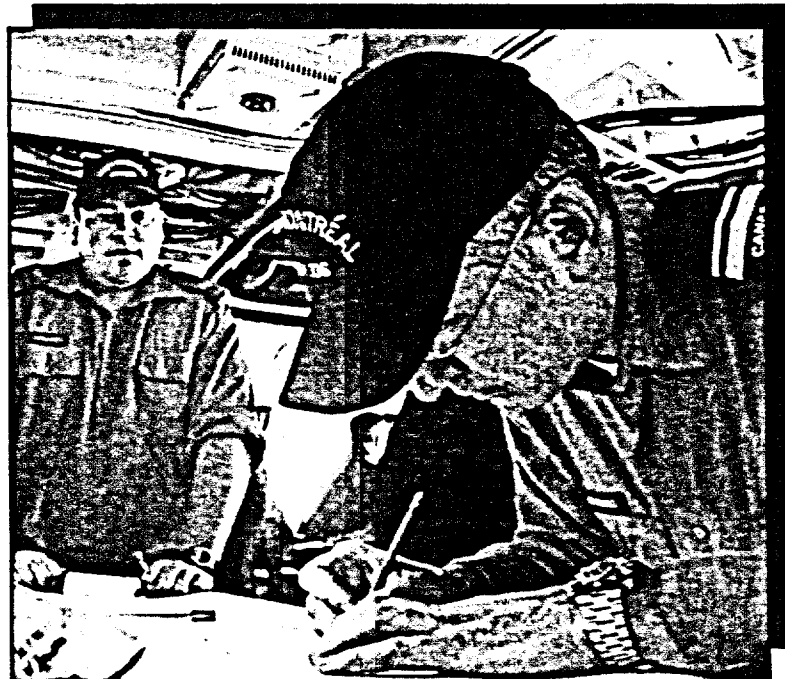


At the dawn of the 21st century, Canada faces a complex array of security challenges. The world remains an unpredictable and perilous place, where threats to our well-being, our interests and our values persist. Failed and failing states dot the international landscape, creating despair and regional instability and providing a haven for those who would attack us directly. Global terrorism has become a deadly adversary, and Canadians are now, in some ways, more individually threatened than at any time during the Cold War. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, whether to state or non-state actors, raises the horrible prospect of massive civilian and military casualties. And intra- and inter-state conflict continues throughout the world. These developments affect Canadians as never before.

In this dangerous environment, Canadians look to their government for reassurance and protection. The Government has responded. In the immediate wake of September 11, 2001, it announced nearly \$8 billion in measures aimed at enhancing the security of Canadians. In April 2004, the Government released its first National Security Policy, which sets out a broad range of new initiatives in areas such as intelligence, emergency planning and management, public health crises, and transportation and border security, to counter the major threats to Canadians. In Budget 2005, the Government made the largest reinvestment in Canada's military in over 20 years, totaling approximately \$13 billion. This sum includes new baseline funding and significant additional resources for capital programs. Now, the Government has released the International Policy Statement that establishes the priorities and principles governing Canada's relations abroad, and leaves no doubt that defence and security are an integral part of our international strategy.

THE CANADIAN FORCES IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD: PROVIDING SECURITY AT HOME AND ABROAD

Both the National Security Policy and the Overview of the International Policy Statement single out the Canadian Forces as a critical element in responding to



Off Baffin Island—Plotting the course aboard HMCS *Montréal*.

threats and other emergencies both at home and abroad. Canada's military is no stranger to this role. The Canadian Forces have performed remarkable service on behalf of all Canadians through the decades, but have never been so busy as during the post-Cold War period. In recent years, they have deployed to the four corners of the world, participating in complex and risky missions that have tested their skill, training and equipment. At home, the situation has been no less demanding. In serving their country, some of our military personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice and many more have been seriously injured.

Despite the pressures associated with increased deployments, the Canadian Forces remain an effective and capable military. Recognized by their fellow citizens, as well as by friends and allies, for their expertise and professionalism, our men and women in uniform help make a difference in the lives of Canadians and others less fortunate around the globe.

The role of the Canadian Forces in protecting Canadians and their interests and values will remain essential in the future. The heavy demands on our military, both domestically and internationally, will not diminish—they may well increase. Canada must possess a military that is well adapted to the evolving security environment and ready to respond to the country's

