Guidelines

The Rapid Deployment Level of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System

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A. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

1. The purpose of these guidelines is to detail the procedures related to the registration, verification, elevation, and reimbursement of formed units at the Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS).

2. Having units registered at the PCRS RDL facilitates the deployment of a military and/or police capability into a new mission area or to reinforce an existing mission during a critical moment. From the date the United Nations formally requests the Troop/Police Contributing Country (T/PCC) to deploy, the T/PCC has 60 days to assemble the unit and be fully prepared to deploy from the agreed port of embarkation. This will be achieved with individual unit deployments or with the deployment of the partial or full UN Vanguard Brigade, a brigade-size integrated military and police force comprised of infantry/manoeuvring units, police units, helicopters, enablers, and other support units.

B. SCOPE

3. These guidelines apply to Member States and Secretariat involved in the RDL process by outlining the pledging, selection, verification, registration, deployment and reimbursement of units to the RDL. The guidelines are complementary to the PCRS Guidelines and the 2020 Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) Manual (or its latest version). The COE Manual remains the official reference for reimbursement of military and police equipment deployed in formed units under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to UN peace operations.
C. PROCEDURES

4. The registration, deployment, and reimbursement of a unit at RDL will follow the steps below. The procedures, roles and responsibilities regarding each step will be subsequently detailed in the following chapters of these guidelines.

4.1. Registration (overview):

4.1.1. The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) sends out the request to all Member States for pledges of units to the RDL at least nine months prior to the start of the next UN peacekeeping fiscal year (FY) (i.e., 1 October). By 1 Jan, (before the start of the FY), Member States with a unit(s) registered in the PCRS make a pledge for that unit(s) to be considered for the RDL.

4.1.2. After consultations with relevant DPO, Department of Operational Support (DOS) and Department of Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) entities, SFGCPC makes recommendations to the DPO/Office of Military Affairs (OMA) Military Adviser for military units and the Police Selection and Recruitment Section (SRS) makes recommendations to the DPO/Police Adviser for police units on which pledges to accept for the RDL. Units not selected for the RDL at this stage may be waitlisted to replace RDL units that are deployed or removed from the RDL in the future, in case it is necessary.

4.1.3. Units that are already at RDL and that wish to remain at that level for an additional year must proceed through the same invitation-reply process.

4.1.4. For a unit to be accepted at the RDL, the Member State will be requested to submit Major Equipment (ME) tables and Cargo Load Lists (CLL) from the templates provided and based on the Generic Statement of Unit Requirement (SURs), as well as the unit’s ammunition list with certificates (United Nations Manual on Ammunition Management). The relevant Generic SURs are available for consultation in the PCRS website (https://pcrs.un.org). For police units, specific documents are included in the Formed Police Assessment Team (FPAT) SOP. Member States have 45 days from when they are informed of their selection to RDL to submit the required documentation.

4.1.5. Once the ME tables and the ammunition lists with certificates are submitted, Uniformed Capabilities Support Division (UCSD) in the DOS leads the RDL Agreement (RDLA) negotiation, drafts the RDL Agreement, and conducts an RDL Verification Visit (VV) to ascertain the availability and readiness of the unit. For Police units, the verification includes FPAT conducted by Police Division (PD).

4.1.6. Prior to the verification visit, T/PCC must have the cargo load list coordinated and cleared by Movement Control Section (MOVCON) in DOS and provide documentary proof to DPO that the unit’s commander and personnel have been selected and that a mobilization plan is in place; that their human rights vetting and core pre-deployment training requirements are met.

