

# **Annex 8**

# **Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Training for Peacekeeping**

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The RCMP organizes and participates in peacekeeping efforts on the initiative of the Government of Canada in response to requests received from the United Nations by the government.

There are two types of deployment of RCMP and Police Officers—unarmed and armed—depending on the ground situation. While the group designated for unarmed deployment is offered a one week program of training, the other group is given a two weeks program. While the subject or course content of the one week of training program applicable to unarmed deployment is common to both groups, the groups preparing for armed deployment are given a second week of training focusing on use of firearms and related security aspects including the use of hand cuffs, use of pepper spray, crowd controls etc.

The one-week or first week training course focuses, among other things, on the following aspects:

- (a) An introduction to international peacekeeping;
- (b) Administrative arrangements including the identification of a point of contact or a designated key person coordinating contacts between the officers and family in Canada;
- (c) Psychological briefing, by a qualified and experienced medical practitioner, on all aspects of conflict related problems and likely impact of such problems on physical and mental health with advice on how best to handle related problems;
- (d) Medical or health related briefing on the prevalence of contagious diseases, insects, reptiles and other forms of health hazards specific to the country;
- (e) Briefing by a national of the conflict afflicted country, who is known for fair and unbiased views and assessment of the conflict on various aspects of the conflicts including, a brief history including the identification of various ethnic, linguistic or political groups and their aims and grievances; the extent of damages to the economic and social fabric; the ground situation; and efforts being made to address various problems and issues;
- (f) Briefing by an official from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) on relevant aspects of Canadian foreign policy;
- (g) Briefing by an official of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on various aspects of its operation; and
- (h) Briefing on management of political and other information, and how best to handle inquiries from the press and media.

At present mentor, and training of civilian police force is the major Canadian contribution to the international peacekeeping efforts.

In addition, in the words of Serge Stewart (i/c Operations Support, RCMP International Peace Operations) “a huge portion of the RCMP process for ensuring properly trained members for mission actually takes place in the recruiting phase. By that I mean we place a large emphasis on recruiting and selecting candidates with the prerequisite skills and competencies. This allows for less specific and concentrated pre-deployment training as all the candidates already have the skills, experience and competencies to perform in mission. The whole process takes a minimum of 3 months from start to finish... I would like to stress the 'mission' specific portion of the training and using Afghanistan as an example the candidates deploying to this obviously high risk mission actually receive in total 4 weeks of training with two weeks of specialized training.”<sup>ii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> The information initially released by Supt. Phil Campbell, Director, International Peacekeeping, and Bill Denham, Sergeant, NCO 1/C Logistics Unit, International Peacekeeping) was reconfirmed on May 31, 2007 by Serge Stewart (i/c Operations Support, RCMP International Peace Operations / Sous-direction des Missions de Paix Internationales). In an e-mail to Evelyn Voigt, he wrote

“The information is current and accurate from y(sic) standpoint as the responsible for Training of members to mission for the Canadian police. I would like to stress the 'mission' specific portion of the training and using Afghanistan as an example the candidates deploying to this obviously high risk mission actually receive in total 4 weeks of training with two weeks of specialized training.

<sup>ii</sup> Serge Stewart (i/c Operations Support, RCMP International Peace Operations / Sous-direction des Missions de Paix Internationales). In an e-mail to Evelyn Voigt, May 31, 2007