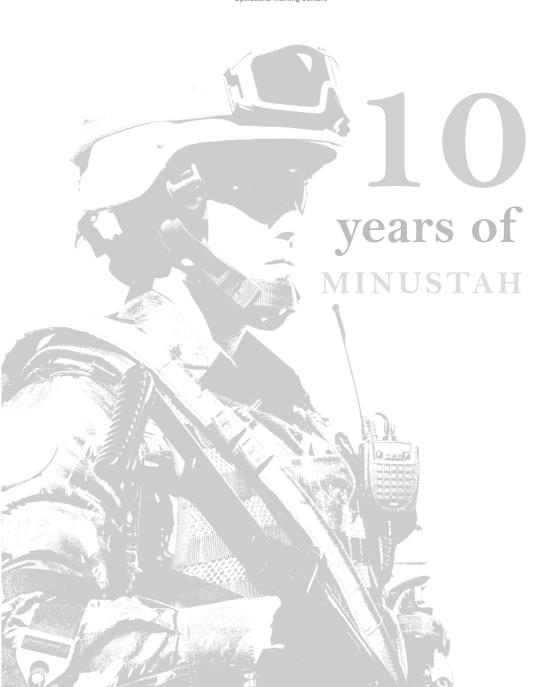


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# INTRODUCTION

United Nations for Stabilization Mission Haiti (MINUSTAH) was created in 2004, through Resolution 1532 of the UN Security Council. This attitude was necessary since the internal facts in Haiti put peace and security in the region at risk. MINUSTAH had the approval of Haitian authorities. The Resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Chapter VII authorizes the use of lethal force in situations of self-defense and defense of others, showing the necessity to comply with the UN Mandate. They are known as Robust Peace Operations, which are also multidimensional, since they are composed of military, police and civilian components and other civilian agencies of different sources which operate in an integrated manner. This evolution was necessary due to the UN experiences that failed, such as Rwanda, Yugoslavia and Somalia genocides. This evolution is still here and the present mission of the UN in Congo (MONUSCO) is an example. The main theoretical references for these changes are Brahimi Report (2000), Capstone Doctrine (2008) and New Horizon Report (2009). The Brahimi Report responded to a demand of change created by the genocides previously mentioned. The Capstone Doctrine consolidated, doctrinally, the conclusions obtained by the Brahimi Report. And the New Horizon Report updated the Brahimi Report, emphasizing protection of civilians more intensely. The present mission

of MONUSCO already acts under this new perspective. That is, both the Mandate and the assets at the disposal of Brazilian General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, Force Commander, who is the Commander of the military component of the mission, offer unprecedented resources to accomplish the mission. Including, in this context, the use of lethal force.

Before MINUSTAH, the UN deployed in Haiti the Multinational Interim Force (MIF), from March to June of 2004. The happenings that contextualized this operation go back to the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2000, when President Aristide and his party claimed victory despite only 10% of the voters appeared to vote. The opposition and the international community imputed the results and denounced the Haitian government for manipulating the election. The opposition started being repressed by the Haitian National Police and illegal armed groups. By the end of 2003, a new movement united the opposition and claimed for the president's resignation. In the beginning of 2004, an armed conflict, in which former members of the Haitian Armed Forced played the main role, was triggered in Gonaïves and, in the following days, the rebellion spread into other cities. The movement of the armed opposition threatened to advance over the Haitian capital and, on February 29, Mr. Aristides fled the country. The President of the Supreme Court, according to the constitutional prerogatives, was appointed acting president. At the night of February 29, the permanent representative of Haiti in the United Nations submitted the request for international aid by the acting president, which included the authorization to let military troops enter the country. According to the request, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1529 (2004). A Multinational Interim Force (MIF), composed of North American, Canadian, Chilean and French troops, authorized by the Resolution, immediately started its deployment in Haiti. On April

30, 2014, the SC adopted Resolution 1542 (2004), creating MINUSTAH under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

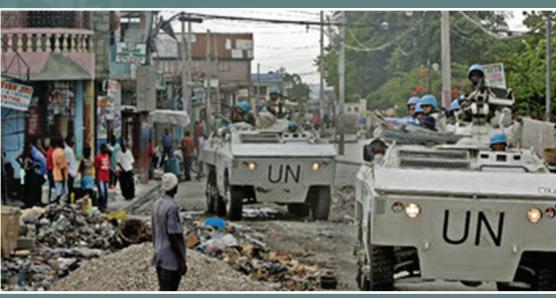
The initial military structure of MINUSTAH was composed of the so-called "Haiti Brigade". In 2005, this structure was reduced and Haiti Brigade would be extinct. This reduction happened mainly because neither the arrival of troops from other countries that would be part of the Brigade nor the necessity of a more agile chain of command happened.

We could divide MINUSTAH into phases for a better understanding and analysis: initial phase and the implementation of the Mandate, stabilization phase and police-like operations, earthquake phase and its consequences and the present phase of the mission. Hereafter, these phases will be addressed in details.

I Interview with Lieutenant Colonel Luis Fabiano Mafra Negreiros, Operations Officer of the 1st Contingent of the Army Infantry Battalion. CCOPAB, Vila Militar, 06/05/2014.







Patrol Operation (2004) - Photo credits: ONU/Sophia Paris



### I. PRE-DEPLOYMENT LESSONS LEARNED

Argentinian Peace Operations Joint Training Center

# **ARGENTINA**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The traditional concepts and tools of Defense and security were redefined to face new challenges that the post cold war world presented to the international community.

One of the first lessons learned about the deployment of Argentinian troops in Peace Operations was the decision to take on a greater commitment with the United Nations by creating, in 1995, a school which would guarantee the preparation of an agreement with the high level of demand that the accomplishment of new and different mission demanded.

Since 1958 our country has taken part in peace missions in different parts of the world. During these years, the Republic of Argentina engaged more than 35 thousand members of its armed and security forces<sup>1</sup>.

Since 1994, we have had the presence of women in the Armed Forces in different Peace Operations. The present Defense policy is based in the firm determination to promote the effective implementation of gender perspective in peace operations, in line with Resolution 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Security Council<sup>2</sup>.

