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CANADIAN FORCES COLLEGE / COLLÈGE DES FORCES CANADIENNES  
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NEW HORIZONS.

**PATRIOTISM FOSTERED BY THE ARMED FORCES.**

By Maj. Enrique Padilla.

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### **Abstract.**

Around the world, countries are dealing with different social problems, ranging from individual acts of crime and violence up to organized separatist movements aimed at overthrowing legitimate governments. The point is that the very problem have its roots in the increasing degradation of the moral state of the society. Something must be done to improve the future of the society, and this must be done through a comprehensive approach where the contribution of the Armed Forces will play a important role due to the natural traits of these institution by developing a strong sense of patriotism in the population, because the correct development and maintenance of this collective feeling will be reflected in a better and more supportive society.

### **PATRIOTISM FOSTERED BY THE ARMED FORCES.**

Families, society, and even countries complain about the level of degradation of the national values of the population. When polls are conducted to know the feeling of patriotism, there is a high level of uncertainty in the answers which is a sign of lack of patriotic consciousness.<sup>1</sup>

The globalization is driving the social change. Currently, the access to information available in any means, limited only by the economical possibilities of each person, is perhaps the most significant characteristic of globalization, and information is the main reason why individuals and social groups are changing in many ways. But change is not always going well, in some areas has had adverse results, for instance the erratic moral behavoiur of the society is one of the most notorious changes.

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Baker and Jack Jedwab. Patriotism and Canadian Identity. Environics Research Group. 2003. 1.

With the revolution of information, change caught unaware most social entities namely families, educational institutions, trade unions, religion groups, political parties, etc; and as a result of that, some of the main groups had suffering major brake offs. For instance, today there are more branches of the Catholic church,<sup>2</sup> there are more and complex trade unions, the public educations systems are getting less and less official influence. In short, almost every social group has changed and because of that believes and feelings of new generations of people are also changing. In this sense, for a country the greatest risk is the lack of patriotism among its population as a result of this changes.

How a country can avoid that the cultural change on its population affect their feeling of patriotism, if the institutions that used to exert influence in these matters are no longer strong enough to do it? The answer could be found on the smart employment of the Armed Forces. In Western and Non-western countries (such as Unite States, Israel or canada), from military law to doctrine, regulations, and policies, the military establishment has exhibited and employed a relatively stable moral value system to maintain good order and discipline internally.<sup>3</sup> Due to their set of values and commitment which have not changed through the history, today they are the best institution which can provide the source of strength to do so.

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<sup>2</sup> Adherents.com. Major Branches of Religions Ranked by Number of Adherents. 2005.  
[http://www.adherents.com/adh\\_branches.html](http://www.adherents.com/adh_branches.html) Accessed 10 Feb. 2009

<sup>3</sup> Jeter Drew D. Moral Leadership in an Increasingly Amoral Society: Is the United States Military Value System Suitable in Contemporary America. Air University, Maxwell AFB AL, 1998.

This paper is intended to show off the importance of employ the Armed Forces as the best tool to foster the feeling of patriotism among the population. So, first is provided a description of the current situation in the society, then is identified why the Armed Forces are suitable for this job, with some examples on how can they help to improve the current situation in society while respecting the limits of their applicability and the rights of the population and finally what are the benefits of use them.

### **Contemporary society and values.**

Today what are the sources of patriotism?, understanding by patriotism the love of and/or devotion to one's country.<sup>4</sup>The sources that used to develop and foster social cohesion are no longer strong enough to keep doing it in a right way. So what is goin to happen if the complex interaction of the social actors drives the population towards a more fragmented, more individualistic, and less disciplined civilian society that do not care about patriotism?<sup>5</sup>There is a gap to fill to prevent the total lack of the most importan collective feeling for a country: patriotism.

How the society got into so bad shape in relation with collective feelings? Starting in the mid-1960s, most countries experienced a gradual loss on collective values, among them patriotism.<sup>6</sup>That loss was neglected by the society and by the governments and with the time this

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<sup>4</sup> Martha C. Nussbaum and Joshua Cohen, *For Love of Country: Debating the Limits of Patriotism*, Beacon Press, 1996.

