

The Atlantic Council of Canada

NEWSLETTER
June 2010

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President's Message

Welcome to the June edition of the Atlantic Council Newsletter. The bright, crisp look of the layout is due to the efforts of our new TCHC intern, Amina Yasin, whose bio you will meet on the next page, along with information on three other new interns.

Last month, we said goodbye to Jonathan Preece who completed his volunteer

internship, but now we have the happy pleasure of welcoming him back. He has just been informed that he is the recipient of one of four Security and Defence Forum fellowships from the Department of National Defence, which he has chosen to serve at the Atlantic Council of Canada. He will begin his fellowship in September.

We are continuing our focus on giving opportunities

to younger scholars to share their research and writing. In this issue, you will find an insightful article on Greek military spending by Monika Wyrzykowska, University of Toronto graduate student, who is also volunteering at the ACC.

I would also like to draw your attention to the upcoming events listed below.

Upcoming Events

The Atlantic Council of Canada
and the Toronto Branch of the
Naval Officer's Association of Canada
cordially invite you to the

NAVAL CENTENNIAL GALA
1910-2010

At the Fairmont Royal York Hotel
on
Saturday, November 6th, 2010

The Atlantic Council of Canada
invites you to the

2010 Ottawa Fall Conference

On

Cyber Warfare

held at

The Lester B. Pearson Building at
DFAIT

On

Wednesday November 17th, 2010

Chairman

The Hon. Bill Graham
PCQC

Immediate Past Chairman

Col. Dr. Frederic L.R. Jackman
CSJ PhD OOnt.

President

Julie Lindhout
MA MEd

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Atlantic Council Interns

“NEW INTERNS”

Kirsty Hong is currently completing her Master of Arts in Political Science at the Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto. She specializes in **“Kirsty studied both Polish and Ukrainian”** NATO relations, nuclear weapons proliferation, nuclear strategy, and ballistic missile defense. She travelled extensively around Western and Eastern Europe, working and studying in Finland, Germany, and Poland, and studied both Polish and Ukrainian. Kirsty started her internship at the ACC in May and is excited to be a part of the leading think tank on transatlantic issues. She hopes to contribute positively to the ACC through publications and helping with conferences and events, as well as to gain more experience that will help her in her future ambitions with NATO. She can be reached at kirsty.hong@utoronto.ca.



Amina Yasin graduated from the University of Guelph with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and Public Policy, with a focus on Public Policy, Administration, Governance and Law. She will be pursuing her MSc in International and Capacity Development with a focused interest in public policy and development issues this fall. Amina has quite a few years of diverse professional public sector, NGO, international development work and volunteer experiences. Over the past couple of years she has been able to work with local and international development agencies such as Solidarites a French emergency humanitarian aid agency in Nairobi, Kenya. She also participated as a project lead for Project Serve Canada – Mississippi 2009 as well as a Canadian Delegate at the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec City 2008. Amina has also worked as a civil servant within the

public sector at the Government of Alberta and has most recently worked with the University of Guelph Human Rights and Equity Office as a Human Rights Resource Person and Fact Finder over the last year. She is fluent in English, Swahili, and can understand Somali. Through her internship with the Atlantic Council, Amina looks forward to learning about transatlantic issues and better understanding the role of NATO in international affairs particularly as it relates to the role that international institutions such as NATO and national institutions such as the ACC play in supporting the rights of marginalized communities on the national level and internationally. She can be reached at amina.yasin@atlantic-council.ca

“Amina has quite a few years of diverse professional public sector, international development, and NGO work experiences.”

“Nino has extensive experience working as a TV reporter and freelance journalist.”

Nino Marshania graduated from the University of Montreal with a Masters in science of communication, specializing in media and organizational communication.

