



Speaking Notes for

Notes d'allocution de

General Walt Natynczyk
Chief of the Defence Staff Chef d'État-Major de la Défense

Conference of Defence Associations Institute

Ottawa, Ont

27 February 2009

Please check against delivery

Comparer au discours prononcé

Canada

I. Introductory Remarks

Thank you for your kind remarks. Thank you to LGen Evraire, Dr. Cowan and Colonel Pellerin for hosting this important event. Alain, as I see all that you do to make CDAI conference successful I truly marvel.

Senators, MPs, Provincial MLAs, Ambassadors, thank you all for your interest and presence here.

I offer a special welcome to Gen. Mattis and Gen. Renuart for joining us this morning. Similarly, I am very pleased to see three former CDS's Generals Manson, Baril and Heneault.

Honorary Captains and Colonels
General and Flag Officers
CFCWO, Chiefs and RSMs
Distinguished members of CDAI
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's a real pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to the members and guests of the CDAI. I would like to thank you all for being here.

I feel privileged to be here as your CDS, now in my eighth month of duty. What a ride it has already been! I have had the opportunity to see the CF from coast to coast to coast, sailing in the Pacific, Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Gulf. I have visited TF Kandahar three times including over Christmas with the Minister.

Last Friday the Rangers allowed me to drive one of their Snow Machines over the lakes of North Eastern Saskatchewan. It was such a great day that I have to turn in a day's pay!

Wherever I go, I can't help but be inspired and proud of our men and women in uniform. Canadians can take pride in having one of the most professional and best-trained militaries in the world. Our Allies tell us so as well as one said that the CF is a great military, there just aren't enough of you. We're trying to change that!

Where we are today is a reflection of the service and sacrifices of those who went before us. I am humbled to stand before you. You who trained us, you set the standard. You showed us what right looks like.

As I call your group, please stand up and remain standing:

I'd ask our Veterans of WWII

Korean Vets please stand up

Peacekeeping Vets

Veterans of the Gulf War and the Kosovo air campaign

Veterans of Afghanistan, Campaign on terror.

Although you may not be wearing a uniform today, the very fact that you are here to day demonstrates that you are still serving. We thank you for your sense of duty to Canada and the CF and thank your families for the sacrifices they made to allow you to serve.

I'd also like to remark that our future is bright. When I see the young soldiers, NCO and junior officers who are gaining decades of experience over very short periods of intense operations, I am proud. The quality of our new leaders is remarkable. Our RMC Cadets from Kingston and St Jean please stand up.

Today I'd like to outline my assessment of where the CF are today and where I believe we need to go in the future.

I see the CF as an integrated, modern military force built upon core service competencies. Where the CF can achieve strategic effect with integrated naval, air, land and Special Forces operations.

We in uniform cannot fulfil our responsibilities without the great support of the Department. In the strategic environment of the 21st century we all work together Regulars, Reserves and civilians, in one defence team.

Our civilian work force, from coast to coast, is robust. Here in Ottawa, we are very proud that DND was ranked amongst the top employers in the city.

The Canada First Defence Strategy, announced by Government last spring and briefed by the Minister this morning outlines the CF's missions and tasks. It details a plan to rebuild the CF over the next 20 years. This is an important achievement. It is probably the best plan since I joined the military.

The CFDS establishes that the three tasks for the CF are

- to defend Canada,
- to be a reliable partner with our US allies and
- to project leadership abroad to protect Canadian interests.

The Strategy directs the CF to grow to 100,000 military personnel with 70,000 regulars and 30,000 reserves, to recapitalize combat equipment, to enhance the force's readiness and infrastructure. We have a way to go to achieve these numbers as the force currently stands at 65,000 regulars paid, but with 55,000 trained effectives and just over 25,000 effective reservists.

The Strategy is solid, but it will take time to grow and rebuild the Canadian Forces while at the same time we are prosecuting a high tempo of operations, transforming the forces to meet the needs of a changing world, recruiting and

training Canada's finest, and caring for our wounded and their families.

