

Pre-deployment training for peacekeepers and the Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) : @PKO Now! No.9

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Pre-deployment training for peacekeepers

As of 30 April of 2012, 16 UN peace operations have been deployed worldwide, and over 110,000 peacekeepers (including civilian police and civilian peacekeepers) have been deployed to the operations. The peacekeepers are deployed by Member States¹ and they all come from variety of background such as different nationality, culture, career experience and specialty. Therefore all of peacekeepers are not necessarily familiar with U.N. system and the latest trend of U.N. peacekeeping operations (UNPKO) prior to the assignment as peacekeepers.

Since UNPKO has lately been required to work in more complex and always changing difficult situation, training for peacekeepers is considered to be important in order to enable all peacekeepers in the PKO missions to have certain level of knowledge and understanding on U.N. system and function². In the informal document on future direction of peacekeeping activities titled "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping" which was produced in 2009, it is also pointed out that "Incoming personnel need training before they deploy to build the knowledge and skills to perform in the mission"³.

The Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM)

While training for peacekeepers is shared responsibility of Member States, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Field Support and UNPKO missions, pre-deployment training for uniformed personnel and civilian police personnel is under the responsibility of Member States⁴. For this reason, throughout the New Horizon processes and others, Member States have emphasized the need for clear standard-setting for pre-deployment training so that they can prepare adequate level of military and police capabilities and accordingly deploy their personnel. As a result, the Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) were issued in 2009 to replace the Standardized Generic Training Modules.

CPTM include necessary knowledge which is required for all peacekeepers i.e. uniformed personnel and civilian⁵, and have been summarized to allow them to be delivered in one week by taking into account the limited time for pre-deployment training courses⁶.

In CPTM , the specific objective and learning outcome of each topic are clearly defined. Furthermore, CPTM have been produced in the way that participants can attain the same level of knowledge or skills regardless of which instructor or training institution delivered the course, and also instructors are provided with flexibility to adopt the training materials to their local context⁷.

End Notes

¹ For the latest statistics, refer; United Nations Peacekeeping, "Peacekeeping Fact Sheet", United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/factsheet.shtml>, (Accessed 2012-04-30).

² Report of the Secretary-General "Report on the progress of training in peacekeeping", United Nations, <http://www.unprh.unlb.org/PBPS/Library/SG%20Report%20A%2065%20644.pdf>, (Accessed 2012-12-27).

³ Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping", United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf>, (Accessed 2012-12-27).

⁴ Report of the Secretary-General, "Report on the progress of training in peacekeeping", United Nations, <http://www.unprh.unlb.org/PBPS/Library/SG%20Report%20A%2065%20644.pdf>, (Accessed 2012-12-27). In Japan, pre-deployment trainings have been implemented in accordance with Article 15 of the Act on Cooperation for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations.

⁵ The topics included in CPTM are: fundamental principles of UN peacekeeping, establishment and functioning of UN peacekeeping operations, international law relevant to peacekeeping operations, human rights protection, protection of women and children, working with Mission Partners.

⁶ Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) can be downloaded from the following link; http://peacekeepingresourcehub.unlb.org/PBPS/Pages/Public/library.aspx?ot=2&scat=393&menukey=_4_5_2, (Accessed 2012-12-27).

⁷ Report of the Secretary-General, "Report on the progress of training in peacekeeping", United Nations, <http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/PBPS/Library/SG%20Report%20A%2065%20644.pdf>, (Accessed 2012-12-27).