

Inside this Issue

- Message from the President
- Winter Seminar: Canada - NATO & Global Terrorism
- The Importance of NATO Activities in Afghanistan and Against WMDs
- First Annual ACC Awards Dinner
- Recap of the 52nd Annual ATA Assembly in Athens
- Up Coming Events:
 - 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. FORE!
 - 53rd Annual ATA Assembly in Ottawa, '07
 - Board of Directors Meeting

Message from the President

Welcome Aboard!

Our newest intern, **Marlene Bukowski**, a Bachelor of Arts student in International Economics at the University of Applied Sciences in Bremen, Germany, joined us in February. Marlene is very interested in international relations. She is the first international intern at the ACC office. According to Marlene "although it takes some time to get used to living and working in a foreign country, it is an experience of a lifetime. A stay abroad not only improves language skills, but also helps to develop intercultural competences and enhances soft skills." During her time with ACC Marlene will have the opportunity to learn more about transatlantic relations between Canada and Europe. She also hopes to gain valuable experience in the working methods of a NGO. As it is Marlene's first visit to Canada, she is looking forward to discovering what Toronto has to offer and meeting new and interesting people. Marlene has already shown evidence of her analytical and organizational skills and is hard at work on the promotion campaign for the Golf Tournament.



Sandy Samuels from Toronto is very happy to have her first internship experience at the Atlantic Council of Canada. She will be graduating from Seneca College where she studied to become a Social Service Worker so that she can work with marginalized youth. According to Sandy, "working for the Atlantic Council is a wonderful opportunity because I get to help build the Atlantic Council of Canada, meet new people, and demonstrate my abilities." She hopes to gain confidence and skills from her experience with the Atlantic Council of Canada to enable her to better educate people in her community. I am delighted to have Sandy with us, and I would like to thank Toronto Community Housing Corporation for sponsoring the internship.

Pawel Osiej is a recent Master of Arts graduate from the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto. His interests include international diplomacy and EU foreign relations, as well as Central European History. He joined the Atlantic Council of Canada as a volunteer in March of this year. According to Pawel, "the experience gained working for the ACC will be very valuable professional experience. This unparalleled access to people and resources at the Atlantic Council will help me become a better-rounded individual and also give me a more empirical backdrop to my education." He is contributing valuable computer skills to the Council and has taken the responsibility of editing the Newsletter.



Good-bye and Hello!

It is always sad to say good-bye to someone who has become a valued colleague. **Anna Little** has started a new career as Research Manager with Ipsos-Reid Public Affairs. I will miss her enthusiasm and resourcefulness in the office on a daily basis. However, I'm happy to report that Anna will continue to be active in the ACC as a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the Golf Tournament Coordinating Committee. Thank you, Anna, for all the work you have done for the ACC and for your continued support.

Continued on page 2

We also at this time want to thank **Barry Davenport** for the tremendous job he has done as Vice-President, Corporate Development, to set up and launch the Corporate Sponsorship Program, which has raised over \$100,000 in the past four years. He has had to step down as Vice-President for personal reasons, but will stay on as a Director, and continues to keep his eyes and ears open for opportunities to promote the ACC.

ACC Update

With this issue of the Newsletter, you will see some changes. Pawel Osiej has updated the masthead and format and has added a column introducing the content, so that you can see at a glance all the activities we are engaged in.

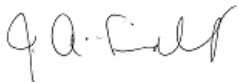
I cannot emphasize enough that this is a very important year for the ACC. We have been given the privilege of hosting the 53rd Annual Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA), 31 October – 2 November 2007 in Ottawa. This will greatly enhance the ACC's and Canada's reputation on the international scene, and raise the ACC's profile nationally. It will provide more opportunities for Canadian participation than when the assembly is held in a European country.

However, it is a lot of work and requires some serious fundraising in addition to the funding to be provided by NATO and the Government of Canada. We have planned several activities for this purpose, while ensuring that there is also a program component to advance our mandate. The most important of these activities at this time is the Golf Tournament on June 12.

We look to all ACC members and directors to help. You can do this in many ways. You can send a donation with your membership renewal. You can recruit a foursome, prizes, and sponsors for the Golf Tournament or come to the dinner with a guest if you don't play. You can give us the names of corporate executives we can approach for funding or for advertising in TAQ, and make a personal contact to pave the way of support the appeal.

We would also like to hear other suggestions for fundraising and are always looking for volunteers who are willing to serve on committees or make phone calls. At this time, in addition to the committees for our special projects, we particularly need members for the Membership and Nominating Committee chaired by Vice-President, Col. John McKenna, and for the Corporate Development Committee. For the latter, we also need a chair to replace Barry Davenport. Please consider carefully if you can help us in this way.

