



**Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements
for United Nations Peacekeeping**

Introduction

Reform initiatives such as “A New Agenda for Peace”, launched by the Secretary-General in July 2023, as well as multilateral efforts around the recently completed “Summit of the Future” suggest a strong desire for new reflections on the means and the methods to better respond to global challenges.



From Accra to Berlin

To support these calls for reflection ahead of the 2025 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin (**13-14 May**), an independent study on the “Future of Peacekeeping, New Models and Related Capabilities” is under way. The independent study report will provide analysis and proposals on broadening and strengthening UN peacekeeping, including through a range of mission models that could be designed and mandated to respond to both traditional and emerging threats and challenges. This independent study will be one of several inputs to help prepare for and facilitate discussions during the 2025 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial. Proposals from the study should also lead to the identification and pledging of specific capabilities in Berlin. Such capabilities will be included with other critical peacekeeping capabilities in a forthcoming pledge guide being coordinated by the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell of DPO.

As a lead up to the Ministerial, a series of briefings and preparatory meetings are being planned to discuss relevant and cross-cutting themes. On **1 November**, a briefing to the C34 will be held to discuss the report of the independent study on the future of UN peacekeeping, new models and related capabilities. On **10-11 December 2024**, Japan and Uruguay will co-host a meeting in Montevideo on training, capacity building and partnerships, with a half-day session focused on UN police. In **March 2025**, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea are to co-host a meeting in Islamabad on safety and security and technology.

The following pages outline the current and emerging uniformed capability needs for UN Peacekeeping, including with regards to training and capacity-building, mission specific unit gaps, and general uniformed capabilities that are in demand. In **Annex A** (page 7) an updated list of current uniformed pledges made in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) is available. This list supports 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. Member States that have not yet confirmed their pledges are requested to do it as soon as possible. If questions remain, please reach out to the PCRS managers at pcrs.manager@un.org.

I. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2024/2025, the UN seeks active collaboration from Member States to fortify capacity building and pre-deployment training efforts. We aim to receive pledges from Member States in several areas:

1. Hosting Training Activities: Member States are encouraged to host training activities. Requested support is not limited to providing venues, but would include accommodation and board for international participants, inland transportation, and conference services.

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, specialized military and police units, and UNMOs and UNIPOs. These experts are instrumental in ensuring that the training content is current, relevant, and reflective of the latest peacekeeping challenges.

3. Selection and provision of National Trainers for UN-led Train-the-Trainer (TOT) Programs:

Member States are encouraged to carefully select, and subsequently provide, the best possible candidates to participate in UN-led TOTs. Upcoming TOTs are planned on force protection; addressing misinformation threats; and for staff officers. Particular emphasis should be placed on nominating female instructors.



Force Protection Train-the-Trainer Course in the Republic of Korea – Aug 2024

4. Translation of Training Materials:

Member States are requested to assist in translating training materials, particularly those related to force protection, UN staff officers, addressing mis and disinformation threats, and for national investigation officers. The force protection and mis and disinformation training materials were released and are available in English to all Member States.

5. Supporting the Dissemination of New Training Materials: on Addressing Mis and Disinformation for Military and Police Units, revised STM of the UN staff officers and CPTM. To ensure the rollout of these materials 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 these activities are encouraged to contact ITS.

Forty-five Members States and Organizations 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 of the LCM Online System (LCMOS) are invited to upload their national police and military training calendars for the last trimester of 2024 and the first semester of 2025. This system helps the LCM track training capacities and partnerships, identify cooperation opportunities and alert users to activity conflicts and new UN training standards. Registration for new official users is opened, 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 other 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 at:

Apple Store



Google Play



The Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) in the Department of Operational Support (DOS) enhances capacities of UN peacekeepers as well as African Union Peace Support Operations 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. After a successful pilot conducted with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in June, the TPP will also integrate Explosive Hazard Awareness Training (EHAT) into future engineering and medical pillar courses in line with broader A4P+ objectives to improve safety and security outcomes for UN peacekeepers. The TPP is also currently exploring further areas of training to contribute to mainstreaming environmental considerations in peacekeeping and peace support operations.



2024 TPP Stakeholders' Workshop in Tokyo, Japan

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, C-IED, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), environmental management, and women, peace and security (WPS). In liaison with the TPP, Member States are encouraged to actively participate in TPP trainings by nominating trainees, notably female participants, deploying trainers, providing funding 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](#) and [the TPP PR Video](#).

TPP PR Video



II. MISSION-SPECIFIC UNIT GAPS

All units required by field missions have been selected from the PCRS and there are no existing gaps at this moment. Currently, there is one military unit in the process of deployment to MONUSCO.



RDL Verification Visit for an infantry battalion

The PCRS Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) is critical in allowing the Secretariat to promptly respond to any new immediate requirements from existing missions and to support plans for the quick start-up of a new mission. Current vacancies on the RDL include: one special forces company, one medium utility helicopter unit, one unmanned aerial system unit, one airfield support unit, and one combat convoy company.

In October, Member States will be invited to pledge units for the RDL cycle of 2025/2026. Member States with pledges currently at RDL that desire to remain will also be requested to respond to the invitation. The Secretariat encourages Member States from all regions to nominate units for the RDL to maintain a geographically diverse pool of units available for rapid response.

