1994

Cornwall CFB 15-30

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The 1994 Peacekeeping Forecast: Continuous Demand

Over the past six years, there has been a dramatic increase in the demand for United Nations peacekeeping. Of the 33 peacekeeping operations mounted by the UN since its inception, 20 have been established since 1988.

The scale of UN peacekeeping operations is also unprecedented. Whereas in 1987, there were approximately 10,000 military peacekeepers in the field; by 1993, there were nearly 70,000. These increases in military personnel parallel the rise in large multi-dimensional operations involving increasing numbers of civilian peacekeepers. Last year alone, approximately 10,000 civilian peacekeepers were deployed to various UN operations.

The character and scope of peacekeeping operations has also recently evolved from the traditional military operation, entrusted to maintain calm on the front lines of warring nation states, through to "second generation" peacekeeping dealing with conflicts within nations, and on to what has been described as a "third generation" of peacekeeping, entailing the restoration of order through a combination of direct military operations, humanitarian relief efforts, reconciliation, and the rehabilitation of political and economic institutions.
Recent UN operations have entailed diverse assignments involving
traditional peacekeeping as well as complicated, often dangerous military
operations, election-monitoring, policing, border patrol, sanctions
enforcement, civil-administration, and disaster relief. The expanding
scope of peacekeeping has also bolstered the demand for new capabilities
and improved training.

More and more member states are participating in United Nations
peacekeeping operations. In the past year, 75 nations contributed
peacekeeping personnel to the United Nations -- roughly three times as
many participating countries as there were a decade ago. Many of these
new troop contributors lack the experience and skills of the traditional
troop contributors.

While this expansion of demand, scale, scope and participation can be
expected to level off, peacekeeping will likely remain the international
community's principal mechanism for dealing with violent conflict in the
post-Cold War era. Our defence officials acknowledge that "peacekeeping
as an instrument of conflict resolution will play a pre-eminent role in the
emerging international system." (Bremner & Snell, Canadian Defence
Quarterly, August 1992)
The major challenge now is to generate the institutional arrangements to prepare both Canada and other UN member states for this role. We can provide a model for the future and a model for others.
Canada in Peacekeeping: Recognizing The Obligation to Prepare Professionally

Peacekeeping has rapidly emerged as the dominant Canadian defence activity of the 1990s. Participation in United Nations peacekeeping now accounts for over eighty percent of the active duty operations of the Canadian Forces.

Since 1988, when peacekeeping forces were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Canada has contributed to all 20 missions mounted by the UN. The demand for Canadian peacekeepers has been unprecedented. Last year, approximately 4,700 Canadian peacekeepers were deployed to 15 diverse UN operations. Since it is necessary to rotate personnel every six months, nearly 9,000 Canadian peacekeepers were active in peacekeeping service.

Canadian peacekeepers are now deployed to 16 UN missions worldwide. Over the next decade, our regular forces, reserves and civilians will be engaged in an array of diverse peacekeeping assignments. In short, we can anticipate considerable long-term demand for well-trained peacekeepers.
CFB Cornwallis: A Cost-Effective Conversion of Existing Defence Infrastructure

Location

CFB Cornwallis is situated in Southwestern Nova Scotia. Located on the shores of the Annapolis Basin, the base is approximately 15 kilometres east of Digby and 15 kilometres west of Annapolis Royal and Fort Anne. Military air transport is available within 80 kilometres at CFB Greenwood. The Halifax International Airport is approximately 225 kilometres to the east. Direct access to the Eastern United States is available through the Yarmouth airport. This base is a fifteen minute drive from the ferry to St. John, New Brunswick. Cornwallis is also served by an all-weather, limited-access highway from Halifax.

