



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

## Introduction

As the pace of global change accelerates, it is important for Member States and Secretariat entities to maintain their readiness to manage possible new or expanded mandates agreed to by the UN Security Council. The ability to quickly respond with capabilities that are fit for purpose is a collective responsibility that demands attention and commitment.

The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025 in Berlin is an important opportunity for Member States to demonstrate high-level support for peacekeeping by making concrete capability pledges. Leading to this major event, the first preparatory meeting was recently held in Uruguay, where Member States had an opportunity to learn more about UN peacekeeping needs and discuss ideas in areas related to training, capacity building, protection of civilians and UN police. Two additional preparatory meetings are planned, for 4-5 February 2025 in Jakarta on the Future of Peacekeeping, New Models and Related Capabilities, and in April 2025 in Islamabad to discuss Safety and Security of Peacekeepers, including technology.



*Montevideo Ministerial Prep-Meeting 10 and 11 December 2024*

The Secretariat has also released the Peacekeeping Ministerial [Pledging Guide](#), to ensure that Member State pledges accurately respond to the identified needs of UN Peacekeeping. Member States are requested to follow the pledging process and reach out to the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell if needed to clarify any questions and communicate their pledges.

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. Most of these requirements have not changed since the last document was issued and are also reflected in the Ministerial Pledging Guide. **Annex A** (page 7) is an updated list of current uniformed pledges made in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and **Annex B** (page 8) displays the PCRS pledges at Levels 2 and above for each capability category against the estimated number of units required for a new medium size mission. These lists 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. Member States that have not yet confirmed their pledges are requested to do so as soon as possible. If questions remain, please reach out to the PCRS managers at [pcrs.manager@un.org](mailto:pcrs.manager@un.org).

## I. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

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, including venues, accommodation, meals for international participants, inland transportation, and conference services.
2. **Nomination of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):** For 2025, SMEs from Member States must support the development of new training materials on integration and joint planning for military and police. SMEs will also be needed to assist in the creation of Counter UAS (C-UAS) training materials, pending the approval of appropriate policy and guidance.
3. **Selection and Provision of National Trainers for UN-led Train-the-Trainer (TOT) Programs:** Member States are encouraged to fund, host, and nominate qualified national trainers for participation in TOT programs. These trainers will later disseminate the materials nationally. Priorities for 2025 include TOTs on addressing misinformation, disinformation, malinformation, and hate speech (MDMH) threats for military and police commanders (new RTP); UN Infantry Battalions (new STM); UN Staff Officers (new STM); and various training programs for UN Police. Additionally, subject to funding and in coordination with the Conduct and Discipline Service, ITS plans to conduct a TOT to roll out new training materials on conduct and discipline for military and police commanders.



*MOU Negotiation Exercise during the UN Senior National Planners Course in Denmark*

4. **Supporting the UN Senior National Planners Programme:** Member States are encouraged to carefully select and nominate the most suitable candidates for this program. The target audience includes decision-makers and planning officers responsible for the national deployment of contingents. Participants will be introduced to the UN's administrative and technical procedures and the complexities of negotiating, planning, preparing, deploying, supporting, sustaining, and withdrawing national contingents in UN Peace Operations.
5. **Translation of Training Materials:** Member States are requested to assist in translating training materials, particularly those related to new developments, to ensure accessibility for all T/PCCs.
6. **Supporting AI Initiatives for Pre-Deployment Training:** ITS is developing AI models to enhance Scenario-Based Exercises and Table-Top Exercises (SBE TTX) as part of the Pre-Deployment Training for T/PCCs. Member States are encouraged to provide funding or in-kind contributions to support these developments.
7. **Filling Capability Gaps:** The Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM) supports T/PCCs in deploying personnel with the appropriate mindset, capabilities, and equipment for peacekeeping missions. The LCM connects T/PCCs registered in the PCRS with Member States willing to support bilateral or trilateral engagements. The LCM Online System (LCMOS) facilitates sharing training activities and resources. Member States are encouraged to upload their training calendars and register for access. Additionally, the UN Buddy First Aid app,

available in French, English, and Spanish, provides essential first-aid skills for peacekeepers. Member States are urged to translate the app into other UN languages and ensure personnel download it before deployment.