Operations:

Let's talk about what all this means.

This is a very busy time for the Canadian Forces – we're engaged in many operations both at home and abroad. Operations are our business, our primary output. I like to say, the Canadian Forces is Canada's most valued insurance policy.

Defending Canada and North America

And our work begins here at home. The Canadian Forces' most important mission is to defend Canada and Canadians. This is our first priority.

One of our essential missions that occur on an average of three times a day or night is search and rescue. The CF has exceptionally talented men and women who launch in aircraft and helicopters normally in terrible conditions to assist those in dire need. With us today is the CF's Senior SAR Technician, MWO Gavin Lee. He spent 8 years in the Army as a Combat trucker before making the jump—over 600 to be exact into the SAR world.

And, he has launched out the door on a moments notice more than 500 times to rescue Canadians, Americans, Spaniards, Japanese—all in need of live saving assistance.

In fact, MWO Lee was awarded the Medal of Bravery for putting his life on the line in a daring rescue dive mission to save six boaters trapped in their overturned vessel in Active Pass near Victoria. He is here with his wife Retired Air Force Officer Mary Lee and their daughter Gillian.

And we need to invest in SAR for the future. The FW SAR is a priority

acquisition in the CFDS to enable outstanding airmen like MWO Lee to project his teams to save Canadians to all corners of the nation and our three oceans.

One of the toughest Region to operate is the Arctic where the CF will enhance its presence over the next few years. As Minister Cannon said yesterday, the Arctic is a fundamental part of Canada and Canada is an Arctic Power.

It is a vast area that we have placed under a single commander. BGen Dave Millar commands a Region that is 40% of Canada, larger than all of Europe and with a population of approximately 100,000 souls.

The environment is changing. The melt is occurring faster than most expected. Last year we had another record year for commercial traffic in the Archipelago. The polar route from Asia to Europe will be open for commercial traffic sooner than we expect. We in the CF must be ready for the new realities in Canada.

Infrastructure and activity levels are key to exercising sovereignty in the Arctic. Initiatives for the docking facility at Nanisivik and the training Centre are key investments in infrastructure to improve our ability to operate in the North. Our goal is to have them up and fully operational by 2015.

Dave Millar has the mission to exercise our sovereignty throughout his region in support of the other Departments. He has many assets available to him: satellite based imagery, ground and spatial radar, patrol aircraft, naval vessels, and Rangers.

Every summer during the peak months of activity in the North, Canada Command launches a series of sovereignty operations in support of other Departments with folks operating in the North.

Ships, aircraft, companies of soldiers, and Rangers, work together to patrol our vast spaces and test themselves against different emergency scenarios.

The Rangers are a remarkable force. They number about 4500 folks and many of them are community leaders and elders. Just a few weeks ago, the Governor General recognized Ollie Ittinuar with the Order of Military Merit. He's 88 years old, the oldest member of the CF, and he became a Ranger at the ripe age of 60.

Ollie and his peers patrol in their respective region, act as the first responders to ground search and rescue and instruct village youth in traditional ways as part of the Junior Ranger program.

Further South, we are exactly one year away from the Olympics. The CF is also preparing to support the RCMP in their mission to secure the Games.

We have formed a Joint Task Force under the command of Rear Admiral Ty Pile to support Assistant Commissioner Bud Mercer of the RCMP who has the lead to provide security for the Games.

Two weeks ago we supported the RCMP and other Departments in a live exercise that was invaluable in developing our collaborative procedures. We are going through lessons learned and adapting as we work with safety, security and Games organizers.

I applaud focus on yesterday's seminar on CAN US relationship. It is fundamental to our domestic, continental and international missions. I remember receiving support from the US during the Ice Storm and Manitoba Floods. As well we have supported them in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and in advance of Hurricane Gustav.