Source Webpage from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Argentina

<sup>2</sup> Source Webpage from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Argentina

The Center's training is directed towards taking advantage of operational knowledge of the units to be deployed and through standardized training and the material provided by the United Nations so we can accomplish the strategic objective to build the capacity of the personnel to be deployed to efficiently contribute to the implementation of the mandate in the mission area. Therefore, the training is the objective of the Center. According to the type of mission in which the personnel will take part, the courses to be given are of individual or collective training.

The curricula of CAECOPAZ follow the training guidance that the United Nations establishes. Moreover, all their instructors, who have more experience in developing Peace Operations, are chosen among those of the Armed Forces.

The Center has in its group instructors from other countries. The courses are given in Spanish, English and French. Moreover, it has a mobile team to assist training. This team is capable of developing their functions in English to promote capacity-building in any country that demands its support.

The training system receives feedback from the analysis of lessons learned and promotion of best practices. These are identified and documented, and they vary and are not necessarily comparable or the "best". They are constantly updated through the study of different reports and as new lessons come up and provide new data, they are used to outline new training programs. Identify lessons learned is an essential result of the assessments, as well as other initiatives that present assessment and reflection aspects.

They definitely contribute in an essential manner to good practices, which is usually a concise manner of presenting information based on identified knowledge.

# 2. ARGENTINIAN DEPLOYMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED OF ITS TRAINING

Basically, Argentina has deployed nowadays two Infantry Battalions, two Air Units, a Field Hospital and individuals deployed (Military Observers and Staff Members). The oldest operative Battalion is the one in Cyprus.

The Argentinian contingents deployed in peace operations (Haiti and Cyprus) are either joint (components of the three Armed Forces) or combined, such as the case of UNFICYP in Cyprus (Brazil, Chile and Paraguay).

When they get to CAECOPAZ, they integrate to provide combined and joint training under the highest levels of excellence demanded by the United Nations.

The pre-deployment training process has 5 phases: Unit Phase; Staff and Leaders Course; Intermediary Meeting Zone; Final Meeting Zone and deployment phase.

**Phase I - Unit**: Three forces are enabled in a unified manner in which the conceptual aspects of PKO are studied, as well as the operational preparation.

Phase II – Staff and Leaders: It takes place 4 months prior to deployment at CAECOPAZ. There is the presentation of CPTM; STM and specific modules of the mission. The lessons learned of the specific functions who will work as Staff and leaders at the different levels, together with the different specialists are imparted. Another aspect to be developed during this phase is the assessment of English to check if the necessary demands when using this language are in line with the demand of each

function and if they have been met. It is a very rich step since it counts on the possibility of enabling and unifying criteria in relation to the specific function of each function, in a different operational environment as are the peace operations.

In this phase, the United Nations bibliography, videoconferences with the counterparts in the mission are used and the specific United Nations resolutions of the mission are studied.

Phase III - Intermediary Meeting Zone: Staff members and leaders, previously trained at CAECOPAZ, train their personnel during this phase. Besides CAECOPAZ's mobile training team, it deploys to different zones in which there are formed units to unify the language and promote the training and the specific capacity of the mission in an initial approach.

It is fruitful that the personnel to be deployed have previously taken the Training of Trainers Course which is openly offered at CAECOPAZ, so that later they can train their personnel in specific subjects of Peace Operations.

**Phase IV - Final Meeting Zone:** The whole force to be deployed is again at CAECOPAZ. This phase is organized as follows:

- Part 1. Some vital lessons for the specific knowledge of future peacekeepers are reinforced.
  - Part 2. Logistic and administrative part. (4 days)
- Part 3. Integration, joint training and exercises (7 days). This training and capacity-building step is directed, specially, to unify acquired criteria at other moments (mobile teams; previous experience; joint

doctrines etc.). Another important aspect is the final integration of the personnel to be deployed.

# Part 4. Assessment.

In Part 1, subjects on Women, Peace and Security; protection of children; code of conduct, Rules of Engagement and the ones considered necessary to be reinforce are seen again.

In Part 2 (administration and logistics), we provide the personnel the necessary material demanded to accomplish the mission, as well as concluding passport procedures and health aspect demanded for the mission area. This phase takes advantage of the final meeting zone (CAECOPAZ) since the personnel is ready and gathered to be deployed.

In Part 3, for integration, joint training and final exercise, all the components meet as a group and prepare to receive the general training of the United Nations which concentrates basically the standardized material by ITS for the pre-deployment training, adding necessary operative techniques to carry out tasks in the mission area (Core pre deployment Training material (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM)). That is completed by exercises, simulations and role players.

Part 4 is the one which has assessment, *pista de comprobación* (station tests); written exams etc.

**Phase V - Deployment:** This phase includes visits to the mission area; videoconferences; advisory circuit and lessons learned, future deployment; report analysis.

From the previous training planning, the following reflections can be taken out:

- a. The instruction and training activity carried out in the intermediary phase (before they get to the Center for the pre-deployment training) helps the operational integration of the fractions.
- b. It is convenient to do this step with the whole Battalion, with a well-extended schedule so it enables integration.
- c. It was extremely productive, during this period or much before, if possible, a fluid contact by the different available means between the commanders of subunits/staff who go in and out to facilitate coordination and necessities which come up; therefore, having enough time to impart necessary information to better carry out the rotation process.
- d. It is fundamental that CPTM is previously given in the instruction and training activities of the subunits. This will enable future and integral understanding of the mission in which the contingent will be deployed.
- e. On its turn, the acquired knowledge must be periodically revalidated through practices and written assessments.
- f. In its turn, all these topics are evaluated by the Assessment Cell of CAECOPAZ, making this practice essential.
- g. Other important instructions that have to be known by the personnel are the ones that refer to basic aspects of individual combatant and patrols such as basic characteristics and the operation of systems of communications used, use and programming GPS, land navigation with compass and GPS, operations order, operations

