

Salute Canadian Heroes

“Peacekeepers Day”
Press Kit

August 9th, 2005



Canadian Association
of Veterans in
United Nations Peacekeeping

 **Adopt-A-Minefield®**
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Canadian Landmine Foundation
La Fondation des Mines Terrestres du Canada

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OP-ED: STAND UP AND SALUTE CANADIAN PEACEKEEPERS

“We need action not only to end the fighting but to make the peace... My own government would be glad to recommend Canadian participation in such a United Nations force, a truly international peace and police force.” **Lester B. Pearson (November 2, 1956.)**

With those words by Lester B. Pearson in his 1956 address to the United Nations general assembly concerning the creation of an intervention force to maintain a ceasefire agreement during the Suez Crisis, the notion of peacekeeping was born. Former Prime Minister Pearson was an advocate of a UN role in peacekeeping in an attempt to confront and defeat the worst in Man with the best in Man. And he believed Canada had a responsibility, and a vital interest in creating peace and security in countries ravaged by war. This strong conviction was recognized by the world community, when Pearson was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1957.



Lester B. Pearson, Minister of External Affairs (and future Prime Minister, 1963-68), receiving the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize, in Norway, from Gunnar Jahn, Chairman, Nobel Committee (1942-66) (NAC/PA 114544)

Since Pearson’s historic speech at the United Nations, if you ask Canadians to express what they identify Canada with; you will often hear “peacekeeping.” Over the past 50 years, polls across the country have consistently supported sending Canadian peacekeepers into areas of conflict. Because of this support, Canadian men and women have been deployed in over 50 UN and NATO sponsored peacekeeping missions.

During the Cold War peacekeeping relied heavily on armed or lightly armed military personnel to perform monitoring of ceasefire agreements, demarcating and patrolling borders between states. Each mission required diverse tasks, which involved all military departments. Due to their level of commitment and their exceptional service, Canada and the Canadian forces gained a reputation as a world leader in peacekeeping.

Since the end of the Cold War, peacekeeping has changed significantly and Canada has needed to adapt to the new climate. The UN Security Council has established broader and more complex peacekeeping missions to deal with intra-state conflicts. Along with traditional military peacekeeping roles, peacekeeping has expanded to include nation-building elements. To meet this new mandate, police units and non-governmental organizations have taken on this responsibility. Canada has adapted well, which is evident with our efforts in the Balkans and Haiti.

Behind all peacekeeping missions there are many stories of distinction. In 1984, while on mission in the Golan Heights, Colonel (ret’d) Donald Ethel, under tense circumstances arranged a significant prisoner of war and soldier remains exchange between Israel and Syria. Similarly in 1992, Major General (ret’d) Lewis Mackenzie displayed resolve to secure humanitarian aid to a war ravaged Bosnian civilian population during the conflict in the Balkans.

Tragically, some peacekeeping campaigns have led to the ultimate sacrifice. One hundred and twenty Canadians have lost their lives while serving on peacekeeping or peacemaking missions. On mission in Croatia in 1994, MCpl. Mark R. Isfeld lost his life to a landmine. In 1974, Canada suffered the single highest loss of life during a peacekeeping mission, when nine airmen were killed after their Buffalo aircraft was shot down over Syria.

On August 9th, citizens across the country will have an opportunity to learn these stories and honour the contributions of Canadian peacekeepers by observing Peacekeepers Day. Peacekeepers Day, created by the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP) in partnership with the Canadian Landmine Foundation (CLF), allows Canadians to recognize this great source of our national pride. Canadian peacekeepers have answered the call. The world owes our peacekeepers a debt of gratitude. It is time for Canadians to honour their service.

Paul Faucette
Manager, Programs and Campaigns
Canadian Landmine Foundation/Adopt-A-Minefield

Media Advisory - Immediate Release
Canadians salute Canadian Peacekeepers

(Toronto) On August 9th 2005, Canadians across the country will honour the courage and sacrifice of Canadian peacekeepers by observing "Peacekeepers Day." For nearly five decades, Canada has been recognized as a world leader in peacekeeping operations. Since 1957 when Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Noble Peace Prize, Canadians have been apart of over 50 UN and NATO sponsored peacekeeping mission.

Many of your readers have had family and friends who have served in the Canadian Forces or in policing. Right now there are some 140 police officers serving as peacekeepers and approximately 1500 Canadian Forces personnel serving overseas. Countless others are veterans of peacekeeping missions - 120 have lost their lives and many more survive with physical or physiological impacts of their service. It is time they are recognized for their work.

