



Security & Defence Briefing (16/2014):

"NATO missions and defence spending, terrorism in China, citizenship and terror, the Global Go To Think Tank Index"

12 September 2014

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

With recent public attention to the crisis in Eastern Europe and the Canadian government's commitment to its armed forces and its allies, our staff, board members, and our work have been quite prominent in the media:

- Our executive vice-president **Ferry de Kerckhove** was interviewed on [CJOB](#) on the situation in Ukraine, and provided comments on the CBC The Current (link) on the [deployment](#) of Canadian special forces troops to Iraq.
- **Ferry de Kerckhove** and **George Petrolekas** have an [op-ed](#) in today's Globe and Mail on Canada's mission against the Islamic State.

- Our Vimy Paper, [***Strategic Outlook for Canada 2014: A Search for Leadership***](#) was quoted extensively in a [recent op-ed](#) by John Ivison in the National Post in his critique of DND's lack of strategic thought.
- **David Perry**, our senior security and defence analyst continue to be in the news for his work on the Canadian [defence budget](#). He is quoted by [Terry Milewski](#), Matthew Fisher on [Ukraine / defence budget / change of command](#) at CJOC, [Campbell Clark](#) in the Globe and Mail, and Murray Brewster in a "[baloney meter](#)" exercise.
- **Yours truly** gave a short interview on [CTV](#) regarding Canada's commitment to NATO and appropriate defence spending.

I would like to make a short comment on behalf of the CDA and CDA Institute regarding the government's support of the Halifax International Security Forum. According to recent press [coverage](#), the government has committed another \$9.8 million to the forum, despite its stated conditions that HISF attain self-sufficiency by 2013 after its initial \$9.96 million grant. The renewed expenditure is particularly striking given the recent cuts in government support to Canadian think tanks and nonprofit organizations. While the Halifax conference itself may provide useful benefits for security and defence awareness in Canada and abroad, it would be beneficial and wiser for the government to support more than one credible organization for the advancement of Canadian security, defence and foreign relations. After all, the CDA was originally created for this very purpose in 1932. The CDA consisting of 51 independent associations, numbering some 450,000 members, has consistently delivered top-notch independent, credible and unbiased awareness of security and defence matters important to Canada and Canadians.

National security responsibilities in Canada have been reconfigured yet again with the introduction of a [Ad Hoc](#) Cabinet Committee on National Security last month. Canadians are still waiting on core details, such as who is on the committee, its mandate, and exactly when it was struck.

I would like to congratulate General Tom Lawson, Chief of the Defence Staff for his recent statement marking World Suicide Day. I quote from his [statement](#): "The self-stigma regarding mental health must end. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. Whether it's putting our own hand up to say that we need help, or reaching out to our colleagues, family members or friends to make sure that they're OK, we all have a role to play in encouraging dialogue on this important subject. Don't underestimate the impact you can have."

The **Naval Association of Canada** will be holding their annual AGM and conference on the topic of "Submarines: Past, Present and Future", on 2-5 October 2014 in Ottawa. You can find more information on the agenda and registration on the [NAC website](#).

As you would have seen earlier this week, a [preliminary agenda and registration](#) are now available for the **CDA Institute's 17th Graduate Student Symposium** on 16-17 October at the Royal Military College in Kingston.

I would like to **welcome to the CDA Institute our two new junior analysts: Lindsay Coombs and Melissa Hawco**. Lindsay is currently in her third year of courses at the University of Ottawa where she is working towards the completion of an Honours BA in Conflict Studies and Human Rights. Melissa is in her second year at Carleton University studying for an Honours BA in English. **Congratulations also are due to Meaghan Hobman**, who has now transitioned to a full-time role as our Corporate Management Officer.

Finally, you would have noted the announcement yesterday of the **winner of the 2014 Vimy Award - Blake Goldring!** I won't repeat the content of the press release, but I would like to add my personal congratulations for a very well-deserved honour.

Tony Battista

The CDA Institute is seeking your assistance to be a part of "The Global Go To Think Tank Index" for 2014

The Index is the result of an international survey of over 1,950 scholars, public and private donors, policy makers, and journalists who help rank more than 6,500 think tanks using a set of 18 criteria developed by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania.

