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DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force  
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### UNPROFOR: Watchful Waiting

United Nations peacekeepers in Bosnia (UNPROFOR) continue routine operations in the face of increased harassment and the general breakdown of the Cessation of Hostilities (COH) agreement. UN forces continue to protest harassment and respond if fired on, but have not yet adopted a more assertive measures. The UN has put on hold plans for up to 6,500 additional peacekeepers. Efforts to upgrade UNPROFOR equipment and mobility continue--albeit at a leisurely pace. Major European contributors likely will support these efforts, but almost certainly would oppose strongly more aggressive UN tactics. [redacted]

### Growing Harassment

Harassment of UN forces has increased as both sides in the conflict prepare for the renewal of hostilities. Obstruction of UNPROFOR operations--such as movement restrictions as well as Serb seizures of weapons and equipment--is increasing.

- [redacted] Serb forces continue to treat the peacekeepers with contempt and relations between the two parties are worsening. According to senior US military officials, UNPROFOR commander Smith is irritated at what UN officials perceive to be Serb attempts to test his resolve.
- Government forces may be obstructing UN observers in an effort to limit access to areas in which they plan offensive operations as well as venting their frustration at the peacekeepers attempts to remain impartial. Troop-contributing countries also are concerned about attempts by government forces to provoke incidents between UN forces and the Serbs. [redacted]

There are no indications that UNPROFOR is pursuing a more aggressive approach in responding to harassment, despite claims that the peacekeepers will be more assertive.

- [redacted]
- Serb obstruction of resupply convoys--especially fuel deliveries--to UN peacekeepers in the eastern enclaves is limiting operations in those areas. UNPROFOR has begun planning for aerial resupply.

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- Following the confiscation of weapons and equipment from Danish and French UN troops at a highway checkpoint near Sarajevo, French forces did recently confront the offending Serb unit. Ultimately the UN reduced its presence and allowed the Serbs to maintain the previously-contested checkpoint and to undertake limited inspection of UN vehicles. [redacted]

### Strengthening UNPROFOR

Major improvements in UNPROFOR's capabilities are not currently planned. Allied military observers claim that the bulk of UNPROFOR's current strength--deployed primarily in government-controlled areas of central Bosnia--is actually underemployed.

- [redacted] London does not oppose additional equipment or personnel, as long as UNPROFOR's mission remains unchanged. Other major European contributors are likely to echo this view--marginal enhancements are acceptable, but major changes in rules of engagement or tactics are not.

- [redacted]

- Efforts to upgrade UN forces equipment and mobility--began at the December meeting of Alliance military chiefs--are proceeding slowly. UN Peace Forces (UNPF) chief Janvier told troop contributors in early April that he wants equipment, not additional troops. In many cases, member states have yet to pledge the needed equipment or the UN is still examining the cost and utility of the resources offered. [redacted]

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