



Peter A. Tinsley
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Executive Director

Mr. Tinsley is a graduate of McMaster University and the University of Windsor Law School. He is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada and is thereby licensed to practice law in his native province of Ontario.

He had a 28-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces, serving overseas and in Canada as a military police officer for almost 10 years. Following his graduation from law school he transferred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Mr. Tinsley had extensive experience both as an advisor to senior Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces authorities and in litigation. During a 14-year legal career with the military, he held several positions including seven years as the Assistant Judge Advocate General for the Ontario Region, in which he prosecuted and supervised the prosecution of Armed Forces personnel on both disciplinary matters and offences under the Criminal Code of Canada. Mr. Tinsley was best known as the senior prosecutor and appellate counsel in the high-profile prosecutions of Canadian Forces members stationed in Somalia for murder and torture. On his departure from the military in 1998, Mr. Tinsley was Special Assistant Judge Advocate General.

Following his retirement from the military he entered the private practice of law as a criminal defence counsel at the trial and appellate levels.

On January 1, 1999, Mr. Tinsley was appointed by the Government of Ontario as the Director of the province's Special Investigations Unit. This independent civilian oversight agency was established in 1990 to investigate incidents involving the police resulting in death or serious injury, including sexual assault, and to lay criminal charges where warranted. Mr. Tinsley's specific mandate was to reform and rebuild this historically controversial agency to fulfill its intended role as a mechanism for community confidence. A government review in 2003 found that all goals had been achieved on time and within budget (see www.siu.on.ca the Review Report of the Honorable George Adams).

In August 2003 Mr. Tinsley was appointed by the Special Representative of the Secretary General to serve with the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo as the International Prosecutor in the Mitrovica District, a post he held until July 2004. In this role Mr. Tinsley investigated and prosecuted war crimes and other more current, but ethnically related offences,

including organized crime and trafficking in persons. As part of the ongoing efforts to rebuild the justice system in Kosovo, he also served from January until June 2004 as the Chairperson of the Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, an independent body of nationals and internationals responsible for the recruitment and disciplining of new judges and prosecutors.

Commencing in February 2005 Mr. Tinsley served as one of four International Prosecutors in the newly created Special War Crimes Department of the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina appointed by the High Representative. This is new and unique model for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes cases in a national court by integrated teams of nationals and internationals; cases originated both nationally and transferred from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague as part of its completion strategy. The purpose was to prosecute the war crimes offences at the highest international standard and to build confidence and capacity in the national judicial system.

In December 2005 Mr. Tinsley was appointed by the Government of Canada to a four-year term as the chairperson of the Military Police Complaints Commission. This quasi-judicial tribunal, which reports to parliament, is statutorily empowered to review complaints, including by means of public inquiry, about the professional performance and conduct of military police personnel as well as complaints from the military police about interference from senior military or civilian officials.

In the professional context, Mr. Tinsley has also been a member of the board of directors for the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (served as President '08-'09) and a member of the Advisory Committee to Ontario's Centre of Forensic Sciences. He has spoken frequently, both within Canada and internationally, on matters related to the Rule of Law and civilian oversight of security forces. Since 1992 such presentations have been made in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Cuba, Romania, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Portugal. Most recently, Mr. Tinsley was a speaker and moderator in August 2009 at a UNDP workshop on Advocacy for Independent Oversight for Bazra, Iraq and in November 2009 in Minas Gerais, Brazil at a seminar concerning advancement of the social defense system.