



## PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

### The Canadian tale of a Jamaican Officer

A JAMAICAN OFFICER, TRAINED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
DMTC, IN THE MULTI-NATIONAL COALITION: AFGHANISTAN

*The following article is taken from the excellent DMTC website; it demonstrates  
the success of the Canadian Forces training.*

[www.forces.gc.ca/admpol/mtcp-annual-report-eng.html](http://www.forces.gc.ca/admpol/mtcp-annual-report-eng.html)



*Lt Carl Clarke from the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) during his tour with  
the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan*

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*Credit: The Department of National Defence*

"A new chapter in defence relations was written in the fall of 2009 when Lt Carl Clarke from the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) completed his tour with the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. Clarke, a JDF Engineer Officer, served as a Construction Management Team Leader with the Construction Management Organization of Joint Task Force Afghanistan Headquarters. It was a long road to get there and Clarke can attest to that fact. From the initial discussions between DMTC staff and the Jamaican CDS to the deployment, a multitude of hurdles had to be overcome. This came at a time when Canada was looking for outside support from allies in Afghanistan, and therefore an offer like this from an ally could not be taken lightly.

Prior to deployment, Lt Clarke received the same comprehensive training package completed by CF troops. Lt Clarke noted that the training he received was one of the key factors affecting his performance in theatre.

He was quickly adopted by his Canadian unit and earned the respect of his fellow officers and non-commissioned members. Every step of the long process relating to Clarke's deployment was felt at DMTC. It did not become a reality, however, until the first e-mail from his Squadron Commander in Afghanistan arrived at the DMTC office saying *"Guess what showed up on my doorstep this afternoon ... a Jamaican, under an Afghan sun, just stepping off a Dutch Herc."* With that, Lt Clarke became the first JDF Officer within the multi-national coalition."