

limited war, regional conflict, civil war, rebel actions, terrorism. The tasks that are put before the Armed Forces of Britain, apart from the security of the country and the region as follows:

- support for British interests in the world with the aim of strengthening presence abroad and enhancing its influence;
- peacekeeping and humanitarian operations-participation in operations other than war, the purpose of which is to protect British interests, as well as the maintenance of the international order and the conduct of humanitarian activities (the latter most likely under the aegis of the United Nations).

In the framework of doctrine three types of operations are distinguished – «peacekeeping» operations, which are conducted with the consent of the parties to support the efforts to establish peace and security in areas of potential and existing conflicts; «wider peacekeeping» with the same objectives of the agreement, but that quickly changed, and «peace enforcement» – the restoration of peace between the warring parties without the consent of the intervention, the opportunity to participate in military operations.

Thus, the military concept «Wider peacekeeping» reflected the emergence of a new type of peacekeeping operations, their characteristics occupying an intermediate position between traditional peacekeeping and coercion to peace.

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PEACEKEEPING: CHILDREN IN CONFLICT

Why is child protection at the heart of peacekeeping? Conflicts disproportionately affect children. A lot of them are subject to abductions, military recruitment, killing and numerous forms of children exploitation. Everybody in a peacekeeping operation, including military and the police, plays a role in protecting children. There are special advisors, who in those countries in which conflict impacts children most severely, help the mission channel their resources towards children. Their work includes:

- Placing the concerns of children onto the peace and political agenda.
- Ensuring that child protection becomes an integral part of the mission's engagement. This is done through mainstreaming and advising the mission leadership.

– Training newly-deployed peacekeepers on child protection, which complements the training on child protection every peacekeeper must receive prior to his or her deployment.

– Advocating: the child protection advisor acts as an advocate, facilitator, and an advisor to the mission leadership on pertinent child protection issues.

– Monitoring and reporting the most serious violations against children.

– Liaising with UNICEF and other child protection actors for follow-up and response to individual cases.

Child protection advisors play a key role in establishing dialogue with perpetrators to end the gravest violations against children. This dialogue has led to the signing of action plans by military and armed groups and the release of thousands of child soldiers. Since 2001, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has deployed child protection advisors in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Haiti and Sudan.

“Children are trusting, and their trust is easily betrayed. This is why we need to give them special protection. If we do not protect the next generation, all our efforts to establish lasting peace will be in vain,” Mr Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said.

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THE VALUE AND ROLE OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

United Nations activities presently have an important coordinating, stimulating and directing significance in international activities, especially for the world community in modern hard external relations, in the absence of mutual agreement in orientation and nature of foreign policy leaders. Therefore, the question of peacekeeping is a prime example of efforts to maintain international peace and security.

All United Nations peace operations today have the obligation to advocate the protection of civilians. This is a mission-wide task. Many non-military tools are available, including strong political advocacy, credible reporting and liaison with communities. Many missions support national authorities in carrying out their protection responsibilities, including through support to police, rule of law and security institutions and national action plans to better protect children and address sexual violence.