<sup>5</sup> Pete Kilner. "The Alleged "Civil-Military Values Gap": Ideals vs. Standards" U.S. Military Academy. 2001.2.

caused first the break down of the family then the deterioration of civility in every day life, aided by a marked decline in the influence of religion, and the incompetency of other institutions to stop the decadence.<sup>7</sup>

Nowadays, the values of a pluralistic society such as tolerance for opposing views, the belief in personal choice and the awareness of individual rights, among others; constitute a vortex in which patriotism is sinking.<sup>8</sup> The society is abandoning its historical moral basis because the same society encourages members of its diverse population to establish their own values, consequently de-emphasizing any particular set of "rights and wrongs," thus each social group has its own perception and there is almost no collective feelings.<sup>9</sup> More pessimistic people even think that the world is experiencing a crisis of values reflected in society's pervasive selfishness and consumerism.<sup>10</sup> For instance, here is the point of view of the Sergeant Major James Moore, senior sergeant on Marines' School of Infantry, Parris Island, U.S., whom during an interview said "I see a group of young people without direction because of the lack of

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<sup>6</sup> Thomas E. Ricks. *The Widening Gap Between the Military and Society*. The Atlantic Monthly Company. 1997. 2.

<sup>7</sup> James H. Youngquist. *American Society Vs. U.S. Army Values: Direction of Society's Values and Implications for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Army*. U.S. Army War College Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, Austin Tx. 1996. Intro.

<sup>8</sup> Anni P. Baker. *Life in the U.S. Armed Forces: (Not) Just Another Job*. Greenwood Publishing Group. 2008. 89-90

<sup>9</sup> Jeter Andrew D. *Moral Leadership in an Increasingly Amoral Society...Intro.*

<sup>10</sup> Thomas E. Ricks. *The Widening Gap ... 2.*

teaching of moral values at home and in school.”<sup>11</sup>The problem with people with no direction affects ultimately the country as a whole.

So, today is difficult to find in a society well defined concepts of wrong or right behaviour for its members.<sup>12</sup>Multiculturalism in most countries might be have provoked this circumstance, which is understandable from the human rights and freedoms point of view, but a nation-state, must have a catalyst that enables the entire country to achieve and maintain the cohesion and synergy necessary to accomplish its objectives. This catalyst is a strong feeling of patriotism.

Differences in culture does not mean differences in patriotic feelings in a single country. Here is where the patriotism has faced the misconception of the people, mainly among the youth and this is because along the teaching of tolerance, social equality, individual and collective rights the society is not teaching the meaning of patriotism. Despite our differences in race, income, religious conviction, class, musical tastes, and so many other characteristics of culture, the population must share core values, among and on the top of them patriotism.<sup>13</sup>

Human beings are not automatically moral or ethical, these concepts are learned and is necessary to teach them and to cultivate them.<sup>14</sup> At least for the last twenty years who is teaching

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<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 2.

<sup>12</sup>Jeter Andrew D. Moral Leadership in...Intro.

<sup>13</sup> Pete Kilner. “The Alleged “Civil-Military ...1.

<sup>14</sup> James H. Youngquist. American Society...14.

them? As all we know, the mass media -television, radio, newspapers and magazines, records and tapes, films, and video- play formative roles and is playing the principal one in the formation of the value of patriotism.<sup>15</sup> Even if we do not like it, media shapes attitudes about acceptable behaviour, perceptions about society, and expectations of the future.<sup>16</sup> But in relation with patriotism, what are the expectations for the future? Some trends support the idea that every one has the right to be a citizen of the world, in this sense nobody needs a devotion to a specific country, others just advocate for openness and multiculturalism. Even though, in the foreseeable future this is not a reality and is far to be so, because today cosmopolitanism (world citizenship) is more a commercial tool to promote traveling and trade than a real freedom of thinking and movement.<sup>17</sup>

The reality is, for those weak, fail or failing states that democratic consolidation requires values that sustain the nation all the way, not only as a temporary tactic of politicians to gain votes during elections.<sup>18</sup> For those rich and developed countries where exist a strong trend in which people feel that they are citizens of the world, first is necessary for them to understand that their primary allegiance is to the own country.<sup>19</sup> In both cases (weak and strong countries) the

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<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 5.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Richard Falk. Revisioning Cosmopolitanism. In *For Love of Country: Debating the Limits of Patriotism*, by Martha C. Nussbaum, ed. Joshua Cohen. Boston Beacon 1996.