Under the cooperative agreement of NORAD, Canada Command coordinates our Navy to provide maritime warning to our coastal approaches while Air Force CF-18s secure our airspace. We are intercepting any aircraft that approaches

our continent without having filed a flight plan.

We are working closely in continental defence. You may have seen that our Aurora Aircraft from Comox deployed to the South East Pacific and participated with the US Coast Guard in counter-drug operations. Together they detection and arrested of a semi-submersible drug running boat with 7 tonnes of drugs! (Where are those Edm Mall subs?). The HMCS Montreal is returning from a similar operation in the Caribbean after having supported the Coast Guard in another take-down of a drug boat carrying half a ton of cocaine.

Last year, NORAD has reached its 50 Anniversary of service to Canada and the US. We are most fortunate to have Gen Gene Renuart, Commander of NORAD here with us.

He is a US Air Force officer but he has a special place in his heart for Canada; his grand-parents are from the Winnipeg area.

Operations Overseas

Beyond our borders and our continent, the Canadian Forces' mission is to project Canadian Leadership abroad to contribute to international security. We currently have troops engaged in 16 operations around the world. Our men and women are deployed under the United Nations flag in places like Sudan, Congo, Cyprus, the Middle East and Haiti. Other deployments continue with Kosovo, Sierra Leone and MFO Egypt.

Last summer, Commodore Bob Davidson commanded a multi-national naval task group in the Gulf Region designated Combined Task Force 150 with a mission to conducts maritime security operations as part of international efforts to counter terrorism. His sailors did an outstanding job interdicting small coastal vessels from transferring drugs, weapons between countries and smuggling people.

We then assigned HMCS Ville de Quebec to escort United Nations sponsored, World Food Program ships delivering life saving supplies to Somalia. With every ship safely escorted, 36,000 tons of food got to the people, enough food for 400,000 people for 6 months.

With us today from the Ville de Quebec are Master Seaman Nathan Haddon and his wife Lisa.

As second in command of a boarding party, Master Seaman Haddon was awarded a Commander's Commendation for his exceptional leadership. In extreme heat and under great pressure, he led his team in independent operations aboard several merchant vessels. The exceptional junior leaders like Nathan inspire us all.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is the most difficult, complex, dangerous and costly operation since the Korean War. The mission has defined the CF in this decade and with the experience of our young veterans will for decades to come.

Our forces are there participating in a NATO-led, UN-sanctioned mission at the request of the elected government of Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that the conflict in Afghanistan is part of a region in turmoil. We certainly focus on the central role and importance of Pakistan plays in supporting NATO's mission in Afghanistan. But as the terrible Mumbai attacks proved, these tensions and conflict have a broader regional context.

The CF mission in Afghanistan has evolved significantly since we began in 2002, and especially after the recommendations from the independent Manley Panel and the Parliament's mandate extension to 2011.

We met the requirements of the Parliamentary vote with the addition of the infantry Battalion and Chinook helicopters with the strong support of our US allies. 2/2 infantry is deployed alongside our Battle Group of 3 RCR. (Ironic that the battalion's first battle honour was War of 1812 – Battle of Queenston Heights (Oct 13, 1812)

Six Chinook helicopters are hauling cargo and hundreds of Canadian, Afghan and Allied personnel. The Heron UAV and Griffin helicopters are all having a significant impact in improving operational performance of the Task Force.

The mission has transformed from one focused predominantly on security to one that is truly focused supporting the Afghan Government to take ownership of their country.

The Canadian Government established six priorities providing us with guidance:

- Building Afghan National Police and Army capacity,
- Humanitarian assistance
- Provision of basic services through development
- Building Governance institutions
- Enhancing Border security
- Assisting the Afghan Government in reconciliation.

The CF has the lead in building Afghan security force capacity and enables the success of the Other Government Departments in the other priorities. But the essential requirement to achieve these priorities is security that men in uniform with our Afghan partners provide.