- with helicopters, first aid, combat signs etc, as well as everything that refers to security against accidents.
- h. A recommended practice related to gender is to have specific meetings with the Battalion's S1 before deploying (which is also the Gender Focal Point) together with his assistants and legal advisor. Classes are reinforced and activities and tasks are established so they can develop to incorporate a correct gender perspective in the mission; thus, accomplishing Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council.
- i. Special attention must be given to training on Humanitarian Assistance and natural disasters, considering the mission conditions. Food distribution must be planned as a military operation, and there must be a previous reconnaissance of the area. It is important to coordinate which type of food shall be distributed, which type of fraction there will be (bags of 25/50 kg or ready combat meals for consumption), and also know the NGOs responsible for humanitarian aid.
- j. It is convenient to include on the first rotation flight Comm Section Chief, Section Chiefs, Comm and TI Chief in Port-au-Prince, Landline Center Operator in Port-au-Prince, Comm and TI Chief in GONAIVES, Landline Center Chief in GONAIVES, Radio Section and Radio Operators Chief, Wiring Section Chief, Telephone Operator, Comm Section Chief in SAINT MARC.
- k. Besides CPTM basic instructions, it is very important to periodically give instruction on the Rules of Engagement (ROE), UN Code of Conduct, Procedure to open fire, gender, as well as carry out exercises in which anti-riot team train the procedures on how to

control demonstrations, and the engagement and employment of the reserve in order to prevent that regular rules are put aside due to routine.

- We have come to the conclusion that the hours separated for specific instruction on communications are not enough. The recommended practice observed advises to increase the training in this aspect, having the following considerations in mind:
  - 1. Description of the Communications System of the Mission.
  - Visit to Army Signal Battalions: to train the operation of Data Terminal, delivery of messages; operation and maintenance of fixed radio-electric equipment.
  - 3. Visit to the Transmission Plant in Campo de Mayo (B Com 602): to train installation, operation and maintenance of the satellite station.

# PHOTOS OF THE PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING IN CAECOPAZ





# II. EMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY CONTINGENTS IN THE PACIFICATION AND STABILIZATION OF HAITI

Peace Operations Training Center

PERU



In 1948, the United Nations Security Council authorized the first Ldeployment of military personnel to participate in a peacekeeping operation, sending a group of unarmed Military Observers to the Middle East in order to monitor the accomplishment of the cease-fire between Israel and its Arab neighbors, following the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). However, it was not until 1956 that the First United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was deployed. It was the first peacekeeping operation with more than 6,000 armed military personnel in the area of the Suez Canal to supervise the cease of hostilities between the Egyptian and the Israeli Forces, and in 1960, with the participation of a greater force in the United Nations Mission in Congo (ONUC), having 20,000 armed soldiers, to guarantee the withdrawal of Belgian forces and contribute to stabilize the Congolese Government. Since then, the United Nations has continuously deployed hundreds of thousands of military personnel in conflict areas in different parts of the world in which there is social and governmental instability in complex peace operations, and have among their tasks monitoring and taking care of the accomplishment of peace processes after the conflicts, guaranteeing security and protection of civilians in conflict areas, providing aid to the military personnel of the host country in terms of capacity-building and service provision, carrying out activities in coordination with the civilian component and supporting ex-combatants in the disarmament and reinsertion processes.

Nowadays, there are 16 United Nations peacekeeping operations deployed in four continents. More than 97,000 uniformed personnel between military and police personnel from several armies and national polices from 110 countries contribute day by day to the protection of civilians and stabilization of conflict zones, from different cultures and customs, but united in the promotion of peace and international security.

Concerning Haiti's situation, in July of 1994, the Security Council authorized the deployment of a peacekeeping operation to ensure the return of legitimate authorities and keep the environment in the country secure and stable, all due to a failed electoral process in February of 1990 and a resulting coup in 1991. A Multinational Force of more than 20,000 military personnel was deployed in the so called United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), thanks to which the country could live through a period of relative democracy. However, due to the continuous socio-political crisis, in February of 2004, an armed conflict burst out in Gonaïves and it spread throughout the country. On 29 of February of the same year, the Security Council authorized the deployment of a Provisional Multinational Force as a stabilization force. On April 30 of the same year, the Security Council approved Resolution 1542 which finally established the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), together with the incorporation of up to 6,700 military personnel to support the Government in establishing a secure environment and during the political processes, the reestablishment of the Rule of Law and in guaranteeing the protection of civilians.

After the devastating earthquake on January 12 of 2010, Haiti suffered a tragic backlash in the advances reached so far. Specialized military units were used in emergency and rescue operations, field hospitals to provide immediate service to the population were set up, support to the reconstruction of basic service infrastructure was given. And that was all added up to the efforts of MINUSTAH personnel to rebuild their own infrastructures and reestablish their capacity to act.

## 1. THE MILITARY COMPONENT IN HAITI

The military component of every peacekeeping mission has the main task to keep peace and security in the country or territory to which they have been deployed, showing a solid and firmly articulated presence. So that this security environment lasts as long as possible, a series of tasks must be carried out. That happens many times in coordination with the civilian component, which is a characteristic of a Multidimensional Peace Operation, such as MINUSTAH. These tasks imply taking care of social and political stability during the electoral processes, guaranteeing humanitarian aid, providing security in the activities of Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), providing logistic support, among others. This is related to the high capacity of response and rapidness in the deployment of the military component, which guarantees its presence in the Haitian territory and was the first course of action in case of a crisis situation. Therefore, during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, MINUSTAH military personnel was seen as a "fundamental part" in the reconstruction

of Haiti and in the recovery of the mission's operability, especially during the six months after this terrible catastrophe. Due to its high operational capacity, the military personnel was in charge of dividing up to 1 million kilos of food and 14 million liters of water to the population, asphalting the main roads and removing up to 16,400 cubic meters of rubble, all added up to the reconstruction work of the structures of housing and work of MINUSTAH personnel and Staff.

The military component, the same way as the police, is subordinated to a civilian authority whose maximum authority is MINUSTAH's Head of Mission. Despite the singularities of each contingent due to cultural and customary differences, MINUSTAH military component is one of the most homogeneous in relation to the internal organization, activities carried out and equipment used.

