

MINURSO IN FOCUS

MINURSO

BUDGET RESTRAINTS

Along with other Peacekeeping missions MINURSO has had its budget reduced for the coming financial year. In order to meet the shortfall the mission will no longer seek a third helicopter and reduce the replacement program for other equipment such as Communications and IT. You may also notice that there will be delays in the recruitment of staff in order to meet the larger vacancy rate the mission is required to maintain.



TEAM SITE VISITS

MINURSO Section Chiefs visited both SMARA and TIFARITI Team Site during June. The visit was an opportunity for the Section Chiefs to see firsthand the Team Sites operation and be

briefed by the Team Site Commanders on their operation and for local Mission Support issues to be highlighted. During the visit the Mission Support Section Chiefs held one of their reg-

ular meetings. This visit was part of the CMS program to ensure mission personnel needs are addressed at the spot and not from the Headquarters only.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

MINURSO marked World Environment Day, 5 June, with an inaugural Green Week hosted by our former Environmental Officer Ms. Marissa BERTRAM.

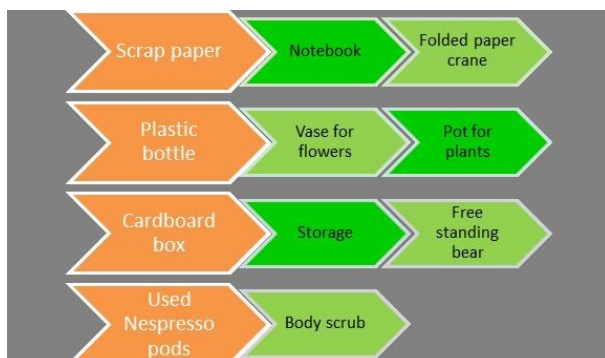
During this week staff were reminded how each of us can take steps to improve the environment from recycling to more efficient power usage.

TEAM SITE ENHANCEMENT

During June new Helipads were installed at Team Site AWSARD and at Team Site MAHBAS as part of an ongoing plan to improve aviation safety. A new water bore at Team Site BIR LAHLOU has been commissioned as well as a new CCTV system for security.

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MINURSO IN FOCUS

INTERVIEW WITH MINURSO FORCE COMMANDER MAJ GEN WANG XIAOJUN (CHINA)

Q. Dear General, many thanks to be the first in the 'MINURSO Focus'. Would you say something about yourself? Your youth age, the choice to join the PLA, your family, your place of birth. Many of us know only the figure of the Force commander, but we don't know the man.

A. First of all, I'd like to thank MINURSO magazine for letting me share some words with the readers. As you all know I'm Major General Xiaojun WANG from People's Republic of China, and honoured and proudly appointed as Force Commander in MINURSO by UN since 18th February 2017. I was born on 3rd December 1959 in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, east part of China, I'm 58 years old. When I think back to my youth days, it wasn't like other normal youth days because I joined the army on 1st December 1976 when I was just 17 years old, so most of my youth days I spent were in military service. Though Military service is compulsory by law in my country, it was my own will and interest to continue this service. Talking about my personal life I'm happily married with 2 children.

Q. Sir, how it is different lead a multinational operation, with unarmed Commissioned Officers from 37 countries, to command a Chinese formed unit?

A. Though in MINURSO we have Commissioned Officers from different countries with diverse cultures and back

grounds but military is military either from China or any other country. They are disciplined and professionals so I didn't find any difference on this regards.

Q. Sir, Chinese military observer serve in MINURSO since the beginning of the Mission, in 1991. You are the second Chinese Force Commander of the Mission and the third General Officer into leading a peacekeeping mission. What represent for the PLA and for China the participation to the UN peacekeeping?

A. It's an honor and pride for Chinese army and for China to serve in UN Peacekeeping. In other side it's an opportunity for individual to contribute to maintain peace and stability in the mission area.

