

# SECURITY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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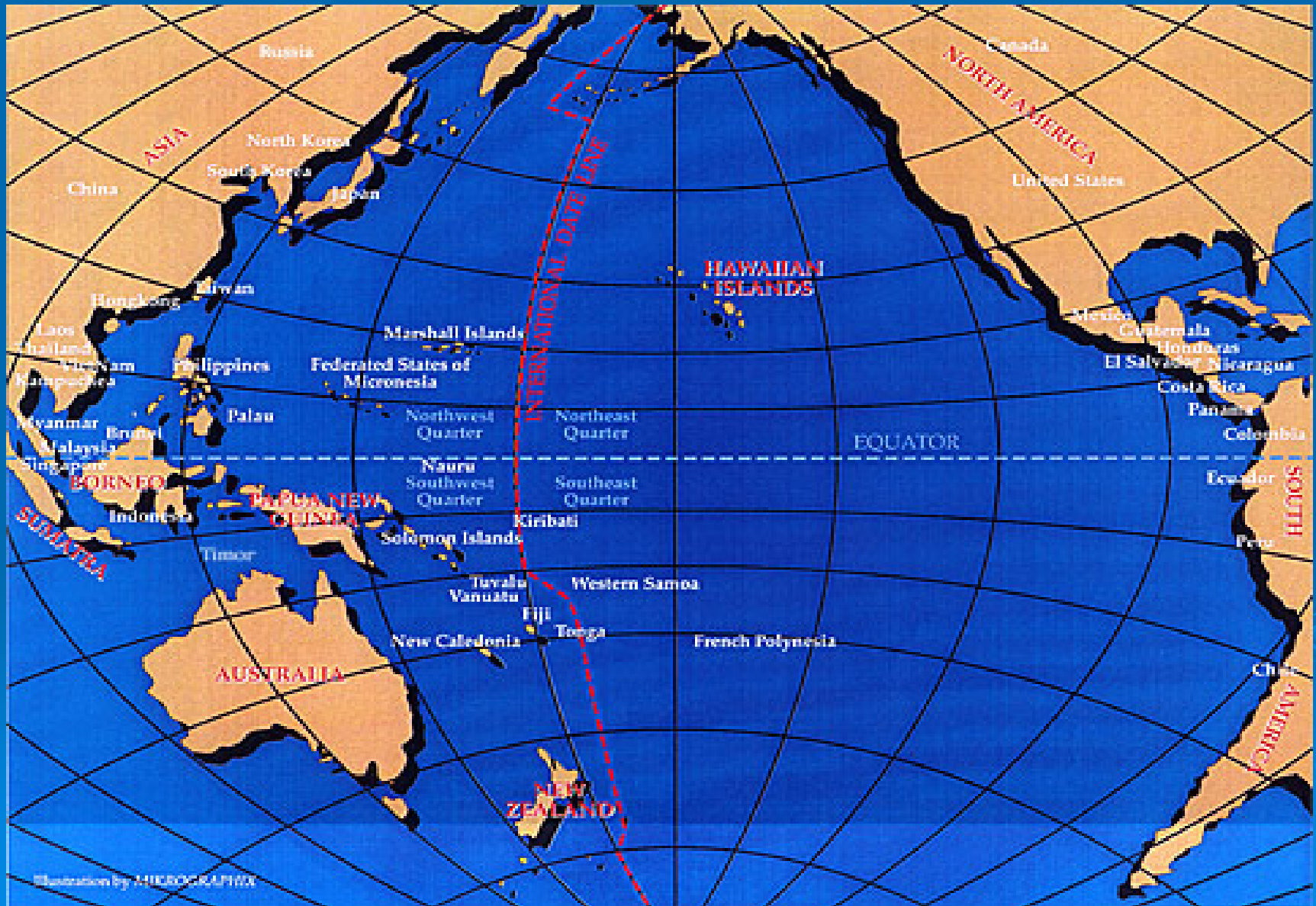
*Presented at the:*  
*ASEAN ISIS ROUNDTABLE*  
*KUALA LUMPUR*  
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The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several faint, concentric circles that resemble ripples in water, creating a decorative effect.