<sup>18</sup> David R. Mares. *Civil-Military Relations. Building Democracy and Regional Security in Latin America, Southern Asia, and Central Europe.* Westview Press. 1998. 16-21.

<sup>19</sup> Volker Franke and Lindy Heinecken. *Adjusting to Peace: Military Values in a Cross-national Comparison.* Armed Forces and Society. Sage publications. 2001. 572-573.



promotion of patriotism should be an important aim of citizenship education.<sup>20</sup> Example of this is Israel, where the strength of the society comes from a well implemented civic service plan since its independence (for more than thirty years now). In the Israel society each citizen is subject of a progressive civic education and service which seek the well being of the country and creates strong ties among the population.<sup>21</sup>

Again, both kind of countries must understand that if they want to develop patriotism in their population, this must be an apolitical action because patriotism is not related to political parties, social organizations or groups of interest; instead is related to national interest as a whole, bearing in mind that ultimately patriotism is centrally important and should guide the decisions and actions of the populations for country's sake.<sup>22</sup>

Certainly, there is a lot of work to do to retake the path of strong patriotism among the population. The job must be done using the "whole of government approach" with the participation of several governmental agencies and also the private sector as is currently applied in different countries in relation with other areas of interest; but the best tool to foster patriotism as the analysis below will show are the Armed Forces due to their history and characteristics, which allow them to maintain always present the feeling of patriotism in the hearts and minds of the population.

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<sup>20</sup> Volker Franke and Lindy Heinecken. *Adjusting to Peace...*573.

<sup>21</sup> Victor Azarya. In *Studies of Israel Society*, by Ernest Kraus. Volume IV. 1986. 119-121.

## **Why the Armed Forces are the best tool to foster Patriotism?**

As a result of a patriotic society, several areas in the every day life of the population could be improved, for instance respect, commitment, democracy, etc. So, to re-address this value in the current state of the society where religions, educative systems and governmental programs have lost their function as agents of social integration, is necessary the use of a tool with the moral capacity to do so. There is an institution that always has been there and only few countries have taken advantage of its traits to develop and foster national values. This institution are the Armed Forces which have a great potential to be exploited, even in countries where already use them in this way.

The Armed Forces have several remarkable traits, additionally the military is more group-focused, hierarchical and obedience-oriented than civilian society with its emphasis on individualism and private choice.<sup>23</sup> The military is also thought as a unique element within society; because of its values is also the only institution that has resisted many social changes through the time, that is why public expectation are always more for military personnel when it come to moral and ethical values.<sup>24</sup>

So, what are the characteristics of the military that made this institution the ideal instrument to be a model of patriotism? The answer lies on the classic military values, among others sacrifice, unity, self-discipline, and considering the interests of the group before those of

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<sup>22</sup> Canada DND. Leadership in the Canadian Forces: Conceptual Foundations. 2005. 18.

<sup>23</sup> Anni P. Baker. Life in the U.S. Armed Forces...89-90.

the individual, for instance.<sup>25</sup> Thus Armed Forces are models of excellence, civic spirit, pioneering, national pride, and ideally a source of unity for the country. As a result of that military personnel are the principal carriers of national goals and identity, inculcators of nationalist consciousness, and integrators of the various sectors of the population.<sup>26</sup>

The military, given their history as successful socializing agents is the force which can bring order out of disorder,<sup>27</sup> it is considered an instrument of change, a nation builder,<sup>28</sup> as we can see in countries like Israel, in the following example:

“The Israel defence Forces are known to be prominent educator in the Israeli society, both because of the educational effects inherent in the universal military service and reserve duties and because of various programs of education carried out in the military framework. Non-vocational civic education has occupied an especially important place because armed forces usually has the image of nation-builders.”<sup>29</sup>

Usually, the military is a model of racial harmony, where members of different ethnic groups work together.<sup>30</sup> This strengthens the social fabric, because the *esprit de corps* of the military is one of the most important factors that the military is able to project to the society and

<sup>24</sup> Thomas E. Ricks. *The Widening Gap*...8.

