

## **Supplementary memorandum from the Ministry of Defence**

### **Proposed Responses to Further HCDC Questions on Exercises, Flying Hours and Harmony**

**Exercises: the number of Medicine Man exercises in Canada cancelled with reasons for the cancellation. The response gives a helpful general answer, but not the specific data requested on Medicine Man. Annual data from 2002/03 is acceptable.**

The previous response provided information on formation-level training exercises, which involve a military grouping of one or more units, commanded by a one star officer (ie. a Brigadier in the case of the Army). All except one of the exercises in Canada over the period in question were conducted at the Battlegroup level, involving an infantry battalion or armoured regiment and commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel; these are known as the Medicine Man series of exercises.

In 2002, four Medicine Man exercises were conducted and one was cancelled; the reason for the cancellation was not recorded.

In 2003, four Medicine Man exercises were conducted, as well as one formation level exercise; there were no cancellations.

In 2004, three Medicine Man exercises were conducted, and two were cancelled. The cancellations were due to the conversion of the BATUS equipment and vehicle fleet to the BOWMAN communications system. Since 2004/05, regiments and battalions must have been converted to BOWMAN in order to be able to exercise at BATUS.

In 2005, two Medicine Man exercises and an additional exercise involving two other regiments were conducted, and three exercises were cancelled. The cancellations arose because those other regiments and battalions that had been converted to BOWMAN were unavailable due to operational commitments.

In 2006, three Medicine Man exercises were conducted and two were cancelled. One cancellation was due to a savings measure, and the other was due to operational commitments.

**Flying hours: the Fixed Flying Rates for (a) fixed wing combat aircraft, (b) battlefield helicopters, and (c) naval helicopters. The response provides total flying hours, including operational flying, whereas the Committee is concerned to establish the trend in flying hours available for pilots/aircrew to remain current in flying training (which it fears have been reduced as a result of operational demands). Annual data since 1998/99 would be very helpful.**

We do not have readily available a robust break-down into operational and non-operational flying of the actual flying hours data provided in the previous response. In practice, though, planned training and flying activity are not suppressed as a result of operational demands. As part of the Departmental planning round, crews are provided with an average monthly peacetime allocation of funded flying hours (known as the 'Crew Flying Task'), in order to maintain currency and support collective training. If a crew deploys on operations, it will still retain its monthly Crew Flying Task allocation, and carry out the planned flying whilst deployed and by management of roulement of crews to maximise training opportunities.

**Harmony Guidelines: how large the Army would need to have been, in each of the past 5 years, in order to have achieved harmony guidelines (Qq 35-37) The response does not answer this question.**

Despite extensive efforts, it has not proved possible to answer this question in the terms in which it is asked. The flexible nature of the Armed Forces enables us to plan not only to conduct enduring brigade sized operations but also, by intentionally breaking harmony guidelines, to conduct larger scale warfighting operations on a non-enduring basis, or two temporarily overlapping medium scale operations. The Army's manpower planning and harmony guidelines are guided by the Defence Planning Assumptions, which sets out the number of operations of a given scale of effort and duration that we should be able to conduct at any time. Since 2003, we have planned to be able to mount an enduring Medium Scale operation simultaneously with an enduring Small Scale operation and a one-off Small Scale intervention operation while remaining within harmony guidelines. During periods when we operate above these planning assumptions, we expect that harmony guidelines will be breached by some personnel but this is an integral part of our force structure planning.

The best indicative information is a comparison between the number of Army units in key areas required to sustain operations within unit harmony guidelines and the number of units actually available at the time. This is shown in the table below. This does not show the whole story because it does not reflect units being used in secondary roles or pressure beneath unit level, especially on individuals. However, the information does indicate that the defence planning assumptions have proven to be a sound basis on which to structure the Army, accepting that harmony will be breached by some during periods of exceptional operational commitments. The discrepancies in 2003 reflect the initial Large Scale Op TELIC deployment to Iraq.

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UNITS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE UNIT TOUR INTERVAL OF 24 MONTHS			Yearly Average Requirement				
			2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Scale of effort			L+SS	M+SS	M+SS	M+MS	MM+S
Combat	Infantry	Actual commitment	10.7	7.6	7.8	7.4	7.2
		Harmony requirement	53.3	38.1	39.0	37.0	36.1
		Available	36.0	36.0	36.0	35.0	35.0
		<b>Difference</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
	Royal Armoured Corps	Actual commitment	2.5	3.1	2.2	2.0	1.7
		Harmony requirement	12.5	15.4	10.8	10.2	8.7
		Available	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
		<b>Difference</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Combat Support	Royal Artillery	Actual commitment	3.8	4.4	2.8	2.9	2.6
		Harmony requirement	19.2	22.2	14.1	14.4	13.0
		Available	15.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
		<b>Difference</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
	Royal Engineers	Actual commitment	3.3	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.6
		Harmony requirement	16.7	12.8	12.1	15.0	12.9
		Available	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
		<b>Difference</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Combat Service Support	Royal Logistics Corps	Actual commitment	4.3	2.4	2.2	3.0	3.4
		Harmony requirement	21.6	12.0	10.9	15.1	16.9
		Available	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
		<b>Difference</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>

