

PEACEKEEPING to Peacebuilding

PEACEKEEPING

"We feel that if there is a description that could be given to nations – and that would be the peacemakers – then Canada obviously comes at the head of the list."

Hussein
KING OF JORDAN

Since its beginnings in 1956, peacekeeping has become an integral and high profile component of UN operations. When Lester Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his leadership in developing the concept of peacekeeping, Canadians felt a commitment to peacekeeping and a willingness to support frequent calls to join the blue berets in operations around the world.

One of a growing group of countries to which the UN regularly turns when it requires peacekeeping advice and expert military contributions, Canada has participated in an overwhelming number of peacekeeping operations mandated by the UN Security Council – in Cyprus, Bosnia, Haiti, and others.



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Canadians who have served in more than 30 separate missions include men and women from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Elections Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies based in Canada.

In 1994, Canada established the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. The Centre offers instruction in the theoretical foundations of peacekeeping, as well as its more practical aspects.

In 1995, Canada presented a ground-breaking study on a UN rapid reaction capability to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly. The study urged the UN and its members to develop a rapid deployment capability which could be swiftly mobilized to respond to humanitarian crises and recommended the establishment of an operational-level headquarters for force deployment. The study's recommendations are already being acted upon by the UN.



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