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Peace Operations

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Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements for United Nations Peacekeeping

Executive Summary

The UN Secretariat continues to work with Member States to maintain pledges of qualified uniformed capabilities ready for timely deployment to peacekeeping operations. In this sense, the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell has started its support to the preparation and organization of the 2025 Berlin Peacekeeping Ministerial. A pledge guide and other instructions will be issued in due time for Member States' preparation.

The Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and its Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) have entered a new cycle that will run from 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. T/PCCs that have not yet confirmed their pledges in the PCRS website, regardless of their level, are reminded to do so as soon as possible. The instructions on how to confirm pledges are available in the PCRS Users Guide. If questions remain, please reach out to the PCRS manager at pcrs.manager@un.org.

A revised version of the Assessment and Advisory Visit (AAV) Standard Operational Procedures has been issued. It is a regular revision after the first edition was published in 2020. The revision reflects small adjustments collected from subject matter experts and Member State representatives who have conducted AAVs in the last 3 years. It also incorporated recommendations from the DOS Deployment Timeline that have been endorsed by USG DPO and USG DOS. Some small changes were made in the human rights component of the document on the request of OHCHR after their pilot participation in an AAV in 2023.

In **Annex A** (page 8) you will be able to find an updated list of current uniformed pledges made in the PCRS and the different levels that they have been placed. This can support identification of military and police capabilities that are low in supply and should be prioritized in Member State planning for future pledges to the PCRS.



Assessment of COE during an AAV

The special theme on page 6 of this edition is related to important **cargo and dangerous goods documentation** that Member States are required to provide prior to deployment and rotation of military and police units. The erroneous submission of these documents generates deployment delays and operational gaps in field missions.

I. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The United Nations seeks active collaboration from Member States to fortify capacity-building and pre-deployment training efforts. We seek offers of support from Member States in several key areas:

- **Hosting training activities:** Member States are encouraged to offer training facilities. Ideally, support should extend to accommodation, board, and travel for some or all international participants.

- **Nomination of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):** In 2025, the Integrated Training Service (ITS) will



Validation Workshop for Piloting Training Materials UNGSC Mar 24

undertake the update of existing pre-deployment training materials and the development of new ones. Calls for Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will be issued in the last quarter of 2024 or at the beginning of 2025. The development processes are expected to span 12 months. The work will be undertaken through virtual conferences and culminate in a face-to-face course to validate the training material. We request that the SMEs be available for the entire 12-month period. The anticipated workload is one to two hours per week. SMEs are instrumental in ensuring the training content is current, relevant, and reflective of the latest peacekeeping challenges.

- **Selection of Candidates for UN-organized Train-the-Trainer (TOT) Programmes:** Member States are encouraged to carefully select the best possible candidates to participate in UN-organized TOTs. We will conduct TOTs on new material for Force Protection and Addressing Mis- and Disinformation.

- We especially encourage the **nomination of female SMEs and instructors.**

- **Translation of Training Materials:** Assistance is sought from Member States to translate training materials, particularly those related to UN Force Protection and UN Staff Officers.

- **Provision of National Trainers for UN-led TOTs:** Member States are requested to make national trainers previously identified to support UN-led TOTs available. These trainers' contributions are crucial to effectively disseminating knowledge and skills.

- **Supporting the dissemination of new training materials** on Addressing Mis- and Disinformation for military and police units: To ensure the rollout of this material to all T/PCCs, support is requested from Member States. Member States may wish to provide facilities at no cost, support in-kind, or enter partnership arrangements with other Member States.

Member States considering supporting the above activities are encouraged to contact ITS.

Forty members states have registered users for the LCM Online System (LCMOS) launched in January 2024, allowing Member States to securely share their military and police peacekeeping training and capacity-building activities. This system helps the LCM track training capacities and partnerships, identify cooperation opportunities and alert users to activity conflicts and new UN training standards. Registered users are invited to start uploading their national police and military training calendars. Registration for official users is ongoing, please contact DPO-LCM@un.org for more information or assistance.