<sup>25</sup> Pete Kilner. “The Alleged “Civil-Military...2.

<sup>26</sup> Victor Azarya. In *Studies of Israel Society*, by Ernest Kraus. Volume IV. 1986. 119.

<sup>27</sup> Volker Franke and Lindy Heinecken. *Adjusting to Peace*...591.

<sup>28</sup> Henry Bienen. *The Military Intervenes, Case Studies in Political Development*. Russel Sage Foundation. 1968. Intro.

<sup>29</sup> Victor Azarya. In *Studies of Israel*...119.

<sup>30</sup> Ripple of hope.com <http://www.rippleofhope.net/> accessed 9 February 2009

just by being a model, the military could make the difference between a patriotic population and an individualistic society.<sup>31</sup>

Today, one of the few professions in which the personnel have a true passion for their job and for the way that they do their job is the military. The energy and the enthusiasm that the military is able to project in order to influence the civilian population have its roots in the passion of the military personnel for their job and most importantly the passion for their country. The passion for the country is the best that people must draw out of the military and it is also the difference between the military and other institutions –police, firefighters, health workers, charitable organizations, etc.- which are more local oriented and limited in scope.

Another reason is to make an improved use of people's taxes spent in the Armed Forces. There is a post-Cold War trend of closing unneeded bases and the privatization of many traditional military functions. With the evaporation of the Soviet Union, in many countries people argue that their country does not need a large standing army, which is true in some degree but there are always threats that need to be faced with the Armed Forces as a deterrence element and a with a strong morale among the population.<sup>32</sup> Also governments are unaware of how to take advantage of their armies in a garrison status; they must know that without undermining the fighting capabilities of the military, if the skills and virtues of these armies are put to work on

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<sup>31</sup> Victor Azarya. In Studies of Israel...120.

<sup>32</sup> Thomas E. Ricks. The Widening Gap...6.

benefit of the communities, the ultimate outcome will be very advantageous for both the military and the society.<sup>33</sup>

There are also people that argue that the Armed Forces of western, developing, and totalitarian countries alike are powerful social and political organizations willing and able to play key roles in the domestic politics, which constitutes a danger. This is true if the military is not under the civilian rule, such was the case of Argentina from 1930 to 1989, where the Armed Forces seized power with the excuse of protecting the country from the enemies.<sup>34</sup> Therefore in any case the military must remain under civilian control and work together with the society.

Without intervening in politics the military could do a better job in those areas where society is faltering, mainly education.<sup>35</sup> The military infrastructure could be used to educate the civilian population,<sup>36</sup> but the governments must be very careful defining how to address patriotism in each country, because every society is different, for instance Switzerland has similar universal conscription and reserve system than Israel and the motivations and permeability for nationalist ideas are seen in a different perspective, thus the civic education process is different.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* 4-12.

<sup>34</sup> Constantine P. Danopoulos and Cynthia Watson. *The Political Role of the Military: An International Handbook*. Greenwood Press. London. 1996. xii-2.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* 11.

<sup>36</sup> Pete Kilner. "The Alleged "Civil-Military...6.