Nino holds a Bachelors degree in International Journalism from Tbilisi State University. Along with working with International Organizations such as the Red Cross, Nino has been actively involved in volunteering for Free the Children, Rotary Foundation, and Salvation Army. As Rotary Ambassadorial scholar she was dedicated to promoting cultural diversity and understanding. Nino has extensive experience working as a TV reporter and freelance journalist. Currently she is pursuing her studies in Communication and Culture at York and Ryerson Universities, specializing in cultural studies and politics and policy. Nino is also a coordinator for Eco-Art Media Festival at York University. She speaks fluent French, English, Russian, Lithuanian, Georgian and basic Spanish. As an intern with the ACC Nino hopes to enrich her knowledge of NATO and Canada’s involvement, as well as acquire experience working with a Canadian NGO. She can be reached at ninomars@yorku.ca



Monika Wyrzykowska is currently completing her Master’s Degree at the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto, with a specialization in Political Science and History. She also earned **“Monika is a former Director of Communications for the national board of the Canadian Polish Congress.”** her Bachelor of Arts degree at the university, with a double major in Economics and European Studies. Her research

interests include the enlargement of the eurozone into Poland and the potential new member states, as well as the political implications of the current debt crisis. Monika is also very active in the Polish-Canadian community. Currently serving as President of the Polish Students’ Association at U of T, she is a former Director of Communications for the national board of the Canadian Polish Congress and an alumnus of the First School for Leaders of the North American Polish Community in Warsaw sponsored by the Polish Senate. Wishing to expand her knowledge of transatlantic issues and Canadian policy interests, Monika is looking forward to utilizing her knowledge of Polish, German, and French, organization skill, as well as her research experience to make a significant contribution at the Atlantic Council of Canada during her internship. She can be reached at monika.wyrzykowska@utoronto.ca



Atlantic Council 2010 Spring Conference

MINIMIZING CONFLICT IN THE RACE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES: SECURING ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Written by Tanah Sullivan



Above: Mohammed Yahya, Manager, UN Interagency Framework Team for Resource Management and Preventative Action, New York.; Dr. Maureen S. Crandall, Professor of Economics, National Defence University, Washington, D.C.
Below: Dr. James Boutilier, Special (Policy) Advisor, Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific, C.F.; Below Right: Peter Gibson, Manager, Director, Strategy and Quantitative Research, CIBC



Above Right: Col. Dwayne Hobbs; Ed Badovinac, Bernard R. Wilson. Above Left: Paul Davis, Andy Mahut, & Col. Andrew Budd, Below Left: Mohammed Yahya, Manager, UN, New York. & Ed Badovinac. Below Right: Col. McKenna & Col. Brian MacDonald. Right: Rear-Admiral Maddison.

pertaining to resource security from geopolitical, economic and military standpoints. Conference attendees were offered an in-depth look at many different aspects of resource scarcity from an impressive list of speakers from a wide range of industries and professional backgrounds. The speakers provided thorough, informed and detailed discussions that sparked debate and dialogue on how resource-security will impact both the public and private sectors and how NATO will define its role in dealing with the increasingly complex security issue.

“Thorough, informed and detailed discussions sparked debate and dialogue on how NATO will define its role in dealing with the increasingly complex security issue.”

The conference was divided into three sessions, following a welcome address and introduction from the Hon. Bill Graham, Chairman of The Atlantic Council of Canada. The first session identified global resource needs and security issues, with panelist Mohamed Yahya, manager of the United Nations Interagency Framework Team for Resource Management Preventive Action, presenting his view on the UN's response to the challenges faced by resource-rich developing countries and its cooperation with other agencies such as the EU in dealing with resource-based conflict. Colonel Andrew Budd, Branch Chief of the Strategic Policy and Concepts Branch at the NATO Headquarters, offered a military perspective to the issue, focusing on the threat of future conflict and the security challenges arising from resource scarcity and climate change. He discussed the threats posed by those with rich resources, using oil and gas as weapons

of influence or as economic levers in international politics, and the need to reform the outdated international organizations of today.