The United Nations Buddy First Aid mobile application is now accessible in French, English, and Spanish. This app outlines the UN standards for essential first aid skills needed by all peacekeepers. Member states interested in translating the app into non-official UN languages for wider access can reach out to the LCM. T/PCCs are invited to encourage their police and military contingent personnel to install this application on their phones and tablets before their deployment. Download it now at:

Apple Store



Google Play



The Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) in the Department of Operational Support (DOS) enhances peacekeepers’ capacities of UN peacekeeping Operations (PKO) as well as African Union (AU) Peace Support Operations (PSO) through the provision of training and operational support with four distinct projects: 1) Engineering 2) Medical 3) C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C4), Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)) and camp security technologies, and 4) Telemedicine.

The TPP welcomes the active participation of Member States in training in the abovementioned key peacekeeping capability areas, as well as, but not limited to, counter-IED, airfield/runway rehabilitation, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), environmental management, and women, peace and security (WPS), through the participation of trainees, the deployment of trainers, the provision of funds and other in-kind support. Member States interested in training and partnership opportunities through the TPP can contact Mr. Takakazu Ito (itot@un.org). For more information, please consult [the TPP Fact Sheet](#).

II. MISSION-SPECIFIC UNIT GAPS

Currently, there are only two military units in the process of deploying to MONUSCO and UNMISS. One of these units is a Level 2 unit from the PCRS and the other is a unit that is at PCRS RDL. As such, in case the RDL unit deployment is confirmed, there will be a need to receive a new pledge of an infantry battalion for the Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) of the PCRS.

In addition to this new vacancy, current RDL vacancies include: one special forces company, one medium utility helicopter unit, one unmanned aerial system unit, one airfield support unit, and one combat convoy company. For Member States willing to elevate one of these types of units to the RDL, the generic statement of unit requirements is available for reference on the PCRS website, and the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Training Cell is ready to support interested TCCs.



Jordan Medium Utility Helicopter Unit in preparation for MONUSCO deployment

III. GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Although all current missions have received or will shortly receive all necessary military and police uniformed capabilities, historically, it has been common for these requirements to constantly change as the missions’

operational and technical requirements also evolve. It is then a joint responsibility to maintain these capabilities at high preparation to allow T/PCCs to quickly provide assessed and qualified critical capabilities to meet future UN requirements. The uniformed requirement trends for UN peacekeeping operations provide an indication of what Member States can pledge and work with the Secretariat to have at higher levels of preparedness in the PCRS. Besides future trends for types of military and police units, this segment will present existing gaps and future requirements that current deployed military and police units may have or may need that were not listed in the initial SURs and MoUs.

Military



CRAM-warning system to be deployed to UNIFIL

Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) tools that are part of the UN peacekeeping-intelligence (MPKI) architecture. **Quick reaction forces (QRF) at company level** have been in high demand, as more than 10 new QRFs were generated in the last three years. QRFs give the Force and Sectors the ability to quickly intervene in contingency situations and allow planned operations to be reinforced. **Infantry battalions** remain as the backbone of most military components in UN peacekeeping missions. Due to the nature of evolving threats, the need for robust posture and the importance of guaranteeing conditions for safe implementation of mandates, most of these battalions are now composed of two mechanized companies demanding a larger number of wheeled armored personnel carriers (APCs). **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Units** are required to contribute to the missions' overall capacity to respond to an increasing EOD threat, especially from Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), impacting freedom of manoeuvre and the safety and security of peacekeepers. **Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar Capability (C-RAM)** has been requested recently and may be another upcoming trend in military requirements to detect and/or destroy incoming rockets, artillery, and mortar rounds in the air before they hit their ground targets, or simply provide early warning in a threatened environment to UN personnel.

