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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD/MESSAGE

- 01** Foreword: Assistant Secretary-General Dmitry Titov
- 03** From the Desk of the Police Adviser

STANDING POLICE CAPACITY

- 06** In brief: the history of the Standing Police Capacity (SPC)
- 08** Supporting reform and development
- 10** Core expertise of the SPC
- 13** Q&A with the SPC
- 15** Local engagements: a global view
- 17** Focus on Mali: helping build a mission from the ground up
- 19** SPC at work through remote assistance
- 21** A day in UNAMA
- 22** A day in UNDP Chad
- 24** A day in UNSMIL

UPDATE ON GLOBAL EFFORT

- 28** UN in Afghanistan works to build capacity of women police and access to justice for women, children
- 30** One-on-one with A. Heather Coyne, UNAMA
- 34** Formation UNPOL : Enquêtes sur les violences et violences sexuelles basées sur le genre
- 36** Empowering South Sudanese Female Police through English Literacy
- 37** Report from the Field: Setting up Networks for Female Police Officers in Darfur
- 39** Port-de-Paix : Ouverture d'un bureau de la Police pour les victimes de violences sexuelles
- 40** Female Bangladeshi police in Haiti: Making a difference

POLICE DIVISION IN ACTION

- 44** Member States shape Strategic Guidance Framework in Ukraine
- 46** La Division de la Police continue sa coopération avec l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- 47** Expanding the Boundaries of Peacekeeping
- 49** Raising the bar for securing quality UN police peacekeepers
- 50** Addressing transnational organized crime in Sierra Leone

UNPOL ON PATROL

- 54** Two UNMIL Police Officers save local woman from mob violence
- 55** UNPOL trains maritime police in Côte d'Ivoire
- 56** MONUSCO trains Congolese police in community-oriented policing
- 57** Indian Formed Police Unit Bring Healing Touch to Tuzon

FACTS & FIGURES

- 29** Top Ten Contributors of Female UN Police Officers
- 32** Actual/Authorized/Female Deployment of UN Police in Peacekeeping Missions
- 45** Top Ten Contributors of UN Police
- 48** FPU Deployment
- 58** UN Police Contributing Countries (PCCs)
- 61** Standing Police Capacity

FOREWORD

This year, the International Day for United Nations Peacekeepers was dedicated to the theme of “adapting to new challenges.” Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous described the situation facing today’s peacekeepers: “The changing nature of armed conflicts demands changes in the capabilities of United Nations peacekeeping. Increasingly, United Nations peacekeepers operate in high-risk environments, where the quest for peace and stability is elusive. But, as United Nations peacekeeping addresses the nature of 21st century conflict, adapting to these new contexts constitutes an evolution, not a revolution.”

We cannot afford to be merely reactive in a world where threats to peace, safety and security mutate in a split second and where we are facing ever expanding challenges. Modern methods and means therefore are sorely needed in peacekeeping. More sophisticated crime analysis capacities, more advanced technology, and increased agility to react to intelligence is needed, including addition to the overall professionalization of our trade. We must, therefore, complement a “boots on the ground” focus with a “brainpower in the beret” mentality. Above all, we should create a new results-oriented culture that focuses on clear objectives and outcomes, aimed at lasting impact. This is especially important as we face threats like transnational organized crime and other significant challenges to peace.

DPKO has taken significant steps to prepare the UN Police for this new reality. For example, the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, currently under consultation with Member States, will help enhance consistency, flexibility and vision in the delivery of police peacekeeping services. This major policy and guidance document will be released by the end of this year.

Another important undertaking has been the creation and rapid operationalization of the Standing Police Capacity (SPC). From the time former Secretary-General U Thant first called for a standing capacity to today, when the Standing Police Capacity – as was perceived in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) – has now deployed to more than 20 countries (including Mali), we have seen significant growth in our ability to deploy rapidly and flexibly.

This issue of the UN Police Magazine describes some of the important work that the Standing Police Capacity has accomplished in the time since the General Assembly approved an original core group of 27 experts in June 2006. With the addition of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity in 2010, we further augmented our ability to support field-based activities across the rule of law sector and make a real difference in delivery. Both standing capacities have high-calibre staff and are now providing start-up assistance on a moment’s notice. This is crucial for helping establish a Mission early on, as the first steps towards stabilization in a post-conflict environment are extremely critical. More importantly, they are helping not only DPKO operations but also Special Political Missions and United Nations Country Teams. Increasingly, the SPC is involved in the critical areas of national capacity-building and transnational organized crime.



UN Photo / Eskinder Debebe



UN Photo / Martine Perret

I want to offer our thanks to Ms. Ann-Marie Orlor, whose work as Police Adviser from 2010 to 2013 advanced the professionalism of the United Nations Police. Amongst other things, she launched the “Global Effort,” setting the goal for the United Nations Police to have at least 20 per cent female officers by the end of 2014. We remain strongly committed to this goal.

We also warmly welcome Mr. Stefan Feller as our new Police Adviser. His level of experience and expertise in international policing is a serious asset, one that we will rely on heavily in the coming years. Already, he has hit the ground running by engaging the Police Division in a period of intense outreach with our stakeholders and colleagues in the field.

As part of the wider rule of law family, strong democratic policing lays the foundation for safe and healthy communities and efficient security sectors. I commend the work of our police peacekeepers, who are forming the thin blue line that protects populations in conflict areas from ever changing threats. I thank all of the women and men who wear the blue beret and all of the Member States who support United Nations police peacekeeping.

Dmitry Titov
Assistant Secretary-General
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
Department of Peacekeeping Operations

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE ADVISER

The women and men of the UN Police, along with all our fellow peacekeepers, sign up to go places where others are unable or unwilling to go. Places where men, women and children are caught in the gristmill of conflict and violence. Places where asymmetric threats, sectarian violence and persistent instability disrupt any feelings of safety, which often the rest of us take for granted.

Two months into my assignment at UN Headquarters, I have quickly formed a new, deeper appreciation for the depth of knowledge, expertise and professionalism that is required to run the daily operations of the UN Police. As a former Police Commissioner in UNMIK, and with four years of field experience with the European Union, my heart remains fully committed to the needs of the field. Rest assured; this focus will never change. Yet now as Police Adviser, I also fully recognize what level of talent and dedication is required from the Police Division, 24-7, in order to support field operations in the execution of their mandates.

Headquarters and field missions share a singular, common goal: to create an environment where fragile states make way for stable governments, where security replaces instability, where impunity is superseded by the rule of law. This goal, to be sure, is beset by challenges. Various spoilers of peace have formed alliances, with the connections among terrorism, corruption and organized crime forming an intertwined and self-sustaining web, based on opportunity and profit. The job of a modern police officer, especially one who is engaged in international peacekeeping, has become more complex. We must find multiple points of disruption, drive hard at the root problems that feed crime and violence, and demonstrate to criminal elements that those who interfere with peace will not be tolerated. We must be ready to try innovative new policing approaches, form our own networks, cooperate with one another freely, share ideas and information and use new technologies to help us do our jobs more effectively.

The Standing Police Capacity has already deployed a number of specialists to prepare for our newest peacekeeping mission in Mali. This rapid start-up capacity is just one of the advantages that the SPC brings to the field. As this magazine goes to print, we are in the process of deploying the first of 1,440 authorized police officers to MINUSMA.

I am deeply honoured to be serving with the women and men of the UN police, as we face this and other difficult calls for service. While building on the foundation laid by my predecessors, including Ms. Ann-Marie Orlor's invaluable efforts towards promoting the role of women in police peacekeeping, we at the UN Police will collectively strive for continuous improvement and new milestones in excellence. I sincerely believe that we can succeed, provided that we present ourselves, in the spirit of partnership, as deeply committed team players who are dedicated to dialogue with domestic authorities. I anticipate a challenging future for international police peacekeeping, one that requires committed cooperation with other UN entities, international and regional organizations, police-contributing countries, national authorities and – crucially – the host-state populations we are honour-bound to help protect and serve.

Respectfully,

Stefan Feller,
Police Adviser and Director of the Police Division
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
Department of Peacekeeping Operations



UN Photo/Mark Garten

At the request of the Malian government, the UN Police provides training to the police and other law enforcement on public order management. (UN Photo/Blagoje Grujic)





MAIN FOCUS: STANDING POLICE CAPACITY

IN BRIEF: THE HISTORY OF THE STANDING POLICE CAPACITY (SPC)

SPC: from vision to establishment

“Imagine if we were able to deploy, within 72 hours, 20 highly skilled police specialists, geographically and gender balanced, who had trained and worked together before, to plan and kick-start UN police mandates?” This is the idea that the then-Under-Secretary-General for DPKO, Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno, proposed in his remarks at the opening session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) in January 2005. This early vision for a Standing Police Capacity sought to improve the UN’s ability to provide rapid and flexible deployments, as often a great deal of effort and money had to be used to correct mistakes and make up for lost time spent at the outset of missions.

This was not a new idea. After a period of exponential growth in the use of United Nations Police in peace operations, the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change in 2004 had already recommended that the “United Nations should have a small corps of senior police officers and managers (50-100 personnel) who could undertake Mission assessments and organize the start-up of police components of peace operations.”

It was in this light that the General Assembly, in its October 2005 resolution on the World Outcome Summit, endorsed “the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity.” From there, the recommendation gained ground, first in March 2006 when the C-34, “welcome[d] the creation of an initial operating capability for the Standing Police Capacity to provide a coherent, effective and responsive start-up capacity for the police component of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and to assist existing operations through the provision of advice and expertise.” With these endorsements, it was no surprise when the Secretary-General’s proposal for the peacekeeping support account for the financial period 2006/2007 included a provision for 27 personnel for the Standing Police Capacity (SPC), which the General Assembly approved in June 2006.

From this, the SPC was established in New York alongside the rest of the Police Division. After an endorsement by the Fifth Committee on 10 July 2009, it relocated to the UN Global Service Center (UNGSC) in Brindisi, Italy. Since this move was completed in January 2010, the SPC has continued to serve as the Police Division’s operational arm, undertaking its two core functions.

SPC core functions

The first core function of the SPC is to provide the start-up capability for the police components of new United Nations peace operations, as outlined by Mr. Guehenno in his plea to the C-34. In start-up missions, the SPC implements the strategic direction and organization of the mission’s police component, which helps ensure its immediate and long-term effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism. This key period, the “golden moment” as former DPKO Police Adviser Mark Kroeker referred to it, can be essential to the success of the United Nations Police. As early as possible, the SPC helps plan for the desired end goal of peacekeeping operations: the transition to peacebuilding, to sustainable rule of law through cooperation with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

When not deployed to start-up a police component in a new mission, the SPC has a second core function: to provide advice and expertise to existing United Nations Police components and assist in their police capacity building efforts. This has become a significant task for the SPC, often reinforcing peace operations with specialized expertise for given periods of time. These types of SPC deployments help maximize mission outputs while minimizing the need to bring in longer term staff to address short-term challenges.

In addition, the DPKO Police Adviser can direct the SPC to conduct operational assessments and evaluations of police components. It can also provide assistance during mission drawdown and in the period following mission closure. For example, the SPC has supported the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) post-MINURCAT (United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad) to help ensure that the work with the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS) transitioned smoothly from DPKO to the UNCT.

The SPC may also be requested to provide expertise to other UN partners, including the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (AFPs). It can receive requests for assistance from peace operations, AFPs, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and countries that do not have United Nations missions. Where approved by the USG DPKO, in consultation with the DPKO Police Adviser, such assistance has proven effective for both DPKO and its partners, including UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In these situations, the requesting entity pays the costs of the deployments.

SPC expands

So, how did the SPC progress from this early vision to where it is today? The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations suggested the early expansion of the SPC, pending an evaluation of its first year of operation. Presented to the C-34 in December 2008, this evaluation report indicated the need for an enlargement and proposed two options, both with the objective of increasing the United Nations Police response capacity and meeting urgent, case-specific demands.

On 14 July 2010, the General Assembly expanded the SPC with 14 additional posts. Today, the SPC consists of 40 posts, with 24 seconded, 12 civilian, and four support staff.¹ This augmentation of the SPC reflected earlier discussions of the General Assembly, as well as Mr. Guehenno's original idea to staff the SPC with some 50 to 100 personnel – far more than the initial 27 posts.

The Report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Police (2011) noted that “The diverse experience of the Standing Police Capacity can greatly contribute in various ways to ensuring a comprehensive approach to all tasks undertaken by the Police Division.” The report continued by stating that “In order to maximize the use of existing resources in the Police Division, personnel from the Standing Police Capacity, within existing mandated responsibilities, will be used more flexibly.” Today, the Standing Police Capacity continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of police peacekeeping. It strives not only to realize, but exceed the original expectations set out for it nearly a decade ago.



SPC Analyst Melanie Blais receives a scarf, a token of appreciation from a member of the Timor-Leste police service. (UN Photo)

¹ A/Res/64/270, para 6

SUPPORTING REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT

Alongside the UN Police officers in a mission, members of the SPC provide technical expertise, advisory support, training and mentoring to national police and law enforcement actors. This helps ensure that fundamental reforms take root and become embedded within police organizations, including in their rules, procedures and personnel structures.

SPC deployments provide significant support to national authorities in strengthening police and security sector institutional capacities. Depending on missions and mandates, the SPC may engage in a variety of assistance, such as developing policies and procedures, assisting in assessments and supporting programme development with the United Nations and other partners. This work seeks to enable national capacities to carry out their duties, in accordance with international policing and human rights norms.

“Around the world in 80 days”: a sample of SPC deployments

DPKO Missions:

Liberia

In support of the UNMIL Police, the SPC assisted the Liberia National Police (LNP) in shaping their in-house strategic plan into an implementation plan with well-defined projects and timelines. The SPC also engaged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to ensure that the means to support projects would accompany national efforts. This process led to the development of a UNDP Justice and Security Trust Fund in Liberia, which supports not only the police, but other security actors, the Ministry of Justice and the entire justice sector.

