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Rifles on lookout

An historic event took place in Halifax on Sept. 5 when Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced that the Halifax Rifles, Nova Scotia's senior regiment, will be reactivated. This reverses a federal government decision 44 years ago to deactivate the regiment, leaving Nova Scotia the only mainland province without an army reconnaissance capability.

Recently, the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia (RUSI) completed an in-depth study of security on our shoreline. Its unequivocal recommendation to the ministers of Defence and Security and Public Safety was that an army reconnaissance capability, located in the province, was necessary to improve appreciably army support for RCMP security operations on the coastline and continental perimeter.

Mr. MacKay, with constituents living on isolated stretches of the coastline, is more aware than most of the threat from criminals and terrorists coming ashore undetected. To him, the recommendation made sense and it is commendable that he made the responsible decision to provide the army with the resources to meet the security needs identified by RUSI.

Ned Amy, retired soldier, Halifax