective, understanding how the Internet is used by Thai police, military and paramilitary forces is one further step towards demystifying the people, policies and politics that shape the country’s security architecture.

Bio-data

If you would like to attend this session please contact Ms Luanne Mott by Tuesday 10 May for catering purposes: lmott@uow.edu.au.

This schedule will be updated throughout spring session: