

COMBAT CAPABILITY

WHERE SHOULD WE BE IN TWENTY YEARS?

Speech: CDAI

21 Feb 02

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OR A CRITIQUE OF DEFENCE POLICY BUT A PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF TRENDS RELATED TO COMBAT CAPABILITY.

DEFINITIONS

IN THE DECEMBER 2001 ISSUE OF "*ON TRACK*" A COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF COMBAT CAPABILITY AND A HISTORICAL APPLICATION WAS OFFERED. INTENT IS AT THE APEX. HERE, NATIONAL AND COALITION INTERESTS ALONG WITH POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES SHAPE THE AUTHORATIVE COMPONENT OF COMBAT CAPABILITY.

IF ONE COULD ACCURATELY PREDICT THE STRATEGIC DETERMINANTS THAT ARE LIKELY TO INFLUENCE THE AUTHORATIVE COMPONENT OF COMBAT CAPABILITY THEN THE QUESTION OF, "WHERE SHOULD CANADA'S COMBAT CAPABILITY BE IN 20 YEARS?" MIGHT BE ANSWERED. HERE ARE FIVE DETERMINANTS WORTH CONSIDERING.

- FIRST: NO MILITARY CAN ESCAPE ITS HISTORY. THE INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT BY DEVELOPMENT GATES--ORCDP AND OCDP IN 1974, FOLLOWED BY THE DECISION OF 1984 TO EXPAND THE CANADIAN FORCES, FOLLOWED BY THE 1994 DECISION TO REDUCE THE FORCES HAS SET IN MOTION HUMAN RESOURCE WAVES THAT WILL RESONANT FROM 2004 TO 2009. PROLONGED RESONANCE IN NATURAL SYSTEMS NORMALLY LEADS TO CATASTROPHIC FAILURE. THE BATTLE FOR YOUTH AND TALENT WILL DOMINATE MILITARY AGENDAS FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS AND IS LIKELY TO CURTAIL ASPIRATIONS REQUIRING HIGHLY CAPABLE PEOPLE SUCH AS SPECIAL OPERATIONS SOLDIERS AND CYBER WARRIORS.
- THE SECOND ASPECT OF OUR HISTORY IS THREE DECADES OF LOW CAPITAL INVESTMENT. AS A CONSEQUENCE THE CF HAS VERY FEW EQUIPMENTS OR EXPERIENCE WITH STRATEGICALLY DECISIVE CAPABILITIES. THE CF HAS FEW SURVEILLANCE PLATFORMS, VIRTUALLY NO PRECISION STRIKE MUNITIONS, NO HIGHLY MOBILE ATTACK HELICOPTERS OR LONG RANGE ARTILLERY OR STEALTH FIGHTERS OR LONG ENDURANCE ATTACK SUBMARINES OR ADEQUATE STRATEGIC LIFT. THE CF IS A RELATIVELY LOW-TECH, SHORT REACH, LOW-READINESS

MILITARY. LITTLE IN THE CAPITAL PLAN INDICATES THAT THIS WILL CHANGE. THEREFORE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT CANADA WILL PARTICIPATE IN HI-TECH, LONG-RANGE, HI-READINESS COMBAT IN 20 YEARS TIME. BY DEFAULT THE CANADIAN MILITARY IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE SECOND ECHELON OF STABILITY OPERATIONS

- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WILL DISTRACT MANY. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO SUMMARIZE THE IMPACT OF THE 6 MILLION INNOVATIONS ANTICIPATED IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS IT WOULD BE “MINITAUORIZATION, DEVOLUTION AND DIFFUSION OF CAPABILITIES”. THOSE THINGS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEYOND THE REACH OF THE AVERAGE CITIZEN—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, HYPER COMPUTING, SATELLITE OWNERSHIP, POWER GENERATION, MANUFACTURING (INCLUDING DRUGS), FOOD PRODUCTION {BIO-CULTURE}, DNA MANIPULATION, MEDICINE, GRADUATE LEVEL EXPERTISE—SHOULD BE HOUSEHOLD STAPLES BY 2020. THIS DEVOLUTION OF CAPABILITY PRESENTS A SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE PARADIGM SHIFT AS INDIVIDUALS ARE LIKELY TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF NATIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES. AS INDIVIDUALS ACQUIRE CAPABILITIES PREVIOUSLY DENIED BY HIGH COST AND COMPLEXITY, NATIONAL SECURITY WILL NEED TO BE RE-NEGOTIATED AND THIS IS LIKELY TO COMPETE WITH DND/CF.
- THE GLOBAL STRAIGHTJACKET. TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP, TRADE, BANKING, ECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL LAW, PROSPERITY AND SECURITY ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DRAW NATIONS CLOSER. THIS EXPANDING INTERCONNECTEDNESS AND INTERDEPENDENCE TENDS TO LIMIT NATIONAL FREEDOM OF ACTION. CANADA IS UNLIKELY TO CHARTER A COURSE OUTSIDE OF THE US A ECONOMIC AND INFORMATION SPHERES.
- BLURRING BOUNDARIES. THE WESTPHALIAN PEACE ACCORD, CLAUSWITZIAN THEORIES OF WAR, AND GENEVA PROTOCOLS WERE DERIVED IN THE AGE OF NATION STATES, IN AN AGE WHEN CENTRALIZATION OF POWER AND CONTROL WERE VESTED IN KINGS AND GOVERNMENTS AND BOUNDARIES COULD BE GUARDED. THAT PARADIGM IS FADING. UNELECTED MULTI-NATIONALS WHOSE WEALTH RIVALS THAT OF WESTERN NATIONS HAVE ROBUST SECURITY FORCES. WESTERN MILITARIES ARE PRIVATIZING MANY SECURITY FUNCTIONS. THE DEFINITION OF SECURITY IS EXPANDING. MILITARIES SEE THE NEED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL PRECISION, PRE-EMPTIVE COMPUTER VIRUS STRATEGIES, ELECTROMAGNETIC DOMINANCE, INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS AIMED AT THE ROOT CAUSES OF AGGRESSION. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, RESOURCE DEPLETION SURVEILLANCE ARE LIKEWISE ENTERING THE MILITARY LEXICON. THIS BOUNDARY LESS, COMPLEX WORLD IS LIKELY TO RAISE NATIONAL ANXIETIES THAT FOR CANADA ARE LIKELY TO BE

