

Canadian Peacekeeping in the Middle East

Canada has a long history of participation in Mideast peacekeeping missions, dating from Canada's involvement in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in 1954. Canada played a central role in defusing the Suez Canal crisis in 1956 and introducing the modern-day concept of UN peacekeeping. Since that time, Canada has been involved in every UN Mideast peacekeeping operation, including Emergency Forces I and II, the Yemen Observer Mission, the Interim Force in Lebanon, the Iran–Iraq Military Observer Group and the United Nations Special Commission.

It is Canada's view that peacekeeping contributes to stability in the region. This in turn facilitates the peace process in the Middle East. At present, 239 Canadian Forces personnel participate in five peacekeeping and related operations in the Middle East:

- The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which supervises Israeli–Syrian disengagement in the Golan Heights, has 190 Canadian Forces personnel. A Canadian commands the mission.
- There are 11 Canadian Forces personnel with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), mediating between Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and assisting other UN missions.
- Six Canadian Forces personnel are members of the United Nations Iraq–Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).
- The Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) group, which monitors disengagement between Israel and Egypt under the Camp David Accords, has 30 Canadian Forces personnel in staff, air traffic control and administrative positions.
- Two Canadians are assigned to the United Nations Monitoring Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), created in December 1999 to continue the inspection and destruction of Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

Canada has also participated in two UN peacekeeping missions in Lebanon: the UN Observer Group in Lebanon in 1958–59 and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in 1978.