"I am please to see citizens acknowledging Canadian peacekeepers and learning about the sacrifices they have made" said Gaetan Martel, President of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping. Peacekeepers Day is an opportunity to learn about the individuals and families that have sacrificed so much in the pursuit of peace.

How can the public get involved? The weekend before August 9th (Saturday August 6th and Sunday, August 7th) has been designated as *Peacekeepers Day Weekend*. The Canadian Landmine Foundation (CLF) and the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP) have planned various events during this weekend and are encouraging Canadians from coast to coast to participate in the "Do Anything Fete," which involves planning a community fund-raising event of your choice. Canadians can visit www.canadianlandmine.org for more information.

One hundred percent of the proceeds raised will be donated to two special landmine action projects. The first involves a landmine clearance project near Kabul in memory of the 'Buffalo 9' – the nine Canadian peacekeeper airmen who were killed when their Buffalo aircraft was shot down over Syria on August 9, 1974. The project is consistent with 3D (diplomatic, defence, and development) policy of the Canadian Government. The second project involves a survivor assistance project in Cambodia, which has been created in recognition of the ongoing sacrifices made by the families of peacekeepers.

"Landmines are the single greatest threat to Canadian peacekeepers, it is great that Canadians are working to alleviate this threat to our peacekeepers and the communities in which they work" said Scott Fairweather, President and CEO of The Canadian Landmine Foundation, from his office in Toronto.

Peacekeepers Day was created by the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping, in partnership with the Canadian Landmine Foundation (CLF). The day has been embraced by government, military and policing partners across the country.

We believe that Canadians will embrace Peacekeepers Day. However, neither organisation has the funding necessary to bring this completely to the attention of the Canadian public. The establishment of the Day will occur only through the assistance of the media.

The world owes our peacekeepers a debt of gratitude. How are you going to honour their service?

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WHY 9 AUGUST - PEACEKEEPERS DAY?

Peacekeepers Day was created to recognize the service of Canadians in far-away places in the service of peace. Since 1948, members of Canada's Armed Forces and Diplomatic service have served on peacekeeping missions around the world. Additionally, since 1992, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provincial and municipal police forces have served in Peace Support missions around the world. It was to recognize the service of Canadians past, present and in the future that Peacekeepers Day was created.



9 August was chosen because on that date in 1974 the greatest single loss of Canadian lives on a peacekeeping mission occurred. Nine Canadian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt and Israel, were flying in a Canadian Forces "Buffalo" transport aircraft on UN service which was shot down by Syrian air defence missiles while preparing to land at Damascus, Syria on a regular resupply mission. There were no survivors.

Canada's first casualty on a peacekeeping mission occurred in 1951 when Acting-Brigadier HH Angle of Kamloops, BC died in a plane crash in Kashmir on the border between India and Pakistan. Since then, 114 members of the Canadian Armed Forces and one member of Canada's diplomatic service have died in far-off lands in the service of peace. The spouse and mother of the deceased receive the Memorial Cross, a gesture of

commemoration from the Government of Canada begun in 1919 for casualties of WW1 and continued for casualties of WW 2, the Korea conflict and for casualties on peacekeeping missions.

On this day, we recognize the families of our peacekeepers who keep up the morale of our peacekeepers with cards and letters, parcels and gifts. They play a central part too helping their spouses to adjust to the peace and tranquility of their home and country when they return.

We also recognize and thank other Canadians who have given freely of their time to support our Peacekeepers abroad. In particular are the ham radio operators who nightly have connected to the military ham radio operators calling from the missions and linked the peacekeepers to their families back in Canada. This most valuable service, always given freely, has been a strong element in maintaining family morale. We also thank the families that knit the "Izzy Dolls", small dolls given to the children whom Canadian peacekeepers meet as they patrol their assigned areas. Created by his family in memory of Master Corporal Mark Isfeld who died in 1994 while serving in the former Yugoslavia, the dolls have brought much pleasure to children in many countries suffering the ravages of brutal conflict.

Peacekeepers Day, 9 August is about recognition and commemoration; of peacekeepers past, present and yet to come and their families; recognition and thanks to those who help make the peacekeeping duty less arduous; and remembering our fallen comrades who have died in the service of peace.