TRANSLATED INTO HEIGHTENED CONCERN OVER NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. FOR DND/CF, THE PLETHORA OF EXPANDING ROLES WILL HAVE TO BE GOVERNED BY CLEAR POLITICAL DIRECTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK. AND RESULT IN A MORE FOCUSED MANDATE FOR DND/CF.

- THE FIFTH DETERMINANT IS THE CANADIAN ECONOMY. FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS CANADIAN NATIONAL WEALTH, IN COMPARISON TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY, HAS BEEN SHRINKING BY APPROX. 2% PER YEAR. IT IS OFFERED THAT ONE POSSIBLE REASON FOR THIS WEALTH GAP IS DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO INVESTING. CANADA INVESTS IN PEOPLE AND THE USA INVESTS IN INNOVATION. WHEREAS INVESTMENTS IN INNOVATION ATTRACT PEOPLE, INVESTMENTS IN PEOPLE DON'T NECESSARILY ATTRACT THE INNOVATION THAT GENERATES WEALTH. REFOCUSING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT TOWARD AN INNOVATIVE WEALTH GENERATING CULTURE IS AN ENORMOUS UNDERTAKING THAT CURRENTLY DOES NOT ENJOY PUBLIC OR POLITICAL SUPPORT. AN ECONOMIST WOULD OBSERVE AND DEDUCE THAT THE CANADIAN ECONOMY IS VERY UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT USA- LIKE, PER CAPITA DEFENCE FUNDING LEVELS (\$50B/YR) OR EVEN THAT OF MOST NATO ALLIES (\$25B/YR) IN 20 YEARS TIME. THE HIGH END OF COMBAT CAPABILITY IS SIMPLY OUT OF REACH. WITH A 50:1 RATIO IN DEFENCE SPENDING (USA-\$500B:CANADA-\$10B) CANADIAN DEFENCE PLANNERS SHOULD STOP TEASING THEMSELVES WITH USA MILITARY BROCHURES AND BE REALISTIC

SO WHAT SHOULD CANADA'S COMBAT CAPABILITY BE IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING DETERMINANTS?

1. PARAMOUNT IS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. CANADA MUST HAVE ADEQUATE SURVEILLANCE ACUITY TO MONITOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, ELECTROMAGNETIC AND CYBER APPROACHES TO CANADA. THIS WOULD, FOR THE MOST PART, BE BASED ON UNINHABITED SURVEILLANCE PLATFORMS AUGMENTED WITH MANNED RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS. THE NEED FOR RAPID INTERDICTION COULD CALL FOR FORWARD DEPLOYED ASSETS SUCH AS SHIPS AND HELIBORNE ASSAULT TROOPS. PSYCHOLOGICAL SHIELDING, CYBER INTERDICTION AND ELECTROMAGNETIC HARDING ARE ALSO REQUIRED CAPABILITIES.
2. THE SECOND PRIORITY WOULD BE INTEROPERABILITY WITH THE USA. THIS WOULD NOT BE CHEAP. IN ORDER TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE US INFORMATION DOMINANCE SPHERE CANADA WOULD NEED TO ADOPT U.S.A. COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTERS ARCHITECTURE AND EVOLVE THE SYSTEM AS THE USA UPGRADES. FALLING BEHIND MEANS GOING IT ALONE. BEFORE THE USA WOULD ALLOW CANADA ACCESS TO THEIR MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR,

INFORMATION SPHERE CANADA WOULD ALSO HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION AND PROVE TO BE TRUST WORTHY. INFORMATION FROM CANADA'S NEW SOVEREIGNTY ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM MIGHT BUY ADMISSION.

3. THE FIRST TWO PRIORITIES ARE LIKELY TO ABSORB THE ENTIRE DEFENCE BUDGET THAT IS CURRENTLY ALLOCATED TO THE THREE ENVIRONMENTS. THE THIRD PRIORITY –STABILITY OPERATIONS—COULD BE ACQUIRED WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES BY A RIGOROUS SCRUB DOWN OF DND/CF CORPORATE ENTITIES, THE RIGOROUS APPLICATION OF PRIORITIES AND FOCUSING CANADA'S GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT.

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