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PROPOSED BULLETS FOR CDR'S OPENING REMARKS  
TO THE NORTH AMERICAN FORUM

- Our North American community shares a vast array of common interests. Everyday we see many examples that demonstrate the degree to which our geographies, economies, and cultures are tightly woven into a network of shared relationships
- NAFTA has helped transform North America into the largest free-trade area in the world where our three nations share mutual dependencies. The huge flow of goods and people that cross our borders each day, combined with our integrated economic and structural relationships, creates security issues unlike any other in the world
- However, there is no overarching security architecture that defends our common continental interests from external threats, whether they are asymmetric attacks by terrorists, a pandemic influenza that crosses into our countries, or a severe natural disaster. Our economies and our way of life are vulnerable to the effects of threats and incidents to North America
- The U.S. and Canada have shared formal defense relationships for a long time, and we value and appreciate our work together in Operation Enduring Freedom, NATO, NORAD, and many other cases, including Canadian Forces support to the U.S. during Hurricane Katrina
- Our Mexican military counterparts also provided valuable assistance to our country in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. We also appreciate the dedication of the Mexican Armed Forces in combating illicit drug trafficking. We know Mexican soldiers and sailors risk their lives every day to keep illegal drugs from entering our country
- The attacks of Sep 11, 2001 demonstrated vulnerabilities throughout our countries and caused economic hardship all along the border
  - Goods and services backed up along our borders as security measures were stepped up after the attacks
  - The "just in time" auto manufacturing delivery processes in Detroit-Windsor area forced sudden shutdowns costing auto makers up to \$25,000 per minute in lost productivity
  - Our cross border trade with Mexico dropped 15% causing San Diego, CA to declare an Economic State of Emergency
- In Mar 05, our countries' leaders signed the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) to establish a common approach to our security, protect North America from external threats, and prevent and respond to threats within North America

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- In the spirit of the SPP, USNORTHCOM's security cooperation mission focuses on working with our military counterparts in Canada and Mexico to explore ways to improve our collective security. We believe it benefits all our countries by establishing defense partnerships where the U.S., Canada, and Mexico work as close partners, respecting our individual national sovereignties, to deter, prevent, and if necessary, defeat threats to our countries
- I'd like to outline three areas where we believe we can open or continue formal dialogue with our friends in Canada and Mexico to better defend our homelands
  - As a first priority, we need to understand the nature of the threats to North America, share information on what may be at risk, individually examine our vulnerabilities (such as critical infrastructure) and develop common capabilities to counter and mitigate the consequences of such threats to our countries
  - Second, we need to enhance our collective abilities to deter, prevent, defeat, and mitigate the consequences of transnational threats to our homelands. This includes terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, illicit trafficking, and pandemic influenza, as we see these are the most likely threats to North America
  - Third, we need to develop an open forum for planning and responding to natural disasters affecting North America
- We look forward to discussing these and other areas of opportunity with our continental partners during this conference

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