

**PASOLS  
MUTUAL LOGISTICS SUPPORT  
HANDBOOK**

**PART 4  
UNITED NATIONS  
OPERATIONS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Part 4 of the Handbook addresses the provision of mutual logistics support by one member nation to another during contribution to a United Nations operation, primarily a Peace Operation. Such support may occur when one nation agrees to provide particular support to the UN, but needs to arrange assistance from another nation for some aspect of the logistics support. Participation in UN operations does not necessarily invoke mutual logistics support arrangements as detailed in this Handbook as in many cases the support arrangements are with the UN itself.

## **UNITED NATIONS PEACE OPERATIONS**

2. A UN Peace Operation is one means available to the international community to assist diplomatic efforts in the prevention, resolution or containment of a conflict. A peace operation may involve peace building, peace keeping, peacemaking or peace enforcement, but from the aspect of providing mutual logistics support there is no difference.

3. UN Peace operations are usually complicated by factors such as a complex and dynamic political scene, varied geographic and climatic conditions, the large numbers of nations involved, variations in national standards of training, equipment and procedures, and language difficulties. Further complications arise as the operational aspects of a UN field mission are performed by political staff, military units, civilian administration, observers/monitors, electoral officials, human rights, civilian police, and other organisations.

4. In general, these complex UN operations require a coordinated support system. The UN believes it essential for all missions to establish an Integrated Support System combining military and civilian logistics staff into a single support organisation that will be collectively responsible and accountable for providing a coordinated logistic response to all the operational needs of the mission.

5. The UN states that effective command and control are best achieved by, first, physically collocating all support staff of all the major divisions, in particular the military and civilian administration, then second, grouping similar functions to reduce span of control, thus permitting the function to be centrally managed. The integrity of the command structure will remain since the UN Deputy force Commander and Director of Administration exercise joint operational control over the entire mission logistic support system.

6. After security, logistics is the area of activity where the military component makes its greatest contribution to peace keeping operations. Troop-contributing countries are one of several sources of logistics support to these operations but the UN also secures logistics support from stocks of UN-owned equipment, from commercial contracts for logistics or through an arrangement by which a third country provides direct or bilateral support to specific national contingents that may lack certain assets.

7. The UN considers support services to be:

- Supply support including commercial procurement and resupply from contributing nations;
- Food Services;
- Transportation including movement control, transport, travel services and traffic;
- Communications and electronic data processing;
- Fixed, portable and mobile infrastructures engineering services;
- Aviation and air services including aircraft maintenance and flight safety;
- Health services (medical and dental services, medivac, disease surveillance, hygiene/sanitation, medical logistics and medical resupply).

8. Sources of logistic support available to UN operations are the UN infrastructure itself, functional logistics units/elements from contributing nations and operating under the auspices of the UN, commercial sources engaged by the UN, contributing nations via stand-alone national self support arrangements and support independently provided by member states in support of specific UN operations.

9. Cooperative Logistics in the multinational context of peace-keeping, means the process of negotiating, planning, coordinating and implementing logistics support between the civilian and military components of nations and international organisations. It incorporates UN member state's facilities, technologies and material services and aims to combine policies, programs, procedures and other applicable components of military and national support to produce an integrated logistic system for each field mission.

10. There are three basic concepts for UN logistics support to missions. The Self Reliance Concept applies where the mission has reliance on the local economy, and applies for very small missions. The Commercial Sources concept applies where total logistics support is provided by a commercial contractor, and this is generally preferred as it is considered to be the most economical method. The third concept is the Lead Member Nation concept where one member nation assumes responsibility for either providing all logistics support or coordinating all logistics elements.

11. None of the arrangements described above involve the invocation of the PASOLS MLSA or MLSA IA, as all arrangements are between the nation contributing to the operation and the UN.

#### **USE OF ARRANGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT**

12. In the majority of instances where PASOLS member nations contribute to UN operations, there will be no requirement for them to enter arrangements other than with the UN. In some cases, however, where a member nation agrees to make a contribution of a particular force component including the logistics support of that component, the contributing nation may need to request logistics assistance from another PASOLS member nation. In this case, the use of the MLSA and MLSA IA is appropriate. The MLSA, as with any other mutual logistics support situation, provides the framework under which the support will be provided, and the MLSA IA provides the vehicle for negotiating the detailed arrangements.

13. The application of the MLSA and the MLSA IA is as described in Part 2 Coalition Operations. Templates for the MLSA and MLSA IA are at Annexes to Part 2 of this Handbook. ([links](#))

14. In the case of mutual logistics support in UN operations, the need for deliberate planning for particular UN scenarios prior to the operation is not as important as for other types of operation. Deliberate planning previously undertaken by the member nations for other coalition operations will be of assistance and is most likely to be the basis of understanding between the PASOLS member nations that provides the knowledge of the potential logistics support available to each other.

### **CONTINGENT OWNED EQUIPMENT**

15. The UN defines Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) as any military equipment owned by a member state and brought to the mission area with the prior agreement of the UN secretariat and for which the member state intends to claim reimbursement. COE may be provided on a wet lease or dry lease basis. On wet lease, the supplying nation provides all support and maintenance, and would receive reimbursement for this. On dry lease, however, the UN would assume responsibility for providing support to the equipment through commercial contracts or using the services of another contributing nation. Further information on COE is available from the UN COE manual the link for which is at the end of this Part.

16. Where a PASOLS member nation provides COE under a wet lease arrangement, there may be a need for that nation to request assistance from another PASOLS member nation in the equipment maintenance and support. In this case, the use of the MLSA and the MLSA IA is appropriate.

### **OTHER REFERENCES TO UN PUBLICATIONS**

17. The following has been taken from the UN website, and may provide additional logistics information to PASOLS nations; A “list of peacekeeping training publications is available from the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Training and Evaluation Service. Included are guidelines, manuals, handbooks, booklets, courses, and other curricula. Each publication is listed by the title, accompanied by a brief description of the document and relative status or comments concerning the document. Also listed are several documents available in the near future”. The web site is [www.un.org/depts/dpko/training/tes\\_publications/list\\_publications.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/dpko/training/tes_publications/list_publications/list_publications.htm)

18. To be included with links.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

19. This section of Part 4 provides the opportunity for member nations to share their lessons learned with other member nations. As details are provided, links will be inserted to the lessons learned pages. ([Links](#))

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

20. The following websites provide additional information on UN operations:
  - a. (Link to Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations.)
  - b. COE manual.

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