A stable and secure Afghanistan strengthens international security – and by

extension, Canada's security. Canadian security begins 10,000 km away where ungoverned areas become fertile ground for terrorist training camps whose sole purpose is to export terror.

Again, we are projecting leadership abroad. Until last November, a Canadian general officer had command of Regional Command South for nine months. MGen Marc Lessard most ably led the multinational forces in Southern Afghanistan. He will assume command of CEFCOM in May.

General Lessard and his force of Canadians exemplified what we do best abroad to meet our international commitments with honour, to provide leadership and to contribute to peace.

And the Governor General and I just welcomed home BGen Dennis Thompson and his HQ team this Monday afternoon from theatre — another great leader who earned the trust and confidence from our NATO allies.

Our military is serving there as part of a whole-of-government mission that involves not only military personnel but also diplomats, aid workers and police.

As the Army's latest draft on Counter Insurgency concludes (and I thank all of you in the academia and experts who contributed to the effort to write this keystone document): An insurgency is a political problem. The military plays a largely supporting role. Therefore the main effort is Governance, not security. The real need of the country is win and hold popular support.

Therefore the main effort is developing a responsible Government that is respected through fair elections. These are currently planned for 20 August and credible institutions that protect the rights of its citizens.

The voter registration is ongoing now. Thus far it has been very successful as

about 4.3 million Afghans. They have overcome Taliban intimidation and threats to exercise their right to a vote.

Governance is needed federally, provincially and right down to the districts and communities. Through these institutions there will be hope for self-sustainment, economic development, jobs and a brighter future.

What has been so difficult these past three years is that Canadians military and civilians are operating in one of the most difficult regions in the country. Quite simply the South and East of the country are the most violent, and violence increased significantly over the past year. Afghan's perception of confidence of their security has deteriorated.

2008 was a difficult year right through January with our troops assisting the Afghans Police and military to train and secure the countryside at the same time. Security has not improved as the insurgents operated from sanctuaries outside the borders.

Their attacks were more sophisticated.

They launched successful attacks on the Kandahar prison, a Kabul hotel and embassy and numerous high level assassinations and kidnappings. Our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen stood their ground and supported the Afghan Army and Police to counter the violence.

Your troops are performing very well with the Afghans to clear insurgents allowing for development and for district leaders to regain control. But Afghan Police are unable to hold the ground and Taliban easily infiltrate back in through the heavy foliage of the countryside. The soldiers say that it's like a game of whack-a-mole at the EX.

Quite simply there aren't enough troops to secure the entire country, which is the

size of Manitoba! The reinforcement by the US forces will be most welcome to hold the gains and support the Afghan Security Forces. A civilian surge is also required by NATO partners to build institutions.

We also need support from organizations such as the United Nations, NGOs and IOs, organizations that will help feed, cloth, educate and care for a very poor population.

Yet your troops, DFAIT, CIDA, and RCMP, serving in theatre are making headway in several of the six priorities despite the volatile security situation.

So if you talk to Canadian troops who are there or who've been there, they'll tell you how proud they are of what they're accomplishing.

Your soldiers from private to general, describe tangible signs of progress in training Afghan Police and Army. They will tell you that progress is difficult especially when one is combating a force that places no value on human life (blowing up innocent civilians, targeting schools, and humanitarian aid workers and throwing acid on school age girls).

With us today is WO Stephane Grenier, a Van Doo with the 3rd Battalion. He has already served in 5 missions abroad, namely Cyprus, Somalia, Haiti and twice in Afghanistan. He returned from Afghanistan last year where he served as a section commander and was recently decorated with the Medal of Military Valour.

Warrant Officer Grenier, then a Sgt distinguished himself by his valiant conduct under intense fire, when his section was ambushed, he selflessly exposed himself to great peril when he engaged the enemy to rescue and evacuate two wounded soldiers, pulling one with one hand all the while returning fire with the other hand and coordinating the tactical withdrawal of his troops. His immediate actions contributed to saving numerous lives.

