



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Annual Security Review Conference Session III**

*„Revitalizing, updating and modernizing conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures (CSBMs) regimes: Challenges and Opportunities“*

#### **Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Celeste Wallander**

Vienna, July 1, 2011

I want to echo the comments of the keynote speakers and add my support for the need to modernize and strengthen the OSCE's political-military instruments. A source of strength for the OSCE has been its ability to adapt to new challenges and changes in the security environment. In keeping with this tradition, we must begin a strategic conversation that identifies sensible solutions to the conventional arms control challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Rose's presentation addressed the Open Skies Treaty and the effort to modernize CFE. I would like to build on these ideas by turning to a key priority that involves every member of the OSCE – the effort to update the Vienna Document so that it reflects today's military reality.

Updating the Vienna Document complements our work on CFE. Rather than CFE-style equipment limits, VDOC is about confidence, information sharing, exchanges, and building deep understanding in conventional military affairs. VDOC goes beyond counting battle tanks to informing one another about exercises and doctrine – the software of European security – to complement CFE's focus on hardware. VDOC builds relationships among military professionals through its information exchanges, notifications, and regular contacts, demonstrations, and reviews. VDOC enhances predictability and confidence for our military professionals, and provides a modern security approach.

With the direction provided by our Heads of State in Astana, we are approaching the milestone of issuing a new Vienna Document in December in Vilnius. Several proposals to update VDOC already have been adopted, and dozens more are under consideration. The dedication all delegations are demonstrating in this effort is heartening, but much needs to be done with the Vilnius Ministerial only a few months away.

Specifically, we should be working in the coming months to enable our leaders to adopt VDOC provisions that greatly deepen and expand military transparency. Without prejudging the work of our experts in coming months, I would highlight the proposal to lower the threshold for prior notification of certain military activities. Agreement on this key proposal offered by the French delegation would signal to our parliaments and publics that this organization is serious about modernizing its approach to military transparency and security.

Other useful ideas that we should consider include:

Mandatory notification of at least one exercise to take into account smaller military forces and increase participation in information exchanges;

Modernizing the annual exchange of military information to take into account the restructuring of European militaries;

Increasing the opportunities for military contacts, inspections, and evaluation visits to deepen mutual understanding of military affairs; and

Improving verification procedures and updating administrative matter in the document.

More generally, we need a security conversation about what military activities are of real concern, and what measures can be developed to alleviate those concerns. For instance, the United States welcomed the May 2011 High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, and will support more active VDOC meetings to exchange information in this sphere.

Our efforts will benefit Europe only if our militaries and ministries of defense increase their participation in support of their negotiators in Vienna. The Defense Department is deeply interested and engaged in these discussions, and routinely provides military expertise for these discussions. I would ask that all delegations renew their commitment to provide their best military advice in the coming months.

It is time for us to gather again and give renewed urgency to our efforts to modernize this important mechanism. I look forward to working with colleagues to see what we can accomplish by Vilnius. Together, we can achieve much, and continue to improve the Vienna Document so that it remains a living and vital part of European security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.