

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

Drawing on our experience with recent international crises, most notably the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Government will establish a Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START) to ensure that there is longer-term planning for early responses to international crises and that the required skills and expertise are at the ready. Existing agencies will be used to source experts and individuals or groups whose capacities are required. They will be dispatched by those responsible, including the military or CIDA.

In addition, a Global Peace and Security Fund has been established within Foreign Affairs to provide security assistance to failed and fragile states, as well as resources for post-conflict stabilization and recovery. Five hundred million dollars has been allocated over five years for the fund.

Operations to restore order in failed and fragile states have become particularly challenging for the Canadian Forces since the end of the Cold War. In many cases, our military personnel must operate in difficult theatres where civilians mix with friendly, neutral and opposing forces. In such situations, negotiation and compromise, as well as an understanding of other cultures and practices, are essential. Despite these pressures, the Canadian Forces are recognized globally as one of the finest militaries in the world. The Canadian military's nuanced understanding of conflict environments and ability to seamlessly transition from combat to stabilization is a widely recognized comparative advantage. This is why our men and women in uniform are in such demand overseas.

To retain this standing, and to fulfill the tasks required to protect Canadians and build global security, the Canadian Forces must embrace new technologies, concepts and doctrines. Relevance, responsiveness and effectiveness are the principles that will guide everything they do. In turn, the Government, and Canadian citizens, will support them with the tools needed to do the job. To that end, the February 2005 Budget provided the Canadian Forces with almost \$13 billion over the next five years, the largest increase in defence spending in two decades. This represents a critical turning point for the future of our military and, by extension, the identity that Canada projects on the global stage. Investments today will enable the Canadian Forces to develop the expertise and skills that Canadians, and the world, desperately need.

As part of our comprehensive response to state failure, Canada will take action to help deal with the forced displacement of civilians within their country and across borders. Canada is a leader on refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) issues. We are promoting legal and physical protection of affected persons, providing material assistance, engaging in diplomatic advocacy to resolve the causes of their plight, supporting durable solutions, and rebuilding post-conflict societies. Our stance is based on long-standing international obligations, and reflects the strong wish of Canadians to make a meaningful contribution internationally. Our resettlement of refugees to Canada provides both a lasting solution and demonstrates our commitment to responsibility sharing with countries hosting large numbers of displaced persons.

PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Maintain combat-capable Canadian Forces, focused on the challenge of restoring peace and stability to failed and fragile states

KEY INITIATIVES

- Focus on integrated operations to get the best mix of forces to the right place, at the right time, and to the right effect
- Increase the size of the Regular Forces by 5,000, effectively doubling the army's ability to deploy and sustain operations overseas
- Equip the Canadian Forces to carry out missions abroad, through initiatives such as the Joint Support Ships, the Mobile Gun System and guaranteed access to airlift
- Continuously review and modernize the Canadian Forces' capabilities