The Defence and Security of Canada's North:  
The Role of the Canadian Forces  
March 25-26, 2011  
Senate Room, 7th Floor, Hotel Alma  
University of Calgary  

Draft Agenda  

Day 1 March 25, 2011  

0900-0915  
Opened by President Cannon, President U of C  

9015-0945  
The Role of the Canadian Forces  
Chaired by Rob Huebert  
LGen Walt Semianiw  

The Canadian Forces is responsible for the defence of the country, including the North. The Government's Northern Strategy identifies exercising sovereignty as a priority area in meeting its vision for the region. The CF contributes mainly to this pillar of the Strategy, including by playing an even greater role in supporting other Government departments that are involved in meeting safety and security challenges. LGen Walt Semianiw will speak to the current and future role of the CF in the North - and Canada Command as the authority for military operations in the country and the continent. Some of the questions that inform ongoing deliberations about the future CF presence include: what is the right balance of security/defence capability that should be permanently stationed in the North versus located in the South on high readiness?; what are the military capabilities in the North that civilian authorities require of the CF?; and, what are the "mission assignments" that civilian authorities in the North can suggest, so as to inform the CF's readiness preparations.

0945-1015  
Renewing the CF Arctic Commitment  
Col. Pierre LeBlanc (ret’d)  

Following the end of the Cold War, the CF in general was reduced. Included in this force reduction was an almost complete elimination of all Arctic focus actions. It was not until 2000 that some members of the CF started to recognize the need to reconsider the needs of the Canadian forces as new forces such as climate change begun to transform the very nature of the Arctic. One of the first leaders of this reconsideration was the Commander of Canadian Forces Northern Area. Col. Pierre Lebalanc was able to start several new initiatives. These included the creation of the Arctic Security Working Group, the Arctic Capabilities Study 2000 to name a few. What lessons can be learned by considering why and how these actions were commenced. What can Canada learn from this last decade?

1015-1030  
Break  

1030-1200  
The New Arctic Security Regime  
Chaired by Rob Wallace, CDFAI
In the last five years the issue of Arctic Security has developed as one of the most important questions in the international system. But there is growing debate as to what is Arctic security? Many contend that that the region is now on its way to developing as a peaceful and cooperative area that should be seen as a model for the rest of the international system. This is view is challenged by others who see other trends that suggest that the Arctic states are actually beginning to develop military capabilities that suggest a less cooperative future. What then is the real nature of the emerging Arctic security regime? What should policy makers anticipate that the circumpolar world will look like in the future, given the various forces that are now transforming this region? What are these forces and how are they interacting? How do we measure the processes of conflict and the processes of cooperation?

As mentioned in the Canada First Defence Strategy, the Canadian Forces have an important role to play in the North together with other departments and agencies. While the latter retain the lead for dealing with most Northern security issues, they often draw upon the capabilities of the Canadian Forces to help fulfill their mandates. In the last ten years there have been efforts to attempt to improve the relationship of the CF with its partners to perform its many evolving tasks. How do the partners see this relationship developing? Where is it working well? Where can it be improved?

As the Canadian Arctic becomes more accessible, one of the most important roles that the Canadian forces will be playing in the region is the maintenance of security and safety for the increasing and complicated activities that are expected to occur. In order to meet these demands one of the most important issues will be the coordination of such efforts both within and Canadian government and with Canada’s northern neighbors. Two important partners for the Canadian Forces will be the Canadian Coast Guard and DFAIT. This has recently been made very clear with the recently concluded Arctic Council search and rescue agreement. The implementation of this agreement is only the most recent example where the Canadian Forces, the Canadian Coast Guard, and DFAIT have been able to successfully worked together. What lessons can be learned from this success story and one other issues will the various branches of governments have to work together with?
The New Demands on the Navy/Air Force/Army  
Chaired by Whitney Lackenbauer St. Jerome’s

Each of the three main branches of the forces will be required to reexamine force postures given increasing tasks for the CF in the Arctic. These could be both expensive and challenging. This challenge is made even more difficult by the fact that future remains nebulous and fluid. While choices need to be made now, they will not be easy or even necessary the ones that will best meet the needs of the future. But such choices will need to be made.

The Navy  
Marshall Horne Ph.D., student University of Calgary

The Navy is now being asked to play a new and expanded role as the Arctic Ice melts. At the forefront of this action is the Government commitment to build 6-8 Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships and to build a refueling/port facility in Nanisivik. These will have an important impact on how the Navy does its job. What will the future of the navy be? What role will these new capabilities give the CF?

The Air Force  
TBA

The Air Force has undergone a major transformation during Afghanistan deployment. It has received significant improvement to its long and short range transport capabilities with the addition of the C-17s, new Hercules and Chinooks. These will dramatically improve the ability of the forces to move in the Arctic region. But at the same time questions remain over other assets that have played a critical role in the Arctic such as the CF-18s in NORAD and the Auroras for long-range Arctic patrols. Will these be replaced? What happens to these roles if they are not? Also important is the role that space will increasingly play. Already the RadarSat system has placed Canada as a world leader in the employment of SAR technology to provide a comprehensive surveillance capability for the north. How will these capabilities develop?

The Army  
Geoff Jackson Ph.D student, University of Calgary

Will the Army need to prepare for an increased presence in the Arctic? What type of training will it need to do? What tasks will it be given? Will the focus be on aid to civilian duties; SAR and the like? What role will the CF Arctic Training Centre play?

The Role of the Rangers  
1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group,  
Capt(N) Sean Cantelon The Deputy Commander of JTFNorth
Cited as one of the most important success stories of the CF engagement with Northern Canadians, the Rangers have played a central role in the deployment of Canadian Forces to the Arctic since the end of the Cold War. As the importance of the Arctic now grows, what will the Rangers be asked to do? What can they do? What challenges and opportunities will they face?

1900-2200 Dinner

Day 2 March 2, 2011

09:00-1200 The International Environment
Chairied By Dr. David Wright, Centre for Military and Strategic Studies

The Impact of the Arctic Council on the CF
Heather Exner, Ph.D.student, University of Calgary

The Arctic Council was created with the understanding that it would not deal with security issues. Very recently the Arctic Council has drafted an international agreement on SAR. This will allow for much closer cooperation between the eight Arctic states. However, it is often the militaries (and Coast Guards) of the Arctic states that help implement the agreement. How will this be done? What ramifications will it have on cooperation in the region?

Canadians and the Protection of their Arctic
Stephan Roussel, University of Montreal

Ultimately all the best plans for the defense and protection of the Canadian north will flounder if Canadians do not understand what is at stake and what needs to be done. What does arctic security mean for Canadians?

The Extension of the Canadian Continental Shelf –Security Ramifications
Ted McDorman, University of Victoria

Canada will be submitting data to delimit its extended continental shelf in 2013. Part of this submission will include the arctic. Efforts to interpret this data have already been marked by very good cooperation between scientists and government officials from Canada, the United States, and Denmark. Once the data is submitted, what will this mean for Canada in terms of policing and protecting the resources within this region?

1230-100 Conclusions – the Way Forward
What are the issues that will face the Canadian Forces? What are the questions that need to be further examined? What is the way forward?