For Member States willing to elevate pledges for 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 in this process.

III. GENERAL CAPABILITIES

As peacekeeping missions evolve, it is critical that military and police capabilities offered to the UN not only address trends and future needs, but also can adapt to existing capability gaps or new short-term requirements. The following section outlines the military and police capabilities that are seen as necessary for current and likely for future peacekeeping missions. These types of units serve as the backbone for mandate implementation or for the safety and protection of peacekeepers.

Air Assets

Attack, armed helicopters units 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 mission's mandate delivery, including troop insertions/extractions, aerial escorts, quick reaction force response, passenger transportation, medical transportation (CASEVAC/MEDEVAC) air reconnaissance, support for airmobile operations, search and rescue (SAR), combat SAR (CSAR), patrol, observation and monitoring, troop movements, logistic support, aerial resupply and cargo re-supply. Well-equipped MUH units are in



Troops Insertion Exercise in MONUSCO

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 components deployed in locations that cannot be sustained by roads. **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (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. Key for supporting ground units are **Class 1 micro-UAS**, which are lightweight and compact in nature. These can be deployed and re-deployed easily to observe incidents in real time, monitor safe demilitarized border zone, detect civil intrusions into buffer zones, detect/deter illegal activities, conduct surveillance of opposing forces positions, help protect peacekeepers and map/record terrain changes.

Military Ground Forces



MINUSCA QRF in operations

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 any large UN peacekeeping mission. 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, which demands a larger number of wheeled armored personnel carriers (APCs). To allow the configuration of operational elements to conduct different types

of tasks, most QRF and infantry battalions' Statement of Unit Requirements (SUR) require high-mobility light tactical vehicles (HMLTV) and reconnaissance vehicles for their units.

Force Protection and Mandate Implementation

Some capabilities are required for both force protection and safety and security of peacekeepers, as well as to better implement mandated tasks with high end capabilities in higher threat environments. T/PCCs must be capable of adjusting their units or generate independent units. **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Units/capabilities** 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. **UNIFIL** foresees the need for additional EOD capabilities upon the de-escalation of the current security situation along the Blue Line. Disposal of unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices, booby-traps and abandoned ordnance would be some of the tasks. **Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar Capability (C-RAM)** has been requested recently 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 to UN personnel. **Counter UAS Systems (C-UAS)** with hard and soft kill capabilities for effectively responding to increasing incidents of drones overflying military bases are a short to mid-term requirement both for military and police units. The new requirements for **Integrated Base Defense (IBD)**, for both military and police units' bases have been issued in a recently published policy which will require T/PCCs to plan for several future requirements, including base defense sensors and smart camp fundamentals. Level 1 hospitals, Buddy First Aid Kits (BFAK)

and First Aid Kits with quality components and adequate sizes are a responsibility of T/PCCs to help protect their peacekeepers deployed to field missions.

Engineering Units

Military engineering units play a crucial role in United Nations peacekeeping operations, contributing to the mission's success and creating conditions for successful mandate implementation. Engineering units are responsible for constructing and maintaining critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airstrips, which are essential for the mobility of peacekeeping forces and the delivery of humanitarian aid amongst other tasks. These types of units may also play a role in transition phases in support of humanitarian and development agencies and support to host authorities and local populations. Besides regular horizontal and vertical works, additional capabilities with EOD and bridging capacity are being requested from these units.



Engineering Company supporting UNMISS

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 (e.g., two

FPU 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)



MINUSCA Forensic SPT

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.

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 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 previously elevated will have to be revalidated after that period to remain at higher levels. **Pledges at Level 3 had to be revised to meet the new generic SUR demands by 30 June 2024. Pledges that did not achieve these new requirements were downgraded as of 1st July 2024.** Several pledges will have completed the **5 years AAV validity on 31 Dec 24** and if not revalidated **will be downgraded to Level 1**. In case you have questions on the status of your pledge, 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 (24/25)
Infantry Battalions	20	6	1	3	-
Infantry Company/Platoon	12	1	-	-	-
Recce Company	3	1	-	-	-
Special Force Units/ groups	6	4	-	-	-
Force Protection/HQ Sp Company	8	4	1	-	-
Quick Reaction Force (Coy)	15	7	1	3	-
ISR units/ UAS	8	-	3	-	-
Engineer Companies/ Platoons	15	7	1	1	-
Demining/EOD Units	11	2	-	-	-
Hospitals/ Medical Teams	13	3	1	1	-
Utility Helicopter Units	5	5	-	-	-
Attack/Armed Helicopter Units	-	1	-	1	-
Transport Aircrafts	6	1	-	1	-
MP Companies/ teams	4	3	1	1	-
Signal Companies/platoons	2	3	-	1	-
Log/Transport Companies/Units	4	1	1	-	-
Formed Police Units	15	12	4	2	-
Police Guard Units	2	-	-	-	-
Maritime Units	5	1	-	-	-
Air Lift	5				
Training Pledges	26				
Total	154	62	14	14	-

* as of 30 September 24.