So having in mind the social situation, it is possible to determine that the very nature of political parties, the great religious diversity, the freedom of thinking in the educational systems render these organizations unable to be the agent of integration for a country as they used to be. On the other hand, the Armed Forces still having cohesion and unity of believes, so at least the Armed Forces can provide something of guarantee against the deterioration of the patriotic feelings and to contribute to improve the current social situation.<sup>38</sup>

### **How can the job be done?**

Having seen the social situation and the characteristics of the military, proper to foster patriotism among the population, one caution is made before the description of how it could be promoted. Though sometimes are implicit the advantageous results of the military role in society in several areas, it must be clear that the only thing that this paper suggest is the benefits of employ the Armed Forces to foster patriotism. Because there are a lot of evidence in the past that if this use of the military is misunderstood, the wrong military involvement in public affairs can results in a great deal of damage to the population, the government and the Armed Forces themselves as were the case in Argentina from 1976 to 1983, Thailand from 1973 to 1988, and Guatemala from 1982 to 1995.<sup>39</sup> So when promoting patriotism the state must be very

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<sup>37</sup> Victor Azarya. In *Studies of Israel*...122.

<sup>38</sup> Bell M.J.V., *Army and Nation in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Adelphi Papers No.21 Institute for Strategic Studies, London, 1956, 16 in *The Military Intervenes, Case Studies in Political Development* by Henry Bienen. Russel Sage Fundation. 1968. xiii.

<sup>39</sup> David R. Mares. *Civil-Military relations. Building Democracy and Regional Security in Latin America, Southern Asia, and Central Europe*. Westview Press. 1998, Chapters Five, Nine, and Ten.

careful to avoid the error of regulate, direct or censor basic freedoms of its citizens such as diversity and democracy.<sup>40</sup>

There are some basic aspects on how foster patriotism, first it is necessary need to consider that the links that allow to permeate the society with this value are solidarity and cooperative spirit.<sup>41</sup> Using these characteristics of the military and other military values, patriotism will increase in the society little by little, it might be a protracted process, but the outcome is one of high value.<sup>42</sup> In this way, patriotism must become part of the culture and must be well embedded into the country's heritage in such a way that the future generations see these value as a normal part of their life.

Other basic consideration is that the culture is a dynamic, symbolically-based, and learn system. It is a learned system of meanings, communicated by natural language and symbols that allows groups of people to manage social and physical diversity, adapt successfully to their environment and respond appropriately to challenges.<sup>43</sup> While working in foster patriotism, Armed Forces must understand that cultural models provide a coherent, systematic arrangement for the knowledge that characterizes each cultural group. In this sense, the one of the most

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<sup>40</sup> United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia. 2008 <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10007519> accessed 9 February 2009

<sup>41</sup> Victor Azarya. In *Studies of Israel*...121.

<sup>42</sup> Ripple of hope.com <http://www.rippleofhope.net/> accessed 9 February 2009.

<sup>43</sup> Robert A. Rubinstein. *Cross-Cultural Considerations in Complex Peace Operations*. *Negotiation Journal*; Jan 2003. 30.

important factors to put in play is the military role model using symbols, ceremonies, behaviour, etc., depending on the characteristics of the population.<sup>44</sup>

It is well known that attitudes shape behaviour, in relation to this, the Armed forces are the best attitude role model when it comes to values.<sup>45</sup> The Armed Forces only must be used as models to exemplify or to emphasize the patriotic feeling to the population and also to keep under the legal limits the job of the military while promoting patriotism. In a multicultural and multi-ethnic environments there are several methods in which the role modeling could help to unify the sense of patriotism. These methods could be classified as direct and indirect.

Direct methods are those which require the physical participation of the military with the society with effects in the physical and psychological planes. Indirect methods are those which through the use of the military image convey the intended message to the population without the physical involvement of military personnel.

Some suggested direct methods are:

Official ceremonies. The use of models at certain places and times with special symbolic meaning enhance the collective feeling of patriotism.<sup>46</sup> In this method the military must play the most important role and the meaning of the place or symbolic landmark must be exploited. The

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<sup>44</sup> Robert A. Rubinstein. Cross-Cultural Considerations...31.

<sup>45</sup> Volker Franke and Lindy Heinecken. Adjusting to Peace...566.

<sup>46</sup> Robert A. Rubinstein. Cross-Cultural Considerations...31.



diffusion of these events also must be widely executed using every means available (radio, television, internet, advertising posters, etc.), the aim should be to have the greatest audience possible.

