Peacekeeping Intelligence in the UN PKO

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Abstract

This research paper summarized the current situation of activities for the Peacekeeping Intelligence field in the UN PKO, and the recent trends of UN member states in this field. Based on the research, this paper provides a proposal for Japan's future PKO contribution measures. The subjects of the research are Military Peacekeeping Intelligence (MPKI) and Peacekeeping Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (PKISR), which covered the efforts of the United Nations Secretariat and member states in these fields by the end of February 2022.

The peacekeeping intelligence has developed significantly in the last few years in proportion to the operational tempo and asymmetric threats such as terrorism, due to technological advancement and the rising threat in operational areas. In particular, since the UN revealed the MPKI Handbook in 2019, various activities have been conducted, including the produce of multiple handbooks and manuals. In modern PKOs, the safety and security of peacekeepers are highly emphasized as the most important issue. These activities stimulate two-way communication between the tactical field and the operational FHQs, facilitate coordination and cooperation, disseminate information in a timely manner, and make commanders give a right decision, thus minimize sacrifices of peacekeepers in the field. The UN Handbooks in PKI field play an important role to support peacekeeping intelligence activities.

In this article, after summarizing the background of the importance on peacekeeping intelligence, this paper deals the latest UN efforts about MPKI, the achievement of the author's participation in the UN PKISR Reinforce Training Package (RTP) Working Group (WG), trends in other member states, and future activities in the UN.

The author's participation in the PKISR WG is considered to be Japan's first intellectual contribution in this field. While many western countries are dispatching troops utilizing ISR technology, Japan makes an intellectual contribution in this field. It must be beneficial for Japan to expand available field in the future. At the end of this paper, the author liaised challenges and future plans related to MPKI as concrete examples of Japan's contribution to MPKI.