Q. Sir, China is one of the permanent member state of the UN Security Council and your country play an ever more important role in the global affairs, from peacekeeping to the development, from environment to mediation. Can you tell something to us about the commitment of China in those aspects?

A. China is committed for the global affairs not because as permanent member of UN Standing Security Council, but also because we Chinese people cherish peace from our long time struggling exercises in the past, so it is definitely our responsibility to help and cooperate with other countries to maintain world peace and security.



MAJ GEN WANG XIAJUN (CHINA)

Q. Sir, thanking for you availability, I would like to close this interview with another personal note about you. What would you like to say to the MINURSO staff?

A. The first UN Military Observer moved into Western Sahara in September 1991, nearly 26 years ago. Our work to maintain the ceasefire was important then and it is just as important now. It is definitely not going to be easy. There could also be more tension here on the ground and there could be spoilers.

I do believe that we have succeeded in our joint civilian-military efforts to strengthen MINURSO operations and we have gained more respect for MINURSO and the UN. But we should not stop here. There is still a lot to do, and I will appeal to everyone to

work together to further strengthen MINURSO operations in all aspects, military and civilian.

We also need to continue our efforts towards further gaining the respect of the parties involving and the local population for UN, MINURSO and our staff through the way we behave and conduct ourselves during working hours and in our free time. We should all continue to strive to be true ambassadors of the UN and our respective nations.

Dear General, many thanks

SWEDEN AND UN PEACEKEEPING



*DFC BRIG GEN
MATS STROM
(SWEDEN)*

The month of July saw the arrival of the new Deputy Force Commander, the Brig. – Gen. Mats STRÖM, from Royal Swedish Army. With him, another TCC join MINURSO family.

Sweden has a long tradition of participating in stabilization operations. This started with an interposition force between Denmark and Prussia in 1848, followed by the participation to a League of Nations-led operation in the Saar region (Germany) in 1934. The massive development of the Swedish armed forces and police contribution began with the establishment of the United Nations.

More than 90.000 Swedish women and men, military and

police personnel have taken part in UN peacekeeping to date. From the very first group of Swedish military observers, who participated in the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in 1948, to Sweden's current engagement in the UN stabilization mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Sweden's commitment has remained firm.

But the contribution of Sweden to the global peace is configured also to the truce monitoring mission in Korea (NNSC) and the participation to the NATO and EU-led operations in the Balkans and Africa.

Over the years, leading Swedish politicians and diplomats, including Olof PALME, Carl

BILDT, Jan ELIASSON, Hans BLIX, Alva MYRDAL and Folke BERNADOTTE have contributed to UN efforts for peace and disarmament. As, of course, did Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1953 until 1961.

Sweden will continue to advocate for a comprehensive approach to conflict resolution in the quest for lasting peace. To the General Ström, the Major Magnusson and to the other Swedish comrades which will follow, the best wishes.

CURRICULUM VITAE BRIGADIER-GENERAL MATS STRÖM

Brigadier-General Mats STRÖM has embraced the whole spectrum of operational and support roles. He has served in both a national and international environment, including in the key Command and Staff positions of ACOS CJ3 in the EU OHQ operation in RDC (2006), Commander of the 9th Mechanized Brigade (2003-2005), Deputy Brigade Commander within KFOR Multinational Brigade 'Centre' (2004), and as the coordinator of the Swedish troop contribution in UNPROFOR (1993-1994). He started the military career 1974 and in the beginning of the profession he served in numerous positions in the 26th Armored Brigade; such as mechanized infantry platoon- and company OC and finally 1990 as deputy ar-

mored battalion commander. The career as armored officer completed (2003- 2005) as Brigade Commander at the 9th Armored Brigade. Between 1990 and 1992 he studied at the Advanced Military Staff College. In 1992 he was appointed to Swedish Armed Forces HQ in Stockholm and served as SO within different departments in the headquarters. 1993 he graduated as General Staff Officer. In 2007 his military logistic carrier started when he got the command over Swedish Armed Forces Combat Service Support Regiment (2008-2010) and after nearly four years of service he become commander within Swedish Armed Forces Joint Logistic Command (FMLOG). Since 1 January 2014 he has been Director of Logistic Systems De-

partment and his last position as Director of Test and Evaluation Division at Defense Forces Materiel Administration (FMV).