The figures of MINUSTAH's general equipment related to military and police components have varied as time goes by due to social and circumstantial conditions of the country. After the earthquake of 12 January 2010, through Resolution 1908 of 18 January and Resolution 1927 of 4 June of the United Nations Security Council, MINUSTAH's general allocation increased due to support to recuperation, reconstruction and immediate stability tasks. Therefore, the Force went from 6,940 to 8,940 military personnel and from 2,211 to 4,391 police officers.

The statistics given by the United Nations indicate that the current presence of uniformed personnel in MINUSTAH reach 7,522, among which 5,145 are military personnel and 2,377 are police officers. However, according to Resolution 2180 of 14 October 2014, the Security Council recognizes that the general situation in Haiti was kept at a relative stability, allowing the military personnel be reduced to 2,370 and that the police

component to be increased to 2,601. All of that, assuring security and stability in the country within the existing conditions, and, therefore, recognizing the importance of future decisions.

# 2. DEPLOYMENT OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT

The capital, Port-au-Prince, is where there are the highest concentration of people and the biggest social, business and industrial activities of the country. This is where the Force Headquarters is. Brazil presently gathers most of the battalions in this city, followed by a Bolivian Mechanized Infantry Battalion. There is also a combined company of Chilean and Ecuadorian Engineers, two additional engineering companies from Brazil and Paraguay, two Naval Aviation Units of Chile and Argentina and a Peruvian Infantry Company. The Argentinian Hospital which is set up here is the Health Center to provide medical assistance - level II to all MINUSTAH personnel.

To the east of the capital, in the same West Department, Sri Lanka deploys a platoon of Special Forces with an Infantry Company and an Infantry Battalion, in Brache and Léogâne, respectively, as well as a mechanized infantry company in Petit-Goâve.

In the Department of Artibonite, which is in the north central area of the country, in Gonaïves, an Argentinian Battalion composed of two companies and also an additional Argentinian platoon in Saint Marc are present. It is important to mention that this Argentinian Battalion stands out for being one of the only two combined battalions, composed of elements from more than one force. In its base, there is also a detachment of the Uruguayan Maritime Unit, with an area of responsibility over the coast of this area.

In the North Department, in Cap-Haïtien, a joint Chilean Battalion was deployed, the same way as the Argentinian, and a logistic base.

In the Northeast Department, in Morne Casse, a Uruguayan battalion, composed of an infantry company and a mechanized one, was deployed. Its task is to provide security to MINUSTAH Headquarters in Fort Liberté and to a detachment of the Uruguayan Navy. They are also responsible for carrying out night operations and controlling drug trafficking and other non legal activities at the border.

The African countries of Rwanda and Senegal are also present in MINUSTAH, deploying Formed Police Units in Jérémie and Les Cayes, respectively, both in the east of the country. Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Jordan also deploy Formed Police Units throughout the Haitian territory.

Finally, in Port Salut, there is the central base of the only Naval Unit of MINUSTAH composed of the personnel from the Uruguayan Navy.

# 3. THE MILITARY CONTINGENT IN THE STABILIZATION PROCESS AND PACIFICATION OF HAITI

The presence of the international military personnel in Haiti is one of the essential elements that contribute to the stabilization and pacification of this country, despite all of its social and economic limitations which have been there for decades and still affect its population. Within the responsibilities of the military contingents, we can mention: land, air and maritime patrolling; riot control before unrests; border control and checkpoints; support to the security of humanitarian assistance agencies

and organizations; relief, evacuation and assistance to the population in case of natural disasters or other emergencies, among other functions.

Even so, it highlights the participation of the military contingents against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), in which their continuous presence is essential to prevent such acts, especially, in the areas of responsibility of the deployed units, since they constitute a deterrence asset against derelict activities and violations of Human rights in general. In this aspect, the presence of the military contingents is also an important tool to collect information on latent threats that happen in an area, and it is transmitted to the other MINUSTAH actors involved to take the necessary decisions. Due to the nature of their functions, the capacity they have to approach the local population is also a very important factor to decrease violence actions in general, including acts of sexual violence. And, thanks to the fact of knowing well its area of responsibility, it is possible to faster identify the places mentioned and create a dialogue to get information. However, despite this active role that the military component that carries out in order to benefit the pacification of Haiti, the dispositions that rule the triggering of the military personnel establish that this is the third line of action in the intervention in the face of any case of violence, including sexual violence, in which the first line of action is the Haitian National Police (HNP) and the second, UNPOL. Once the two previous actions have failed, the active participation of the military personnel becomes imminent for the protection of civilians (especially of women and children) through the use of necessary means and inside the parameters of the use of force, Rules of Engagement and principles of the International Humanitarian Law over which the personnel receive adequate instruction before deploying.

From a gender perspective, female military personnel accomplish the fundamental role in the pacification process in Haiti, taking Resolution 1325 of the Security Council into consideration. This Resolution stimulates women is participation at all levels of a peace operation and urges their empowerment based in the inclusion of strategic echelons for decision-making and conflict solution. In terms of numbers, since the 90s, Uruguay is the country with the highest participation of women in MINUSTAH, however, in relation to the personnel deployed, Bolivia is ahead with 8.7% of women, followed by Guatemala with 8.11% (the United Nations urges that 50% of the total of the personnel deployed be reached). However, naturally, the Latin American contribution of women in peace operations depends on their enlistment of the Armed Forces in each country. In a few contingents, the role of women military personnel is limited to carrying out administrative, logistic and health activities. In countries such as Brazil, their participation is only in the medical corps and dealing with academic aspects. On the other hand, Bolivia, for example, has included among its patrols women and men alike. Finally, countries that have started to enlist women military personnel during the last years, such as Peru, contribute with humanitarian assistance activities in orphanages and villages, in coordination with the civilian component, as well as monitoring and controlling activities at checkpoints. This way, before one or other work, the presence of women military personnel has great importance on the fight against SGBV because it represents a model to be followed by local women who are not alien to the great work carried out by military women in the country. From them, come the strength and admirable capacity of being soldiers and also mothers who had the

courage and disposition to leave their families to save and defend their rights. Moreover, this fact motivates the fight against rights violations among their people.