The ACC needs everyone to step up to the plate to put the organization on a sound and sustainable financial footing. Program opportunities to spread our message are coming from every direction, but we need the financial and human resource support to make them happen!



Julie Lindhout, President

Canada – NATO & Global Terrorism

On 24 January 2007, the Atlantic Council of Canada presented its Winter Seminar on the theme of "Canada – NATO & Global Terrorism". Participants had an opportunity to socialize over breakfast and meet some of the speakers. At 8:30 a.m., Moderator, Col. (ret'd) John C. McKenna opened the program and called on ACC Chairman, Col. Dr. Eric Jackman to welcome the participants to what proved to be a most interesting, informative, and thought-provoking session.



The first speaker, Dr. **Steven J. Stein**, CEO, Multi Health Systems, gave an interesting presentation on the psychological make-up terrorists, which challenged some of the conventional beliefs about terrorists and the root causes of terrorism.

The next speaker, Mr. **John Thompson**, President of the Mackenzie Institute, brought the problem home to Canada with his presentation entitled "The Jihad in Canada". He identified groups and individuals active in Canada, and warned that the country must be vigilant and that there are no easy solutions to removing this threat from our country.



Continued on page 3

Col. (ret'd) **Brian S. MacDonald**, Senior Defence Analyst, Conference of Defence Associations, spoke on "Funding Terrorism in Afghanistan". He painted a dark and rather frightening picture of the funding of terrorism in Afghanistan and elsewhere through the opium trade, which is especially concentrated in Helmand Province. The problem has to be addressed, but there is no clear process evident at this point that may lead to success. Buying up the opium crop for medical use is not likely to be successful as long as the drug traffickers are as powerful as they are. The challenge to ISAF, to NATO, and to Canada is to provide a better answer.



Susan Pond, Head, Partnership for Peace Programme, NATO Headquarters, spoke on the activities that NATO has undertaken and plans to undertake. She emphasized the need for NATO allies to have the political will to carry through with the effort to prevent Afghanistan from falling back into complete failure. She spoke of the changes that have occurred in NATO and its growth, which is very positive, but if it is not supported by the strong will, determination, and practical support of all its members, NATO will not succeed in doing what needs to be done.

This point was also emphasized by the last speaker, **James Townsend, Jr.**, Program Director, International Security, and Atlantic Council of the United States. In his speech, "Does Homeland Security in North America start in the Hindu Kush?" he said that NATO must not fail in Afghanistan, for its own sake as an organization, for the sake of Afghanistan and other countries that need NATO's help, now and in the future, and also for the future security of its own members and partners.



A lively discussion followed which made it clear that the participants were stirred by the presentations. If they continue to talk and think about what they heard, then the ACC will have met its goal in organizing this Seminar.

By Julie Lindhout

The Importance of NATO Activities in Afghanistan and Against Weapons of Mass Destruction



On 6 February 2007, The Head of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Centre (WMDC) in NATO HQ, **Ted Whiteside**, spoke to a chilled Toronto audience about the challenges facing NATO and Canada in the 21st Century. His presentation focused on the importance of NATO activities in Afghanistan and against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Mr. Whiteside began by stressing the importance of strengthening partnerships within the alliance, neighbouring countries, and more importantly with global actors such as Russia and far off Japan. Since 1989, NATO has undergone a significant transformation; it has gone from being a static force of deterrence in the middle of a divided Europe to an

international player involved in reconstruction and peace building projects. These lasting partnerships, as pointed out by Mr. Whiteside, with other non-members, NGOs and law enforcement agencies will be key factors to the success of missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo. NATO's engagement in the Balkans was well served providing the Alliance with valuable lessons in peacekeeping and conflict resolution. The experiences gained through the commitment to long-term deployment and working with international actors in Kosovo will, according to Mr. Whiteside, make the reconstruction of Afghanistan not only plausible but also possible.

Weapons of mass destruction are the other major challenge facing the Alliance in the foreseeable future. With the ever present danger of secondary proliferation of WMDs by terrorist or extremist groups, Mr. Whiteside assured the audience that NATO will continue to act as a deterrent and provide a means of defence against the threat of a terrorist nuclear or chemical attack. The Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) system is scheduled to be operational by 2011, with a global system in the works. The TMD project is aimed at protecting Alliance forces, territory and populations against missile threats of all types: nuclear, biological and chemical. In ongoing negotiations, NATO is working hard with Russia to create the conditions for NATO and Russia to conduct joint TMD operations during crisis response missions.