In the military units already deployed, Member States will need to make sure infantry carriers / APCs are armed with 360 degrees of protection for the gunner and will need to have the flexibility to deploy 6x6 models when terrain conditions require in lieu of 4x4 models. To allow the configuration of operational elements to conduct different types of tasks, some missions are starting to require high-mobility light tactical vehicles (HMLTV) and reconnaissance vehicles for their units. Additional capabilities such as an EOD Search and Detect element/teams, portable and/or mounted jammers, reconnaissance capability with mini drones (UAS), Level 1 hospitals, Buddy First Aid Kits (BFAK) and First Aid Kits with quality components and adequate sizes, and Counter Drone/UAS systems with hard and soft kill capabilities for effectively responding to increasing incidents of drones overflying military bases and activities are also required. The new requirements for **Integrated Base Defense (IBD)** have

been issued in a recently published policy which will require TCCs to plan for numerous future requirements including base defense sensors and fundamentals for smart camps. This requirement is also for police units.

While some mission specific capabilities requirements and trends have been identified, some of these requirements may also be applicable in other missions in the near future. In UNMISS, 70 All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) Heavy have been requested to be deployed to enhance mobility especially during the rainy season as these vehicles can maneuver through thick brush, fields, swamps, into and out of water, and over deadfall strewn forest floors, boulders, and talus fields. ATVs are critical for both operational and logistical purpose. In MINUSCA, the intention is to better equip units with Search and Detect C-IED capabilities and EOD equipment, in addition to the new request to deploy C-UAS capabilities given the increasing number of drones overflying MINUSCA bases. UNIFIL has identified the need to replace some of the regular APCs with HMLTVs.

Police

Formed Police Units (FPU) are still the core of uniformed police capabilities in UN missions. They should be equipped with relevant capabilities, such as SWAT, rapid reaction, canine and/or riverine elements (i.e. two FPUs



AAV to a Police Contributing Country

at rapid deployment level require SWAT capabilities, one of them being francophone). A platoon size of women in each FPU remains essential. **Guard Units (GU) and Rapid Response Police Units (RRPU)** tend to be an increasing solution to protect mainly UN personnel and facilities. Rapid Response Police Units are smaller police contingents (about 60 to 80 strength), highly specialized and quickly deployable to support specific mission requirements. As the RRPUs are not capable to deploy in full self-sustainment, they will require sustainment and logistic support from other units already deployed. **Specialized Police Teams (SPT)** are specialized assets, usually provided by one or two PCCs, used in community-oriented policing, environmental (rule of law) crimes, public order management, border policing, protection of civilians, forensics and forensics explosives exploitation. The use of SPTs provides the opportunity to target specific areas of concern in different missions.

Current deployed formed police units still require compatible satellite phones, unmanned aircraft system micro (multirotor), force protection surveillance equipment, day and night cameras for camp security, inside base surveillance dome camera (360° + thermal view), armored personnel carriers (APC) wheeled ambulance/rescue, and all-terrain vehicle light.

Logistic/Renewable Energy

Deployment of renewable energy Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) by T/PCCs is crucial in advancing the United Nations' Environment Strategy for Peace Operations. This equipment offers significant operational and environmental advantages, reducing the reliance of uniformed units on fuel availability and improving energy security and resilience in remote and challenging environments.

To support such deployment, the Environment Section of the Office of USG-DOS and the Uniformed Capabilities Support Division are offering technical and logistical support to T/PCCs, helping them identify renewable energy solutions tailored to their specific needs and resources, and providing the necessary support for the equipment deployment and MOU amendments. Renewable energy systems, once deployed by T/PCCs, will be reimbursed as per the rates and provisions of the COE manual, and as agreed to in the respective MOUs.



Pak Inf Batt in MINUSCA - Solar photovoltaic system low penetration system of 24 kWp deployed in 2023.

