

III MILITARY ROLES IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

- (i) The following is an attempt to list Military roles in Complex Emergencies under three headings: Peacekeeping; humanitarian support; and enforcement measures. Inevitably there are overlaps between the three, but the underlying distinction is useful.

Peacekeeping

These tasks would be under a Force Commander's authority.

- Establishing a UN presence by patrolling disputed areas and monitoring activity.
- Managing ceasefires, e.g. by defusing incidents and investigating violations.
- Establishing stabilisation measures, e.g. brokering agreements over demarcation of boundaries.
- Communicating between parties to a conflict which have no diplomatic relations.
- Demobilisation and Disarmament.
- The clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance.

Humanitarian Support

These tasks would only be undertaken at the request of, or in agreement with, the Humanitarian Coordinator.

- Provision of immediate humanitarian assistance, e.g. emergency food distribution, building of refugee accommodation, and provision of basic water and sanitation, when relief agencies were not present in sufficient strength to cope with sudden demand.
- Alerting humanitarian agencies to pockets of need encountered during routine patrol activities.
- Assistance to humanitarian agencies in longer-term relief and development projects.
- Negotiations with warring factions to create the conditions in which agencies can operate freely and effectively.
- Physical security of aid delivery and other humanitarian activity.
- Physical security of refugee camps.

Enforcement Measures

These measures would only be used if the consent of the parties to a conflict had broken down.

- Restoration of law and order.
- Forcible separation of belligerent parties.
- Establishment of safe areas.
- Guarantee or denial of movement, e.g. blockade or no-fly zone enforcement.
- Enforcement of sanctions.