By Pawel Osiej

First Annual Atlantic Council of Canada Awards Dinner

The Atlantic Council of Canada celebrated its first Annual Awards Dinner on 1 March 2007. The event took place at Seeley Hall, Trinity College Toronto, and was attended by approximately forty guests. The recipient of the award was **Christopher Alexander**, UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and former Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan. Through his work in Afghanistan, Christopher Alexander has made an exceptional contribution to furthering international peace and security. The guests, who braved one of the worst snowstorms of the winter, had an opportunity to meet Mr. Alexander at a reception before the dinner.



President Julie Lindhout introduced the guest of honour and described the award. The Atlantic Council of Canada felt that the best form of recognition would be something that would benefit the people of Afghanistan. Therefore, a contribution of \$500 has been made in Chris Alexander's name to the SARAHIM School for mentally disabled children in Kabul. Its goal is to take disabled children off the streets and provide them with basic literacy and life skills training. The Chairman of the Atlantic Council of Canada, Col. Dr. Frederic L.R. Jackman, presented an award certificate to Christopher Alexander. Mr. Alexander accepted the award with deep gratitude, and addressed the audience about the past and current situation in Afghanistan. He emphasized the very important role of Canada and its allies in that country and explained why it is important to help the Afghan people to stabilize and rebuild their country. He also gave the audience an impressive insight into his personal experiences he gained while working in the region.

The evening ended with words of thanks by Barry Davenport, Director of the Atlantic Council of Canada, who emphasized what a great honour it was for the Council to have Chris Alexander be the first recipient of the award, which from now on the Council will confer every year.

By Marlene Bukowski

International Events

52nd Annual Assembly in Athens, Greece, December 5-10, 2006

As ACC President, I had the privilege of leading a delegation of eight members, including five youth members, to Athens.

On December 4, in the afternoon and evening, I attended the meeting of the ATA Bureau, and on December 5, the ATA Council met from 9:00 to 17:00, to discuss ATA business. Two key items were the election of a new President, and the admission of new members. With regard to the Presidency, because no candidates had been nominated, and the Secretary-General's term had come to an end at the same time, it was proposed to recommend to the Assembly that Ambassador Robert Hunter's term as president be extended by one year, and to ensure that the President and Secretary General's terms do not change at the same time in the future. Delegates agreed to this proposal at the Statutory Assembly later in the week. Secretary General Troels Frøling (Denmark) and Treasurer Vice-Adm. Edmond Poulet (Belgium) were re-elected, and Dr. Bram Boxhoorn (Netherlands) and Ambassador Gyorgy Banlaki (Hungary) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Delegations from the Euro-Atlantic Club of Montenegro and the Atlantic Forum of Israel attended the meeting to present themselves and request admission as members. Council recommended that Montenegro be admitted as an Associate Member, and Israel as an Observer Member, and the Assembly ratified their admission.

The Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) met at the same time as the Council to conduct YATA business, hold elections for YATA Executive, and have preliminary discussions on some of the assembly topics. Among those elected to office was ACC member, Dr. Grant Dawson, Lecturer and Researcher, Carleton University, as Vice-President Education.

The General Assembly was officially opened at 18:00 with opening addresses by the Minister of National Defense of Greece and Amb. Nicholas Burns, US Deputy Secretary of State (read by Mr. Gary Robbins, Director, State Department, Regional Political-Military Affairs, USA).

Continued on Page 5

On Thursday, Dec. 7, there were four panels, as well as four special sessions. The Military Session addressed the topic “NATO’s continued military transformation including NRF and NATO’s task in Afghanistan”, with presentations by Lt. Col. Nico Tak, Dutch Army, Commander of Provincial Reconstruction Team in Torin Kowt, Afghanistan, Dr. Petros Kouridakis, Hellenic Army, Former Commander of 299 Field Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan, and Gary Robbins.

The Economic Session addressed the issue of “Energy security in the 21st C.” with presentations by Mr. Thierry Legendre, Policy Planning Advisor, Private Office of the Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Christos Dimas, Director, ELPE/THRAKI, Joint Venture Burgas-Alexandroupolis Oil Pipeline, Greece, Mr. Bjorn Bjarnason, Minister of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Iceland, and Mr. Denny Plessas, Vice-President, Lockheed Martin, Europe-Middle East-Africa, Greece.

Mr. James J. Townsend, Director, Program of International Security, and Atlantic Council of the US, addressed the topic of the Political Session, “Current and New Partnerships.”

The Education Session looked at the topic “Dialogue of Civilizations: Reaching out through education and Civil Society build-up” with addresses by Prof. Christopher Coker, London School of Economics, UK, Prof. Steffano Pilotto, Trieste University, Italy, and Prof. Rachel Yould, Editor-in-Chief, Oxford International Review, USA.

NATO Secretary General, Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer addressed the Assembly by live video conference, as did Amb. Victoria Nuland, Permanent Representative of the US to NATO.