**8. Launch of the Light Coordination Mechanism 5th Annual Survey on Training and Capacity-Building:** The Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM) is launching its 5th Annual Survey on training and capacity-building, aimed at strengthening coordination between T/PCCs and partners. Senior officials (civilian, police or military) either in charge of the preparation and deployment of uniformed personnel for UN peacekeeping operations, or responsible for the planning and coordination of assistance to other T/PCCs, are encouraged to complete it. The information collected will enhance the LCM's ability to connect countries in need of support with those offering assistance. To ensure broad participation, the survey is now open for completion and will remain available until 31 January 2025. The online survey can be accessed at the following link: ([link to be added](#)) For any technical issue or difficulty regarding the survey, please reach out to Matilde Barbieri at [matilde.barbieri@un.org](mailto:matilde.barbieri@un.org) or [DPO-LCM@un.org](mailto:DPO-LCM@un.org). Member States interested in sharing lessons learned and best practices from their training and capacity-building partnership initiatives are encouraged to contact Sophie Aloë at [aloe@un.org](mailto:aloe@un.org)

The **Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP)** enhances uniformed peacekeepers' capacities for UN Peacekeeping Operations, as well as African Union Peace Support Operations, through the provision of training and operational support in 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. Following the successful pilot, conducted with supporting Member States and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Kenya from 17 June to 26 July 2024 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. As part of these efforts, the TPP conducted a cross-pillar, cross-national training pilot in Cambodia from 18 November to 20 December. This integrated training combined EHAT, the Field Medical Assistants Course (FMAC), and Heavy Engineering Equipment (HEE) operations into a scenario-based final exercise. The TPP is also working towards expanding thematic training areas, to include mainstreaming environmental considerations in peacekeeping and peace support operations.



*Demonstration of explosive hazard response skills during the EHAT + FMAC + HEE integrated training in Cambodia*

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). 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, or interested in pledging support to the TPP, can contact Mr. Takakazu Ito ([itot@un.org](mailto:itot@un.org)). For more information, please consult [the TPP Informational Video](#).

## II. MISSION-SPECIFIC UNIT GAPS

All units required by field missions have been selected from the PCRS and presently, there are no existing gaps. Currently, there is one military unit in the final process of deployment to MONUSCO. Due to the prevailing security situation in UNIFIL, there has been increasing requirement of short-term capabilities and the same is being fulfilled by engaging with the TCC in the mission.

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.**



*RDL Workshop conducted in the Hague, Netherlands*

In October, the Secretariat conducted the first RDL Workshop aimed to enhance Member States', UNHQ and peacekeeping mission staff's capabilities in pledging, elevating, selecting, generating, preparing, and deploying military and police units from the PCRS RDL to peacekeeping operations. It was targeted to address existing and potential lack of corporate knowledge and understanding of the methodology, advantages and challenges of generating, selecting and deploying military and police units that are placed at the PCRS RDL. We encourage T/PCCs to read and familiarize themselves with the 2023 RDL Guidelines.

For Member States willing to elevate pledges to the RDL, the generic statements of unit requirements are available for reference on the PCRS website, and the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning 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.

In line with the recently issued 2025 Peacekeeping Ministerial Pledging Guide, 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** are critical deterrent capabilities for field missions in the delivery of their mandates. **Utility Helicopter Units** are often 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 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 and also to minimize risk in logistic activities. 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. The Secretariat is studying the use of UAS for delivery of cargo and medical supplies, emergency response or environmental monitoring.



*Heavy duty drone for cargo transportation*

### **Military Ground Forces**

**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**



*EOD equipment in use in UNIFIL*

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 have requested additional EOD capabilities that are being supported by deployed TCCs. 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 Policy on **Integration of Capabilities for Defence of Bases**, for both military and police units' bases was published in January 2023 and requires T/PCCs to plan for several 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.

## Police

**Formed Police Units (FPU)** are 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 FPUs at rapid deployment level require SWAT capabilities, one of them being francophone). A platoon size of women in each FPU remains essential.



*MONUSCO FPU Rio Control training*

**Guard Units (GU) and Rapid Response Police Units (RRPU)** 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, Cattle raiding, SGBV, CRSV, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**. For questions on the status of a pledge contact [pcrs.manager@un.org](mailto:pcrs.manager@un.org).

