



Lieutenant-General Rick Findley
Conference of Defence Associations Institute
Ottawa 15 February 2007
-- DRAFT REMARKS --

Themes

- 1. Threats without borders**
- 2. Tyranny of the immediate**

INTRODUCTION

Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder.

Author: [Kennedy, John Fitzgerald](#)

Attribution: *John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917–1963), U.S. Democratic politician, president. Address, May 17, 1961, to Canadian Parliament, Ottawa.*

Introduction

GOOD MORNING, GENERAL DE CHASTELAIN, FELLOW PANEL MEMBERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS SEMINAR. I THANK THE CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE AND COLONEL (RETIRED) ALAIN PELLERIN FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PUTTING THESE EVENTS TOGETHER. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED BECAUSE DEFENCE OF THE CONTINENT IS

IMPORTANT, AND TODAY, PERHAPS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE: GOVERNMENTS, MILITARIES, ACADEMICS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS - ALL OF US HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. GETTING PEOPLE LIKE YOU, PEOPLE WHO ARE SERIOUS ABOUT KEEPING CANADA SECURE, TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE TO SHARE AND EXCHANGE IDEAS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART IN THE DEFENCE OF CANADA, THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT AND THE WORLD. THE CDAI IS PART OF THAT.

I CURRENTLY SERVE AS THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENCE COMMAND; MY BOSS, US NAVY ADMIRAL TIM KEATING REPORTS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

WHEN A GIANT CREATURE APPEARS IN THE OLD SCI-FI MOVIES, START YOUR STOPWATCHES AND TIME HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR "THE GOOD GUYS"- THE MILITARY - TO APPEAR. IN KING KONG, IT TAKES ABOUT 7 MINUTES FROM THE TIME HE ESCAPES HIS CHAINS UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE. THIS MAY BE CONSISTENT WITH THE EXPECTATION OF THE PUBLIC; BUT IS IT REALISTIC? THE MILITARY CAN NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, BE SITTING AROUND ON EVERY STREET CORNER, WITH LIVE AMMUNITION, WAITING FOR THE CALL. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A PERVASIVE EXPECTATION FOR

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION TO ANY SITUATION
– THE TYRANNY OF THE IMMEDIATE. I WISH TO PASS ON
WHAT IS REALISTIC, AND WHAT THE PUBLIC CAN EXPECT
FROM CANADIAN AND AMERICAN FORCES, IN CONTINENTAL
DEFENCE.

ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF,
AND NUMEROUS POLITICAL FIGURES FROM CURRENT AND
PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, NORAD IS THE KEYSTONE OF OUR
DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. LET'S
TALK ABOUT THAT RELATIONSHIP.

NORAD BEFORE 9/11

WHAT DID CONTINENTAL DEFENCE MEAN TO NORAD
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001? AEROSPACE DEFENCE WAS
WELL UNDERSTOOD. OUR AIR FORCE WOULD FIGHT “THEIR”
AIR FORCE. IT WAS FAMILIAR AND PREDICTABLE.
GENERATIONS OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL LIVED THE COLD
WAR.

THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001
CHANGED LIVES FOREVER. WE HAVE GONE FROM BEING
READY TO FIGHT MILITARY FORCES TO FIGHTING SNAKES.
BOTH CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE AWARE OF
VULNERABILITIES, NOT THREATS, THAT DID NOT CONCERN
US BEFORE.

CASE FOR CONTINENTAL DEFENCE

WHY SHOULD WE APPROACH DEFENCE FROM A CONTINENTAL VIEW? ECONOMICS? GEOGRAPHY? HISTORY? IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT CANADA AND THE US ARE BEST FRIENDS –LIKE IT OR NOT.

ECONOMIC CASE

ACCORDING TO THE 2005 TRADE STATISTICS, WE ARE APPROACHING 1.8 BILLION DOLLARS A DAY IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE. WITH THE LINKS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES SO STRONG, NEITHER COUNTRY CAN AFFORD TO HAVE THE BORDER CLOSED. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR BOTH THE US AND CANADA IS A KEY ELEMENT IN OUR APPROACH TO SECURITY OF THE CONTINENT.

