

of fire, or destructiveness, all of these elements of high-tech weapons have "been enhanced to a degree that makes the weapons of today enormously more effective in kill power."³⁸ Although such weapons and technologies are now the preserve of only a few states, one must look beyond the next five to ten years: can the international community afford to let this problem grow, or should long-term work on controlling "non-weapons of mass destruction" begin in order to preempt the proliferation of some of these weapons?

Finally, given the increased involvement of multilateral (United Nations) and Canadian forces in peace and security operations in a range of regional conflict environments, the direct implications of a failure to address this emerging problem are clear. Multilateral forces may more frequently face (as the French did in the Persian Gulf) their own weapons on the battlefield. Even if they do not, the proliferation of more sophisticated weapons systems (precision-guided missiles, for example) could drastically alter the threat environment in which these forces would operate.

³⁸ Both quotes from Paul Walker, cited in Sivard, 18.