

DOCS
CA1
EA507
C18
ENG
Spring
2006
Copy 1

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E



3 5036 01029484 4

Canada World View

ISSUE 29 • SPRING 2006

The New Diplomacy

Canadians in
a turbulent world

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
des Affaires étrangères

APR 10 2006

Departmental Lib
Bibliothèque des



Foreign Affairs
Canada

Affaires étrangères
Canada

Canada

About *Canada World View*

Canada World View provides an overview of Canada's perspective on foreign policy issues and highlights the Government of Canada's international initiatives and contributions. *Canada World View* is published quarterly in English and French by Foreign Affairs Canada.

Opinions expressed by named contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

Mary Gooderham
Managing Editor

You can reach us at

Canada World View
Foreign Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive, BCS C-2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 992-5791
Email: canada-magazine@international.gc.ca

Current subscribers

Help us keep our records up to date. If you are moving, receiving duplicate copies or no longer wish to receive *Canada World View*, simply amend your address label (on back cover) using block letters and return it to us at the above address or fax number. Be sure to include your eight-digit Customer Number when you do.

Subscribe online

Canada World View can be found at www.international.gc.ca/canada-magazine. Email subscriptions are available through our online subscription service on this site.

Subscribe by mail

To receive free copies of our magazine and other FAC publications by mail, contact: Enquiries Service (SXC1)
Foreign Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Tel.: 1 800 267-8376 (toll-free)
or (613) 944-4000
Fax: (613) 996-9709
Email: enqserv@international.gc.ca

Our cover

Canadian diplomat Ben Rowswell flies from the Baghdad airport to the city's Green Zone in a military helicopter. Travelling by the so-called "air bridge" is required for security purposes.

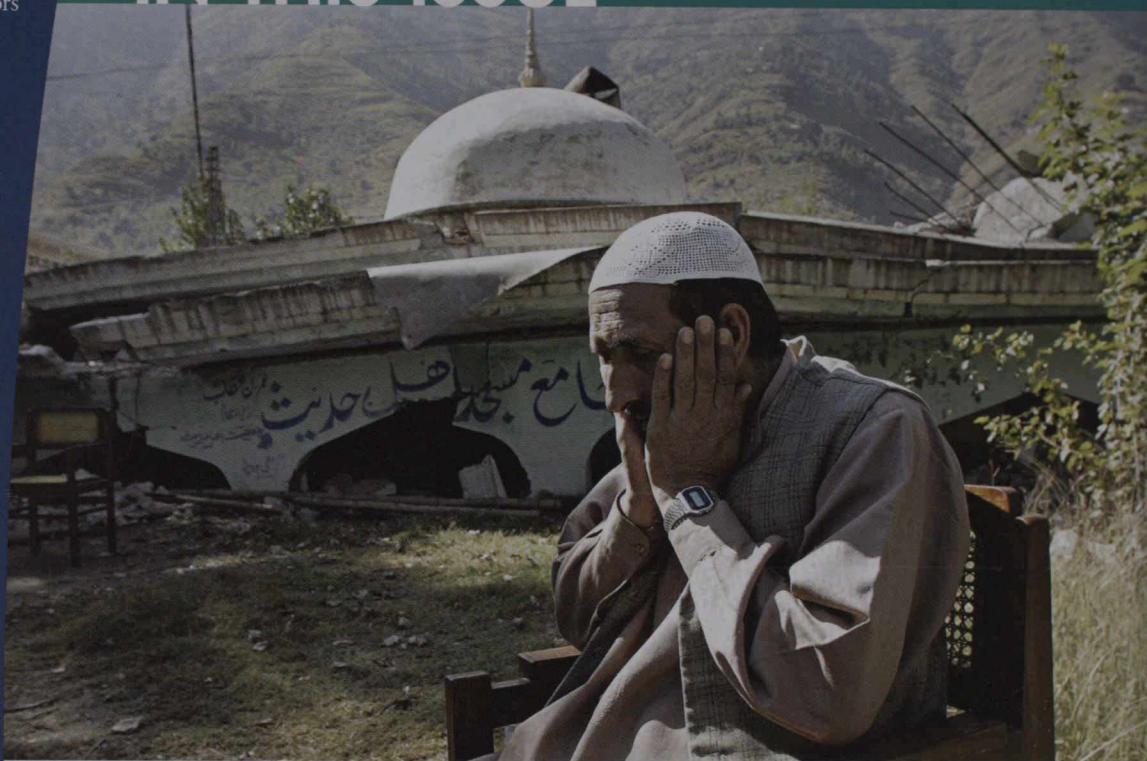
photo: Ben Rowswell, FAC

This page

Imam Fazul Rahman Osmani prays in front of his collapsed mosque in Garhi Dopatta, Pakistan. Osmani lost his five-year-old son when the mosque was destroyed in the earthquake that struck South Asia on October 8, 2005.

photo: CP (Ryan Remiorz)

IN THIS ISSUE



New Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.....	3
Cover Story: Profiles in the New Diplomacy	4
ViewPoint: A Life in the Service of Canada	7
In the Line of Duty.....	8
Diplomacy: Baghdad Days	9
First Impressions	11
Dispatches: Democracy on the Front Line.....	12
Development: Answering the Call	13
Defence: Prepared for Any Contingency.....	14
Culture: Rocking for a Cause in Pakistan	16
Youth: The Home Front.....	17
Disarming Africa—One Face at a Time.....	18



View US ON-LINE

Visit Canada World View at www.international.gc.ca/canada-magazine to find this issue electronically and order a subscription by e-mail.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Min. des Affaires étrangères

AVR 10 2006

ed over the years.” Since he began his assignment, he has received many congratulatory phone calls from foreign ministers throughout the world. I have been struck by their tremendous regard for Canadian diplomacy, for our efforts to build international law and respect for human rights, for our long tradition of peacekeeping and our current commitment in the much more challenging area of peacebuilding,” he said. “They expect Canada to stay engaged.”

David L. Emerson has been appointed Minister of International Trade and Minister of Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-

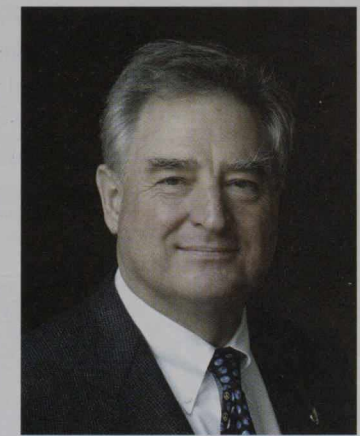


photo: ITCan

was first elected to Parliament in 1997 and re-elected in 2000, 2004 and 2006. He previously served as Progressive Conservative Party leader, House leader and was a member of the Standing Committee on Justice, Human Rights, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and its sub-committees. He has also been appointed Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Speaking at the memorial service for Glyn Berry in Ottawa in February, Mr. MacKay said that while he is new to Foreign Affairs Canada, he is “long familiar with the great service to Canada which our diplomats have

Minister Olympics.

Born in Montreal and raised in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Mr. Emerson attended the University of Alberta and obtained Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in economics, then received a doctorate in economics from Queen’s University. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and named Minister of Industry. He was re-elected in 2006. Mr. Emerson previously worked as chairman and CEO of Canadian Western Bank. Afterward, he became the Deputy Minister of Finance in British Columbia and later the Deputy Minister to the Premier. He was president of the B.C. Trade Development Corporation, president and CEO of the Vancouver Airport Authority and president and CEO of Canfor Corporation.

Mr. Emerson said he has a deep respect for the great responsibilities that fall under International Trade. “Canada is a trading nation with a core commitment to free and open trade, and a proud tradition of exporting our nation’s products around the world,” he said. “Indeed, Canada’s success in global commerce will determine our nation’s prosperity and our role on the international stage.”

International Trade Minister David L. Emerson: “Canada’s success in global commerce will determine our nation’s prosperity and our role on the international stage.”

For more information about the ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Trade visit www.international.gc.ca.



photo: CP (David Karp)

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay meets with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on March 10, 2006, in New York.

PROFILES IN THE NEW DIPLOMACY

The face of Canada's engagement abroad is changing. Creating a more secure world by responding to crises and disasters requires a more coordinated approach, new tools and resources—and a different kind of diplomat.

