

# Service Praises Peacekeepers

**BY NICKI CRUICKSHANK**

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Fern Taillefer may be retired from the military, but he would still like to be back in action. I cant stop thinking about the military, said Taillefer, a peacekeeping veteran. When I see what's happening in Afghanistan, I tell my wife Id go over if I could.

These are thoughts mirrored by fellow peacekeeping veterans who attended the Peacekeeping Day service at Canadian Forces Base Borden, west of Barrie, yesterday.

Peacekeeping Day recognizes the deaths of nine Canadian peacekeepers shot down in their Buffalo aircraft in Syria on Aug. 9, 1974.

The day is meant for veteran peacekeepers, military personnel and the public to remember the dedication of Canadian peacekeepers.

Taillefer, vice-president of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP) Central Ontario chapter, said he was proud of his peacekeeping missions. But he said nothing was greater than coming home.

When I came home from Egypt in 1978, the only bad part was one of our men came home in a coffin, he said.

Luc Robert also has a lasting reminder of his peacekeeping duties; its there every time he looks in the mirror.

I was wounded by an AK-47, and the bullet is still in me, the veteran said, exposing a scar on his left shoulder. I was serving in Kosovo in 1992, under Gen. Lewis MacKenzie.

Robert couldn't wait to fall back into formation at yesterdays ceremony.

Its good to be able to march again, shoulder to shoulder, he said, glancing at his fellow veterans.

Recognizing the role of peacekeepers was also on Mike Comeau's mind, as well.

I'm very happy they're having the ceremony, Comeau, founder of CAVUNPs Central Ontario chapter, said.

The recognition of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations is very important.

Serving three tours of duty in Palestine and Egypt by 1975, Comeau feared war.

But today's wars are much more volatile, he said.

The Canadian Landmine Foundation is helping Canadians create world peace with its Peacekeepers Day Yard Sale campaign.

The campaign, which runs until Labour Day, encourages Canadians to hold yard sales in honour of peacekeepers and donate the proceeds to the foundation.

All donations will go towards creating a more peaceful planet.

Funds will pay for the clearing of landmines in Afghanistan, training a landmine detection dog in Bosnia, and developing a war survivor assistance program in Cambodia.

Canadians interested in participating can register online at [www.cmf.org](http://www.cmf.org). A tax receipt will be sent back in exchange for the funds.

Those unable to hold a sale can also make a tax deductible, direct donation on the website as well.