To nominate the CDA Institute, you can [visit the survey](#) and enter our name , "Conference of Defence Associations Institute", under various categories. Nominations are being accepted until September 30. You can also copy-paste the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6hwnwOhLjRS9a_2bTmgvq4AQ_3d_3d

Please feel free to nominate us for any category you wish. However, since there are so many, we recommend that you nominate us under the following:

- 2. Top Think Tank by Country
- 11. Top Think Tanks in Mexico and Canada
- 15. Top Think Tanks Worldwide (non-US)
- 16. Top Think Tanks Worldwide (US and non-US)
- 22. Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks
- 31. Think Tank to Watch 2015
- 36. Best Independent Think Tank
- 39. Best Think Tank Conference

50. Best Think Tanks with an Annual Operating Budget of less than \$5 million
52. Best Policy Study/Report Produced by a Think Tank (some of our studies include the Strategic Outlook for Canada, and our Defence Budget Analyses)

Thank you for your help!

Pen Mightier than the Sword: Review of the NATO Spending Controversy

By Meaghan Hobman

When approaching the NATO Summit in Wales during the first week of September, Canada was the member making headlines, accused of causing a derailment and blocking the push for NATO commitment when Harper hesitated to pledge an increase in defence spending.

NATO had the goal of increasing the military spending of its members to 2% of GDP. Although this was already pledged by members back in 2006, only four of 28 countries met that target last year: the United States, Britain, Greece and Estonia. (Canada has never met a 2% GDP target). Although Canada has one of NATO's best-performing economies, only about 1% of GDP was spent last year. Committing 2% would mean an increased expenditure from \$20 billion to \$60 billion over the next decade. ...

To read more [click here](#) or copy-paste the following link:

www.cdainstitute.ca/en/blog/entry/pen-mightier-than-the-sword-review-of-the-nato-spending-controversy

Xinjiang - Un Conflit Séparatiste Loin des Projecteurs

Par Emmanuel Seitelbach

En Octobre 2013, une voiture percuta délibérément la foule sur la place Tiananmen de Pékin, tuant 5 personnes et en blessant 40. Puis, en Mars 2014, un groupe d'une douzaine d'hommes et femmes, armés de couteaux et de machettes, fit irruption dans la gare de Kunming dans la province Chinoise du Yunnan, poignardant au hasard près de 30 voyageurs. Ce dernier événement surnommé «Le 11 Septembre Chinois » par le gouvernement a été l'un des incidents au nombre croissant attribués aux séparatistes de la province chinoise du Xinjiang, dans laquelle la violence a culminé en Juillet 2009 lors d'émeutes et d'affrontements ethniques dans la capitale Urumqi, causant environ 200 décès et provoquant une répression des autorités locales accompagnée d'un verrouillage de l'information d'une durée d'un an sur toute la région.

To read more [click here](#) or copy-paste the following link:

www.cdainstitute.ca/en/blog/entry/xinjiang-un-conflit-separatiste-loin-des-projecteurs

Terrorism and the United Kingdom: Britain's controversial citizenship policies

By Lindsay Coombs

Citizenship is an indispensable factor in defining an individual's legal identity. It is a term that confers a sense of entitlement to the bearer to have civil and political rights that are protected and reinforced by the state; essentially, citizenship is your right to have rights. In the United Kingdom, the government has had the power to revoke citizenship since the early 1900s; however since 9/11 Britain has displayed a form of political "mission creep" by slowly enlarging its legal capability to rescind citizenship. Consequently, the British government now has the power to deprive a citizen of their citizenship even if that would render said individual stateless. Arguably, Britain's new policy of revoking citizenship is not an effective means of combating domestic terrorism. When reviewing Britain's 'war on terror,' there is no publicly available evidence to support the assertion that acts of terrorism have declined by revoking the citizenship of suspected terrorists. Moreover, rescinding citizenship in this manner may actually exacerbate issues of terrorism while promoting the violation of human rights, by neglecting to address the root problem that is terrorism. This is important as other western countries are now examining British actions when deriving solutions for similar issues involving their respective citizens. ...

To read more [click here](#) or copy-paste the following link:

www.cdainstitute.ca/en/blog/entry/terrorism-and-the-united-kingdom-britain-s-controversial-citizenship-policies

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