



SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AT MAJOR GAMES EVENTS

While recently attending an information session for NSOs and Partners of the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, Steven Sugar (ChPC) and I were prompted by comments made by S/Sgt. Scott Temple, (Major Events) in his presentation to discuss with him the idea of an article for Coaches PLAN du coach that focused on the challenges of providing security at events of the magnitude of a Commonwealth Games. Based on their experiences at major games events, Coaches of Canada Board members provided questions to the RCMP; you will find these questions and answer in the article below.

Coaches of Canada appreciates the cooperation of the RCMP in preparing this article and we would like to acknowledge Scott Temple, Stéphanie Dumoulin and Jolene Bradley for their help in coordinating this project.

Interviewed Staff Sergeant Louis Chiasson, Major Events Planner, with quotes from Assistant Commissioner Bud Mercer, Chief Operations Officer for the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit.

Wayne Parro, ChPC, Executive Director, Coaches of Canada

The security challenges ahead will be the largest and most complex in Canadian history. Each and every day offers great examples of innovative thinking, team work and a genuine interest in making the force's mission a success. "The focus is on a sport event with a security overlay rather than a security overlay housing a sport event," says A/Commr. Bud Mercer, Chief Operating Officer for the 2010 Games. With this in mind, the police presence will be present in a subtle, but effective fashion.

Q Are you anticipating and problems with demonstrations? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

We are expecting a certain number of protests, as these are almost always the case for any event of this magnitude. The RCMP respects and protects the right to peaceful demonstrations as guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Integrated Security Unit (ISU) will balance maintaining the integrity of the security operations with individual rights and freedoms and the need to maintain public safety, order, and peace.

In the event of unlawful protests or criminal activity, we will take necessary steps to mitigate those threats that pose a real threat to the safety of individuals or property. The RCMP is always held accountable in accordance with the laws of Canada.

Q What does and Olympic level performance look like for the RCMP? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

The RCMP always strives to provide the highest quality of service to the Canadian communities it serves. During the Olympics, along side its partners, the RCMP will strive to maintain this level of service while exhibiting a high level of professionalism toward international visitors or dignitaries that will be visiting our country. The RCMP works closely with its partners towards that goal.

Q What is the most important factor that you consider in preparing a threat assessment for an activity like the Olympic Games? (Roger Archambault, ChPC)

When preparing for a major event, the planners not only evaluate the threat against the event itself (if any), but also against the individuals or groups participating in that event. After this has been thoroughly evaluated, we adapt our security measures to that threat environment.

Q What type of collaborative effort is needed with other police forces from other countries attending the Games in Vancouver? (Roger Archambault, ChPC)

The RCMP has a longstanding relationship with the Canadian public but also with its international law enforcement partners such as the United States, the European Union, Commonwealth countries, etc., with whom we share best practices and other security related intelligence for major events such as the Olympic Games.

Also, many countries have their own Security Liaison Officers who travel with their Olympic teams just as Canada has for the Canadian Olympic Team.

Q What size of a security force will it take to implement the security plan for the upcoming Vancouver Games? (Roger Archambault, ChPC)

Although we are not ready to discuss the number of police officers involved in the security effort at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, we can say that there is a broad participation of many law enforcement agencies across Canada, as well as other partners at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. The Canadian Forces will also play a vital role in the security of the Games, as well as some international partners such as NORAD and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Q In terms of the education and development of an RCMP officer, what elements of 'coaching' are critical to the successful development of an officer, especially specific to security at major events? (Ozzie Sawicki, ChPC)

A broad range of operational police experience is needed, including experience in protective services, as well as possessing strong skills in the area of organizational competencies, including organizing and planning. Strong communication and leadership skills are also required along with flexibility and teamwork attributes.

Q How obvious will the police presence be? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

The 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games are first and foremost a sporting event that will require security.

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Q How do your officers get selected to be on the 2010 team? What kind of selection criteria do you have? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

We select officers on the basis of their operational skills, whether these are general or specialized, their level of experience, their ability to be released from their regular duties, as well as on their interest in working during the Games. We are also working with police departments from across Canada to deploy some of their police officers to the Games. "These are truly Canada's Games and police personnel selected reflect the participation of a broad range of police forces from across the country."