South Sudan

Alongside the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) police component, SPC experts worked with the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) to develop their strategic training plan for 2012 to 2015. This effort supported national plans to transform the SSNPS from a rudimentary police, comprised primarily of former militia, into a professionalized national police service, based on democratic principles and capable of providing security and upholding the rule of law. The training plan was based on the approved SSNPS Strategic Plan for October 2010 to 2013 and the SSNPS Framework for Action Plan 2011 to 2015. Finalized in close consultation with the SSNPS Directorate for Training and Human Resources Development, the plan identified key police training needs for South Sudan.

DPA Missions

Sierra Leone

An SPC expert helped develop transition and post-mission strategies for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), a Special Political Mission (SPM) led by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA). In March 2013, an Expert Adviser on Police and Security Sector Reform helped prepare for mission drawdown by determining areas for support to national structures. This type of assistance aims at sustaining gains made in the rule of law sector and preventing them from slipping back after the UN mission draws to a close.

Somalia

From April 2012 to February 2013, an SPC Reform Team Leader deployed to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) to act as Senior Police Adviser. During this time, the officer was instrumental in assisting the host-State develop the Somali Police Force. Activities included mapping crucial policing needs, as well as preparing a strategic development and action plan.

In the examples offered here, the SPC has made significant contributions to building the capacity of host countries' police organizations. And these contributions are almost certain to increase in the future. With recent events unfolding in Mali, the SPC now has a team deployed to assist in the mission start-up. In other regions of the world, emerging signs of peace in former conflict areas may contribute to the demand for additional support to police and other law enforcement.

Sustainable training for peace operations

In cooperation with the United Nations Integrated Training Service in Brindisi, SPC team members regularly deliver lectures in the civilian pre-deployment training provided to staff heading to United Nations peace operations. SPC also helps support the Protection of Civilians Pilot Program developed by ITS in New York.

Since October 2012, the SPC has helped provide training at the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), in Vicenza, Italy. CoESPU is a training centre created by the Government of Italy in 2005, in accordance with the G8 Action Plan "Expanding Global Capability for Peace Support Operations." The SPC has delivered courses on the protection of civilians and police-military relations, as well as lectures establishing new missions, police reform and other topics. This support seeks to develop the specific capacities of police and military officers from various countries, who are likely to be deployed to United Nations missions in the near future, as well as those working in the area of peacekeeping in their respective headquarters.



Transnational Crime Officer Fernando Moya Castro facilitates training at CoESPU. (UN Photo)

CORE EXPERTISE

The SPC can bring significant value to ongoing missions, with advisers ready to offer expertise in 15 core areas. Able to deploy for shorter or longer periods, the SPC is flexible in its assistance and responsive to needs from the field.

Budget and Finance

The SPC works with missions in addressing budget and fund management needs of police components. In addition to helping with mission start-up, these specialists can also assist in the areas of budgeting, internal audit mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Similarly, such support can be provided for host-State police and law enforcement agencies. Experts also develop, administer and monitor both regular and specific budgets.

Community-Oriented Policing

Officers work with missions in reforming, restructuring and rebuilding police services by strengthening community-oriented policing, developing action and implementation plans and designing and launching pilot projects. The team can also help missions and host-State police understand what a community-oriented policing approach can do for them, plan their core strategy and make this plan work for them in their environment. To support community-oriented policing efforts, these advisers collaborate with those involved in police reform, training, gender issues, transnational crime, and investigations, as well as on cross-cutting issues.

Detentions

The SPC offers expertise and advice in areas of detention and imprisonment in accordance with internationally recognized standards and best practices. This includes addressing challenges related to the treatment of detainees, reviewing policy documents, supporting the management of detention facilities and assisting in related reform activities. Experts assess capabilities, procedures and security arrangements; provide advice on addressing existing shortcomings; and support the implementation of such plans.

Gender

An expert officer provides support in assessing, analysing, improving gender mainstreaming and building gender-related capacities in mission components and national police. Advice and assistance can help develop sexual harassment or gender policies, as well as coordinate gender-related initiatives with various stakeholders. The SPC deploys experts to facilitate training on sexual and gender-based violence and assist in designing projects, policies and curricula on gender mainstreaming in law enforcement and access to justice. Additionally, SPC's gender officer can help establish female police networks within the police component.

Human Resources

The SPC provides a comprehensive range of human resources assistance, including identifying personnel requirements, structuring recruitment plans and working with the host-State police to design and implement appropriate personnel management and career development programmes. The HR and Personnel Management specialists also help improve the functional capacity of the local police in accordance with international standards.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Systems

The SPC IT experts provide support in projects from needs assessments and planning, to delivery and support for host-State police IT projects, including the development of administrative, workflow and web applications. As a developer and technical project manager, the adviser designs and implements custom-built systems for a wide range of areas, including setting up telecommunications systems, developing communications security procedures, auditing networks and determining connectivity and capacity.

Investigations

In the area of investigations, including serious crimes, the SPC assists in filling host country's needs. It provides expert advice on collecting and identifying evidence, interviewing witnesses and suspects, protecting crime scenes, conducting search and seizure operations, etc. The SPC investigation specialists produce specific documents, such as investigation guidelines and training documents for criminal investigations.

Legal Affairs

The legal team provides a wide range of legal support for both new and established missions – including conducting analyses of the host-State’s legal system and providing legal opinions and guidance on questions of law and United Nations Rules and Regulations. Legal officers also draft reports, write correspondence and internal guidance, liaise with key mission components (especially rule of law and human rights-related components) and coordinate with other stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach to police reform. They also conduct negotiations and draft agreements with host-State governments on support to national police and law enforcement agencies.

Logistics

The SPC help police components and host-State police in improving the efficiency of their logistical undertakings, including procurement. Team members offer advice on planning logistical requirements and organizing field logistics, in areas such as fleet management; election security or business continuity; warehousing; weapons management; anti-riot police equipment; mobility requirements; technical specifications for patrol cars, motorbikes, uniforms and other equipment; training materials for logistics staff; annual procurement forecasts; and material resource plans.

Planning

Planning support for mission police components includes preparing for new mission start-up, developing country profiles, drafting strategic documents, planning deployment strategies, providing assistance to national police to develop strategic plans, and drawing up mission exit strategies. Planning officers provide support in developing guides, templates and mechanisms for strategic and annual planning, as well as in conducting assessments and evaluations for both mission police components and host-State police. The SPC also provides strategic technical and administrative support to police components on directing, controlling, coordinating and evaluating planning activities within the unit or component.

Police Analysis

The SPC offers specialized support and expertise in both criminal and political analysis, which incorporates humanitarian, human rights, political or other perspectives. Working closely with mission components, the analyst structures tools and techniques in data gathering, analysis and sharing for the host-country or the mission; helps produce assessment reports on the mission’s mandate implementation activities; and formulates recommendations and assessments of training needs, policing needs and mapping of host-country law enforcement agencies.



The SPC team meets in Brindisi. (UN Photo)

Police Reform

Police reform advisers help host country police and law enforcement agencies conduct mapping exercises and assessments to identify possible gaps. They help develop strategies to address these gaps and encourage institutional development. If missions need assistance in the area of holistic security sector reform, SPC team members have the expertise to help develop mission-specific standards and techniques. They also have significant experience in drafting technical documents, such as strategic police reform plans, action plans and concepts of operations.

Public Order

A public order officer provides advice on the deployment and use of Formed Police Units in peacekeeping operations, both in new and existing missions. This officer delivers specialized training both for FPU deployed to UN missions as well as for local police institutions. In addition, within mandated activities, the SPC can help develop public order capacities needed by host-State police and law enforcement agencies.

Training

The SPC always seeks to capitalize on the diverse experience and expertise of its training advisers in the area of policing, and it offers professional advice and support to mission police components in training and capacity building projects. For example, SPC team members assist with performance gap analyses, training needs assessments, strategic training plans, annual training calendars, training curricula and assessments of training facilities.

Transnational Crime

SPC's support in transnational crime focuses on building national institutional capacity for police and other law enforcement agencies, especially in post-conflict environments. The SPC's transnational crime adviser supports missions in designing strategies and developing and implementing projects and programmes related to crimes that cross borders. The SPC also provides technical assistance in border security management to United Nations Police, national police and other law enforcement agencies that UN Police is mandated to support.



Planning Officer Alice Holmes takes part in an international coordination meeting in Liberia. (UN Photo)

Q&A WITH THE SPC

Mr. Generaal Maritz Du Toit is the Chief of the Standing Police Capacity. In his home country, he served in a wide range of capacities during his 32 years with the Namibian Police Force. Since 1998, he has served twice in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL and UNAMSIL), twice in Liberia (UNMIL), twice in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and also in South Sudan (UNMISS). Mr. Du Toit recently sat down for an interview to talk about his experiences as a police officer and his views about the role of the SPC in police peacekeeping.

Q. You have 32 years of service with the Namibian Police Force. What do you consider the most rewarding and challenging about a career in policing?

Chief of the Standing Police Capacity, Generaal Du Toit (GDT): The opportunity to serve people and your country as a police officer is a reward in itself. The challenge comes when you are asked how good you were and how much you have contributed. Just like any other profession, police service requires individuals who are committed to excel in discharging their duties. Being able to surpass your last accomplishment is always a challenge. No matter what rank you hold in policing, I always believe that a police officer must be challenged by his own responsibilities and achievements.

Q. What special qualities or skills, developed in the Namibian Police Force, do you think have been especially useful in police peacekeeping with the United Nations?

GDT: When I was starting in the Namibian Police Force, my name “Generaal” became a pressure to me to some extent, because I had to live with the expectations that one day I would become a “Police General” [laughs]. But on a serious note and to be frank with you, all national police services have something special to offer international police peacekeeping. I believe the UN as a global body has been doing an incredible job in restoring peace and security in conflict areas around the world. It goes without saying – the UN has achieved all of this because of the diversity of talent and experience of its staff, which has led to great impact in its work for humanity.

Q. What do you consider your major achievement since you came to the Standing Police Capacity in April 2012?

GDT: The continuously increasing number of deployments of our members, resulting in improved visibility of the SPC within the UN peacekeeping world, is one accomplishment that I am most satisfied with. The fact that SPC has been able to contribute to quite a number of major undertakings is a major achievement, not only for myself as Chief of SPC but for the entire SPC Team as well. We have been called to participate in crucial UN missions, such as the strategic review for Somalia, the establishment of a UN Police component in Abyei, the lessons learned study in Timor-Leste and, very recently, the planning and start-up operations in Mali. Above all, I believe that the strong partnerships and relationships that SPC staff have established with UN colleagues in the field is another area which we can take great pride in.

Q. How would you describe the importance of SPC in the overall police peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations?

GDT: Since we are a rapidly deployable group of highly skilled police specialists, the SPC guarantees an immediate and specialized response to urgent and complex policing needs. The SPC serves as a mechanism to turn police mandates into concrete action



UN Photo

as swiftly as possible. Time is of the essence in every peacekeeping operation of the UN, particularly at the outset of missions. And through the use of SPC, we save time, reduce costs and gain efficiency during crucial start-up periods.

Q. How would you describe the role of women in policing? How has the SPC promoted women's participation in police peacekeeping?

GDT: Policing is not exclusively for men. I believe wholeheartedly in women's capacity to play a role in so many areas in policing. I have worked with female police officers and have seen them succeed many times. I do have high respect for them. In fact, I am a proud husband of a female police [smiles].

At SPC, we are proud – and have worked quite hard – to have quite a high female representation in our staffing. I believe this is one contribution SPC has made to support the Global Effort. But, in addition, we have done much to support gender mainstreaming and educate host-State police services about sexual and gender-based violence. For example, most recently, two of our officers have been training counterparts in Chad, teaching them why it is so critical to have women take on an active role in restoring peace and security.

Q. At present, SPC has 15 core areas of expertise; do you see the need for SPC to expand in other areas to further serve peacekeeping operations and the United Nations in general?

GDT: Yes! I see the potential for SPC to further expand in other fields of expertise. For example, we need experts on border management, forensics, programme management, etc. At present, SPC is luckily able to respond to issues related to these fields, because of the diverse experience and skills of our specialists. It is important for our members – and the structure we work within – to be flexible regarding our areas of expertise. We need to be willing and capable to respond to various demands and needs from the field. However, we cannot afford a capacity shortfall that will cause a delay in responding to a critical request.

With the continuously changing demands in police peacekeeping, it is difficult to forecast what fields of expertise will be required next, when SPC is called urgently to support a police mandate. Being proactive in planning for our next operation is crucial. That is why it is important to ensure that other pragmatic specializations are present in SPC's strength. This will ensure that SPC is prepared for future requirements, whether it is in Mali, Somalia, Afghanistan, Syria or elsewhere. The only challenge that I see here is of course when we start talking about funding to support the potential expansion.

Q. If you were to set three priorities for the SPC for the next six months, what would they be?

GDT: First, we need to make sure that SPC stands ready to extend continuous support to the mission in Mali. I would like SPC to support, to the maximum extent possible, the United Nations efforts in helping restore peace and order in that country by developing local law enforcement agencies. It is one of our top priorities.

Second, SPC should remain abreast of the latest developments in other conflict areas like Somalia and CAR. For example, while we have no mission in Syria currently, we must be prepared for a wide range of contingencies. My responsibility is to ensure that the SPC team stands ready for any scenario. This is how we add value to peacekeeping operations. Situations on the ground change minute by minute; just like any other police organization, we have to be prepared for any call for service.

Third, we need to continue selling to all our clients the fact that SPC is a versatile and effective tool, available to support the UN – not just peacekeeping, but also Special Political Missions and other parts of the UN family, as well. We need to make sure that all potential clients are fully aware of how they can take advantage of our expertise and ensure that current clients remain extremely satisfied with the services that SPC delivers to the field.

Q. What advice could you give to those who have just chosen policing as a career?

GDT: You have chosen a very challenging and rewarding profession. If you are certain that your heart and mind are really in policing, then make use of all the lessons that you will learn from every person whom you will meet, from every failure that you will conquer, and from every success that you will achieve not only to become a better person, but also the very best police officer that you can be.

