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Department of  
Peace Operations

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

Mar 24

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## Executive Summary

The UN Secretariat continues to work with Member States to implement all pledges announced during the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial held in Accra. Many of the capability pledges have already been registered in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), but several announced pledges are still pending formal registration. We kindly request Member States that have not yet registered Ministerial capability pledges in the PCRS to do it as soon as possible. Other categories of pledges made in the Ministerial are tracked by the relevant Secretariat offices that will benefit from such support. Please note that the next UN Peacekeeping Ministerial will be held in Berlin, Germany in 2025.

As a result of updates to the PCRS and Rapid Deployment Level Guidelines issued in August 2023 (available in the Resources tab of the PCRS Website), Member States that have pledges at Level 2 or 3 should note the five-year AAV validity limitation. After five years at Level 2 or 3, a new Strategic Assessment and Advisory Visit (AAV) (in-person or remote) using current SURs needs to be conducted to maintain the pledge at Level 2 and/or 3, otherwise the pledge will return to Level 1. Please also note that all pledges currently at Level 3 – regardless of the length of time spent at that level – are now required to revalidate to match the needs reflected in the recently revised generic Statement of Unit Requirements (SUR). Please contact the PCRS manager (pcrs.manager@un.org) with any questions.

UN Peacekeeping operations still face a threat of Explosive Ordnance (EO), especially Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), impacting freedom of maneuver and the safety and security of peacekeepers. These incidents and casualties suffered by peacekeepers suggest the need to review deployed units' configurations to ensure adequate EOD/C-IED capabilities are deployed in the field. The desired EOD/C-IED capability for peacekeeping operations remains a function of the present threat; however, it is important that a pragmatic and iterative approach is adopted with a view to better respond to current and future requirements of this nature. In **paragraph V** (page 4), the requirement for Search and Detect capabilities as an “All Arms Search” approach is presented.

In **Annex A** (page 6), 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 your work in identifying which military and police capabilities are low in supply and that your country feels it has the capacity to contribute to the UN for a future deployment.

## 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 facilities for training activities. Ideally, support should extend to accommodation, board and travel for some or all international participants.
- Nomination of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs): The Integrated Training Service will update both the infantry battalion and the military observer training material beginning in mid-2024. Calls for SMEs will be sent before mid-year. The development processes will last 12 months. The work will be undertaken through virtual conferences and will culminate in a face-to-face course to validate the training material. We request that the SME is available for the full 12-month period. The anticipated workload is one to two hours per week. SMEs are instrumental in ensuring that 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 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 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.
- 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 any of the above activities 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 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](#).

In January 2024, the LCM launched the LCM Online System (LCMOS) for Member States to securely share their military and police peacekeeping-related training and capacity-building activities with the LCM and other Member States on a case-by-case basis. Information uploaded by Member States enables the LCM to observe peacekeeping training capacities and partnership trends and to identify future opportunities for cooperation. The system alerts users to conflicts / duplications of activities and of newly released UN training standards and relevant guidance. Registration of Member State official users is ongoing. If you would like to learn more about how to become a user of the LCMOS, please contact the LCM at DPO-LCM@un.org

The LCM has created a new educational video on the UN Deployment Review mobile application, which is now accessible [online](#) to provide further guidance to peacekeeping training centers on the use of the knowledge sharing methodology and templates offered in the app that will help capture Lessons Learned with a well established methodology. In addition, thanks to a joint partnership with Guatemala and Ireland, the LCM has launched the

Spanish versions of the [UN Deployment Review mobile app](#) and the [UN Buddy First Aid app](#). All interested peacekeeping T/PCCs are encouraged to access the app.

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

Currently, there are three military units in the process of deploying to MONUSCO and UNMISS. One of these units was a unit that has been planning deployment to MINUSMA, one is a new unit from the PCRS and the other is a unit that was at PCRS RDL. As such, there is now a need to receive one more 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 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.

## 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

**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 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** 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.

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.

While some mission specific capabilities requirements and trends have been identified in individual missions, 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 UNFICYP, Class 1 micro-UAS have been requested, which are lightweight, compact and can be deployed and re-deployed with ease. 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 High Mobility Light Tactical Vehicles (HMLTV) and improve Force Protection capabilities through the deployment of Ground Based Radars. These would fill a gap in surveillance by improving 3D operational situational awareness, and along with Ground Proximity Warning Systems would help ensure the safety of the peacekeepers facing... a particularly challenging security situation.