The second session offered a closer look at energy for the next decade, looking at the impact of energy security on the private sector and from within the economic spectrum. The panelists were Dr. Maureen S. Crandall, Professor of Economics from the National Defence University, Washington D.C., Mr. Peter Gibson, Managing Director of Portfolio Strategy and Quantitative Research at CIBC and Dr. James A. Boutilier, Special Advisor and Commander of the Maritime Forces Pacific.

The third session, looking at the importance of minerals, included Mr. Harry Skinner, Senior Researcher of the G8/G20 Group at the University of Toronto, Mr. Ian London, Market Development and Energy Advisor of Avalon Rare Metals and Mr. Bernard R. Wilson, Lead Director of Consolidated Thompson Iron Mines Limited.

The Atlantic Council's annual Spring Conference was held on April 8, 2010 at Trinity College, at the University of Toronto. This year's topic was 'Minimizing Conflict in the Race for Natural Resources: Securing Economic Stability in the 21st Century', looking at different issues



The Atlantic Council had the privilege of welcoming Rear-Admiral Paul A. Maddison, Commander of the Maritime Forces Atlantic, who delivered a highly-informative keynote address on the new challenges faced by Canada's Navy.

The Spring Conference ended on a much more informal note, as attendees and participants mingled and continued discussions over cheese platters and wine at the conference reception. Everyone was also given the much-anticipated opportunity to meet and talk with the speakers, other Atlantic Council members and colleagues and Rear-Admiral Maddison. The reception, brought together people from varying backgrounds and professions to fulfill The Atlantic Council's aim of promoting awareness and dialogue amongst the Canadian public on global security issues. Overall, it was not only an educational and informative event, but also one that provided a valuable opportunity to discuss one of the world's most pressing security concerns with highly-qualified and knowledgeable specialists and experts.



Above: Maj. Peter St. Denis patrols the Panjway District, Afghanistan on Jan. 21, 2009.



police schools, including the FBI Academy in Virginia. Following a range of regimental appointments, Major St. Denis volunteered to deploy as the commander of the CIMIC Company, in August, 2008, (KPRT).

Major St. Denis spoke to ACC members and guests about his reflections on reconstruction in Afghanistan, particularly in the province of Kandahar. He offered his perspectives on the different facets of the reconstruction process in Kandahar, and the logistical and tactical aspects of the operations he was involved in. He spoke about capacity building, and the importance of working with the Afghan National Development Strategy, which comprises governance, reconstruction and security. By supporting the Afghans, Major St. Denis validated their willingness in cooperating and collaborating with CIMIC operations. With 8 CIMIC teams throughout Kandahar province, Major St. Denis was instrumental in the mitigation between military forces on the ground and the local Afghan communities. He explained the role of CIMIC as

predominantly a liaison between the military force and the civilian population, and active in the coordination of military support to the civilian population, as well as the coordination of civilian support to the military force. Major St. Denis' presentation provided ACC members and guests an insider's perspective on the reconstruction efforts in Kandahar, a strategic region that shares a border with Pakistan. His contributions to Canadian reconstruction efforts in Kandahar have been significant, and he promoted the work of the CIMIC teams as an integral part of the reconstruction and rebuilding process of Kandahar.

Major St. Denis' experiences in Afghanistan have given him a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the impact of the conflict on the civilian population, which will be a vital part of the reconstruction process and towards building a sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

“[It’s] about capacity building, and the importance of working with the Afghan National Development Strategy, which comprises governance, reconstruction and security.”

