

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

other can happen in the blink of an eye. This ability of the Canadian Forces to wage three-block wars has been amply demonstrated in diverse theatres from Bosnia to Afghanistan. The Government's reinvestments in the Canadian Forces will ensure that they continue to enjoy a well-earned reputation for versatility in these complex environments.

As the boundary between the domestic and international continues to blur, Canada's defence and security policy must change. Today's front lines stretch from the streets of Kabul and the rail lines of Madrid to our own Canadian cities. New threats will be met with a forward-looking and integrated approach—across departments and levels of government—designed to protect Canadians and contribute to global security. In the face of a panoply of challenges, and a range of possible responses, the Government of Canada will seek to make a difference in three main areas: countering global terrorism; stabilizing failed and fragile states; and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Countering Terrorism

Over the past five years, terrorist networks have expanded and intensified their attacks on innocent civilians worldwide. The strikes in New York, Bali and Madrid demonstrate the global breadth and lethal potential of even small numbers of committed terrorists with relatively modest resources. Apart from the direct

damage and human suffering that result from such attacks, terrorism has other long-term consequences. It can set back economic development, and disrupt the channels of free trade and commerce. It can destabilize governments or push them toward defensive policies that curb democratic rights and freedoms. It can destroy the fragile spirit of compromise that is so essential to resolving long-standing disputes.

Counteracting this threat requires a comprehensive strategy that includes, but is broader than, coercive instruments. Canada, in collaboration with other like-minded states, will take advantage of every available tool: intelligence, law enforcement, financial instruments and military force. We will ensure that our approach is consistent with the democratic values we hold dear, and maintains the utmost respect for civil liberties.

We believe the best weapon against terrorist recruitment is the promotion of accountable, democratic governments that respect human rights, allow for peaceful dissent and fulfill the aspirations of their people. To promote enduring solutions, we will also seek to share our own expertise in areas such as border security, law enforcement, and critical infrastructure protection with those countries seeking to build up their counterterrorism capacity. Finally, where necessary the Canadian Forces stand ready to participate in military missions against terrorist networks or states who harbour them.

PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Contribute to UN, NATO and G8 efforts to counteract terrorist organizations and cut off their support networks

KEY INITIATIVES

- Increase Canada's diplomatic contributions to the resolution of regional disputes that are exploited by terrorists to mobilize their support
- Push for full implementation of international conventions to combat terrorism and terrorist financing
- Provide technical assistance to countries willing to combat terrorism through a new Counterterrorism Capacity Building Program, anchored in Foreign Affairs
- Increase the Canadian Forces' capacity to participate with allies in counterterror operations