# The South Pacific in Context



# The South Pacific and her Neighbours



# The Asia Pacific



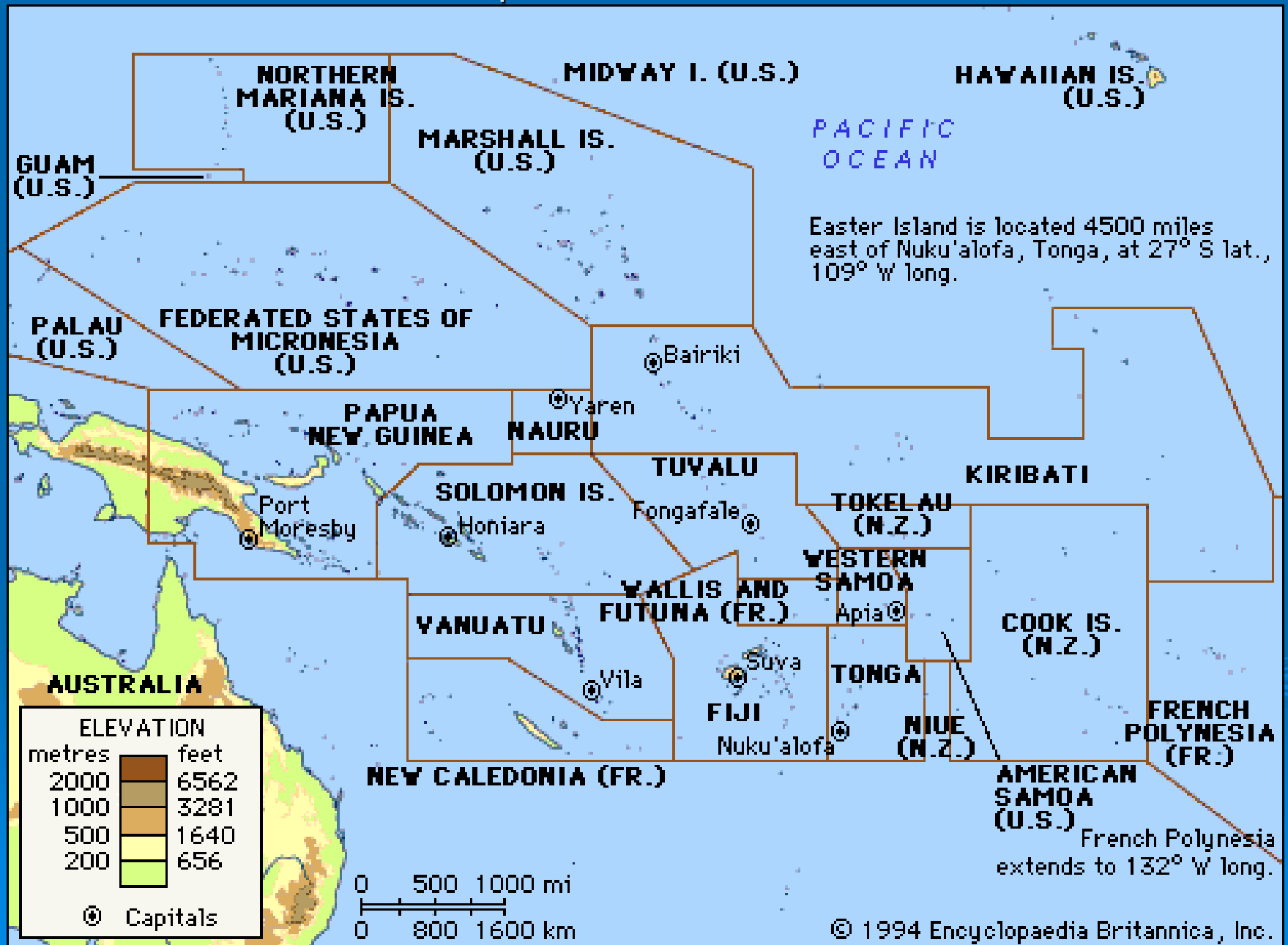
# The South Pacific



# South Pacific Close Up



# Super Power Presence



# Overview: Security Related Problems in the Region

1. Historic inter-ethnic and inter regional disputes and intertribal warfare;
2. Over exploitation of natural resources, especially by outside companies;
3. Criminal activities including drug trafficking, money laundering
4. Aid dependence;
5. Weapon smuggling;





6. Piracy;
7. Environmental degradation and severe pollution;
8. Non sustainable fishing activities;
9. Deficiencies of public services – corruption, nepotism, tribal favouritism, failures of public services, failure of border control systems.