A Roundtable Speaker Presentation
With

Major Peter St. Denis
“Civilian Military Operation: Accomplishing Aid in Afghanistan”
Written by *Tanah Sullivan*

On March 17, 2010 the Atlantic Council of Canada, its members and guests were privileged to hear the valuable insights of Major Peter St. Denis of the CIMIC Company and his views on the civilian military operations in Afghanistan. Prior to his posting as commander of CIMIC with Task Force 3-08 Operation Athena, Major St. Denis has served as a UN Peacekeeper in Cyprus, where he was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross for his actions during an armed stand-off on the Green Line, transferred to the Army Reserve in 1990 and had a full-time career in policing with the Peel Regional Police Service. After 15 years of policing, Major St. Denis became a college professor with Mohawk College and was a visiting instructor at several



Left: Maj. Peter St. Denis, the Officer in Command of CIMIC Company, speaks at The Atlantic Council of Canada Roundtable series on March 17, 2010; Atlantic Council President Julie Lindhout.





Above: Commodore H.W. Jung , OMM CD.
 Above Left: Commodore Hans W. Jung, with Her Excellency the right Honourable Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean at the Citadelle of Québec on his promotion and appointment to his current position. Above Center: Commodore Hans Jung (right), the Canadian Forces Surgeon General, speaks to the gathered members of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Medical Clinic in Jacmel, Haiti. Bottom row: Commodore H.W. Jung Presents at the Atlantic Council Roundtable series on Thursday April 29th, 2010.

“Canada’s Healers at War”

A Roundtable Speaker Presentation

With
Commodore H.W. Jung, OMM CD
 Written by *Nino Marshania*

On Thursday, April 29th, the Atlantic Council of Canada hosted a presentation with Commodore H.W. Jung, OMM CD, Surgeon General of the Canadian Forces (CF). Commodore Jung spoke about the Health Services of the Canadian Forces and how they operate across Canada and overseas. The Commodore addressed the challenges of providing excellent health-care services in an operations area during wartime and after veterans return home, followed by the Post Deployment Assessment. To conclude, he spoke about the Canadian Forces in the NATO context, and his experience as

“[The Commodore is] developing a patient-oriented mental health program and introducing new mental health campaigns such as “Be the Difference Campaign” geared towards facilitating fellow servicemen to seek potentially needed treatment and assistance, pre or post deployment.”

NATO tactical evaluator at the Canadian Forces. After joining the Canadian Forces in 1981, Commodore Jung served in the air campaign of the 1991 Persian Gulf War. He was appointed to the Order of Military Merit in 2001 and promoted to his current rank in June 2009 as the Director General Health Services and appointed Commander of the Canadian Forces Health Services Surgeon General and Queen’s Honorary Physician. He commands over 6,000 CF health care professionals. Canadian Forces Health Services operate over 40 domestic units and three units overseas; two in Europe and one in Afghanistan. As Commodore Jung noted, in 2006 CF Health Services took over a US Army led Military hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Working within multinational teams, CF Health Service representatives have access to highly mobile modern medical equipment specially designed for combat situations.

CF Health Services are also mentoring two local hospitals in Kandahar in order to build their capacity and meet patients’ needs. The Commodore also spoke of a new rocket proof Military Hospital that is currently being constructed in Kandahar, it will be fully operational in three months time. Commodore Jung briefly elaborated on CF Health Services participation in the Haiti disaster relief and the crucial role played in evacuating Canadian entitled nationals. The final part of the presentation was dedicated to the issues around mental health services within CF that have received substantial coverage in the media since CF’s deployment in Afghanistan. Commodore Jung spoke in detail about the Post Deployment Assessment procedures, treatment and diagnosis for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MTBI). He also spoke about developing a patient-oriented mental health program and introducing new mental health campaigns such as “Be the Difference Campaign” geared towards facilitating fellow servicemen to seek potentially needed treatment and assistance, pre or post deployment.



Atlantic Council Tribute Dinner **2010**

Honouring

CANADIAN HERO & PEACE WARRIOR

Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene

Written by Amina Yasin

The Atlantic Council's 2010 Annual Tribute Dinner at Trinity College, of the University of Toronto honoured Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene on Tuesday, May 18th with the *Exceptional Contribution to International Peace and Security Award*. Trevor Greene was presented the Annual Award for his distinguished international leadership primarily concerning his extraordinary work in Afghanistan that helped to address pressing humanitarian challenges and worked towards developing community capacity within the local population in support of the military mission.

