

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE – WORKING GROUP

XXXVIIth Meeting

New York, 8 June 1999

Military and Civil Defence Unit

MILITARY AND CIVIL DEFENCE UNIT (MCDU)

The MCDU was established by a decision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in November 1995 to ensure the most efficient use of military and civil defense assets in support of humanitarian operations. The MCDU consults with concerned nations and organisations to maintain up-to-date information on preparedness and response measures related to military and civil defence support. It also acts as a focal point with interested Governments, regional organisations and military/civil defence establishments on preparedness measures for the exceptional use of these assets in support of humanitarian operations. The MCDU maintains a database on resources, ranging from cargo aircraft, field hospitals and field catering units to nuclear, biological and chemical detection units. The MCDU reports to an Advisory Panel composed of members of the IASC, namely: representatives from OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, DPKO, FAO and observers from the IFRC and ICRC.

In 1998 the Unit:

- ◆ undertook 55 missions, 37 of which were in Europe, 11 in Africa, four in Asia, two in the United States and one in Central America;
- ◆ received and responded to requests for the use of various military and civil defence assets;
- ◆ established Working Group on Service Modules, Training, Air Operations, and Legal Matters; and
- ◆ established and regularly updated a list of national MCDA focal points for the mobilisation of assets.

1999 priorities and Planned Activities

Organising meetings:

The Unit will organise meetings with humanitarian agencies, interested countries and

international organisations, including four meetings of the AP Core Group and an open-ended meeting of the MCDA Consultative Group.

Making available information on military and civil defence assets for emergency response:

The Unit will negotiate with traditional and non-traditional donor countries on the availability of Key Service Modules.

Holding training courses and high-level seminars:

In 1999, the Unit will organise a workshop for civil and military practitioners on revising the Oslo Guidelines and will organize and participate in a number of training events, including UN Basic CIMIC Courses and UN CIMIC Staff Training Courses, UN ERA courses (jointly with FCSU), two High-Level Seminars in Abidjan (successfully completed in May 1999) and in Latin America, and several military/humanitarian exercises including the Exercise Cooperative Guard, the Exercise Barents Peace, and the Exercise Blue Crane (South Africa).

Building capacity to support large-scale air operations in an emergency:

The concept, terms of reference, documentation and an index of required equipment, including communications, will be defined. Thereafter, negotiations with Governments will begin on nominating stand-by personnel and on preparing and launching training activities.

Answering legal questions about the use of military and civil defence assets in humanitarian operations:

The Unit will assist the Working Group, composed by legal experts from nations and international organizations, on this issue. The MCDU will then conduct one or more workshops to disseminate the results of the working group and encourage the use of the model standard agreements.

Revising the Field Manual for military and civil defence personnel engaged in humanitarian operations:

After revisions, the Field Manual should be published in Autumn 1999.

The MCDU and the Kosovo Crisis:

Already on 1 April 1999, at the request of UNHCR, the MCDU assisted in the establishment of an air coordination cell (located at UNHCR, staffed by UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, and NATO). Subsequently, the MCDU responded on a daily basis to requests for assistance ranging from airlift (including a 5-week shuttle service provided by the Norwegian Air Force), and airport handling team to tents and mattresses. The Chief, MCDU, assisted UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP in the establishment of a Joint Logistics Centre in Skopje, FYROM. For the duration of the High Level Mission to FRY, the MCDU organised round-the-clock functioning of the OCHA operations room.

Staffing:

In March 1999 the MCDU lost two positions hitherto covered by gratis personnel. One of the positions was subsequently covered for four month by a consultancy. The staffing situation per 1 July will be as follows:

Chief, MCDU	L.5	
Deputy Chief	L.5	
Senior Officer (database manager)	L.5	also responsible for non-MCDU database tasks
Senior Officer (liaison Brussels)*	L.5	also responsible for non-MCDU liaison tasks
Officer (high level seminars et al.)	L.4	funding expected – not filled
Officer (training and exercises)	L.3	new officer expected early July
Officer (general policy)	L.3	officer from UN agency expected mid June
Assistant	GS.4	
Assistant	GS.4	

Total: 7 professionals, 2 GS staff.

Budget:

See attached.

	Annual Cost	Cost pr month	Funding available till end	Requirement in 1999	Requirement Jan-June 2000	Requirement July - Dec 2000	Proposed source of funding	Notes
1.1 Head of Unit (ME)	200,000	16,667	July 1999	83,333	100,000	100,000	Denmark	From general OCHA support
1.2 Senior Officer (GDM)	200,000	16,667	Dec. 1999	0	100,000	100,000	France	Funding pledged, not paid
1.3 Senior Officer (DB)	200,000	16,667	Dec. 1999	0	100,000	100,000	US/Sweden	
1.4 Senior Officer (GL)	200,000	16,667	Dec. 2000	0	0	0	Switzerland	Paid
1.5 Officer (Austria)	140,000	11,667	June 1999	81,667	70,000	70,000	Austria	
1.6 Officer (US)	160,000	13,333		80,000	80,000	80,000	US	Indicated, not yet pledged
1.7 Officer (Agency)	140,000	11,667		105,000	70,000	70,000	UK	Awaiting UK approval
1.8 Assistant	92,000	7,667	Dec. 1999	23,000	46,000	46,000	Sweden	
1.9 Assistant	92,000	7,667	Dec. 1999	23,000	46,000	46,000	Sweden	
1.11 Consultant	100,000	8,333	June 1999	50,000	50,000	50,000	Belgium/ECHO	
2 Travel	57,000	4,750	June 1999	28,500	28,500	28,500		
3 Communications	18,000	1,500	June 1999	9,000	9,000	9,000		
4 Equipment	12,000	1,000	Aug. 1999	4,000	6,000	6,000		
5 Supplies	6,000	500	Dec. 1999	0	3,000	3,000		
6 Publications	22,500	1,875		22,500	300	300		
7 Activities	5,000	n/a	Dec. 1999	0	0	5,000		
TOTAL				510,000	708,800	713,800		
Total till end Dec 99								
Total till end June 00					1,218,800			
Total till end Dec 00						1,932,600		