Toward a New Trilateral Security Relationship?
United States, Canada, and Mexico 2012

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Security Complex Theory and Perimeter Defense

- Collaborative research effort
  - Dr. Todd Hataley, RMC, Canada
  - Dr. Abelardo Rodríguez, Univ of Guadalajara, Mexico
  - Dr. Rick Kilroy, VMI, USA

- Presentations at APSA, Homeland Defense Conference, Mexico, Canada, USA

- Letter of Intent with Lynne Rienner
Poor Mexico . . .

“so far from God, but so close to the United States”

General Porfirio Díaz
President of Mexico
1876-1911
Mexican-American War

- 1846-1848
- *la intervención norteamericana*
  - “war of northern aggression”
- Loss of ½ of national territory
- Another foreign occupation
- Chapultepec Castle and the *niños heroes*
- First US president to “visit” Mexico?

General Zachary Taylor
World War II and after

- Good Neighbor Policy
- Lázaro Cárdenas and oil
- The Rio Treaty of 1947
- Formation of the OAS and NATO
- Cold War Relations
  - Cuba, Castro, and Containment
Post Cold War Realities

- **Hemispheric integration**
  - Democracy, trade, and security

- **NAFTA**
  - Signed in October 1992
  - Implemented 1 January 1994

- **Summit of the Americas**
  - December 2004 in Miami, FL

- **Defense Ministerial of the Americas**
  - First held in Williamsburg, VA 1995
Post 9/11 Surrealities

- Global War on Terrorism (2003)
  - Mexico opts out in Security Council vote on Iraq
  - Cautious response to Homeland Security initiatives

- Disaster Assistance (2005)
  - Mexican Military “invades” Texas
Mexico’s Response

"Our mission is to give aid to the civilian population affected by the disaster," said Mexican Army Brig. General Francisco Ortiz.
Canada was there too . . .
Contemporary Security Challenges in North America

- Increasing drug-related violence
- Pandemics (avian flu, swine flu)
- Illegal arms and human trafficking
- Natural and man-made disasters
- Catastrophic terrorism at the border
- Economic crisis and migration
# Levels of Security Cooperation

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<th>Level</th>
<th>MX</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>CA</th>
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<td>International</td>
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Scale of 1 to 5: 1 = maximum, 5 = minimum. Ranking is based on level of activity or passivity.

Note: The bilateral relationships consist of essentially Canada-United States and Mexico-United States.

Post 9/11 U.S. Response

- National Homeland Security Strategy
- Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Northern Command
- Homeland Security Advisory System
- New Federal Agencies and Authorities
- Global War on Terrorism
US Perspective - terrorism

- Continue to expand cooperation with Canada and Mexico in areas of mutual interest in all domains that our partners deem appropriate
  - Dialogue with our partners about the nature of transnational terrorism and its effects on our mutual security
    - Discuss how trilateral security can be achieved without encroaching on national sovereignty
  - Enable our continental neighbors to gain better situational awareness of their air, land, and maritime environments
  - Expand intelligence and information sharing where able
  - Develop procedures, policies, and protocols to address CBRNE incidents along our borders
  - Work with partners to enhance our defensive capabilities, focusing primarily on countering terrorist threats and incidents
Security Complex Theory

**Security complex** = a set of units whose major processes of securitisation, desecuritisation, or both are so interlinked that their security problems cannot reasonably be analysed or resolved apart from one another

-- regional level of security has become more autonomous
-- relative autonomy of regional security constitutes a specific pattern of international security relations
-- makes difference between the system level interplay of the global powers and the subsystem level of lesser powers
-- a blend of materialist and constructivist approaches
-- ideas of bounded territoriality and distribution of power together with securitisation theory

Mérida Initiative

- Plan Mexico?
- Response to Mexico’s growing criminal and drug trafficking threat
- $500M in FY09 – total $1.4B program
- $2.8M in IMET and FMFP
- Concern over “militarization” of the drug war
NATO and Peacekeeping
Security and Prosperity Partnership

- Created in March 2005
  - Three-power summit at Waco, TX
- Five Major Initiatives
  - Creation of a North American Competitiveness Council
  - Advancing cooperation on avian and pandemic influenza
  - North American Energy Security Initiative
  - North American Emergency Management
  - Smart, Secure Borders
North American Union?

I pledge allegiance...
NOT to The North American Union.

Republica del Norte
According to Charles Truxillo, a professor of Chicano studies at the University of New Mexico, a sovereign Hispanic nation straddling the current border between the United States and Mexico is an inevitability.
A Perimeter Defense Model

- Expanding **perimeters** rather than contracting behind **border** fences
- Increased security cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies
- Military-to-military cooperation, not **formal** alliances or treaties
- Focus on specific **threats** to security
  - Catastrophic terrorism
  - Pandemics
  - Natural Disasters
  - Drugs and Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs)