



DOS MORNING BRIEF 3 MAY 2006

Note: The DOS Morning brief is a compendium of information derived from several sources including:

- Open source media
- JCS Continental and International Issues
- CDI Morning Summary
- TFA Weekly and Daily SITREPs
- D PK Pol Highlights

Media Interest:

The Hamilton Spectator

John Ward

Big guns shoot \$5.3b at troops; Barrage of cash for new hires, new gear

After a decade of complaints that the Liberals were short-changing the military, the Tories upped the defence ante and promised billions more for people and gear. But while Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's budget promised \$5.3 billion in extra defence spending over five years -- on top of billions pledged in the last Liberal budget -- he was short on details of what the money will actually buy. Flaherty said the Tories will plunk \$400 million into defence this year, in addition to \$600 million in Liberal money, and add another \$725 million next year above and beyond Grit promises. The other \$4.2 billion will be added in years three, four and five. The injections should bring the budget to \$16.5 billion in 2007-08 from \$14.6 billion last year. If the plan holds through the five years, the defence budget would be about \$20 billion by 2010 or so. "It's a very serious chunk of change," said Brian MacDonald, a Toronto-based defence analyst. Without giving details, Flaherty said the Tories will hold to their campaign promises for the military including:

- * Recruiting 13,000 new soldiers for the regular force and 10,000 reservists, with no deadline given. There are now about 55,000 soldiers and 15,000 reservists.
- * Buying new equipment for the army, navy and air force.
- * Setting up new infantry battalions in outlying regions.
- * Increasing military capabilities in the North.
- * Improving base infrastructure and housing.

David Rudd, executive director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, said the next big step is to decide what to buy and then buy it. Fast. "It's encouraging. On the one hand, they're coming through with the cash, but what are their priorities? "What is going to be on top of the agenda?"

Vancouver Sun

Mike Blanchfield and Peter O'Neil

Tories plan military units based in B.C.: New regular and reserve army units are to be stationed in Vancouver

OTTAWA -- British Columbia will be getting regular army units for the first time since the closure of CFB Chilliwack in 1997. Tuesday's Conservative budget gives the military \$5.3 billion extra over five years, with an unspecified amount intended to meet the campaign promise to "restore the regular army presence" in B.C. Tory MPs have been

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