GEOGRAPHY THREATS WITHOUT BORDERS

NEVER THE LESS, THE US/CANADA BORDER IS NOT A TRUE BARRIER OR A SAFEGUARD. NATURAL AND HUMAN-MADE DISASTERS DO NOT RECOGNIZE BORDERS. FLOODS, POWER GRID FAILURES, EARTHQUAKES, WILD FIRES, NUCLEAR DETONATIONS OR RADIOLOGICAL DISPERSAL DEVICES KNOW NO BORDERS. AN EARTHQUAKE IN THE VANCOUVER/SEATTLE CORRIDOR WOULD PAY NO HEED TO THE BORDER. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE IN AN ERA OF “THREATS WITHOUT BORDERS.” IN NORAD WE HAVE RE-LEARNED THAT WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO STUMBLE OVER BORDERS. AT BEST THE BORDER IS MEANINGLESS TO

DISASTERS, AT WORSE THE BORDER CAN BE A SEAM THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED. AS THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO MAKE ITSELF LESS VULNERABLE, IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT SHOULD SOMEONE DESIRE TO ATTACK AND BE SUCCESSFUL, AN ATTACK ON U.S. INTERESTS IN CANADA MIGHT APPEAR EASIER THAN AN ATTACK IN THE UNITED STATES. IT MAKES SENSE THAT OUR COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER, BOTH IN SECURITY, AND, SHOULD DETERRENCE FAIL, IN DEFENSE.

TYRANNY OF THE IMMEDIATE - HAND-EYE COORDINATION

CONTINENTAL DEFENSE IS ABOUT DEFENDING CANADIAN AND AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THEIR HOMES. CONTINENTAL DEFENCE IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES. NORAD HAS THREE MISSIONS – AEROSPACE WARNING OF AN ATTACK ON NORTH AMERICA, WHETHER BY MISSILES OR AIRCRAFT; AEROSPACE CONTROL, ENSURING THE SOVEREIGNTY, AND DEFENCE, OF OUR AIRSPACE; AND THE “MARITIME WARNING” MISSION

FOR DEFENCE IN THE HOMELAND, THE KEY IS CUING. THERE IS SIGNIFICANT CLUTTER AND AMBIGUITY IN ALL DOMAINS; THERE ARE DECREASED TIMELINES; AND THERE IS NO TOLERANCE FOR COLLATERAL DAMAGE. PURELY CANADIAN NATIONAL EVENTS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CANADA COMMAND SO I WILL KEEP MY COMMENTS ON NORAD. HOW DOES NORAD MANAGE ITS HAND EYE

COORDINATION? FIRST, YOU NEED TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. THAT HAPPENS ON SEVERAL LEVELS. CUEING IS THE JOB OF THE MANY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, DEFENCE AND CIVIL IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. INFORMATION SHARING IS CRITICAL. HISTORICALLY, WE HAVE NOT DONE A GOOD JOB OF SHARING INFORMATION. THE "NEED TO KNOW" PARADIGM MEANT THAT SISTER AGENCIES WERE SOMETIMES SHUT OUT. THE PROBLEM WAS EVEN GREATER WITH RESPECT TO AGENCIES IN ALLIED COUNTRIES. TODAY'S SITUATION IS DRIVING US TO A "NEED TO SHARE" POLICY IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, AND BETWEEN THEM. AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

