

Speaking Notes for  
The Honourable Art Eggleton  
Minister of National Defence  
at the  
Conference of Defence Associations  
Annual Seminar  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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Please Check Against Delivery

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a pleasure to join you this morning for the opening of your annual seminar.

These meetings have become a regular and important part of our own calendar.

They give us a chance to exchange ideas on a wide range of military issues and maintain our contacts with the broader defence community.

The theme of your conference -- combat capability -- is an important one.

And the Chief of Defence Staff along with the Environmental Chiefs of Staff will address this issue in detail from their perspectives as our most senior military commanders.

But I don't think a discussion on combat capability is complete without a good hard look at the international security environment. Particularly in light of the events of September 11th.

Because for the first time, our continent came under attack.

And with these attacks came a harsh wake-up call.

That instability on the other side of the world can have an impact on our daily lives.

That we face a new enemy, one who can and will strike in unexpected ways.

And that our country and its citizens are vulnerable.

These are the realities that the entire Government has been coming to grips with since September.

As Vice Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Public Security and Anti-Terrorism, I can tell you that departments and agencies are re-examining how they operate -- in some very fundamental ways -- to better ensure our safety and security.

At the same time, there has been a number of Government-wide initiatives.

These include the December budget, which allocated \$7.7 billion over the next five years to fight terrorism and reinforce public security as well as pieces of legislation: the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act.

But obviously, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and its aftermath, have also had some very specific consequences for the Defence of National Defence and the Canadian Forces.

Of significance, of course, is our contribution to the international campaign against terrorism -- a deployment that includes approximately 2,500 Canadian Forces personnel and a number of our ships and aircraft.

This brings our international deployments to around 4,500 troops.

And I would like to say that our men and women in uniform are doing an excellent job.

But another major impact of the new security environment -- and the one I would like to discuss today -- is the pressing need to refocus our defence efforts on domestic and continental security.

This is something that Canadians certainly expect from us, perhaps more so since September.

And I would argue that it would be irresponsible for us not to do so.

But with this more pressing need comes some challenges.

How do we plan and prepare for an environment characterized by the unknown, the unseen and the unexpected?

How do we face down an enemy whose weapons can range from a commercial airliner to chemical weapons to a computer?

Well, we can, and we are, preparing for these threats and the need to defend Canadians, our communities and our infrastructure from new forms of attack.

Already, I think we've shown that we're up to the task.

Through the combined efforts of the entire Defence Team, we are identifying ways to close off as many avenues of vulnerability as possible.

We're developing new ways to deal with consequences, should an attack occur.

And we're examining opportunities to share information and cooperate with our allies, particularly the United States, to better protect our entire continent.

Let me give you a few examples.

Included in the December budget was \$170 million to improve protection against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear -- or CBRN -- incidents through research and development.

And Defence research and development is at the centre of this investment.

Not only will we be coordinating the distribution of this funding, we'll be collaborating with other departments and agencies on a government-wide research program.

Defence scientists have already done leading edge work in countermeasures against chemical, biological and radiological terrorism.

Now, they will be building on their expertise in detection, diagnostics and vaccines to contribute to interdepartmental efforts to cover all aspects of CBRN threats.

But obviously, like any good military plan, we must also prepare to manage the consequences of an attack.

That's why Defence has also received new funding for protective equipment and better training to improve our domestic response capabilities. We will also train first responders at the municipal level.

Also in the December budget was an additional \$119 million to increase the capacity of our anti-terrorism unit, JTF-2.

This unit will be doubled in capacity to better meet Canada's commitment to fighting terrorism at home and abroad.

But there are other threats we have also been coming to terms with.

In fact, something we've known for some time -- well before September -- is that our dependence on information technology for our personal, professional and financial activities has brought with it a new dimension of vulnerability.

Namely that those who try to harm us need not only target our armed forces but also our national infrastructure. Our gas lines, our electricity grids and our information networks.

## **OCIPEP: Responding to new threats**

Some of you may recall from my speech last year that I introduced a new organization in my portfolio: the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness. This organization was given a mandate to provide national leadership for emergency preparedness and critical infrastructure protection.

Well, here we are one year on, and with very little time to even get its feet wet, OC�PEP is fulfilling this mandate and has become central to our domestic response to some of the new threats we're facing.

In the last few months, the Office has focused their efforts on many important initiatives, including:

Enhancing its threat assessment and analysis capabilities. For example, they've recently completed an analysis of Al-Qaida's cyber capabilities based on open sources;

Expanding their 24-hour, 7-day a week Government Emergency Operations Coordination Centre to deal with incident reporting and response;

Mapping and developing a strategy to protect Canada's critical infrastructure, both physical infrastructure and on the cyber-side.

And building key partnerships within and outside Canada, including with the United States

The work of OC�PEP will continue to be critical as we develop new ways of protecting against, and responding to, threats to our nation's infrastructure.

This was further reaffirmed when the Government increased funding to the organization in its last budget.

### **Enhancing Intelligence Gathering Capabilities**

Another area that has proven to be critical to our defence capabilities is timely and accurate intelligence gathering and analysis.