Since 2007, the Atlantic Council of Canada has brought together influential Canadian leaders to honour individuals

who have made distinctive contributions to the strengthening of the transatlantic

“Trevor’s journey of service and hope quickly became one of survival and courage. He has... struggled against the odds to reclaim his life.”

relationship. Each year, the award recognizes a Canadian who has made a significant contribution to international peace and security, and to furthering the values the founding members set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty: “to safeguard the freedom, common heritage, and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.” The award consists of a citation and a financial contribution made in the name of the recipient to the Sarahim School for

Exceptional Children in Kabul, Afghanistan.

A native of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Trevor Greene graduated in 1988 from the University of King’s College with an Honours Bachelor in Journalism. A journalist by trade, Trevor Greene has demonstrated his powerful social conscience by drawing public attention to the voices of the silent; nationally, through his published reports on the missing prostitutes of Vancouver, *Bad Date: The Lost Girls of Vancouver’s Low Track*, and internationally with his second publication, *Bridge of Tears: The Hidden Homeless of Japan*. Trevor is also currently developing a narrative of his very difficult ordeal during and after the attack in Afghanistan.

Service and courage have no finer representative than Captain Trevor Greene. He has dedicated his life thus far to reaching out to the less fortunate, through his volunteer work for Ethiopia Airlift and for the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), arranging the sponsorship of refugee African students to attend Canadian Universities. Joining the Canadian Military, he was part of the Civilian-Military Cooperation unit (CIMIC) to Afghanistan, which offered him the chance to combine his humanitarian compassion and his civilian and military experience in a community development capacity.

In March of 2006, during his term in Afghanistan, the Canadian soldier and journalist suffered a vicious axe attack to his head that inflicted severe brain damage while attending a community meeting, called *shura*, with village elders outside of Kandahar to discuss the provision of healthcare, roads, and clean water for homes and farms. Trevor’s journey of service and hope quickly became one of



Above: Head table; The Hon. Bill Graham, Chairman of The Atlantic Council of Canada presents Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene with award; Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene addresses Tribute Dinner attendees; Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene & fiancée Debbie Lepore; Atlantic Council President Julie Lindhout with ACC staff and interns.



survival and courage. He has determinedly fought against the predictions of doctors who did not hold out much hope for recovery and has struggled against the odds to reclaim his life. His battle to recover his communication and motor skills has become a continuing inspiration for Canadians and people the world over.

Trevor Greene has successfully spent his life thus far seeking to make a difference. Today, his commitment to advocacy encompasses much more than the underprivileged in our own Canadian cities and within the simplest of remote Aghan towns. Trevor Greene represents the power of the human spirit to conquer physical adversity against the odds in order to give to others.

The Tribute Dinner began on an informal note as attendees were provided with the opportunity to mingle and chat over wine with our distinguished guest speaker at the events reception. The dinner began promptly at 7:00 pm in Strachan Hall of Trinity College. The Head Table was introduced by Atlantic Council President Julie Lindhout, and included our distinguished guests Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene, his fiancée Debbie Lepore, the Hon. Bill Graham, Chairman of The Atlantic Council of Canada and our generous sponsors for the

evening *Grey Horse Corporation* represented by Paul G. Smith, President and CEO, and Gillian Hewitt Smith. As well as Kathryn Langley Hope of KE Hope Consultants-*BioMedNova*. We also thank *The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company* for sponsoring the reception. The evening guests received a welcome address and introduction from the Hon. Bill Graham, followed by a dinner's *Grace* from Col. (Ret.) John C. McKenna, ACC Vice-President, and lastly a *loyal toast* from Mrs. Julie

Lindhout. During the dinner, guests dined on a terrific spread provided by Trinity College catering. Award recipient Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene, was presented with the *Exceptional Contribution to International Peace and Security Award* by Atlantic Council Chairman the Hon. Bill Graham and President Julie Lindhout. Attendees of the Tribute Dinner then received a much-anticipated address from the heroic and inspirational Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene who began his speech by saying how humbled he was to be honoured alongside previous

Atlantic Council award recipients: General (Retired) Rick Hillier, Major-General David Fraser, and former UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary

General to Afghanistan and former Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Christopher Alexander.