Q What kind of debriefing/reflective procedures do you run post-event? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

After all major events, the RCMP prepares an after action report which highlights best practices and deficiencies, while presenting items and elements for future considerations in order to close the gaps identified for future major events.

Q What happens to the career of police officers after the games? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

Once all the necessary wrap-up is done, which will likely take several months, officers deployed temporarily to the Games will return to their regular duties with their respective police force or units within the RCMP. As for those who were deployed full time at the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit, they get re-deployed to other policing duties within the force or within their respective police force.

Q In preparing our athletes for the Olympic Games, we use an array of sport science and sport medical experts to prepare our athletes. To what extent do you train your officers beyond regular day-to-day activities? How do you prepare them psychologically for the Olympics? (Christian Hrab, ChPC)

On top of the regular extensive police training officers have received at the RCMP training academy (or Depot), they all have to undergo additional periodic training to ensure their certification status and skill levels are up-to-date. There will also be orientation sessions provided to the officers prior to the Games, regarding the specific duties they will be assigned to.

For more information, we invite you to go to the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit's website: www.v2010isu.ca

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Q Qu'est-ce qui constituerait une performance de niveau olympique pour la GRC? (Christian Hrab, e.p.a.)

La GRC vise à toujours fournir une qualité exceptionnelle de services aux communautés qu'elle dessert. Durant les Olympiques, en collaboration avec ses partenaires, la GRC cherchera à offrir ce même niveau de services, tout en démontrant un niveau élevé de professionnalisme envers les visiteurs et les dignitaires internationaux qui séjourneront dans notre pays. La GRC travaille en étroite collaboration avec ses partenaires pour atteindre cet objectif.

Q Comment sont choisis les agents pour faire partie de l'équipe de 2010? Quels sont vos critères de sélection? (Christian Hrab, e.p.a.)

Nous choisissons les agents en se basant sur leurs habiletés opérationnelles, qu'elles soient de nature générale ou spécialisée, sur leur expérience, sur la possibilité d'être dégagés de leur service régulier, ainsi que sur leur intérêt à travailler aux Jeux. Nous travaillons également avec des corps policiers de partout à travers le pays pour qu'ils

affectent certains de leurs agents aux Jeux. Ces Jeux appartiennent au Canada tout entier, et les policiers qui seront choisis viendront d'une gamme étendue de forces policières de partout au Canada.

Q Quels types de débriefage ou de processus de réflexion menez-vous à la suite de l'événement? (Christian Hrab, e.p.a.)

À la suite de tout événement majeur, la GRC rédige un rapport postopérations qui met en évidence les pratiques exemplaires et les carences, tout en énumérant un certain nombre d'éléments à considérer afin d'éliminer ces carences lors d'événements majeurs à venir.

Q Qu'advient-il de la carrière des policiers après les Jeux? (Christian Hrab, e.p.a.)

Lorsqu'est terminé le travail pour clore les dossiers, ce qui nécessitera probablement plusieurs mois, les officiers affectés de façon temporaire aux Jeux reprendront leur service régulier avec leur force policière ou leur unité de la GRC. En ce qui concerne ceux qui avaient été affectés à temps plein auprès du Groupe intégré de la

sécurité pour Vancouver 2010, ils seront réaffectés à d'autres tâches au sein de la GRC ou de leurs forces policières respectives.

Q Dans la préparation des athlètes pour les Jeux olympiques, nous utilisons une vaste gamme d'experts en sciences du sport et en médecine sportive. Jusqu'où poussez-vous l'entraînement de vos agents au-delà de leurs activités quotidiennes? Comment les préparez-vous psychologiquement pour les Olympiques? (Christian Hrab, e.p.a.)

En plus de l'entraînement complet que les officiers reçoivent à l'Académie de la GRC (ou Dépôt) en vue de leur travail de policier régulier, ils doivent se soumettre à des séances d'entraînement périodiques afin de maintenir à jour leur certification et leur niveau d'habileté. De plus, des séances de familiarisation concernant les tâches spécifiques auxquelles ils auront été affectés seront offertes aux agents avant les Jeux.

Pour obtenir des informations additionnelles, nous vous invitons à vous rendre sur le site Web du Groupe intégré de la sécurité pour Vancouver 2010 : www.v2010isu.ca