The presence of the military component of the United Nations is fundamental to stabilize and pacify conflict areas. As detailed in previous paragraphs, the contribution of the military personnel is usually in the protection of civilians through the mechanisms of protection established in the mission mandate, the guarantee of security of the population in vulnerable zones, provision of support and capacity-building of military personnel of the country and aid to ex-combatants during disarmament and reinsertion into society. There is a close work between the local community and the military personnel of the United Nations to increase the protection of civilians and fight for a long-lasting peace.

However, Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) tasks, characteristic of Multinational Peace Operations such as MINUSTAH, as previously mentioned, bestow to the military component an additional value when called which is not limited to the security of physical safety of the local population and/or civilian component of MINUSTAH. The United Nations military personnel have been carrying out admirable humanitarian assistance actions in which they perform activities partially or fully alien to their routine activities. Such as the case of humanitarian assistance activities in the villages where the same blue helmets directly aid the population by distributing food, livestock, clothes and toys to the Haitian children. In the orphanage, the health military personnel carries out general medical assistance, in dentistry, healthy services such as hair cut, distribution of snacks. Moreover, female personnel perform shows to

# the children.

To end the present article, the stabilization and pacification process of a country struck by several factors, such as is the case of Haiti, are complex and constant and, definitely, demands daily cooperation and close coordination among civilian, military and police actors of MINUSTAH to reach focused positive results which, in its totality, have great favorable effects. The participation of military components of the United Nations on the ground guarantee vital security and stability to the civilian population through the execution of several tasks which are not only of military but also of humanitarian social nature. The inclusion of gender in peace operations also assures the effectiveness in the fight against Human Rights violations and sexual violence and, in general, constitutes the sum of necessary efforts to contribute with the development and, thus, reach a social and economic lasting stability.

# UN MEDAL PARADE





# **STABILIZATION**

**AND POLICE-LIKE OPERATIONS PHASE** 







MINUSTAH's Officer with local children - Photo: ONU/Sophia Paris



# III. TRAINING FOR POLICE-LIKE OPERATIONS

Chilean Peace Operations Joint Center



In accordance with the challenges of cooperation, changes in the International Agreement and the need to be in constant preparation, begets, in 2002, under the Supreme Decree, the creation of the Chilean Joint Center for Peace Operations "CECOPAC". It is an institute whose main mission is the preparation of civilians, military and police personnel, having prepared over 14,600 individuals to be deployed in Peace Operations.

The purpose was to contribute with the national presence to peacekeeping and international security, as per national objectives and interests; its main feature is the joint and integrated character, for it is the only institute having such characteristics worldwide.

Its mission was education, training and preparation of civilians, military and police personnel designated to take part in peace operations, as well as the study, research and advisory in such issues.

This organization, with over twelve years of experience and lessons learned, has been restructured through time until it reached national and international consolidation in Peace Operations.

# 1. POLICE INSTRUCTION

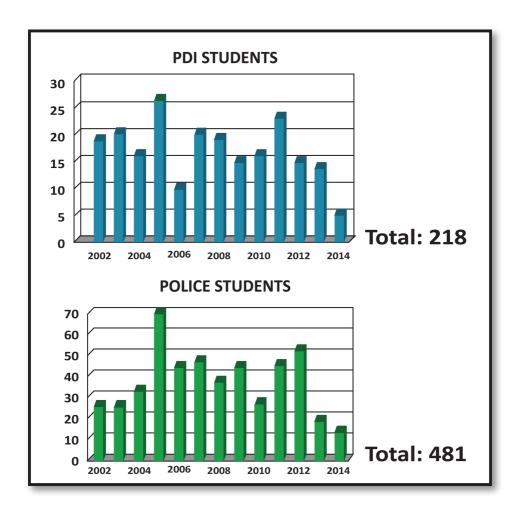
Knowing the importance of multidimensional participation in several areas of cooperation towards peace and international security, as well as the future demands in relation to the national participation, since 2002, CECOPAC has been constantly developing the course for UNPOL.

The core of the course is mainly based on the preparation of police personnel in order to have them in conditions to be designated to peace missions, nowadays focusing on Haiti.

To do so, the course delivered to national and foreign students is divided into three modules - basic, specific and advanced, allowing the students to have theoretical and practical training in order to adequately perform their duties with a high level of professionalism in the designated mission areas.

In the course, students learn about the following: introduction to the UN system, UN principles, logistic and administrative aspects of the UNPOL, checkpoint, report writing, geopolitics in the mission area, stress management, conduct and discipline, first aid, the use of the language assistant, safety and security, and others. Besides, they listen to the experience of previously deployed police personnel.

To be deployed in the mission area, students that have successfully completed the course must apply for the SAT (Selection Assessment and Assistance Team) - which includes a language test (English/French), driving skills and shooting - basic skills a UNPOL officer shall demonstrate.



Until this moment, CECOPAC has prepared more than 600 police officers who were mainly deployed in MINUSTAH; this way, having lessons learned, materialized in the constant update of the educational processes at CECOPAC.

As per its experience in police issues, CECOPAC, since 2012, has been part of the Police Committee of the Latin America Association of Peace Operations Training Centers (ALCOPAZ), having the objective of advising the President of the Association in his executive and police tasks.

Within these areas, you will find the following:

- Advisory.
- Publications referring to the new police directives.
- International police institutes vacancy management for students. (CoESPU, Italy).
- Assistance in the police preparation for the pre-certification before the UN Commission.

In accordance with this last point, it is highlighted that at the end of 2013, CECOPAC received, on 20 December, the certification for the United Nations Police Course, granted by the *Integrated Training Service* (ITS), DPKO, which expires on 21 December 2017. Undoubtedly, it made instructors and professors from the Center proud of it and it projects the course for police nationally and internationally.

#### 2. HOW FAR WE GO

Consequently, with the perception and according to the objectives established in the Strategic Plan of CECOPAC, 2014-2015, the educational role must encompass, among others, the design of courses for national and foreign police conforming to the new UN directives in the *United Nations Police on Duty for Peace*.

