

role at the Medak Pocket as follows: "The Canadians, well schooled in the delicate art of peacekeeping, discovered that their negotiation skills were not immediately required there. Instead they found themselves back in their primary war-fighting rôle when Croatian Army units opened fire with machine-guns, mortars and artillery in an effort to stop the Canadian advance. To

Executive Summary

complete their assigned mission the Patricia's were required to threaten the use of, and ultimately use deadly force against the Croatian Army. However, the true test of military professionalism and discipline came after the smoke cleared, the Croats backed down and the Canadians immediately reverted back to their role as impartial peacekeepers in their dealings with individuals that minutes before had attempted to kill them,"¹ and,

Finally, this issue also touches a chord with respect to Canadians' sense of sovereignty and independence, particularly vis a vis the United States. The extent to which Canada's involvement in Afghanistan is linked to defending American interests, or fighting an American war, has a significant impact on whether this is viewed as a "just" and rationale pursuit.

Views on the mission can be divided into three distinct groups – those opposed, those whose views waver between support and opposition (e.g. in the "grey zone"), and those who are generally supportive of Canada's involvement. While opposition is quite firm and generally immovable, support for the mission tends to be soft and more volatile.

The key features and characteristics of each of these public opinion segments are summarized in the tables below.

Those Strongly Opposed to the Mission

¹ <http://www.cda-cda.ca/library/medakpocket.htm>