His wife Nadia and daughter Heidi could not be here today, but they are extremely supportive and proud of his work. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a Canadian hero and a true example of leadership for our NCOs.

Our troops are seeing mixed results. We make progress training police and guards and assign them Kandahar to protect, but the Taliban are still able to penetrate the defences, and make spectacular attacks.

And credit goes equally to the RCMP, DFAIT and CIDA. Their folks are deployed alongside our troops, leading the way to assist the new Governor and district leaders in Kandahar to build a credible administration. CIDA is focused on restoring the Dahla Dam which is vital to Afghans. When it comes on line, the irrigation system will provide for alternate crops, improve farming and create more jobs. They have built 22 of 50 schools and are making great strides in eradicating polio.

Despite all these hardships, the Afghan people are resilient. Afghans are showing up for work to support these development projects despite the intimidation of night letters.

We are helping them by placing greater emphasis on building the capacities of the Afghan National Security Forces. Today our young officers and NCOs are mentoring five Afghan army battalions and a brigade headquarters in Kandahar.

Afghan officers are now successfully leading and conducting complex operations. It takes time to develop the competencies of professional NCOs and officer Corps in the Afghan Army.

A combination of RCMP, several officers from Ottawa, military police and soldiers are mentoring an estimated 200 Afghan Police in the Kandahar region and in the

effort to professionalize their skills.

Much has been made of the cost of the operation. The true cost is the loss of lives of our extraordinary Canadian service men and women. They are our national treasure. The financial bill of this mission was steep because we allowed the force to become hollow. The CF didn't have what they needed to protect themselves or the Afghans.

A significant investment was required on short order to enhance the protection of our troops. And now our soldiers are confident in their kit.

I mentioned the helicopters, but the Leopard tanks, armoured heavy trucks, artillery, personal equipment and radios have all made a huge difference to our troops.

They are confident in their kit and know that they are well supported by the nation for this difficult mission. And they are proud!

Veterans from this operational experience are seeing the "new normal" of complex, multinational, operations in dangerous, rapidly changing parts of the world.

However, the Parliamentary Vote by the Government of Canada decided that the military mission in Afghanistan will end in summer of 2011.

Governance, development and reconstruction may continue, but the military mission will come to an end. The CF is conducting planning with our allies to ensure that our security responsibilities will transition effectively.

But our focus remains on enabling the Afghans as much as we can in the next two and a half years that remain. Our soldiers are focused on the troop rotations that have yet to occur and they want to continue to make a difference.

When the CF withdraws from Afghanistan in 2011, I have no doubt that our services will be called upon in troubled regions elsewhere as the Government chooses.

CFDS

And my priority as your CDS is to modernize, transform and grow the force to be ready for these operations. We've made some progress by acquiring the C-17 and Leopard II tanks which have already saved many lives in Afghanistan. We will receive C130J transport aircraft in the next few years.

But it is a difficult trend to reverse of rust-out. After so many years of financial reductions and boom to bust cycle in the defence industry sector, it is hard to ramp up our procurement staffs and re-ignite the industrial complex to rebuild the CF.

And, we need the support of Industry to achieve our goals. In the near term, shipbuilding concerns me the most. We have proven that we can purchase vehicles and aircraft. But we haven't launched a major warship since the mid-nineties.

Shipbuilding requires a long-term commitment. Our shortest time on record to design, build and launch a ship is eight years.

With the CFDS, the CF has a twenty-year plan to build over 25 ships, but we need to start building right now. The AORs are 40 years old and the Destroyers only a couple years younger. JSS and the Canadian Surface combatant are projects that the Navy needs today. We are looking for ways to accelerate these programs.

Secondly, our combat vehicles are getting banged about in Afghanistan. I'm sure

LGen Leslie will have more to say about wear and tear on the Army fleet later today.