Working with schools; in remarkable dates participate with schools during flag ceremonies, sport competitions and also being part of special events during which civility and solidarity are promoted. In developing countries Armed Forces also can help school improving the infrastructure conditions.

Helping communities; during the execution of social programs by different governmental agencies, the Armed Forces can act as general support agent and multiplier of the spirit of solidarity in the community, for instance during rehearsals of evacuation in a emergency, improving community's contingency plans, mentoring local agents in order to improve security conditions, and in general participation in collective activities intended to enhance team spirit and sense of belonging.

Educational services; in this area the participation could be in two categories: internal and external. Internally, the improvement of the military studies programs mean the proper preparation of the military, consequently its appropriate performance in the community while in service and after retired. Externally, as for example in Israel and Mexico,<sup>47</sup> the Armed Forces contribute in high degree to the education of illiterate people. In this second category the education provided do not implies the teaching of military skills or something similar but the

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<sup>47</sup> SEDENA, Dir. Gral. Com. Soc. Revista del Ejercito y Fuerza Aerea Mexicanos. Aug.1996. Reportaje SEDENA-SEP-INEA.

promotion of patriotism mainly by the role modeling function that the military perform during the process.

Sponsoring local teams; this is a great opportunity for the military to teach more directly the value of patriotism, because some military likeminded organizations such as Boy Scouts, children cadets, Boot camps, etc. use to promote team work, identity, brotherhood, solidarity, etc, so while supporting these organizations the symbolism of military models can be used to build a common sense of patriotism.<sup>48</sup>

Relief operations; only with its true commitment and an outstanding sense of duty, the military is able to gain the hearts and minds of the relieved population during an emergency. The courage, unselfishness, sacrifice and other virtues displayed for the military personnel during a disaster form in the mind of the population the same spirit and by imitation people will do the same in a given situation.

While performing these direct methods, the military must be aware of the correct use of local cultural tools to enhance patriotism, this also could help to avoid claims about intervention in heritage or uses and customs. Having always in mind that the cultural factor come into play when dealing with a strong sense of diversity among the population.

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<sup>48</sup> Robert A. Rubinstein. Cross-Cultural Considerations...3.

Indirect methods could be:

Messages in the media (radio, television, tapes, internet, newspapers); these messages are not to do recruitment or promote Armed Forces but specifically to foster patriotism, communicating the job that the Armed Forces do at home and abroad for the sake of the country. These messages could talk about national sovereignty, importance of national identity, the significance of each part of the country to build a strong nation, the future as a country based in patriotic values, etc.

During remarkable dates as for example The Independence day, flag day, heritage day, remembrance day, army day, etc. promote patriotism taking advantage of the symbolism of these dates which would be reinforced with the strong image of the Armed Forces. These messages could be embedded also in posters that promote the events.

Both examples of direct and indirect methods are not an exhaustive list, are just examples of how the message could be transmitted, so the specific procedures and the exact form of the messages must be determined in a case by case basis, taking into account the social situation, state of the moral and ethical values, the assets available, the applicable laws and the rights and freedoms of the population.

About rights and freedoms, any program to promote national values must be inclusive, reflect the principle of democracy all the time; the actions taken do not must interfere or override the normal lives of the population rather the actions must improve or complement the civilian activities. If the promotion is using the media for example, the effort must be concentrated on the

smart use of the official times and spaces; if it is on events in public places the maximum coordination with the civilian sector and the population must be taken in order to avoid inconveniences in the public. In general, the respect for the law and the pacific coexistence with the society plus the good reputation of the military will help to produce the desired result.

About results, in most western and in some non-western countries, the tasks described above are far to be new, but most of the time were performed in a circumstantial way, with no long range plan. Now with the transformation of the different social groups, these tasks need to be reconsider, structured into a plan with a strong patriotic society as an end-state, and put in practice on a daily basis working on specific objectives.

