

“Army Reserves in Homeland Defence”

CDAI Seminar Panel Discussion: Sovereignty, Homeland and Continental Defence/Security

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MGen E.S. Fitch
Project Manager, Land Force Reserve Restructure
Gérant de projet, Restructuration de la Réserve de la Force terrestre
PM LFRR/GP RRFT
Tel: (613) 992-5100
Fax: (613) 996-6787
http://www.army.dnd.ca/LFRR/LFRRSitreps/main_e.htm

General Evraire, General MacNamara, General Manson, distinguished participants, ladies and gentleman.

Tel que indiqué par notre président, je suis le Mgén Ed Fitch, Gérant de projet, Restructuration de la Réserve de la Force terrestre. Il m’incombe aujourd’hui de vous adresser la parole au sujet de la rôle de la Réserve de la Force terrestre dans la défense territoriale (en anglais : Homeland Defence).

Durant la discussion qui suivra, il me fera plaisir de répondre à vos questions dans laquelle des deux langues officielles que vous préférez.

To speak of the role of the Army Reserve in Homeland Defence we must first understand what the Army Reserve is and what Roles, Missions and Tasks it has been assigned. I will then look briefly at what we know of Homeland Security and its sub-set, Homeland Defence, including a look at the relevant structures that are emerging over North America. I will conclude with a look at the specific capabilities that are being developed within the Land Force Reserve Restructure (LFRR) Project that are applicable to Homeland Defence.

The Army Reserve (Militia)

Known also as Canada’s Militia, the Army Reserve is a proud national historic institution that pre-dates Canada’s Regular Forces by almost two hundred years. As of Sep 02, the Army Reserve had achieved a strength of 15,500 soldiers in some 155 company/battery/squadron – sized building blocks we call “mission elements”, linked under 107 force generation unit headquarters and 10 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters, all under the four Land Force Areas that make up the one Canadian Army.

Canada has only one Army. That said, it is often useful to consider it in three time frames: the Army of Today, the Army of Tomorrow, and the Army of the Future. The Army of Today is the

one we find now, in the current Business Planning period of 0-5 years. The Army of Tomorrow is 10 years forward, while the Army of the Future is the distant aiming mark on the 20-year horizon. As Project Manager, Land Force Reserve Restructure, my mandated planning zone is for the Army of Tomorrow and the Army of the Future. Please take my remarks this morning in that context.

With that prelude, the role of the Army Reserve, as recently published into CF doctrine by the CDS, is:

In the context of The Army purpose:

“Made up of Regular and Reserve (Militia) components, the Army’s primary purpose is to defend the nation and, when called upon, to fight and win in war.” (CFP 300 Canada’s Army)

The Role of the Army Reserve: Within the Army, the Reserves (Militia) provide the framework for mobilization, the Army’s connection with Canadians, and augmentation within the Canadian Forces.

(Note: Augmentation refers to the provision of supplementary(depth) and complementary (breadth) capabilities.)

As for the Regular component of the Army, the tasks for the Army Reserve are deduced from Canada’s Defence policy, the Defence White Paper of 1994, as well as Vision 2020, the Army Strategy, plans for Army Transformation, the Land Force Reserve Restructure Strategic Plan, and the Army Mobilization Plan . These tasks include the “traditional” Army roles of:

Infantry (incl Lt and Mech), Armoured Reconnaissance, Engineers, Artillery, (incl gun, mortar and Air Defence), (that great oxymoron) Military Intelligence, and Combat Service Support.

Our analysis of the emerging global strategic environment tells us that there are new or enhanced capabilities that will be required in Canada’s Army in the 21st Century. These include:

A general requirement to operate in complex terrain including urban, mountains, littoral regions, and the related skills of rappelling, parachuting, Long Range Reconnaissance and Surveillance.

Under the rubric of Information Operations, we will need to develop skills in Psychological Operations, Civilian-Military Co-operation, Public Affairs, Human Intelligence, Geomatics, and Strategic Intelligence.

As components of Critical Infrastructure or Force Protection, we need units capable of Security Operations, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence, Urban Search and Rescue, and Protective Construction, to name a few.

As mobilization plans develop, we can expect further force generation tasks for the Army from Canadian Forces Joint HQ, the Navy, the Air Force, Canadian Forces Medical Group, Joint Support Group, and the Joint Engineer Support Unit.

Homeland Defence can be expected to generate Army tasks in Critical Infrastructure Protection, Mobile Defence, and Civil Assistance.

The emerging new capabilities may be embodied in both the Regular and Reserve components, but some may exist in the Reserve component alone. While not all the tasks listed have been quantified, the process of assigning the first “tranche” of known missions and tasks to all ARes units is nearing completion. This will be the first time, in decades, when the missions and tasks of every Army Reserve units has been tied, through the process of mobilization planning, directly back to the extant defence policy.