We have repaired what we can, but we will need to advance on the CFDS plan for the Future Family of combat vehicles to enable the army's agility in the post 2011 timeframe.

Air programmes deserving keen attention are the Fixed Wing Search and Rescue, the Next Generation of Fighter Capability and the Multi-Mission aircraft to replace the Aurora.

The real magic about CFDS is that we can actually plan on these recapitalization projects with the policy endorsement by Government. The real challenge is getting to contract signing and having the first of kind built while maintaining the old hardware. We are still repairing Sea Kings while awaiting the arrival of the new Cyclone Helicopter.

Transformation

We have come a long way in Transformation in a short period of time.

Transformation has provided us with a new structure that has proven effective and able to deliver.

We also need to continually adapt our culture, doctrine, training and structures to adjust to the world's new realities. Our folks at the front are continually changing their tactics techniques and procedures to counter their foe. We too need to change strategically to enable their success. The culture of learning, agility and need to fight complacency are essential in a professional force.

People

Let me turn to the most treasured resource – People! The CF has gained a vast

amount of experience over a short period.

But some folks, especially Senior NCOs and officers are getting tired with repeat tours and deployments. We are working at solutions to temper their operational tempo and at the same time grow the force.

We are hiring exceptional Canadians and making every effort to grow the force through rapid recruiting and training. The growth of the CF is my greatest challenge right now.

Reservists are filling an essential role in our military more today than ever before. This is the new normal—they are flying Griffon helicopters, manning Maritime Coastal Vessels such as HMCS Shawinigan up in Iqaliut last Summer and we've got gunners such as MBdr Mike Garbuio soldiering in Afghanistan on the M777 artillery gun.

MBdr Garbuio please stand up. He's a reservist from 30th Field Regiment here in Ottawa (LGen Leslie's first Regt).

He began his career in the Reserves as a medic, but later traded in his stretcher for the guns.

In the fall of 2006, he worked around the clock on the guns of E Battery, 2 Horse, supporting the full spectrum of operations in the Panjwayi District during Op MEDUSA. This operation was a major turning point for Canadians in Afghanistan.

MBdr Garbuio is a credit to his leadership and his training and aspires to join the Ottawa Police Force in the near future.

I am proud of the work of our Reservists and they should expect no less than the same level of care for their service.

Recruiting

I need to hire 6,000 reservists and 8,000 Reg Force each year to grow by 1,000.

We are looking for Canadians who want a career with adventure.

Last year retirements came in faster than we expected so we didn't reach our growth goal. (628 for FY 07/08) But this year, we are attempting to overachieve.

Attrition rose from 6.5% in 2006 to 9.1% in January this year. Compared to our allies though, we are doing all right. Some have attrition rates in excess of 10% but we are striving to bring our attrition rate back down.

We received great new recruits, but many of our experienced personnel reached their early retirement windows and are opting for other careers. Unlike many of you I must grow my own leaders. I can't hire them through want ads or head hunters.

In fact, Industry is hiring my early retirees because of the great leaders that they are! What I have said to them however is that if their new careers don't work out for them, I would be pleased to welcome them back into the Force as long as they remain fit.

I am sending a message to those who have retired recently. If they want back in-- within 5 years, we'll expedite their re-enrolment. I want them back in serving within 30 days.

We have also made efforts to streamline the training pipeline to accelerate candidates in key trades such as pilot and many technical trades in all the services.

Retention is an area that we need to focus more attention. To replace a senior

NCO or officer with 20 years of experience, it takes 20 years!

Each and every one of our personnel made an individual decision to join the CF, but when it comes to retirement, we expect like most of you that it will be a family decision. That is why my leadership team is placing a significant emphasis on addressing the dis-satisfiers to family's quality of life.

Our men and women in uniform couldn't do their job if it wasn't for the support of our families.