FROM LOCAL ENGAGEMENTS TO A GLOBAL VIEW

Deployments of the SPC:

Chad, Liberia, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Sudan, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Timor-Leste, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Haiti, Burundi, Guinea, Western Sahara.

The Standing Police Capacity deployments and achievements cover a breadth of geography, skills and successes. Split between start-up missions, where strategic direction or organization is provided, and assistance missions, where advice, expertise and assistance is offered; the SPC also assists in inter-disciplinary, inter-department or inter-agency field visits in which it participates in operational assessments and evaluations of police components or other missions' components.

AFRICA

Actions and activities undertaken in the African region have covered all of the professional expertise of the SPC. To look at just one example, the mission to Côte d'Ivoire set out to build a training structure for the police on the ground, starting from scratch to build a framework which was quickly adopted by the country police. Also in place by the time the team departed was a strategic training plan for the following year and strong and positive progress by the national police in their own efforts to restructure their force. The Team Leader on the mission said, "I feel we established a good relationship with the Mission leadership and consulted widely within the UNOCI police component to achieve our successes. We made a solid contribution and I feel proud of what we did."

CARIBBEAN REGION

Caribbean operations for the SPC have centred on Haiti, where SPC involvement in the country predated the upsurge in operations following the 2010 natural disaster. Following the earthquake, the SPC deployed en masse to support the country's mission with specialists in planning, public order, prisons, training, investigations, public information, logistics and reform. At the time of publication, two SPC members will have just arrived in Haiti, including an IT expert in charge of supporting the implementation of an "E-Monitoring Performance System," for United Nations Police and the local police forces. SPC's IT adviser explained, "Deployment to the field is always a challenge, and I will be working on an online reporting system that will help with the mentoring and monitoring of national police. I am looking forward to seeing the project come together."

PACIFIC REGION

In this part of the world, the SPC made its presence felt in operations in Timor-Leste. Since 2008, it has contributed to a number of assessment and monitoring roles. For example, an SPC Legal Adviser joined the Police Adviser on a visit to the country in April 2012 and later returned to draft a report on the efficacy of the local police. His work with local stakeholders informed a joint assessment, resulting in a report on the progress made by the local police service. This report also documented what further development would be needed in order for the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) to be ready to operate independently. This allowed the UNMIT police commissioner and PNTL commander to jointly recommend certification for the force. The SPC Legal Adviser reflected on his time there, "It

“It was rewarding to be part of the final phases of a DPKO mission, especially as it resulted in the full independence of a police service we had helped to create.”





The Chief of the SPC discusses registration in Juba. (UN Photo)

was rewarding to be part of the final phases of a DPKO mission, especially as it resulted in the full independence of a police service we had helped to create.”

SOUTHERN ASIAN REGION

The SPC’s engagement in Afghanistan began with an initial visit to the country in 2009. Most recently, the SPC deployed a Community-Oriented Policing Officer and Gender Officer, who were on the ground to improve accountability and responsiveness of police to their communities, especially in terms of enhancing access to justice for women and children. As part of this visit, the SPC formed part of a Ministry of Interior working group producing a 10-year vision on the Afghan National Police and a two-year plan on implementing community-oriented policing.

MIDDLE EAST REGION

In April 2011, an SPC team deployed to Iraq upon request from UNAMI leadership. The Public Order Adviser, Training Adviser, Reform Adviser and Planning Officer – deployed in a number of key cities throughout the country, including Baghdad, Kirkuk and Erbil – brought a range of experience to the mission. Despite many difficulties, the SPC team brought together national partners, international actors and interested groups on a common and joint platform for discussion and coherence on policing issues. They conducted a mapping of the Iraqi police service and an assessment of its professional performance and technical developments. These activities identified critical gaps and major constraints.

EUROPE

An SPC Team Leader deployed to Kosovo in mid-March 2008, part of a field visit to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). This trip, undertaken during the SPC’s early days, continued consultations with the UNMIK police handover team, the EU planning team for Kosovo and representatives of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. More recently, staff members also joined an investigation mission in Kosovo.

At the end of our whistle-stop tour of the SPC world, it is of course necessary to explain that this list of interventions is neither comprehensive, nor exhaustive, with mandates and engagements continually changing to reflect decisions made at the highest levels. In the same way, these mandates and achievements are still evolving, and will very likely continue to do so in the future. And with them, the Standing Police Capacity will develop and adapt. We have seen the role of the SPC change over various missions, objectives and geography; however, both looking back and going forward, the quest for excellence in service remains.

FOCUS ON MALI: HELPING BUILD A MISSION FROM THE GROUND UP

As a new mission in Mali ramps up, the Police Division, including colleagues in New York as well as in the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) in Brindisi, have been working tirelessly to prepare for deploying the 1,440 police officers authorized for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Known by its French acronym, MINUSMA will have an authorized 320 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and 8 Formed Police Units (FPUs).

Background

Following the military coup in Mali, which occurred in March 2012, the security situation in the northern part of the country unraveled, with Tuareg rebels occupying key parts of the region. Malian security forces were unable to control the area, and Islamist armed groups moved into the vacuum.

Security Council resolutions 2071 and 2085, both passed in 2012, endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to create the United Nations Office in Mali (UNOM) for an initial period of one year. Resolution 2085 also authorized the creation of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali. Also known as AFISMA, this ECOWAS military mission is supporting the transitional authorities in Mali against the Islamist rebels in the northern part of the country.

Both AFISMA and the French military "Operation Serval" began in January 2013, at the request of the transitional authorities in Mali. Increasing attacks by radical Islamist groups were advancing south and representing a threat to the capital city, Bamako. As military operations continued to recover the rebel-held regions, Security Council members supported a French proposal to transition, or "re-hat" AFISMA as a UN peacekeeping operation on 6 February 2013. Following that decision, the Security Council also passed resolution 2100 on 25 April 2013, which authorized the deployment of a UN force in Mali, with 12,640 uniformed personnel. MINUSMA is set for the transition of all authority to be transferred to it from AFISMA on July 1, just as this magazine goes to print.

Police Division provides support to AFISMA

The Police Division has engaged in a number of activities to prepare for this large undertaking, which will be the third largest peacekeeping operation in Africa, following MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UNAMID in Darfur.

In November 2012, Mr. Paolo Bonanno and Mr. Mamadou Barro, from SPC and the Strategic Policy Development and Support (SPDS) Section,



SPC Officer Paolo Bonanno (left) and a member of the Senegalese gendarmerie discuss public order. (UN Photo/Amod Gurung)



Mr. Soulemanou Ngamsou of the Police Division (left) with Mr. Adedije Ebo of the Security Sector Reform Unit return to UN Headquarters after completing their deployments to Mali. (UN Photo / Vladimir Golosiy)

respectively, travelled to Bamako to assist ECOWAS and the African Union develop police plans and training strategies for the Malian Police. Shortly thereafter, another colleague, Mr. Soulemanou Ngamsou, deployed to Mali from February to April 2013. Through that assistance, the Police Division helped further engage with Malian justice and security institutions and provide support to the AFISMA Police.

In addition to the work based out of Bamako, colleagues across the Police Division are pitching in to prepare for Mali. While police planners are working on a Concept of Operations and other planning documents, recruitment specialists are analyzing which Member States may be able to contribute police personnel, especially those who are francophone.

SPC prepares for transition of authority to MINUSMA

Meanwhile, SPC has already deployed two officers to Bamako. On the ground since 10 April 2013, Mr. Bonanno and Mr. Amod Gurung are undertaking tasks in three broad categories: liaison, coordination and planning. Among other activities, they are determining needs for the Malian justice and security institutions, engaging with members of the UN Country Team and other partners, assessing the training capacities of the national police and gendarmerie and coordinating Predeployment Visits to potential MINUSMA FPU.

One of the core functions of SPC is to start up new missions and provide initial operational capacity. Since 2007, MINUSMA will be the fourth DPKO mission (after MINURCAT, UNMISS and UNISFA) in which the SPC will be serving in that role.

Future challenges

The Malian internal security forces include the Gendarmerie, National Guard, Malian Police and Civil Protection forces. Despite the wish of the transitional authorities to redeploy these elements in the northern area of the country, various constraints continue to present challenges. Lack of logistics, transportation, poor infrastructure and inadequate personnel levels present significant obstacles to redeploying internal security forces to recovered areas. The UN Police serving under MINUSMA will be supporting the Malian authorities in professionalizing these institutions, providing appropriate civilian oversight, establishing accountability measures and ensuring that they are adequately funded. Finding appropriate funding levels and keeping the internal security forces protected from inappropriate external influences will be key factors for success for both Mali and MINUSMA.

SPC AT WORK THROUGH REMOTE ASSISTANCE

Remote Assistance and Support Teams

In 2012, the Standing Police Capacity developed formal structures for the provision of support to deployed SPC members in the form of Remote Assistance and Support Teams (RASTs). Given the fact that the SPC deployments are normally time-bound, which creates additional pressure to achieve the mandated goals and terms of reference, the SPC uses the RASTs in order to perform supplementary tasks. Remote assistance can be conducted directly from the SPC office at UNGSC in support of deployed staff members, in areas such as research, analysis and documentation collection. The work of a RAST allows the SPC members on the ground to better focus on the tasks at hand while ensuring uniformity and standardization in all SPC deliverables over time and across deployments. When needed and requested, a RAST can also be established to provide strategic guidance, advice and support to peace operations or other United Nations entities.

The work of the RAST starts even before an SPC deployment in the mission area through the collection of relevant documentation and establishing communication links with appropriate offices at Police Division HQ. Once the designated SPC members are deployed, the RAST ensures weekly contacts and regular communications with the deployed Team Leader. The RAST remains available throughout the deployment in order to provide a wide range of support: timely feedback to the deployed colleagues, research and analysis, inputs to documents produced on the ground, assistance with achievement of deployment Terms of Reference and response to any ad hoc request for support that might arise. To date, a number of RASTs have been established to offer support and assistance to deployed SPC members.

Examples of RAST support

The UNSMIL RAST closely collaborated with the SPC colleagues deployed to Libya from August 2012 to February 2013. They provided significant start-up support to the mission by drafting twelve vacancy announcements and providing feedback for the UNSMIL Standard Operating Procedures. They also assisted the Libyan Ministry of Interior (MOI) by submitting inputs for the development of a concept for their Department of Operations and researching background materials for a proposal on the Central Security Forces, which is tasked with providing public order services in the country.

The UNPOS RAST also offered support to the SPC colleague deployed to Nairobi, Kenya/Mogadishu, Somalia. The team provided technical advice and inputs for the preparation of the Somali Police Force (SPF) Strategic Development Plan and Action Plan, which included preparing 42 development projects. Moreover, they provided inputs for the SPF Gap Assessment Workshop, held in Mogadishu in October 2012, and assisted in the mapping SPF needs and the future role of the UN in Somalia. The UNPOS RAST also provided active support to the Chief of the SPC when he deployed to Somalia in November 2012, as part of the UN HQ team to conduct a Strategic Review for the possible future role of the UN in Somalia.

The UNMIT RAST researched, identified and forwarded useful background documentation and reports to the colleagues deployed to Timor-Leste in order to facilitate their work. They also provided several rounds of review for a Lessons Learned document, which captured best practices and innovations from UNPOL activities in Timor-Leste.

SPC Logistics Planning Officer Peter Benicsak and colleague Giovanni Leuzzi play a key role in getting equipment to deployed staff. (UN Photo)



The UNAMA RAST continuously supported the colleagues deployed to Afghanistan, from October 2012 to April 2013. They provided inputs and comments on various drafts for the Afghan Ministry of Interior, including its ten-year vision, a two-year plan for implementing Community-Oriented Policing and its Gender Policy. The RAST also provided monitoring and evaluation (M&E) support to the Afghan Democratic Policing Project at a crucial time. This support led to an additional request for on-the-ground support, with another SPC officer deploying to UNAMA specifically to undertake M&E functions.

Since September 2012, the UNISFA RAST has provided support to the SPC member deployed as Acting Special Police Adviser for Abyei, a particularly difficult environment lacking functioning rule of law institutions. The RAST provides assistance aimed at the re-establishment of the Abyei Police Service, such as the provision of support to the Sudan and South Sudan Police Technical Teams. The RAST also collaborated closely with Police Division headquarters in New York to help develop a concept paper for the establishment of the Abyei Police Service.



Mr. Francis Tsidi (standing, centre) with UNISFA Chief of Operations Yemane Asnesa (left) and an Officer from the Ethiopian Troops (right) comparing sketches drawn from a crime scene following an incident. (UN Photo)

A DAY IN UNAMA

Mona Nordberg of Sweden is a Community-Oriented Policing Officer with the SPC. Based in Brindisi, she recently deployed to Afghanistan to work with UNAMA's Police Advisory Unit on developing community-oriented policing capacity for the Afghan National Police. For this issue of the UN Police Magazine, she shared what a typical day looks like for her when she is working in the field.

Sunday morning, again. As we work Sunday through Thursday, this is the first day of a new working week. I wake up, as usual, at 05.30, in order to be ready to leave from the United Nations Office Complex in Afghanistan (UNOCA) Compound, where we live, and travel to UNAMA Compound B, in the Green Zone, in Kabul, where we have our office.

At 06.45, I am picked-up by our morning driver, Darab, in a UN armored vehicle. In the car with me are the Senior Police Adviser (SPA), Rudy Landeros; the Community Policing Adviser, A. Heather Coyne; and my SPC colleague Odile Kanyono. We always leave early for security reasons; less traffic this early in the morning means less risk of ending up in a traffic jam, where we could be caught and something could happen. Jalalabad Road, along which we travel to work, is considered to be one of the most dangerous roads in the world. Approximately 25 minutes later, we arrive safely at Compound B, and I start by checking my emails. I read the threat warnings from the various intelligence reports, and it is not comforting reading. Around 08.00, I make a cup of tea and eat my breakfast, which I brought from home. As it is Sunday, I will attend two weekly meetings. The first meeting is at the Ministry of Interior (MOI) at 10.00, so I start to prepare myself for that meeting. It is the working group that will have a meeting with the Afghan National Police (ANP) Chief of Community-Oriented Policing.

