

CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFER AND MORE SECURE WORLD

Operations. The Canadian Forces will focus their efforts on developing basic staff skills to help mid-level officers conduct peace support operations. Canada will also use the Canadian Forces' bilingual expertise to help Anglophone African militaries operate in French-speaking regions of the continent, and Francophone militaries to do the same in English-speaking regions. Finally, National Defence will promote security sector reform to encourage democratic values within armed forces.

These training activities will be broadened to include maritime, air, land and special operations forces. Maritime forces will offer their expertise in off-shore patrolling and interdiction operations. Land forces will provide peace support training. Our air forces will help foreign militaries develop better air support to their naval and land forces and improve air interdiction and transport operations. Finally, our special operations forces will provide training in counterterrorism operations. As the Canadian Forces carry out these activities, they will seek to gain access to special training environments, such as jungles or deserts in Latin America and Africa. They will also identify opportunities for potential staging bases in support of future missions.

Defence diplomacy and forward presence

Defence diplomacy will remain an important part of National Defence's efforts to contribute to international stability. Bilateral and multilateral contacts, including staff talks, ship and aircraft visits, and participation in exercises are important elements of Canada's foreign policy. They help Canada understand the security issues at stake in regions throughout the world while enhancing democracy and civilian control and accountability within other armed forces. The Canadian Forces will continue these activities, in cooperation with Foreign Affairs, in such regions as Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia Pacific.

Defence diplomacy can also assist in the conduct of Canadian Forces operations overseas. For example, the relationships Canada forged with some Middle Eastern countries after 2001 continue to help us in supporting our efforts in Afghanistan. Canada will develop this strategy further with selected countries, particularly in Asia. The Canadian Forces will also consider expanding their international "footprint"—for example, through the placement of additional military personnel in allied headquarters.

THE CANADIAN FORCES AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

The Canadian Forces must remain capable of participating in a wide range of operations overseas, particularly when dealing with the complex, fluid and dangerous environment of failed and failing states. These will include:

- **combat operations**, such as those conducted during the Kosovo air campaign and with the United States in Afghanistan;
- **complex peace support and stabilization missions**, such as those carried out with NATO in Bosnia and with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan;
- **maritime interdiction operations**, such as those conducted in the Persian Gulf after the first Gulf War, and as part of the campaign against terrorism;
- **traditional peacekeeping and observer operations**, such as those carried out by the UN in the Middle East for many years, and, more recently in Ethiopia/Eritrea;
- **humanitarian assistance missions**, such as those conducted by the Disaster Assistance Response Team in Honduras, Turkey and, more recently, Sri Lanka; and
- **evacuation operations** to assist Canadians in countries threatened by imminent conflict and turmoil, as we have done in Haiti.

In the new security environment, the Canadian Forces could find themselves in situations where they are conducting several of these operations simultaneously in one theatre.

