



For Immediate Distribution
Wednesday, November 12, 2003

NEWS RELEASE

IRPP Study Argues that Canada Could Have Contributed to Operation Iraqi Freedom

***Institute for
Research on
Public Policy***

***Institut de
recherche
en politiques
publiques***

The lack of political will and strategic direction are what continue to plague the development of effective and rational approaches to force generation and deployment, says study.

Montreal – The Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP.org) today released a paper by Sean M. Maloney entitled “Are We Just Peacekeepers? The Perception Versus the Reality of Canadian Involvement in the Iraq War,” which argues “there can be little doubt that Canada had the military means to contribute in an effective and salient fashion to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.”

Maloney reviews the nature of the conflict, the objectives of the intervention and the Canadian Forces’ capabilities, availability, salience and effectiveness and concludes that Canada missed the boat with this third phase of the Iraq War.

He says that the Canadian Forces’ effectiveness depends not only on its flexibility and experience to downshift from combat operations to conducting stabilization operations, but also on its intelligence-gathering and information-targeting capabilities. In assessing Canada’s special operations forces, he adds that the “JTF-2, had it been deployed to Iraq, would have been the ‘ace in a royal flush’ of effective and salient Canadian capabilities.”

In this review of the Canadian Forces’ interventions throughout the 1990s and assessment of Canada’s capacity to contribute in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the author deconstructs the myth that the Canadian Forces is merely a peacekeeping entity incapable of fighting in mid- to high-intensity wars.

“Are We Just Peacekeepers? The Perception Versus the Reality of Canadian Involvement in the Iraq War” is the latest study to be released in the IRPP’s Working Paper Series, as part of the National Security and Military Interoperability research initiative. It is now available on-line in Adobe (.pdf) format on the Institute’s Web site (www.irpp.org). Please find the summary attached.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact the IRPP.

To receive IRPP media advisories and news releases via E-mail, please subscribe to the IRPP E-distribution service by visiting the Institute’s Web site (www.irpp.org).

Founded in 1972, the IRPP is an independent, national, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve public policy in Canada by generating research, providing insight and sparking debate that will contribute to the public policy decision-making process and strengthen the quality of the public policy decisions made by governments, citizens, institutions and organizations.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jasmine Sharma (jsharma@irpp.org)
Director of Communications and Public Relations
IRPP.org
(514) 985-2461