This way, it must be considered that the role of police is constantly evolving, being more and more significant and with a growing demand of specialized capacities to well accomplish the mandates on protecting civilians, as well as strengthening the capacities of national police, learning

how to overcome several challenges inherent to the affected area.

As the aforementioned, CECOPAC designed its courses - police issues - to strengthen three main areas:

- The support to the reform, restructure and reconstruction of the police and other organizations in charge of law enforcement.
- Operational support to the host country police and re-establishment of Law and Order.
- Provisional vigilance.

Finally, CECOPAC will be constantly updating and improving its police courses, which implies having a reserve of instructors and professors regarding the needs of police tasks.

So, the specialization of our professors and instructors by often updating methodology, doing courses, seminars and researches is vital to keep the course on the way of perfection and excellence.



# IV. THE OPERATIONAL, LOGISTIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE XIV MINUSTAH MILITARY POLICE CONTINGENT, IN DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION AND TRAINING METHODOLOGIES

Regional Command of Peacekeeping Training
GUATEMALA



#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. INUSTAH was established by the Security Council, by means of resolution 1542 of 30 April 2004 to assist the Transitional Government of Haiti to ensure a secure and stable environment; to assist in monitoring, restructuring and reforming the Haitian National Police; to assist with comprehensive and sustainable disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs; to assist with the restoration and maintenance of Rule of Law, public safety and public order; to protect UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment; as well as to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence; to support the constitutional and political process under way in Haiti and to monitor the human rights situation in the country.
- 2. After 2004, the Security Council has modified MINUSTAH mandate many times, its concept of operations and the strength of the units in order to adapt them to the new circumstances and necessities imposed by the political and security situation of the

country; in 2010, it was necessary to increase the overall force level in the mission due to the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti. Nowadays, the country is in the peacebuilding final phase.

3. Up until the present date, the Army of Guatemala has deployed a total of fifteen contingents of military police, which varied in constitution in relation to the strength of the unit.

#### **INFORMATION:**

- 1. For June 2015, there is a plan to deploy the sixteenth contingent of military police, which will vary in number of members as per the policies and accords between the UN and Guatemala; having 52 members.
- 2. The main missions of the military police are outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), from which we can highlight the following:

To maintain discipline, law and order in the military units, to carry out operations for crime prevention, analyze, investigate and solve incidents or accidents in coordination with the Force Provost Marshal and the Conduct and Discipline Team (CDT), as well as to maintain the highest standards of moral and discipline.

#### 3. Missions carried out:

- To keep discipline, law and order within the military component.
- To plan and execute disciplinary patrols to control military personnel.

- To control traffic and security on the streets.
- To ensure the observance of the local traffic norms, including accident prevention, traffic accidents and crime rate surveys in the mission area, in cooperation with UNPOL (United Nations Police) and the local police.
- Convoy and Personnel Escorts
- Security of Installations

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

#### 1. Integrated Education:

Aspect: Military education is the basis for the specialization and training of the units which take part in peace enforcement and peacekeeping operations, worldwide, in an equation that Education equals efficiency, (be able to carry out a task) and the specialization plus training equals effectiveness, (accomplish a task with time and resources available) demands of the United Nations for deployed units.

**Lesson Learned:** As military personnel, we shall respect other cultures, improve and train to carry out several operational and administrative tasks; thus abiding by the standards of the United Nations efficiently and effectively.

#### 2. Mission Mandates (Robust):

**Aspect:** Mission mandates are ambitious; they have inconsistencies and create uncertainty. It is convenient to know, analyze and update them to consider the limitations of the deployed units, and then enable and train them all.

**Lesson Learned:** It is necessary to know UN regulations, tools as peace operation manuals (PKOs), contingent-owned equipment (COE), standard operating procedures (SOP), etc., which regulates education, the capacities and training of the units deployed in the mission area.

#### 3. Use of New technologies:

**Aspect:** In a changing world, conflicts of several issues, use of unmanned vehicles, non lethal weapons, special equipment for day and night vision, vehicles and others which are needed to carry out a peace operation.

**Lesson Learned:** It is necessary to purchase special equipment, with new technology, to be more efficient and effective in the mission area. That will demand additional education and training in the military units.

#### 4. The role of women in Peace Operations:

**Aspect:** To the UN, gender is the one of high level of importance. Future scenarios encompass, as of now, the participation of women in the decision-making levels and deployment to carry out the operations.

**Lesson Learned:** It is necessary to keep and raise the participation of women in Peace Operations. Nowadays, Latin America develops programs towards females and Mexico, like Colombia, has a key role for first promoting women to Generals; thus, internationally projecting Mexico in the decision-making levels.

#### 5. Experience in PKOs:

**Aspect:** The Army of Guatemala, by means of Military Police units, has been, since 1994, a member of the Multinational Force under the aegis

of the USA and since 2004, providing contingents to MINUSTAH.

**Lesson Learned:** Twenty years of experience, supporting Foreign Affairs, contributing with trained, prepared and educated troops to develop peace operations for different theaters of operations all over the world.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

- 1. The military police contingents were trained to be deployed in the peace mission in Haiti. However, it is necessary to strengthen the subject of education, as a determiner for the training of troops, tactical deployment, and to accomplish the mission efficiently and effectively.
- 2. Mission mandate are to be revised and analyzed by DOPAZ and CREMOPAZ in order to include themes as education, preparation and training; then they should have feedback from lessons learned from contingents so that they can elaborate their own doctrine in peace operations.
- 3. New technologies will demand contingents to have their military units additionally educated, prepared and trained.
- 4. The role of women in Peace Operations, for Guatemala, is set towards the UN policies.
- 5. The contingent of military police, in the mission in Haiti, is recognized as a prestige unit, prepared and trained, and along with the effort of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, due to its diplomatic role, assisted to receive international recognition.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. Education is of great importance in the preparation of a military contingent, prior to deployment; it is recommended to be taken into account in the curriculum of CREOMPAZ, as well as prepare and train personnel to be effective and efficient in the designated peace missions.
- 2. Revise the existing UN doctrine and adjust it to the changes they present.
- 3. Train and prepare the personnel with new technologies for a better response capacity in any designated mission.
- 4. Keep the female participation in peace operations to accomplish the current policies of the UN.