## **Police**

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

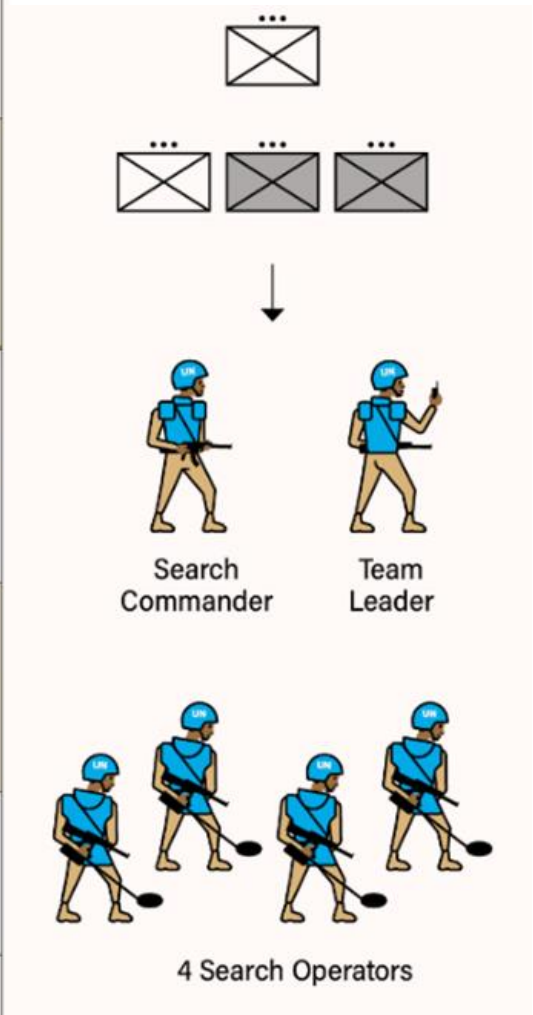
Current deployed formed police units still require compatible satellite phones, unmanned aircraft system micro (multicopter), force protection surveillance equipment, day and night cameras for camp security, inside base surveillance dome camera (360° + thermal view), armored personnel carriers (APC)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

## V. SEARCH AND DETECT CAPABILITIES: The “All Arms Search” Approach

In the constant battle against IED threats, the key to survival lies in innovation and adaptability. When a military unit is faced with the challenge of navigating through a perilous landscape, where hidden dangers can be at every turn, how can that unit increase its chances of making it through in a safe way? The All Arms Search team (all types of uniformed personnel and not just specialized EOD personnel) is not just a concept but a proven strategy, as evidenced by their success in MINUSMA. In 2013, when IEDs began to take a devastating toll, the identification rate hovered at a dismal 11%. But with the introduction of All Arms Search teams into the mission, the game changed. Suddenly, the find rate skyrocketed to an impressive 46%, and in some instances, soared to 70%. These numbers represent lives saved and missions accomplished.

This strategy involves a team comprised of a Search Commander, Team Leader, and skilled Search Operators, armed not just with weapons but with specialized training from the Infantry and Engineering Specialized Training Material. The teams would have the advantage of cutting-edge search equipment tailored to their mission, selected based on the guidelines outlined in COE Manuals.

Category of Equipment	Type of Equipment	Remarks
Combat Vehicles Armoured personnel carrier (tracked/wheeled)	All types of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) but especially Ambulance rescue, cargo, command post, troop carrier (armed/unarmed), recovery and Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles	Mine-protected vehicles are a critical requirement in an IED threat environment.  The minimum protection standards should be defined by the mission SUR.
Demining, explosive ordnance and improvised explosive device disposal equipment	Man-portable high-power electronic countermeasure (cell/GPS/jammer)	ECM against Radio controlled IED. For units tasked with conducting demounted operations in an RC IED threat environment.  The SUR should reflect the need for the T/PCC <sup>30</sup> to engage with the mission to program ECM equipment according to the RC threat in theater
	Man-portable high-power electronic countermeasure (cell/GPS/jammer)	ECM against Radio controlled IED. For units tasked with conducting demounted operations in an RC IED threat environment.  The SUR should reflect the need for the T/PCC <sup>31</sup> to engage with the mission to program ECM equipment according to the RC threat in theater
Demining, explosive ordnance and improvised explosive device disposal equipment	Vehicle-mounted electronic countermeasure (jammer) against remotely activated improvised explosive devices.	All vehicles operating in an RC IED threat environment should be equipped with ECM.  The SUR should reflect the need for the T/PCC to engage with the mission to program ECM equipment according to the RC threat in theater
	Handheld (mine) detector (dual sensor with active metal detection and ground-penetrating radar)	Dual-sensor mine detector for detection of metal and metal-free objects.  For Search and EOD teams in IED threat environments with low-metal content explosive devices
	Handheld bomb/unexploded ordnance locator (magnetometer to detect ferromagnetic objects)	Detector specifically designed to detect large (buried) objects with a high ferrous content. Mainly used to find UXO.
	Handheld cable detector	Metal detector specifically designed to search for (command) wires.  For Search & Detect teams in IED threat environments.



## 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	21	9	1	3	
Infantry Company/Platoon	8	2			
Recce Company	1				
Special Force Units/ groups	7	3		1	
Force Protection Company	7	3	1		
Quick Reaction Force (Coy)	16	7	1	3	2
ISR units/ Unmanned Aerial Systems	9	2	1		
Engineer Companies/ Platoons	18	6	3	1	
Demining/EOD Units	16	2			
Hospitals/ Medical Teams	13	5	3	1	
Utility Helicopter Units	5	5			-
Attack/Armed Helicopter Units		3			1
Transport Aircrafts	8	1			
MP Companies/ teams	7	2	3	1	
Signal Companies/platoons	1	3	1	1	
Log/Transport Companies/Units	4	2	1		
Formed Police Units	15	15	3	2	
Police Guard Units	2				
Naval Units	6	1			
Air Lift	6				
Training Pledges	29				
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>

\*Total pledges registered in the PCRS as of 29 March 24.