

CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFER AND MORE SECURE WORLD

operation, particularly when warlords, criminal gangs and other irregular combatants remain part of the equation. They call for a wide variety of tools, from negotiation, compromise and cultural sensitivity to precision weapons. The aim is always to produce focused effects that put a premium, even in conflict situations, on the sanctity of human life. Consequently, the Canadian Forces will seek to maintain the right mix of military capability to ensure that they can carry out all potential aspects of a three-block war. They will remain, above all, combat-capable in order to deter aggression, defend themselves and civilian populations against conventional and asymmetric attacks, and fight and defeat opposing forces with the ultimate goal of restoring peace and stability. The Canadian Forces have shown themselves to excel in this area, which is one of the reasons why they are in such high demand overseas. They will improve even further.

Sending our men and women in uniform into these dangerous situations is one of the most difficult decisions of government. While demand for our military to participate in international operations will undoubtedly remain high, the Government will be selective and strategic when considering such deployments. As in the past, we will need to look at a variety of factors before reaching a final decision, including whether:

- the mission supports Canada's foreign policy objectives;
- the mandate is realistic, clear and enforceable;
- international political and financial support as well as other resources are sufficient to achieve the desired end;
- the proposed forces are adequate and appropriate for the mandate;
- an effective process of consultation between mission partners is in place;
- there is a clear exit strategy or desired end-state;
- there is a defined concept of operations, an effective command and control structure and clear rules of engagement; and
- the mission does not jeopardize other Canadian Forces commitments.

Military training assistance

In addition to making direct operational contributions overseas, the Canadian Forces will play a more active role in providing military training to foreign armed forces. Fostering the development of democratic and accountable militaries in nations emerging from conflict promotes stability, helps prevent new crises, and facilitates the withdrawal of international forces from areas of conflict. By "training the trainers," the Canadian Forces can also assist other countries in building their capacity to undertake peace support operations. This, in turn, increases the quantity and quality of troops available to the United Nations and other organizations, and lessens the operational burden on countries like Canada.

Our military's expertise in this area is widely recognized and sought after, as its role in helping train the Sierra Leonean and Afghan armed forces demonstrated. We will build on this success. For example, the Department of National Defence will provide more resources to its Military Training Assistance Program to carry out a wide range of activities around the world, with emphasis on Africa and the G8's Action Plan for Expanding Global Capability for Peace Support

Ampara region, Sri Lanka—An officer of the DART engineer section talking with a district official.