#### UN MEDAL PARADE





# THE EARTHQUAKE







Family sheltered in front of the Presidential Palace after the earthquake - Photo credits ONU/2010



# V. UN CIMIC AND THE TRAINING FOR CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION

Peace Operations Joint Training Center
PARAGUAY



The civil-military coordination provides an inter-relation between the military component of a peace operation and the political, humanitarian, developmental, human rights and public order dimensions of the same operation, as well as other big systems of peace consolidation.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, widely known as DPKO, defined Civil-Military Coordination as the system of interaction, information exchange, negotiation, mutual support and planning, between the military component, humanitarian organizations, developmental organizations and the local civil population in order to reach the outlined UN objectives.

It is a crucial function on any complex peace operation since it is a "force multiplier", which contributes for the mission to have a wide immediate impact on the local population. The officers and warrant officers who work with UN Civil-Military Coordination commonly abbreviated as UN CIMIC are trained to understand the principles and humanitarian guidelines to support the coordination of the military-humanitarian interface, ensuring that any military support offered be a complement to the humanitarian agenda.

These officers and warrant officers are also trained to understand the role and functions of the different actors of peace consolidation and development in order to facilitate and coordinate the support the peacekeeping force can provide to others in the mission, as well as to the local community.

In all other ongoing UN peace missions, undoubtedly, the CIMIC activities were one of the most useful elements to get the UN civil and military personnel close to the local population and to allow people in the mission area to understand the UN mission.

The PKOs, especially those developed within the ambit of the UN, have evolved from traditional peace operations, between two States and the interposition of UN Forces, guaranteeing a previously established cease-fire, into more modern complex operations as peace enforcement in which after making hostilities cease, mostly of internal character, is necessary to keep peace and promote the rebuilding of the country.

The last ones are necessarily multidisciplinary because there are many different actors involved, mostly civilians on the ground. Besides, there are UN agencies and of other international organizations, the participation of foreign States, the same receiver State, non-governmental organizations, either national or international, agencies of cooperation from different countries and, obviously the UN military and civil component.

In both types of peace operations, there were and still are actions to establish the civil-military coordination, but it's during the most recent ones that this mission aspect becomes more relevant due to the complexity of conflicts and to the plurality of actors.

When many actors converge on the same ground, because they are complicated and dangerous, the probability of misunderstandings is high. Function overlaps, several objectives, different needs, opposing interests, resentment and propaganda are obstacles to be overcome during coordination and cooperation among them all.

The military component is one of the pillars for any peace mission, especially in the first phases. On the other hand, beyond those primary security functions, it has logistic capacities of notorious importance. The civil component of the mission and the other civil actors have different needs that the military component can accomplish as security, medical evacuation and assistance, transportation, communication, heavy equipment, among others.

The military contingent deployed need information and also actions with positive effect on the local population to make them trust the troops.

This multitude of relations between the military component and the civilians within the context of a peace operation, either traditional or complex, is the reason of Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC). Often, it is common to confuse CIMIC and Humanitarian Aid. The latter can be part of CIMIC, but not the other way round. Anyway, it is necessary to highlight that a humanitarian action is not the main purpose of the military component.

#### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

There are two types of CIMIC officers in UN missions: one which

belongs to the Mission Staff and one which integrates the battalion or other military or police units.

Among their functions, they have to establish and keep contacts with the organizations which are found in the mission area, making it easier the exchange of information about several problems related to the humanitarian situation; assist and support the NGOs on security-related aspects; be the contact with UNPOL and local police authorities when it comes to details about the distribution of food and water, convoy escort and planning for possible catastrophes; carry out humanitarian tasks directly or in cooperation with civil organizations. The organization of several infrastructure works or logistical support is also part of their duties.

The principles of CIMIC outlined by the UN are:

- 1. Support to the operational and tactical management between military and civil actors in all phases of a PKO.
- 2. Support to the creation of an appropriate environment for the accomplishment of the mission mandate which maximizes the comparative advantage of all actors.

#### **BASIC PRINCIPLES**

- 1. Clear understanding of the civil, military and police efforts within the social and political context and of the forms that the military shall have a constructive contribution to the activities carried out by the other UN members.
- 2. The operational and tactical coordination between the different

military CIMIC officers and the civilian components to achieve the established goals.

- 3. To contribute towards the improvement of life conditions of the local population as per the established by each mission mandate.
- 4. Coordination as per humanitarian principles.
- 5. Planning and execution of CIMIC activities that contribute to minimize effort duplication and to allow an efficient and effective use of the resources.
- 6. To maximize and explore the opportunities to create conditions which allow military, police and civil organizations, especially the government of the host country, to contribute to mission objective.

The United Nations, in the field of CIMIC, has gradually evolved during the last years, especially in relation to the missions carried out in the African continent. For this reason, all the directives and norms in this field were presented in 2014, in a manual named UNITED NATIONS CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION SPECIALIZED TRAINING MATERIALS (CIMIC STM).

#### PARAGUAY AND ITS CIMIC ACTIVITIES

Paraguay is the pioneer in South America in setting the cooperation between the civil society and the military. In 2003, the executive power authorized the creation of a joint force to respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

This force, initially composed of military and police personnel, was trained in military units by national military experts who had had trainings abroad.

Supported by the UN, in 2010 a process of dialog between the civil society and the military started in order to promote levels of coordination for future responses in cases of emergencies and natural disasters.

As of 2010, the process of dialog promoted by the UN has Paraguay, in South America, as a pioneer in the creation of a joint task-force between the Paraguayan Air Force and the Paraguayan Firefighters (CBVP).

Since May 2003, our country has had a joint force composed of civilians and the military. Police forces have joined this joint force from 2007 on.

Nowadays, CECOPAZ/Paraguay, by means of ALCOPAZ, offers courses and seminars in the field of Civil-Military Coordination for military, police and civilian personnel.

