

Fact Sheet contributing to global peace and security

INTERNATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS BRANCH

OVERVIEW

The RCMP's International Peace Operations Branch is responsible for managing the deployment of Canadian police officers to various missions around the world. On behalf of the Government of Canada, the branch oversees the selection of candidates, provides pre-deployment training and ongoing medical, psychological and logistical support.

PARTNERSHIPS

International Peace Operations relies heavily on the cooperation of numerous provincial, regional and municipal police partners to meet growing demand for Canadian police expertise. These policing partners train, deploy and participate in peace support operations alongside RCMP members.

HOW IT WORKS

Foreign requests for Canadian police come from multilateral organizations such as the United Nations or bilaterally from specific countries. The decision to deploy Canadian police is made within the framework of the Canadian Police Arrangement (CPA), a partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Public Safety Canada, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

On April 1, 2006, a new CPA was established, leading International Peace Operations to become a fully-funded operational program of the RCMP. With permanent funding in place, the program will be able to maintain a dedicated pool of self-identified and pre-qualified police candidates who will be ready to deploy when called upon. This will allow for a more coordinated and proactive approach to international peace support operations with little effect on domestic responsibilities.

TYPICAL WORK PERFORMED BY POLICE PEACEKEEPERS:

- training, reforming, professionalizing and democratizing police organizations;
- investigating human rights violations;
- overseeing the security and human rights of returned refugees and displaced persons;
- exercising executive police authority;
- assisting with humanitarian activities; and
- encouraging a neutral political environment free from intimidation during an electoral process.

QUICK FACTS...

- Canada has been involved in international police peacekeeping and peace operations since 1989.
- To date, more than 2,100 Canadian police officers have been deployed around the world.
- In 1995, Canadian police from provincial, regional and municipal forces began participating in international missions.
- Today, policing partners account for more than 40 per cent of all international police deployments.