4.1.7. During the VV the T/PCC must demonstrate that all (100%) ME and Self-Sustainment (SS) Services (samples of equipment and supplies) as per the draft RDLA are available and able to be ready for deployment within 60 days. In case of aviation units, an aviation specialist may also be required to join the VV to check if the requirements of the aircrafts that were presented during the
Assessment and Advisory Visit, meet the SUR and UN Aviation and UN Aviation Safety standards. Upon a successful VV, the RDL Agreement will be signed. The Member State will be formally informed that the unit is/will be officially elevated to the RDL. The Member State will be eligible for RDL reimbursement from the date mentioned in the United Nations' formal notice on elevation of the pledged unit to RDL following a successful verification visit and shall end on the date of commencement of deployment or the date of termination of RDL Agreement in accordance with under mentioned provisions, whichever shall be the earlier:

4.1.7.1. The United Nations may terminate the RDLA at any time, in writing:

4.1.7.1.1. With immediate effect, if the Government fails to commence deployment or present for deployment the personnel, equipment and capabilities set out in the RDLA within sixty (60) days of a Notice to Deploy;

4.1.7.1.2. With immediate effect if the Government fails to maintain the RDL state of readiness set out in the RDL Agreement as evaluated by the United Nations through RDL VV;

4.1.7.1.3. With a minimum of thirty (30) days’ notice if the RDL personnel, equipment and capabilities pledged by the Government pursuant to the RDLA are no longer required by the United Nations.

4.1.7.1.4. The Government may terminate the RDLA at any time, in writing, with a minimum of thirty (30) days’ notice. In the event of termination by the Government, the Government shall not be entitled to any RDL Reimbursement Amount for time spent at RDL during the applicable United Nations peacekeeping budget year.

4.1.8. If not deployed and after the completion of two UN peacekeeping fiscal years at RDL, the unit will need to undergo a new RDL Verification Visit to be eligible for reimbursement. The Secretariat may request that new COE is included in the unit in case operational requirements for that unit type have changed. The RDLA would be amended, if required, after the successful RDL VV.

4.1.9. Member States with units on the RDL might be requested to participate in a table-top Rapid Deployment exercise during its time on the RDL.

4.2. Deployment (overview):

4.2.1. DPO invites a Member State to deploy a unit from the RDL to a UN Peace Operation via a Note Verbale.

4.2.2. The T/PCC will have five days to provide an official response of acceptance or denial. After that, the T/PCC may conduct a reconnaissance visit to the mission area without prejudice to the overall 60 days' readiness for deployment.

4.2.3. If necessary, and, as long as the 60 days' time limit is respected, based on mission requirements, the T/PCC may be requested to adjust the unit’s list of Major Equipment contained in the RDLA and provide a revised CLL.

4.2.4. In case there are considerable discrepancies between the RDLA ME and the mission specific SUR, it is recommended that a phased deployment take place
during exigencies in order to utilize the quick response provided by the RDL unit readiness status. New COE could then deploy at a later stage.

4.2.5 The MOU for the deploying unit will be created based on the final list of ME negotiated with the T/PCC.

4.3. Reimbursement (overview):

4.3.1. If a unit is deployed to a UN Peacekeeping mission under the conditions listed in these guidelines and an MOU is signed, DOS will start the normal in-mission quarterly reimbursement process. DOS will also process the RDL COE reimbursement for the period the unit remained at RDL. The RDL reimbursement period will end on the date the transportation to the mission area begins (cargo collection day). After that day, COE reimbursement will follow the regular reimbursement process as per the COE Manual.

4.3.2. If a unit is not invited to deploy by the end of the UN peacekeeping fiscal year (30 June), at the discretion of the UN Secretariat, a self-certification document will be issued by the T/PCC confirming that it has met and sustained all RDL requirements during the fiscal year. If so, the unit will be eligible for RDL reimbursement for the full period during which the unit was registered at RDL. After the completion of two full UN peacekeeping fiscal years at RDL, the unit will need to undergo a new RDL VV to be eligible for reimbursement.

4.3.3. If a T/PCC is unable to be ready to deploy the unit within 60 days due to internal delays or takes the decision not to deploy when requested by DPO, the Member State forfeits claim to RDL reimbursement for that unit in accordance with paragraph 4.1.7 of this Guideline. OMA/PD will remove that unit from the RDL, and it may place the unit at Level 3 or Level 2 of the PCRS, if agreed with the T/PCC.