IV. CARGO AND DANGEROUS GOODS DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Recent events shows that some T/PCCs are facing difficulties with the submission of duly completed and accurate Cargo and Dangerous Goods (DG) documentation and with the preparation of their COE for transportation. MOVCON requirements and guidelines are hereby outlined to assist T/PCCs in these necessary tasks:

Preparation of the required Cargo and DG Documentation and the COE for transportation **MUST** be completed in accordance with the T/PCC Tasks and Responsibilities and Hazardous Materials Shipment ([Annex A & B](#)).

Main requirements for Cargo documentation:

- **Cargo Load List (CLL)** **MUST** be prepared in accordance with the UN standard Templates and Samples ([Annex C](#) and [Annex D](#))
- Actual measurement of the COE **MUST** be done after removal of all mirrors, spare tires, antennas, and other removable equipment from vehicles, trailers & generators.
- Weight of all the COE (especially vehicles, trailer, generators, and break bulks) **MUST** be confirmed by respective technical manuals for the specific equipment and cannot be generic or estimated weights.

Main requirements for DG Documentation:

- **Dangerous Goods (DG)** documentation **MUST** be prepared and signed by qualified and certified Dangerous Goods specialist. It is strongly recommended to assign a few officers or civilian personnel to attend class or online training courses. An IATA/ICAO DG course for AIR shipment usually takes 3 days with an approximate cost of USD \$500/per person; an IMDG course for the SEA freight usually takes 2 days, with an approximate cost of USD \$500/per person and the certificate will be valid for 2-3 years. Alternatively, the certified specialist may be hired from T/PCC's national/international airport, seaport, or from shipping lines or freight forwarders.
- All cells in DG documents must be filled with proper information in accordance with the International DG Regulations (IATA/ICAO & IMO).
- Items such as medicine, paint, oil, lubrication materials, sanitation liquids & sprays, anti-mosquito, fumigations, cleaning materials (washing liquid & powder), and all liquids with alcohol are Dangerous Goods (Class 2-9) and **MUST** be properly declared, packed, segregated, marked, labelled, and prepared for the transportation in accordance with IATA/ICAO (air) and IMO/IMDG (sea) regulations.

Preparation of Containers:

- Due to poor transport infrastructure, including harsh road conditions and weak/narrow bridges, as well as limited mechanical handling equipment in mission areas, **40' shipping container (ISO) cannot not be used**. Deploying T/PCCs must limit the size of their shipping containers to 20' (or less) (ISO). 40' shipping

containers will not be accepted for transportation by the UN. Should a T/PCC deploy a 40' (or 45') shipping container to a mission area, the T/PCC will be solely responsible for its delivery and handling, including any additional costs incurred during transportation, delivery and subsequent handling.

- All 20' containers **must be seaworthy and manufactured within 2 years of the deployment date or recertified by a qualified Container Safety Commission (CSC) specialist** prior to use, otherwise the container will be declared not acceptable for the transportation by the UN.

- Old containers may be refurbished and then recertified by a qualified and certified Container Inspector. It is strongly recommended to assign 1-2 officers or civilian personnel to attend online training courses and then to pass exams at qualified institutions available in the capitals or other large cities in T/PCCs. The course may take between 3-9 months with an approximate cost of USD \$1200/per person, and the certificate will be valid for 5 years. Alternatively, the T/PCC may contract a certified specialist from a seaport, shipping line, or freight forwarder to refurbish and recertify the container prior to deployment to a UN mission.

- Recertification **MUST** be reflected on the CSC plates.

- A copy of a container certificate (after refurbishing & recertification) **MUST** be attached to an inner wall of the container.

Requirements for the preparation of the COE for the transportation:

- All valuable, sensitive, and other equipment which can be removed, damaged or stolen during the transportation **MUST** be dismantled and containerized during cargo preparation and finalization of the CLL.

- To avoid damages during the transportation the COE **MUST** be properly packed with sufficient cushioning materials (dunnage), loaded, and fixed inside containers. It is the responsibility of the Consignor to ensure the contents of container are suitably packed and secured to avoid damage during transportation under harsh conditions.

