



Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements for United Nations Peacekeeping

Executive Summary

This Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements Paper (UCRP) is the last one for 2023, a year characterized by challenges for the Secretariat and for Member States as we continued to jointly provide the necessary military and police resources for the implementation of our missions' mandates.



Heads of Delegations at the Ghana Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference

The Peacekeeping Ministerial held in Accra, Ghana, concluded successfully on 6 December, with 91 Member States and the EU, NATO, and Francophonie (more than 800 delegates in total) expressing their collective commitment and political support to UN peacekeeping. 57 countries made pledges to strengthen peacekeeping operations. While work is going on to verify and follow-up on some of them (figures may change marginally), the current aggregate figures are: 33 Member States made pledges of 117 military and police units; 45 Member states made more than 100 pledges related to training and partnerships; and across all pledges, 44 were related to women, peace and security, 17 related to environment, 12 to mental health, and 9 to strategic

communications. 51 Member States, plus the EU, spoke in three plenary sessions, which featured panels chaired by the USGs DPO, DOS and DMSPC, with ministers, deputy ministers, two SRSGs (UNMISS and MIMUSMA), the first ever civil society speaker in the plenary of a PK Ministerial (Hon. Alokiir from South Sudan), and a former DFC (from Ghana) participating as panelists.

The Ministerial provided a useful platform to celebrate the achievements of peacekeepers, take stock of progress as well as convey what more is needed and expect from Member States. It was also a unique opportunity for Member States to show their political and concrete support for UN Peacekeeping. Further information, including speeches from the Ministerial, can be found at the Ministerial website (<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/2023-united-nations-peacekeeping-ministerial>).

We now move into a phase where Member States will be requested to materialize the offers that were announced during the Conference. For military and police uniformed capabilities and training pledges, Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCC) will be asked to make these pledges in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), while other pledges will be monitored by the different entities that will benefit from this support.

I. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2024, the United Nations seeks active collaboration from member states to fortify capacity building and their pre-deployment training efforts. We seek to receive pledges from Member States for several key areas:

1. **Hosting Training Activities:** Member states are encouraged to offer hosting facilities for training activities. This support is not limited to providing venues but also extends to covering accommodation and board for international participants.

2. **Nomination of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):** There is a significant need for the nomination of SMEs to develop and update training materials, particularly with a focus on Infantry Battalions and UNMOs. These experts are instrumental in ensuring that the training content is current, relevant, and reflective of the latest peacekeeping challenges. Both of these processes will start by mid_2024.

3. **Selection of Candidates for UN-organized Train-the-Trainer (TOT) Programs:** Member states are encouraged to carefully select the best possible candidates to participate in UN-organized TOTs. We plan to conduct TOTs on Force Protection, Addressing Mis and Disinformation, and National Investigation Officers. Special emphasis should be placed on nominating female instructors. The Force Protection and Mis and Disinformation courses will be released in 2024.

4. **Translation of Training Materials:** Assistance is sought from member states in translating training materials, particularly those related to UN Force Protection and UN Staff Officers.

5. **Provision of National Trainers for UN-led TOTs:** Member states are requested to make available national trainers who have been previously identified to support UN-led TOTs. The contribution of these trainers is crucial in ensuring the effective dissemination of knowledge and skills.

6. **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 into partnership arrangements with other Member States. Member States considering supporting this activity are encouraged to contact ITS.

The Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM) engages T/PCCs as well as training and capacity-building providers to communicate training gaps, match training opportunities to identified needs, and facilitate capacity-building partnerships to improve the performance of uniformed UN peacekeepers. The LCM continues to accept nominations for the LCM roster of trainers for Member State-provided Military Mobile Training Team activities. Interested Member States should complete the registration form accessible [here](#) and submit it to Ms. Heather Belrose (belrose@un.org and DPO-LCM@un.org). Instead of nominating individual experts, Member States can also consider nominating a capacity instead. Those interested in doing so can download the capacity registration form [here](#).

The LCM is launching its new Light Coordination Mechanism Online System (LCMOS) on 16th January 2024 at 1400 hrs at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN. The LCM Online System has been created for UN Member States to securely consolidate and share their peacekeeping-related training activities for military and police personnel. By sharing your planned training activities through the LCM Online System, you will contribute to information-sharing, coordination and deconfliction of these activities and enable the LCM to identify partnership opportunities. The LCM Online System was developed by the LCM in collaboration with the UN Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT) with generous financial support from the Government of Denmark. The launch event will present the new system to Member States and explain the process of registration and use. The invitation to the event will be issued by the Permanent Mission of Denmark.