5. Registration of a unit at the RDL of PCRS

5.1. The annual process begins when DPO communicates the general RDL requirements and requests pledges from all Member States. RDL pledges should be made no less than six months before the start of the next UN peacekeeping fiscal year (i.e., by 1 Jan). To ensure continuous unit coverage on the RDL, off-cycle pledges may be accepted on an on-demand basis. The only accepted form of communication for a Member State to pledge a unit at RDL is a Note Verbale. The Note Verbale should contain the following information:

5.1.1. Unit type and description;

5.1.2. Commitment by the T/PCC that the unit will be able to deploy from the port of embarkation fully equipped, with training conducted and certifications signed within 60 days of a request by DPO (subject to verification);

5.1.3 Certification that the unit personnel have undergone all required UN pre-deployment training up to the mission-specific training stage, as well as all human rights screening and non-mission-specific medical requirements (subject to verification);

5.1.4. Time period proposed to stay on the RDL: proposed time period should be for the complete UN peacekeeping fiscal year (1 July to 30 June);
5.1.5. Agreement that the deployment modality will be under UN responsibility. There will be no option for Letter of Assist for deployment, unless requested by the Secretariat;

5.1.6. Port and/or airport of embarkation for troops and equipment;

5.1.7. Invitation from the Member State for a UN visit to certify that the T/PCC has the required equipment and personnel, through an RDL VV. This visit should preferably occur before 30 June;

5.1.8. If a unit is invited for the RDL during the on-going cycle, the RDL VV will take place after all requirements have been met.

5.2. Once DPO receives an RDL pledge, SFGCPC makes recommendations to the DPO/OMA Military Adviser for military units and the Police SRS makes recommendations to the DPO/Police Adviser for police units on which pledges to accept for the RDL considering the following factors (in no particular order):

5.2.1. Vanguard Brigade composition;

5.2.2. The other units that have been pledged and accepted at RDL for that period;

5.2.3. The T/PCC’s contribution history (e.g. national decision-making process timeline, unit preparation timeline, regional preferences or caveats, etc.);

5.2.4. The T/PCC’s recent peacekeeping performance record, including in-mission military or formed police unit performance evaluations, COE compliance history, conduct and discipline record, and, if applicable, steps taken to investigate, hold accountable and inform on the progress of investigations, as requested in SC Resolution 2272;

5.2.5. The ability of the unit to be transported rapidly from the port of embarkation.

5.2.6. The capabilities, composition and gender parity of the pledged unit;

5.2.7. The current PCRS level (units at Level 1 will be only considered in exceptional situations) of the unit and the relevant AAV report conclusions, if applicable;

5.2.8. Geographic diversity among RDL contributors;

5.2.9. Length of proposed pledge (if less than 12 months).

5.3. Once the unit is accepted to continue the process to reach the RDL, DPO will notify the respective T/PCC in writing and request DOS, in consultation with OMA/PD, to start the RDLA negotiation based on the respective unit’s SUR.

5.4. DPO will also notify T/PCCs of any RDL pledges that were not accepted. Such pledges may be considered for a standby list, and may be asked to, on an exceptional basis, commence the verification process in order to expedite potential replenishment of units deployed from the RDL during the remainder of the fiscal year. These units will not be eligible for maintenance reimbursement during their time on the reserve roster and are not guaranteed deployment but would be considered for new deployment opportunities.
5.5. The T/PCC will be requested to populate the ME and ammunition tables provided by DPO/DOS. Once the tables and ammunition certificates are received, verified and found suitable by the Secretariat, a draft RDLA will be sent to the T/PCC for concurrence. The T/PCC will have up to 45 days after being informed of its selection to the RDL to provide all required documents.

5.6. Prior to the verification visit, the Member State will coordinate and finalize the necessary CLL with DOS. The T/PCC shall provide and show to DPO confirmation that the requisite pre-deployment training, medical clearance and human rights certification processes are in place according to UN standards and are aligned with the confirmation sent when pledged in the PCRS. T/PCC must also show documents related to personnel selection and mobilization plan.

5.7. DOS will conduct an RDL VV to the Member State to ascertain that all required equipment and ammunition listed in the draft RDLA is available, in good working order, and able to deploy immediately following a request from the UN Secretariat. The RDL VV for police units will include the FPAT conducted by DPO. The verification team may include a MOVCON representative to assess the ability for the unit to rapidly deploy.