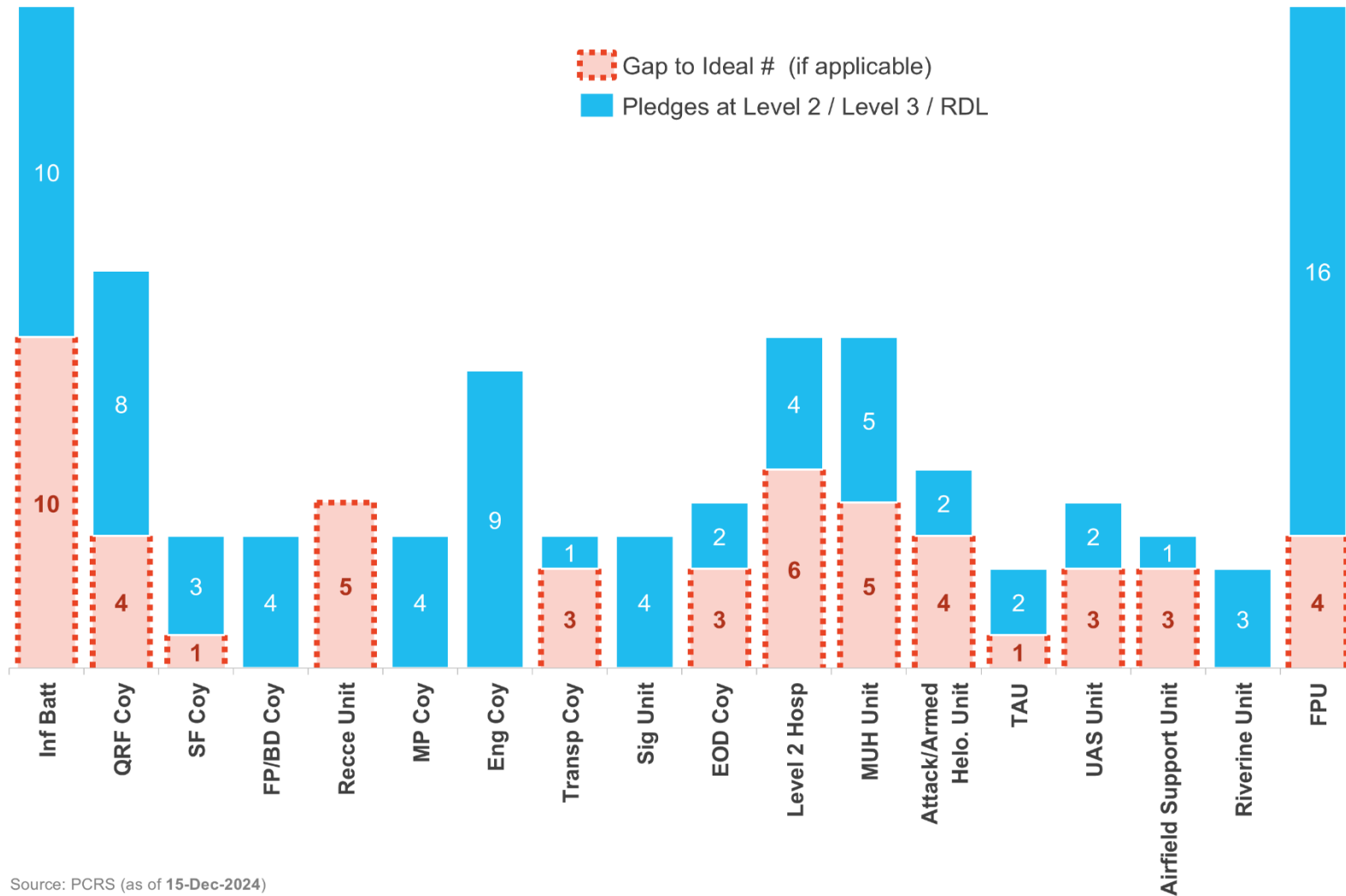
Type of units	# of units in PCRS Level 1	# of units in PCRS Level 2	# of units in PCRS Level 3	# of units in PCRS RDL	# of deployed units in the Cycle (24/25)
Infantry Battalions	21	7	1	3	-
Infantry Company/Platoon	11	1	-	-	-
Recce Company	2	-	-	-	-
Special Force Units/ groups	7	4	-	-	-
Force Protection/HQ Sp Company	4	4	1	-	-
Quick Reaction Force (Coy)	17	8	1	3	-
ISR Aerial units/ UAS	10	1	1	-	-
Engineer Companies/ Platoons	16	8	3	1	-
Demining/EOD Units	12	2	-	-	-
Hospitals/ Medical Teams	14	3	1	1	-
Utility Helicopter Units	5	5	-	-	-
Attack/Armed Helicopter Units	-	1	-	1	-
Transport Aircrafts	6	1	-	1	-
MP Companies/ teams	6	3	1	1	-
Signal Companies/platoons	3	3	-	1	-
Log/Transport Companies/Units	5	1	1	-	-
Formed Police Units	14	13	4	2	-
Police Guard Units	2	-	-	-	-
Air Lift	5				
Maritime Units	6				
Training Pledges	24				
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>

\* as of 15 December 24.

**ANNEX B**



# Current PCRS pledges vs ideal number of pledges



Source: PCRS (as of 15-Dec-2024)

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Member States with multiple pledges of the same capability at Level 2, 3 or RDL were counted as one available pledge.