



## TRI-COMMAND TRAINING AND EXERCISE

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

From 2006 - 2012, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and Canada Command (Canada COM) made significant progress in maturing Tri-Command relationships and promoting improved cooperation among the Commands. With the establishment of Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) effective 5 October 2012, all responsibilities previously assigned to Canada COM were assumed by CJOC. Commander CJOC recognizes and supports the intent of all historical documents agreed among the three Commands.

NORAD, USNORTHCOM and CJOC, hereafter referred to as “the Commands” have complementary missions and work together to meet their responsibilities for the defense and security of North America.

During the December 2010 Tri-Command Staff Talks, the Commanders directed that a Statement of Intent be developed to guide the planning, execution, and evaluation of Tri-Command combined training and exercises.

This Training and Exercise Statement of Intent will enhance joint and combined readiness in support of safety, security and defense missions through effective combined training and exercises. It will also serve to reinforce partnerships and collaboration among the Commands.

The Training and Exercise Statement of Intent will be updated annually consistent with emerging guidance to remain ahead of the challenges associated with a volatile global security environment.

This Statement of Intent is approved for execution.

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## TRI-COMMAND TRAINING AND EXERCISE STATEMENT OF INTENT

### INTRODUCTION

Defense and security relations between Canada and the United States are long standing, well entrenched and highly successful, providing both countries with greater security than could be achieved individually. The militaries of each country are charged with the defense of their nations and when requested, respond to threats to the safety and security of their citizens.

The three Commands share a common security environment, have common values, and understand the importance of carrying out their duties with a sense of urgency in the face of very real and present dangers.

The Commanders continue to maintain close relationships among themselves, their staffs, and with supporting and partner agencies. In this way, they ensure a timely and coordinated response to safety, security, and defense challenges to North America, respecting national sovereignty while leveraging the capabilities and common cause they share.

In 2007, NORAD, USNORTHCOM and Canada COM examined opportunities to accomplish their missions in a more coordinated and cooperative fashion. A product of that examination, the *Tri-Command Framework*, describes how the three Commands operate and interact. It highlights fundamental relationships and underscores command responsibilities concerning mutual support and cooperation. Following promulgation of the *Framework*, a *Tri-Command Vision* was developed that identifies five strategic goals.

Next to follow was a *Tri-Command Strategy* that provided a roadmap linking the present to the future by showing how to achieve the five strategic goals identified in the *Vision*. The *Strategy* spells out a series of shared tasks designed to strengthen our working relationships with all of our defense and security partners. This Training and Exercise Statement of Intent supports both the Tri-Commands' *Vision* and *Strategy*, subject to the parameters of the national laws of each Command.

### INTENT

The purpose of this Statement of Intent is to formalize, where appropriate, the synchronization of training and exercises objectives across the Tri-Commands and to provide guidance for the planning, execution, and validation of selected, combined training and exercises.

Ideally, the Tri-Commands will conduct yearly at least one major combined exercise focused on an existing plan.

The Commands will consider participation in other NORAD, USNORTHCOM and CJOC exercises as a means of enhancing further cooperation. In addition, the Commands will take every opportunity to participate and/or observe international and regional exercises and those conducted by other Commands and their Subordinate Commands.

It is essential that, when appropriate, the Commands share pertinent operational and exercise lessons learned for consideration in future activities and events.

## **EXERCISE OBJECTIVES**

Command staffs will promote and incorporate shared objectives into Tri-Command exercises. Suitable objectives to be considered include validation of:

- combined, bi-national and bi-lateral plans;
- combined cross-border defense operations and support to civil authorities;
- command and control of cross border forces;
- civil support response operations with civilian partners;
- support to civil authorities responding to consequence management operations;
- information exchange and intelligence sharing to support and improve mutual situational awareness;
- information exchange across computer networks (classified and unclassified);
- strategic communications;
- inclusion of civil partners and authorities into exercises as appropriate; and
- Bi-national, national, and regional exercises (under different climatic conditions) should be explored in the implementation of these exercise objectives.

## **EXERCISE CONSTRUCT**

To achieve maximum benefit from exercises conducted by the Tri-Commands, J7 staffs will consider how to link exercises, especially those involving implementation of:

- CANUS Combined Defense Plan (CDP);
- CANUS Civil Assistance Plan (CAP);
- NORAD CONPLAN 3310;
- Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) in the Arctic; and
- Any other areas of collaboration, such as equipment, information systems and doctrine, as defined in other documents or strategies.