



TOWARDS A RAPID REACTION CAPABILITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The NATO Model

In the 1960s, as NATO moved to a new model of crisis management, the ACE Mobile Force (Land) or AMF(L) was created as a rapidly-deployable, multinational force. The underlying concept of the AMF(L) is to deploy a multinational force of approximately brigade size (5,000 personnel) to a specified "contingency area" within six days. On arrival, the force immediately begins to conduct deterrent operations, which essentially means showing the NATO flag and reassuring the local population of the full support of the Alliance.

The AMF(L) is based on a permanent, standing, operational-level headquarters, with its constituent tactical and logistics units on stand-by in the six NATO member states which provide these forces. The headquarters consists of 45 personnel of all ranks, but is augmented with additional personnel when deployed. Communications for the force is provided by a composite British/German communications squadron. Tactical units, which remain in their home countries unless deployed on operational exercises, come from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom. These states keep specified units at appropriate readiness levels to ensure their deployment to the designated theatre of operations within six days. They deploy with 30 days' logistics support.

The headquarters (HQ) of the AMF(L) is responsible for the development of a wide range of detailed operational plans. This contingency planning process involves frequent reconnaissance of possible deployment areas and detailed co-ordination with both NATO and national organizations. HQ AMF(L) also deals directly with the forces assigned by nations. Direct contact with these tactical units is maintained through both staff visits from HQ AMF(L) and various commander conferences, study groups and command post exercises.

The process by which the AMF(L) deploys is suggestive of possible analogous arrangements in the UN context. As with the two national examples, early warning is a key factor in effective, rapid deployment. A request by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe to deploy the AMF(L) is forwarded to NATO's Defence Planning Committee in Brussels for discussion among states. HQ AMF(L) is then able to begin turning its contingency planning into mission-specific planning. Concurrently, the strategic movements unit begins the coordination of strategic air and sea lift to move the force. At the same time, the Defence Planning Committee requests contributing states to prepare their contingents for deployment and increase their readiness states. While the Defence Planning Committee as a whole is responsible for the decision to deploy the AMF(L), member states determine their own participation in a given operation. To allow for the possibility of a number of non-participating states, there is a degree of "redundancy" in the AMF(L) force structure.

As decision-making proceeds at the political level, HQ AMF(L) deploys an advance headquarters unit to the theatre of operations. Initial contact with local NATO and national authorities is made at this time, and contributing states immediately deploy "key companies" (of 120 personnel each) to arrive for operations within 48 hours. This capability is achievable due to progressive enhancements of readiness levels and preparations which proceed simultaneously with the political and strategic decision-making process. The remainder of national contingents deploy over the next four days,