

DEFENCE POLICY REVIEW

Question 1

Although mass movement of people from low -income countries is not a direct threat to Canada it does affect regional and international peace and security, particularly for receiving states. For example, the response to the migration towards Europe so far has been dealing with symptoms rather than the root causes of migration, especially involuntary migration. Dealing with the human condition in the countries of origin that is behind involuntary migration requires a comprehensive, collaborative and strategic approach. If there is any appetite for addressing the root causes, a whole-of-government (WoG) approach integrating development, foreign and security policy is critical as is partnering with like minded countries, regional organisations and philanthropic institutions to share the burden over at least a half generation since the resource requirement is beyond the capability of any single country or institution to sustain for such a long period. The CAF involvement in such an endeavor would decline over time as the focus shifts from security to reform, including security sector reform, development, transparent and accountable governance and economic, social and political revitalisation.

Question 2

Effective support during domestic crises such as floods, fires, earthquakes, massive environmental degradation requiring mass evacuation and other similar crises would be enhanced by frequent and regular roundtables, practical exercises, rehearsals of agreed drills and procedures with federal, provincial, municipal and civil society entities. Effective response to domestic crises requires a comprehensive, inclusive, coherent, coordinated and collegial approach that should also include input from prospective beneficiary populations. Beneficiary input is fundamental to meeting their needs and in managing their expectations. Where Aid to Civil Power is invoked in situations of domestic conflict or other situations of violence there will be a need for humanitarian organizations that are acceptable to all parties for a neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian intervention, to protect and assist those caught up in the crisis.

Question 3

We co-habit the same continent with the US so it is logical that we should be a partner in BMD and other similar endeavours aimed at continental defence and security.

Question 4

Under the rubric of defence diplomacy the CAF, along with counterparts in development, democratisation and other relevant institutions can assist fragile states strengthen the rule of law to underpin security sector reform and a transition to accountable, transparent governance. An integrated approach would be essential. For countries with nascent peacekeeping capabilities the CAF can assist in building capacity and institutional development and any assistance should be modeled on the UN integrated mission (integration of civilian, police and military components). Partnering with relevant civil society organisations, institutions and regional

organisations over a half generation or more would probably be required since the contemporary and emerging operational environment is becoming more complex and interconnected with the full spectrum of issues that impact human security. At the outset capacity building in host nations should be a given.

The world population transitioned from a rural to an urban population in the past several years. Urbanisation has brought some advantages such as potable water, easier access to basic health care, primary education, etc., but it has also brought ills such as exacerbated poverty, crowded living conditions, high unemployment and burgeoning crime that is taking on a transnational dimension. This is an environment in which the CAF may be mandated to intervene with other Member States of the UN system along with a host of relief and development agencies. Where the prospect of armed conflict is present these agencies will distance themselves from the military and political elements of the intervention. However, for the immediate and long term interests of beneficiaries there is a need to narrow the discomfort gap between the political and military dimension with that of the humanitarian enterprise who see themselves as neutral, independent and impartial interveners.

Humanitarians are loath to admit that in dire circumstances where no access by humanitarians is possible to vulnerable populations it may be only the military and police components who have access, and hence, be in a position to protect and assist them. Therefore it is prudent for the military to have an abiding understanding of what humanitarians do, why they do it, the manner in which they do their work and the legal framework as well as the principles by which they fulfill their humanitarian mandate.

The beneficiary population is a shared clientele between the humanitarians and the politico - military entity and this fact alone is sufficient common ground to begin narrowing the discomfort gap.

In a combat or peace support intervention that creates a secure and stable environment it allows humanitarians to fulfill their obligation to vulnerable populations. Where such a prospect is absent for prolonged periods it raises the level of anger and frustration in the beneficiary population which has implications for all components of the intervention (police, military and civilian).

Other Issues

For support to international disaster relief operations the public needs to be reminded that military intervention is much more expensive than that of civilian entities. However keeping resources at high readiness is a capability beyond the resource envelope of civilian entities and the military should be called only if there are no viable alternatives and as a last resort (see Oslo Guidelines on the use of MCDA). On occasions when the DART was deployed it filled a crucial gap that could not be filled by civilian agencies and when needs of affected populations are not met

in a timely and adequate manner the frustration often leads to confrontation, violence and becomes force protection issues.