

Council Secretariat Factsheet on European Union Battlegroups (Brussels, November 2006)

Caption: In November 2006, the General Secretariat of the Council publishes a factsheet on Battlegroups (BGs), defined as a specific form of the European Union's rapid response elements, listing their characteristics and what is required of Member States for their provision.

Source: PRESS. EU Council Secretariat - Factsheet - EU Battlegroups, EU BG 02. Brussels: Council of the European Union, 13 novembre 2006. 3 p. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/esdp/91624.pdf.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/council_secretariat_factsheet_on_european_union_battlegroups_brussels_november_2006-en-63af2d7c-401f-494d-ab23-4ff57814151f.html

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EU Council Secretariat Factsheet (November 2006)

EU Battlegroups

The Battlegroup concept is expected to reach Full Operational Capability (FOC) in January 2007, when the EU will have two Battlegroups on standby, enabling two operations to be carried out nearly simultaneously.

The Battlegroup (BG) is a specific form of the EU's rapid response elements and is one possible answer to the timely provision of the necessary capabilities for an EU rapid response operation.

In this context a BG:

- *is the minimum militarily effective, credible, rapidly deployable, coherent force package capable of stand-alone operations, or for the initial phase of larger operations;*
- *is based on a combined arms, battalion sized force and reinforced with Combat Support and Combat Service Support elements;*
- *will be based on the principle of multinationality and can be formed by a Framework Nation or a multinational coalition of Member States. In any case, interoperability and military effectiveness have to be the key criteria;*
- *must be associated with a (F)HQ and pre-identified operational and strategic enablers, such as strategic lift and logistics.*

Characteristics:

- Designed for a range of possible missions
- Generic composition of a BG = +/- 1500 troops
- All deployment assets & capabilities will be associated with it
- Sustainability: 30 days initially, extendable to 120, if re-supplied appropriately
- Close relation between the core of the BG (Infantry Battalion) and the (F)HQ; prior training and interoperability required.

Requirements:

- Utility across all Treaty¹ + ESS² tasks; full potential best in tasks of combat forces in crisis management, bearing in mind their limited size
- Could be on request of the UN or under UN mandate
- Potential area: outside EU (possibly for long range operations)
- Concurrency: 2 single BG ops
- Number on standby: minimum 2
- Readiness: 5 - 10 days
- Assured deployability
- Training and certification is MS responsibility.

BG provision:

- Different ways of construction of BG-Package; tailoring by the OpCdr possible
- MS indicate stand-by time and recurrence of BG-Package
- MS to offer complete BG-Packages, which may be different the next time they are offered
- BG needs to be both militarily effective and based on the principle of multinationality
- Battle Group Co-ordination Conference twice a year.

[...]

¹ TEU Art 17. 2

² European Security Strategy