The Cornwallis site has advantages:

- proximity to the airbase at CFB Greenwood, the land base at CFB Gagetown and the naval base at CFB Halifax would facilitate tri-service peacekeeping training;

- the geo-strategic location offers rapid deployment to operations in the Middle East, Central America, Eastern Europe and Africa;

- Dalhousie University (Halifax), Acadia University (Wolfville), University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) and Universite Ste. Anne (Pointe-de-l’Eglise) will provide resources and expertise;
the base offers a semi-isolated training environment;

- the relatively temperate climate of the Western Annapolis Valley offers the potential to conduct year-round training outdoors;

- there is a wide range of accessible terrain in the immediate area;

- most of the required training facilities, resources and support services are already in place;

- the surrounding communities depend upon and support the military presence; peacekeeping training and exercises in the surrounding area would be welcomed.

Cornwallis provides an ideal setting for a multinational peacekeeping training centre. Aside from the scenic site, the surrounding area is of considerable historic importance. Canada’s oldest settlement, the Habitation in Port Royal, is roughly 5 kilometres across the Annapolis Basin. Among the area’s noted recreational attractions are: a nearby Provincial Theme Park and Wildlife Park; Kejimkujik National Park; the Annapolis Theatre, Historic Gardens, and farmer’s market; the Digby scallop fleet; numerous historic sites; whale-watching and sea-bass fishing; as well as golf and tennis facilities. The nearby Digby Pines is widely regarded as an excellent resort and conference centre.
Location of CFB Cornwallis in relation to the headquarters of the United Nations, Canadian National Defence and Mobile Command.
Facilities

CFB Cornwallis has sufficient barrack space and mess facilities to accommodate the proposed peacekeeping training centre. Renovations were recently completed on several large blocks of junior and senior rank quarters. Aside from a capacity to host over 1,000 peacekeeping trainees, this base has approximately 100 officer suites available for training centre staff and visiting officers. The Cornwallis Base Development Book lists the life expectancy on most of the required facilities as between the years 2010 and 2015.

A number of class rooms, seminar rooms and two theatres are available for instructional purposes. There is also adequate drill and storage space in a number of large halls and hangars. These facilities could be used to stage and prepare future operations.

A full range of health and hygiene services are provided at the base hospital. Among the available recreational facilities are: three olympic-size swimming pools; two baseball fields; three soccer fields; three tennis courts; a large gymnasium; a curling rink; a hockey rink; a bowling alley; and two recreation centres, one with a five-hundred-seat theatre.
Two obstacle courses and a small-arms firing range are located on the 650-acre base. An additional firing range on a 3,000 acre site is located within fifteen kilometres at Granville Ferry.

Cornwallis has the capacity to host the sort of 'urban warfare training centre' that the Department of National Defence has paid to use for peacekeeping training at Fort Ord and Fort Pendleton, California. Those with expertise in establishing this type of training resource have already expressed an interest in locating such a centre either on or adjacent to the Cornwallis base. The Canadian Forces and several police departments are also interested in having access to such a facility.

Some sources have suggested that a peacekeeping training centre will require additional land for field exercises and simulations. Of the 650 acres comprising the Cornwallis base, approximately 350 unused acres might be used for these training exercises. Additional land is also available in the immediate region at a relatively low cost.
Current Status

CFB Cornwallis is a Canadian Forces tri-service training centre. It was developed fifty years ago as HMCS Cornwallis and initially tasked to naval training. Its primary contemporary role has been to conduct basic training for Canadian recruits. HMCS Acadia, a large sea-cadet camp, is run on site in the summer. The base is also used for naval reserve and militia training.

Up until 1991, Cornwallis employed 1,100 military staff and civilian personnel to train approximately 4,000 recruits annually. Recruit enrolment is projected to drop to 900 trainees in 1994; sea cadet enrolment will likely remain at 1,400; and there will be approximately 700 naval reserve trainees.

Peacekeeping training would be an appropriate complement to the other ongoing defence training activities. The successful conversion of this base to the task is widely supported by the community.