That’s where the Army Reserve is at; now let us look at Homeland Security.

HS structure in Canada and CA/US

While firm definitions have yet to be promulgated, we understand Homeland Security (HS) to be the broader term of which Homeland Defence (HD) is a subset. This is certainly consistent with American usage, whose leads we must to a certain extent follow, to remain interoperable. HS is largely the domain of civil police and intelligence services, including border control, immigration, and a host of other government departments. HD, in my mind, is when the situation, locally or nationally, moves beyond the capacity of the civil agencies (G_d forbid), and the Canadian Forces are required to take the lead.

As most here would be aware, the United States have recently established a Department of Homeland Security. The closest analog in Canada is the ad hoc Cabinet committee on Public Safety and Anti-Terrorism (PSAT). In addition, they have created a new combatant command, USNORTHCOM, responsible for their Homeland Defence; the area of responsibility of which includes Canada and Mexico. In Canada, this responsibility, to the extent that it has been articulated this way, rests with the Canadian Forces, in the office of the DCDS, and exercised through the Land Force Areas and other operational level headquarters.

Together, Canada and the US have established a Bi-national Planning Group, co-located with NORAD and NORTHCOM in Colorado Springs. This planning group is working at extending the kind of cooperation and interoperability we have enjoyed for decades in the Air environment, to the Maritime and Land domains, in that order of work. In addition to preventing or mitigating attacks on Canada or the US, the BPG is also to plan for “...effective and coordinated response to national requests for military assistance in response to terrorist threats, man-made or natural disasters or other emergencies.”

We can think of HD as having two components: mobile and (relatively) static. The mobile component is made up of the LFA immediate reaction units (IRUs) and the CANUS Bde Gp, a long-time presence in defence policy in partial response to the CF responsibility for Defence of North America. On the other hand, the primary mission of the static, or regionally based component would be Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) and Force Protection (FP). OCIPEP has an active programme to define CI and build a national catalogue of CI and its complex inter-relationships through the National Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program (NCIAP). At the same time, under the guidance of VCDS, the Domestic Readiness Working Group (DRWG) is

identifying what DND/CF CI we must protect. It is recognized that the civil authorities are resource challenged in many areas such that CF capabilities may well be required.

It is interesting to note that NORTHCOM places very heavy expectations on the Reserves and National Guard. In the Canadian context, the Army Reserve with its basing in 110 communities from coast-to-coast, its local knowledge, and ability to maintain a continuous planning relationship with first responders, is a natural candidate for the regionally based component of HD.

Let me here make an important point about use of Army assets in Canada. While warfighting remains our primary focus, given the changing nature of the threat to Canada, in principle all Army units must be capable of dual use. That is, as the need presents, to respond to expeditionary or domestic threats.

An example of this dual use nature is perhaps most evident in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear response (or CBRN). That is the nomenclature used in the domestic environment. In the warfighting mode we usually call it Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence (NBCD). The names are different but much of the training and equipment is interchangeable.

We must distinguish this warfighter first, but dual-use approach from a darker chapter in the history of the Canadian Army. I am referring to the period 1958-63 where a great emphasis was placed on the Militia for National Survival. As described by Jack Granatstein in his recent book, "Canada's Army" this was the height of the "come as you are" war when the emphasis was on forces in being and the Militia was not highly valued. The soldiers called it "snakes-and-ladders" "...jeering that these activities were not real soldiering." (although there is a view that s-and-l may have saved at least part of the Militia from total disappearance during a critical time).

In sharp contrast, in the design emerging for the Army Reserve in the Army of Tomorrow, every mission element will have a mobilization warfighting task. In addition, every one of the 155 or so mission elements will also be capable of undertaking at short notice, a task as a CI /FP security platoon. The capability to undertake lesser disaster response or humanitarian assistance is inherent in the higher capability present in every mission element of the Regular as well as Reserve component of the Army.

From a recent CLS briefing to MND: "Our goal is a transformed, information-based Army – a strategically relevant, tactically decisive, agile, lethal, survivable, medium weight force." Ladies and gentlemen, this exciting vision belongs equally to the Army Reserve as an essential component of Canada's Army, whether called to serve in the expeditionary or Homeland Defence role.

Merci de m'avoir offert l'opportunité de vous adresser la parole ce matin..

Delivery time 15 :40

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Note: the implementation of these plans is at a critical juncture. The Phase 1 goals of LFRR, funded from within the Army and Departmental resources, have been completed. The implementation of Phase 2 has always been dependent on the provision of new resources from outside DND. These may be included in the 18 Feb Federal Budget, but the exact extent to which Army Reserve growth will be supported is not yet known.