

20.5.4 Canadian peacekeeping operations

Since World War II Canada has played a vital role in co-operation with the United Nations in its capacity as a peacekeeping agency for the preservation of peace and the promotion of international security. Canadians have participated in almost all UN peacekeeping operations to date in Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Korea, India, Pakistan, West New Guinea, the Congo, Yemen and Nigeria.

Nearly 900 Canadian soldiers served in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli-Egyptian crisis of 1956 until the force was disbanded in 1967. In the Congo, a 300-man signals unit provided communications for the UN force from 1960 to 1964.

Canadian participation in the international commission for control and supervision in Vietnam and Laos began in 1954. At the high point of participation in 1973, following the US military withdrawal from Vietnam, 245 Canadian forces personnel were involved in supervision of the ceasefire. The Canadian Vietnam supervisory contingent was withdrawn in July 1973 and the Laos mission was withdrawn in the spring of 1974.

Canada's largest peacekeeping commitment in 1979 was in the Middle East where Canadians participated in the United Nations emergency force (UNEF) in the Sinai, and in the United Nations disengagement observer force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. Canada's overall participation in UNEF and UNDOF was approximately 1,000 personnel — about 850 Canadians with UNEF and about 150 with UNDOF.

The UN force in Cyprus is another of Canada's large military commitments. Since 1964 Canadian participation included provision of a reduced infantry battalion and a Canadian element in the UN headquarters, a total of approximately 580 officers and men. In July 1974, following the trouble in Cyprus, Canada augmented the Cyprus contingent by an additional force of approximately 480 officers and men and some additional military equipment. In mid-1979 there were 515 Canadians serving in the peacekeeping force in Cyprus, and from March to October 1978 there were 115 personnel serving with the United Nations interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Other Canadian peacekeeping operations in 1979 included nine Canadian forces personnel with the UN military observer group, India-Pakistan, and 20 Canadian officers with the UN truce supervisory organization in Israel.

20.5.5 Military assistance programs

Canada assists Commonwealth and non-NATO countries by sending military training teams to those countries or by training a small number of military personnel in Canada. Training teams in the past have been sent to Ghana, Cameroon, Jamaica, Kenya, Tanzania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Zambia and others.

Canada provides training facilities for some NATO countries on a cost-recovery basis according to the provisions of the visiting forces and the NATO status of forces agreement. Under the terms of a 10-year agreement signed in 1971, British military forces train in Canada. A similar agreement was also signed with the Federal Republic of Germany in 1973. Training areas remain under Canadian command and control and all costs are paid by Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Pilots from NATO countries including Denmark, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands have trained at Canadian defence establishments for many years. Canada continued to train NATO pilots from the Netherlands under an agreement in effect until July 1981.

20.6 Emergency planning

Emergency Planning Canada (EPC) came into being on April 1, 1974. It evolved from the former Canada Emergency Measures Organization. Although attached to the national defence department for administrative purposes, it receives policy direction and tasking from the Privy Council office. The authority under which EPC operates is based on a Cabinet decision of 1973.

EPC co-ordinates the planning of the federal response to natural or man-made disasters, from floods to nuclear war, that could occur in Canada, and encourages emergency planning across the nation. The premise under which EPC operates is to plan for a nationwide emergency capability which, by concentrating on the effective handling