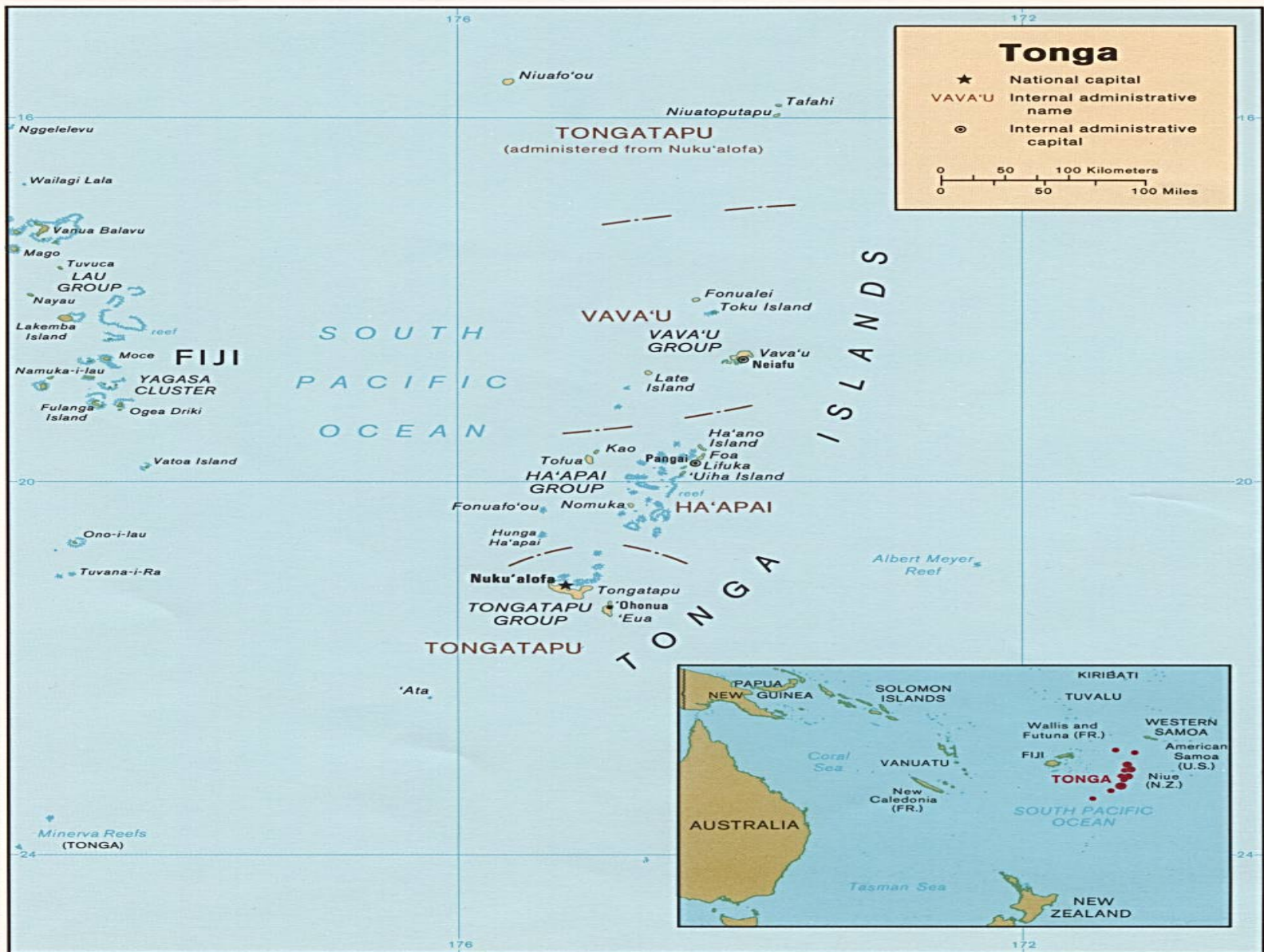
# Issue One: Governance & Security

- Specific countries:
  - Tonga
  - Fiji
  - The Solomon Islands
  - Timor Leste
- 

# Common Security Problems

- Shaky (inherited) Constitutional Foundations
- Awkward Electoral Representation Processes
- Corruption
- Ethnic & Inter-tribal Rivalries
- Poverty & Aid Dependence
- Poor Health
- Irresponsible Resource Extraction
- Inequitable Distribution of Wealth
- Big Power Competition for Influence

# Tonga



# TONGA

## Some facts

- Previously British protectorate – Independence 1970
- Population approx 115,000
- Constitutional Monarchy – King Tupou V
- Cabinet consists of 14 members, 10 appointed by the monarch and four appointed from among the elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

# Tongan Defence Services

- Includes police
- Four Pacific-class patrol craft
- Royal Tongan Marines
- Tongan Royal Guards
- Total strength – approx 450
- Served in peacekeeping operations in Bougainville and Solomons

# Tonga November 16, 2006

- ⑩ Major arson followed pro-democracy movement rally; the targets were all 'political' including royal businesses, the PM's supermarket, and the shops and restaurants of Chinese traders;
- ⑩ Govt of Tonga requested intervention from China, Australia and NZ;
- ⑩ China declined politely citing distance, but did supply chartered aircraft to repatriate Chinese nationals who wished to return to China.
- ⑩ Brief military/police intervention from Australia and NZ; the troops were withdrawn within a few days as the situation did not appear to warrant such forces.



# Tonga Peacebuilding

1. Issues concerning political reform are slowly progressing, with emergency powers still in place and the general indication of a majority of parliamentary seats being popularly elected in 2010;
2. In April 2008, there will be the standard very limited general election (for 9 of 30 seats by the full adult population, another 9 seats being elected by about 32 Nobles in traditional terms; and the remaining seats appointed by the King);
3. The electoral period has potential for renewed violence, but the risks appear to be slim as Tongans were deeply shocked by the violence and arson in 2006.



