

The United States Department of Defense

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FACT SHEET: U.S. Government Support to United Nations (UN) Peace Operations

Today, the Deputy Secretary of Defense co-hosted the second annual UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial in Vancouver, Canada. Deputy Secretary Shanahan joined more than 30 Defense Ministers and several other senior defense and military officials from 79 countries to discuss strengthening the forces available to UN peacekeeping and advancing key operational reforms. Today's meeting builds upon the momentum generated by two previous high-level peacekeeping events—the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, which President Obama co-hosted in New York and resulted in more than 50,000 new troop and police pledges to UN peacekeeping, and the 2016 UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial in London, which Secretary of Defense Carter co-hosted and reinforced the importance of reforming the UN peacekeeping system by focusing on additional pledges, better planning, and improved performance.

Today's UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial recognized the challenges faced by peacekeepers operating in increasingly hostile environments where peace is often fragile and difficult to keep. To operate effectively, it is imperative that peacekeeping units deployed to such complex environments are properly trained and that they are well-led, well-disciplined and well-equipped. UN peacekeeping must be strengthened and modernized to meet the challenges of today's operating environment and the increasing number of crises to which peacekeepers are called to respond. The leaders of Defense Ministries represented here today voiced their collective commitment to ensuring UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) succeed.

The United States recognizes multilateral peace operations as a primary tool used by the international community to address conflict-related crises. Burden sharing amongst nations is important to make them most effective. U.S. contributions reflect this—from our assessed contributions, which at more than \$2 billion dollars per year makes the United States the largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping, to our long-standing capacity building efforts assisting partner nations to develop their own capabilities to perform in UN PKOs.

Our international partners recognize the value of UN peacekeeping and the importance of sharing the costs and burdens of conflict prevention and mitigation. Today, more than 25 countries announced significant new military and police contributions to UN peacekeeping. These commitments will help to ensure the UN has the capacity and capability to meet current and future peacekeeping challenges successfully.

Building Partner Capacity

The United States is the largest contributor to military and police capacity building efforts in support of international peacekeeping, contributing more than \$1 billion since 2005. In fiscal year 2017 alone, the United States is contributing nearly \$110 million through programs such as the U.S. Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP), and the International Police Peacekeeping Operations Support (IPPOS) program to help partner nations' efforts to deploy well-trained and well-equipped uniformed peacekeepers. These programs focus on building a partner country's capacity to train, equip, deploy, and sustain military and police personnel, emphasizing effective leadership, peacekeeping competencies, and gender integration.

Past and Ongoing U.S. Contributions

At both the 2015 Leaders' Summit and 2016 Defense Ministerial, the United States made several pledges to UN peacekeeping. Since then, the Department of Defense (DoD) and our interagency partners in the U.S. Government have delivered upon these pledges, which include:

- **Staff Officers.** DoD maintains special expertise that can enhance the effectiveness of UN peace operations and continues to provide military staff officers to serve in UN missions. Currently, 54 U.S. military officers are serving as peacekeepers in seven UN missions.
- **Logistics Support:** In 2015, the United States and the UN signed a logistics agreement enabling the United States to help the UN respond more effectively to crises. This agreement's competitive pricing has significantly driven down other UN transportation costs.
- **Technology Support:** The United States has worked successfully with UN experts to identify cost-effective technology solutions to critical operational challenges, including improving expeditionary basing, making peacekeeping "greener," and strengthening interoperable information and communication systems to increase situational awareness and assist in decision making.
- **Military Subject Matter Expertise/Trainers.** DoD has provided the UN with subject matter experts and trainers in several areas, including: logistics, planning, leadership, doctrine, and strategic messaging. Additionally, DoD has offered engineering expertise (as well as direct support) to UN missions.
- **Conduct and Discipline Support.** Working collaboratively with the UN, DoD's Defense Institute for International Legal Studies successfully developed a pre-deployment training course for National Investigation Officers (NIO), the individuals designated to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse within a peacekeeping contingent. The first NIO course, co-taught by U.S. and UN instructors, will be held in Africa early next year, with additional NIO courses in other regions throughout 2018.
- **Civil-Military Command Exercises:** DoD, through the U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, has trained UN officials on how to conduct table-top planning

exercises (at both the tactical and senior-leader executive levels), resulting in an increased utilization of this important planning tool at UN headquarters and within missions.