5.8. Once the VV is completed (including a successful FPAT for police units), and all the details confirmed (including CLL, ammunition, and ME verification, or the ME list adjusted to what was verified and accepted by DPO/DOS), the MS will be requested to sign the RDLA.

5.9. The following steps characterize a unit at the RDL: 1) RDL VV report completed and accepted; 2) PCRS RDLA finalized and signed; 3) CLL properly received; 4) Ammunition list and respective certificates properly submitted; and 5) Self certifications documents received as attachments with the pledged unit(s) in the PCRS, and checked during the VV.

5.10. T/PCCs may be requested to perform a rapid deployment exercise to practice the actions from invitation to cargo readiness date.

6. RDL Verification Visits

6.1. Units accepted for the RDL process will undergo an RDL VV before being elevated to that level and in order to be eligible for RDL reimbursement.

6.2. The aim is to hold the RDL VV within a maximum of 60 days of the completion of negotiations of the draft RDLA, and before the beginning of the UN peacekeeping fiscal year. The RDL VV will be coordinated by DPO/SFCPC and UCSD/DOS, and conducted by UCSD/DOS. For police units, the visit will include the conduct of FPAT by PD/DPO.

6.3. The purpose of the RDL VV is to ascertain if the unit is fully ready for a deployment in 60 days after a formal invitation from the UN Secretariat is received (personnel and COE). The VV will inspect all ME listed in the RDLA and verify that the unit meets all SS requirements. The VV team will also check the unit’s ammunition in accordance with the lists cleared by DPO. In case of police units, assessment of operational readiness will be conducted, if not done prior, to ensure unit personnel meet all requirements (experience, language, driving, shooting, and demonstration of operational capability of the unit including public order management (POM) techniques). The verification of ME, SS capabilities
and ammunition will be governed by the standards established in the COE Manual and the UN Manual on Ammunition Management, respectively.

6.4. Units must demonstrate the presence and functionality of all major equipment and self-sustainment to be eligible for RDL reimbursement. Prior to the RDL VV, the T/PCC must also certify that all unit personnel have undergone requisite pre-deployment training, are medically cleared and have no allegations of human rights abuses.

7. Deployment

7.1. The UN Secretariat will invite a Member State to deploy a unit placed at RDL via Facsimile or Note Verbale. The 60 days countdown will start on the date the formal notification is sent to the Permanent Mission. The notification can be delivered by e-mail, fax, courier or by any other means in order to ensure timely confirmation.

7.2. Within 60 days of the request for deployment, the Member State must conduct all required pending pre-deployment activities (T/PCC reconnaissance in mission area, if necessary, MOU negotiation, PDV if necessary in extremis situations, submission of final CLL, region-specific vaccinations, COE final preparation, painting of additional required equipment, mission-specific pre-deployment training, etc), and have all COE ready to deploy at the port of embarkation (cargo collection date).

7.3. Deployment will likely take place via “UN deployed” option, whereby all personnel and all major equipment and self-sustainment and self-sustainment capabilities should be ready to board at the port or airport specified in the MOU in preparation for UN-contracted transport to take place.

7.4. Self-deployed option (national assets, commercial contract or other means) will only take place in case it is requested by the Secretariat.

7.5. The deploying Member State may conduct a recce visit to the mission area. The recce visit should not delay the deployment timeline (dates will be determined by the Secretariat).

7.6. The UN Secretariat (DOS) will produce a final MOU based on the RDLA taking into account applicable mission factors and necessary adjustments in COE requested in the mission specific SUR.

7.7. In case there are considerable discrepancies between the RDLA ME and the mission specific SUR, it is recommended that a phased deployment is considered during exigencies in order to utilize the quick response provided by the RDL unit readiness status. New COE could then deploy at a later stage.

8. RDL Reimbursement

8.1. At the end of each fiscal year:

8.1.1. If no request is made to a T/PCC to deploy its RDL unit before the end of its period on the RDL, a final VV, or self-certification will be requested – at the discretion of the UN Secretariat – to ensure that the T/PCC has met all requirements during the entirety of the RDL period. If successful, the respective T/PCC is entitled to receive 25 per cent of the maintenance
reimbursement rate of all ME as per the negotiated RDLA for the applicable period the unit was on the RDL.

