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HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN UNAMIR

INTRODUCTION

1. The acronym "HAC" stands for "Humanitarian Assistance Cell". It is the cell charged with handling the humanitarian operations of this mission.
2. The word "Humanitarian" is a derivative of humanism which has been described as a system that is concerned with human interests. The word humanitarian simply put is concerned with works for the welfare of all human beings by reducing sufferings.

SCOPE

3. The scope of this "talk" will cover the followings:
 - a. Background
 - b. Role
 - c. Organization
 - d. Responsibilities/Tasks
 - e. Deployment
 - f. Limitations and
 - g. Conclusion

BACKGROUND

4. Before the war, UNAMIR initially had a single humanitarian Officer with its planning cell. To respond to the obvious humanitarian catastrophe which ensued after the 7th of April

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1994 episode the FC augmented the cell as follows:

- a. A Colonel as the CHO
 - b. A Lieutenant Colonel as the DCHO
 - c. A Major as the Ops Officer.
 - d. A Major (MILOBS) as Snr Duty Officer.
 - e. Three Duty OfficerS/Liaison (MILOBS)
 - f. A Major (MILOBS) EDP for recording missing persons.
 - g. Eight (MILOBS) team who work in the field on humanitarian missions.
 - h. An advanced humanitarian assistance team representing various humanitarian agencies of the UN.
5. The concept of operation were :
- a. To establish permanent liaison among all humanitarian aid agencies working in Rwanda with UNAMIR as a coordinating center.
 - b. To provide humanitarian assistance to the DPs inside and outside Rwanda.
 - c. To assist DPs in returning home.
 - d. To monitor human rights violations within the country.

ROLE

6. The role of HAC is to maintain close liaison with the Ministry of Rehabilitation, UN and NGO agencies and assist HACU/UNREO/UNDP in coordinating the humanitarian activities in Rwanda. To monitor

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the humanitarian activities in a manner which allows for UNAMIR to be fully aware of the humanitarian situation in the country.

ORGANIZATION AND TASKS

7. Present Organization. Since after the war in August 94 the HAC consisted of:

- a. A Colonel as CHAO(The incumbent CHAO is of Lt Col rank)
- b. A Major(MILOBS) as Ops Officer
- c. A Major (MILOBS) as Database/Info Officer
- d. HAC Patrol Teams 1 and 2 each headed by a Major or equivalent rank.
- e. A S/Sgt Clerk Admin.

8. Tasks. HAC has the following tasks:

- a. Advise the Force Commander and UNAMIR OPS branch on humanitarian assistance operations.
- b. Arrange for the security aspects of the humanitarian organizations conducting relief operations in Rwanda in close liaison with the Ops branch of HQ UNAMIR.
- c. Assist in the coordination of the activities of UN Agencies and NGO and effect close liaison with them.
- d. Conduct humanitarian recce as directed.
- e. Collect data from sector humanitarian representatives and produce reports as required.

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- f. Maintain current data on refugees and displaced persons
- g. Inform UN Human Rights officers on any human right abuse reported.
- h. Effect close liaison with the Govt of Rwanda humanitarian representatives.

LIMITATIONS

9. The main limitations that adversely affect the work of HAC are:

- a. The lack of coordination between the various agencies.
- b. Accuracy of reporting by MILOBS teams.
- c. Lack of an accurate data bank.
- d. Lack of pers and vehicles.
- e. Lack of office accommodation.

CONCLUSION

10. I have given you a brief insight into the main functions of HAC. HAC is still in the reorganizing process but if we get the support required from all agencies involved, HAC will be able to do its job efficiently.

11. I sincerely thank you all for your rapt attention. I am most prepared to take some contributions in whatever form before I take my leave off you.