At 09.30, I put on my flak jacket and the SPA and I leave Compound B. Darab drives us to the MOI. Sometimes this trip takes ten minutes and sometimes 30 minutes, depending on traffic. In the meeting today we are joined by participants from the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A), EUPOL, UNAMA and UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan. We continue our discussion from last week on the upcoming MOI conference on community-oriented policing. We are really hopeful that soon we can set a date for the event, which has still not been determined. During the meeting, we also discuss the two-year plan on community-oriented policing, and a template is handed over to the Afghan counterpart for his review.

When we return to the office, it is almost lunchtime. The SPA and I decide to walk across the street, into the American Camp Eggers, and treat ourselves to a Subway sandwich.

Back in the office, I write a report on the meeting we just had at the MOI, and I start to prepare myself for the next meeting, which starts at 15.30. This week, the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) meeting is going to be held at the EUPOL HQ. The venues vary from week to week for security reasons. It used to take place at the MOI every week, but as internationals are a target, we were simply too exposed to meet regularly at the same time and place. The agenda for today's meeting is to discuss the MOI ten-year vision for the Afghan National Police, and we'll also discuss the procedure for replacing the chairman of the IPCB Secretariat, who will end her mission in the beginning of June. We had all worked hard to provide input for the ten-year vision, so it was rewarding to hear that some of our comments had been adopted in the document.

As the EUPOL HQ is located on our way back to UNOCA, we decide to go straight back after the meeting ends around 16.45. As soon as I get home, I get out of my uniform, put on my sportswear and go for a 45-minute power walk inside the camp. Back home again, I still have some work to do. Since it is Sunday, I have to submit the weekly report to SPC in Brindisi.

Good night!

SPC Officer Mona Nordberg posing with local children while deployed to UNAMA. (UN Photo)



A DAY IN UNDP CHAD

Odile Kantyono is a Gender Officer with the Standing Police Capacity. Originally from Burkina Faso, she recently deployed to Abéché in the eastern part of Chad. At the request of UNDP Chad, she has provided Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS) officers with training on gender, SGBV, human rights and child protection. This training will help them better protect civilians in the region's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Officer Kantyono arrived in Abéché on 22 April 2013.

23 April 2013 is my first full day in Abéché. At 7:30 a.m., I am ready to leave for the Training Centre and very excited to meet with the training participants. Waiting for the driver, I'm discussing with my SPC colleague, Investigations Officer Mahmoud Abu-Salman, details about the upcoming training and conditions of life in general in Abéché. At 8:00 a.m., the driver arrives, and we leave for the Training Centre, which is just a 15 minute drive away. The courses are scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. every day. The 24 participants, including 22 women and two men, are in the classroom ready to learn about gender mainstreaming and Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

I start by talking about the "History of Gender" to let participants know how women, through the centuries, have struggled to stop violence against women, secure their rights and insist on better protection. I listed the different conferences organized by women, in Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995), which aimed at improving the situation of women throughout the world.

Today, I just refresh them on this history and then we move to the first module: the definition of gender, gender mainstreaming, gender balance and gender equality. First, I make them understand that "gender" is a different concept from "sex." I explain that gender must be understood as a socially constructed role that can change not only from one culture or society to another, but also over time. We stress that the same opportunities should be given to men and women; we also make the argument that the interests of both men and women should be taken into consideration in all our activities, programmes and policies.



Gender Officer Odile Kantyono (wearing blue beret) poses with members of the DIS outside the training center in Abéché. (UN Photo)



Investigations Officer Mahmoud Abu-Salman and Gender Officer Odile Kantyoro, both of the SPC, train members of the DIS. (UN Photo)

The next module focused on the “Legal Framework on Gender.” I talked about the many conventions, protocols and resolutions that have been adopted by the international community to end violence against women and children, as well as some laws existing at the national level aimed at better protecting those populations.

I end the day with a module on gender mainstreaming in policing. The main theme is to show how both women and men are needed across all the functions of the police: patrol, criminal investigation, community-oriented policing and protection of civilians. Particularly, gender balance is critical in helping to protect vulnerable persons like IDPs, for whom the DIS has been established.

I hope that participants now understand how the police should take gender mainstreaming into account throughout the recruitment, training and appointment processes for all units. My goal is that police personnel, in their daily work, should keep a gender perspective in mind and familiarize themselves with gender-related legislation to better protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

At the end of the day, I hand out evaluations of the modules delivered. I feel very gratified that the feedback we receive is very positive. Participants revealed that, before the modules, they were thinking that gender was a subject that only really interests women. Through this training, however, they came to realize that these concepts and issues concern men as well as women.

For a country like Chad, where women’s roles are still very traditional, I am very glad to hear that the participants think that what they have learned will help them sensitize men on the concept of gender. A long day of training behind us, Mahmoud and I go home and prepare for tomorrow’s modules, which will focus on human rights, children’s rights and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). I need a good night’s rest, as we have a lot of ground to cover in the morning!

A DAY IN UNSMIL

Alice Holmes of the United States is a Planning Officer with the Standing Police Capacity. While on assignment in Libya, she recorded her daily tasks and responsibilities and shared them with the UN Police Magazine.

One of my main tasks during my temporary deployment to UNSMIL was to assist the Libyan Police in developing and engaging in strategic planning. In early consultation with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) Department of Planning, we determined one of the most pressing needs was training in various planning techniques. While we identified and requested a viable police planner course, delivering the training would involve several months of preparations. In the interim, I developed a number of workshops to introduce some key concepts in strategic planning.

On this typical day in UNSMIL, I start my activities with an 8:15 a.m. meeting with the Senior Police Adviser and my Police Advisory Section colleagues. As the UN offices are located in the same compound as our accommodations (unlike for some of my colleagues in other missions), it is a very short commute - twenty feet from my door to the team meeting! After our meeting is finished, my colleague Khaled Saleh and I depart for the MOI Planning office at 8:30. On today's agenda is the workshop entitled "How to Prioritize".

This morning our UN driver Mohammad will take us to the MOI along with Esra, our interpreter, who will translate during the class. Due to security risks, we are driven to all locations outside the UN compound by our drivers. Since we started early today, we are well ahead of the normal traffic jam, and our trip only takes 20 minutes instead of the usual hour. Traffic is a major problem, and recent news reports now list Libya as the country with the most traffic fatalities per capita in the world. The risks of being hurt in a traffic accident are as much a part of our daily awareness as our security situation is.

Upon arrival at the MOI, I prepare for the course, which is a continuation of previous sessions that included "Overview of Strategic Planning" and "Brainstorming" sessions. Our workshops use both English and Arabic, as well as color-coding techniques. The planners have adjusted quickly to using the color-coded visual aids to follow the process, while I have adapted to working from right to left as we posted activities around the room to see the projects at a glance. It is gratifying to see the enthusiasm the Libyan police planners have displayed as they actively engage in the classes and practice applying the techniques to some of their actual planning projects.



Left to right: Brigadier Al Taher El-Mahmody, Planner Mustafa Algnemi, Alice Holmes, Planner Aly Mohamed Kourish, UNPOL Khaled Saleh, Lieutenant Tarek Ahmed Alhgagy. (UN Photo)



Camels being transported through the streets of Tripoli. (UN Photo/Alice Holmes)

At 1:00 p.m. we start our drive for an afternoon meeting. Unfortunately, university students are also leaving classes, and it takes us nearly an hour to get back. The slow-moving traffic gives us a chance to see the graffiti written along the walls and building, most of which depict the feelings of the country toward the former regime. We see reminders everywhere of the revolution, and the date of 17 February 2011 is a common sight. We also see something that is common in Libya but certainly unusual for me: a truck passes us with two camels secured in the back of the truck. They are beautifully groomed, riding peacefully, and luckily we are able to capture them on cell phone cameras.


Next, my colleague Khaled and I head to the US Embassy to have a meeting with the US representatives to the International Coordination Meeting Police group. We then participate in a teleconference with Washington-based programme officers from ICITAP, the component of the U.S. Department of Justice that will be providing the Police Planners course in April. We determine final details for the course, but unfortunately I will be leaving the Mission before it starts.

Neither Khaled nor I have had lunch, so we go to a cafe nearby, but find it closed. We are not familiar with any other location that may be safe for us to have a late lunch, so we head back to the compound, where we pick up fruit at the farmers market and go to our office to finish our reports for the day.

We are fortunate to have a gym on the premises, so after my work is done, I head straight for a workout. This day I find I have the energy to do 6.5 kilometers, but when I start the circuit on the strength training machines, I find myself completely worn out from the day.

When I get to my apartment, I am greeted by the smell of some wonderful cooking. My roommate Laila, from Morocco, has prepared a meal in a "tagine," a clay pot in which potatoes, onions, carrots, zucchini, finocchio (fennel) and lamb have simmered all day. Everyday in this mission has provided unique opportunities to share the experience of different cultures from around the world. After this great meal, I end my day with phone calls and emails to family, and then it is lights out!





UNAMID Police Advisor, Constable Prisca Kisonga from Tanzania, is pictured before going on patrol at the UNAMID Community Police Center in the Abu Shouk camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), North Darfur. Prisca has been in the mission for 2.5 years and she is in charge of monitoring child protection and family issues in the IDP camps. (UNAMID Photo/Albert González Farran)

UPDATE ON GLOBAL EFFORT

UN IN AFGHANISTAN WORKS TO BUILD CAPACITY OF WOMEN POLICE

The United Nations in Afghanistan has joined forces with national and international partners to expand and complement existing programmes to strengthen the capacity of women police and improve access to justice for women and children in local communities of 10 Afghan provinces.

The UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is implementing the Afghan Democratic Policing Project (ADPP) with US \$4.5 million funding support provided by the Government of the Netherlands.

UNAMA's Police Advisory Unit plays a coordinating role by bringing all stakeholders together. According to A. Heather Coyne, a police adviser with UNAMA, the UN mission advises on the project design and implementation, while UNOPS extends administrative and logistical support.

The three-year project seeks to expand and complement the existing programmes of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) in the areas of community-police engagement and strengthening the capacity of women police.

The project, which officially started on 3 February, has two main activities: (1) support Afghanistan's Police-e-Mardumi (community-oriented police) teams to conduct police-community consultations and school outreach programmes with a gender focus, and (2) strengthen the capacity of women police to provide services to women victims in collaboration with the UNDP's Women Police Mentoring Programme.

Ms. Coyne of UNAMA said the project aimed to achieve the goal of improving accountability and responsiveness of police to their communities, particularly by strengthening women police, which in turn is expected to enhance access to justice for women and children in the local communities.



Female Afghan National Police (ANP) cadets training in the centre of Kabul. Currently, there are approximately 1,200 women in the ANP. (UNAMA Photo / Fardin Waezi)

Col. Sayed Omar Saboor of the Afghan National Police (ANP), who until recently headed the ANP's community-oriented police unit, said the people trust the unit's personnel and share their problems because "they work closely with the people".

"If this project (ADPP) covers all (34) provinces, then it will be very useful in dealing with all kinds of violent cases," said Col. Saboor, who is now the deputy director of the Gender, Human Rights and Child Rights section at the Ministry of Interior (Mol) of Afghanistan.

People's trust, said Col. Saboor, helps the Police-e-Mardumi implement the law. "Once the law is implemented, the problem is solved, thereby facilitating the access of women and children to justice."

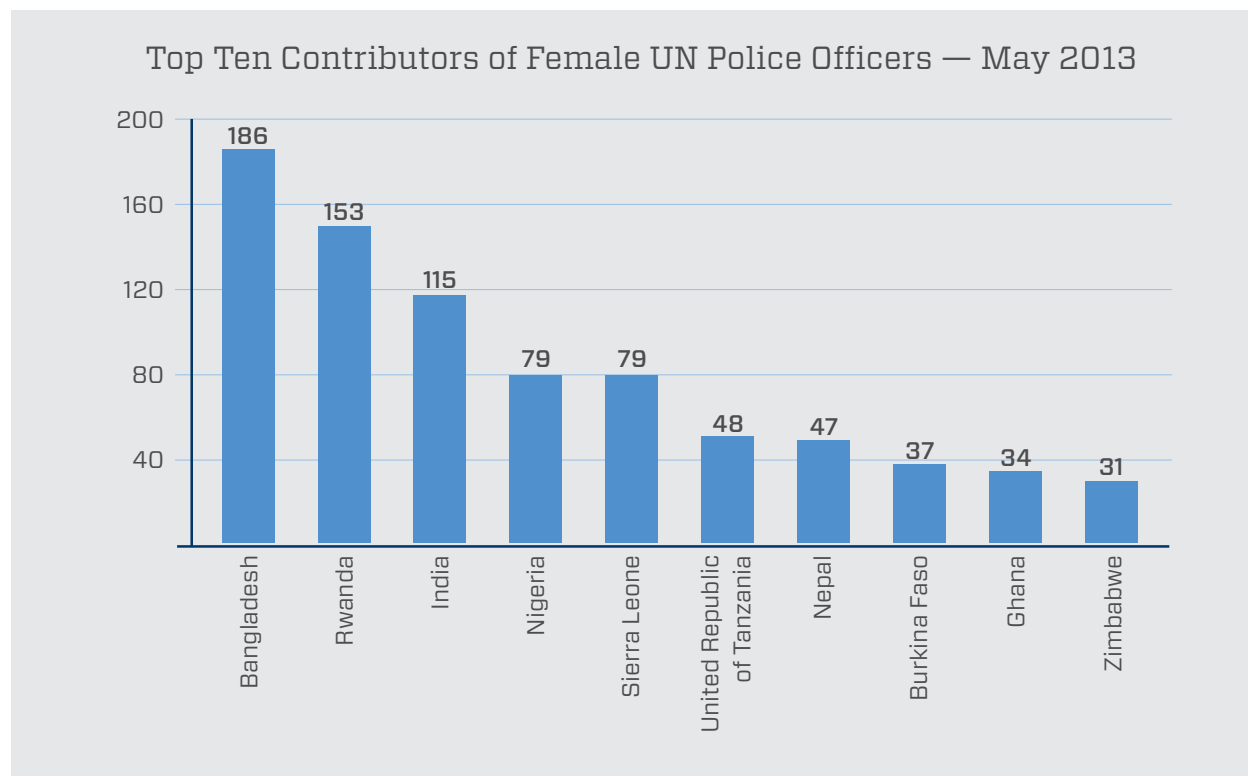
There are just over 1,500 women police personnel in the 149,000-strong ANP force. However, traditionally, most of the women police personnel have been doing jobs other than direct policing – for example: sewing police uniforms.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his report to the Security Council in December 2012 that UNAMA continued to facilitate the coordination of international resources to assist Afghan authorities in strengthening the recruitment and capacity of female police officers, part of which is raising awareness among male officers about the importance of integrating women into the police force as equal members.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior (Mol) decided in 2010 to increase the number of women police force to 5,000 by 2015. "However, they are far behind the schedule," said Ms. Coyne.