If ever there was a way to dispel the myth of the pampered, cloistered, sherry-sipping diplomat abroad, the reality of the Canadians responding to crises and disasters around the world is it. Far from the pinstripes-and-cocktail-party circuit, Canada's foreign service today increasingly deals with complex emergencies in some of the most turbulent places imaginable, organizing relief following devastating natural disasters and intervening

in fragile states that spawn lawlessness, terrorism and humanitarian atrocities.

Such conditions call for a new approach to diplomacy: one that is flexible and agile, and entails working closely across government and in concert with international partners. Those who practise it come not only from the traditional foreign ministry but include experts in stabilization and reconstruction from other departments and agencies, as well as citizens volunteering to observe the nascent manoeuvres of democracy. They face conflict and uncertainty, putting themselves in challenging situations in order to make a difference.

"In an increasingly interconnected world, we ultimately cannot be secure if others are not," says Ross Hynes,

Practical peacekeeping

As a junior diplomat on her first posting abroad to Zimbabwe in the early 1990s, Wendy Gilmour saw up close the effect that long-term international collaboration and links between civilians and the military could have on peacekeeping efforts. With a background in the Canadian reserves and serving concurrently as a political officer to Angola and Mozambique,

Gilmour found herself reporting on peacekeeping operations involving the Canadian Forces in both countries.

In Mozambique, she witnessed a success story, chiefly brought about by efforts to provide coherence between military, development and political elements in the resolution of the conflict, with the parties to the process committed to maintaining a lasting peace agreement. In Angola, a long-standing peacekeeping mission was ill-equipped in terms of both mandate and forces to hold in check a rebel

movement that was fuelled by the proceeds of conflict diamonds and unwilling to accept the results of a legitimate election. It would be another eight years before there would be lasting peace there.

For Gilmour, the events in the two countries proved the need to give peacekeepers robust mandates and long-term resources as well as to ensure civil-military cooperation on the ground. The experiences would also shape her career as a diplomat.

"It certainly whetted my appetite for being part of the international community engaged in implementing peace agreements, rather than just an observer," says Gilmour, 38, a native of the Ottawa area who is now Director of the Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Group and Director of the Sudan Task Force at FAC.

Gilmour's involvement in peacekeeping and peace support operations has led to assignments around the world, from postings in London and Nigeria to deployments in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Hungary and a 13-month secondment as the political advisor to the commander of the NATO force in Kosovo, where she lived in a tent. Today she oversees the Foreign Affairs role in peace operations in a number of places including Kandahar and Darfur.

Her goal, she says, is to make sure "everything we do has practical effect." That means "moving beyond rhetorical declarations and focusing on where the rubber hits the road."

"We're no longer the monitor of the schoolyard...It's not good enough just to stand and watch," Gilmour says. A diplomat's role in the field is to act as "orchestrator and author" of the peacekeeping operation, addressing the root causes of conflict and mediating to effect change, which increasingly leaves the foreign service and other actors in the line of fire.

"Our peacekeepers—civilian, military and police—are putting their lives on the line, because they're actively trying to promote something," she adds. "Everybody's at risk when they're doing this. But I would rather have our professionals out engaged constructively in these environments than wait for the risks to come to Canada." ■



Canadian diplomat Wendy Gilmour (centre) travels in the back of an army truck in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Director General and head of the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START), an initiative of Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) to gauge the extent of international crises and consolidate the government's response to them.

START brings together capabilities and resources to respond quickly when crises arise and provide leadership in coordinating Canada's efforts with international counterparts. Located in FAC, with staff and an advisory board drawn from across government, the task force brings new

tools and resources to promote faster, more efficient responses to complex emergencies as they occur.

"We are talking about providing the institutional memory, analytical capacity, forward-planning capability and coordinating function to make Canadian responses to crises more timely, more coherent and ultimately more effective in achieving our objectives," Hynes says.

Although it is not new, the incidence of state failure has been on the rise since the end of the Cold War. As the superpowers withdrew support from a number of

Standard operating procedures for crises

When disaster strikes somewhere in the world, a team of officers at Foreign Affairs Canada in Ottawa is among the first to know about it.

The Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Response Group is responsible for developing, monitoring and coordinating—along with other government departments—Canadian foreign policy on humanitarian affairs related to complex emergencies and natural disasters abroad.

The job has evolved over time, starting as a one-person portfolio set up in the late 1990s following Hurricane Mitch and a major earthquake in Turkey, becoming a three-person team in 2000 and growing to nine members this September.

"It's all about ensuring Canada's response to crises is timely and effective and that across the government we are able to draw on the right tools and have enough capacity to respond to such disasters," says Elissa Golberg, the director of the group, which is at the ready 24 hours a day. "Crises don't always happen between 9 and 5; inevitably they happen on weekends and on holidays, and they happen at night."

The frequency of such disasters, along with the resulting loss of life and severity of damage, has grown considerably, most notably in the last two years. The earthquake in Bam, Iran, on Boxing Day 2003 was followed by a series of major storms through the hurricane season of 2004, (including Hurricane Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne), the Indian Ocean tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, a major earthquake in Indonesia in April 2005 and a record hurricane season last year, with 26 major storms from May to December, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Stan and Wilma—punctuated by the devastating South Asia earthquake.

An officer from the disaster response group is always on call, and all are ready to be deployed overseas at a moment's notice. In significant disasters, FAC convenes a task force of government representatives to coordinate responses. The group works closely with key partners in other government

departments, in particular the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) International Humanitarian Assistance Division, which supports most of Canada's humanitarian aid in disasters, and the Peacekeeping Policy Unit at the Department of National Defence.

Catherine Godin, the group's deputy director, is especially familiar with the practical side of natural disasters, having worked temporarily for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sri Lanka last year during the tsunami and its aftermath. "If you are involved in humanitarian affairs, you want to be able to observe a crisis first-hand," she says.

Canada's involvement following disasters happens in phases, beginning with up-front support to large multilateral organizations such as the UN and Red Cross, as well as needs assessments, which are critical, Godin says. "There is a desire to do something, because we see people suffering out there, but doing something also means doing the right thing, not sending tents that are not winterized to places like Pakistan, because they will need to go through winter."

In between disasters, the group, which also includes Derry McDonnell, Brenda Yates and Celine Heinbecker, works on long-range efforts, from providing training and templates for missions reporting on emergencies to incorporating the "lessons learned" in each major disaster into standard operating procedures that set out the responsibilities for departments and agencies when a complex emergency happens, Golberg says. "When you have a disaster it's not the time to figure out who should be where."

Life for members of the group is hectic but fulfilling. "You cannot say in advance that there will be an earthquake next weekend: please don't make plans," Golberg adds. "These are people who are committed to their work and feel passionate about it." ■



Photo: Karen Foss/FAC

Damage in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami: 14 government departments in Canada responded to the disaster, while 53 consular officers were deployed to the region and 300 volunteers at headquarters in Ottawa handled more than 100,000 phone calls in two weeks.

countries in the developing world, internal challenges to stability soared, with groups fighting for control over valuable resources and the apparatus of the state itself, creating cycles of poverty, crime, corruption and authoritarianism. Conflicts fuelled by long-standing historical disputes, the re-emergence of ethnic rifts and the proliferation of secessionist movements caught countries and surrounding regions in a vortex of violence, conflict and human suffering.

Addressing the problem of failed states is a foreign policy priority internationally, with the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the UN developing new approaches to deal with reconstruction, stabilization and civilian crises.

Managing emergencies entails first focusing on prevention, identifying the early warning signs of states lurching toward crisis and understanding when and how to act to change the trajectory of escalation. When problems do erupt, rapid intervention and the right mix of assistance are crucial, especially in areas such as policing, demining and the re-establishment of courts, to protect people

and enable them to rebuild their lives. Finally, the re-establishment of post-conflict societies requires sufficient resources and time to allow for reconstruction, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

“Providing costly, long-term support—even in some cases putting Canadians in harm’s way—is not just a moral obligation, but a strategic imperative,” says James Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister of the International Security Branch and Political Director at FAC.

“If we are not immediately threatened by the collapse or implosion of these states, our values as Canadians and our responsibilities as global citizens must invariably compel us to action in the face of the victimization, human suffering and misery that are the inevitable result,” he adds. “We have a long way to go and the challenges are many, but we are making a difference.” ❁

For more information on Foreign Affairs Canada’s initiatives on global issues, peace and security, see www.international.gc.ca/foreign_policy/global_issues-en.asp.

Adding value to humanitarian missions

John Davison got the call last fall as he was settling into a new job as a deputy director in the Northern Europe Division at Foreign Affairs Canada in Ottawa. Canada’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) was preparing to respond

to the earthquake that had devastated northern Pakistan by providing clean water and medical care in the region. A diplomat was needed to provide political advice, analysis and support to the mission.

