

Expert Deployment

Peace support operations have evolved beyond strictly military missions into ones with broader mandates in which civilians have an increasingly prominent role. Missions now often require skills in such fields as democratic governance, judicial reform, child protection, media, human rights, and conflict resolution and reconciliation.

Canada recognizes the need to build capacity — at home and abroad — for the rapid identification and deployment of high-calibre experts. This will require the development of new policies, standard operating procedures and deployment mechanisms, along with further investment in training materials and courses. A key Canadian initiative in this area will be the strengthening of CANADEM (Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights) — a roster of Canadian civilian experts available to contribute to international peace support operations and other field missions.

Police in Peace Support Operations

Civilian police have come to play an instrumental role in peace support operations by helping to build the capacity of local police forces to uphold the rule of law and by ensuring basic law and order where there is no indigenous police capacity.

From Haiti to Kosovo to East Timor, the establishment of ordinary civil order is a prerequisite for restoring any measure of human security. Building the UN's capacity and access to trained international police for these purposes is of primary importance. Canada supports increasing the planning and deployment capacity of the UN to make best use of civilian police and to further develop international policing policies and procedures.

Gender and Peacekeeping Training

Men and women confront different risks, challenges, opportunities and obstacles in situations of armed conflict and in the context of post-conflict peacebuilding. Consequently, almost every activity in modern peace support operations has a gender dimension.

Understanding gender relations in different contexts and ensuring respect for women's human rights are prerequisites for more effective peace support operations. Recognizing this, Canada and the United Kingdom have developed a gender training course for military and civilian peacekeepers, which will focus on enhancing gender awareness and the capacity to address the gender dimensions of these missions. Tested with a wide range of actors, including experienced peacekeepers, police forces, foreign ministries, development agencies, humanitarian organizations and universities from around the world, the material will be available in the autumn of 2000.

Civilian Deployment — CANADEM

Increasingly complex peace support operations have created the need for rapid deployment of civilian experts in fields as diverse as child protection, free media, reconciliation, judicial reform, civilian administration, and human rights monitoring and promotion. For this reason, Canada has provided support for the establishment of the Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights. CANADEM is a roster of Canadian civilian experts able to respond quickly to UN, NGO and other international requests for qualified Canadians to contribute to peace support operations, field missions and a range of peacebuilding activities. CANADEM will complement similar resource banks in other countries to strengthen overall international capacity in this area.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer on UN Mission to Haiti helps train an officer of the new civilian police force on investigation procedures. (1996)



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