During his career he also has served abroad at UN-, EU- and NATO- led operations. In 1995 he attended in UNPROFOR as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Nordic Mechanized Battalion Group in BiH. And from that period BG Ström has been involved in the majority of Swedish international military peace support engagements. Most important record is: Commanding Officer, SWERAP (Swedish Rapid Reaction Force designed for CMO) (1997-1999), Deputy Battalion Commander, Swedish Battalion Task group, MNB (C), KFOR/Kosovo (1999-2000),

ACOS J3, SJFC (Swedish Joint Forces Command) (2000-2003), Swedish Senior Liaison Officer, US Central Command, Tampa, Florida (2003), DCOMD Multinational Brigade 'Centre', KFOR, Kosovo (2004), Strategic and Operations Staff, Head of Strategic Current Operations, Stockholm (2005), Assistant Chief of Staff (CJ3), EU Operational Headquarter (OHQ) in Potsdam (2006) and finally Assistant Chief of Staff Joint Effect Centre, KFOR HQ in Pristina Kosovo (2010-2011).

Brig.-Gen. STRÖM was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in 1983, Captain in 1984, Major in 1989, Lieutenant Colonel in 1998, Colonel in 2002 and Brigadier General in 2014

MINURSO IN FOCUS

OBITUARY MAJ KALIL TOURÉ (GUI)

THE SRSG CHAIRED THE MEMORIAL PARADE FOR MAJOR KALIL TOURÉ FROM GUINEA.

On 1 June 2017, the last farewell in uniform was given to Major Kalil Touré from Guinea with a memorial parade.

Major Kalil Touré arrived in MINURSO on 27 May 2016 as a peacekeeper to monitor the ceasefire. During his tour of duty as UNMO, he was initially posted to Team Site Agwanit, before joining Team

Site Oum Dreyga.

Major Touré fell very ill and was evacuated on 29 May 2017 to Laayoune, where he passed away in the morning of 31 May 2017.

The memorial parade took place at the Mission Headquarters Parade Ground. It was co-chaired by Ms. Kim Bolduc, SRSG and Head of the Mission, and Major General Wang Xiaojun, Force Commander.

After a ceremony where all his Mission colleagues paid tribute to his dedicated services to Peace, the remains of Major Touré, accompanied by one of his countrymen, travelled his last trip home to Guinea where he arrived on 2 June 2017.

Major Touré was born on 22 June 1965. For 35 years, he has served in the Guinean Air Force as an Engineer. He leaves a wife and 4 children.



Late Maj KALIL TOURÉ (GUI)

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Record-keeping and data tracking of allegations of misconduct and subsequent actions started in 2006. In July 2008, the Department of Field Support launched the Misconduct Tracking System (MTS), a global database and confidential tracking system for all allegations of misconduct involving peacekeeping personnel.

The Conduct and Discipline Unit website provides more detailed information on all these issues.

The mandate of the CD Unit:

United Nations personnel deployed in field missions represent the Organization and commit to behaving in a professional and disciplined manner at all times. This includes respecting local laws, customs and practices, treating the host country population with respect, courtesy and consideration, and acting with impartiality, integrity and respect for diversity.

United Nations personnel in

field missions pledge that they will not bring discredit upon the UN or their country of origin through improper personal conduct, failure to perform duties or abuse of authority. This includes that they will never commit any act of sexual exploitation and abuse.

