



**WORKSHOP ON UN PROTECTION
OF CIVILIANS TRAINING
6th IBSA JOINT WORKING
GROUP MEETING
2014**



**21 to 25 July
Itaipava - Rio de Janeiro**



**Workshop on UN Protection of Civilians Training
for 6th IBSA Joint Working Group Meeting
Rio de Janeiro, 21-25 July 2014**

1. Scope

The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center (CCOPAB) conducted a workshop on UN Protection of Civilians (POC) Training for the selected members of IBSA Forum. CCOPAB made all necessary training and administrative arrangements for the meeting held from 21 to 25 July 2014 at General Ernani Ayrosa Center (CGEA) in Itaipava, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the workshop was to update participants with different views on protection of civilians applied to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and discuss relevant topics related to training and implementation of POC mandates.

3. Background

Currently, UN Multidimensional Peacekeeping Missions possess strong protection of civilians mandates under Chapter VII that permit better coordination amongst mission components and more timely and accurate protection responses. Missions such as MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, UNAMID and UNMISS, only to mention a few, have POC as their central mandated task. Brazil proposed and India and South Africa gladly accepted POC as the main workshop theme for the forum in 2014 ensuring the relevance of the discussion for the three countries which deploy to UN POC mandated peacekeeping operations.

4. Description of main sessions

4.1. Block 1: Protection of Civilians Concepts

22 July 2014

4.1.1: Introduction to POC: DPKO Concept

At the first lecture, Col Ricardo VENDRAMIN, CCOPAB Commander presented the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' views on POC and the innovative mandate of the MONUSCO Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). At the outset, the presenter explained concepts around DPKO's Operational Concept on POC, mission POC strategy, actors and consequences in case of failure to protect civilians. The session was finalised by outlining the mandate of the FIB, its possibilities and current field successes, the use of modern technology and the imperative of intelligence-driven operations to protect civilians.

4.1.2: Humanitarian vision on DPKO-led PKO

Ms GISELLE Arcoverde, from UNESCO, lectured about the Humanitarian vision of POC. She highlighted the humanitarian perspective of what POC is and its

objectives in the context of UNPKO, showing some examples of positive interactions between humanitarian agencies and PKO, besides some challenges and dilemmas faced when interacting and coordinating with PKO in POC.

Ms. GISELLE highlighted that the civilian agencies don't have a mandate to follow, and that is the reason why they come and go when they want, different from the military personnel, who need to stay deployed during all the time of the mandate. She explained that Humanitarian Agencies have to pay attention to what the population needs, and not to what the agencies can give, that is the reason why you should listen to the population.

4.2. Block 2: Experience on POC activities

4.2.1: Indian experience on POC activities within UNPKO

Col MURUGESAN, in his presentation about the Indian perspectives of POC, emphasized some dilemmas and challenges of POC, including mobility, PPP concept (Presence, Posture and Profile), the Pre-deployment training, the intelligence activities, the communication between Military and Civilians and the civil-military relations. He highlighted the Standard Combat Deployment, which is a resource when the Force Commander wants to deploy his troops in their higher capabilities, depending on the level of security. He also said one of biggest challenges in DRC is that each soldier is responsible to patrol 15 km² each day. The only way to do it is having great mobility. Among this, the military troops need to have presence, posture and profile. In his opinion, another important point is communications. Not only the radio transmission, but the way we talk to the community about their problems and how we can help them.

4.2.2: South African experience on POC activities within UNPKO

Col NOMPETSHENI, head of the South African delegation, explained the South African experience on POC activities within UNPKO.

During his presentation he mentioned the importance of a POC advisor in a UN Mission. In countries where the government of the host nation is not well disposed towards the UN presence this also makes the life of the peacekeepers very difficult.

4.2.3: Brazilian experience on POC activities within UNPKO

Lt Col NEGREIROS, of the Brazilian Delegation, presented how to do POC in an environment with poverty and likely to suffer from natural disasters, such as Haiti. His aims were to show why POC is important for MINUSTAH and to present to the audience the main Brazilian POC related activities in MINUSTAH.