- For sea freight, only big and oversized items (such as large generators and large water storages tanks) can be considered as break bulk. All other items must be containerized.

Below listed are the **required Cargo and DG cargo documentation, photos, and certificates** (templates and samples are available at pcrs.un.org):

- Cargo Load List (CLL) and other cargo documents as per the attached UN templates.
- Dangerous Goods List and DG Declaration forms.
- Copies of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) provided by manufactures for all Dangerous Goods.
- End User Certificate.
- Photos (with visible dimensions) of actual measurement of all vehicles & trailers (after dismantling), containers and break bulks.
- Photos of proof of actual weight of all vehicles, trailers and break bulks.
- Photos of 4 x sides of all containers with visible Marks & Labels.
- Copies of valid certificates for a DG specialist and a Container Inspector.
- Photos of CSC plates and recertification (if applicable) for all containers.
- Copies of all container certificates after refurbishing & recertification (if applicable).

Additional information also required at least 2 months before the actual deployment:

- Actual address of the COE staging area(s).
- Preferred Airport and Sea port of embarkation.
- Detailed contact information on Consignor/Consignee & Focal point(s).



COE Convoy during deployment to field mission

ANNEX A

CURRENTLY PLEDGED CAPABILITIES

The PCRS is the sole entry point to commit uniformed capabilities to UN peacekeeping. The system supports the Secretariat’s selection process for deployments. The status of pledges in the PCRS (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and RDL) is shown in the table below. Level 1 indicates that a pledge of a formed unit with all the required information was accepted in the system. **Level 2** indicates the pledge received a successful AAV and that the unit assessed is deemed as capable for a potential deployment within **180 days from the acceptance of an invitation**. **Level 3** indicates that the pledged capability has the contingent-owned equipment and personnel in alignment with the generic UN military/police statement of requirement (SUR) and this equipment is accurately reflected in a load list and is estimated ready for deployment within **120 days from the acceptance of an invitation**. A unit at the **RDL** has been pledged and verified as ready for deployment to any UN field mission within **60 days of a formal invitation from the Secretariat**. A “Registered” pledge (e.g. for Staff Officers, IPOs and training pledges) is one for which the various PCRS Levels are not relevant.

AAVs have a 5-year expiration and pledges that were elevated will have to be revalidated after that to remain at higher levels. **Pledges at Level 3 also need to be revised to meet the new generic SUR demands**. A grace period up to **30 June 2024** was given for adjustments to be conducted. **Pledges that were not revalidated with new Level 3 requirements were downgraded as of 1st July 2024**. In case you wish to maintain pledges at Level 3, kindly contact the PCRS Managers at pcrs.manager@un.org

Type of units	# of units in PCRS Level 1	# of units in PCRS Level 2	# of units in PCRS Level 3	# of units in PCRS RDL	# of deployed units in the Cycle (23/24)
Infantry Battalions	22	9	1	3	-
Infantry Company/Platoon	10	1	-	-	-
Recce Company	1	1	-	-	-
Special Force Units/ groups	7	5	-	-	-
Force Protection Company	7	3	1	-	-
Quick Reaction Force (Coy)	17	7	1	3	2
ISR units/ UAS	2	3	1	-	-
Engineer Companies/ Platoons	18	8	1	1	-
Demining/EOD Units	16	2	-	-	-
Hospitals/ Medical Teams	15	5	1	1	-
Utility Helicopter Units	5	5	-	-	-
Attack/Armed Helicopter Units	-	1	-	1	1
Transport Aircrafts	7	1	-	1	-
MP Companies/ teams	7	5	-	1	-
Signal Companies/platoons	3	4	-	1	-
Log/Transport Companies/Units	4	1	1	-	-
Formed Police Units	15	14	4	2	-
Police Guard Units	2	-	-	-	-
Maritime Units	10	2	-	-	-
Other/Artillery Battery	-	-	-	-	1
Air Lift	6				
Training Pledges	41				
Total	168	77	11	14	4

* as of 28 June 24.