Will Canada Be a UN Peacekeeper Again?

Dr. Walter Dorn
Canadian Forces College
11 February 2010
Canadian Peacekeeping Tradition

- 1957
- 1988
- 1992
- 1994
- 1995
- 1996
- 2000
- 2001
- 1993
- 2003
- 2007
“We Remember”

Gift of Command and Staff Course 25
Canadian Association of Veterans in UN Peacekeeping (CAVUNP)
“We made at least a beginning then. If, on that foundation, we do not build something more permanent and stronger, we will once again have ignored realities, rejected opportunities and betrayed out trust.”

– Lester B. Pearson

Nobel Prize acceptance speech
Oslo, Dec. 11, 1957
Ineffective UN Peacekeeping

peacekeeping is

“so flawed that it must be abandoned altogether.”

“the Secretariat should stop running peacekeeping operations, and blue-beret forces should stop going where armed resistance can be expected.”

“A Bungling U.N. Undermines Itself”
by Michael Ignatieff, NY Times, 15 May 2000
Difficult Missions, 1993-95

Somalia

Rwanda

Bosnia
Peacekeeping: First 50 Years
Eastern Congo: Robust Peacekeeping (MONUC)

Mi-25 Combat Helicopters
Peacekeeping defined ...

the deployment of international military and civilian personnel to a conflict area, with the consent of the major parties to the conflict, acting impartially in order to:

- stop or contain hostilities or
- supervise the carrying out of a peace agreement
- Build a sustainable peace.

Minimum use of force for self-defence and defence of mission.

Source: modified from UN Website
Peace Support Operation (NATO doctrine)

Source: adapted from PSTC, EO 401.02
Canada and the Evolution of Peacekeeping

Four Types/Generations

1 – Observer
2 – Interposition
3 – Multidimensional
4 – Transitional administration

Expanding functions
UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Paul Martin, Sr.
Min. Ext. Affairs
Multidimensional Peacekeeping

Political

Military

Humanitarian

Police

Economic

Social

Reconstruction

Judicial
Civil-Military Coordination
East Timor: UNTAET

UN member

... UNMISET
Electoral Officer, 1999

• Voter education

• Catholic Church compound in Suai

• Home of over 1,000 IDPs (Internally Displaced People)
Peacekeeping Today

Missions Administered by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

- MINURSO Western Sahara
- MINURCAT Chad and Central African Republic
- UNMIS Sudan
- UNMIK Kosovo
- UNFICYP Cyprus
- UNIFIL Lebanon
- UNDOF Syria
- UNAMA Afghanistan
- UNMOGIP India and Pakistan
- MINUSTAH Haiti
- UNOCI Côte d'Ivoire
- UNMIL Liberia
- UNAMID Darfur
- MONUC Dem. Rep. of the Congo
- BINUB Burundi
- UNTSO Middle East
- UNMIT Timor-Leste

* Political or peacebuilding mission
Uniformed UN Peacekeepers
(Military and Police, 1991–2009)
Canadian Uniformed Personnel in UN PKO
(Total Military and Police)
Canada's Rank Among UN Contributors
(by contribution of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping)
Canadian Uniformed Personnel in UN PKO

- Police: 101
- Military: 57

Graph showing the number of personnel from 2000 to 2007, with peaks for UNMEE, MINUSTAH, and UNDOF.
Canadian Contributions

Currently:

- 55 soldiers
- 115 civilian police
- 250 civilians
- 56th rank in UN (Mil+CivPol)
- Cold War Cdn Contrib: 10%
- Current: 0.01% (factor of 100)

Closeout of Op Danaca, UNDOF (Golan Heights, 25 March 2006)

(Figures for 31 December 2009)
Canadians View Peacekeeping as …

Canada’s most positive contribution to the world

- Peacekeeping: 26
- Foreign aid: 17
- Multiculturalism/accepts immigrants: 7
- Support for human rights: 5
- Role model for the world: 4
- Voice of moderation: 3
- Military missions overseas: 3
- Environmental protection: 2
- Natural resources: 2
- Other: 14
- None/don’t know: 17

January 2008

URL: www.igloo.org/canadasworld/learnmor/quizzesa/pollresu
UN Mission in Haiti

- 5 Cdn soldiers
- 90 Cdn Police

Op Hestia
- 2,000 CF personnel
- DART
- HMCS Athabaskan
- HMCS Halifax
What Canada has to Offer Peacekeeping

**Canadian Forces**
- Bilingual, multicultural armed force
- Well trained and educated
- Experienced
- Respectful of locals, not heavy handed
- Friendly, congenial military personnel
- Wide range of expertise, in areas desperately needed by UN
  - C2, intelligence, logistics, communications
What Canada has to Offer Peacekeeping

Canadian Nation
• Less “baggage” (not colonial power)
• Peaceful national example (pen not sword)
• Proponent of the rule of law and peace
  – Pearson’s proposal for the first peacekeeping force
  – Ottawa convention on APM, human security, R2P
• Not selfish national interest
• Identified with peacekeeping
UN View

“I regret that Canada has so little involvement with peacekeeping.

“It would send a very strong and powerful signal if Canada showed it was going back into peacekeeping. In the credibility of peacekeeping, it would not go unnoticed, because of the historical role of Canada in the creation of peacekeeping, and because of what Canada represents today.”

— Jean-Marie Guéhenno, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping

What Peacekeeping has to offer Canada

• Component of national identity
  – Doing good
  – Not selfish, self-centred nation
  – Population identifies with peacekeeping
• Meet both bilateralist and internationalist tendencies
• Role for Canadian Forces post-Afghanistan
• Role for Canada on world stage
  – Seat on SC
• Reimbursement (partial) of expenses
  • The world’s peace is our peace.
Will Canada Be a UN Peacekeeper Again?

- **Political**
  - Domestic (Conservatives, Liberal, NDP, Bloc)
  - International

- **Military**
  - Post-Afghanistan
  - Leadership

- **Economic**
  - Less costly

- **Social**
  - Cdn people

- **Problems/Criticisms**
  - Dealt with: Pkg myth, Ineffective, Afghan mission
  - People are smarter than the strategists
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