

One UN organization that has been created to meet these new demands is the Multinational Standby High Readiness Brigade for UN Operations (SHIRBRIG). The non-standing brigade provides the United Nations with a coherent, rapid deployment (15 to 30 days) capability for missions of up to six months. It is operationally focused on Africa.

The experiences of the United Nations, particularly in Kosovo and East Timor, have highlighted the essential role of civilians in nation building. The re-establishment of the rule of law and the transition from international intervention to local civilian authority are the key to the overall success of a peace-support operation. This focus on a country's governance infrastructure sets the conditions under which peacekeeping forces and other international staff may return to their home countries.

### **Canadian commitment**

Currently about 3,600 Canadian troops are deployed worldwide to UN-mandated operations. This includes almost 2,000 troops with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Canada ranks sixth among its NATO allies in terms of current contributions to UN and NATO peace support operations (including post-conflict Iraq). In accordance with the G8 Africa Action Plan, Canada is also providing direct support to build the peacekeeping capacity of the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union.

On the civilian peacekeeping side, Canada's police engagement is also active. Of Canada's nine current police peacekeeping engagements, eight are to UN led, or UN-mandated, missions.