Canadian Association
of Veterans in
United Nations Peacekeeping


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FACT SHEET
EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN ARMED
FORCES ON PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS
1947 - PRESENT

PURPOSE

This fact sheet has been created to show that peacekeeping has never been the domain of just one service or element of the Canadian

- Canadian Forces participated in over 50 UN and NATO sponsored Peacekeeping Mission
- 120 Canadians have died on peacekeeping mission
- Canadians active in over 10 current Peacekeeping mission
- Peacekeepers Day – August 9th

Armed Forces. Canada has provided the assets requested by the United Nations or other international body to provide assurance of success in the individual missions.

This document illustrates the broad range of employment of the three Services – Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) - in peacekeeping since 1947.

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations Organization, peacekeeping, generally falls into two types - observer missions and peacekeeping missions. Observer missions employ military officers to observe assigned areas and to report any violations of truce agreements to the mission headquarters. They usually have the letters OM or OG in the abbreviated title, eg: UNYOM Yemen. Peacekeeping missions employ formed bodies of troops to demarcate borders between combatant states, patrol these borders and report any violations. They require extensive integral logistics and communications support and may require aviation and maritime assets to ensure mission success.

This fact sheet provides the information in two parts before 1968 (unification of the Canadian military) and post 1968.

PRE-1968

During this period Canada provided military officers for observer missions and formed bodies of troops for peacekeeping missions.

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) by itself provided formed units for three missions:

1948-1975 - UNMOGIP India /Pakistan. 117 ATU mainly for transport of observers and materiel.

October 1962 - April 1963 - UNSF/UNTEA New Guinea. 116 ATU

July 1963 - September 1964 - UNYOM Yemen. 134 ATU.

Beginning in 1947, Canada provided military officers to such missions as UNTSO Middle East to monitor the truce between Israel and its Arab neighbours Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Officers from the RCAF and RCN also served in this mission. Canadian officers served as military observers on several other missions including UNMOGIP, UNIPOM and the International Control Commission Viet Nam 1954 - 1973.



In 1956, on the creation of UNEF I (Egypt 1956 - 1967), Canada provided a military reconnaissance unit, logistics and communications units, and from the RCAF 115 ATU was provided to mount aerial patrols and to

resupply observations posts in remote areas. HMCS Magnificent transported the vehicles and materiel for the Canadian contingent to establish itself in the mission area.

In 1960, for the UN Congo mission 1960 - 1964, Canada provided staff officers for the mission headquarters, a communications unit and an air traffic control unit. Regular troop and cargo missions were flown from Canada to the Congo by 436 (T) Squadron RCAF from Trenton, Ontario. An Air Operations staff was provided to control and coordinate air movements within the Congo.

In 1964, on the creation of UNFICYP Cyprus (1964 - 1989) Canada provided an infantry battalion plus staff officers



for the mission headquarters, logistics and communications assets to support the battalion. HMCS Bonaventure transported the vehicles and materiel for the establishment of the Canadian contingent and provided helicopter support during the initial days of the mission. The RCAF operated a scheduled flight from Canada moving personnel and materiel for the contingent.

POST 1968

Canada continued to provide contingents and individuals to various peacekeeping missions. The major impact of unification was that personnel who were selected by military occupations were participating more than ever from the three elements, Sea, Land, and Air. The following missions are representative of Canada's peacekeeping efforts.

In 1973 UNEF II Sinai was created in the aftermath of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Canada provided logistics, communications and aviation assets plus staff officers for the mission headquarters. The aviation unit was 116 ATU which on 9 August 1974 lost an aircraft when it was shot down in Syrian air space. The six person crew, plus three passengers were killed. In 1974 the UNDOF mission was created to oversee the demarcation between Syria and Israel on the Golan Heights. In 1978 the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon was created. These two missions included Canadian logistics and communications personnel and equipments, taken from the Canadian contingent in UNEF II.

In 1973, Canada participated in the International Commission for Control and Supervision in Vietnam. More than 800 Canadian personnel served in this mission, manning observer teams and providing staff officers plus Canadian contingent administration. Two Canadian officers, one Air and one Land element, were taken prisoner by the North Vietnam forces and held for several days. One Land element officer died in an airplane crash. During this mission, HMCS Terra Nova and Kootenay stood off the mission area to provide standby for evacuation. One sailor died from disease during this deployment.

In 1979, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty. Included in the treaty was the requirement to provide a peacekeeping force in the Sinai between the two nations. The United Nations refused to provide such a force, reasoning that such a force should not be required in a peace treaty. This resulted in the formation in 1981 of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which wears the orange-coloured beret. Canada has provided to this date individual personnel to fill positions in the mission headquarters. From March 1986 to 1990 Canada provided a helicopter unit or Rotary Wing Aviation Unit (RWAU) to the mission.