# FIJI



# FIJI

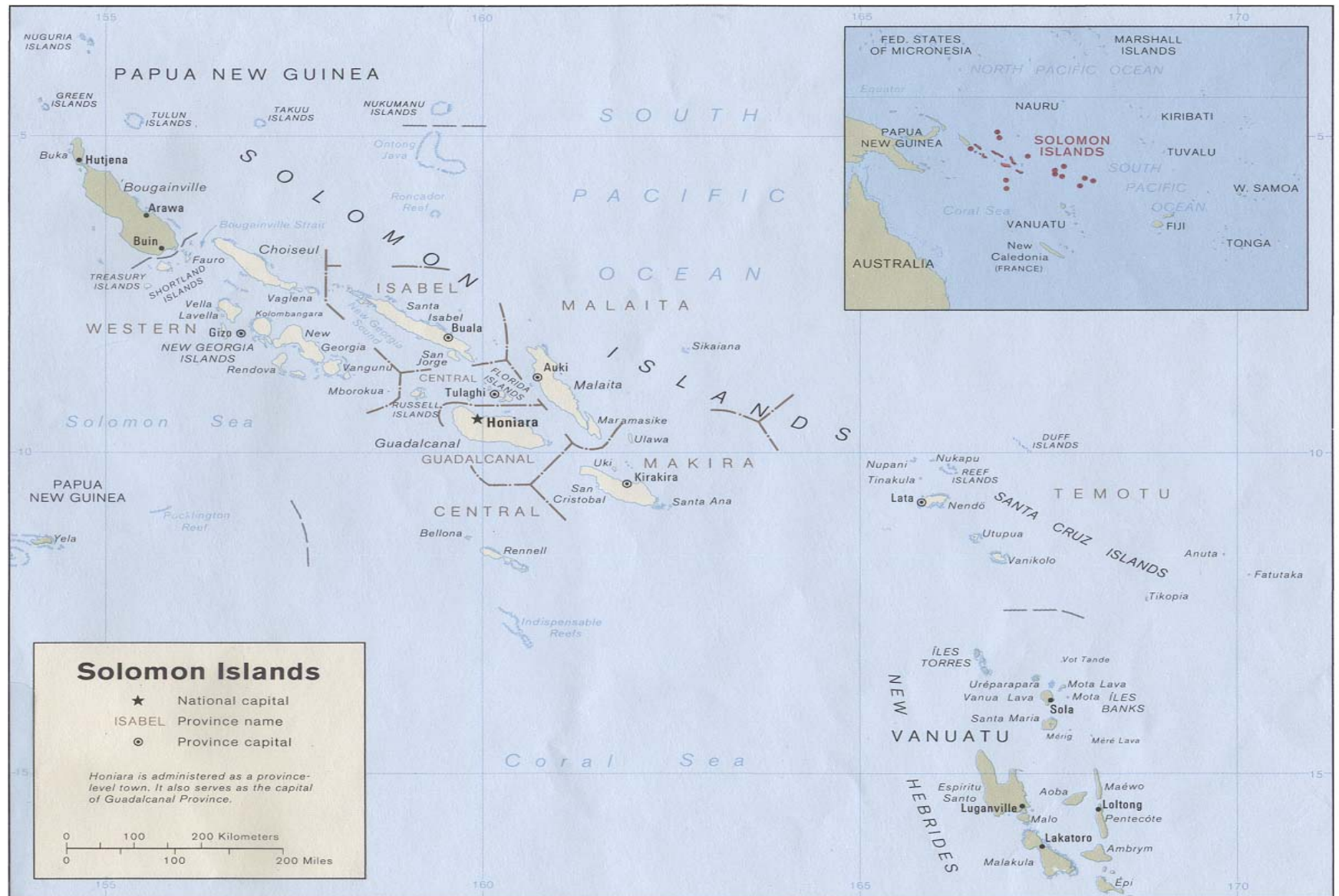
## SOME FACTS

- Previously British Colony -Independence 1970
- Population approx 905,000 – about 51% Melanesian 44% Fijian Indian
- Republic
- Two military coups in 1987
- Civilian led coup in 2000
- Military coup in 2006

# The Royal Fiji Military Forces

- Army – Three regular infantry battalions, three territorial – total strength approximately 3000
- Navy – Four Pacific Class Patrol boats – total strength approximately 300
- Army units employed in peacekeeping operations including Lebanon, Iraq and Timor L'Este

# Solomon Islands



# THE SOLOMONS

## SOME FACTS

- Previously British protectorate – self government 1976 – independence 1978
- Population approx 552,000 -Melanesians
- Parliamentary democracy
- RAMSI – June 2003

# Security Forces

- Royal Solomon Islands Police – incorporated into RAMSI
- Two Pacific Class Patrol Craft

# Solomon Islands

1. Complex island cultures were artificially brought together at independence in 1978 with no domestic history of self-government;
2. Significant land disputes developed between different groups at the capital city Honiara around 2000;



3. At the request of SI, there was an early regional intervention 2000 – a small group of peace negotiators and monitors – but this failed to address key issues and the intervention was abandoned;
4. Across the next 2 years, the crisis escalated dramatically; armed militia developed (taking weapons from police stations) and essentially took over the core offices of the state and capital at gunpoint; banks closed (after being held up at gunpoint) and foreigners were evacuated.



# Regional Assistance Mission in Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

1. The collapsing SI govt sought regional intervention in mid 2003, based on a personal request, a regional treaty, and domestic legislation establishing RAMSI;
2. RAMSI very much welcomed, clear early success in de-escalation, prosecution, removing weapons and re-establishing government;
3. Since then, some concern about the 'next phases' of consolidating government capacity and fitting into domestic politics

4. Major riot / arson 2006 over allegations of Taiwanese money being used to determine formation of government after election; Chinatown burnt down in the capital city Honiara;
5. The 'Taiwan factor' points to a very major issue in the SI, particularly in untied 'aid' being given to MPs for 'constituency development' and other allegations of 'dollar influence'.

# Timor – Leste

1. The history is well-known from 1974 to the UN ‘popular consultation’ in 1999, the destruction, the UN administration, independence and the subsequent violence in 2006: a few points are highlighted;
2. An ‘identity issue of self-determination’ festered for decades, including varying levels of conflict both amongst Timorese, and against Indonesia - a political solution was always necessary;

3. The decision to arm local militia groups (especially from 1999) to pressure the Timorese into voting for autonomy within Indonesia was a major strategic mistake; it massively escalated the conflict, caused gross abuses of human rights, was hugely unpopular on the ground (hence achieving the reverse of its objective), made it extremely hard to re-build a sustainable peace, and resulted in liability for international and other serious crimes which have been very difficult to resolve.