SECONDLY, YOU HAVE TO HAVE AN AWARENESS OF WHAT'S OUT THERE "SITUATIONAL AWARENESS IN MILITARY SPEAK. IN THE AIR DOMAIN THIS IS OUR ABILITY TO SEE AIR TRAFFIC APPROACHING NORTH AMERICA AND THE TRAFFIC INSIDE NORTH AMERICA. THE USE OF RADAR, FLIGHT PLANS, NAV CANADA AND FAA RESTRICTING SOME AIRSPACE, AND OTHER AIRSPACE CONTROL MEASURES, GIVES US A GOOD HANDLE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AIRSPACE, ON A 24/7 BASIS. IF SOMETHING DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT, OUR PARTNERS - FAA AND NAV CANADA - TELL US IMMEDIATELY. OUR NORAD HANDS – FIGHTERS, BOTH IN CANADA AND THE U.S., ARE POSTURED TO REACT. THEY ARE HIGHLY TRAINED, AND LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, WE DID AN EXERCISE ABOUT EVERY

THREE DAYS ON AVERAGE, TO ENSURE THAT WE COULD SEE-COMMUNICATE-ACT.

WE DEAL WITH A LOT OF “CLUTTER” IN THE HOMELAND; IN A 24 HOUR PERIOD, THERE ARE 172,000 AIRCRAFT DETECTED BY EITHER NORAD OR CIVIL SENSORS. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MAKING A MISTAKE IN EXERCISING OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE AN AIRCRAFT’S INTENT AND EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE WOULD BE TERRIBLE, AND WE CONTINUE TO BE UNDER “THE TYRANNY OF THE IMMEDIATE.” WE FACE AN ENEMY THAT CAN CHOOSE WHEN AND WHERE TO STRIKE AND CAN USE FAST MOVING PLATFORMS AND WE FACE A NEED FOR US TO GET THERE ‘NOW.’ THE PUBLIC HAS EXPECTATIONS OF A REACTION FROM THOSE IN UNIFORM MEASURED IN HOURS, OR MAYBE EVEN MINUTES, NOT OF DAYS.

NATURE OF CONTINENTAL DEFENCE

AN OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE NORAD HAS BY APPROACHING DEFENCE FROM A CONTINENTAL PERSPECTIVE IS THAT WE HAVE A PLAN AND WE TRAIN TO IT. WE DEVELOP PLANS, WE EXERCISE (TOUGH EXERCISES) AND THEN WE REVISE OUR PLANS BASED ON WHAT WE LEARN.

FOR AN AIR EVENT, NORAD HAS ASSIGNED FORCES AND A FLEXIBLE PLAN DESIGNED FOR QUICK REACTION. THE PLAN HAS UNDERGONE OVER A DOZEN REFINEMENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001, AND EVERY TIME WE EXERCISE IT, WE

LEARN A LITTLE MORE, AND CHANGE IT AGAIN. DURING THE COLD WAR, WE COULD TAKE OUR TIME DOING DELIBERATE PLANNING. WE NO LONGER ALWAYS HAVE THAT LUXURY. SWAPPING BUSINESS CARDS AT THE SCENE OF A DISASTER IS NOT A SATISFACTORY METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. NEITHER IS “HOPING IT WILL ALL WORK” OUT A GOOD PLAN. THAT IS WHY NORAD HAS PLANS AND TRAINS TO THOSE PLANS.

SUMMARY

IN CONTINENTAL DEFENCE; YOU FIRST NEED TO KNOW THAT SOMETHING IS HAPPENING, THEN BE ABLE TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION IN REAL TIME WITH PARTNERS, AND FINALLY BE PREPARED AND AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON IT.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, WE'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE. THERE ARE A LOT OF DEDICATED PEOPLE WORKING ON THIS IN A LOT OF DEPARTMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER: THE STRATEGIC JOINT STAFF IN OTTAWA, CANADA COMMAND, UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, PUBLIC SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CANADA, AND MANY, MANY MORE. INFORMATION SHARING IS THE KEY. I'M CONVINCED CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE SAFER NOW THAN ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001. THIS IS A CASE OF A CONTINENTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH. THE PROCESS REQUIRES CONTINENTAL COOPERATION TO “DETECT AND

CUE”, “BUILD THE PUZZLE” AND “REACT IN A TIMELY,
APPROPRIATE MANNER” TO SAVE LIVES AND KEEP CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES SECURE.

THANK YOU.