With experience serving at the High Commission of Canada to Pakistan and having worked through the aftermath of the 2003 earthquake in Bam, Iran, while posted to Tehran, Davison

was a good candidate for the task. He found himself on a flight to Pakistan a couple of days later.

For six weeks on the ground in Kashmir, Davison, along with Carmen Tremblay and Nancy Foster from CIDA, epitomized

the so-called “3-D approach,” bringing together defence, diplomacy and development capabilities to deal with the disaster.

“Our interest in the area was to be there to help and to make sure that our help was effective,” says Davison, 43, a native of Winnipeg. Trained as a historian and teacher, Davison worked for six years at Parks Canada before joining the foreign service in 1996.

His experience serving in Pakistan from 1997 to 2000 gave him a valuable understanding of the politics, history and culture of the earthquake area. As part of the DART mission, he was able to share his knowledge with his Canadian Forces colleagues while helping them to reach out to the local community in the Jhelum Valley where the DART was stationed.

Davison met with government officials and religious and community leaders to enhance their understanding of DART and support for its activities. All around him he saw devastation. Schools, mosques and homes perched on mountainsides were flattened, only their roofs intact. People were terrified to go into the few buildings that remained standing, frightened by the constant aftershocks—which left Davison equally disconcerted. “I could see the results of the quake all around us.”

The conditions were austere, with Davison sleeping on a cot in an army tent on the grounds of a girls’ school in Garhi Dopatta that had been damaged in the earthquake.

“I just had to walk down to the medical clinic to see the human consequences of the disaster, people who had walked kilometres down from the mountains to bring their kids in to be cared for by the Canadians,” he says. “I didn’t mend bones or provide clean water, but by giving advice based on my knowledge of the region to DART members, and through the connections I made in the local community, I played my part.” ■



John Davison at a collapsed secondary school where 30 students died when the earthquake struck.

A LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF CANADA

Peter Harder, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a eulogy for Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry that highlighted Mr. Berry's career, the demands of the foreign service and Canada's commitment in Afghanistan. Mr. Berry was tragically killed and three Canadian soldiers wounded in a terrorist attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on January 15, 2006. Mr. Berry joined the foreign service in 1977 and was posted to Norway, Washington, Cuba, London, Pakistan and Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Last summer, he was named Political Director of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (see *CWV Issue 27, Autumn 2005*). Mr. Harder was among those who paid tribute to Mr. Berry at a funeral with full military honours in London, England, on January 26. Mr. Berry was buried in his native Wales; he leaves his wife Valerie and sons Gareth and Rhys. The following excerpts Mr. Harder's remarks.



photo: EAC

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Peter Harder

The foreign service constitutes an extended family. In the course of a foreign service career, we work together and live together. Our children grow up together as we grow older together. Today, Canada's foreign service is serving in more and more dangerous places, and Glyn Berry's death reminds us that the obligations of family demand we do everything in our power to keep each other safe.

Glyn had a distinguished career, but it did not follow the normal trajectory. For most of us, the time of greatest adventure comes at the beginning of our professional lives. Then, over the years, we settle into a more comfortable pattern. As our careers advance, our memories of youthful excitement grow ever-more vivid. Younger colleagues look at us with a mixture of sympathy and amusement.

Not so with Glyn. Although he enjoyed all his assignments, it was really in his later postings that Glyn came into his own, when he discovered a subject equal to his great passion. We have a whole new lexicon to describe what we mean: fragile states; failing states; war-shattered societies trying to rebuild themselves.

Glyn saw the people behind the labels, the faces behind the slogans.

On taking up his posting in Pakistan in 1999, Glyn described a country of tremendous potential, but also one with far too much suffering brought about by weak governance and endless conflict. During those years, he also reported on Afghanistan, in the throes of Taliban misrule; the vast Afghan refugee population in Pakistan was a constant reminder of the human consequences of such ideologically driven folly.

After Pakistan, Glyn moved to our United Nations Mission in New York, where he chaired the working group of the UN peacekeeping committee. Glyn was instrumental in spreading the idea that, in today's world, the principal challenge is not peacekeeping, it is peacebuilding, the painstaking task of helping war-torn countries rebuild

their economies and strengthen vital state institutions such as the courts and police forces. It is complex and difficult work, and we cannot succeed unless we have people on the ground who can deliver the goods.

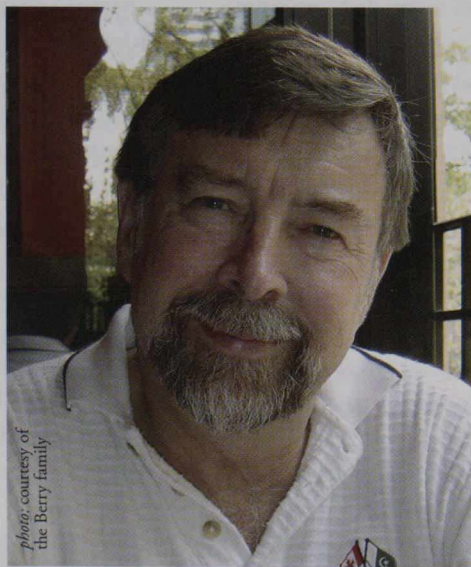


photo: courtesy of the Berry family

Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry in 2005 in New York while posted to Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He chaired the working group of the UN peacekeeping committee.



The new front line: Glyn Berry (in flak jacket) meets with local tribesmen in the Marouf district, a remote area of Afghanistan near the Pakistan border, 160 kilometres east of Kandahar city.

These people—diplomats, soldiers and aid workers—are the new front line in the struggle to help the most vulnerable and dispossessed people on the planet. They work under extreme circumstances, often in conditions of great danger. They need enormous reserves of compassion, commitment and courage.

Glyn Berry exemplified these qualities. His compassion for the people he met in Pakistan and Afghanistan defined the last years of his life. He volunteered for Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar because he felt deeply that the Afghan people deserve a better life.

Commitment was not an abstraction for Glyn. He believed that if you could help—if you wanted to help—then you should do so with real passion. He was passionately committed to the work he was doing in Kandahar. He could be a thorn in our side, demanding the support he needed to get the work done, but it was always about the work—it was never about himself.

As for his courage, we should think here of Winston Churchill's words: "Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities...because it is the quality which guarantees all others." Glyn was a brave man. Only weeks before the explosion that ended his life, he was in another convoy when a bomb went off. He was only five seconds away from the centre of the blast. Glyn did not flinch. He did not waver in his commitment, nor did his compassion for the Afghan people ebb away as he considered the dangers around him. He stayed on.

He was aware of the risks. So were we. He volunteered in spite of them, eyes wide open. Assisting Afghans was a cause he and we thought worthy. He did a great job. We never thought it would be otherwise.

Nobody could have been more dedicated to the people of Afghanistan than he was. But the strength of Glyn's commitment and the generosity of his beliefs do not lessen the grief that we, in the Canadian foreign service, feel at a human life of such value extinguished.

There is an old Welsh proverb that says: "The best candle is understanding." Glyn

understood that each and every one of us can make a difference, and his life will serve as a candle to the Canadian foreign service now and in

the future, especially to those younger than he. He has shown us that the foreign service is more than just a job, and that our individual efforts can add up to something worthwhile, something noble, something that changes lives for the better and brings honour and distinction to the country we are privileged to serve. 🍁

"Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities... because it is the quality which guarantees all others."

Find information about Canada's efforts in Afghanistan at www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca.

In the line of duty

Canadian foreign service officers killed abroad in the line of duty in the past include John Douglas Turner, the political advisor to the Canadian commissioner on the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC) in Vietnam. Turner was shot down on October 18, 1965, while travelling on an ICSC airplane from Vientiane to his post in Hanoi. His body was never recovered.

Another Canadian official killed while serving overseas was J.M. Boyer, an assistant trade commissioner who was killed during anti-Western riots in Cairo on January 26, 1952.

There are plans to place a plaque in the foyer of the Lester B. Pearson Building in Ottawa to commemorate those who have died under tragic circumstances while serving Canada abroad. The memorial is meant to honour the lives of these people and the sacrifices they made in the service of Canada.

BAGHDAD DAYS

For Canadian diplomats posted to Iraq, work and life are tough but “addictive.”