The primary focus of the ADPP will be in seven Afghan provinces where EUPOL and Mol have launched community-oriented policing pilots: Balkh, Kunduz, Bamyán, Baghlan, Ghor, Helmand and Uruzgan. Additionally, it is expected that some activities will reach into other key urban areas where women police are concentrated, such as Kabul, Nangarhar and Herat.

In October last year, while addressing a meeting of senior police officers, the Minister of Interior, Gen. Mujtaba Pantang, said community-oriented policing was one of 10 priorities of the ANP. In the same month, the Mol – together with UNDP and other partners – launched a police women mentoring programme, aimed at building the capacity of female police officers, addressing violence against women and raising awareness among male officers of the importance of integrating women into the police force as equal members.



ONE-ON-ONE WITH A. HEATHER COYNE, UNAMA

Recently, UN Police magazine sat down with **A. Heather Coyne**, a Community-Oriented Policing Adviser serving with the UNAMA Police Advisory Unit. Previously, Ms. Coyne served with the U.S. military as an Army Civil Affairs Officer in Iraq. Immediately prior to joining the UN, she worked with the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTMA) as an NGO Liaison. In her interview, she talked with us about how UNAMA is coordinating with the Afghan National Police to help promote community-oriented policing and gender mainstreaming.

Women in peacekeeping serve a variety of roles, both civilian and uniformed. Can you explain a little bit about what your responsibilities are as an adviser with the UNAMA police and how the mission is helping to strengthen female policing within the Afghan National Police?

The goal of UNAMA's Police Advisory Unit is to improve accountability and responsiveness of police to their communities, especially in terms of enhancing access to justice for women and children. We do this through strengthening women police and their role in community engagement, in the context of broader community-oriented policing programmes. We think that community-oriented policing provides an opportunity for women police to serve in a professional, culturally acceptable role, so it is a "foot in the door" for women police to become more accepted and valued in Afghanistan.

My own role is to make linkages between the full range of Afghan and international stakeholders (Afghan police, government, civil society, and international actors) to create synergies between programmatic and advisory efforts to strengthen women police and police-community engagement. In other words, I try to connect all the resources and programmes with each other, so that we can build momentum between all the efforts. I also work closely with the Ministry of the Interior offices that are developing strategies and policies to help them connect to the reality of police women and citizens on the ground. I dedicate as much time as I can to helping civil society leaders explore ideas for taking an active, practical role in shaping police reform and community-police engagement. I think of this as one of our most important contributions, since it is the people of Afghanistan who will ultimately be the source of demand and pressure for police accountability.

You come from a military background originally, and now you're working within a policing culture. What drew you to these traditionally male-dominated fields?

That's an interesting question. I don't think of it as "being drawn to a male-dominated field." I feel more like I made my way into the fields that were the most important to ensuring good governance and quality of life. Conflict and insecurity have arguably the most important influence on whether people are able to make good lives for themselves or not. At the same time, conflict can create opportunities for development and social change for women, even though women are also among the populations most harmed by conflict. So my focus has always been the link between conflict and development: how can we mitigate the impact of conflict and insecurity on populations, and how can we take advantage of those opportunities in conflicts that allow for positive change?

In Afghanistan, the role of the UN Police is to help advise and give guidance to the host-State police. However, I imagine that you've learned from your counterparts, as well. Can you share any lessons or experiences which you have gained from working with the women of the Afghan National Police?

The main thing I learned from working with the women of the Afghan National Police is how privileged I have been in my own choice to be part of the security sector. Although women have had a long struggle to establish themselves in Western police and military forces, I'm not sure we ever faced the kind of abuse that many Afghan women police deal with. Their determination to be part of security and safety in Afghanistan, really against all the odds, commands my respect and admiration. But in terms of our advisory role, what I learn from them is that governance reform must involve national actors (both leaders in the ministries and the citizens themselves) both from the start and in every consideration. It is not something that the international community can treat as a blank

slate and impose our own ideas. It's like the motto that disability activists popularized in the 1990s: "Nothing about us, without us."

Thanks for taking the time to speak with us about your time in UNAMA. Before we sign off, do you have any advice you could give to young women who may be interested in a career in peacekeeping?

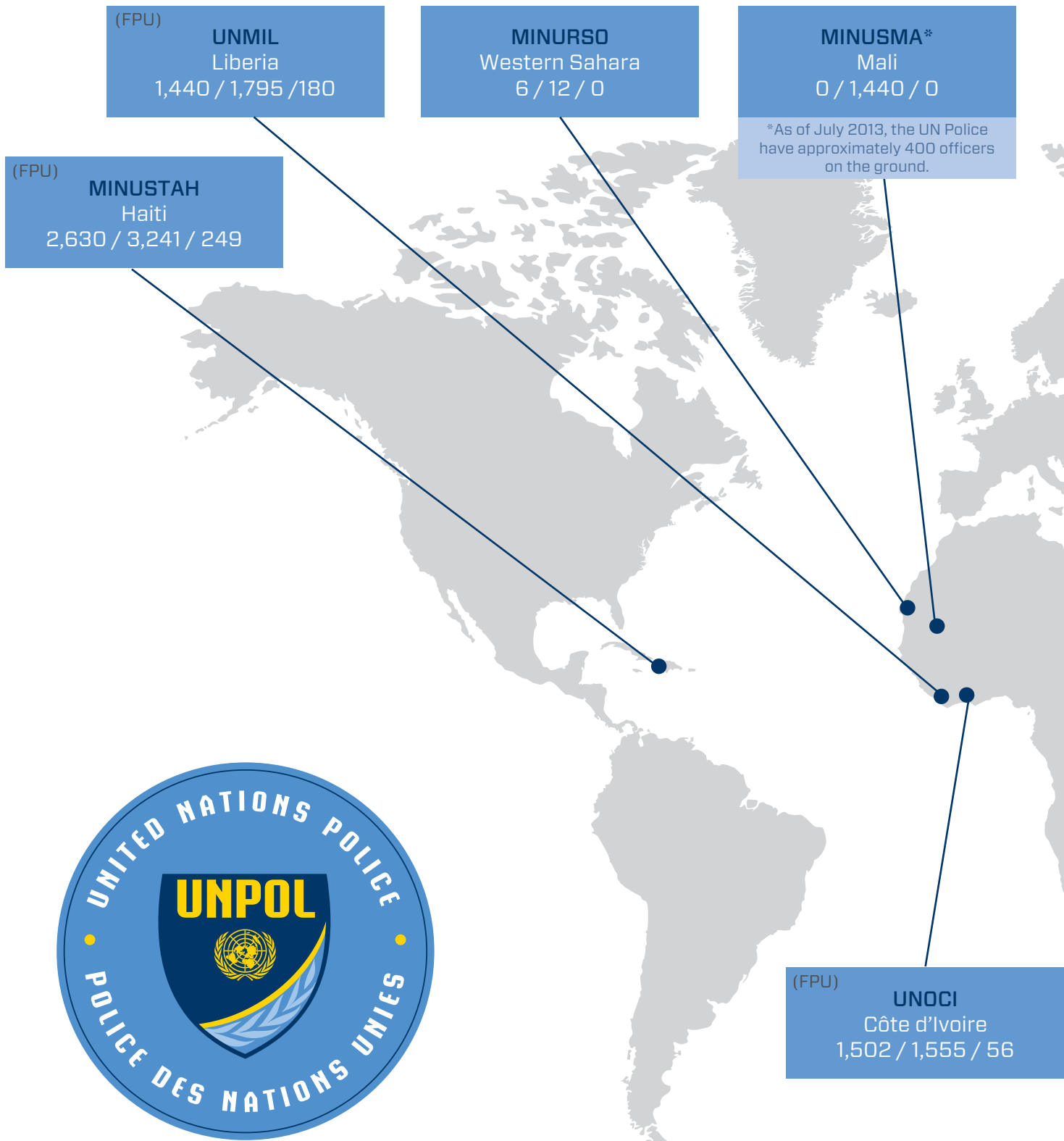
Both from my own experience in the military, and from watching my female UNPOL colleagues, I would suggest that, as a woman, having a police or military background gives you credibility to speak on security issues that is harder to gain from the purely humanitarian or civil society side. Security organizations are a world apart, and actually spending time inside them not only helps you understand them better-- where the need and potential for change is--but it allows you to criticize and make recommendations that wouldn't be accepted from someone without direct experience. I wouldn't encourage anyone to join the military or police without careful consideration of what she'd be getting into, but if you are serious about being involved in the hard-core security issues, some kind of exposure to the military or police culture would help.

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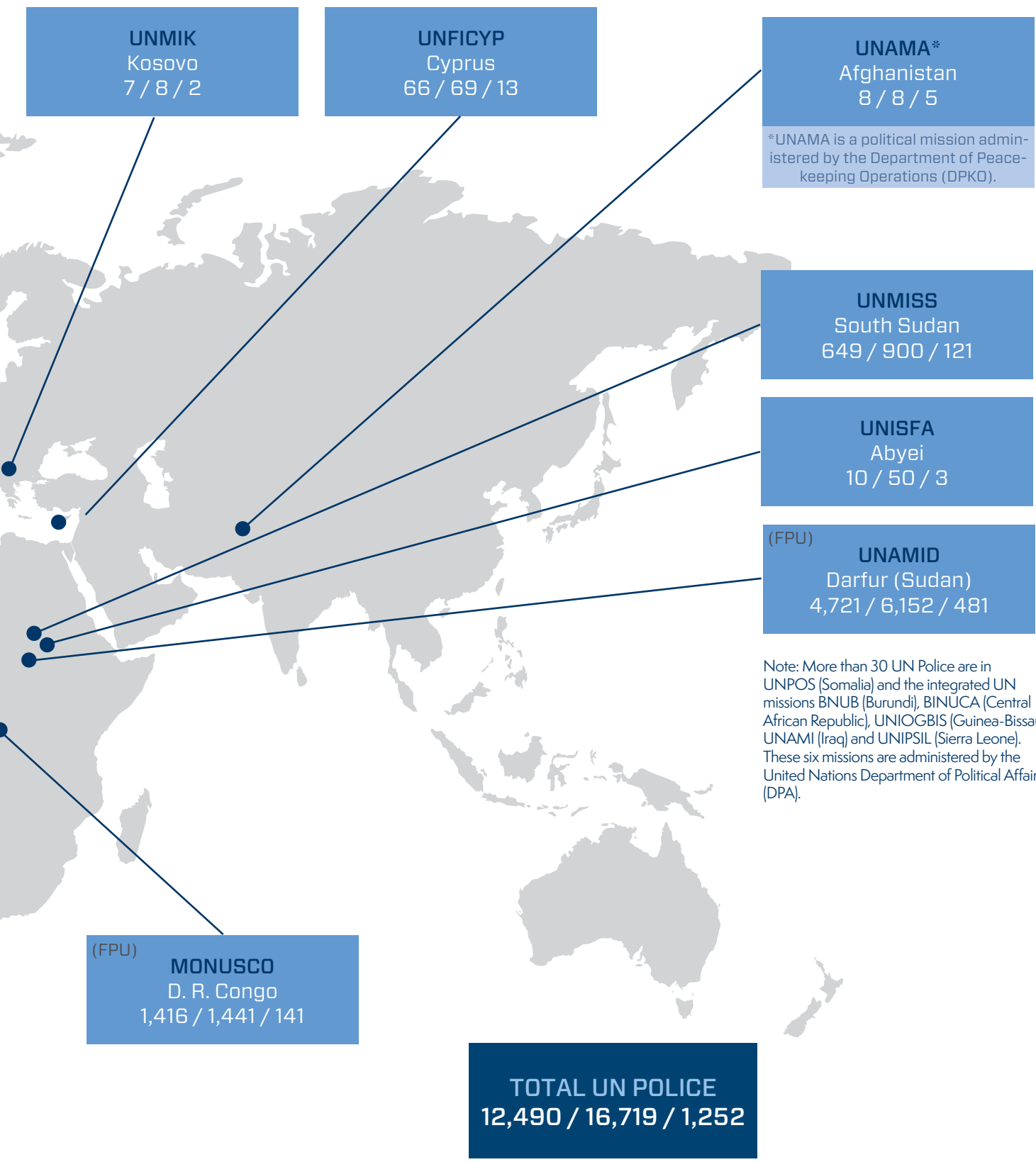
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ACTUAL / AUTHORIZED / FEMALE DEPLOYMENT OF



UN POLICE IN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS (MAY 2013)

(FPU) — includes Formed Police Units



FORMATION UNPOL : ENQUÊTES SUR LES VIOLENCES ET VIOLENCES SEXUELLES BASÉES SUR LE GENRE

Dans le cadre de sa mission de formation et de renforcement des capacités, la Composante Police de l'ONUCI, a mis en place, pour la première fois, une formation de formateurs sur les enquêtes de violences et violences sexuelles basées sur le genre (VBG et VSBG) destinée aux policiers et gendarmes ivoiriens. Le projet a été réalisé en partenariat avec la section État de Droit de l'ONUCI ainsi qu'avec les policiers et gendarmes ivoiriens. Ce projet vise la formation de points focaux « personnes vulnérables » nationaux au sein de la police et de la gendarmerie ivoiriennes. A l'issue, chaque brigade de gendarmerie et commissariat de police, sur l'ensemble du territoire, disposera de ce type de points focaux qui seront amenés à travailler en synergie avec leurs homologues UNPOL de l'ONUCI. Les agents ainsi formés pourront à leur tour dispenser cette formation au sein de leur unité alors qu'un suivi pédagogique et opérationnel sera assuré par la Section de la Formation de la Composante de Police de l'ONUCI.

