

Kaysen and George Rathjens concluded that a UN Legion of 15,000 volunteers would be the optimal mechanism given prevailing resource constraints.¹¹¹ At this size, it was noted that the Legion could rapidly deploy a total of 11,000 personnel with the potential to manage two concurrent operations. While designed for a wide array of UN operations, including deployments under Chapter VII, the size and structure of this force also preclude any large-scale enforcement or war-fighting operations. This option is a 'streamlined' model of a considerably larger UN Legion proposed in extensive detail by Carl Conetta and Charles Knight.¹¹² Their initial assessment called for a four brigade Legion of approximately 43,750 personnel.¹¹³ As the unit types foreseen are virtually identical, it is a modular force that can be tailored to diverse deployment packages as the need arises. In this respect, it is quite similar to the Canadian vanguard concept and the notion of specific elements selected according to the context of an emergency, as proposed above. The Vital Force option would allow for short-term deployments of up to 30,000 military personnel representing a modest enforcement capability or continuous deployment of 15,000 indicative of a capacity to manage three concurrent peacekeeping operations. While a very useful model, the practical limitations are in the UN's operating cost of approximately \$3.5 billion U.S., the exclusion of civilian elements, and basing the entire force at one central location rather than building via duplication of national and UN standing elements at a regional level.

For purposes of comparison, a composite UN Standing Emergency Capability with 5,500 deployable multinational personnel and 5,500 deployable UN personnel, would likely be sufficient to conduct two operations, although not concurrently. Both have sufficient strength and assets to manage the critical early stages of a peace support operation, but it would likely be necessary for one to provide support and act as a primary reserve for the group in active service. Each would have a capacity for self-defence and tactical offensive manoeuvres, but neither is intended to, nor capable of, war-fighting or intervention without consent among well-armed combatants in a high-threat environment. However, given their rapid deployment nature, neither should be considered as another mechanism for the tasks of managing steady-state operations.

Dedicated UN volunteers, supported, trained and backed up by multinational military and civilian elements might also be a relatively cost-effective option. Aside from the humanitarian benefits of conflict prevention, the costs of major peace support operations and the expense of reconstructing war-torn societies would likely be substantially reduced.¹¹⁴ While expressing a preference for a volunteer UN Legion, Sir Brian Urquhart writes that, " a rapid response group,