They work in a conflict zone, spending gruelling hours on the job and living for months in cramped quarters away from home and family. Yet for the Canadian diplomats who have served in Baghdad over the last three years, the posting comes with challenging work opportunities, intense personal experiences, a curious social scene and a sense of meaning far beyond what most diplomatic positions offer.

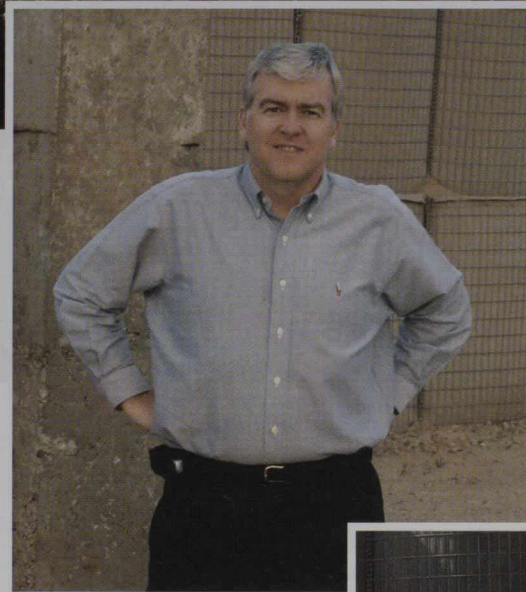
“It was the best job I’ve had in the foreign service,” says Ben Rowswell, 35, who has been posted twice to Baghdad since 2003. “I felt as though I was watching the history of the 21st century unfold before my very eyes.”

Canada’s diplomatic presence in Iraq was cut to a minimum during the last decade of Saddam Hussein’s regime, with officials based in neighbouring Amman, Jordan, travelling to the country as the situation and needs warranted.

Following the coalition-led invasion of Iraq, Canada undertook a slow return, with at least one Canadian representative on duty in Baghdad, sharing office and living space inside the International or Green Zone and acting as liaison officer, carrying out Canada’s mandate to promote good governance, democratic reform, the rule of law and human rights.

“It’s in our longer-term interests to see a stable and prosperous and free Iraq,” says John Holmes, the Canadian Ambassador to Jordan who last summer was appointed “non-resident” Ambassador to Iraq, re-establishing a Canadian embassy there and overseeing the delivery of Canada’s \$300-million program to support Iraq’s reconstruction and transition to democracy. “The instability of Iraq, including its increasing use by terrorist networks, threatens not only Iraq itself, but the immediate region and the whole world.”

Rowswell, the first Canadian posted to Baghdad after the formal end of hostilities in August 2003, learned to improvise from the moment his plane landed and there was no one to meet him. “I basically had to hitch a ride from Baghdad airport,” he remembers. When he returned for a second stint from August 2004 to June 2005, things had changed significantly: Security requirements today



▲ Canadian diplomats lived in 2003 and 2004 in trailers outside of Saddam Hussein’s Republican Palace, now home to the U.S. Embassy.

◀ Canadian Ambassador John Holmes: “It’s in our longer-term interests to see a stable and prosperous and free Iraq.”

mean flying from the airport terminal to the Green Zone in military helicopters.

The work of successive Canadian diplomats in Baghdad has required ambition, dedication and creativity. “Other than the fact I had an office waiting for me and a trailer to live in, there was no set of rules I had to follow,” Rowswell says.

His most rewarding experience was watching the first Iraqi election of January 30, 2005, unfold. Rowswell’s job was to assist the International Mission for Iraqi Elections, an organization chaired by Elections Canada that oversaw the vote and certified its validity. “It was astonishing, given the fear and the very palpable atmosphere of violence, to see 8.5 million people come out to vote in an election that was credible, free and fair,” says Rowswell, who has a framed copy of a ballot from that day on his wall at Foreign Affairs Canada in Ottawa, where he is now a policy advisor on global issues. “I felt proud that Canada contributed to that.”

Indeed, many of the Canadian envoys sent to Iraq have been young officers taking on senior duties they might not otherwise have expected so early in their careers.

“Professionally, it was an incomparable experience,” says Erin Dorgan, 28, who was in Iraq from June to September last year to witness the drafting of the country’s new constitution. “I learned more in those few short



▲ Elizabeth Williams, Canada’s head of aid for Iraq, wearing a flak jacket.



Better times: Éric Mercier stands in 2002 in the Hay al-Mansour neighbourhood where Canadian diplomats stayed. The area is now considered unsafe for foreigners.



A photo taken in October 2003 from a bombed-out building shows the Republican Palace topped by busts of Saddam Hussein in the distance.

months than I had in my whole five years in the foreign service before that.” Dorgan found herself serving, for example, at a meeting with top Iraqi officials, ambassadors from the United States and Britain, and a high-level UN representative.

The lessons of Baghdad were not limited to world politics, however. “I learned more about generators than I ever thought possible,” Dorgan says, explaining that she had to repair and then replace the generator for the building that will house Canada’s embassy.

Elizabeth Williams, 33, who has served since last August as Canada’s head of aid for Iraq, says young diplomats find that with so much autonomy, “it’s a bit of an addictive environment.” Day-to-day life is a surreal mix of hardship and comfort, flak jackets, helmets and elaborate social events. “We do make fun,” says Williams, who celebrated last Canada Day at a party in the new embassy property. There have been two balls hosted by the British, she adds. “Who would have thought you’d need a fancy dress in Baghdad?”

Daniel Maksymiuk, 29, spent the first week of his five-month posting in mid-2004 as an advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Planning sleeping on a cot in a ballroom of Saddam Hussein’s Republican Palace. Then he moved to a shared trailer in what had been its orchard.

Those posted in the early days lived in relative comfort in trailers with windows; by the time Rowswell arrived for his second tour of duty, he found himself doubling up in a windowless container tucked inside a covered parking garage surrounded by blast walls and sandbags. “We had concrete all around us in every single direction.”

It was probably just as well: Éric Mercier, 46, who served in Baghdad from September 2003 to February 2004, recalls that some 19 trailers were punctured by

bullets in the early days he was there. When he arrived the Coalition Provisional Authority was busy planning the country’s reconstruction, but within three weeks, “the shelling—and the serious insurrection—began and never stopped.”

After that, much effort focused on counter-insurgency and moving to safer ground, he says. “Working to establish Canada’s presence in postwar Iraq meant getting used, so to speak, to having missiles and mortar shells thrown in your general direction at dusk and dawn, three to four times a week.”

Concerns about security have increased over time, says Ambassador Holmes. “Security affects everything Iraq wants to do, it affects everything we want to do, it affects the daily lives of ordinary Iraqis.”

Working in such an environment can be frustrating—but also humorous at times. When Maksymiuk wanted to meet with an Iraqi government minister in the so-called Red Zone beyond the international quarter, it required making arrangements with a private security firm. “They would provide two armoured trucks and five or six fellows with weapons and they would plan the route and so forth.”

The security detail ended up taking him to the wrong minister, but, having just arrived in Baghdad, Maksymiuk didn’t realize it. He argued his way into the official’s office and had spent half an hour making his case when his phone rang. “The incoming call was from the minister I was supposed to be seeing. I had a horrible feeling come over me: Who am I talking to?”

Maksymiuk quickly concluded the meeting without letting on that he was with the wrong person. “The bodyguards thought it was tremendously funny and later that day we were able to find the correct minister, who also thought it was funny.”



Watching history unfold: Éric Mercier took this picture in late 2003 as one of the giant busts of Saddam Hussein was removed from the Republican Palace.

Mike Elliott, 34, who left his wife and baby daughter in Tel Aviv, where he was posted, when he went to Iraq for two months in early 2004, says that Baghdad is “a tough assignment—though not as tough in some ways as people might think.” The Americans especially see to creature comforts, for example offering grits, ice cream and a salad bar at meals.

Special amenities and social activities provide momentary relief amid the constant danger and restrictions, says Williams. “Everybody is aware of the risk of something happening.”

Inside the Green Zone, “you feel more or less safe,” says Rowswell. “The problem is that you feel suffocated.” He coped by writing, keeping physically active, and maintaining contact with family and friends by phone and email. “In some ways you feel as if you’re at the centre of the world, because you open a newspaper every single day and it’s about where you live.”

Ambassador Holmes says the risks in Baghdad are real. In late February while he was stationed there, a rocket landed in the compound where Canada’s diplomats live and work, falling metres from the main building. Luckily, it failed to explode and no one was injured.

