

Recommendation 15

SHIRBRIG members should be encouraged to pursue functional role specialisation in several of the areas that require additional resources. For example, rather than have each carry a long independent national logistics train, such a task can be either shared or selected by one or two participants as their contribution. Similarly, one country might provide modern communications while another provided air or sea-lift.

Recommendation 16

Participating member states must attempt to streamline national decision-making to ensure that the SHIRBRIG, and their potential contribution to the brigade, is not delayed by unduly slow political and legislative procedures.

Recommendation 17

Within the next three years, it would be beneficial to co-locate military and civilian SHIRBRIG elements at a dedicated UN base.⁷⁶

Aside from the likelihood of faster and more sophisticated responses stemming from prior training and staging out of one location, common basing might foster the political confidence necessary to speed up decisions, as well as consideration of more ambitious arrangements. In effect, co-located national elements would represent a multinational standing capability - an arrangement similar to units assigned to NATO's former central front, although with the emphasis on conflict prevention and the protection of civilians. This option would not incur great expense for either the UN or participating member states. Supportive members would simply re-locate national elements in service and assign them to a UN base for a one-to two- year period. In the event of a national crisis, they would be subject to recall. As they would remain multi-tasked to national and UN service, their governments would retain primary responsibility for their administration, pay and benefits. The UN might assume responsibility for incremental costs, including transportation to and from the site, maintenance of facilities, as well as provision of accommodation. Participation in such a UN capability might provide a degree of recognition and prestige for the contributing nations and the various services involved.

UNITED NATIONS RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE MISSION HEADQUARTERS

As a complement to the UN Standby Arrangement System, Secretary-General Annan decided to pursue the Canadian proposal to create a rapidly deployable mission headquarters (RDMHQ).⁷⁷

This is a multidimensional core headquarters unit of military and civilian personnel tasked to assist rapid deployment and manage the initial phases of a peacekeeping operation.⁷⁸ The RDMHQ is designed as an operational unit with a tactical planning function.⁷⁹ Current plans entail a