



INQUIRY OF MINISTRY
DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENT AU GOUVERNEMENT

PREPARE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH MARKING "ORIGINAL TEXT" OR "TRANSLATION"
PRÉPARER EN ANGLAIS ET EN FRANÇAIS EN INDIQUANT "TEXTE ORIGINAL" OU "TRADUCTION"

QUESTION NO./N° DE LA QUESTION Q-460*	BY / DE Mr. Russell (Labrador)	DATE October 7, 2009
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REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND
MINISTER FOR THE ATLANTIC GATEWAY
RÉPONSE DU MINISTRE DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE ET
MINISTRE DE LA PORTE D'ENTRÉE DE L'ATLANTIQUE

SIGNATURE
MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
MINISTRE OU SECRÉTAIRE PARLEMENTAIRE

QUESTION

With regard to Canada's First Defence Strategy: (a) which of the following are a part of the strategy, (i) acquisition of three strategic air transport aircraft, and stationing them at CFB Trenton, (ii) doubling the size of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), (iii) acquisition of three armed naval heavy icebreakers, and stationing them in the area of Iqaluit, (iv) building a new civilian-military deepwater docking facility to accommodate the three armed naval heavy icebreakers, (v) establishing a new underwater sensor system, (vi) building a new army training centre in the area of Cambridge Bay, (vii) stationing new long-range unmanned aerial vehicle squadrons at each of CFB Goose Bay and CFB Comox, (viii) stationing new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft in Yellowknife, (ix) increasing the size of the Canadian Rangers by 500, (x) establishing of a 650-member battalion at each of CFB Comox, CFB Goose Bay, CFB Trenton, and CFB Bagotville, (xi) adding 1000 regular force and 750 reserve force personnel to the army in Quebec, (xii) establishing a territorial defence unit in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Saint John, St. John's, Halifax and the Niagara-Windsor corridor; (b) what is the rationale for the inclusion or exclusion of each item from the Canada First Defence Strategy; and (c) for each item that is not a part of the strategy, has the government taken any steps to carry out or implement the item, and if the government has not taken any such steps, does it intend to do so and, if so, when?

REPLY / RÉPONSE

ORIGINAL TEXT
TEXTE ORIGINAL

TRANSLATION
TRADUCTION

(a)(b)(c) The following information is provided in respect of the capabilities outlined above:

(i) acquisition of three strategic air transport aircraft, and stationing them at CFB Trenton,

- To be able to transport large amounts of passengers and equipment over long distances, the Government acquired four C-17 strategic transport aircraft which are based at CFB Trenton.

(ii) doubling the size of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART),

- The Disaster Assistance Response Team remains ready to deploy rapidly anywhere in the world to conduct emergency humanitarian relief operations. While the Canadian Forces continually assess how best to optimize the DART, there are currently no plans to double its size.

(iii) acquisition of three armed naval heavy icebreakers, and stationing them in the area of Iqaluit,

- After an analysis of different options for a naval presence in the Arctic region, the Government announced in 2007 the acquisition of 6 to 8 Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ships. These ships will enable the Canadian Forces to patrol the Arctic waters throughout the navigable season.
- The project is in the definition stage and is expected to start the implementation phase in 2010, with the delivery of the

first ship in 2014. All ships should be fully operational by 2020.

(iv) building a new civilian-military deepwater docking facility to accommodate the three armed naval heavy icebreakers,

- To support a visible presence in the Arctic, the Government is moving forward with the establishment of a berthing and refuelling facility in Nanisivik. The facility will provide berthing for Canadian Navy and other Government of Canada vessels, as well as fuel and other consumables.
- Major construction work, such as upgrading or replacing the existing ship berthing facility and building new facilities ashore, could potentially start in 2011.
- The facility should be fully operational by 2015.

(v) establishing a new underwater sensor system,

- To explore potential enhancements to Arctic surveillance capabilities, National Defence is pursuing Northern Watch, a project initiated under Defence Research and Development Canada's Technology Demonstration Program that is exploring sensor technology to offer cost-effective recommendations for surveillance of the unique maritime environment in the Canadian Arctic. Trials have been conducted in 2008 and 2009 and will continue until 2011.
- Results, studies, and lessons learned will be combined to determine whether a permanent network of monitoring stations for the Arctic is technologically and economically feasible.

(vi) building a new army training centre in the area of Cambridge Bay,

- After examining different options in the Arctic region, the Canadian Forces decided to establish a training centre in Resolute Bay. The army is leveraging Natural Resources Canada facilities to offer a portion of their Advanced Winter Warfare Course at this location. We are looking at options to establish a CF facility at the location that, according to current planning, would be able to accommodate up to 100 individuals when it reaches full operating capacity around 2013. The Centre will significantly increase the CF's expertise and knowledge in the Arctic.

(vii) stationing new long-range unmanned aerial vehicle squadrons at each of CFB Goose Bay and CFB Comox,

- Unmanned aerial vehicles can be a useful tool in providing accurate and timely surveillance information in support of the domestic and international roles of the Canadian Forces outlined in the *Canada First* Defence Strategy. National Defence is considering the acquisition of long-range unmanned aerial vehicles.

(viii) stationing new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft in Yellowknife,

- The Government is planning to acquire new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft, as outlined in the *Canada First* Defence Strategy. However, there are no plans to change the current distribution of search and rescue aircraft across the country.

(ix) increasing the size of the Canadian Rangers by 500,

- The Government has stated in the *Canada First* Defence Strategy that it wants the military to demonstrate a visible presence in the Arctic and believes that the Rangers make up an important part of that presence. Since July 2008, the Canadian Forces have increased the Rangers from 3940 to approximately 4150 in October 2009, with a projected total increase to 5000 occurring by 2012.

(x) establishing of a 650-member battalion at each of CFB Comox, CFB Goose Bay, CFB Trenton, and CFB Bagotville,

- There are currently no plans to establish battalions at these locations. That said, as announced by the Minister of National Defence in September 2008, Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Forces' special operations unit, will be moving to CFB Trenton in the next several years. The Air Force is also establishing an Air Expeditionary Wing at CFB Bagotville that will be able to deploy rapidly and provide air support wherever needed, across Canada or around the world.

(xi) adding 1000 regular force and 750 reserve force personnel to the army in Quebec,

- While there are no specific targets for army increases in Quebec, there has been an increase of approximately 680 regular and 941 reserve personnel in the province between 2006 and 2009, as part of the overall expansion of the

Canadian Forces.

(xii) establishing a territorial defence unit in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Saint John, St. John's, Halifax and the Niagara-Windsor corridor;

- The army is establishing Territorial Battalion Groups across the country based on existing Reserve units that are trained and equipped to respond to domestic contingencies. Five Territorial Battalion Groups have been established as part of the first phase in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver, with a vanguard unit in Victoria. An additional five units are expected to follow over the next years in locations to be determined.