Still, he adds, the situation is slowly improving. “Although there is a tremendous amount yet to do, I remain always optimistic.” The Canadians who have served in Baghdad “are outstanding, dedicated and brave representatives of their country. I am proud to have worked with them all.”

For those who have left Baghdad, making the transition has not been easy, Rowswell says, although many have gone on to other exacting assignments in places such as Kandahar, Damascus and Algeria. “There’s a real sense of meaning to your life when you are out there making a difference.” 🍁

First impressions

Canadian diplomat Erin Dorgan was posted to Baghdad from July to September 2005. These were among her first impressions recorded in the days following her arrival in Iraq:

Landing in Baghdad

The corkscrew landing was very steep and somewhat dizzying, but it gave a great view of Baghdad. My first impression was of barbed wire, blast-walls and Blackhawk helicopters flying low. Iraq is clearly and unambiguously a conflict zone.

The airport

I arrived in the civilian terminal, which was packed with heavily armed western security guards. The electricity went off as the baggage was coming off the conveyer belt, plunging us into darkness and spurring passengers to tussle and scavenge for bags in the pitch black.

Transport into the city

We took British Puma helicopters to the International Zone. The helicopter bridge gives an incredibly close, intrusive view of Baghdad and people’s lives. We were flying so close that we could see what people were eating for dinner and what they were watching on television. When they looked up at the loud helicopters right above them, we would make eye contact.

Working at the Republican Palace

Saddam Hussein’s old palace is, not surprisingly, huge and grand, with high ceilings and airy halls, marble and chandeliers. The mess hall where I eat is a remarkable sight, with hundreds of heavily armed soldiers eating cheap processed food on plastic plates (no recycling here!) in a grand, high-ceilinged ballroom. There are ubiquitous signs reminding us to clear our guns before sitting down to eat.

The social scene

Social status here is based on badges. Generally the more you have, the more important you are. Guns also help. Some of the foreigners here are deeply committed to trying to make Iraq a better place. Others are drawn to the promise of danger pay. All of the long-timers talk matter-of-factly about having lost civilian colleagues.

Serving in Iraq was “an incomparable experience” for Canadian diplomat Erin Dorgan.



photo: courtesy of Erin Dorgan, FIC

DEMOCRACY ON THE FRONT LINE

Nahlah Ayed is CBC Television's correspondent in Beirut. Ayed, 35, joined the CBC in November 2002 and moved to Jordan. She immediately travelled to Iraq to cover the lead-up to the war there, returning to report on the day Baghdad fell as well as the war's aftermath. Ayed is an award-winning former parliamentary correspondent for The Canadian Press who covered the war in Afghanistan. A native of Winnipeg, she is fluent in Arabic.

Covering a federal election campaign in Canada is an assignment like no other. One morning after the writ is dropped, you hand your life over to a party leader's campaign, say goodbye to your friends and disappear.

As I packed my bag in 2000 for my first campaign, I was enthralled. This was one of the most coveted experiences on Parliament Hill and, finally, I was getting my chance. But what appeared to be a plum assignment came with a heavy price: a gruelling schedule with little sleep, constant filing of stories, and more "wheels-up" on flights than I cared to count.

But as I was to learn much later, those were carefree days indeed.

Five years on I found myself reporting on a campaign of a very different kind. There were no velvet ropes, no rallies, no campaign planes or buses.

Last December 15, wearing a flak jacket and accompanied by armed security guards, I walked to a polling station in Iraq to cover the election of the country's first permanent government since Saddam Hussein was ousted. The situation in Baghdad is so tenuous that the closest the candidates could get to campaigning was putting ads on television and plastering the city with posters. Young men brave enough to distribute handbills for their favourite party did so with guns strapped to their sides.

The closest we got was a hurried interview in the garden outside our hotel with a politician named Mithal al-Alusi, a Sunni Iraqi whose optimism is rare in Baghdad. In his efforts to win influence in Iraq's new political reality, he's had 14 attempts on his life and lost two of his sons. But he still ran in the election, defying what appeared to be a determined effort to stop him in his tracks. Though he looked the part—in a sleek suit, carrying even sleeker business cards—this was a politician the likes of which I had never seen.

Over the past three years living in the Middle East, I've covered several elections that were very different from our own and that challenged my narrow definition of political reporting.

I watched as a group of supporters of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sat in the foyer of a Cairo polling station last September singing slogans for the long-sitting president, while local election observers were barred from entry.

I frowned at the incongruity of a tank parked for security reasons outside a polling station in downtown Beirut on a sunny day last spring during Lebanon's elections. The Canadian election observers walking out of there looked entirely out of place next to a fully armed company of soldiers.



Photo: courtesy of the CBC

The CBC's Beirut correspondent Nahlah Ayed: People in the region "showed an unmistakable willingness to embrace the democratic process."

And I listened incredulously to a well-educated official in Saudi Arabia politely explain in late 2004 why the country's conservative society was not yet ready for the inclusion of women in the upcoming municipal elections.

But after turning these episodes over in my head, I began to see them differently. Iraq's election—for which the entire country had to be shut down for security reasons—attracted nearly 70 percent of eligible voters. Egypt's was the first multiple-candidate presidential election since Mubarak assumed power 24 years ago, and public criticism of his regime was aired. Lebanon's vote was the first in 30 years held without Syria's political influence. And Saudi Arabia's municipal elections have been hailed as the beginning of an expanded democratic process in which women are eventually expected to participate.

None of these elections resembled anything we in the West would define as ordinary, and some were designed to ensure a specific outcome. But to varying degrees, the people in these countries showed an unmistakable willingness to embrace the democratic process. That came through loud and clear—even without the lawn signs, rallies and campaign planes I once thought elections couldn't do without. 🌱

ANSWERING THE CALL

Canadians from all walks of life are volunteering to help strengthen governance in developing countries around the world.

When the Canadian government looked for volunteers to help observe the repeat presidential election in Ukraine over Christmas in 2004, more than 4,000 Canadians came forward for the job. Following training in election observation, regional history, politics and intercultural effectiveness, a delegation of 463 people, led by former prime minister John Turner, was deployed across Ukraine in 20 teams. By taking part in the historic event, they had a chance to watch—and support—democracy in action.

The eight-day mission marked the inaugural deployment by Canada Corps, an initiative of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that allows Canadians to travel to developing countries and fragile states and help all levels of government work in a more honest, effective and accountable way. Through Canada Corps, seasoned development veterans and enthusiastic youth alike offer their skills and expertise around the world to support democracy and human rights, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, entrepreneurship and gender equality. And they're willing to do so in insecure places.

"Canadians are eager to share their knowledge with other countries," says Claire Dansereau, Vice-President of Canada Corps at CIDA. "Their experiences abroad not only benefit developing countries by supporting good governance, they also enrich their own personal and professional lives. These people truly become part of our global community."

Since that first send-off of volunteers to Ukraine, Canada Corps has deployed Canadians to observe elections in a number of trouble spots, including Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon and Haiti. A team of 58 Canadians stepped forward to observe the Palestinian Legislative Council elections that took place on January 25. In that vote, as in many others in regions of instability, every precaution was taken to ensure that observers were out of harm's way, and a team of 58 Canadians stepped forward to the task.

"They did it for something they believed in," says Paul Adams, a former Middle East correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*, now teaching at Carleton University, who headed the Canadian observer mission.

"They found joy and satisfaction and excitement in witnessing a free and open democratic process conducted under difficult circumstances."

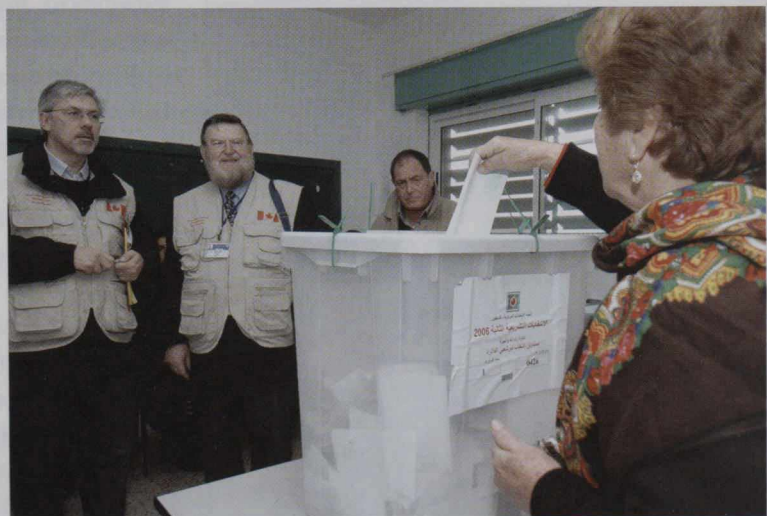
For long-term observers, such assignments begin well in advance of the election, with observing the registration of voters and candidates. Short-term observers sent prior to the vote focus on election day, watching for transparency and



Democracy in action: A delegation of Canadians observed the repeat presidential election in Ukraine over Christmas 2004.

fair access to the ballot box and reporting their observations.