During his speech Trevor Greene spoke about the desire that Afghans have for peace and stability in their lives and nation, and mentioned the crucial role of education in the peace and re-development process as a "key to long-term stability." He alluded to the important role that the international community plays in Afghanistan and foretold of a future without it stating, "If we fail in Afghanistan, anarchy will reign for untold generations." He was particularly eager to tackle the issues of bringing education to girls and women during his deployment in Afghanistan and the same conviction resonated in his closing remarks, "educate a boy, you educate an individual, educate a girl and you enlighten a whole community."

The Tribute Dinner ended on a formal note as guest speaker the Hon. Bill Graham, PC, QC, Chairman ended the night's festivities with his closing remarks. Afterwards, attendees and guest speakers continued to network and discuss the evening events. The Tribute Dinner was a successful affair as it brought together a diverse group of people from varying backgrounds and professions to honour a Canadian hero who has dedicated himself to the pursuit of international peace and security.

Greek Military Spending in Light of the Euro Zone Crisis

"If Only Two NATO Members Could Bury the Hatchet"

Written by *Monika Wyrzykowska*

In light of the euro zone debt crisis that has spread from Greece, many European countries, among them NATO members, are looking at their military spending as a possible source for budget cuts. As NATO's Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, warns that excessive cuts in defence budgets risk undermining the Alliance's strategic concept for global security in the years ahead, it is Greece who is being scrutinized for its bloated defence spending, the highest in Europe in proportion to GDP. While at the core of the problem is Greece's relationship with Turkey, the debt crisis is giving Greece the extra impetus needed to improve relations with its traditional rival.

In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Mr. Rasmussen, speaking as a



former Prime Minister of Denmark, said he understood the pressure to cut defence spending in a number of European countries such as the UK: "...I know how, when you have to cut welfare programmes, it is very hard to exclude your defence programme from such cuts...If you make cuts that are too deep in defence spending, you affect long-term security. And we know that insecurity and instability will not

merely hamper economic development, travel and trade but they will increase the cost of internal security even more." The Committee of experts of the recently unveiled draft "*Strategic Concept for NATO*", chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, underlined the need for NATO members to maintain defence spending if the Alliance is to continue its effort in Afghanistan and deal with threats from terrorism and cyber warfare. Pointedly, only six of NATO's 26 European members are currently meeting their defence spending target of two percent of GDP. Heavily indebted Greece and its rival Turkey are two of these countries.

The Greek defence budget was the subject of discussion at the *NATO Parliamentary Assembly* in Riga



on May 31st. British Member of Parliament, Peter Bottomley, enquired after the level of Greek military spending, and whether it was expected to be reduced following the 110-billion-euro bailout from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. In exchange for the bailout, Greece is expected to raise its retirement age, reform its pension system, and reduce its public sector spending. Although an IMF Press Release states that “there will be a significant reduction in military expenditures during the program period,” there are no detailed plans. Speaking at the Parliamentary Assembly, Spyros Economides, senior lecturer on international relations at the London School of Economics (LSE), commented that “nowhere have I seen the level of those cuts, or where they are going to come from.”

Greek military spending has consistently been among the highest, as a proportion of GDP, in the Alliance for decades, largely in response to tensions with their neighbour, fellow NATO member, and longstanding rival, Turkey. Despite the country's tip into recession, the Greek defence budget actually rose nominally by 6.9 percent in 2009 from € 5.81 billion to € 6.24 billion. A country with a population of 11 million, Greece was the world's fifth-largest weapons importer between 2005 and 2009, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SPIRI). Now Greece faces the challenge of taming its 13.6 percent budget deficit to the allowed 3 percent ceiling mandated by the EU's Stability & Growth Pact by 2014.

