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<http://www.cla.asn.au>

Security boosters compete to ramp up fear

Where will all this ramping up of fear lead, CLA asks? We quote:

“To aid the national security community in imagining contemporary threats, the Australian Security Research Centre (ASRC) is organising *Australia's Security Nightmares: The National Security Short Story Competition*. The competition aims to produce a set of short stories that will contribute to a better conception of possible future threats...” (closes 30 September 2012)

<http://www.safeguardingaustraliasummit.org.au/?getp=434>



To help the organisers – and make money – CLA has written this scenario:

LOCATION: *Canberra Airport terminal:*

Cast:

12 armed, uniformed AFP officers on normal terminal duties, unaware of...

4 x Australian Skymarshals, in civvies, in boarding lounge awaiting flight to Sydney to join overseas flights...unbeknowns to...

6 x SAS troops, in civvies, fresh from Russell HQ/Defence Minister briefing, in boarding lounge awaiting flight to Sydney to catch flight to Ecuador for special mission...unbeknowns to...

5 x US Marines policing brigade members, in civvies, passing through airport screening (4 have already gone through and up the escalators, to the top) awaiting flight to Darwin after briefing in US Ambassador's office, Canberra

100s of passengers, dozens of staff.

ACTION:

The last of the five US Marine police officers has a pistol show up in body scan. Marine refuses to hand over weapon, argument ensues, during which US Marine officer waves pistol in air.

Responding police, alerted by panic button, see pistol waved, start shooting. US Marines respond from top of lounge escalator and start shooting down at police, thinking colleague under attack.

4 Skymarshals, in boarding lounge, start shooting at US Marines, as do 6 SAS troops. They think the Marines, in civvies, are terrorists.

OUTCOME:

Eight minutes later, 19 dead, 31 wounded (7 seriously). Dead include 7 people in VIP lounge, as a hail of bullets has passed through paper-thin walls.

Among the dead are the Leader of the Opposition, and Australian champion basketballers Lauren Jackson and Patrick Mills, who were having three-way conversation in VIP lounge when shooting started.

Also confirmed dead is Opposition Leader's two security guards, both of whom bravely burst out of VIP lounge with guns in hand when Opposition Leader came under fire, only to be themselves immediately felled by firing from the three other groups – US Marines, Skymarshals and SAS.

NOTE: Scenario is copyright Bill Rowlings who, as CEO of Civil Liberties Australia, is gun-shy.

LONGER-TERM RESULT:

Government allocates double the numbers of AFP police to airports through Australia.

US forces and US dignitary security guards, Australian Skymarshals and SAS troops, and all other 'security' personnel permitted to carry weapons openly on hips in Australia when in civvies (new Bill allowing this is called the *Jackson-Mills Public Protection Act 2014*).

VIP lounges at airports throughout Australia to be housed in new, purpose-built structures situated away from main terminal building, at a cost of \$880m for the capital cities.

Basketball program, women's and men's, at next Olympics is given \$24m each boost in funding.

Opposition surges in polls under new Leader, wins next election by combined landslide/tsunami.

In 2015, Australian PM and US President open joint memorial at Canberra Airport terminal to bravery of the two nations' security personnel, and make personal bets on who will win basketball gold medals at 2016 Rio Olympics.