In a special session in the morning, the Ministers of Defense of Albania and FYRO Macedonia, and the State Secretary for Defense Policy, Romania, addressed the Assembly. All three were active in ATA activities in their respective countries, before being appointed to their present government positions. In the afternoon, presentations were made by the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees of the Bulgarian Parliament and the Greek Parliament, who is also the Vice-Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In the evening, our delegation, augmented by two ACC interns, George Tsantrizos and Meagan Johnson, interning with the Greek Association and the ATA Secretariat respectively, as well as the three members of the ATA Secretariat, were warmly received for a reception at the Canadian Embassy by Chargé d’affaires, Mr. Denys Tessier and his staff.



On Friday, Dec. 8, Sgt. Mariangeles Najlis, Canadian Forces addressed the Assembly on her work with a Canadian CIMIC team in Afghanistan. This presentation was extremely well received and followed by an ATA Forum at which each country had a few minutes to highlight some special activities that had taken place in their country. Then NATO officials, Major General, USAF, Joseph P. Stein, Deputy Chief of Staff, SHAPE, and Mr. Jean Fournet, Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy of NATO spoke on the “Post-Riga NATO”. Before he started his presentation, Gen. Stein asked Sgt. Najlis to stand up again so that the Assembly could give her a standing ovation. He said that she was representative of the excellent work that the Canadian Forces are doing in Afghanistan, which is consolidating Canada’s reputation as a reliable partner in NATO operations. This was

followed by the closing session at which Mr. Ionnis Valinakis, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing Ms. Dora Bakoyannis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece, presented the closing address. The afternoon was devoted to the Statutory Assembly of the ATA.

About 200 delegates were then hosted to dinner and entertainment in a traditional Greek *taverna* that evening, and the young people, especially, had a great time. There was an opportunity to participate in cultural activities and further networking on Saturday, Dec. 9, with an excursion to the town of Nemea to see the stadium and an archaeological site with an interesting museum. This was followed by lunch and a tour of a winery.



We enjoyed good weather, warm hospitality, and stimulating conversations, and look forward to being able to reciprocate in Ottawa later this year.

By Julie Lindhout

Up Coming Events!

Fore!

Following the success of last year's fundraising golf tournament it is almost time once again to join us on the links for our **2nd Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament**, which will be held at the Glen Eagle Golf Club, 15731 Highway #50, Bolton, ON.



It promises to be an exciting event. Canada's very own General **Rick Hillier**, CMM, MSC, CD, Chief of the Defence Staff will join us for golf and speak to us at the dinner afterwards, as will Stanley Cup winning NHL Hall of Fame goaltender, **Gerry Cheevers** of the Boston Bruins.



If you are not a golfer, we invite you to join us for dinner, bring a guest, pass the invitation on to someone you know who is a golfer, donate a prize or encourage someone else to donate a prize. We particularly invite you to consider a sponsorship opportunity, or pass this invitation on to someone who might be interested in a sponsorship opportunity. You may contact our office for more details on sponsorship.

This is a fundraiser for our hosting of the 53rd General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association in Ottawa, October 31 – November 2, 2007. This assembly will bring together delegates from all the Atlantic Treaty Associations in the NATO Member and Partner countries and will greatly enhance Canada's reputation on the international scene.

We look forward to having you join us. Do not forget to mark your calendar now for the **2nd Annual ACC Fundraising Golf Tournament & Dinner** which will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at the Glen Eagle Golf Club.

Please visit our website www.atlantic-council.com for registration and sponsorship details.

The 53rd Annual Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association

Mark your calendars now, and start checking for airfares to Ottawa, Canada.

The **53rd Annual Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association** will be held from Wednesday, October 31, 2007 to November 2, 2007, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. All meetings will be held at the beautiful Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel on the banks of the Ottawa River, next door to Canada's Parliament Buildings.

Special room rates have been negotiated for ATA delegates as follows:

Fairmont Room	\$209.00
Fairmont with View	\$229.00
Deluxe	\$259.00

YATA, Youth members will be accommodated in Les Suites Hotel, an apartment hotel in the University of Ottawa area, within 10 minutes' walking distance of the conference venue, at a cost of approximately \$65.00 per person, for four persons sharing one apartment which has its own kitchen, living room and dining area. Program details and hotel information for booking will be sent to you shortly.

Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on 18 April 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the 4th floor Conference Room of the Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company Building at 165 University Avenue, just north of St. Andrew subway station.

The business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Sgt. Peter Moon, Public Affairs Ranger for 3rd Canadian Ranger Group at Canadian Forces, Base Borden. Sgt. Moon is currently participating in an Arctic Sovereignty Patrol and has participated in a number of them in the past. He will be talking to us about these patrols and his experiences.

Refreshments will be available from 5:30 p.m. Please let us know by 16 April, whether you will be attending. You are welcome to bring a guest.

