

## Peacekeeping



**1943 - 2003**

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### What is Peacekeeping? A definition by the United Nations

The standard definition of peacekeeping refers to a United Nations presence in the field (normally involving civilian and military personnel) that, with the consent of the conflicting parties, implements or monitors arrangements relating to the control of conflicts and their resolution, or ensures the safe delivery of humanitarian relief. It is a technique initiated by the United Nations as a means for maintaining international peace and security.

One useful way to approach the concept of peacekeeping is to divide it into three broad categories:

- assist in maintenance of cease-fires;
- implementation of comprehensive settlements; and
- protection of humanitarian operations.

In the first category, peacekeepers not only monitor cease-fires but, by their very presence, enable clashing armies to pull back to a safe distance, where an atmosphere conducive to negotiations may be created. In short, the primary goal of this type of mission (comprised mainly of military personnel and a small number of civilian support personnel) is to allow time for political leaders and diplomats to negotiate and hopefully resolve underlying conflicts. The PKOs established on borders of conflict between Egypt and Israel or India and Pakistan are prime examples of operations set up as neutralizing forces.

The second broad type is also known as multi-dimensional peacekeeping, prevalent since the Security Council's establishment in 1989 of an operation in Namibia. With the end of the Cold War, members of the Council were able to agree on more ambitious and diversified operations. In providing a wider range of civilian experts to serve in such areas as human rights, local security, elections, and the re-integration of combatants to civilian life, the United Nations has been able to assist in the strengthening of national institutions at their very core. For example, missions in Cambodia, El Salvador, and Mozambique were able to bring about major political, social, and economic change for the populations within these nations.

Multi-dimensional operations are typically deployed for a limited time period (18 months to two years and, in some cases, even longer), at which point the peace-process is sufficiently consolidated for the peacekeepers to be withdrawn.

The third category of peacekeeping is an attempt by the international community to alleviate situations of massive human suffering. This type of operation is typically employed to protect the delivery of humanitarian relief in cases where armed violence has prevented efforts to assist a distressed population. This type of operation may be particularly difficult, especially in cases where the good-faith consent of the parties seems tenuous or the operation takes place in the midst of ongoing hostilities rather than in the context of a negotiated agreement.

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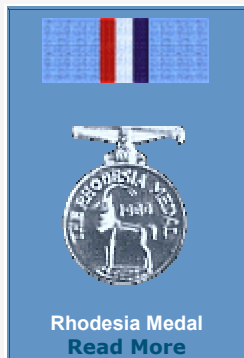
### Australian Involvement in Peacekeeping Missions

Since 1945 to the present day, Australia has made valuable contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping endeavours. From military observation, through to medical assistance; election and police supervision; training, engineering and communications; humanitarian aid and mine clearance;

Australian troops have successfully fulfilled many of the duties set out in the United Nations Charter. Following the 'clean-up' after WWII in Japan, 1945, Australia participated in many international missions for peace:

1947 - 1951	Indonesia	1991	Kurdistan
1949 - 2001	Korea	1991 - 1992	Cambodia
1950 - 1985	India-Pakistan	1991 - 1994	Western Sahara
1956 - 2001	Israel and the Middle East	1991 - 1999	Iraq
1960 - 1964	Israel and the Middle East	1992 - 1993	Cambodia
1962	Congo	1992 - 1993	Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia
1963	West Irian	1992 - 1995	Somalia
1964 - 2001	Yemen	1993 - 2001	Sinai
1965 - 1966	Cyprus	1994 - 1995	Mozambique
1974 - 2001	India - Pakistan	1994 - 1995	Haiti
1976 - 1979	Syria	1994 - 2001	Rwanda
1978	Sinai	1994 - 2001	Bougainville
1978	Lebanon	1999 - 2001	East Timor
1979 - 1980	Zimbabwe	2002 - 2003	Afghanistan
1982 - 1984	Uganda		
1982 - 1986	Sinai		
1988 - 1990	Iraq - Iran		
1989	Cambodia		
1989 - 1990	Namibia		
1989 - 1993	Afghanistan - Pakistan		
1990 - 1993	Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea		

For an overview, of Australia's involvement in Peacekeeping [Click Here](#)



## Medal Information

[Australian Service Medals \[post WWII\] - images and Facts](#)  
[Medal Mounting: Australian Medals & Frames \[mounting & framing service\]](#)

## Forums: Peacekeeping & Military

[Britains Small Wars Message Board](#)

## Book and Publications

### Historical Records and Official Publications

[Africa: Secretary General's Report to the UN Security Council \[16 April 1988\]](#)

[Australian War Memorial Databases](#)

[East Timor: UNTAET Mandate](#)

[United Nations: Africa Initiative \[UNSI\]](#)

[United Nations: Human Rights Briefing Papers](#)

[United Nations: Resolutions of the Security Council](#)

[United Nations: The Division for Palestinian Rights](#)

[United Nations: The Millenium Assembly](#)

[United Nations: UN Chronicle](#)

[United Nations: Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

### On-line Publications

[Deaths Signal a Rethink of Peacekeeping Duties - Africa News On-line](#)

[Responding to Crisis - Medical assistance to civilians during peacekeeping operations: wielding the double-edged sword by Michael C Reade](#)

[Ruby's Story : Blockade to Bougainville by Anna Whelan](#)

[The Suitability of the Australian Army for Peacetime, Peacekeeping and War by Graeme Cheeseman](#)

### Further Reading

Brown, Gavin. *Police as Peace-keepers: the history of the Australian and New Zealand police serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus, 1964 -1984*. Melbourne, UNCIVPOL, 1984

*Cambodia: an Australian peace proposal*. Working papers prepared for the Informal Meeting on Cambodia, Jakarta, 26-28 February 1990. Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service for Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 1990

Evans, Gareth. *Co-operating for Peace: the global agenda for the 1990s and beyond*. St. Leonards, N.S.W., Allen & Unwin, 1993

Higgins, Rosalyn. *United Nations Peacekeeping: documents and commentary*. New York, under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs(Great Britain), 1969 -1981

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Klintworth,Gary. *Peacekeeping in Cambodia: an Australian role?* Canberra, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, 1989

Selochan, Viberto & Thayer, Carlyle. (Eds.) *Bringing Democracy to Cambodia: Peacekeeping and Elections*. Canberra, Australian Defence studies Centre, 1996

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Verrier, Anthony. *International Peacekeeping: United Nations Forces in a Troubled World*. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1981

### Maps

#### Africa

[Current United Nations Peace Missions and Secretary-General's Representatives and Envoys in Africa](#)  
[Map of Rhodesia showing the locations of the 16 Assembly Areas during Operation Agila 1979-1980](#)

#### East Timor

[United Nations Map of East Timor](#)