### **What is the benefit of enhance patriotism using the Armed Forces?**

The first thing to take into account is the balance cost-benefit that this undertaking implies. People can argue that they no longer trust the government or any large public or non-public organization to look after their best interest; this is due to the state of degradation of the society.<sup>49</sup> Also some sectors of the population support the idea that the Armed Forces are intended to defend the country of external enemies and to look for the national interest abroad. In most countries armies fulfill these missions and still able to do more for the country. The most remarkable advantage is that unlike the rest of institutions and agencies, the military do not need additional resources or major modifications in order to promote patriotism.

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<sup>49</sup> Bern Horn. From the Outside Looking in: Media and Defence Analyst Perspectives on Canadian Leadership. Canadian Defence Academy Press. 2005. 4.

So, due to the clear necessity to develop, re-take, maintain or foster patriotism, the Armed Forces represent the best asset, at the lowest price (the expending is mainly affected in relation with the type of media campaign that could be used) and with the highest value for its direct impact in the social-civil culture. In other words, the balance cost-benefit is favourable for the use of the military and in the long term the benefits will improve several different areas that interact in the social structure in each country.

Integrity is the ideal outcome but a strong patriotism is good enough as a base to build a stronger country.<sup>50</sup> With this value enhanced, gradually is possible to influence the shape of social relations, eliminating cross-cultural conflicts (which is more important in countries with a huge multicultural and multi-ethnic population) so the final outcome will be a greater sense of solidarity and an unconditional patriotic feeling for the nation.<sup>51</sup>

More direct result of this educating process will be to see people with more sense of responsibility, selfdiscipline, team spirit, more committed to their own job, more commitment to altruistic values and above all with patriotism.<sup>52</sup> One example of how the influence of a good role model impacts a nation as a whole is Israel, where the civic education offered by the military is primarily conceived as a contribution to the entire society and is not intended to improve directly

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<sup>50</sup> Art Egglenton. The Somalia Inquiry Report. Somalia Commission of Inquiry. Volume V. 1997. <http://www.dnd.ca/somalia/vol5/indexe.htm> accessed 2010, 9 Feb. 2009. 4.

<sup>51</sup> Thomas E. Ricks. The Widening Gap...4-12.

<sup>52</sup> Victor Azarya. In Studies of Israel...120.

the army units, because after finish the school the students will become a source of strength for the country, because then they will be educated.<sup>53</sup>

On the other hand, any future missions for the Armed Forces will likely be completed more effectively if military participation is endorsed by a patriotic society at large.<sup>54</sup> Also the involvement of the military in the promotion of patriotism is one of the major means by which the military can stay connected with the society it serves and even more, in the international arena the projection of strong patriotism is a very valuable feature that facilitates the deterrence of aggressors and when the time comes, the will to fight for the country until the last sacrifice.<sup>55</sup>

### **Conclusion.**

Today, the society complains about its own faults, the different sectors of the population blame each other for the lack of moral and ethical values, meanwhile nobody is taking a serious initiative to rescue the fundamental value for the subsistence of any nation. If some action is undertaken in this sense it must be based and supported by an institution that meets the highest standards of values and this organization are the Armed Forces. The projection of its set of values and features are the best foundation to foster patriotism among the population.

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<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* 121.

<sup>54</sup> Volker Franke and Lindy Heinecken. *Adjusting to Peace...*591.

<sup>55</sup> James H. Youngquist. *American Society...*15.

Due to the current situation of the society, fostering patriotism on the population will be most likely a protracted process but the benefits are of high value. The final outcome will be a more accountable, dependable and committed society with its country. Neglect the cultivation of this value could represent an important risk for the nation, from the lack of interest on national issues, escalation of the internal security problems and ultimately and the most dangerous the absence of the will to fight for the country in a major confrontation.

Another motivation to undertake the promotion of patriotism is the fact that we do not know who the next leaders will be and the scenarios they will face, thus is necessary to educate and to foster patriotism in every citizen no matter its age, political affiliation, ethnicity, religion, etc. in order to prepare them to take decision always in the best interest of the country.

So its time to take positive initiatives in order to use the Armed Forces is such a way that they represent the spring of unity, solidarity and sense of patriotism for everyone. For this purpose the military could be used far more imaginatively than today, since it has the flexibility and always is upfront for the country's sake.

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