La mission ONUCI avait identifié le besoin d'une telle formation suite à la crise post électorale et aux lacunes constatées dans les procédures. Ce conflit a fait beaucoup de victimes, dont de nombreuses femmes et enfants qui restent les plus vulnérables.

La première formation de deux semaines « Enquête de VBG et de VSBG » a débuté le lundi 6 mai 2013 à l'École de Gendarmerie d'Abidjan. Seize points focaux « genres et personnes vulnérables » reçoivent actuellement cette formation qui comprend les sujets suivants : La dynamique des VSBG, le traumatisme des victimes de VSBG, le



L'UNPOL Anouk St-Onge lors d'une formation sur les VSBG. (UN Photo)



Un officier de police ivoirien prend des notes durant une formation sur les VSBG. (UN Photo)

cadre légal en matière de VBG, la violence conjugale, les mutilations génitales féminines, l'audition d'un témoin, plaignant et victime incluant l'audition d'un enfant victime, l'interrogatoire d'un suspect de VBG et VSBG, la préservation d'une scène de crime, les techniques d'enquête, la police de proximité, et une sensibilisation au VIH SIDA.

L'objectif affiché est la formation de 900 policiers et gendarmes. Il s'agit là de l'aboutissement de cinq mois de travail avec les partenaires ivoiriens, pour élaborer de concert ces cours et mettre en place un plan de formation. La Coordinatrice des points focaux « genre », l'UNPOL Anouk St-Onge, a veillé à adapter ladite formation aux réalités judiciaires et aux besoins de la Côte d'Ivoire. La participation de quatre UNPOLs de l'ONUCI ainsi que de deux policières ivoiriennes à la formation standardisée sur la prévention et les enquêtes des VSBG à Entebbe au mois de janvier 2013 a grandement facilité le processus de la mise en place du projet. La formation conduite à Entebbe (financée par l'Allemagne) avait pour but de former, des policiers des Nations Unies et des policiers où une opération des Nations est actuellement en cours, à la lutte contre les VGB. Une partie importante du contenu de cette formation a été utilisée comme référence dans le développement des modules « Enquêtes de violences basées sur le genre et violences sexuelles basées sur le genre ». L'ensemble des cours a été révisé et approuvé par les gendarmes et les policiers ivoiriens au sein d'un groupe de travail.

La problématique du genre et la lutte contre les VBG est une priorité des Nations Unies. La composante UNPOL de l'ONUCI consciente de sa responsabilité envers cette problématique a tout mis en œuvre pour lancer ce projet et en assurer sa pérennité et ce en étroite collaboration avec les forces de l'ordre ivoiriennes. L'objectif est ambitieux mais il permettra de faire évoluer les mentalités et d'accueillir les victimes et de traiter leur cas dans les meilleures conditions possibles.

EMPOWERING SOUTH SUDANESE FEMALE POLICE THROUGH ENGLISH LITERACY

In a parking lot behind in the Central Equatorial Police Headquarters in Juba, South Sudanese police women learned to spell their names and sing their ABCs, courtesy of an English language course put on by the UNMISS Police. From 18 January to 1 March 2013, UNMISS Police officers Shekiwe Mwale of Zambia, Rabbecca Alupo of Uganda and Berit Edlund Bjorman of Sweden worked with 64 women from the South Sudan National Police Force to teach them much-needed, basic English skills.

As set out in The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, the young nation adopted English as an official language in 2011. However, many of its citizens speak primarily indigenous languages or a pidgin form of Arabic. The purpose of the UNMISS Police training was to empower female officers, eager to read and write English in order to improve their job skills.

Debora Ajak Guit, an SSNPS officer and mother of five, was thankful of the opportunity to improve her language skills. She said, "I like the class because it is helping me know how to communicate in English. I also want to learn more because tomorrow our country will develop and the English language will help me do my job properly." Another South Sudanese police officer, Lona Abraham, hoped that the classes could continue and proudly stated that, because of the UNMISS training, she could now write her name without asking anyone for help.

This training is one activity by which the UNMISS police component is carrying out its mandate, which includes "Strengthen[ing] the capacity of South Sudan Police Services through ... training and mentoring in key areas." UNPOL officer Bjorman said of her students, "The female police officers are doing very good job and I think is it very good of the UN to support these women with the opportunity to have this English class. Even if it is basic level, they have to start somewhere and it feels so good in your heart when you feel that you are doing a good job even if it is a couple of hours every day."

To watch a video of the training, visit the UNIFEED website at: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2013/03/south-sudan-police-women/>



(UN Photo/Isaac Alebe Avoro Lu'ba)

REPORT FROM THE FIELD: SETTING UP NETWORKS FOR FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS IN DARFUR

Kadi Fakondo is an Assistant Inspector General of Police from Sierra Leone, and she currently serves with the UN Police with UNAMID. Here is her firsthand account of the successes she and her colleagues have had in setting up networks for female police in UNAMID and the Government of Sudan.

In May 2010, I attended a workshop, organized by the UN Police Division, which introduced field-based UNPOL officers to the UN Police Gender Toolkit. The workshop included various presentations on gender mainstreaming, but the one that caught my attention most featured the establishment of the UNMISS Police Women Network in Khartoum, Sudan. The organizers of that network had engaged the host-state police and, because of their collaboration, they were succeeding in building the capacity of the Government of Sudan (GoS) female police officers.

I became inspired with the idea of establishing a similar network in Darfur, and this goal soon became one of my top priorities. After returning from the training, I quickly proposed the establishment of a UNAMID Police Women Network, which was approved by the Police Senior Management Team. The aim of the network is to establish professional and social contacts between UNAMID and GoS female police officers. The network assists in building the capacity of the GoS Police women, addressing welfare issues and strengthening the bond between UNAMID UNPOLs and the host-state police.

On 2 December 2010, the UNAMID Police Women Network was launched in El Fasher, Darfur. Since that time, the network has accomplished a number of key activities supporting the GoS Police Women. For example, we

Police women march to celebrate the launching of the Sudanese Police Women Network. The establishment of the network, sponsored by UNAMID, will help address issues related to women and children and create the basis of a unified force, which will be able to support and reinforce the actions of its members. (UNAMID Photo/Sojoud Elgerrai)





(UNAMID Photo / Sojoud Elgarrai)

have been able to provide a communications skills course, a training on Sexual and Gender-based Violence and workshops on HIV/AIDS. Our partnerships with the Integrated Mission Training Center (IMTC) and the HIV/AIDS Unit have helped us facilitate these courses and provide training materials for the GoS Police women. Furthermore, the Network's close relationship with our mission's language assistants has helped us ensure that we can give our workshops and trainings in both English and Arabic. Strong support from our partners has been critical since the launch of the network, which now currently has 462 members.

At the network's launch ceremony, the UNAMID Police Commissioner Mr. James Oppong-Boanuh stated that "The formation of the UNAMID Police Women Network will not only complement the initiatives of UNAMID Police in addressing concerns relevant to the fulfillment of the Mission's mandate, but will also afford all stakeholders in law enforcement agencies to share experiences on challenges while handling issues relating to gender mainstreaming and gender-based violence."

Colonel Adam, the representative of the GoS Police Director, has applauded the launching of the network and thanked UNAMID for assistance in establishing the Family and Child Protection Unit. He also pledged the support of GoS Police to the network, which has been demonstrated during the last two years of network activities.

On the 20 December 2012, after much anticipation, we also launched the GoS Police Women Network at a stadium in El Fasher. Both UNAMID and GoS Police officials, personnel and other guests attended the event, which was again sponsored by UNAMID CPID. As the mission draws down, the network will aid UNAMID in leaving behind a legacy that will continue to help professionalize the GoS Police. Our hope is that the network will help the GoS take ownership of gender mainstreaming in policing, a necessary step towards building a strong democratic police service.

PORT-DE-PAIX : OUVERTURE D'UN BUREAU DE LA POLICE POUR LES VICTIMES DE VIOLENCES SEXUELLES

L'inauguration d'un bureau de la Police Nationale Haïtienne (PNH) pour les victimes de violences sexuelles à Port-de-Paix permet de garantir leur accueil et leur prise en charge en toute confidentialité.

« Cela répond à un besoin crucial pour la communauté », a déclaré Me Yves Marcial, Commissaire du Gouvernement haïtien. « Les victimes n'avaient jusqu'ici pas d'accompagnement institutionnel, ni de structure d'accueil », a-t-il rappelé lors de l'inauguration du bâtiment.

Présent pour l'occasion, le Commissaire de police de la MINUSTAH, Luis Carrilho, a souligné que « la Police des Nations Unies est ici pour accompagner et pour ouvrir un avenir meilleur à Haïti ». « Nous en avons un bel exemple avec l'ouverture de ce bureau », a-t-il ajouté.

Construit spécialement pour les victimes de violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre, ce nouvel édifice a été entièrement financé par la Norvège. Ce pays déploie des policiers au sein de la MINUSTAH depuis le mois d'octobre 2010 dans le but de développer les capacités de la Police nationale dans la lutte contre les violences sexuelles.

L'unité a notamment développé des programmes de formation et dispense des cours aux agents de la PNH en matière d'enquête et de traitement des victimes de violences sexuelles. À ce jour, 578 policiers nationaux à travers le pays ont été formés, en plus de 36 instructeurs qui pourront eux-mêmes offrir cette formation à leurs collègues au sein de l'institution policière.

Le deuxième objectif de l'unité est d'ouvrir un bureau des enquêtes sur les cas de violences sexuelles de la PNH dans chacun des départements d'Haïti. D'autres édifices ont déjà été mis en place pour la PNH à Cap Haïtien, Port-Margot et Ouanaminthe, en plus de celui qui héberge la Coordinatrice nationale des Affaires sur les femmes et sur le genre de la PNH à Port-au-Prince.

Au cours des prochains mois, 422 policiers supplémentaires de la PNH seront formés et 14 bureaux d'enquête sur les crimes de violence basée sur le genre seront ouverts dans d'autres départements.



FEMALE BANGLADESHI POLICE IN HAITI: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

106 women police officers from Bangladesh are working in Haiti to help ensure the safety of Pétionville IDP camp in the Haitian capital, where they are patrolling alongside officers of the National Police.

"One of the advantages of being a woman is that when we are on duty in the IDP camps, children and females find us more approachable when it comes to reporting incidents and complaints," says the commander Shahina Amin, head of the contingent BANFPU-2.

For her, being a female in the mission can be a mixed experience, both challenging and rewarding. "We are neck and neck with other contingents and other units as far as professionalism and dedication. And there is no difference in the type of duty we perform," she explains.

"It's not easy, but if I did not enjoy my work, I would not be here. Our presence is good exposure for other women, so they might be encouraged to contribute their skills to the UN", she adds.

Mother of two children, Commander Amin is also proud that one of her daughters has recently presented her work with the United Nations in a project for school.

"The hardest part is being away from home", she says, noting that travel to Bangladesh takes two days and a 30-hour flight. "This is why the support of my husband is vital," she says. "He takes care of the children and it is a great sacrifice."



MINUSTAH Photo/Mélanie Malenfant



Superintendent of Police in her own country, she worked in 2009 in another United Nations Mission, in Kosovo (UNMIK), with the special police unit of her contingent.

Here in Haiti, in addition to patrolling the IDP camp, the Bangladeshi police also deal with medical emergencies.

In their headquarters, near Camp Delta, they maintain small gardens of flowers and vegetables. “These gardens make the unit ‘more green’ and more independent,” says Commander Amin.

Apart from the food, all equipment and supplies come from Bangladesh, from carpets and curtains to weapons and generators. A prime example of gender mainstreaming, the unit, composed of 106 operational women, also benefits from the support of 54 men, cooks and drivers.

Bangladesh has deployed several contingents in UN missions across the world, in Sudan, Darfur and Côte d'Ivoire. It also provides two of the three female-only police units currently operating in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The third is a unit from India, deployed in Liberia.

During the 2013 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, Police Adviser Stefan Feller, joined by two female members of the Police Division, pins a medal on a military peacekeeper. (UN Photo)





POLICE DIVISION IN ACTION

MEMBER STATES SHAPE STRATEGIC GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK IN UKRAINE

Threats to peace have evolved considerably in the past decade. Today's work of a United Nations Police officer often involves countering organized crime, drug and human trafficking, terrorism and financial fraud. And this is all on top of important duties of operational support and capacity-building.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged UNPOL to adapt to meet emerging threats, citing growing numbers and responsibilities. The United Nations Police Division is responding to the Secretary-General's call.

The Police Division has recognized the need to equip UNPOL with a solid doctrinal base. The development of a Strategic Guidance Framework for Police Peacekeeping, or SGF, is a key part of this effort.

The Framework will help answer some pivotal questions. What are the core functions and organizational structure of a police component? What is the scope of UNPOL activities within peace operations in post-conflict states? What are the training gaps, needs, requirements and standards for both specialist and generalist police personnel deployed in UNPOL components?

In developing the SGF, the Police Division is reaching out to police services across the globe. Currently underway is a series of regional consultations, which seek input and feedback from Member States and stakeholders prior to the development of policy documents.

