



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 March 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Agenda item 132

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the functioning of the existing mechanisms for rapid deployment

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 60/266 of 30 June 2006, the General Assembly requested a comprehensive report on the implementation of strategic deployment stocks and the use of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and installations, as well as on all mechanisms for rapid deployment, including on the evolving concepts used in this regard, taking fully into account the surge in peacekeeping operations, locations, operational and strategic requirements of peacekeeping and the need to ensure the utmost efficiency in the use of resources.

The present report presents information on the utilization of strategic deployment stocks and on new concepts developed by the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness of future deployments.



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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides information on the implementation of strategic deployment stocks and mechanisms implemented for rapid deployment of equipment to the new and upcoming United Nations peacekeeping operations. The broader discussion on the use of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and installations will be addressed in two separate reports, one on disaster recovery and business continuity and the other on the United Nations Logistics Base budget for 2007/08.

2. In its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002, the General Assembly endorsed the concept and implementation of the strategic deployment stocks and approved \$141.6 million for acquiring equipment in support of one complex mission. In addition, equipment valued at \$4.6 million was transferred from the reserve of the former Field Administration and Logistics Division into the strategic deployment stocks (see A/57/751, para. 9, table 2).

3. Out of the above, costs for the Galileo Inventory Management System amounted to \$3.5 million, and other associated Logistics Base costs for strategic deployment stocks, including facilities and infrastructure, transport and general temporary assistance, amounted to \$6.1 million. The balance was used for procuring equipment as per the approved composition of the strategic deployment stocks in support of peacekeeping operations.

II. Status of implementation

4. The strategic deployment stocks are fully functional and are currently used to support both the start-up and expansion of United Nations operations as well as of other United Nations entities.

5. During the period 1 July 2006 to 31 January 2007, strategic deployment stocks valued at \$24.14 million were issued to missions, as shown in the table below.

**Total value of strategic deployment stocks issued to missions from
1 July 2006 to 31 January 2007**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Receiving operation	Amount
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	15 940.5
United Nations Mission of Support in Timor-Leste	4 728.5
United Nations Mission in Nepal	2 066.6
United Nations Mission in the Sudan	533.8
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	478.9
Nine other operations ^a	397.4
Total	24 145.8

^a United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), International Independent Investigation Commission, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

6. As the strategic deployment stocks are a capability for supporting missions, the current value of the revised configuration of strategic deployment stocks is \$158 million (see para. 17), inclusive of freight from vendors to the Logistics Base. This includes the equipment held at the Logistics Base and at vendor premises. The current holdings at the Logistics Base and vendor premises are \$90.4 million, and the balance is under replenishment from mission budgets.

III. Evolving concepts concerning the management of strategic deployment stocks

7. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has implemented the material resourcing plan as the primary document for planning the equipment requirements for a new or expanding mission. The plan was successfully used in planning the equipment requirements for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and for United Nations support for the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) in Darfur. The plan identifies the equipment and materials required to accomplish the objectives and tasks stated in the logistics support plan. The material resourcing plan also takes into account United Nations reserve stocks held at the Logistics Base, enabling the organization to obtain the best value for its money. Furthermore, the material resourcing plan identifies the equipment needed in each phase of the operation, facilitating consolidated shipments, which in turn reduces freight costs and allows for the employment of the most suitable means of transportation.

8. The Department has also undertaken a codification project for standardizing data related to non-expendable equipment in the Galileo Inventory Management

System. The project has been funded by a Member State at no cost to the United Nations. Completion of the project is anticipated by March 2007. This will enable the Department to link main assets with peripherals, enhancing the control mechanism for the accounting of assets.

9. In addition, the Secretariat in August 2006 implemented the accounting guidelines for strategic deployment stocks operations. The guidelines identify all steps related to the issuance, shipment and replenishment of equipment. The guidelines also provide information on the issuance of equipment to agencies within the United Nations system. They ensure the correctness, completeness, validity and accurate recording of financial transactions related to the strategic deployment stocks.

10. The strategic deployment stocks include the capability of providing support for advance elements of a new mission through a fly-away kit module. A fly-away kit exercise was undertaken at the Logistics Base in May 2006 to establish the exact shipping volume and weight, the sequence for loading, the preparation of the cargo manifest template and the load planning. The lessons learned have been documented and are under implementation at both Headquarters and the Logistics Base.

11. The Logistics Base has played an important role as a trans-shipment point for equipment deploying to missions (e.g. UNMIS, MONUC and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)). This has enabled missions to consolidate cargo arriving from different points with equipment from the strategic deployment stocks. The equipment is inspected at the Logistics Base, thus saving time at the final destination.

12. The Logistics Base also undertakes testing of generators prior to deployment, as electric power is fundamental to the success of rapid deployment. The generators are assembled with the requisite control panels, connectors and spare parts, for operation immediately upon deployment.

13. The Logistics Base performs important value-adding activities to improve the readiness of strategic deployment stocks items by integrating various types of equipment procured individually, such as radios, spare parts and Carlog system in vehicles and various types of communications equipment in mobile deployable telecommunications system vans. This ensures that the equipment delivered to the missions can be used immediately upon arrival.

14. The Department has received urgent requests for support from organizations, agencies and other entities of the United Nations system for equipment from the strategic deployment stocks. Those requests have been met, depending upon the availability and requirements for field missions. For example, flack jackets were provided to OHCHR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNRWA, and composite rations were supplied to WFP. The Department will continue to provide such support to the greatest extent possible.

15. An interim replenishment tracking tool based on Lotus Notes has recently been implemented, and currently the Department is working to integrate those functionalities in the Galileo Inventory Management System. The above-mentioned tool, when implemented, will assist Department management in tracking the replenishment of the strategic deployment stocks inventory; create standard reports including the strategic deployment stocks understock report, the items in the pipeline, the strategic deployment stocks composition table, rotation analysis, the

strategic deployment stocks obsolescence report and the fly-away kit readiness report.

16. The strategic deployment stocks were established to support one complex mission each year. However the Department has been able to support multiple missions at any given time: for example, concurrent support was provided to UNMIL, UNOCI, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), UNMIS and the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). This has been possible since not all start-up missions' requirements are identical.

17. The Department conducts an annual review of the composition of the strategic deployment stocks to ensure that the equipment meets the operational requirements and is technologically current, and that new capabilities are introduced as required along with the expansion of current capabilities.

18. It should be mentioned that the Department has established an arrangement whereby medical equipment is stored and maintained by the vendor. This has solved the problem of the obsolescence and expiration of drugs and medical supplies. Furthermore, this special equipment needs highly skilled personnel for maintenance and specialized storage, which are provided by the vendor.

IV. Conclusion

19. Strategic deployment stocks are a critical element in the rapid deployment of missions, making available essential equipment and support during the start-up phase of new and/or expanding missions.

20. The Secretariat is committed to maintaining and improving the rapid deployment capacity and material readiness of the United Nations and will continue to develop new mechanisms for efficient and effective management of the strategic deployment stocks inventory.

V. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

21. The General Assembly is requested to take note of the present report.