In 1989-92 Canada provided military officers and 89 RWAU to the UNOCA

Central America mission. Canadian naval personnel were involved in monitoring ship movements in the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific Ocean side of Central America.

In 1988 - 1990 Canada provided to the UN Good Offices Mission Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) military observers to monitor the departure of Soviet Forces from Afghanistan and to assist in the repatriation of Afghan refugees. The officers were from all three elements.



In 1992-1993 Canada provided to the UN Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) a military transport company, field engineers for explosives disposal, and naval personnel who served as observers over the inland waters and Gulf of Thailand.

The 1990s to the present has seen a major increase in peacekeeping missions which involved Canadian assets which heretofore had been so employed. Ships

have been employed in maritime interdiction in waters around Haiti, the Balkans and the Persian Gulf. Maritime patrol aircraft have been employed in patrols in the Balkans and the Persian Gulf. Canadian ships had to develop an entirely new skill that of Boarding Party, as part of the maritime interdiction role to board and search ships to ensure that they were not transporting illegal cargo. Combat and logistics units have served in the Former Yugoslavia on peacekeeping missions since 1992. A helicopter unit has been flying there for several years.

114 members of the Canadian Armed Forces and one Canadian Foreign Service Officer have died on peacekeeping missions. Casualties include 14 RCAF/Air Element, and 2 RCN/ Sea element.

All Canadian personnel who were part of a peacekeeping mission received the mission medal. RCN and RCAF personnel employed in support of the initial deployment and flew regularly to the mission were allowed to accumulate flying hours or days served towards either the Special Service Medal (SSM) with PEACE bar or the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM).

Prepared by GJD Townend
Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping

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Canadian Landmine Foundation

Canadian Peacekeeping Heroes

Over 125,000 Canadian personnel have served in peacekeeping operations for the United Nations; this is more than any other country.

Listed below are few Canadian heroes' which have served in peacekeeping efforts:

Major-General (ret'd) Lewis MacKenzie

Major-General Lewis MacKenzie has commanded ground troops in some of the world's most dangerous places: the Gaza strip, Cyprus, Vietnam, Cairo, Central America and Sarajevo. At the start of the Bosnian Civil War he created and assumed command of Sector Sarajevo and, in the midst of a brutal civil war, with a contingent of troops from 31 nations, and under fire from all sides, managed to open the Sarajevo airport for the delivery of humanitarian aid. During that period, Martin Bell of the BBC said MacKenzie was interviewed more than any other human being in the history of television over a thirty day period. Born in Truro, Nova Scotia General MacKenzie served for 33 years before retiring from the Canadian Forces in March 1993. His book, *Peacekeeper: The Road to Sarajevo*, a personal account of his peacekeeping experiences, became a number one best seller in September, 1993.

For more information visit: <http://www.thelavinagency.com/canada/lewismackenzie.html>

Colonel (ret'd) Don Ethell

Colonel Donald Ethell, a veteran of 14 Peacekeeping tours and other secondments to the United Nations, is considered to be Canada's most experienced Peacekeeper. Throughout the years, his tours of duty have included service in Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Central America, and the Balkans. As the National Defence Headquarters *Director of Peacekeeping Operations* Colonel Ethell's duties, in addition to monitoring ongoing missions, included the planning, preparation and implementation of all operational, personnel and logistic activities in support of Canadian Forces units deployed on international duty to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Namibia, and Central America. Following his tour as the Director, Don was returned to the Middle East, a tour that covered the period of the 1990/91 Persian Gulf War. He served as the Chief of Staff /Deputy Force Commander of the Middle East-based *Multinational Force & Observers*. Colonel Ethell's last tour of service was spent as Head of the Canadian Mission for the *European Community Military Monitoring Mission* in the former Yugoslavia during the war(s) in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992.

For more information visit: <http://www.lieutenantgovernor.ab.ca/aoe/bio/ethell.htm>

MCpl. Mark R. Isfeld

Master Corporal Mark Isfeld was a combat engineer who served in three peace missions before losing his life in a landmine explosion in Croatia in 1994. Mark was known for giving children in war-torn regions handmade dolls that his mother had crocheted out of steel wool, nicknamed 'Izzy dolls.' He handed out the 'Izzy dolls' to bring a little happiness and hope to the children in war torn areas. After his tragic death, the story of Marks compassion toward the children began to spread and thousands of these dolls began to flood in from people all across Canada who decided to make dolls for other Canadian soldiers to give away overseas. This kind and generous act by many Canadians has kept M.Cpl. Isfeld's tradition alive.