The latest regional consultative meeting took place in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 18 to 21 March 2013. Police executives from 24 European and North American Member States were joined by representatives of Australia and Argentina (as hosts of earlier consultations), along with INTERPOL, the European Union, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

In his video address to the meeting, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous said there was a convincing case for the need to develop the SGF.

"The reality is that we can no longer work in the 21st century if UN police peacekeeping is relying on 20th century strategies," he emphasized. The SGF is necessary to improve the ability of the UN Police to deliver new, complex mandates consistently across missions, Mr. Ladsous added.



Ukraine's Interior Minister Mr. Vitaliy Zakharchenko speaks with reporters during the Strategic Guidance Framework consultation held in Kiev. (UN Photo)

The Under-Secretary-General’s call for a United Nations police doctrine was echoed by the Ukrainian Minister of the Interior, Mr. Vitaliy Zakharchenko, who stressed Ukraine’s support for police peacekeeping and the need to have more overarching guidance for UNPOL activities.

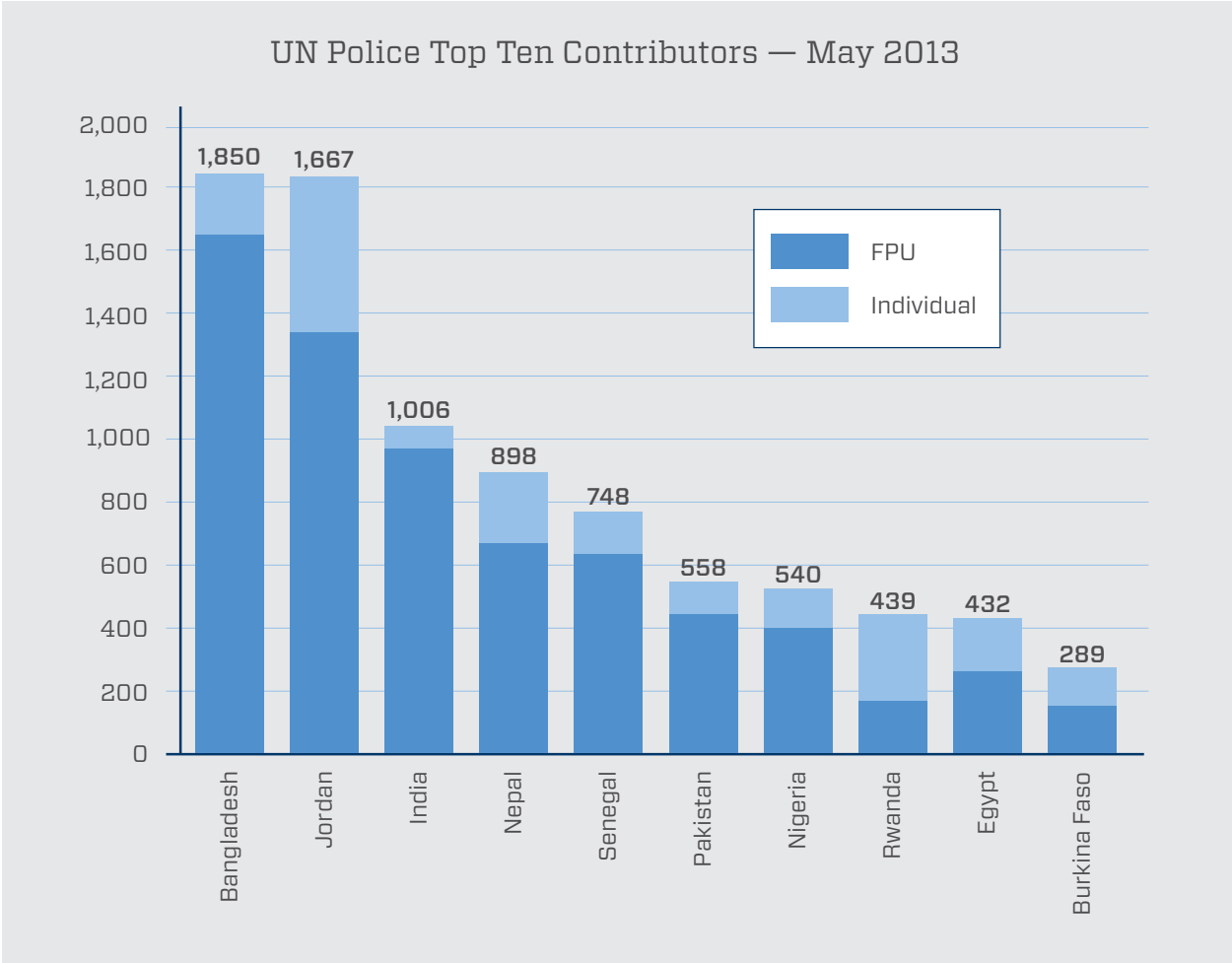
The meeting also benefited from interventions by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Dmitry Titov, and Commissioner Shoab Dastgir, then Acting UN Police Adviser.

The Kyiv meeting zoomed in on the core functions of international police peacekeeping. In doing so, it mirrored the structure and purpose of the consultations in Indonesia and Argentina, which the UN Police Magazine has reported about in previous issues. Participants discussed what core functions an international police peacekeeping mission should undertake as well as a set of subsidiary functions within the key areas identified.

The Ukraine meeting has laid a solid foundation for the key elements of the SGF. It helped the Police Division identify the core functions of a generic UN Police peacekeeping operation and sketch out a template for the mission structure. These are important achievements the Police Division will build on during subsequent consultations.

The SGF’s *raison d’être* was neatly summed up by Assistant Secretary-General Titov. “The SGF will help UNPOL define who we are and how we go about fulfilling our tasks. It will make UNPOL understandable and attractive as an employer to police officers from Vancouver to Vladivostok, and from Kyiv to Cape Town,” he said during the closing ceremony.

The Police Division continues to prepare for the remaining regional meetings in close consultation with Member States. Upon their completion, the results will be presented to the C-34 committee and reflected in an overarching policy on United Nations Police in peacekeeping operations. Subsequently, the Police Division will launch thematic working groups, tasked with the development of technical guidance.



LA DIVISION DE LA POLICE CONTINUE SA COOPÉRATION AVEC L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

A l'instar de la première formation qui s'était déroulée au Burkina Faso en novembre 2012, un second séminaire co-organisé avec et financé par l'OIF, visant à expliquer aux pays contributeurs francophones de la zone Afrique subsaharienne, du Maghreb, du Machrek et d'Europe les modes de sélection et de recrutement des policiers au sein des opérations de maintien de la paix (OMP) des Nations Unies s'est tenu au Maroc les 15 et 16 mai.

Cette action de formation dirigée à nouveau par M. Alexandre Rinaudo et M. Carlos Peralta de la Division de la Police, a regroupé 23 représentants de la police, de la gendarmerie et des ministères des affaires étrangères de 11 pays. Les efforts du Département des Opérations de Maintien de la Paix et de la Division de la Police ont été salués par les représentantes de l'OIF présentes, Mme Patricia Herdt, Représentante Permanente Adjointe de l'OIF auprès des Nations Unies et Mme Niagalé Bagayoko, Chargée du programme « maintien et consolidation de la paix » ainsi que par l'ensemble des participants. La Division de la Police s'est engagée à assister l'OIF pour rédiger un fascicule en français reprenant les points essentiels mentionnés durant la formation. Une fois réalisé ce fascicule sera distribué à l'ensemble des membres de l'OIF.

Au cours de ces dernières années l'OIF est devenue un partenaire essentiel de la Division de la Police du DMP avec laquelle elle entretient des relations étroites. Le Conseiller de la Police des Nations Unies, M. Stefan Feller, a dès sa prise de fonction noté l'importance de cette coopération et a donné des instructions pour que tout soit mis en œuvre pour la faire fructifier.



Photo de groupe stagiaires et formateurs. (UN Photo)

EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF PEACEKEEPING

Originally from the Police Service of Pakistan, **Mr. Shoaib Dastgir** joined the United Nations as Deputy Police Adviser in 2011. He has served in field missions in both Mozambique and Bosnia and is also a Chevening Scholar (1997/98) and Humphrey Fellow (2004/05). For this edition of UN Police Magazine, Mr. Dastgir reflects on the future of police peacekeeping and how evolving demands will require new services from the Police Division.

As we prepare for a new mission in Mali, plan for possible peace operations in Syria and other areas and respond to changing mandates in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, all of us who have a stake in peacekeeping should reflect on how these developments will shape the future of peacekeeping, as determined by needs from the field.

Police, in a domestic setting, have to strike a delicate balance between often competing needs: protecting public safety while avoiding excessive use of force; or, in other words, giving police the appropriate tools to do their jobs effectively while upholding the principles of democratic policing.

United Nations peacekeeping is now facing different and far more complex situations from the ones police face in a national context. However, the fundamental question remains: what is an appropriate, robust amount of force that will be effective, while maintaining the legitimacy of the organization?

As many of us know, the UN Charter of 1945 does not explicitly mention peacekeeping or peace enforcement. So how did we get here from there, with people around the world immediately associating “United Nations” with the image of blue berets?

As we follow the genealogy of modern peacekeeping, we see an evolving history of 65 years of experimentation, adjustment and adaptation to challenges. The end of the Cold War ushered in the creation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and a new spirit of cooperation. Shortly thereafter, however, Rwanda and Srebrenica caused a serious crisis of conscience, a real self-evaluation of how we respond to the protection of civilians.

Today, fresh challenges and emerging trends are forcing us to (a) rethink how we deliver peacekeeping in the field, and (b) maintain the distinction between robust peacekeeping and peace enforcement. As Mali and perhaps even Syria come closer to gaining lives of their own as DPKO Missions, and as changes in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia draw upon us, we really are testing the idea of peacekeeping. We are determining the elasticity of its boundaries and limits, challenging the received wisdom about what a peace operation should look like on the ground.

First, a noticeable trend continues with the participation – or lack thereof – from the Global North in United Nations operations, especially those in Africa. This begs the question: what will it take to lure contributors from the developed world back to peacekeeping? And, furthermore, how do we “market” peacekeeping to the North without alienating the Global South and its critical contributions?

Second, a related question arises from increasing South-South cooperation. Previously, we operated under the assumption that “Neighbours don’t make good peacekeepers.” However, as we will see in the DRC, the Force Intervention Brigade authorized by the new Security Council resolution will be comprised primarily of military peacekeepers from the region. Similarly, in Mali, troop-contributing countries are expected to be recruited from among the country’s West African neighbours. How will these developments impact the perception of those Missions, in relation to peacekeeping’s core principle of impartiality?

Third, regarding that same principle, the UN will need to take care to maintain its posture of impartiality as it implements a peacekeeping operation in Mali, concurrent with a French parallel force. How can the UN manage strategic consent of all parties not just in this country, but in all of these peacekeeping operations in question?

Finally, in all of these high-risk settings, developing a shared understanding of the use of force in the context of protection of civilians will be of the utmost importance. What is appropriate force? What is appropriate provocation?



Deputy Police Adviser Shoaib Dastgir. (UN Photo)

Would proactive use of force, aimed at neutralizing armed groups, be consistent with mandates to protect civilians from violence?

For UN Policing, these questions will have a dramatic impact on our future. We are truly witnessing a paradigm shift. However, as I watch the women and men of the Police Division hard at work preparing for these changes, I am confident in our ability to meet new challenges. Our police planners are coordinating with other UN stakeholders and drawing up initial mission plans; our recruitment team is carefully analyzing which potential police-contributing countries could step up to the plate; and our desk officers are already supporting the implementation of new mandates.

I, for one, look forward to witnessing the changes which lie ahead for UN peacekeeping. The Police Division has and will continue to answer the call to serve, and our response to new challenges will define who we are as an organization. We have worked hard the past few years to professionalize police peacekeeping, to find the right officers with the right skills. Based on this foundation, I do not doubt that the UN Police will adapt well to any demands that are required of us.

FPU DEPLOYMENT (MAY 2013)

	FPU OFFICERS	AUTHORIZED	FEMALE OFFICERS
MONUSCO	1,045	1,050	87
UNMIL	984	1,265	127
MINUSTAH	1,677	1,780	130
UNAMID	2,240	2,380	70
UNOCI	999	1,000	0
MINUSMA	0	1,120	0
Total:	6,945	8,595	414

RAISING THE BAR FOR SECURING QUALITY UN POLICE PEACEKEEPERS

As police peacekeeping mandates grow more complex, the United Nations must increasingly find officers with specialized skills and knowledge. To improve the quality of officers deployed to the field, staff from the Police Division's Selection and Recruitment Section (SRS) took concrete action to make recruitment processes easier and more efficient for Member States and field missions.

First, a team developed new Standard Operating Procedures for recruiting both individual police officers and Formed Police Units (FPUs). Developing new SOPs involved consulting field missions and Member States, as well as briefing the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34). In 2012, DPKO approved the two new procedures, which will help the UN find and select the right officers for the job.

These SOPs have included changes to the way the UN assesses police officers. To help colleagues in the field understand these changes, the Police Division held a certification workshop in Entebbe, Uganda on 9 to 11 April. 37 participants, including eight women, from UNAMID, MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNOCI police components sought certification as assessment instructors. This certification will qualify them to conduct assessment visits, which the UN Police use to evaluate whether officers and FPUs are capable and ready for deployment to UN peacekeeping operations.

"In order for our officers to be of high quality," said Commissioner Stefan Feller, the UN Police Adviser, "we must make sure that those evaluating them have high skills and knowledge of the policing mandate, as well. These new assessment procedures not only make sure we have enough officers, but that we have the right ones as well."

Assessment visits, which previously focused on language, firearm and driving competencies, now also evaluate specialized police skills, in areas such as police management, administration, operations, training, organized crime, investigations, forensics and technology. The workshop in Entebbe tested participants on their skills and knowledge of assessment procedures. In the end, 29 participants received certification as instructors in English, French, or both English and French. Additional participants became certified to assist in evaluating incoming police officers before deployment.