UN personnel are informed and reminded through training and awareness raising campaigns of their responsibility to abide by the highest standards of professionalism, dignity and integrity. Unfortunately, there are allegations of misconduct involving peacekeeping personnel. UN rules define misconduct as failure to comply with obligations under the United Nations Charter, the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, or other relevant administrative issuances or policy documents developed for specific categories of personnel. Misconduct can also result from failure to observe the standards of conduct expected of an international civil servant. In re-

sponse, the UN and Member States ensure that all credible allegations of misconduct are investigated and that appropriate action is taken when allegations are substantiated. Authority for addressing matters of criminal or civil accountability rests with Member States, and the UN will refer such matters Documents

There are several policy documents that incorporate the UN Standards of Conduct. Some apply to all UN personnel, and others have been developed for specific categories of personnel, for example, civilian, military and police personnel.

Recently two mandatory SEA courses were put enforce to be conducted on INSPIRA.

LMS-2398 - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Personnel

The course aims to increase knowledge of UN policies on sexual exploitation and abuse, including prohibited behavior and the consequences and impact of sexual misconduct on personnel, field operations and host populations (LMS-2398)

LMS-2399 - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Personnel: Managers and Commanders

The course aims to increase knowledge of managers and commanders of UN policies on sexual exploitation and abuse, including prohibited behavior and the consequences of sexual misconduct on personnel, field operations and host populations (LMS-2399)



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SGB/2003/13)

Zero Tolerance Policy, means NO impunity and complacency toward sexual exploitation and abuse.

Active measures are in place to revise awareness and being taken to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse

Appropriate disciplinary action is taken against all persons who are found to have violated the UN standards of conduct

The UN prohibits:

*Sex with anyone under 18 years of age;
Exchanging money or goods or employment for sex;
Sex with prostitutes*

The UN strongly discourages sexual relations with Nationals

Managers at all levels have an obligation to create and maintain an environment that promotes good conduct and prevents sexual exploitation and abuse .

MINURSO CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

MANDATE:

Act as the Mission Focal Point in all conduct and discipline matters, including sexual exploitation and abuse

Provide policy guidance and technical advice to the Mission on issues relating to conduct and discipline

Assist the Mission in developing strategies to prevent, identify and respond effectively to misconduct.

Ensure that DPKO policies, procedure or guideline on addressing misconduct are adequately disseminated to the personnel in the mission

Receive complaints/reports of misconduct and refer to the HoM or OIOS.

Establish and maintain a comprehensive database of all misconduct cases

Liaise with the Integrated Mission Training Center (IMTC) to ensure that all categories of Mission staff receive appropriate training in UN Standards of Conduct.

CATEGORIES OF MISCONDUCT

Category (1):

- Sexual exploitation and Abuse,
- Serious or complex fraud
- Other serious criminal act or activity
- Abuse of authority or staff
- Conflict of interest
- Gross mismanagement
- Waste of substantial resources
- All cases involving risk of

life of staff or to others, including witnesses

- Substantial violation of UN regulation, rules or administrative issuances

Category (2):

- Sexual harassment
- Personnel matters
- Traffic-related inquiries
- Minor thefts
- Contract disputes
- Office management disputes
- Basic misuse of equipment or staff
- Basic mismanagement issues
- Simple entitlement fraud
- Infractions of the Staff Regulations, Staff Rules or Administrative Instructions.

EXAMPLES OF MISCONDUCT

Staff members should be reminded that the following actions constitute misconduct:

- Transport of non-UN persons in UN vehicle without authorization, reckless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs
- Drinking in UN premises on duty
- Misuse of UN vehicles and other UN equipment for illegal and unauthorized activities
- Abusive and disrespectful language or physical assault
- Sexual harassment or any physical threat to staff and beneficiaries

- Disrespect for gender equality, cultural diversity, customs, religion and beliefs of colleagues, in particular, nationals.