# The need to create a culture of 'constitutional conflict resolution'

1. The violence in 2006 made it clear that 'UN peace-building' was 'shallow' - the UN administration left Timor-Leste before a culture of 'constitutional conflict-resolution' had taken root;
2. At Timorese insistence, both a police force and a small military were established and armed; but with a partisan political history in the military and no clear role in the new government, and a weak framework of constitutional control, there was potential for future conflict should those forces come under different direction;

3. The formation of 'weaponized-gangs' to push objectives by violence had not been removed from Timor culture, and gang violence erupted in 2006 (and since);
4. All this has required a re-engagement from the international community, including armed forces and police
5. There is still a long way to go before T-L is 'stable'

# Issue Two - Drug Targeting

1. Operation Deva – Fiji
2. World wide ATS manufacturing syndicate,  
links to Philippines, Malaysia, Hong  
Kong, Australia, NZ
3. Fiji targeted
  - Weak legislation
  - Good trade routes – air and sea
  - Corruptible officials



# Drug Smuggling Routes

This map illustrates the Pacific Ocean region, highlighting various countries and territories, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. It features a network of colored arrows representing drug smuggling routes. A key in the bottom right corner identifies the colors: Green for Cannabis, Blue for Cocaine, Red for ATS, and Red for Heroin. Specific routes are labeled, such as 'Singapore to Auckland to Fiji' (red), 'Singapore to Fiji' (red), 'Wash ups' (blue), and 'From USA' (blue). The map also shows major oceanic features like the North Pacific and South Pacific Oceans, and the Hawaiian Islands. A scale bar and projection information are provided in the bottom right corner.

Key: Cannabis (Green), Cocaine (Blue), ATS (Red), Heroin (Red)

Scale: 1:36,000,000 at 30°S  
Mercator Projection

# Drug Smuggling Routes

This map illustrates the Pacific Ocean region, highlighting various countries and territories, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. It details drug smuggling routes for four substances: Cannabis (green), Cocaine (blue), ATS (black), and Heroin (red). Key routes include:

- Heroin (Red):** From the USA, Venezuela, and Colombia, passing through the Marshall Islands and Kiribati, to New Zealand.
- Cocaine (Blue):** From the USA, Venezuela, and Colombia, passing through the Marshall Islands and Kiribati, to New Zealand.
- ATS (Black):** From the USA, Venezuela, and Colombia, passing through the Marshall Islands and Kiribati, to New Zealand.
- Cannabis (Green):** From the Philippines, Indonesia, and Australia, passing through the Marshall Islands and Kiribati, to New Zealand.

Other labels on the map include "Wash ups", "Singapore to Auckland", "Singapore to Fiji", and "Key: Cannabis Cocaine ATS Heroin". A scale bar indicates 1:36,000,000 at 30°S, and the map uses the Mercator Projection.

# Drug Smuggling Routes

This map illustrates the Pacific Ocean region, highlighting various countries and territories, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. It features a network of colored arrows representing drug smuggling routes. A key in the bottom right corner identifies the drugs by color: Cannabis (green), Cocaine (blue), ATS (red), and Heroin (black). Specific routes are labeled, such as 'Singapore to Auckland to Fiji' and 'Singapore to Fiji'. Other labels include 'Wash ups' and 'From USA'. The map also shows the 'North Pacific Ocean' and 'South Pacific Ocean' regions, along with various island groups like the Hawaiian Islands, Marshall Islands, and Caroline Islands. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates a scale of 1:36,000,000 at 30°S, using the Mercator Projection.

Key: Cannabis Cocaine ATS Heroin

Scale: 1:36,000,000 at 30°S  
Mercator Projection



# Operation Deva / Abalone

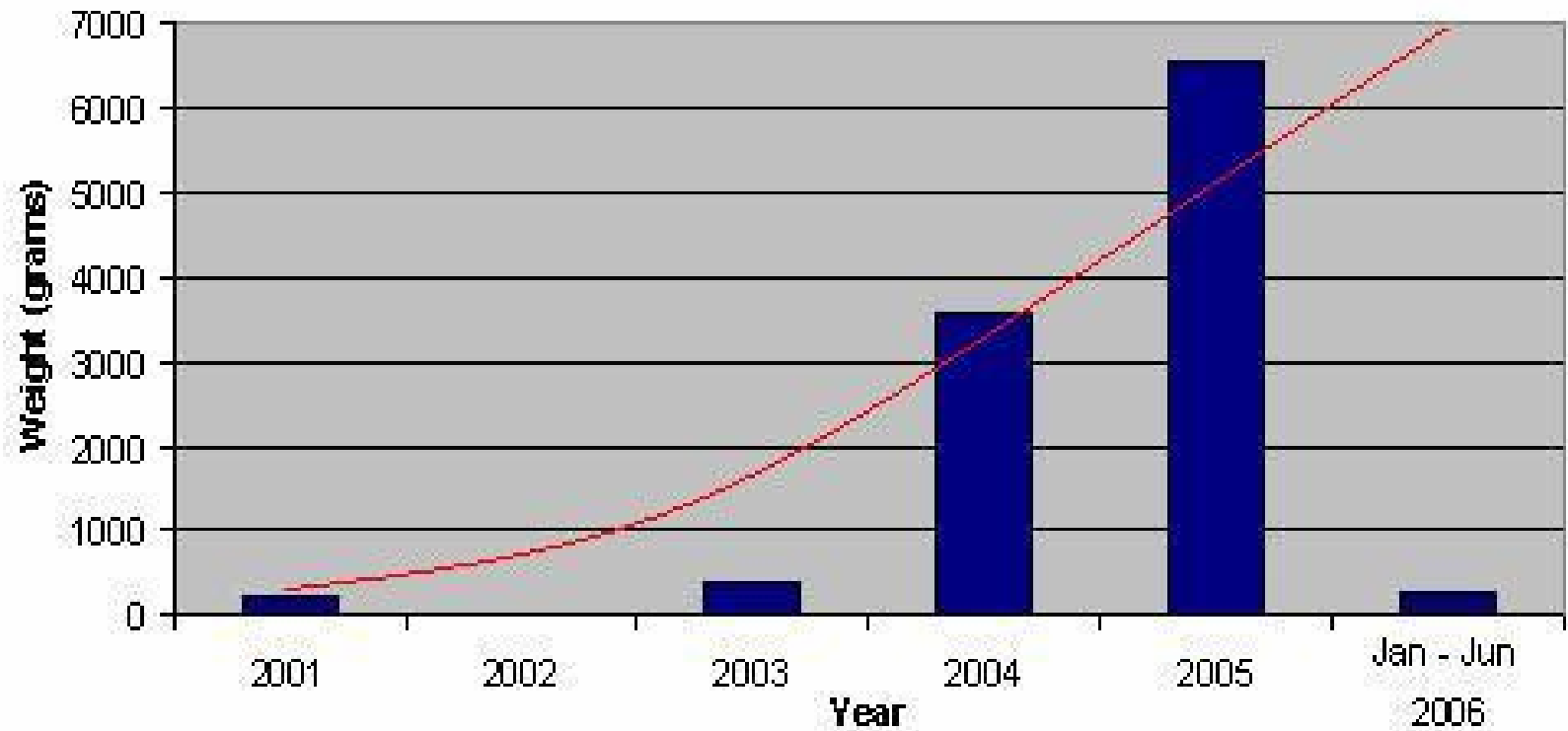
1. Pre Cursors shipped across Auckland wharves
2. “Ice” Manufactured in Suva
3. Destined for Sydney and Auckland



