

Continental Defense & Security

Working together to keep North America safe

The United States and Canada share an unwavering commitment to each other's security. Our law enforcement, intelligence agencies, military, and security forces collaborate seamlessly to safeguard the North American perimeter. As Arctic allies, we are dedicated to securing our northern regions.

*Canada stands resolutely by the United States, ready to **protect our shared values and sovereignty**, with a revitalized defense policy enhancing the Canadian Armed Forces. Recent improvements to Canadian border and law enforcement agencies will further strengthen border integrity by increasing resources to combat illegal activity.*



Ensuring a Safe and Secure Border: A Seamless U.S.-Canada Partnership

Our shared border, the longest in the world, is protected 24/7, 365 days a year. Canadian and U.S. law enforcement agencies work closely, using advanced technologies and shared intelligence to prevent the illegal movement of **drugs, firearms, and people**. This collaboration ensures the secure and efficient flow of goods and people, **vital for both countries' economic competitiveness and prosperity**.

Combating Fentanyl:

Fentanyl trafficking and the overdose epidemic affect both the United States and Canada, making joint initiatives such as the North American Drug Dialogue essential to disrupt drug movement. Canada is committed to detecting, intercepting, and addressing the threat of fentanyl and precursor chemicals. We are deploying advanced AI and imaging tools, 100 new chemical detection tools at high-risk ports, and establishing a Canadian Drug Profiling Centre to support 2,000 investigations annually. In 2023-2024, Canada seized over 110,000 pounds of illegal drugs at the border, both inbound and outbound. **Canada is a minimal source of fentanyl for the United States.**

Border Integrity and Security:

We are enhancing border security with a **new Aerial Intelligence Task Force, including helicopters, drones, and mobile surveillance towers**. AI and counter-drone technology provide 24/7 surveillance at border hotspots. Canadian and U.S. officials work through the Cross Border Crime Forum and the Cross-Border Firearms Task Force to prevent smuggling. Initiatives like "Project Money Penny" disrupted a firearms trafficking operation, seizing 173 smuggled firearms and making dozens of arrests.

Addressing Illegal Migration:

The United States and Canada collaborate on illegal migration through the updated Safe Third Country Agreement, which requires most asylum seekers to request protection in the first safe country they enter. Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are using all available measures to combat illegal migration into the United States and Canada including existing legislation such as the Criminal Code, coordinated aerial surveillance, and improved technology at the border. **In 2024, less than 1% of illegal crossings reported by the U.S. were at the Canadian border.**



Canada is committed to working with the United States to curb illegal migration before individuals reach the border. In 2024, an RCMP investigation in Quebec led to charges under the Criminal Code against two individuals conspiring to smuggle people from Canada to the United States.

NORAD: A Legacy of Binational Continental Defense

For over 65 years, Canadian and American armed forces have jointly defended North America through the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), **the only binational military command in the world**. NORAD is ready to detect and respond to threats from intercontinental ballistic missiles, aircraft, terrorism, and other air, missile, and space vehicles. To keep pace with evolving threats, Canada is investing in NORAD modernization by enhancing infrastructure, control and communications, surveillance, air weapons systems, and science and technology. **Approximately 1,000 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel support the NORAD mission throughout North America.**

Operation NANOOK, the Canadian Armed Forces' signature Arctic training operation, reinforces CAF as a key partner and expert in Arctic security and defense and ensures a more persistent presence in the Arctic. Key allies and partners, including the United States, are invited to participate each year.



Arctic Allies: Pioneering Security and Innovation in the North

The Arctic's strategic importance is growing due to geopolitical competition, economic interests, and environmental shifts. **Canada is the United States' premier partner in the Arctic**, collaborating on security, environmental, and infrastructure issues. Canada's military leads in monitoring the North and is establishing Northern Operational Support Hubs and a new satellite ground station to provide year-round presence. In November 2024, Canada, Finland, and the United States signed the **Icebreaker Collaboration Effort (ICE Pact)**, a landmark agreement to jointly develop Arctic and polar icebreakers. This partnership will boost industry collaboration, coordinate expertise, and strengthen Arctic protection, ensuring **regional security and stability**.