- Abuse of power and retaliation against staff members for reporting misconduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT - MINURSO

1. Maintain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse.
2. Respect the laws, cultures and traditions of the host country
3. Treat all people equally regardless of class, sex, Religion or origin
4. Respect the environment, flora and fauna of the host country
5. Discharge UN duties without seeking or accepting personal benefits
6. Properly care and account for UN property, funds, vehicles and assets
7. Exercise utmost discretion in handling confidential information
8. Avoid abuse of alcohol during working hours, trafficking or use of drug, do not drink and drive
9. Respect diversity and human rights – avoid abusing power and authority
10. Represent the highest standards of professional integrity and good conduct.

MINURSO IN FOCUS

BROTHERS IN ARMS—UNTSO

The UN has been concerned with the situation in the Middle East from its earliest years. It is an issue which has claimed a great deal of the Organization's time and attention.

The first peacekeeping operation, an unarmed observer mission, was created in the Middle East in 1948.

In November 1947, the UN General Assembly endorsed a plan for the partition of Palestine, providing for the creation of an Arab State and a Jewish State, with Jerusalem to be placed under international status. The plan was not accepted by the Palestinian Arabs and Arab States. On 14 May 1948, the United Kingdom relinquished its mandate (established in 1922 by the League of Nations) over Palestine and the State of Israel was proclaimed. On the following day, the Palestinian Arabs, assisted by Arab States, opened hostilities against Israel.

On 29 May 1948, the UN Security Council Resolution 50 (1948), called for a cessation of hostilities in Palestine and decided that the truce should be supervised by the

UN Mediator (the Swedish General Count Folke Bernadotte), with the assistance of a group of military observers. The first group of military observers, which has become known as the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), arrived in the region in June 1948. In August 1949, the Security Council, by its resolution 73 (1949) assigned new functions to UNTSO in line with four Armistice Agreements between Israel and the four neighbouring Arab countries – Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. UNTSO's activities thus were spread over the territory within five States in the region.

Following the wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973, the functions of the UNTSO military observers have changed from time to time in light of changing circumstances, but they remained in the area, acting as go-betweens for the hostile parties and as the means by which isolated incidents could be contained and prevented from escalating into major conflicts.

Over the years, UNTSO military observers have remained in the Middle East to monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, prevent isolated incidents from escalating and assist other UN peacekeeping operations in the region, like UNEF I, UNEFII, UNDOF, UNIFIL.

Further, UNTSO personnel have also been available at short notice to form the nucleus of some other peacekeeping operations worldwide (e.g. between Iran and Iraq). The availability of UNTSO's military observers for almost immediate deployment after the Security Council had acted to create a new operation has been an enormous contributory factor to the success of those operations. UNTSO military observers are today attached to the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Further, UNTSO maintains its HQ in Jerusalem, with liaison offices in Beirut (Lebanon), Damascus (Syria) and Ismailia (Egypt).

*UNTSO
The first
peacekeeping
operation, an
unarmed observer
mission, was created
in the Middle East
in 1948,*



UNTSO patrol in the '50s



Governor House, Jerusalem, the HQ of UNTSO

MINURSO PARADES



20 FEB 2017

Welcome Parade for new Force Commander Maj Gen WANG (CHN) in MHQ

29 MAY 2017

International Peacekeepers Day Ceremony and Medal Parade in MHQ

15 MAR 2017

Moment of Silence (Syria) in MHQ

01 JUNE 2017

Memorial Parade for Maj. Kalil Toure (Guinea) in MHQ

MINURSO TRAININGS

22 FEB 2017

Geospatial Information System Training in MHQ

14 JUN 2017

G-6 (Signals and Communication) Officer Training in MHQ

17 MAR 2017

Air Terminal Officer Training in MHQ

28 JUN 2017

FSS Training for G-1 (Personnel) Officer in MHQ

20 – 21 MAR 2017

Food Officer Training in MHQ

26 JUL 2017

Air Terminal Officer (ATO) Training in MHQ

09 – 11 MAY 2017

G-2 (Information) Officer Training in MHQ

09 – 10 AUG 2017

Food Officer Training in MHQ

22 – 24 MAY 2017

G-4 (Logistic) Officer Training in MHQ

16 AUG 2017

G-3 (Operations) Officer Training in MHQ



MEDICAL TRAININGS

19 MAR 2017

Medical Training in MHQ

23 MAR 2017

Medical Training in MHQ

17 APR 2017

Medical Training in MHQ

26 APR 2017

Medical Training in MHQ

23 AUG 2017

Team Site Commanders Conference was held in MHQ

MINURSO CHANGE OF COMMAND

14 AUG 2017

Change of Command in Team Site MEHAIRES:

