

## **The Balkans**

- Since 1991, Canada has participated in the international effort to restore peace and ensure respect for human rights in the Balkans. This effort is driven by Canada's interest in regional security and the rule of law, as well as its commitment to multilateral peace-support operations and the effectiveness of the United Nations, NATO and other organizations active in the region.
- The political basis for the NATO's role in the former Yugoslavia was established in 1992 when NATO foreign ministers stated that NATO was ready to support peacekeeping operations under the authority of the United Nations Security Council.
- Highlighting Canada's continuing commitment to the region, the Minister of Foreign Affairs paid a three-day visit to the Balkans in May 2001.

## **Bosnia-Herzegovina**

- As part of Canada's commitment to a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canadian Forces troops were engaged in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1992 to 1995.
- In 1995, following the successful negotiation of the General Framework Agreement (Dayton Accords), UN resolution 1031 gave NATO a mandate to establish IFOR, an implementation force to handle the military aspects of the Dayton Accords and to support, within the limits of its existing mandate and available resources, other organizations responsible for implementing the civilian aspects.
- With the successful completion of IFOR's mission, in 1996 NATO established SFOR, a stabilization force acting under UN resolution 1088. SFOR's mission is to prevent hostilities from resuming in Bosnia, to consolidate IFOR's achievements, and to support civilian organizations in post-war reconstruction
- Operation Palladium, Canada's contribution to SFOR, has about 1,700 personnel working among about 20,000 personnel from NATO, non-NATO, and NATO partner nations. Canada's contribution to SFOR includes a national command element, a battle group, a national support element, a tactical helicopter detachment, an advanced surgical centre, and a military police platoon.