

125 Indian Police Officers, including 103 women and 22 men were deployed for service in peacekeeping missions in Liberia.

As the first country to send an all Female Formed Police Unit to a peacekeeping mission, India has blazed the trail in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution which recognizes that armed conflicts often affect women and girls the most severely and so mandates that women should play a more prominent role in peacekeeping efforts. The presence of women in uniform also appeared to encourage Liberian women to report instances of sexual violence.

Since being deployed in Liberia the Indian peacekeepers provided important outreach programs to local communities, such as basic self-defense training and computer classes to Liberian women to help improve their lives.

The police officers are returned to India shortly after serving for one year with United Nations Mission in Liberia and are replaced by a new all female Formed Police Unit arriving from India.

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NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE XXI CENTURY

The UN peacekeeping has been an important instrument for resolving armed conflicts and solving the problems of nation-building in the post-crisis phase. In the XXI century due to the escalation of a number of this type of conflicts the United Nations is becoming more than ever relevant and in demand.

Contemporary conflicts tend to be domestic in nature and are connected with interethnic, interfaith, territorial, political, economic and other reasons. Such problems as cross-border proliferation of weapons, organized crime and drug trafficking are becoming more vividly manifested. All this has led to an objective increase in the scale and number of multi-component peacekeeping operations sometimes with illiquid mandates. Thus, working in situations of internal political crises, «blue helmets» are forced to serve in a more complex and hazardous conditions, life-threatening peacekeepers themselves.

The mere scale of the United Nations peacekeeping operations including those performed in regions difficult of access demands the use of

modern technology, especially the means of observation and communications and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The attractiveness of the use of drones in UN peacekeeping operations is due to their ability to control the situation in the buffer zones. However, the main argument of supporters of the «power» peacemaking, in our opinion, is not so much efficiency, possibility of obtaining high-quality images at low altitudes or speed of data transmission, but the fact that drones can be used in hazardous locations without risk to the life of peacekeepers.

However, there are a number of issues in the political, legal and budgetary matters, as well as in the control of the information received and ensuring its confidentiality when using drones in peacekeeping operations.

In this regard, the disadvantages of using unmanned aerial vehicles should be eliminated as quickly as possible to make effective their use by peacekeepers. The use of new technologies will save human resources and make peacekeeping missions safer and more efficient. Today, the use of drones is one more step on the way to improve the peacekeeping activities.

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AUSTRALIAN POLICE PEACEKEEPING IN THE PACIFIC

The Australian police participation in overseas peacekeeping operations is older than the Australian Federal Police (AFP), but Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands overseas deployments have done more than any others. The Australian Government organized 11 Pacific nations into a regional force to assist the Solomon Islands in law and order restoration after a breakdown of the rule of law. The AFP's role in Solomon Islands wasn't new to the organization. In 1964, members of the Commonwealth Police (the AFP's predecessor) were sent to Cyprus as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force to help prevent further fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 1974, the United Nations Mission was expanded to supervise a ceasefire and maintain a buffer zone separating the communities and undertake humanitarian activities. Australia's commitment in Cyprus has spanned 45 years, making it one of the few countries to have had a continuous presence there since the beginning of the UN mission.

Unquestionably, the AFP's two most significant peacekeeping and capacity development roles are in Timor-Leste and in the Solomon Islands.