Since September, our military personnel have been working closely with our allies to collect and analyze vast amounts of intelligence data.

At the same time, the role of the Communications Security Establishment, another agency within the Defence portfolio, has been enhanced with the help of additional funding and new legislation.

The new authorities granted to CSE will expand its intelligence gathering capabilities to help us better anticipate potential terrorist threats.

And through this legislation, CSE will also be better able to protect the Government's computer systems and networks from unauthorized use or interference.

These include the systems that can contain the personal or financial information of Canadians.

These are just some examples of how the Defence Team is enhancing its domestic operations and so far, I'd say we're on the right track.

And in the months ahead, we will continue evaluating how best we can meet our defence commitments here at home in light of the new security context.

## **The Challenge of Continental Security**

But protecting Canada and Canadians doesn't stop at the border.

In many ways, it is difficult to make a distinction between our security and that of our closest neighbour and ally.

Our geography, our population centres, our lines of commerce and infrastructure make the security of our two countries interdependent -- and the need to coordinate on defence issues vitally important.

Fortunately, we have a lot to build on.

As you know, Canada and the US have been cooperating jointly on North American defence since 1940.

We've long recognized that this close defence relationship is in our interest and has helped us attain a level of security that would otherwise have been difficult to achieve on our own.

Let's take NORAD as an example.

Who would have thought that NORAD -- which successfully watched over the horizon for incoming bombers and missiles throughout the Cold War -- would, in the span of only a couple of hours, have to refocus its attention inwards?

In fact, as events unfolded in September, NORAD became our first line of defence in protecting North America against airborne terrorists.

Since then, additional fighter aircraft from both Canada and the United States have been assigned to NORAD to further secure our North American airspace.

Incidentally, NATO has also deployed a number of its own AWACS aircraft to North America since September.

Further demonstrating that our security and that of our European allies remain inextricably linked.

And not only does it show the relevance of our bi-and multi-national organizations, but more generally, the benefits of working together against common threats.

But in terms of our relationship with the US, I recognize that discussion of closer military cooperation raises some questions and concerns. Especially recently, as the US has begun reviewing its military command structure.

Let me say a few words on this.

First, changes to the American command structure are going to happen.

This Congressionally mandated review takes place every two years and in light of the new terrorist threat, the Americans are now examining options for the creation of a 'Homeland' Commander-in-Chief.

Obviously, this structure could have implications for our defence relationship with the US.

For example, we still don't know how NORAD would be affected by this review.

On the one hand, we see the benefits of looking at ways to expand our bilateral defence relationship.

But on the other hand, we feel strongly that any expansion in these arrangements must reflect some fundamental principles:

- the retention of sovereign command over our respective forces;
- the right to be consulted;
- the right to act independently; and
- the ability to implement policies in accordance with national interests.

As such, officials from the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Forces and Foreign Affairs have been proactive in engaging our American counterparts on this and other areas that could be affected by revisions to their unified command plan.

So to those who say that broadening our defence relationship with the Americans is about sovereignty, I would say that I couldn't agree more.

In fact, as my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister said last week: sovereignty is about making choices that are in our national interest.

So we're seizing this opportunity to make sure we do have choices. We're developing options to put on the table. We're acting, not reacting.

Because for us, defence partnership and coordination do not mean subordination.

And you just have to look at the last sixty years of cooperation between our two countries to see how true this is.

Over the next few months, we will continue to pursue this issue with the Americans to see if the scope exists to broaden defence relations in a way that serves the interests and concerns of both our countries.

## **Defence Update**

There's no question that the role of the Canadian Forces, and indeed, the entire Defence Team, in protecting Canadians, our country and our continent has increased significantly.

In some cases, this is posing challenges, which we are addressing. And in other cases, opportunities, which we are exploring.

But all of this has been made easier with support from the Government.

We saw this in the last budget. And we saw this with the recent anti-terrorism legislation.

At the same time, we know that this new security environment brings with it additional demands -- demands for new capabilities, which cost money, for increased coordination with our partners and for focused cooperation with our allies.

We need to assess these demands in a comprehensive manner.

That's why we're now looking at options to ensure our defence policy continues to address current and future security challenges.

A review, or even a focused defence update, may be ways to achieve this and are among the options we are actively considering.

And while I think the fundamentals remain sound, we need to make sure that the overall policy continues to meet national objectives.

And in turn, that our military planners have a framework for shaping the Canadian Forces to respond to this changing environment.

Let me stress, however, that this is not a matter of choosing between protecting our citizens at home and fulfilling our international commitments abroad.

Instead, it's one of balance, using resources efficiently and developing new ways of thinking.

## **Conclusion**

As we look to the future on all of these issues, we will continue to seek input and support from our stakeholders, including the CDA.

There's no question that these are challenging times but we've already shown that we are able and willing to adapt.

And while the uncertainty we're facing in this new environment may sometimes make us nostalgic for the certainties of the Cold War, the fact is, our primary mission to protect Canada and Canadians has not changed.

And while the challenge of doing so has certainly increased, our duty in this regard has not diminished.

Thank you.