Canada and the Future Security Environment

RAdm D. Hawco
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Aim

Brief to KCIS to examine and outline the Canadian Armed Forces (CAFs) perspective on the Future Security Environment

Thoughts to ponder …

What defines these documents?

How should they be used?

What is their value to defence planning?
The Purpose of Foresight in Defence

Foresight aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Future Security Environment to maintain a relevant and adaptive force in the challenging years ahead.
What Foresight is not

- Intelligence, regional analysis
- Threat or risk assessment
- A prediction of the future
- Departmental or governmental policy

Typically, it serves armed forces, or governments, as a “key contextual pillar” to help decision makers or frame discussions.
Foresight Translated

France - *Strategic Horizons*
- Outlines a changing world and France within it
- “The end of Western Domination” and the emergence of new powers
- Rethinks alliances
- Redefines the composition of state response to conflict or crisis

United Kingdom - *Global Strategic Trends Out to 2045*
- Foresight as strategic context
- The state and new sources of influence
- Economics of defence
- Future conflict
The Canadian Context

The FSE

- *The Future Security Environment 2013-2040 (FSE)* informs institutionalized Capability Based Planning and the development of plausible future Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) mission scenarios. These are essential in order to prepare the CAF for the challenges of tomorrow.

- As a “key contextual pillar,” force development is assessed and conducted against this document.
Stakeholders

Defence Stakeholders:

Included organizations such as The Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force, Strategic Joint Staff, ADM(Pol), ADM(S&T), as well as many others.

External Stakeholders:

• Department of Global Affairs Canada
• Canadian Security Intelligence Service
• Royal Canadian Mounted Police
• Policy Horizons Canada
• Canadian Commercial Corporation

Stakeholders are essential during the writing and thorough review process conducted to ensure documents are fit for purpose.
FSE 2013-2040 Structure

• Four chapters
  – Geopolitical Trends
  – Economic, Environmental and Social Trends
  – Science and Technology Trends
  – Military Trends

• Six Key Topics / Vignettes
  – North Korea
  – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
  – Arctic Powers
  – Climate Change
  – Weapons Proliferation
  – Radicalization, Extremism and Terrorism

• 72 Military Implications
Main Conclusions

1. Geopolitical Trends
   • Globalization and interconnectedness
   • Diffusion of power among states
   • Instability where spheres of influence overlap
   • Same Allies and new partners
   • Rising influence of non-state actors

Military Implications
   • CAF must be able to deploy globally to defend Canada’s interests
   • Alliances and ad hoc bi-national / multi-national coalitions will endure
   • Interoperability with Allies and non-traditional partners
   • Comprehensive approach
Main Conclusions

2. Economical, Environmental and Social Trends
   - Diffusion of economic power
   - Competition for non-renewable resources
   - Urbanization
   - Youth Bulges might increase instability

Military Implications
   - CAF to operate in the global commons to protect the interests of Canada
   - Premium on Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR), operational support, aviation and the timely application of precision effects.
   - Capacity to operate without host nation support
   - The impacts of demographic trends will challenge CAF human resources
Main Conclusions

3. Science and Technology (S&T) Trends
   • Broad diffusion of S&T knowledge
   • Relative affordability of technology
   • Ever-greater reliance on networks and sensors
   • Extension of the human ‘frontier’

Military Implications
   • Speedier, more agile and flexible military procurement strategies and programmes
   • Military risk of reliance on non-allied technologies
   • Secure clouds will impact future C4ISR architectures
   • Integration of human performance enhancement capabilities will be challenged by ethical, legal, and policy considerations
   • Operate when systems are compromised, unavailable, or the environment is denied
4. Military Trends
• CAF will mostly conduct expeditionary operations in a coalition context
• CAF to operate across the whole spectrum of conflict
• Weapons proliferation will allow more actors to forcefully attempt to promote their own interests
• Requirement for precision in all aspects of military operations

Military Implications
• Whole-of-government and comprehensive approach to resolve issues of Canadian national security
• Ability to apply precision effects
• CAF should continue to develop and implement strategies to rapidly understand human terrain
Foresight supports and enables Capability Based Planning

CBP asks three questions:

1. What do we think we will need to do in the future?
2. How well do we think we will do it with the CAF we have?
3. What changes would make us better?
Technology and Warfare

Technology is not a panacea

“What matters in technological adaptation as technological innovation is how well new and improved technologies are incorporated into effective and intelligent concepts of fighting: it is not the technological sophistication that matters, rather it is the larger framework.”

Williamson Murray, Military Adaptation in War
Land, Air & Sea Futures Documents

RCN – *Horizons 2050*

CA – *Land Operations 2021*

RCAF – *Projecting Power 2035*

The Joint Capstone Concept (under development) to replace CAF Integrating Concept
Questions & Discussion
Scenario Assessment

SPECTRUM OF CONFLICT

1A Baseline (Domestic Operations)

1B Arctic

2 Major International Event (G8, Olympics, etc)

3 Major Terrorist Event

4 Vancouver Earthquake

5A Peace Support (East Africa)

5B Peace Enforcement (East Africa)

5C Hybrid Warfare (Peace Intervention)

5D War Fighting (East Asia)

• Future Security Environment
  2013-2040