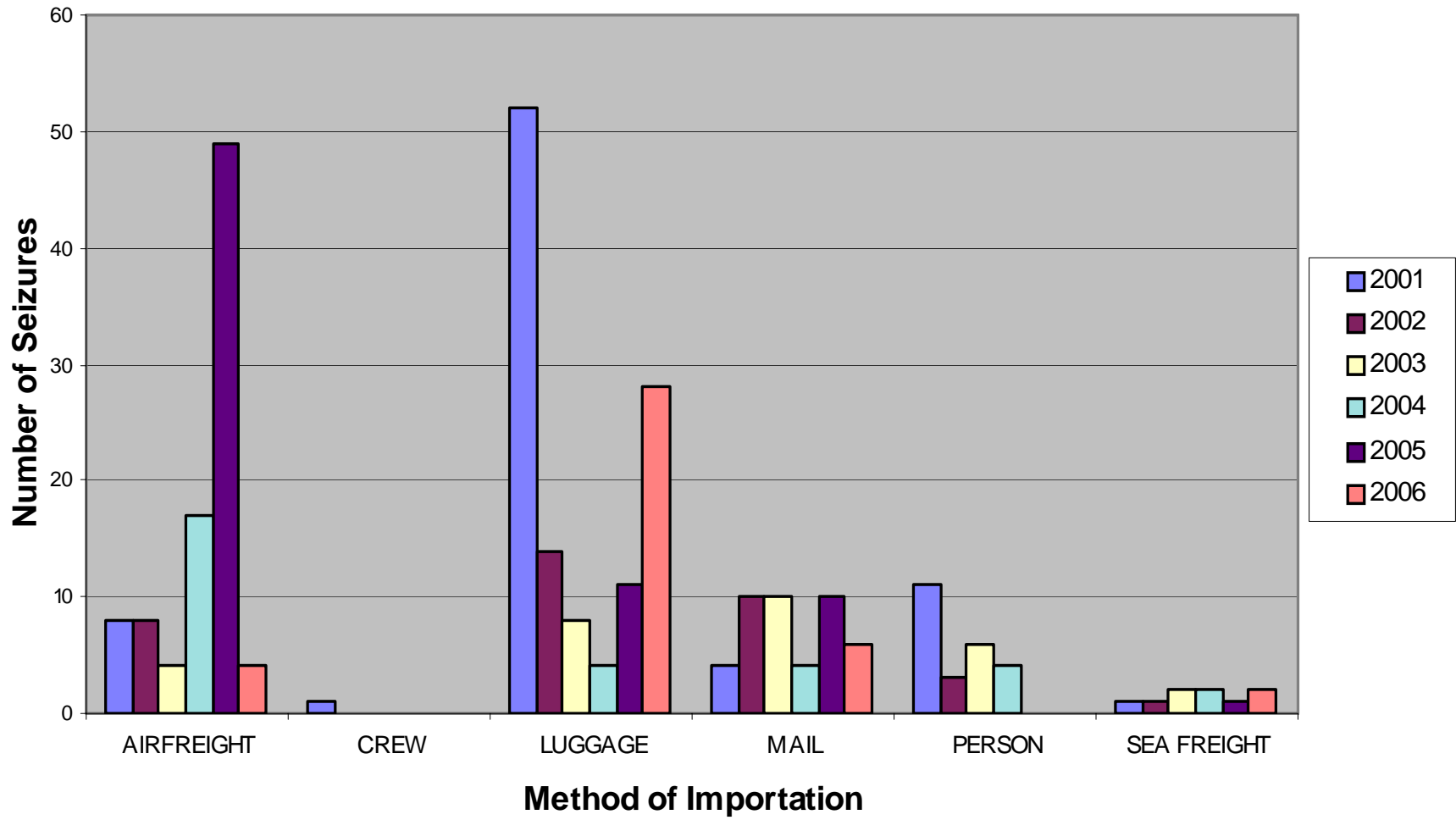
# Drugs

1. Mainstay of criminal activity in region
2. Proven transit routes
  - Reduced risk of detection
  - Conceals true source & route
3. Domestic trade in cannabis
4. Trade between countries  
Samoa – Am Samoa & Fiji - Tonga
5. No signs of hard drug “leakage”