For more information visit: <http://www.isfeldbc.com>.

Lieutenant-General Gordon Reay

Lieutenant-General Gordon Reay who was killed in a tragic accident on December 13th, 2000 while on a humanitarian mission in Croatia. General Reay was serving as a special advisor to Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action. He was working to eradicate anti-personnel landmine stockpiles in Eastern Europe and South Eastern Europe. Gordon Reay grew up in Montreal and joined the Canadian Military in 1961 as a cadet at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. He graduated in 1965. In 1975, after a tour of peacekeeping duty in Cyprus he was awarded the Member of British Empire (MBE). He became Commander of the Canadian Land Force in January 1993

For more information visit: <http://www.canadianlandmine.org/peacekeepers/hallHonour.cfm>

Lieutenant-General (ret'd) Romeo Dallaire

Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire joined the Canadian army in 1964. Upon his return from serving as Force Commander of the UN mission to Rwanda, he served as Commander of the 1st Canadian Division and Deputy-Commander of the Canadian Army. Promoted to Three-Star General, he was appointed to various senior positions including Assistant Deputy Minister (Human Resources-Military) in the Ministry of Defence. He continues to assist the Canadian Forces and Veterans' Affairs in matters related to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. General Dallaire was medically released from the Armed Forces in April 2000 due to PTSD, and now serves as a member of the Canadian Senate.

For more information visit: <http://www.romeodallaire.com/>

**Canadian Association of Veterans in UN Peacekeeping
2005 Peacekeepers Day Celebrations**

Alberta

August 09, 2005 - Calgary - Annual Peacekeeping ceremony and Dedication of Buffalo Park in honour of the nine Canadian Peacekeepers killed over Lebanon on 09 August 1974

British Columbia

August 09, 2005 - Victoria - Peacekeeping Memorial Day

Manitoba

August 07, 2005 - Winnipeg - Peacekeepers Day

New Brunswick

August 06, 2005 - Moncton - Peacekeepers BBQ and Entertainment

Nova Scotia

August 08, 2005 - August 08, 2005 - Sydney - Peacekeeping Display

August 09, 2005 - August 09, 2005 - Sydney - Peacekeeping Day

Ontario

August 07, 2005 - August 07, 2005 - Ottawa - Canadian Association of Veterans of United Nations Peacekeeping Ottawa Chapter

August 09, 2005 - Angus - Peacekeeping Day

August 13, 2005 - Toronto - Peacekeepers Day Garden Party

Saskatchewan

August 09, 2005 - Saskatoon - UNCA & CAVUNP Memorial Service

For more information about Peacekeepers Day events visit: http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/yearofveteran05/yov_events

For CAVUNP chapters contacts visit: <http://www.cavunp.org/>

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Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping

CAVUNP is an Association of retired and serving Canadian military (Regular and Reserve), RCMP, and civilian personnel who have served on United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. The Association also welcomes those who have served on other peacekeeping missions in which participation was sanctioned by the Government of Canada.



Canadian Landmine Foundation
La Fondation des Mines Terrestres du Canada

The Canadian Landmine Foundation is a managing partner in the global Adopt-A-Minefield campaign for landmine action with partners in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Sweden. A registered Canadian charity, the Foundation offers the unique guarantee that 100% of Campaign donations will be used to fund mine action projects. Operating costs of the Foundation are provided by benefactors, general donations, and monthly donors. The Foundation was created at the request of then Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy following the ratification of the Ottawa Treaty banning the production, use and trade of anti-personnel landmines. Mr. Axworthy now sits on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Adopt-A-Minefield is the world's largest non-government funder of mine action projects. The Campaign helps save lives by raising funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance and by raising awareness about the landmine issue. Adopt-A-Minefield works primarily through the United Nations to clear fields in some of the most heavily mined countries in the world and with a number of organisations to provide relief to landmine survivors. Paul McCartney and Heather Mills McCartney joined Adopt-A-Minefield in September 2000 as the Campaign's international Patrons and Goodwill Ambassadors.

Since its creation in 1999 Adopt-A-Minefield has:

- Raised over \$13 million for mine clearance and survivor assistance;
- Cleared some 19 million square metres of land in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iraq, Mozambique, and Vietnam;
- Provided \$2 million for survivor assistance projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam;
- Developed the annual Night of A Thousand Dinners initiative to engage people in over 50 countries in raising funds for humanitarian landmine action.