The Police Division is planning to hold more certification workshops in the near future. Two concurrent certification workshops will be hosted by China and Italy in early July.



Participants learn how to run a driving test properly, as part of an assessment visit. (UN Photo)

ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN SIERRA LEONE

Background

Interior Ministers from Guinea-Bissau, Côte D'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone signed the "Freetown Commitment" in 2010. In July 2009, the United Nations and its partners had developed and launched the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI).

WACI is a joint initiative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA)/UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Collectively, this group is known as the "implementing partners" for WACI.

WACI supports the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Action Plan on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Since WACI's original launch, Guinea-Conakry has also joined its four neighbours in joining the initiative.

Evaluation Team visits Sierra Leone

Three years after the Freetown Commitment was signed, an evaluation team, consisting of representatives from DPA/UNOWA, DPKO, INTERPOL and UNODC, visited Sierra Leone from 9 to 19 April 2013. The goal of this visit was to assess how WACI, and the Transnational Organised Crimes Unit (TOCU) set up under it, had been implemented. This team also looked at how the impending end of UNIPSIL on 31 March 2014 might impact the police support provided from to Sierra Leone's TOCU. Finally, the evaluation also focused on the coordination efforts between the implementing partners and the police and other law enforcement authorities in Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in September 2010, set up the country's Transnational Organized Crimes Unit (TOCU), the first such unit to become operational. In Sierra Leone, the TOCU has 11 partner agencies, all of whom reported to the evaluation team that they were happy with both the WACI concept and the unit's implementation.

Sierra Leone TOCU partner agencies:

Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), Central Intelligence and Security Unit (CISU), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Immigration Department (IMM), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Revenue Authority (NRA) (Customs), Office of National Security (ONS), Pharmacy Board Sierra Leone (PBSL), Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), Sierra Leone Airports Authority (SLAA) and Sierra Leone Police (SLP).

Having such wide buy-in helped provide a platform upon which the police and other law enforcement agencies have been able to build true interagency cooperation. The WACI concept is now fully incorporated inside the country's security and criminal investigation apparatus, leading to greater collaboration and aligned objectives in the area of transnational organized crime.

The Sierra Leone TOCU currently has 55 members attached to it on secondment from the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), including a liaison officer from the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB). The remaining 10 partner agencies interact with the unit by attending weekly operational meetings, sharing information and intelligence and participating in TOCU operations.

Successes and Way Forward

The TOCU has developed several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to assist in its operations. It is a member of the national intelligence structures and has been involved in many operations with international dimensions. It has also had a number of operational successes, including the following:

- ▶ investigation of almost 300 cases;
- ▶ arrest of nearly 200 suspects;
- ▶ prosecution of approximately 150 cases, which led to more than 50 convictions; and
- ▶ total drug seizures of more than five tons of cannabis, 140 kilogrammes of cocaine, and two and a half kilogrammes of heroin.

There are a number of issues identified by the Evaluation Team, mainly around the area of sustainability. Currently, the TOCU is an administrative entity, but the authorities in Sierra Leone are taking steps to formalize it as a body within their security structures, which will include its own budget line. Other matters, such as the promulgation of new legislation, are also in hand.

International support, both in terms of funding and mentoring, will need to continue as well. UNDP is currently undertaking a Security Sector Reform study to assess what the TOCU will need to have in place following the draw-down of UNIPSIL; DPKO will examine options (under the aegis of the Global Focal Point) to provide police mentoring; UNODC will seek to continue their financial and technical support; INTERPOL will look to expand their reach within Sierra Leone; and UNOWA and UNIPSIL will continue to work with the local and regional political structures to ensure that progress is maintained.

Illicit drugs seized by Sierra Leone's Transnational Organized Crimes Unit. (UN Photo)



Visit of Jean-Marie Vincent camp on 27 April 2013. On the invitation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), French actor Lambert Wilson visited Haiti for a week starting April 24th. (MINUSTAH Photo/Igor Rugwiza)





UNPOL ON PATROL

TWO UNMIL POLICE HEROES SAVE WOMAN FROM VIOLENCE

Two UN Police Officers have recently been commended by their commanding officers as well as Liberian local government authorities. They courageously saved a young Liberian woman from a possible fatal attack by an angry mob in Pleebo, Maryland County, early last January.

UN Police Officers Katarina Paulsson (Sweden) and Faruque Hossain (Bangladesh) led a rescue team of five Liberia National Police Officers to the home of the 29-year-old woman, whose name is withheld to protect her identity.

The young woman was trapped in her house as throngs of Pleebo residents gathered outside threatening to kill her. Police later learned that the residents' ire was whipped up by the victim's own sister and brother-in-law. They had taken the victim to see a traditional soothsayer who accused her of killing their cousin using witchcraft. Police said the cousin actually died in an accident while felling a tree on 16 December in Grand Kru.

The rescue incident also demonstrated the courage of LNP officers such as Nelson Wroye and Joshua Bartee, who had first responded to the young woman's plight and continued to guard the door of the women's house until extra help arrived.

UN Police Officers Hossain and Paulsson accompanied the LNP rescue team, which included Commander Shirley Teah, Officers Oskar Kollie, Solomon Quiah, Fredrick Kyne and Cynthia Smith.

Paulson reported that initially the crowd tried to block their vehicle from reaching the victim's home. "When we got our vehicle through the crowd, we saw officers Nelson Wroye and Joshua Bartee guarding the door of the house," she narrated. Four of the Liberia National Police officers on her team got out of the vehicle and cleared the way so the victim could get into the car.

Someone in the crowd threw multiple rocks at the UN Police Nissan Patrol, damaging the windshield and the right rear window. As soon as the young woman entered the vehicle the rescue team drove her to safety at Harper Police station.

Once the young woman was out of harm's way, the LNP Emergency Response Unit moved in and arrested two young men charging them with inciting mob violence. The two are now in detention facing trial. The young woman has since moved to another county.

Both Hossain and Paulsson were awarded certificates of commendation by the Mayor and City Council of Pleebo for "the expedient, gallant, and rapid response during the evacuation and rescue operation."



Officer Faruque Hossain of Bangladesh (UN Photo)



Officer Katarina Paulsson of Sweden (UN Photo)

UNPOL TRAINS MARITIME POLICE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire is home to one of Africa's busiest ports. Its high flow of tradable goods and important maritime border generate difficulties, both of which demand rigorous management.

The Gendarmerie maritime (Maritime Police), which is responsible for maritime security, deploys two brigades, one each at San Pedro and Abidjan. These squads intervene in many different situations. For example, they are responsible for issuing fines in order to curb illegal fishing; they also intervene when a pirate attack occurs, as has been the case throughout late 2012 - early 2013.

The United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) police component is aware of the strategic stakes in this maritime area and has recruited UNPOL experts in order to strengthen the capacity of the coastal units. The training partners have already started training Abidjan's maritime brigade, and will subsequently focus on those at San Pedro.

Following a pre-assessment of Abidjan's maritime brigade (which falls under the purview of the Port Security Group), the brigade received maritime training, as well as training in the fields of international maritime law, navigation, maneuvering and security at sea. The first batch of trainees obtained their Level 1 Navigation Certificate after participating in the navigation training offered between 14 January and 13 March 2013.

A second round of Level 1 Navigation Certificate Training began on 8 April 2013. There are two phases to the training: the first week focuses on theoretical classes and the second on mentoring. Included in the training are hands-on sessions on a boat belonging to the harbourmaster and the Brigade Maritime at Abidjan's Autonomous Port. The training teaches police about making preparations before boarding; recognizing lights (regular and hazard-warning light signals on a boat), beacons and markers; piloting; identifying instances of maritime pollution; and mastering navigation tools like VHF radio, alidade (a measuring instrument), GPS and radar.

The Gendarmerie maritime leaders and staff agree that the Level 1 Navigation Certificate has been a success. At the conclusion of the first level training, the trainees will participate in the second level training, led by UNPOL, to broaden their knowledge of international conventions in maritime navigation.

UNOCI Police teach a hands-on exercise. (UNOCI Photo)



MONUSCO TRAINS CONGOLESE POLICE IN COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING

Community-oriented policing, a concept often misunderstood in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is undergoing a thorough review in Ituri district, Province Orientale. The Police component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is actively engaged in providing concrete meaning to this concept. An eight-week training-of-trainers session launched this year in Bunia, capital of the district, with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The objective is to train Congolese national police agents in Ituri on this concept, which will help address the concerns of the population. If implemented properly, community-oriented policing should bring the police closer to the population, which will ensure better protection for the population as well as public and private property.

The training started on 21 January 2013 with 15 participants from all over the district. The trained agents will eventually train their peers, thus creating a snowball effect. Making sure that police officers receive good training aims, ultimately, at providing some relief to a population which has suffered from many abuses in the hands of armed groups and, sometimes unfortunately, men in uniform.



MONUSCO Photo

INDIAN FORMED POLICE BRING HEALING TOUCH TO TUZON

Samuel Roland Doe, a local resident, swears by the treatment he received from doctors of the Indian FPU2 Level 1 Clinic in Zwedru when the peacekeepers reached out to the community through a medical camp organized in Tuzon, birthplace of former Liberian President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

A first cousin to the late President was first in the queue when some 800 men, women and children swarmed the camp at Tuzon Junior High School last 26 November to get free consultation and treatment from the Indian medics. His recovery from injuries received in a car crash on the Zwedru-Monrovia road several months back had been slow and painful.

“I can already feel some relief after the first dose of the medicine given me by the Indians,” he affirmed minutes after exiting the camp’s make-shift pharmacy. Doe, who brought along two of his children for treatment, sounded convinced that he had finally stumbled on the pain relief that had eluded him for months.

At the local health centre in Tuzon, drug supplies are limited in stock and range. The massive turnout at the medical camp came after town criers combed the town and spread word of the humanitarian assistance from the Indian FPU2.

“We have long yearned for the kind of medicines we are receiving here from the Indian doctors,” Doe said. For the people of Tuzon, the 21 kilometers to Zwedru, the county capital, greatly impedes access to better health facilities. Hence, patients gave high praise to the Indian Contingent for reaching out to the small community.

As explained by Indian FPU2 Commander Col. Lal Chand Yadav, providing access was the very essence of the medical camp. “Here in Liberia health delivery in the rural areas is very limited. That’s why we decided to come over and help the people of Tuzon,” Yadav said. He spoke of plans to reach out to other enclaves in Sector B3 with medical assistance. The Indian FPU2 clinic in Zwedru is open to the public and receives, on average, 30 patients a day.

The Indian medics were assisted in their outreach by Dr. Hatim Hujalahmadi of the UN Level 1 Hospital in Zwedru. At the camp in Tuzon, they also donated first aid kits, including mosquito repellants, to local school authorities and community leaders.



UN Photo/Christopher Herwig

UN Police Contributing Countries — May 2013

Country	Male	Female	Country	Male	Female	Country	Male	Female
Argentina	36	2	Indonesia	160	7	Sri Lanka	36	7
Australia	19	6	Ireland	10	2	Sweden	17	14
Bangladesh	1664	186	Italy	5	0	Switzerland	5	1
Belgium	1	0	Jamaica	7	5	Tajikistan	11	3
Benin	121	9	Jordan	1657	7	Togo	163	4
Bosnia & Herzegovina	44	9	Kenya	43	10	Tunisia	101	7
Brazil	9	2	Kyrgyzstan	18	0	Turkey	137	10
Burkina Faso	252	37	Madagascar	59	10	Uganda	35	11
Burundi	105	9	Malawi	40	19	Ukraine	69	6
Cameroon	76	26	Malaysia	25	0	United Rep. of Tanzania	168	48
Canada	81	11	Mali	54	2	USA	76	13
Central African Republic	16	2	Montenegro	4	0	Uruguay	11	2
Chad	46	6	Namibia	14	3	Yemen	262	0
Chile	11	3	Nepal	849	47	Zambia	149	14
People's Rep of China	32	0	Netherlands	17	4	Zimbabwe	52	31
Colombia	22	3	Niger	132	25			
Côte d'Ivoire	148	19	Nigeria	460	79			
Croatia	7	3	Norway	17	13			
D.R.Congo	12	2	Pakistan	531	27			
Djibouti	50	6	Palau	0	1			
Egypt	431	0	Philippines	77	11			
El Salvador	10	1	Poland	3	0			
Ethiopia	34	1	Romania	34	3			
Fiji	35	8	Russian Federation	26	2			
Finland	2	0	Rwanda	285	153			
France	50	2	Samoa	4	4			
Gambia	85	14	Senegal	720	27			
Germany	14	1	Serbia	12	1			
Ghana	223	34	Sierra Leone	65	79			
Guinea	42	13	Singapore	1	1			
Hungary	1	0	South Africa	6	7			
India	891	115	Spain	7	1			

BECOME OUR FRIEND ON FACEBOOK!

Did you know the UN Police has a dedicated Facebook page for the Global Effort? Here are just a couple photographs that our UNPOL friends have sent in to us from our missions around the world.



UN Photo/Regie Real



UN Photo/Banu Albayrak



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STANDING POLICE CAPACITY

service-oriented, value-added, flexible

40 STAFF MEMBERS 

Information,
Communications & Technology

Police Reform

Legal

Public Order

Human Resources &
Personnel Management

Transnational Crime

Gender

Planning

Community-oriented
Policing

Budget &
Fund Management

Logistics

Police Analysis

Detention

Investigations



Training

26 NATIONALITIES



24 deployed to
**COUNTRY
MISSIONS**

over **6** years

currently working in

Abyei • Afghanistan • Chad • Haiti • Liberia • Libya • Mali



United Nations
Peacekeeping
un.org/peacekeeping

The Standing Police Capacity (SPC) is the rapidly deployable arm of the Police Division.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LASTING IMPACT

More information about the United Nations Police and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations can be found through the following sites:

Police Division:

www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/sites/police

UN Global Effort:

www.facebook.com/United-Nations-Police-Division-Female-Global-Effort

Department of Peacekeeping Operations:

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