

(L-R): Fred Winters, Don Kilpatrick, Ross Shortill, Jules Lalancette, Paul Martin — Zagreb, Croatia, June 1996



Sarajevo, where more administrative requirements were carried out. This is where we learned that we would be going our separate ways: Jules Lalancette and Paul Martin to Banja Luka; Ross Shortill and I to Mostar, and Fred Winters would remain in Sarajevo.

UNIPTF had been formed as part of the *General Framework Agreement for Peace (Dayton Agreement)* to assist the warring parties in meeting their obligations to provide a safe and secure environment through the establishment of civilian law enforcement agencies that meet internationally recognized professional standards and that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The UNIPTF mission mandate can be categorized into five major parts:

- monitoring, observing and inspecting law enforcement and judicial proceedings and operations to ensure they meet internationally recognized standards;
- advising law enforcement agencies about their operations so they can meet internationally recognized standards;
- training law enforcement personnel in modern policing strategies and techniques;
- advising governmental authorities on the organization of effective law enforcement agencies, and
- assessing threats to the public order and assessing the capability of law enforcement agencies to meet those threats.

To carry out its mandate (then), IPTF was staffed by 1,721 police monitors drawn from 34 countries and a small staff of civilian personnel, who were assigned to five organizational units: a headquarters unit in Sarajevo and four regional headquarters in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka. All IPTF monitors had to have at least eight years of

police experience. The small headquarters staff provided administrative, planning, legal and logistical support to the field units. Within each region — grouped into policing “districts” — IPTF maintained 50 police stations covering all areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IPTF worked closely with a number of non-governmental and government agencies in carrying out its mandate. Close liaison was maintained with the NATO military element which provided enforcement of certain IPTF directives whenever necessary, as IPTF monitors in Bosnia-Herzegovina were (and are still) unarmed. Close working relations were also maintained with other UN agencies, such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as groups like the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Community Monitoring Mission and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The majority of IPTF resources were allocated to monitoring and inspecting policing and judicial activities. Monitors worked side-by-side with local police officers, engaging with them as they carried out their duties and advising them on modern policing practices. They visited people arrested and detained in prison to ensure their custody met international standards. They also monitored law enforcement and judicial proceedings to ensure compliance with accepted standards of human rights and freedoms.

IPTF was also developing standards for the downsizing of the police forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina to provide for a professional police force whose size reflected peacetime policing requirements. This process would