

In 2009, the United Nations has deployed more peacekeepers than at any time in the organization's history.

The number of UN peacekeeping personnel in the field has grown more than five fold over the last ten years. With 97,569 military and police now serving in 15 UN-led peacekeeping missions,¹ the UN currently deploys and supports more troops in the field than any actor in the world other than the US Department of Defense – more than UK, France, China and Russia put together.

Yet while demand for United Nations peacekeepers has never been higher, Canadian contributions of personnel have rarely been lower (Chart 1).

▶ UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR PEACEKEEPERS

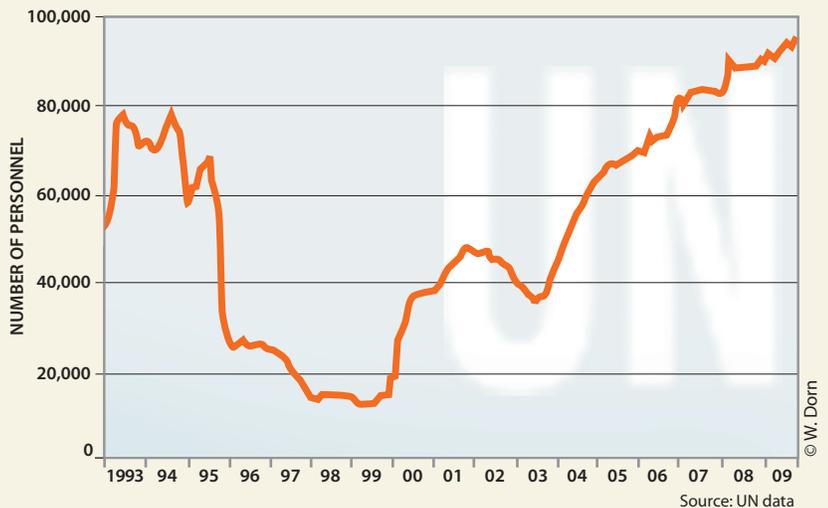
Since 1999, the number and size of UN missions has grown dramatically (Chart 2). UN missions are now more robust, more multi-faceted and more complex. The rise in demand for peacekeeping has been most notable in Africa, where more than 72,000 peacekeepers are now deployed in places like Southern Sudan, Darfur, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia.

The demand for peacekeeping, especially UN peacekeeping, is expected to rise, not fall in the coming years. Some current missions still lack the troop levels mandated by the UN Security Council. Contributions from countries with peacekeeping expertise and advanced military and logistics capabilities like Canada are much needed to reduce operational overstretch.

[1] CANADA'S RANK AMONG CONTRIBUTORS TO UN PEACEKEEPING



[2] MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL ON UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS



[3] CURRENT CANADIAN PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENTS 2009

MINUSTAH (Haiti) **UN**
95 Canadians (5 military, 90 police)

UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire) **UN**
5 Canadians (all police)

MONUC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) **UN**
12 Canadians (all military)

UNMIS (Sudan) **UN**
49 Canadians (28 military, 21 police)

UNDOF (Golan Heights, Syria) **UN**, 2 Canadians (both military)

UNTSO (Golan Heights, also Lebanon and Sinai Peninsula) **UN**, 8 Canadians (all military)

MFO (Sinai Peninsula, Egypt) **Non-UN**, 28 Canadians (all military)

UNFICYP (Cyprus) **UN**
1 Canadian (military)

KFOR (Kosovo/Serbia) **Non-UN**
6 Canadians (all military)

OMIK (Kosovo/Serbia) **Non-UN**
2 Canadians (both civilians)

OSCEBIH (Bosnia and Herzegovina) **Non-UN**, 1 Canadian (civilian)

EUPM-BiH (Bosnia and Herzegovina) **Non-UN**, 1 Canadian (civilian)

ISAF* (Afghanistan) **Non-UN**
2830 Canadians (all military)

EUPOL (Afghanistan) **Non-UN**
4 Canadians (all police)

UNAMA (Afghanistan) **UN**
1 Canadian (military)

UNMIT (Timor-Leste) **UN**
6 Canadians (all police)

* unlike all the other UN/non-UN missions listed, this is not a peacekeeping mission



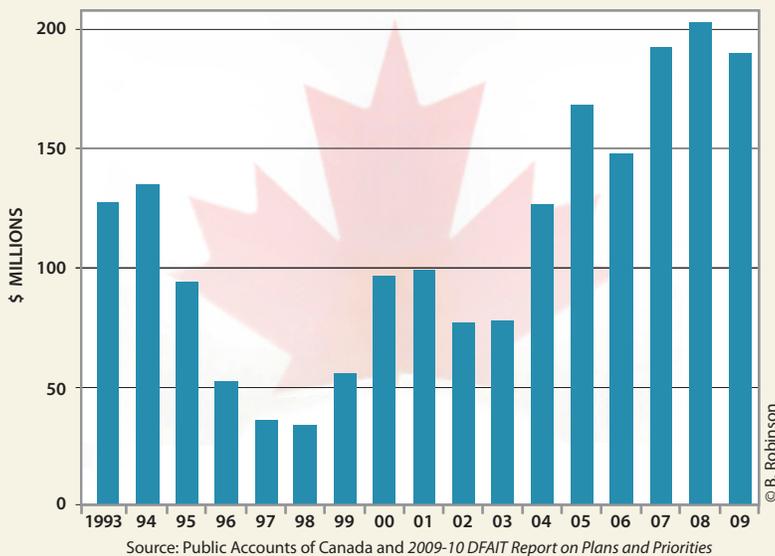
▶ DECLINE IN CANADIAN PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTIONS

Canada maintains a small presence in several UN and non-UN peace operations around the world (Chart 3), but the vast majority of Canada's military effort is now dedicated to the war in Afghanistan.

