



Monitoring the management of arms and armed personnel



UNMIN's mandate for the monitoring of arms and armed personnel of the Nepal Army and the Maoist army reflects the requests and commitments of the then Seven-Party Alliance Government and the CPN(Maoist) in three key peace process documents:

- their respective letters to the UN Secretary-General of 9 August 2006
- the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 21 November 2006
- the Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA), signed by the parties on 8 December 2006, with the United Nations signing the Agreement as a witness.

Security Council Resolution 1740 provides that UNMIN shall:

- monitor the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides, in line with the provisions of the CPA
- assist the parties to the CPA through a Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee (JMCC) in implementing their commitments agreed in the AMMAA.

What is the JMCC?

What are its functions?

The JMCC is the monitoring, reporting and coordinating body chaired by UNMIN, with membership of both the Nepal Army and the Maoist army. The JMCC is responsible for supervising compliance by the parties with the AMMAA

The JMCC has nine members:

- Brigadier General Jan Erik Wilhelmsen, Chairperson, UNMIN
- Brigadier General Shiva Ram Pradhan, Vice-Chairperson, Nepal Army
- Deputy Commander Nanda Kishor Pun (Pasang), Vice-Chairperson, Maoist army
- Six members: two UN, two Nepal Army and two Maoist army.

The JMCC has three main functions:

- to assist the parties to the AMMAA implement the agreement
- to serve as a dispute resolution mechanism - to resolve all disputes and military or operational difficulties, complaints, questions or problems regarding implementation of the AMMAA
- to assist in confidence-building - the JMCC works to gain the trust and confidence of the parties and promote the overall goals of the AMMAA among the people of Nepal.

What are the commitments of the Nepal Army and the Maoist army in the management of arms and armed personnel?

The AMMAA sets out in detail the commitments of both the Nepal Army and the Maoist army, and states that both parties shall seek United Nations assistance in monitoring their implementation according to international norms. Some of the main commitments are:



Maoist army

- confine its combatants within cantonments and register them with UNMIN. Under the terms of the AMMAA, to be eligible for cantonment, Maoist combatants must be born before 25 May 1988 and have joined the Maoist army before 25 May 2006
- register and safely store all its weapons and ammunition at the seven main cantonment sites under 24-hour UN monitoring (except those weapons kept for perimeter security and leadership security purposes)
- collect all improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at designated sites a safe distance from the main cantonment sites, to be kept under a 24-hour guard. Agree on a timeline for the destruction of all IEDs, in consultation with the UN.

Nepal Army

- remain in its barracks, and ensure that its arms are not used in favour of or against any side
- safely store arms in equal number to that of the Maoist army, to be under 24-hour UN monitoring
- provide information about the locations of its minefields and other sites which have been mined either with landmines or IEDs, and safely defuse and destroy these landmines and other explosives
- may carry out certain activities, including participating in official ceremonies, provide border security, and security for VIPs, at vital Government installations, for transportation of Nepal Rastra Bank funds; provide relief work in times of natural and other disasters, execute development and construction tasks as directed by civilian authorities, and training in barracks and camps.

How does UNMIN monitor the management of arms and armies?



UNMIN's 186 arms monitors are based in each of the seven main cantonment sites of the Maoist army, where the weapons are stored and where they maintain a 24-hour presence, as well as in regional headquarters. Arms monitors regularly visit the 21 Maoist army satellite cantonment sites.

UNMIN arms monitors also maintain a 24-hour presence at the Nepal Army barracks in Chhauni, where an equivalent number of weapons are stored, and regularly visit Nepal Army barracks in the regions.

Other regional arms monitoring teams conduct regular monitoring work, either in UNMIN teams or through Joint Monitoring Teams (JMTs), led by one UNMIN monitor together with one monitor from the Nepal Army and one monitor from the Maoist army. The tasks of the JMTs include:

- investigation of complaints related to alleged violations of the AMMAA
- help the Nepal Army and Maoist army create a favourable environment for the ceasefire, by information sharing between the parties
- village and community visits and liaison with the civilian community, as well as coordinating with UN agencies and other organizations.

UNMIN's activities to monitor arms and armed personnel are coordinated through the JMCC.

What happens if there is breach of the AMMAA?

If there is a suspected breach of the AMMAA, then a thorough investigation will be conducted by an UNMIN arms monitoring team or a JMT, who will report to the JMCC. The JMCC shall make a finding in each case, and report its recommendations to the parties to the AMMAA, now represented by the Interim Government.