8.1.2. If a unit deploys within 60 days of a request in accordance with items 7.1 to 7.6 of “Deployment” above, the respective T/PCC is entitled to receive 25 per cent of the maintenance reimbursement rate of all ME as per negotiated RDLA from the RDL effective date until the beginning of deployment (deployment of advance party or cargo collection start date, whichever is earlier). The reimbursement payment for the RDL period will occur as soon as possible after the unit is fully deployed.

8.1.3. If a unit is requested to deploy by DPO but the T/PCC decides not to deploy the unit, fails to be ready to deploy within 60 days or fails to meet any of the criteria listed on items 7.1 to 7.6 of “Deployment” (see above), the T/PCC will forfeit the right to any reimbursement for the period the unit was placed at RDL. The Secretariat will remove that unit from the RDL for the remainder of the fiscal year.

8.2. After the completion of two full fiscal years at RDL, the unit will need to undergo a new RDL VV to be eligible for reimbursement.

8.3. T/PCCs may still be eligible for RDL reimbursement in cases where the requested deployment of any unit is delayed or cancelled due to matters beyond their control and as agreed to by the United Nations.

D. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

9. DPO

9.1. The SFGCPC, in coordination with PD/SRS, is responsible for general coordination with T/PCCs, including soliciting RDL pledges for the required capabilities, recommending selection of units for RDL in consultation with DOS to OMA and PD leadership, and coordinating all RDL verification visits.

9.2. OMA MILAD and PD POLAD are responsible for the selection of the units for the RDL based on the recommendations provided by FGS/SFGCPC and PD/SRS respectively for military and police capabilities.

9.3. The OMA/MPS, in consultation with DOS, are responsible for preparing and periodically updating the Vanguard Brigade’s Force Requirements and the Generic SUR for all military units that compose the Vanguard Brigade. PD, in consultation with DOS, is responsible for Generic SUR for police units. The yearly composition of the Vanguard Brigade will be based on operational requirements, available funds, and availability of T/PCCs.

9.4. FGS/SFGCPC and PD/SRS will participate during the negotiation of the RDL Agreement, led by DOS/UCSD/MRPS to make sure any discrepancies from the unit’s SUR will still allow it to conduct the necessary operational tasks.

9.5. SFGCPC and PD/SRS are responsible for the coordination of the rapid deployment exercise.
9.6. Review of ammunition lists and certificates provided by T/PCC in accordance with UNMAM.

9.7. Review of documentary proof provided by T/PCC that the unit’s commander and personnel have been selected and that a mobilization plan is in place; that their human rights vetting, and core pre-deployment training requirements are met.

10. DOS

10.1. DOS/UCSD/MRPS is responsible for conducting the RDL VV, and the negotiation and the signature of the RDL Agreement with Member States that have been selected for the RDL.

10.2. DOS/UCSD/RCMPS will be responsible for informing the available funds for reimbursement of the units at RDL during the planning for the yearly composition of the Vanguard Brigade.

10.3. DOS/LD/MCS is responsible for recommending if the T/PCC can be rapidly transported from the port of embarkation, verifying load lists submitted by RDL T/PCCs and liaising with T/PCCs to address any load list related problems.

10.4. DOS/UCSD/MRPS is responsible for providing the sample major equipment (ME) list to be populated by the T/PCC, reviewing the populated ME list against the SUR, participating in RDL verification visits to T/PCCs pledged to the RDL and providing the verification inspection report.

10.5. DOS/UCSD/RCMPS will process the RDL Agreement reimbursement based on the conditions set for T/PCC’s eligibility.

10.6. DOS/OSO/DHMOSH is responsible for conducting technical clearance for medical personnel in RDL units per the T/PCC technical clearance requests and credential documents submitted.

11. T/PCCs are responsible for notifying DPO of their intention to pledge a unit(s) to the RDL. They are responsible for procuring and preparing the necessary major equipment and self-sustainment, conducting proper human rights screening of unit personnel, and ensuring that unit personnel are selected, undergo UN core pre-deployment training, undergo medical checks and provide self-certification prior to the RDL verification visit. The T/PCC will be requested to show during the VV all above mentioned requirements as well as the plans to mobilise the unit’s personnel and COE for deployment.