Already the 2010 defence budget has been reduced, nonetheless, the figure represents the highest annual allocation in real terms among all of Europe's NATO member states. In light of the not altogether new economic challenges facing Greece, one has to wonder why Greek military spending has been exempt from public scrutiny for so long. Since the end of the Cold War, lingering issues between Turkey and Greece, involving territorial disagreements and questions about the diplomatic status of Turkish-controlled Northern Cyprus, have spurred the spending. Territorial mistrust remains a constant flashpoint. Greek officials say the causes of tensions need to be resolved

before disarmament can take place, meanwhile maintaining a military doctrine of “equal retaliation” with Turkey, which requires something close to parity in military capabilities.

Yet Turkey has twice as big an economy as Greece, more than three times as many troops and a population close to seven times as large. Furthermore, Turkey has emerged over the last decade as a growing regional power. However, Turkish relations with Greece have been normalizing ever since Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) became Prime Minister

“Despite the country's tip into recession, the Greek defence budget actually rose nominally by 6.9 percent in 2009 from € 5.81 billion to € 6.24 billion.”

in 2003. “A principle of zero problems towards neighbours has been successfully implemented for the past seven years”, explains Turkey's Foreign Minister in a May 2010 interview with *Foreign Policy Magazine*. This policy has resulted in talks of an ‘entente’ in military spending.

On Friday, May 14th, 2010 the Turkish Prime Minister visited Athens with 10 ministers and some 80 businessmen to discuss a plethora of issues, in what both sides hailed as a new era in ties between two NATO members. The countries signed 21 bilateral agreements on issues ranging from tourism, energy and environment, to curbing illegal migrants coming through Turkey, a major problem for Greece. Yet no plan on reductions on military spending emerged, and the two leaders made no mention of defence budgets in the follow-up news conference.

Cutting military spending may also not be unwelcome for Erdogan, since it would likely help curb the political influence of Turkey's army. Throughout his premiership, Erdogan has clashed with generals who view his Islamist-rooted party as a threat to Turkey's secular system. Currently, dozens of military officers are facing trial on charges of plotting to oust Erdogan. It is possible that Greece will continue to view Turkey as its principle strategic threat, unless Turkey reciprocates with evidence of a

reduction in its military capabilities, namely reducing its air and sea presence from disputed territory, removing forces from northern Cyprus, and finally shrinking the defence budget.

If Greece does reduce its military budget, the key would be where the cuts are made. Modernization investments are “essential” for the Greek military, “especially in the land forces, however cutting away the dead wood of the military apparatus” would be “not only possible, but welcome,” according to Economides of the LSE. The key to the future of Greek defence spending lies in the building of mutual trust with Turkey. Keeping their absolute spending on par with Turkey is an unsustainable proposition. Although no concrete agreement on this issue was reached in the May summit, the 21 other bilateral agreements that were concluded are clearly a sign of good will between the two NATO neighbours. Greece has to turn its attention to restructuring its public sector spending, working within the fiscal constraints of the EU-IMF bailout package, and reducing its spending to comparable proportions in Europe (i.e. 2-3% of GDP).

***Disclaimer:** Any views or opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Atlantic Council of Canada. This article is published for information purposes only.



An Interview with Captain (Ret.) Trevor Greene

Written by Tanah Sullivan

“...educate the women, and they become mothers. They train their kids to have open minds and imagination, that will keep them from joining the Taliban.”



On May 18, 2010, the Atlantic Council was privileged to honour Captain (Ret.) Trevor Greene at the Annual Tribute Dinner. The Atlantic Council's Annual Award for Exceptional Contribution to International Peace and Security recognizes a Canadian who has made a significant contribution to international peace and security, who embodies the very values and principles upon which the North Atlantic Treaty was founded. Trevor Greene has successfully turned his own personal tragedy into a purposeful mission to promoting education for young girls in Afghanistan, and inspiring and motivating others on the way.