Engineering Equipment (HEE) Operators' Intermediate Course in Cambodia

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 and environmental management,

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

With the termination of the mandate of MINUSMA on 31 December 23, all missions' current capability gaps have been filled with pledges from the PCRS or by using pledges that were either in the deployment process or earmarked for MINUSMA. There is still the need to fill vacancies for the Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) of the PCRS, which reflects the vanguard uniformed capability of the UN, with one medium utility helicopter unit, one airfield support unit and a combat convoy company and one infantry battalion as one that was at RDL has just been called to deploy to UNMISS. If your country is willing to elevate one of these types of units to the RDL, the generic statement of unit requirements is available for consultation in the PCRS website, and the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Training Cell is ready to support interested TCCs.

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, aside from the support to the performance agenda. It is then a joint responsibility to maintain these capabilities at a high preparation stage 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.

Military

As highlighted throughout the Peacekeeping Ministerial process it is assessed that **Attack, armed helicopters units** will continue to be critical deterrent capabilities for field missions in the delivery of their mandates. **Utility Helicopter Units** are seen as one of the most critical specialized capabilities deployed to peacekeeping. Medium utility helicopter (MUH) units can carry out multiple functions to contribute to mandate delivery through operational/ tactical and logistics tasks, including support to the safety and security of peacekeepers. Well-equipped MUH units are in high demand and short supply. **Tactical Transport Fixed-Wing Aviation Units** are

very important elements to provide flexibility and rapid response, extend the missions' footprint, and increase the missions' ability to support their components that are deployed in locations that cannot be sustained by roads. **Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)** tend to be needed in the mid to long-term as critical Intelligence, 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 under contingency situations and allow planned operations to be reinforced. **Infantry battalions** will remain as the backbone of most military components in UN peacekeeping missions. These units implement core mandated tasks, especially the ones related to protection of civilians and safety and security of Peacekeepers. 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** should be required to contribute to the missions' overall capacity to respond to an increasing EOD threat, especially Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), impacting freedom of manoeuvre and the safety and security of peacekeepers. Independent EOD units at company and platoon levels, either at Force or Sector levels, are primarily capable of specialized search and Conventional Munitions Disposal (CMD), and in most cases should also possess IEDD expertise (International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) IEDD Level 1 minimum) for advisory and tactical IEDD capability. The unit's equipment will be directly linked to the tasks and threat environment, but is likely to require Mine Protected Vehicles, remotely controlled EOD and IEDD vehicles, demining EOD and IEDD individual protective equipment, mine and explosive detectors, portable digital X-Ray systems; jammers; EDD/MDDs and mini-UAS.

In the deployed military units, and already included in new statement of unit requirements, 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 Counter Drone/UAS systems are also in the pipeline.

Police

Formed Police Units (FPU) are still the core of uniformed police capabilities in UN missions. They should be able to be equipped with state-of-the-art capabilities, including SWAT, rapid reaction, canine and riverine elements (i.e. two FPUs at rapid deployment level with SWAT capabilities, one of them being francophone). A platoon size female in each FPU remains essential. **Guard Units (GU) and Rapid Response Police Units (RRPU)** tend to be an increasingly logical solution to mainly protect 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 and future police units should understand that the nature of evolving threats, the need for a more robust posture has significantly increased. Therefore, to guarantee operations as well as safety and security, police units are required to include wheeled armed armored personnel carriers (APCs). In same situations, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles (MRAPs), armored Jeeps and ambulances would also be critical, together with basic Counter IED equipment and helicopter landing site kits for MEDEVAC situations.

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 a pledge of a formed unit that has included 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 for a potential deployment in up to 180 days after 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 in up to 120 days after 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.

With the new promulgated PCRS and RDL Guidelines and generic SURs, AAVs will have a 5-year limitation and the pledges that were elevated will have to revalidate this assessment to remain at higher levels. Pledges at Level 3 will 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.

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	18	9	1	3	-
Infantry Company/Platoon	7	-	-	-	-
Recce Company	1	1	-	-	-
Special Force Units/ groups	5	3	-	1	-
Force Protection Company	7	3	1	-	1
Quick Reaction Force (Coy)	14	8	1	3	1
ISR units	2	-	-	-	-
Engineer Companies/ Platoons	18	5	3	1	-
Demining/EOD Units	13	2	-	-	-
Hospitals/ Medical Teams	12	6	2	1	-
Utility Helicopter Units	1	6	-	-	-
Attack/Armed Helicopter Units	-	3	-	-	-
Transport Aircrafts	6	1	-	-	-
Unmanned Aerial Systems	7	3	1	-	-
MP Companies/ teams	7	1	3	1	-
Signal Companies/platoons	3	3	-	1	-
Log/Transport Companies/Units	3	1	1	-	-
Formed Police Units	16	11	3	2	-
Police Guard Units	2	-	-	-	-
Naval Units	7	1	-	-	-
Air Lift	6				
Training Pledges	18				
Total	149	67	16	13	2

*Total pledges registered in the PCRS as of 29 Dec 23.