

# **Around The Rings:**

## **Providing Security for the 2010 Winter Olympics**

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The 2010 XXI Olympic Winter Games will take place in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) will be faced with the task of leading security for the event.

The 2010 Winter Olympics will be the third Olympiad hosted by Canada and the first by the province of British Columbia. Previously, Canada was home to the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Sixty-four thousand winter sports events have been announced as part of the 2010 Winter Olympics. They include bobsled, luge, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, skiing, ski jumping and many more. The XXI Olympic Winter Games will take place Feb. 12-28, and the X Paralympic Winter Games will be held March 12-21.

RCMP will be the lead agency for security planning for the games, supervising a “2010 Integrated Security Unit” (ISU), which includes the Canadian Forces, the Vancouver and West Vancouver Police Departments (there are Olympic venues in both those cities, as well as Richmond and Whistler, which are policed by the RCMP). Numerous other federal agencies also play an integral role, providing technical planning for the restricted airspace, as well as assuming security rules and procedures. These groups include the North American Aerospace Defense Command, Transport Canada, NavCanada (ATC provider), the Canada Border Services Agency (customs), Canadian Air Transport Security Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration.

An upcoming specific aviation planning section at the ISU will address two major issues:

- 1) Provision of airborne law enforcement support by the police and military to the Olympic Games security operation (e.g. rotary and fixed-wing transport of personnel, airborne surveillance, etc.).
- 2) Planning and enforcement of airspace security over and near Olympic Games venues, based on a concentric “rings” concept and including both police and military air assets.

Given the location just north of the Canadian border with the U.S., there is also a close liaison between the ISU and U.S. federal government and Washington State agencies. One of the concentric Olympics airspace protection rings actually extends into the U.S., requiring close coordination with the FAA.

These Olympics-related statistics offer an idea of the scope required for security planning:

- A 60-day operational period extends from January to March 2010 to cover both the Olympics and Paralympics and lead-up times as athletes arrive, train, etc.
- 15 sports venues in four different cities (two policed by the RCMP, two others as noted above)
- 11 competitive venues and 105 (estimated) non-competitive venues (e.g. arts festivals, etc.)

- Approximately 8,500 security personnel, including RCMP, provincial and municipal police forces and private security
- Approximately 5,500 Olympic athletes and 1,350 Paralympic athletes
- More than 80 participating Olympics countries and 40 Paralympics countries
- Estimated 1.8 million spectator tickets for sale
- Approximately 10,000 accredited media
- Approximately 25,000 volunteers
- Estimated 3 billion television viewers
- Approximately 2,000 organizing committee employees