Trevor was attacked during a *shura* meeting, held between Canadian Forces personnel and local village elders. *Shuras* are held to assist in fostering relationships and building trust between Canadian Forces soldiers and the local Afghan population, in order to ensure collaborative and grass-roots approach to the rebuilding process of local Afghan communities. Trevor's team of soldiers, all of whom were a part of the Civilian-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) unit, had fully successfully held four *shuras* prior to the one that took place on March 4,

2006 in a small village located in the Gumbad area, 70 kilometres from Kandahar City. Taking off his helmet as a sign of respect for the village elders, Trevor was completely vulnerable to the attack that occurred minutes later, when a young Afghan man swung an axe into Trevor's head. The injuries he sustained were so serious that his fellow soldiers assumed him dead. Yet, true to his courageous nature and fighting spirit, Trevor not only survived but, against all odds, managed to essentially re-wire his brain, disproving all the experts' diagnoses that he would be a vegetable for the rest of his life. Trevor has vowed that he will walk again, and has tirelessly committed himself to ensuring the work he and his team started towards rebuilding one of the most severely affected cities in the war-ravaged country continues. His fiancée, Debbie Lepore, has been by his side supporting him throughout the entire journey, giving him the support and courage with an amazing strength and high-spirited dedication of her own. The Atlantic Council of Canada had the privilege of asking Trevor some questions on Canada's role in Afghanistan, and a message for young people today.

Q The Atlantic Council aims to bring NATO to the Canadian public, and one important aspect of its mandate is to educate youth and students about Canada's role in NATO and its operations. What do you think the ACC should tell young people about this, and how they can be involved in Canada's mission in Afghanistan?

“ I think, um...tell them what we've accomplished in Afghanistan, in terms of the kids, and the women. Tell them what it takes, tell them what they can do to help.”

Q What do you think is the most important element of rebuilding Afghanistan?

“ Yes...educate the women, and they become mothers. They train their kids to have open minds and imagination, that will keep them from joining the Taliban.”



Q Trying to win the hearts of the Afghan people is one of the driving forces behind Canada's civilian role in rebuilding Afghanistan. Do you think this will ever truly be accomplished, in light of Afghanistan's history with foreign entities?

“ Yes, if we offer them hope. They want peace. We can offer them the ability to get it.”

Q Do you think the civilian-military approach is an effective tool? Do you think Canada and NATO should be using it more in future operations?

“ NGOs especially. Our role in Afghanistan was to identify what they need, and engage the NGOs to give it to them. Help build it for them. We built a dam, called the Arghandab Dam, and it was instrumental in the irrigation systems.”

Q Do you think NATO will have a relevant role in the future of global security?

“ Yes.”

Q Do you think it should focus more on the civilian approach, instead of its traditional combative role?

“ I think it's a transition, military first, then rebuilding, then construction.”

Q Is there any one message you would like to give to the members of the Atlantic Council?

“ Persevere. Don't give up.”

The Atlantic Council would like to sincerely thank Captain (Ret.) Trevor Greene and Debbie Lepore for giving us their time and for their commitment, perseverance and courage to building a better future for the Afghan people. Embodying the very meaning and essence of heroism, both Debbie and Trevor's unwavering commitment and efforts towards Trevor's full recovery and achieving their objective of an education for all Afghan girls is nothing short of an inspiration to all those who are lucky enough to meet them.



The Hon. Bill Graham, PC., QC., Chairman
and the Board of Directors of

THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF CANADA

and the Toronto Branch of the

NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

cordially invite you to the

Naval Centennial Gala

1910-2010

At the Fairmont Royal York Hotel

On

Saturday, November 6th, 2010



For More Information Please Contact:

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