
DEFENCE ENGAGEMENT IN THE AMERICAS: IS THERE A CANADIAN MODEL?

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NATIONAL DEFENCE



DÉFENSE NATIONALE

Outline

- Canada's Strategy for the Americas
- DND/CF: a key player in the Americas
- Current activities in the hemisphere
- Future challenges: instability in Central America
- Conclusion: main tenets of a Canadian approach



Canada's Americas Strategy

Canada and security in the hemisphere:

- Enhance hemispheric security
- Reduce crime and drugs exported to our streets
- Counter illegal migration flows
- Protect Canadian tourists
- Respond to natural disasters and pandemics

Three key areas of focus:

prosperity, governance, and security.



“We are a country of the Americas. Re-engagement in our hemisphere is a critical international priority for our Government. Canada is committed to playing a bigger role in the Americas and to doing so in the long term.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Santiago, Chile
17 July 2007



Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces: A Key Player in Canada's Americas Strategy

- Defence is a key player in implementing the Government's Americas Strategy
- The Americas are an area of the world where DND/CF engagement *can* make a difference through focused, enduring and mutually beneficial initiatives
- Defence diplomacy **tool-kit**:
 - High-level engagement and visits
 - Formal defence arrangements
 - International placements
 - Strategic policy dialogue
 - Capacity building
 - Sectoral and functional engagement
 - Operational engagement
 - Defence outreach



Current Activities in the Hemisphere (1)

5 Defence Attachés

-  CDA Mexico: Mexico, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama
-  CDA Cuba: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica
-  CDA Colombia: Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
-  CDA Brazil: Brazil, Guyana, Suriname
-  CDA Chile: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



Current Activities in the Hemisphere (2)

Military Training and Cooperation Programme

Argentina: 1998
Belize: 1983
Bolivia: 2008
Brazil: 1998
Chile: 1998
Colombia: 2011
Ecuador: 2005
El Salvador: 1992
Guatemala: 2008
Guyana: 1974
Honduras: 2008
Mexico: 2004
Nicaragua: 1993
Paraguay: 2005
Peru: 2005
Uruguay: 2005

Antigua and Barbuda: 1982
Barbados: 1972
Dominican Republic: 2005
Jamaica: 1965
Trinidad and Tobago: 1970



Current Activities in the Hemisphere (3)

- Bilateral dialogue

- Political-military: Mexico, Brazil
- Military-to-military (staff talks):
Existing: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico
- Defence Policy Talks: Colombia, Chile



- High-level engagement

- PM, MND, DM, CDS, Service Chiefs, Operational Commanders
- Ship visits



Current Activities in the Hemisphere (4)

- Multilateral institutions

- Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA)
- Inter-American Defense Board (IADB)
- Services Conference (CAA, SICOFAA, IANC)



- Exercises

- In the region (PANAMAX, FA HUMANITARIAS)
- In Canada (MAPLE FLAG)



Current Activities in the Hemisphere (5)

- Operations

- **Op Hamlet:** Canada's contribution to MINUSTAH
- **Op Caribe:** Canada's contribution to U.S. Southern Command Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF - South)



- Courses and exchanges

- Staff Colleges
- Training courses
- Hemispheric educational institutions (e.g. WHINSEC, IADC)
- Op Regulus – Naval Training Exchange

Current Activities in the Hemisphere (6)

- Partnerships with other countries
 - Ministerial bilateral discussions
 - Bilateral Meetings (Permanent Joint Board on Defence, Military Cooperation Committee, Caribbean Crossroads)
- Formal defence arrangements
 - Defence cooperation MOU
 - Legal instruments



Future Challenges

- Violence, TCOs, drug trafficking = regional instability
- Particular concerns in Central America
- DND/CF involvement in Central America is set to grow through a cooperative approach
- Our main focus will be on capacity building initiatives that will help Central American armed forces to:
 - strengthen their ability and effectiveness to support civilian authorities in addressing TCOs and other threats, and
 - strengthen their ability to respond to crisis situations
- Increase DND/CF internal capacity
 - expertise, cultural understanding, and language skills



Main tenets of a Canadian approach

- 1) Coordinated with whole-of-government partners
- 2) Coordinated with partner countries
- 3) Modest, Enduring, and Reciprocal
- 4) Considerate of the defence-security nexus

