

SECRETARIAT

STUDY ON ASSESSMENT OF RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY DEPLOYED BY TROOP AND POLICE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

Secretariat Issue Paper # 29 - Mandated Study

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Other / Cross-cutting

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

According to the COE Manual (2023), 100% of the personnel in Formed Police Units (FPUs) deployed by Police Contributing Countries (PCCs) are required to be equipped with a full set of riot control gear, regardless of their role. This specialized gear, essential for public order management, is required for a maximum of 85% of each unit, with the remaining personnel holding administrative and logistical responsibilities, as stated in the 2024 FPU Policy (Ref. 2024/14). In contrast, military units deployed by Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), less often tasked with riot control responsibilities, receive reimbursement for these items under Annex B the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as major equipment. By realigning the reimbursement practices from police kits to match military counterparts, the overall costs of riot control equipment to member states would reduce, and a more equitable reimbursement approach would be provided to PCCs, ensuring quality of equipment and safety of FPU personnel. As such it is recommended that riot control gear be removed from individual police kits and reimbursed instead as Major Equipment, with reimbursement adjusted accordingly.

BACKGROUND

The present list of “Individual Kit for Members of Formed Police Units: Mission-Specific Requirements,” as outlined in Chapter 9, Annex A of the COE Manual 2023 (pg. 258-9), and are reimbursed as part of troop costs at \$1,448 per person per month, across all T/PCCs¹:

1. Baton
2. Helmet with visor
3. Shield (Plastic, transparent)
4. Gas mask (2 filters included)
5. Legs/arms/shoulder protection

In reference to police, the requirement of this equipment for all personnel is not reflective of the operational needs of modern and professional FPUs, nor is it suitable for other specialized police components such as Protection Support Units, Guard Units, Riverine Police, Canine Units, or SWAT Teams. As such, Member States reimburse. Based on the most recent Quadrennial Survey data, the five items included in the police kit, when weighted, represent approximately \$27² per person per month, reimbursed accordingly for all personnel, regardless of police or military function.

¹ Cite: COE Manual, 2023

² Cite: Quadrennial Survey, 2021

Comparatively, when deployed by military units on a case-by-case basis, this same equipment is reimbursed as Major Equipment, under FULL KIT SET (WITH GAS MASK) (SET OF 10), reimburses at a rate of approximately \$120 per person per month (COE Manual, Chapter 8, Annex A, pg. 196).

The comparatively low reimbursement rates received by the PCCs compared to TCCs may create a sense of inequity among peacekeeping operators and risk the possibility that PCCs deploy lower-quality equipment, compromising operational effectiveness and safety of deployed units.

PREVIOUS HISTORY

The issue was previously raised at the 2020 COE Working Group and the 2023 COE Working Group. In 2020, the Working Group requested further details on the number of riot control equipment deployed in both military and police units. In 2023, the Working Group subsequently reviewed this data and requested the Secretariat to submit a comprehensive issue paper to the 2026 COE Working Group, proposing a system whereby the riot control equipment for FPU is to be reimbursed.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

Taking into account the details described above, it is recommended that riot control gear be removed from individual police kits (Chapter 9, Annex A, p. 258-9) and instead be reimbursed as Major Equipment (Chapter 8, Annex A, p.196). When FPU deploy, it is proposed instead that the five riot control items previously listed as part of the police kit are to be reimbursed as Major Equipment under Chapter 8, Annex A, pg. 196 as FULL KIT SET (WITH GAS MASK) (SET OF 10):

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As of June 2025, twenty-eight (28) Formed Police Units (FPU) are deployed across four (04) missions: MINUSCA in the Central African Republic, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNMISS in South Sudan, UNSOS in Somalia. This results in a total of 4,800 FPU personnel. According to FPU policy, only 85% of the unit is considered part of the operational component, requiring riot control equipment sets to be recognized. Therefore, of the total deployed FPU personnel, 4,081 require a full kit. Based on these requirements, an estimated cost is broken down in the table below by Mission, totaling approximately \$5,9 million per year.

MISSION	NUMBER OF FPU PERSONNEL	NUMBER PERSONNEL REQUIRING (SETS)	TYPE OF KIT REQUIRED	NUMBER OF SETS	COST (WET LEASE, ANNUAL COST PER SET)	TOTAL
MINUSCA	2,420	2,057	FULL KIT SET (WITH GAS MASK) (SET OF 10)	206	\$14,388	\$2,963,928
MONUSCO	1,050	893	FULL KIT SET (WITH GAS MASK) (SET OF 10)	90	\$14,388	\$1,294,920
UNMISS	850	723	FULL KIT SET (WITH GAS MASK) (SET OF 10)	73	\$14,388	\$1,050,324
UNSOS	480	408	FULL KIT SET (WITH GAS MASK) (SET OF 10)	41	\$14,388	\$589,908
TOTAL						\$5,899,080

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

It is proposed to revise the individual kit for members of formed police units detailed in Chapter 9, Annex A, Appendix (p. 258-259/281), of the generic model of MoU for formed police units, removing the five items in bold and with a strikethrough:

<i>Description of items</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Personal safety and security items	
Personal weapon	1
Bulletproof helmet (level IIIA)	1
Bulletproof vest (level IV)	1
Uniform	
Police jacket, lightweight	2
Police trousers, lightweight	2
Suspenders	2
Boots, desert or jungle	1 pair
Summer socks	4 pairs
Shirt, long-sleeve	2
Undershirts	2
Underwear	4
Shorts	2
Pocket handkerchief	6
Raincoat	1
Hand towel	2
Personal equipment	
Sleeping bag	1
Individual mosquito net	1
Travelling bag	1
Backpack (80 litres)	1
Toothbrush	1
Dining knife	1
Spoon	1
Fork	1
Mess tin	1
Drinking mug	1
Water canteen	1
Cleaning brush	1
Flashlight	1
Compass	1
Hearing protection	1
Whistle	1
Headscarf	1
Handcuffs (metallic)	1
Reflector jacket	1
Goggles	1
Baton	4

<i>Description of items</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Survival kit	1
Personal riot items	
Riot control gloves	1 pair
Helmet with visor	4
Shield (plastic, transparent)	4
Gas mask (2 filters included)	4
Legs/arms/shoulder protection	1 set
Additional items	
As required and negotiated	