Outgoing TS CDR: LT COL Christian METZ (GER)

Incoming TS CDR: LT COL Tamer Ali I. BEBARS (EGY)

15 AUG 2017

Change of Command in Team Site AGWANIT:

Outgoing TS CDR: LT COL Tihomir HOZMEC (HRV)

Incoming TS CDR: LT COL Hyo Sung KIM (ROK)

07 SEP 2017

Change of Command in Team Site SMARA:

Outgoing TS CDR: LT COL Aleksei MIZIURA (RUS)

Incoming TS CDR: LT COL Mohamed Samy KHALIFA (EGY)

19 SEP 2017

Change of Command in Team Site OUM DREYGA:

Outgoing TS CDR: LT COL Janos FARKAS (HUN)

Incoming TS CDR: CDR Samsudin BIN ABDULLAH (MAL)

19 SEP 2017

Change of Command in Team Site MIJEK:

Outgoing TS CDR: WG CDR Ona Alakpa ECHOR (NIG)

Incoming TS CDR: MAJ Artem SUKHARNOV (RUS)

20 SEP 2017

Change of Command in Team Site MAHBAS:

Outgoing A/TS CDR: LT CDR Stefan SASS (GER)

Incoming TS CDR: CDR Drazen GUC (HRV)



Change of Command in TS OUM DREYGA



Change of Command in TS MAHBAS

When the first secretary-general of the United Nations (Trygve LIE, a Norwegian) handed over to his successor (Dag HAMMARSKJÖLD a Swede) he said, "Welcome to the most impossible job on this earth."



MINURSO

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TIPS

Do not overly tempt others by displaying large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry on your person.

Always inform a colleague or family member of where you are going and when you plan to be back.

Do not visibly display attractive items like mobile phones, laptops, jewelry inside parked vehicles.

Always monitor your UN e-mail Account, radio and mobile telephone for any security updates/alerts.

MINURSO MINE ACTION COORDINATION CENTRE

The Territory of Western Sahara remains heavily contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) as a result of 16 years of fighting. Explosive hazards continue to endanger the lives of vulnerable nomadic and local populations, along with the lives of UN military personnel who monitor the ceasefire.

In February 2008, UNMAS established a Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) within MINURSO. It is currently based in the MINURSO Liaison Office in Tindouf, and has a Military Liaison Officer located in the MINURSO Headquarters to liaise with the Royal Moroccan Army and to provide operational support, in particular mine action training to newcomers.

The MACC clears minefields and cluster strike areas, conducts surveys as well as road clearance and verification in support of the MINURSO mandate. As a result of road verification efforts, MINURSO military observers are now able to use over 8,555 km of roads once believed to be contaminated. The MACC has also delivered Landmine Safety Trainings to over 2,874 MINURSO military and civilian personnel.

The MACC has released over 127,600,000 sqm of hazardous areas with the destruction of over 7,750 landmines, 22670 cluster munitions and 7,930 UXO's, providing a safer environment for the delivery of the Mission mandate.

Heat Stroke

When the heat index is high, it's best to stay indoors. If you must go outdoors, take these steps to prevent heat stroke during hot weather.

PREVENTION



LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT OUTDOORS



AVOID TEA, COFFEE, SODA AND ALCOHOL



DRINK LOTS OF WATER



SCHEDULE ACTIVITIES AT A COOLER TIME OF THE DAY



SOURCE: DOH

