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Re: Private military companies

Expansion

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Topic</u>
355.35	355.355	Private military companies

One of the military topics whose literature has expanded recently is “Private military companies.” WorldCat has over 740 bibliographic records with this subject heading. Granted, most of the titles would go into a specific war classification, e.g., Iraq War, 2003-2011—956.70443. However, there are a significant number of titles that fall into a military science number in 355-359. The current comprehensive number for private military companies is 355.35.

There is not a good internationally accepted definition of private military companies. One useful definition is: “Commonly referred to as Private Military Companies (PMCs), contractors employ and manage civilian personnel from the private sector in areas of active military operations” (*Public War, Private Fight?* Deborah C. Kidwell, Combat Studies Institute Press, 2005). N.B., U.N. resolution 44/34, the *International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries*, seems to also cover some private military company activities. However, neither the United States, nor the United Kingdom is a signatory. Each piece of literature tends to have its own definition.

Some of the works are focused on one aspect of military operations, especially logistics or security. These works would scatter to other numbers within 355-359. Rarely does the literature treat private military companies in an economic manner, which would go in 338.4* or 338.761*.

Because some of the literature equates private military companies to mercenaries, it is tempting to use the ‘Mercenary troops’ number—355.354. However, the literature for mercenaries is, for the most part, completely different from private military companies. The current international definition of mercenaries is found in *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts*, ([Protocol I](#)), 8 June 1977:

Art 47. Mercenaries

1. A mercenary shall not have the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war.
2. A mercenary is any person who:
 - (a) is especially recruited locally or abroad in order to fight in an armed conflict;
 - (b) does, in fact, take a direct part in the hostilities;
 - (c) is motivated to take part in the hostilities essentially by the desire for private gain and, in fact, is promised, by or on behalf of a Party to the conflict, material compensation substantially in excess of that promised or paid to combatants of similar ranks and functions in the armed forces of that Party;
 - (d) is neither a national of a Party to the conflict nor a resident of territory controlled by a Party to the conflict;
 - (e) is not a member of the armed forces of a Party to the conflict; and
 - (f) has not been sent by a State which is not a Party to the conflict on official duty as a member of its armed forces.

The Pontifical Swiss Guard of the Holy See is the only legal mercenary organization left in the world today. In the late 20th century there were mercenary organizations fighting in African civil wars. Mercenary organizations were common in the middle ages until after the Napoleonic wars. The literature about these organizations is rather limited these days and does not encompass the subject matter covered by the literature about ‘private military companies.’

The one unifying topic for mercenaries and private military companies, along with foreign legions, is pecuniary interest. Those three types of combat units could be combined with one heading with three subdivisions. However, each of the three types is very different. Also, there is plenty of room in the 355.35 hierarchy to add a different type of unit. We propose using 355.355 for Private military companies.

Both “Military service providers“ and “Private military contractors” are alternative terms for these companies, as can be seen in the following excerpt from the Library of Congress authority records:

150	##	\$a Private military companies
450	##	\$a Military service providers
450	##	\$a Private military contractors

Because of the second term, see-also references to and from 355.6212, Contracts and procurement have been added.

In the attached schedule, 355.355 is new and 355.6212 has a new reference. The other entries are given for content.

.3 Organization and personnel of military forces

Standard subdivisions are added for organization and personnel together, for organization alone

Class here organization of national armies, combat readiness of specific units

Class comprehensive works on combat readiness in 355.0332

.35 Combat units according to field of service

Class comprehensive works on combat units in 355.31

.354 Mercenary troops

Class here soldiers of fortune

.355 Private military companies

Variant names: military service providers, private military contractors

See also 355.6212 for military contracts

.359 Foreign legions

Units of national armies consisting primarily of foreign recruits

Class here auxiliaries (troops of foreign countries serving with a state's armies)

.6 Military administration

Class here defense administration, departments of defense

Class administration of a function not provided for here with the function, plus notation 068 from Table 1, e.g., administration of installations 355.7068

For organization of military forces, see 355.3

(Option: Class comprehensive works in 353.2. If option is chosen, change heading to "Specific topics in military administration," and do not add standard subdivisions)

.62 Supply and financial administration and related topics**.621 Supply administration and related topics**

Class here administration of specific kinds of equipment and supplies

For product development, see 355.07; for supply issuing and related services, see 355.341; for supply depots and installations, see 355.75

.621 2 Contracts and procurement

Standard subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading

Class here comprehensive works on military contracts

For contracts for a specific nonsupply item, see the item, plus notation 068 from Table 1, e.g., contracts for real property 355.70681

See also 355.355 for private military contractors