11.1. T/PCCs must provide necessary major equipment lists, ammunition lists, and cargo load lists; and negotiate with DOS the RDL Agreement up to 45 days after its notification of selection.

11.2. T/PCCs are responsible for hosting RDL verification visit(s) to display the presence and proper functioning of 100% of major equipment listed in the agreed RDL Agreement (draft) as well as samples of self-sustainment, and unit’s ammunition.

11.3. T/PCCs are responsible for ensuring that unit personnel, major equipment and self-sustainment and ammunition are prepared to deploy to any new or existing
UN peacekeeping mission within 60 days of a request from DPO. For police units all pre-selected personnel will need to be ready for assessment.

11.4. T/PCCs are responsible, if requested by the UN, to participate in at least one rapid deployment exercise coordinated by the UN.

11.5. T/PCCs are responsible for submitting technical clearance requests for medical personnel in RDL units at least one month prior to deployment according to UN Guidelines on Technical Clearance Review of Medical Personnel for Deployment to UN Field Duty Stations.

E. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

12. **The Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS)**: is the system administered by DPO to register and maintain capability pledges for UN Peacekeeping. It aims to establish a predictable, efficient and dynamic process of interaction between the UNHQ and T/PCCs for ensuring readiness and timely deployment of quality peacekeeping capabilities.

13. **The Rapid Deployment Level (RDL)**: is the fourth and highest level of readiness of the PCRS. On completion of RDL verification visit and RDL agreement, a unit is prepared to be fully ready to deploy from the port of embarkation within 60 days of the request made by the Secretariat.

14. **Vanguard Capability**: The Vanguard Capability is an integrated military and police force composed of a permanent core command element, a brigade-size force of infantry/manoeuvring units, formed police units and the required force multipliers and enablers to be rapidly mobilized and deployed on the authority of the Secretary-General following a Security Council resolution to a new mission or to reinforce an existing mission. Units can deploy as part of the brigade or individually. Units that are part of this force should be at the PCRS RDL and organized based on respective RDL unit’s SUR. The yearly composition of the Vanguard Brigade will be based on operational military and police requirements, available funds, and availability of T/PCCs.

15. **Statement of Unit Requirement (SUR)**: SUR describes the generic UN operational environment, concept of employment, capabilities, tasks, organization, major equipment and level of self-sustainment required for formed military or police units in Peacekeeping Operations or Special Political Missions (SPM). The SUR also facilitates and guides the military and police force generation process and enables the Troop/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) to prepare their units prior to deploying to a field mission.

F. REFERENCES

**Normative or superior references**

16. 2020 Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) Manual (A/75/121) or the latest one available.

18. DPKO-DFS 2015.16 - Policy on Operational Readiness Assurance and Performance Improvement (1 January 2016).


Related procedures or guidelines

23. DPKO/DFS 2016.08 - Guidelines Operational Readiness Preparation for Troop Contributing Countries in Peacekeeping Missions (1 January 2017).


25. DPKO/DFS 2017.03 - SOP on Contributing Country Reconnaissance Visits (Draft).

26. DPKO/DFS 2017.04 - SOP on Planning and Implementing Pre-Deployment Visits (Draft).

27. 2008 - Generic Guidelines for Troop Contributing Countries Deploying Military Units to the UN Peacekeeping Missions.

28. Guidelines for Police Contributing Countries Deploying Formed Police Units to Specific UN Missions.

29. SOP Assessment of Operational Capability of Formed Police Units for Service in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions (REF 2017, 9)


G. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

33. The implementation of this guideline is monitored by DPO and DOS. Compliance with this policy is mandatory. All DPO/DOS staff involved in the PCRS shall make arrangements to support the implementation of these guidelines.

H. CONTACT

34. The contact for this guideline is DPO/OMA/DPET/SFGCPC at pcrs.manager@un.org
I. HISTORY AND AMENDMENTS

35. The guideline was approved on XXXXX 2023 and shall be effective from that date. The policy shall be reviewed no later than March 2026.

APPROVAL SIGNATURE:

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