While observing elections is one area of focus for Canada Corps, the initiative, which employs a whole-of-government approach to policies and programs that affect developing countries, also supports a variety of other efforts centred on governance, from strengthening human rights in tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia to building the capacity of youth fighting HIV/AIDS in Lesotho.



Paul Adams (left) headed the Canadian observer mission in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections that took place in January.

Engaging young people in international issues is also a priority for Canada Corps, with programs aimed at harnessing the energy of young Canadians who have a desire to gain international experience and make a difference in the world.

A program managed by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, for example, allows about 100 senior university students to experience governance issues first-hand while earning an academic credit. Through the program, four students at the University of Toronto helped develop a project with the University of Prishtina in Kosovo to strengthen student government and develop

practical skills in conflict resolution. A series of workshops brought together students, faculty, administration and the non-governmental community to discuss the role of student government within the university, and

to explore ways to apply Canadian experiences to the Kosovo context. "We worked with them to create an ideal student government," says Ericka Stephens, a former student government president, "one that was independent and autonomous, as well as accessible and understandable to students."

At workshops held in Montenegro, Macedonia and Toronto, the Canadian students gave their Kosovo counterparts lots of ideas. The sharing went both ways, Stephens adds, which is the essence of the international exchange. "We learned what we had in common, and what was different," she says, "And how we could each take from those experiences." ❁

PREPARED FOR ANY CONTINGENCY

On the 50th anniversary of international peacekeeping, some 2,800 Canadian soldiers are stationed around the world in hot spots such as Haiti.

The staging of February's presidential and parliamentary elections in Haiti was an organizational feat unlike any Colonel Barry MacLeod had seen as a soldier in the Canadian Forces. First there were security issues caused by gangs and political agitators threatening to disrupt the vote. Then there was the logistical ordeal of coping with the country's difficult terrain and complex social and technical conditions.

Col. MacLeod's experience with elections in the past had been limited to casting a ballot. But as general manager of the Elections Assistance Task Force at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), his job was to plan, organize and direct all UN logistical and security support for the elections, including the distribution and recovery of all electoral materials. His team saw to it that the vote so critical to Haiti's nation-building was successfully concluded despite the many challenges.

"Roads here are terrible; we got the elections material to where it had to be by all means of transportation," he says. "We used vehicles; we used coast guard vessels; we used dugout canoes; we used donkeys; we used horses; we used porters and we used helicopters."

On election day, people were still voting when night fell, Col. MacLeod

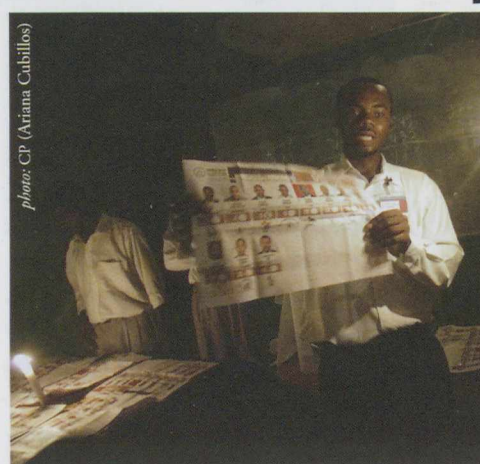


photo: CP (Ariana Cubillos)
Election workers count ballots by candlelight in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

says, but with no electricity in huge areas of the country, the election day package included three candles per polling station. "You can't send batteries out with flashlights, because the batteries would be either pilfered or burned out before the time to use them," he says.

Col. MacLeod is among a half-dozen Canadian soldiers who are serving as key members of the United Nations-sponsored mission to Haiti.

Since four Canadian military officers were sent to Kashmir as part of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan in 1949 and the first official international peacekeeping force responded to the Suez Crisis of 1956, Canadian military personnel have regularly taken part in all manner of difficult assignments abroad. There have been missions to observe elections, implement peace settlements, support aid and human rights efforts and undertake civilian tasks such as police training.

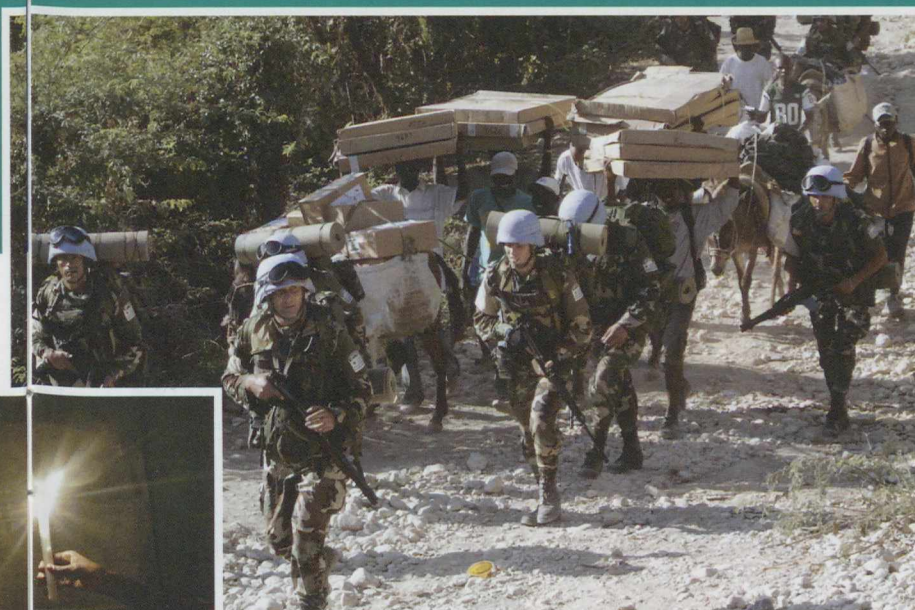


photo: CP (Ariana Cubillos)

Organizational feat: Uruguayan peacekeepers protect electoral materials being carried by donkey to the small town of Michelle in northeast Haiti.

The number of Canadian Forces personnel involved in operational missions around the world varies and today stands at more than 2,800, says Colonel Denis Thompson,

Director of Peacekeeping Policy for the Department of National Defence in Ottawa.

They serve in a wide range of capacities. The largest mission is in Afghanistan, where more than 2,200 members of the Canadian military are stationed, largely in conjunction with the country's commitment to the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar. But Canadians are also serving in small numbers in Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, the Middle East, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Ethiopia.

For example, 11 Canadian Forces members are stationed in Sierra Leone, teaching the army there how to work with the country's civilian authority, Col. Thompson says. Another 13 Canadian soldiers are working in the office of Afghan President Hamid Karzai providing training in strategic planning.

"Some missions involve capacity building and some literally involve answering the call of the UN," Col. Thompson says, adding that

missions usually last six months to a year. Canadians tend to get high-profile positions, he says, because of Canada's experience and the quality of Canadian officers.

In Haiti, for example, Col. MacLeod served for eight months in 2004 as the chief of staff of MINUSTAH, for which he was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Decoration by Governor General Michaëlle Jean. He returned three months ago as the general manager of the Elections Assistance Task Force at the request of the special representative of the secretary general. The current chief of staff, Colonel Michel Duhamel, is also a Canadian. Col. Duhamel is effectively third in command of the international security operation in the country, which involves 7,500 soldiers from some 20 countries.

"The challenge with Haiti is the complexity of the mission, where many national and international players and interests converge," says Col. Duhamel. "Haiti is like a pot of boiling stew on a hot stove. The military can keep the pot from exploding, but only political and socio-economic solutions can turn the heat down." He explained that some of the countries involved in MINUSTAH have never before contributed military contingents to international missions. In addition,

the UN force there does not have free rein but must support and collaborate with the Haitian police force.

Col. Duhamel says the UN force ends up doing work considered too dangerous for the Haitian police—such as patrolling in the notorious Cité Soleil district of Port-au-Prince. It also steps in at demonstrations and armed confrontations.