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4.2.4: Child protection and cultural sensitivities in POC missions

Lt Col AJAY, of the Indian delegation, presented the subject Child protection and cultural sensitivities in POC missions. He presented the UN Child Protection Modules (the impact of armed conflict on children, the frameworks for child protection

as they apply to military peacekeepers, the interaction with children, the coordination within the mission and with external child protection actors, the military roles and tasks on child protection. He emphasized the cultural aspects in child protection.

4.3. Block 3: Requirements and working group discussion on support to POC

Subject 1: Intelligence, information sharing and mobility in support to POC

Lt Col MPEKA, of the South African delegation, presented Subject 1 – Intelligence, information sharing and mobility in support to POC. During his presentation, he highlighted the many ways to obtain information in a POC environment, including use of radars, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and the dialogue between the UN agencies, the NGOs and the military personnel.

After that, there was a group discussion and each group presented their solutions to these questions:

Requirement 1. In the combined individual experience of the working group, how do you see the current field mission structures of JMAC and JOC? Is the FHQ being able to operate smoothly under the current model?

The groups said JMAC plays a vital role in information dissemination to J3, JOC etc. JMAC is formed by multidisciplinary teams and has proved its value over the years. On the other hand, information from JMAC and JOC, sometimes, doesn't flow as far as the battalion level, mainly the intelligence pertaining to the political situation. As a suggestion, personnel from major TCCs/PCCs should have representations in JMAC/JOC.

Requirement 2. Are intelligence means brought by TCCs and made available by field missions sufficient to conduct opportune collection, analysis and sharing of information for POC purposes?

During the discussions, the groups said The MOU signed between the UN and TCCs does not cater for any equipment that is meant for intelligence collection, being insufficient for POC purpose. PKO relies heavily on observation of events through Military Observers and force elements, including mobile units, observation posts, airborne recce and broad spectrum of surveillance devices, but currently it is not enough. TCCs have only the capability to share information and the dissemination of information is hindered by language barrier.

Requirement 3. How are infantry battalions and other units handling information sharing with non-mission partners such as UN agencies and NGOs?

The groups said the units collect information through various means (local leaders, communities etc) but does not share it with others, due to their posture and compromising the mission. It is easier to share information between the UN agencies and local leaderships.

Requirement 4. How do you see the increasing inclusion of modern technology (radars, UAVs etc)? Are there limitations on their employment in peacekeeping?

The groups said the Brahimi report states that info tech is a key enabler of many of the objectives, but gaps in strategy, policy and practice impede its effective use. High tech intelligence collection methods attract considerable attention and do not capture local attitudes, emotions and identities. They need to be corroborated with human intelligence.

UAVs in tropical rain forests are ineffective – they are only useful where there is no vegetation. On the borders, they violate the privacy of other countries bordering the host nation.

Requirement 5. Mobility is essential to protect civilians. What are your considerations regarding the employment of helicopters in POC military interventions?

According to the groups, appropriate training is necessary not only to the troops, but also to the civilians. Employment of helicopters is critical but some considerations must be taken into account, for example, terrain, availability and serviceability, level of risk, strategic lift and urgency of the task.

UN should think of inter mission use of air assets, Case in point is UNMISS did not have the air assets when it wanted. Could have moved from MONUSCO and vice versa.

Requirement 6. What are your views on land mobility concerning the operational environment and the standard UN infantry battalions?

The groups discussed and they said that land mobility is limited by the terrain and the environmental conditions. The infantry battalions must respond to the force requirements of the mission. Land mobility is only for light vehicles and not heavy ones. In fact, in the entire DRC and South Sudan, there is hardly any paved street.

As part of capacity building, the UN could think of making roads connecting important communication centers. During the discussion, Maj SEREJO said there is a problem to build roads using QIP because it's too expensive for the troops and there are other branches inside the UN which can have more money to do it.