- **In-Mission Training and Mentoring.** DoD currently provides advisory teams to sector headquarters in Goa and Timbuktu, Mali, for the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).
- **Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Training and Assessment:** The United States is committed to strengthening the C-IED capabilities of partner nations to address this growing threat to peacekeepers. Accordingly, the United States has committed more than \$2 million dollars to support enhanced training for forces deploying to MINUSMA and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Additionally, DoD assisted the UN in developing its recently published Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit manual.
- **Pre-Deployment Training for Police in Peacekeeping:** The United States fulfilled a \$2 million dollar commitment to develop and deliver curriculum to address policing in an extremist environment and add specialized training to increase police peacekeepers' survivability in mission. To date, we have delivered that training to over 1000 African police peacekeepers deploying to MINUSMA and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Expanding U.S. Contributions

At today's Ministerial, DoD leaders announced that the United States is also working to provide the following additional support to UN peace operations:

- **Build Critical Enabling Capabilities.** The United States pledged to provide additional training and equipment to partner countries to build critical enabling capabilities most urgently required in peacekeeping operations.
- **Bolster UN Planning and Coordination.** The United States offered to support the UN's Strategic Force Generation and Capabilities Planning Cell in its efforts to generate and vet peacekeeping pledges, link capability requirements with donor support, and ensure the performance-based selection and deployment of peacekeepers. This pledge reinforces the United States' commitment to ensure well-trained and well-led troops and are provided to UN operations.
- **Provide Military Medical Expertise.** The United States will provide as-needed military medical expertise to assist the UN develop and refine medical standards in peacekeeping operations, including in the area of combat lifesaving. This effort will help fill a critical gap in UN peacekeeping—inadequate medical capabilities.
- **Enhance Rapid Deployment.** The United States will support partner country efforts to prepare units for rapid deployment. To that end, the United States and Rwanda co-pledged an additional Rwandan engineer unit and medical unit that once fully operational, will be elevated to the UN's Rapid Deployment Level. The United States will provide training and equipment support to allow these units to attain this operational level.

- **Improve Operational Readiness and Sustainment.** The United States pledged to provide a subset of major mission equipment to select partner nations' training centers, improving operational readiness and sustainment capabilities by ensuring partners are able to train on the same equipment with which they will deploy and operate in-mission.
- **Build Innovative Technology Solutions.** The United States offered to continue partnering with the UN and partner nations to employ advanced technologies to improve the overall efficiency, resilience, and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.
- **Reinforce In-Mission Mentoring Teams.** The United States committed to deploy additional U.S. training teams for short durations to UN PKOs to address gaps identified by the UN.
- **Communications Support.** The United States offered technical experts to UN PKOs to review communications procedures at all echelons of command and provide recommendations and assistance for improvements.
- **Increased Partnerships to Build Police Capacity.** The United States offered to cultivate partnerships with at least two additional police contributing countries to enhance their capabilities to deploy well-qualified and well-trained peacekeepers to peacekeeping through advising, training, and trainer and command staff development.

Driving reform

At the Vancouver Ministerial, the United States recognized the indispensable role women play in UN peacekeeping and in conflict resolution in general. The United States knows that gender diversity at all levels is a critical element of operational effectiveness, and it supports efforts to increase gender diversity in peacekeeping operations and an increased recognition of gender dynamics at all levels of peacekeeping planning and execution.

We further emphasized the need to improve peacekeeping leadership, enhance accountability procedures for UN uniformed and civilian peacekeepers, and set conditions for better performance. The presence of underperforming units in missions is unacceptable and tarnishes the image and credibility of UN peacekeeping missions as a whole.

The UN's development and use of peacekeeping performance assessments and Secretary General (SYG) Guterres' recently released UN reform agenda are steps in the right direction. However, the UN must ensure that this positive momentum is maintained, that Member States follow through on the SYG's recommendations, and that incoming performance data is translated into performance-based decisions on which units to deploy and which units to repatriate. Through our capacity-building programs, the United States stands ready to work with troop and police contributing countries to help remediate any issues identified by these assessments.

Leaders must be selected based on merit, be adequately trained, and be empowered to succeed. As noted in SYG Guterres' reform agenda, it is imperative that peacekeeping leaders are given the authorities necessary to utilize their resources effectively, particularly in crisis situations.