

In 1996, the Stand-by High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) was established by like minded nations. The main aim of SHIRBRIG was to enhance the UN's ability to deploy forces rapidly. It has contributed to several peace keeping operations, including the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). Through this and other kinds of support, SHIRBRIG has been an important organization.

However, given the changed environment for peace keeping operations, the evolution of the needs of the UN, as well as other pressing operational commitments of the member states in peace keeping operations, the member states have concluded that other forums are now better equipped for continued support to the UN.

Therefore, they have decided to cease all operational activities on the 30th June 2009 and to close down the organization. Over the coming months, there will be a draw down process during which SHIRBRIG's knowledge and experience will be collected, so it can be passed down to benefit the member states and organizations involved in peace keeping operations.