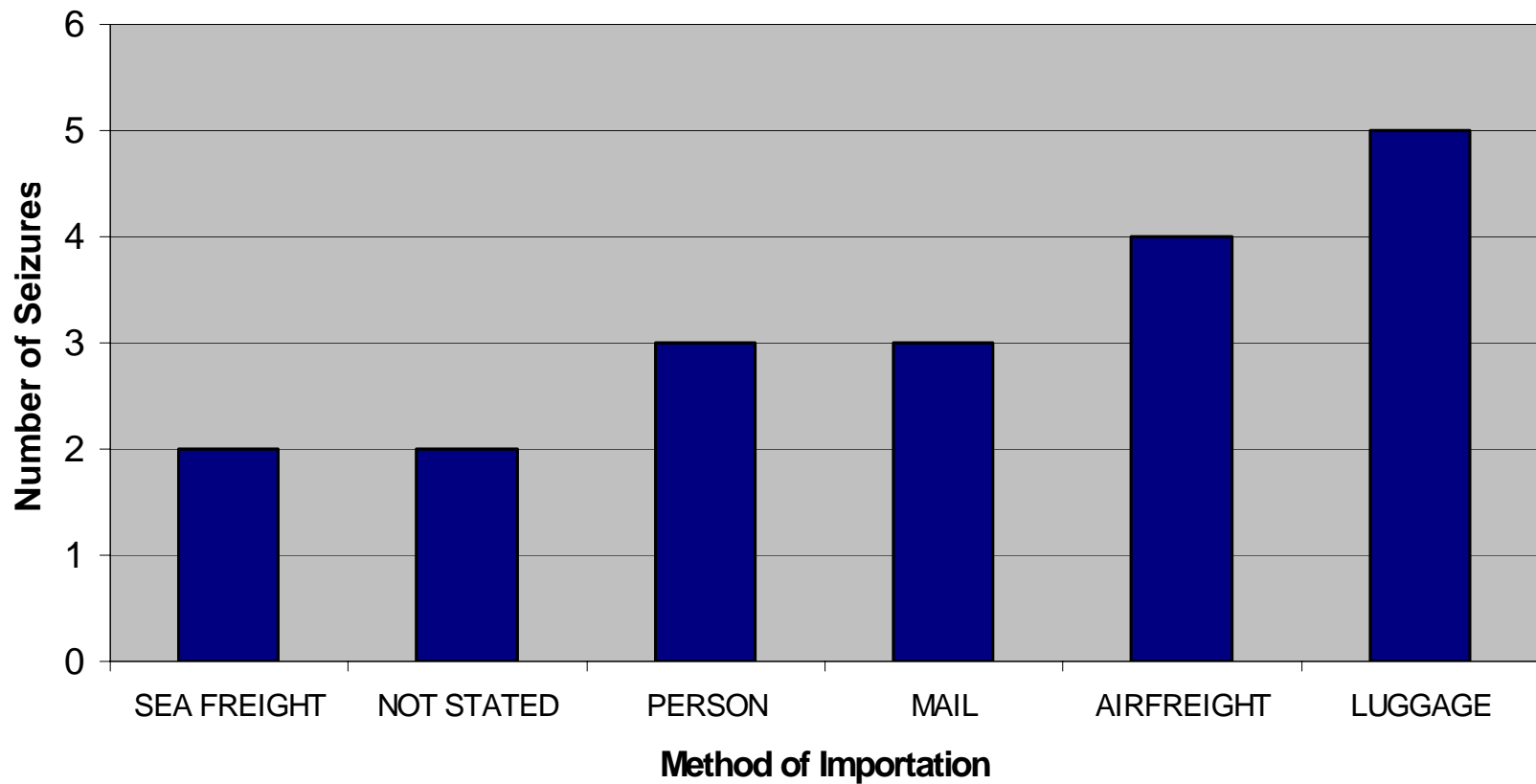
## Methamphetamine Seizures



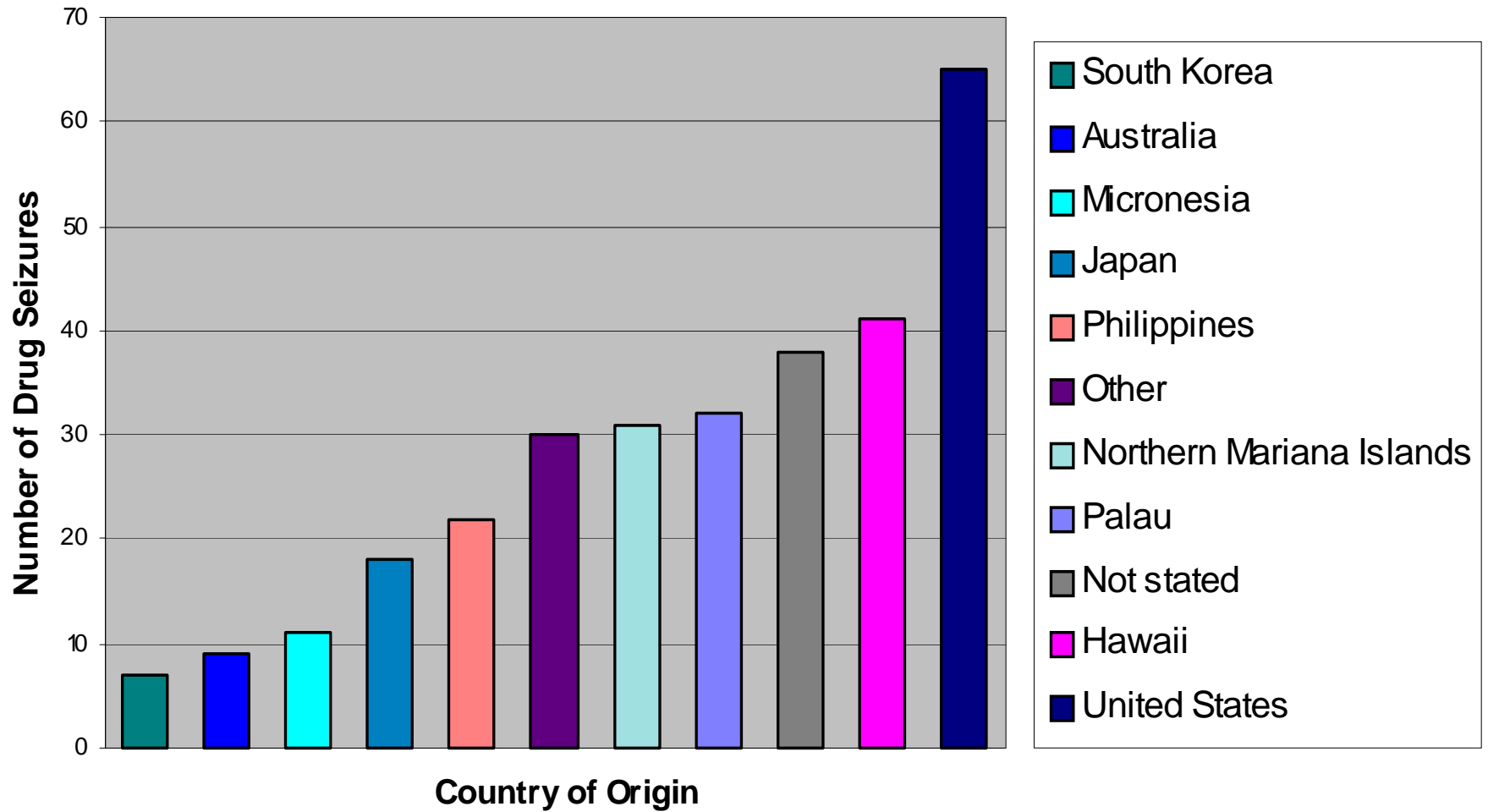
## Method of Drug Importation



### Method of Importation - Seizures in excess of 1000 grams



## Country of Origin



# Conclusion

1. Political problems need political solutions.
2. “Escalation” is a policy option not an inevitability; a decision to arm local militia is ALWAYS a significant escalator.
3. The regional framework for peace operations and peacebuilding by all Pacific Forum governments set out in the *Bitekawa Declaration* in 2000 has been very significant.

4. However, in relation to Solomon Islands and currently in Fiji following the coup of December 2006, there are tensions in the regional engagement.
5. China-Taiwan issues in the Pacific have been significant factors in several tension areas, particularly in Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji and PNG.



- 6. A number of Asian based companies work across the South Pacific often exploiting the natural resources of the region.
- 7. Many of the super powers also are active seeking to secure votes from Pacific Island countries to use in the UN and international organizations – this been particularly evident in the Whaling Commission.

- 8. France, The USA, Britain along with Australia and New Zealand, the EU together with China and Japan provide major external influences in the region.
- 9. Security in the South Pacific is the concern of many players. The future pattern of security is difficult to pre determine.

# Thanks to:

Peter Cozens  
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The background of the slide features several sets of concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water. These circles are positioned in the lower half of the slide, with one set on the left, one in the center, and a larger one on the right.