4.4. Block 4: Pre-deployment training on POC

4.4.1: South African Pre-deployment training on POC

During the presentation of Col BOER, of the South African delegation, she mentioned the importance to prepare the military personnel in Language training, gender awareness, and mainly, to keep the esprit de corps in the troops.

South Africans have 6 months prior to deployment, pre-deployment training in all aspects commences. Service and divisions commence with their combat readiness training at their respective training facilities. This phase is known as Force preparation, and 1 month prior to deployment, they have mission readiness training at the mobilization centre in Bloemfontein.

Indian Pre-deployment training on POC

Col MURUGESAN explained the importance of POC in his country and in the Indian Armed Forces. The process starts in a nomination based on experience and units. After that, a previous formation based on training SOP commences. In a third step, the contingents concentrate in Delhi three to four months prior to the mission to have an

oriented pre induction training and, finally, there is an in-mission training, at subunit level in the mission area, coordinated by Force/Sect HQ. He said the military personnel should not be ashamed to use force because it's our task on the ground.

Brazil Pre-deployment training on POC

Lt Col NEGREIROS explained the Brazilian how pre deployment training works. The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center uses the methodology of Training of trainers. In case of the military contingents, the Center receives the officers, present them the main activities that they will face in the terrain, and after that, the officers go back to their units and transmit the information to their subordinates.

In individual missions, E learning is used. Then, there is a 4-week course at CCOPAB in an integrated course (staff, police and military observer).

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4.5 Block 5: Requirements and working group discussion on Training and Evaluation

In-Mission Training and Performance Evaluation

Lt Col GRINEBERG, Brazilian Peace Operation Joint Training Center's Deputy Commander, presented Subject 2 = In-mission training and performance evaluation. During his presentation, the aims were bring out the individual and national experiences on in-mission training and performance evaluation and analyze how national assessment systems and structures correct, reinforce and correct training and performance in UN PKOs.

After that, there was a group discussion and each group presented their solutions to these questions:

Requirement 1. How field missions should verify if individually deployed personnel and units received pre-deployment training and are fit to perform as required?

The groups said TCC is responsible for the evaluations and can certify that individuals are combat ready and competent to execute their tasks within their area of responsibilities, and refresher training is conducted during the mission on specific needs. The UN evaluation team or the Operational Readiness Inspection Team should measure performance throughout and report to TCC.

Requirement 2. What would be efficient mechanisms nationally established to assess performance in the field?

According to the group, TCC sends assessment documents to the direct chief to evaluate the performance in the field. Then, gaps are identified and necessary steps taken. After that, travel evaluation/verification teams to measure performance and verify the routine, stress, distance, relationship in the Unit, for example. That is the reason why many countries, including Brazil and India, will pay for this rotation. As a suggestion, UN should pay for the 6 month- rotation, if they want to have better troops deployed.

5. Conclusion

The UN Protection of Civilians Training for 6th IBSA Joint Working Group Meeting was a great opportunity to talk about POC. According to the survey carried out in the end of the activities, 90% of the participants answered that their expectations were met.

After 03 day of lectures and presentations, many topics regarding POC were discussed and the delegations from India, Brazil and South African agreed on the following:

- Mobile Training Teams are useful in pre-deployment activities as a tool to share experiences and to impart knowledge to the military troops. It can be a solution for some countries without either PK Centers or structures to prepare their contingents.
- The UN does not have a real capability to evaluate the Military contingents deployed in the missions. The personnel from Operational Readiness Inspection Team and the UNCT do not have sufficient time or human resources to evaluate the contingents. The TCC could be the best one to deal with this activity.
- The participants do not think the one-year rotation will bring good results for the UN missions. The troop performance can decrease due to many aspects and the countries will need to pay for the six-month rotation. The cost of this rotation can be a problem for some countries to deploy their contingents in other continents. The UN should keep paying for this rotation.

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