During the recent vote, in addition to logistical problems, the UN forces had difficulty ensuring basic security for more than 800 voting centres, especially with gangs present and assaults on voting centres in some remote areas, Col. MacLeod adds. "In order to deliver material to such places you have to have a strong security force." ❁

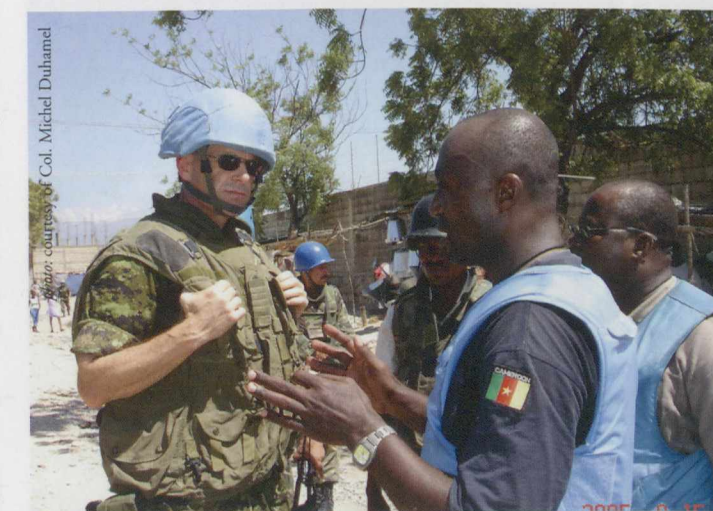


photo: courtesy of Col. Michel Duhamel
Colonel Michel Duhamel (left) from Canada is chief of staff of the international security operation in Haiti, which involves 7,500 soldiers from some 20 countries.

photo: Ericka Stephens



Students from Canada and Kosovo worked together to strengthen student governance at the University of Prishtina.

ROCKING FOR A CAUSE IN PAKISTAN

A Canadian icon lends his talents to reconstruction in a devastated region.

Canada's Bryan Adams brought his music and compassion to Karachi, Pakistan, in January, thrilling a crowd of more than 10,000 at a concert that raised funds and awareness to help rebuild schools damaged in last October's massive earthquake.

The rock star performed some songs alongside popular Pakistani singer Shehzad Roy, who had invited him to the charity event for the Zindagi Trust, which helps to build schools for disadvantaged children, especially those living in the earthquake area of northern Pakistan.

Young fans singing along to the Canadian pop star's songs and sporting buttons declaring "I Rock for a Cause" cheered when told that ticket

sales would go toward building or rebuilding some 20 schools, and were treated to a fireworks display that lit up the night sky.

Adams said he was glad to discover new fans in Pakistan and to support the troubled region.

"I am here to perform for humanity," he told a news conference, adding that singing in Pakistan's largest city was "very exciting on many levels.... We are the first western artists to come and play a big concert here." He said he was pleased to be given the opportunity to raise some money to rebuild schools damaged in the earthquake. "The perception around the world right now of Pakistan obviously is a country in need of help, and as a Canadian I am very happy and very proud to be part of this."

David Collins, the Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, said the rock star "is a Canadian icon of whom we are very proud," not only for his music and celebrity photography but also his philanthropy.

"Bryan Adams is but one example of the thousands of individual Canadians who have responded to the earthquake with their own personal contributions to charitable and aid organizations, who are able to make a real difference in the lives of the survivors," Mr. Collins said.

The 7.6-magnitude earthquake that struck South Asia on October 8, 2005, killed more than 73,000 people, destroying roads and schools and leaving nearly three million homeless.

The Government of Canada responded quickly and generously to the tragedy, with support geared to



photo: Reuters (Zahid Hussein)

Music and compassion: Canadian rock star Bryan Adams acknowledges the crowd during the benefit concert in Karachi.

meet urgent relief and early recovery needs. To date, Canada has contributed more than \$77 million, including deploying the Disaster Assistance Response Team to the affected area to provide clean water and primary health care and other assistance in the first weeks following the disaster.

Zindagi Trust said that it hoped to raise 20 million rupees (\$400,000) through the rock concert to build and rebuild schools. Salman Iqbal, president of the local television channel ARY Digital and organizer of the charity event, said that the concert also had symbolic meaning. "Music is something that can bring countries and cultures together." 🍁

**Learn more about
Canada's High
Commission in Pakistan
at www.international.gc.ca/islamabad and the Zindagi
Trust at www.zindagitrust.org.**



Popular Pakistani singer Shehzad Roy (left) invited Bryan Adams to the charity event for the Zindagi Trust, which helps to build schools for disadvantaged children, especially those living in the earthquake area of northern Pakistan.

photos: CP (Adnan Ali)

THE HOME FRONT

A Canadian aid worker found he needed to come home to change the world.

Daniel Germain's mission to help the world's children began almost two decades ago on a mountain of garbage in Mexico City that stretched almost as far as he could see.

He watched in horror as kids scrambled from flimsy cardboard homes tucked amid the stinking trash toward trucks unloading yet more garbage.

"They were jumping on the back of the trucks and they started digging as quickly as they could," Germain remembers. The image of the young people frantically unearthing scraps to eat and other castoffs "really shook me...It's unbelievable that as a society we let those things happen."

What he saw that day in 1989 at the age of 26 transformed Germain, a Montreal native who was in Mexico helping aid groups there.

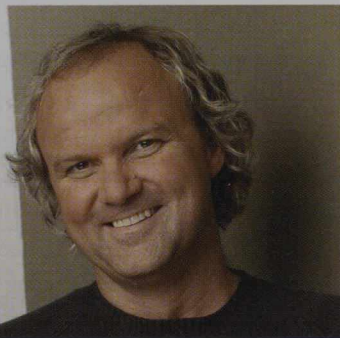
"I always had from that point on a sense of destiny," he says. "I wanted to change the world of children."

Germain brought that determination back to Canada, where he founded an organization to provide hot breakfasts to underprivileged schoolchildren in Quebec. He's now working to expand his successful formula across the country and out into the world.

The accomplishments are all the more amazing given Germain's own childhood. He spent years in foster care and was often in trouble as a teen, culminating with getting arrested for bringing drugs into the United States in his early 20s.

The time in Mexico represented the start of Germain's search for a more meaningful life. He spent several

photo: courtesy of Club des petits déjeuners du Québec



Seeing the condition of poor children abroad prompted Daniel Germain to start the organization providing hot breakfasts to underprivileged schoolchildren in Quebec.

years working with non-governmental organizations there and in Haiti and had every intention of continuing his overseas work when a question from a development worker stopped him in his tracks. She applauded his efforts abroad, but urged him to describe what he was doing in his own country.

Initially insulted, Germain gradually came to see her point. "It was impossible to have a vision for the world if you don't have a vision for your home."

He started the Club des petits déjeuners du Québec (Quebec Breakfast Club) in 1994 in one primary school. Today, the group operates in almost 200 schools, feeding and working to boost the self-esteem of 14,000 children in the province. It has also attracted private sponsors such as the National Bank of Canada and the Couche-Tard chain of stores. Germain recently established Breakfast Clubs of Canada to bring together and expand the 2,400 different



photo: Marie-Reine Mittera

school meal programs across the country. One million Canadian kids arrive at school with empty bellies but only a quarter of them receive food there, he says.

The Quebec club's success has caught the eye of the World Food Programme (WFP), which feeds 16 million schoolchildren in some 50 countries. Arlene Mitchell, a director of the WFP in Rome, says the United Nations agency has spoken with Germain about collaborating to help more of the world's 300 million hungry children, and worked with his club last year on a charity walk to fight hunger.

"The club is doing some things that are somewhat unique and we sought to learn ... whether they might be applicable to programs elsewhere," Mitchell says.

The WFP is particularly interested in the fact that the group gets much of its funding from private contributions, while most programs worldwide rely on government sources, Mitchell says. As well, it is the only program she knows of that has activities aimed at building self-esteem. ♣

Find out more about the Club des petits déjeuners du Québec at www.clubdejeuners.org.

Nourishing young minds: A student at École Ste-Claire de Brossard in Montrael has breakfast provided by the Club des petits déjeuners du Québec.

DISARMING AFRICA ONE FACE AT A TIME

Diplomat Bob Fowler has a passion for Africa. As he retires after almost four decades in Canada's foreign service, he takes with him more than just memories.