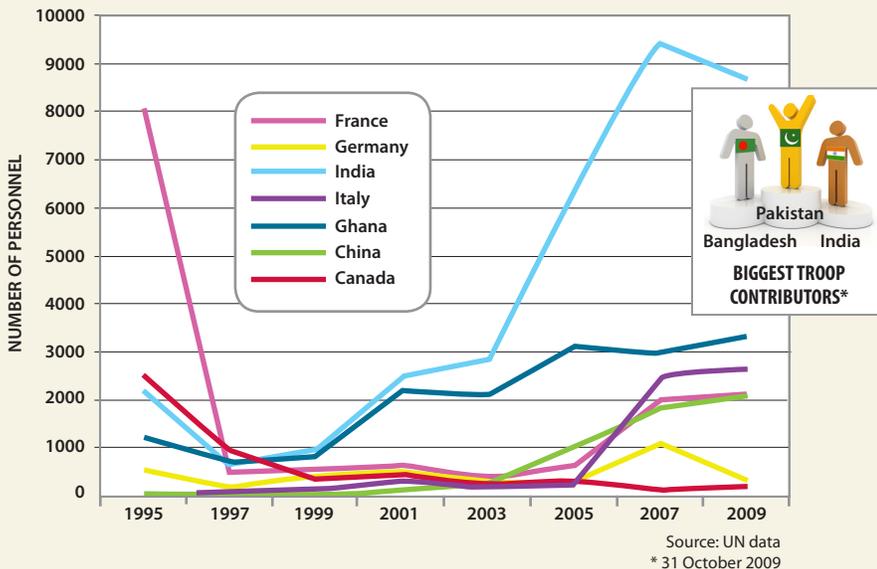
While Canada's treaty-mandated cash contributions to the UN peacekeeping budget have grown in parallel with the growth in peacekeeping (Chart 4), Canada's contribution of military personnel has collapsed (Chart 5).

Canada has fallen from being the single largest contributor of UN peacekeepers, a position it often held before 1992, to 56th position today (Chart 1). Once the supplier of nearly 3,300 peacekeeping soldiers, Canada now contributes less than one busload, just 57. Since early 2006, Canada's police contribution has outnumbered its military contribution.

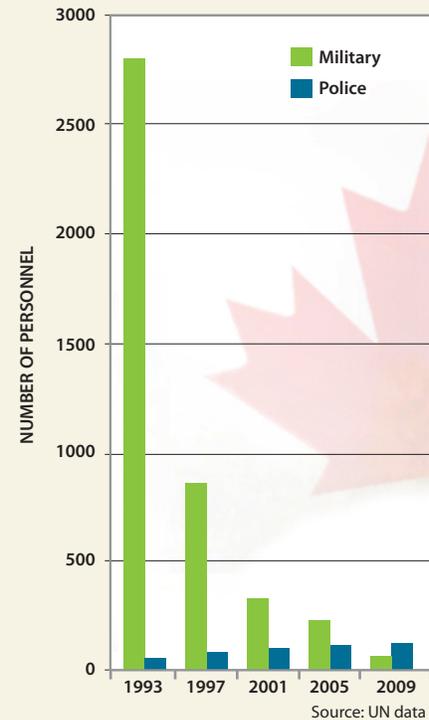
[4] CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET



[6] MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL IN UN PEACEKEEPING: SELECTED COUNTRIES



[5] CANADIAN POLICE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ON UN MISSIONS



▶ COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD ARE RE-ENGAGING IN PEACEKEEPING

While there was a decrease in contributions to UN peacekeeping by governments at the end of the 1990s, some western countries have notably re-engaged in UN Peacekeeping at the beginning of the 21st century. Countries like France, Germany and Italy are now acting as force multipliers by contributing advanced military capabilities in support of leading troop contributors like India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. As a middle power, with no significant external threat to its borders, Canada should be primarily interested in a strengthened multilateral system. Until 1995, Canada had participated in almost every UN peacekeeping mission. Despite recent re-engagement by some of its NATO allies, Canada's contribution to UN peace operations has, unfortunately, continued to decline (Chart 6).

1 Department of Peacekeeping Operations, *Monthly Summary of Military and Police Contribution to United Nations Operations*, October 2009.

For more information on the Peace Operations Working Group (POWG) visit:

<http://peacebuild.ca/work-groups-peace-operations-e.php>

OR <http://peaceoperationsworkinggroup.blogspot.com/> (POWG Blog)