

trade show would include display booths for “over 30 U.S. suppliers of security solutions and services.”⁵

“Secure Canada & the World” was also to include the “UK Trade and Investment Pavilion.” It was

“organized in cooperation with the British High Commission in Ottawa [to]...showcase the products and capabilities of leading UK security companies. In addition to company exhibits, the Pavilion will also anchor a matchmaking program...that will put together UK, Canadian and 3rd country firms interested in partnering opportunities in Canada and abroad.”⁶

Whether the dozens of American and British manufacturers of military and police hardware who were planning to descend on Ottawa could ever create a “secure Canada,” or a secure world, is highly dubious. We can however be certain that these war industries intended to make off with as large a share of Canada’s burgeoning military budget as they could. They certainly wanted to secure what they perceived as their fair share of the global market in weapons sales.

(2) TechNet North 2008

The second component of “Secure Canada 2008” was organized by the Canadian chapter, and particularly the Ottawa subchapter, of a US-dominated international war-industry association called the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International (AFCEA International).

“Founded in 1946, AFCEA’s roots trace back to the American Civil War. Today, AFCEA serves as a bridge between government requirements and industry capabilities, representing the top government, industry, and military professionals in the fields of information technology, communications, and intelligence.”⁷

Although the AFCEA has 140 chapters and subchapters in 34 countries, more than half of these are located in the US.⁸ The AFCEA’s global headquarters—based in Fairfax, Virginia—is just half an hour’s drive from downtown Washington, DC.

With the theme of TechNet North 2008 set to be “National Security in a Coalition Environment,” the Cana-



The “Predator” drone—shown firing a “Hellfire” missile—is a remote-controlled aerial vehicle manufactured by US weapons-industry behemoth General Atomics. This company was the main corporate sponsor of the “Unmanned Systems Canada Expo” of “Secure Canada.”

dian government gladly promoted the event saying it was going to bring “together the players, the issues and the technologies that facilitate Canadian and international cooperation in defence, public safety and security.”⁹

Its organizers were hopeful that they could attract “more than 100 exhibitors from North American Industry to show their latest developments in C4ISR solutions.”¹⁰ C4ISR stands for “Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.” TechNet North 2008 was advertised on an official City of Ottawa website as “Canada’s Premier C4ISR Exhibition and Professional Development Conference.”¹¹

(3) Unmanned Systems Canada Expo 2008

This third arm of “Secure Canada 2008” was plugged as “Canada’s premier event focusing on the national and international ground, air and maritime unmanned systems marketplace.”¹² It was also hyped as “Canada’s National Showcase for Unmanned Systems Technologies.”¹³ Although air-, land- and sea-based drones are all of terrifying importance to the waging of modern warfare, the most significant among these systems are Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAV). UAVs are being relied upon more and more for “intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance” activities, often to locate targets for later destruction by air-launched bombs and missiles. However, UAVs in themselves are being increasingly used as weap-

ons delivery systems. A case in point is the aptly-named “Predator” built by US war industry giant, General Atomics. This weapons manufacturer was the main corporate sponsor of the “Unmanned Systems Canada Expo” of “Secure Canada 2008.”

This exposition was organized by the Canadian chapter of an international organization dominated by various American war industries and US government institutions of war. With “members from government organizations, industry and academia,”¹⁴ the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) bills itself

In the mid 1990s, AUVSI Canada’s current executive director, Anne Healey, spied on COAT for her dad, a Vice-Admiral-cum-war industry lobbyist. She went on to become general manager of the association organizing CANSEC.

as “the world’s largest and oldest non-profit organization dedicated to serving and promoting the global unmanned systems industry.”¹⁵ Although AUVSI has more than 1,400 corporate members and organizations in 50 countries, most of these are located stateside. Its Executive Committee are also based in the US and its Board Members represent a who’s who of government and business entities at the centre of the US military-industrial complex.¹⁶ Based in Arlington, Virginia, AUVSI’s headquar-

ters is located just across the river from downtown Washington, DC.

AUVSI Canada's executive director is Anne Healey, former general manager of the Canadian Defence Industries Association. This business organization has now transmogrified into the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries, which—among other pro-war business activities—organises the CANSEC arms bazaar in Ottawa. (See pp.10-12.)

Ms. Healey is the daughter of Ed Healey, a Canadian Vice-Admiral who went through the revolving door from Canada's Navy into the federal government. He served as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Defence (Materiel)¹⁷ and then became the program manager overseeing the acquisition of Canada's multi-billion dollar war frigates.¹⁸ When he left that top government posting in 1989, he "went directly" to work as the top lobbyist for a consulting firm called

"CFN where he is alleged to have used his past ties and continued access to National Defence Headquarters to lobby senior officials and recruit new members to his company."¹⁹

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Most of the official sponsors of the "Secure Canada" arms trade show were large entities intimately tied to the manufacture and promotion of US weapons systems.

As unethical as such alleged behaviour appears, it was apparently perfectly legal at the time. However, such conflict of interest is now illegal under the regulations established by Canada's Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying. CFN Consulting now fronts for dozens of war-related industries.²⁰

In the mid-1990s, at the direction of her father, Anne Healey attended COAT meetings and reported back to him with information about our anti-war efforts. Of particular interest to the

Healeys at that time was COAT's campaign to oppose military industry trade shows in Ottawa, particularly CANSEC.

Fifteen years later, in the Spring of 2009, Ms. Healey attended the City of Ottawa's Corporate Services Committee. She was among a very small minority that actually spoke in favour of CANSEC. As someone directly involved in the business of representing and promoting industries that manufacture military drones, Ms. Healey spoke against the City's longstanding ban on hosting arms shows and encouraged Councillors to welcome the CANSEC arms bazaar at municipal facilities.

The US Sponsors of "Secure Canada"

Arms show "sponsors" are generally large exhibitors that have paid thousands of extra dollars to have their names promoted in various ways at the event as well as in pre- and post-event promotional materials. Six of the nine sponsors of "Secure Canada 2008" were US government and corporate entities:

- The Commercial Service of the US Government
- The National Defense Industrial Association (This group—representing 1,375 corporations and 47,000 individuals—is America's largest war industry lobby group.)
- Three major US corporations:
 - General Atomics
 - General Dynamics
 - Sun Microsystems
- AMCHAM Canada (The American Chamber of Commerce in Canada)