

Best Practices Reference Paper for Peacekeeping/ Peacebuilding

1. Practices in preparation

(a) Formation of units

- Establish special units for peacekeeping/ peacebuilding in order to equip and train personnel effectively and improve their readiness, as necessary.

e.g. International Peace Cooperation Activities Training Unit, the Ground Self-Defense Forces, Japan.

(b) Education/Training

- Improve foreign language skills, including English and local language of the country of deployment, for members of the armed forces to allow for smooth integration into international and civil-military cooperation activities.
- Establish national/regional facilities, including training centers, in order to improve national/regional capacity for peacekeeping/ peacebuilding activities.

Note: A list of peacekeeping centers is provided on the ARF website.

- Conduct the following training activities in order to foster international and civil military cooperation:
 - Courses/seminars for civil-military cooperation, international humanitarian law and guidelines of UN peace keeping operations;
 - Exchange of civilian and military personnel (students/instructors) with other countries, international organizations, NGOs, and relevant authorities;
 - Exchange information, including syllabus, between organizations and countries;
- Hold joint training, exercises, seminars, workshops and research with other

countries and relevant civil agencies for regional capacity building and increased interoperability.

- Collaboration and networking with academia such as universities for regional capacity building.

(c) Sharing information/experiences

- Establish a database for points of contact for information exchange.

Note: List of peacekeeping experts is provided on the ARF website.

- Regional efforts, including seminars/expert meetings within the ARF framework, in order to promote a common understanding of peacekeeping/peacebuilding.
- List regional events including training courses, seminars and exercises (See Annex: List of events)

(d) Guidelines/SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)

- Promote a good understanding of existing guidelines/SOPs, including the UN guidelines.

Note: Best practice materials and lessons learned studies are provided on the UN website.

- Develop Regional Guidelines/SOPs for military-military and civil-military cooperation, as necessary.

(e) Preparation for deployment

- Adopt a comprehensive strategy based on a whole-of-government approach.
- Familiarize with the governmental plan.
- Familiarize personnel with the local political, social, cultural, religious and geographical background of the areas of operations.

- The importance of mental training.

(f) Miscellaneous

- Pre-deployment exchange of information among countries to be deployed to the same country
- The importance of increasing support for PKO among the general public.

2. Practices in operations

(a) General

- The importance of principles including neutrality and impartiality.

** Note: The abovementioned principles should be examined in the context of each operation.*

- The importance of assistance to reconstruction and of support of governance and the rule of law with the emphasis on fostering local ownership.
- A good relationship with local leaders and citizens for information collection, which could contribute to better peace-building activities and a safer environment for members of armed forces.
- Respect for sovereignty, local religion, culture and traditions.
- Establish communication plans .
- The importance of Political/Legal Advisers in peacekeeping/ peacebuilding operations.
- Share the report after the completion of the mission.

(b) Military-military cooperation

- Sharing information on the local situation and coordination of activities through liaison officers at the headquarters of multinational forces and other places.
- Logistics support such as transport, maintenance of equipment, meals, lodging, base support, communication and medical treatment.
- Prompt permission and support for the passage of other countries involved in peace-building activities.
- Good understanding of respective national roles and ROEs among troop sending nations to increase interoperability.

(c) Civil-military cooperation

- Contribution by armed forces to various areas such as restoration of infrastructure, medical treatment and vocational training.
- Close cooperation, including information sharing and regular communication, with various civil actors including international organizations and NGOs.
- A good understanding of civil-military coordination; the role of impartial and neutral humanitarian organizations; the UN guidelines; and the rule of law including the application of rules of international humanitarian law in the context of peace-building activities.