Yet our families have five areas of real difficulty:

- childcare,
- affordable and decent housing,
- access to a family doctor, 40% don't have one
- education standards for military children (1 in 8 military children have special needs) and,
- loss of spousal employment and pensions

These are the main reasons for military members to pack it in early before the end of their full career. I am dedicated to addressing these shortcomings in our family support and force retention efforts.

This year we rolled out the Family Covenant. It is our pledge to support families and make them our priority.

Their strength and flexibility through deployments and postings and training help make our military successes possible.

Through our combat experience in Afghanistan and despite our best efforts to protect our personnel, we have taken losses—lives were lost and able soldiers wounded.

We grieve for every one of our fallen and for their families. I appreciate the huge support Canadians have provided the families of our fallen comrades so that they know that Canada recognizes and appreciates their sacrifice.

We have changed many policies to ensure that families of the fallen are treated with respect and dignity. We do the same for those soldiers, sailors, airmen and women who are injured and wounded on operations. From the moment they are wounded they receive the best possible medical care.

It starts on the battlefield with medics and soldiers who are specially trained in combat first aid and then someone like our own doctors, Major Sandra West takes over when they arrive in the Kandahar Multinational Hospital. Major West played a key leadership role as the Officer Commanding an international team of doctors, nurses, and technicians.

She directed life saving treatment for Canadian soldiers and Allied soldiers, police officers, Afghan soldiers, civilians and children following numerous IED strikes.

She is now working here in Ottawa as our Base Surgeon where she is coordinating continued medical treatment for our wounded warriors. Sandra, THANK YOU. Thanks to your husband Bruce who was a former JAG officer and to your children Laura and Lisa.

Ladies and Gentlemen this is the Military Family who embody service and duty!

In terms of care and treatment of our wounded, we are better than we were, but we have learned a tremendous amount of hard lessons over the past few years.

Nous soutiendrons nos combattants blessés. Nous les aiderons à retourner au travail. Nous leur donnerons une nouvelle mission – leur mission est de guérir,

de se rétablir et de conserver ce lien avec leurs unités.

We will support our wounded warriors. We will help them get back to work. We will give them a new mission – their mission is to heal, to get well, and to keep that connection to their units.

We will also ensure that our wounded warriors will have options to remain in the forces if they become fit again and to assist them with Veterans Affairs Canada for additional education, job placement when they wish to transition to civilian life. Thanks to many of you for the support in providing career options to these wounded warriors.

We need to ensure for the care of our Post Traumatic Stress Injuries. They are complex injuries and I encourage our members to open up when they know something is going wrong.

I cannot overstate that Care for ill and injured soldiers is a top priority and includes making mental health services a priority. Services that also provide supportive care for the military family's well-being.

Conclusion

The decline in our capability occurred over several decades. To rebuild will also take many years.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have one of the finest military forces in the world. We in uniform are committed, professional and a determined military. We are only starting the journey to emerge from a difficult period of under funding and over tasking, but we have a plan and the resources to grow, modernize and transform our ability to react to security challenges of the future.

We'll need your continuing support to rebuild the CF. I would ask that you think of

your forces and the important job they do for Canadians. Please show your support in ways big and small: attending a Red Rally, a Yellow Ribbon sticker on your car, donating to the Military Families Fund, volunteering at a MFRC, sending letters, thanking military members when you see them in uniform.

And please encourage folks – folks who want to learn, to serve, to lead, to innovate, people who want a career with adventure, want the pride of wearing “Canada” on their shoulder – to give us a look, to get physically fit and to join us and ensure that Canada is secure for the future.

As you leave from here today please remember those Canadians in harms way today, they are on the high seas with HMCS Winnipeg crossing the Pacific, in a CF-18 patrolling at 40,000 feet above the Arctic Ocean or on foot patrol in Kandahar. In your own way and tradition, please remember them and their families and the sacrifices that they make for Canada.

Thank you for your attention. I am proud to be your CDS.