Diplomacy is all about words, but sometimes pictures do speak louder. As evidence, one need look no further than the office of Bob Fowler, Canada's Ambassador to Italy and the Prime Minister's

Personal Representative for Africa. The white-washed room in a former seniors' residence in Rome is lined with more than 100 framed photographs taken by Mr. Fowler around the world. From many of them gaze the faces of Africans pictured in some of the most dangerous and destitute regions of the continent. Yet these faces reveal more hope than hardship, more pride than privation. They are images that reflect Mr. Fowler's passion for Africa, and for capturing through photography the strength and dignity of those who live there.

In a foreign service career that has spanned almost four decades, Mr. Fowler has travelled to most parts of the world, "including some of our time's

most appalling circumstances," witnessing the ravages of civil war, genocide and grinding poverty in places such as Somalia, Rwanda, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, northern Uganda and Darfur. Yet, at 61, and planning for retirement this summer, he looks back on a multi-faceted life reflected in the faces of his pictures.

"Through photography, I've sought to explore who we are, where and how we live, what unites and divides us, and to celebrate the indomitable human spirit," he says.

Mr. Fowler has worn many hats that have allowed him to combine the two deep interests he's had since he was a teenager: a fascination with Africa and an equally intense ardour for photography.

Born in Ottawa and raised in Montreal, in 1968 Mr. Fowler travelled to Central Africa to teach English at the new Université nationale du Rwanda in Butare. It was a position in which he says he learned much more than he taught. And it was there he caught "the Africa bug."

Although he is inextricably linked to Africa, he has never been posted there. He joined Canada's foreign service in 1969 and had assignments in Paris and two postings to Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, but also held a number of senior positions in Ottawa, including serving in the Privy Council Office from 1980 to 1986 as Foreign



Faces of hope: Canadian Ambassador Bob Fowler visits a refugee camp near Gulu in northern Uganda.

Policy Advisor to prime ministers Pierre Trudeau, John Turner and Brian Mulroney. He was Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy) in the Department of National Defence from 1986 to 1989, and Deputy Minister of Defence from 1989 to 1995.

But Africa has always beckoned. As Canada's Ambassador to the UN from 1995 to 2000, he travelled widely there as chair of the Angola Sanctions Committee, participating in the successful effort to bring the 25-year-old civil war that had devastated Angola to an end.

His assignment as Ambassador to Italy (as well as Albania, Malta and tiny San Marino) in late 2000 meant that he would continue to travel widely on the continent as Canada's permanent representative to the UN agencies based in Rome: the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Nine months after being posted to Italy, Mr. Fowler was appointed as the Prime Minister's G8 Personal Representative (Sherpa), requiring him to return to Canada for a year to prepare and organize the June 2002 Kananaskis Summit. "Double-hatted"

as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for Africa, he led the development of the G8 Africa Action Plan

adopted at Kananaskis, which contained 110 commitments undertaken by the G8 in response to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African-led, visionary initiative aimed at achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction in partnership with the international community.

On his return to Rome in July 2002, he continued to play a large role in African affairs, still acting as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for Africa and representing Canada at the Africa Partnership Forum, which brings together high-level representatives from Africa and the G8 and other donors and agencies to monitor the implementation of commitments made in relation to NEPAD.

Last May he was named head of the Prime Minister's Special Advisory Team on Sudan, which included senators Mobina Jaffer and Roméo Dallaire. The team has coordinated and developed Canada's effort to resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur, where hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and nearly half the population now lives in camps. Mr. Fowler spent a month last year travelling in all three Darfuri states and eastern Chad to assess the situation and report back to the Prime Minister. As the effort to bring peace to Darfur continues,

he has worked with partner countries, the UN and the African Union to establish an effective ceasefire and a durable peace through inter-factional negotiations.

Mr. Fowler has taken a particular interest in the ravages of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the links between the disease, drought and food insecurity in southern Africa. He has also promoted efforts to put an end to the actions of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, which, in addition to exacerbating the crisis in Sudan, have resulted in the abduction of more than 30,000 children and condemned 1.7 million people—90 percent of the northern Ugandan population—to living in squalid, largely forgotten and under-supported refugee camps.

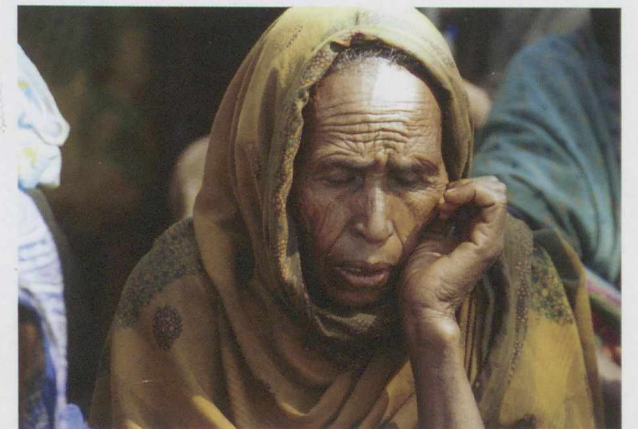
Through it all he takes photos, although he says he has "not sought to chronicle the immediate horror of such situations," leaving that to other, "braver" photojournalists.

He and his wife Mary, an employee of the Canadian International Development Agency who headed the UN Mine Action Unit in New York and now manages grants and trust funds for the World Food Programme, have four grown daughters whom he says "have inherited our fascination with peoples, cultures and environments." They also have two grandchildren and are about to have a third.

Mr. Fowler's favourite photographic subject "to the exclusion of almost everything else has been people; principally, faces." His pictures of Africans of many diverse cultures and nations—and their struggles—inspire him most.



Bunia Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo



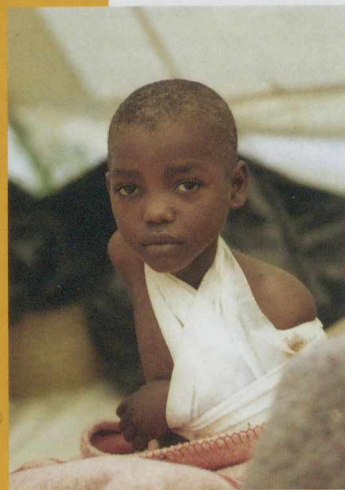
Central Ethiopia



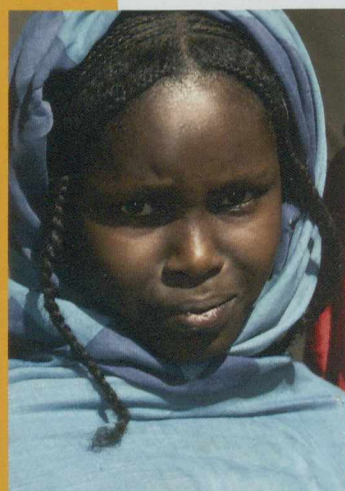
Lalibela, Ethiopia



Krindling II, IDP camp, West Darfur, Sudan



ICRC hospital, Kigali, Rwanda



Kebkabiya Village, North Darfur, Sudan



Help us keep our records up to date. If you are moving, receiving duplicate copies or no longer wish to receive *Canada World View*, simply amend your address label using block letters and return it to us.

You can send changes by fax to (613) 992-5791, by email at canada-magazine@international.gc.ca or write to *Canada World View*, Foreign Affairs Canada, 125 Sussex Drive, BCS C-2, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2.

Post Office: If undelivered, please return to above address.

“Over much of what for me has been an exciting and fulfilling career, I’ve been engaged with the challenge of building bridges across the ever-widening gulf between the fortunate few and the increasingly desperate many,” he says. “It will take time and significant effort before we see sustained progress... There are some positive signs. There are some visionary leaders.”

In a few countries there has been sustained growth, he says, but conflict continues to wipe out progress and cause massive suffering, and there are persistent instances of bad leadership and governance, although fewer than five or 10 years ago.

“It’s certainly a challenge, and there are really good days and really bad days,” he says. “You can’t be optimistic or pessimistic. You have to be realistic. Almost a billion people cannot simply be left out or even behind.” ♣

**See Ambassador
Bob Fowler’s photographs
at www.robertfowler.com.**



Zam Zam IDP camp,
North Darfur, Sudan



Jabel Marra, South Darfur,
Sudan



Bunia IDP camp, Ituri Province,
Democratic Republic of the
Congo



World Food Programme
Food for Work, Kibungo,
Rwanda



World Vision feeding station for
AIDS victims, northern Uganda



Zam Zam IDP camp,
North Darfur, Sudan