The centre's development requires a modest capital outlay incurred over a period of years. Minimal capital cost will be needed to commence operations at the centre. Only with the further development of a multinational training centre at the base would additional capital expenditure be required.
At this time, Cornwallis has sufficient personnel in its support staff to maintain the new training centre. For example, there is a base administrative staff, an engineering department, a transport department, a fire department, a full range of hospital and dental staff, sufficient base equipment and stores personnel, cooks, and mess workers. Whereas there will be a requirement for a number of new instructors and trainers at this centre, the majority of these personnel can be drawn from within the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces. This training centre is unlikely to entail a major investment in new personnel.

The Canadian peacekeeping training centre could be in operation within six months. Among the specific Cornwallis facilities that could now be assigned to the peacekeeping training centre are:

- two wings of Academic Building no 1 (Korea Hall) #10
- officer’s quarters #31-1
- junior and senior ranks quarters #31-2
- barrack blocks #s: 34-1, 34-2, 34-3, 34-5, 34-6, 34-7, 34-8
- block 34-9 (as faculty offices)
- block 34-10 (as administrative offices)
- drill hangar #95
Identification of the facilities is shown on the site lay-out of CFB Cornwallis on the next page.

The further development of a multinational training centre will entail additional requirements and expense. These will depend upon a needs-analysis which meets the tasks that the peacekeeping training centre at Cornwallis will perform.

In summary, CFB Cornwallis exceeds all the necessary criteria cited for a peacekeeping training centre. The proposed location provides a number of unique advantages. Few locations offer better access to Canadian Forces support. As the required facilities and personnel services are already in place, this base will be cost-effectively converted into a Canadian peacekeeping training centre.
Conclusion

Canada's defence priorities will be changing in 1994 to meet the emerging demands of peacekeeping.

Whereas Canadian Forces have extensive peacekeeping experience, it is apparent that current peacekeeping training efforts urgently need to be modernized and assigned to a dedicated defence training centre. General-purpose combat training must be supplemented with advance general peacekeeping training and mission-specific training.

There is widespread support for such an initiative. The United Nations has encouraged member states to consider the establishment of regional and national peacekeeping training centres. The Prime Minister and the Liberal Party of Canada have expressed their support for the establishment of a Canadian and multinational peacekeeping training centre at CFB Cornwallis. The Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs has also called for the development of a permanent Canadian peacekeeping training centre and advised that appropriate training be provided to all ranks and reserves. These recommendations call for positive action on Nova Scotia's plan to establish a peacekeeping training centre at CFB Cornwallis.
CFB Cornwallis has been widely identified as an appropriate location to host a Canadian peacekeeping training centre. This base has the required facilities and sufficient space. Its proximity to Canadian Forces air, naval and land support is conducive to joint peacekeeping training. In addition, this proximity provides the potential to stage future peacekeeping operations. A new peacekeeping training programme would complement assigned recruit, sea-cadet and reserve training programmes.

The success of the United Nations and peacekeeping will be partially determined by the extent to which member states institutionalize appropriate supportive arrangements. The federal government now has a unique and cost-effective opportunity to convert defence training infrastructure at CFB Cornwallis to serve acknowledged Canadian and United Nations objectives. In the words of the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson:

Are we to go from crisis to crisis improvising in haste? Or can we now pool our experience and our resources, so that the next time we, the governments and peoples whom the United Nations represents, will be ready and prepared to act? (1957)

Overall, there are sound strategic and economic grounds for converting CFB Cornwallis into a Canadian and multinational peacekeeping training centre. This has the potential to be an important contribution to regional, national and international security.
The development of Canada's peacekeeping training centre at CFB Cornwallis would reflect the long-term vision and commitment to internationalism that inspired peacekeeping. As Prime Minister Chretien has recognized: "the time for such a centre has come."
Recent UN operations have entailed diverse assignments involving traditional peacekeeping as well as complicated, often dangerous military operations, election-monitoring, policing, border patrol, sanctions enforcement, civil- administration, and disaster relief. The expanding scope of peacekeeping has also bolstered the demand for new capabilities and improved training.

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