They work together with other State institutions to plan and carry out integrated CIMIC programs, which are carried out by military personnel, supported by other national institutions in order to keep the presence of the Paraguayan State.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Civil-Military Coordination is an activity which, undoubtedly, is part of a modern peace operation - complex and multidisciplinary. A numerous group of actors who is on the ground makes it necessary to have coordination and, many times, cooperation, otherwise the objectives would not be reached.

Besides having practice and efficiency, or avoiding the overlaps of activities or mutual support, the military component of a UN mission is focused on winning the trust of the local population.

From one side, it is important to give more transcendence to CIMIC, given the fact that after typical military operations provide security, that is a significant aspect to reach the main objective of the mission.

In this sense, it is necessary to have the duty of the CIMIC officer encompassed in the operational task; also this officer shall be more in charge of a group and not a stand-alone position. Thus, those to accomplish this mission shall be interested in activities to be developed before the deployment for this officer might gather information from his predecessor, but he might also be prepared in the field of CIMIC in peace operations by receiving instructions delivered at regional centers.



# VI. PERFORMANCE OF THE MILITARY CONTINGENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE

Peace Missions School ECUADOR



"Being a soldier, more than just a profession, is a vocation, abnegation, sacrifice and commitment; soldiers do not want material goods, what we want is the satisfaction of all citizens, we want a better country and to see the youth flourish in future."

#### General Carlomagno Andrade

The military is dedicated to its people for they unify common feelings, share values, ideals, dreams of having a great country, living in a fair and inclusive society, united towards common goals. These are the values which are deeply connected to the spirit of the Ecuadorian soldier, for their armed forces, since their birth, have always been connected to the needs of the nation, supporting its development and greatness.

Ecuador is a country that due to its geographical position had to face many natural disasters as well as other anthropic situations; the Armed Forces were present in all these situations and accomplished a transcendental role to mitigate the catastrophes. Before these challenges and changes that not only did the Ecuadorian society have to solve, but also many other countries of our region, the Ecuadorian military developed their capacities - immediate reaction through assistance and

humanitarian aid to mitigate the sufferings of the population.

On 12 January 2010, the entire humanity was abashed when a devastating earthquake made the infrastructure of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, collapse almost completely. Ecuador was not apart from the situation and sent contingents to assist in the search, rescue, removal of debris and provide direct assistance to the population. Along all this time, 04 contingents were deployed and they accomplished two basic missions:

- 1. To provide welfare and tranquility to the population against whom nature had struck.
- 2. To carry out CIMIC activities, some of them demonstrating the initiative of the Ecuadorian soldier when supporting two educational centers for Haitian children: Ecuador School and New Haiti School; delivering toys, clothes, school material, providing medical assistance, and delivering potable water.

The different works developed by the military contingents through all those years, in coordination with the Republic of Chile, as the Chilean-Ecuadorian combined company (CHIECUENGCOY), were of great importance to the Haitian population once it allowed improving the level and quality of life of the people in Port-au-Prince.

It is also important to highlight the active participation of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces in MINUSTAH when providing road construction, bridge construction and other infrastructure works.

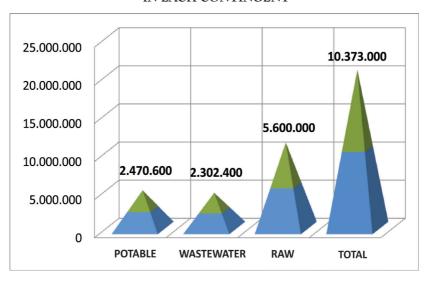
Next, there is a list of some of the most important works carried out by the contingents when deployed in Haiti, also providing support to MINUSTAH units:

Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
1	GROUND WATER EXTRACTION AND WATER PURIFICATION	Water purification in the water treatment stations for personnel daily consumption and MINUSTAH units or other humanitarian organization that requested it.  Potable: 2,470,600 litres  Non Potable: 2,302,400 litres  Raw: 5,600,000 litres  Total: 10,071,100 litres





## STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK OF WATER PRODUCTION IN EACH CONTINGENT

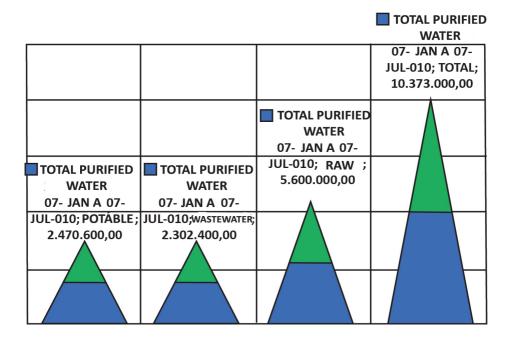


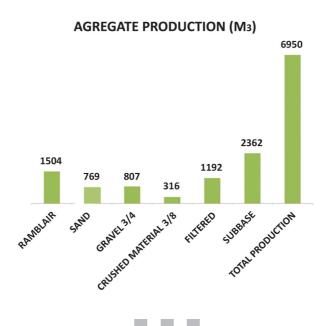
Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
	AGGREGATE PRODUCTION	Aggregate production in the crusher plant as described:
		Improvement: 974 m <sup>3</sup>
		Sand: 769 m <sup>3</sup>
2		Gravel 3/4: 807 m <sup>3</sup>
		Crushed Material 3/8: 316 m <sup>3</sup>
		Filtered: 1,192 m <sup>3</sup>
		Sub base: 2,352 m <sup>3</sup>
		Total: 6,410 m <sup>3</sup>





### STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK OF AGGREGATE PRODUCTION IN EACH CONTINGENT





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
	HEADQUARTE RS (NEW H.Q)	Topographic survey
		Material transportation
3		Leveling
		Gradation
		Compacting
		• Area: 7,000 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 1,050 m <sup>3</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
	PHILCOY CAMP	Topographic survey
		Material transportation
		Placement of crushed material
4		• Leveling
4		Gradation
		Compacting
		• Area: 55,735 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 8,060 m <sup>3</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
	NEW CHARLIE CAMP COMPOUND	Topographic survey
		• Leveling
5		Gradation
)		Compacting
		• Area: 55,000 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 5,500 m <sup>3</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
		Topographic survey
	ENGINEERING 6 WORKS AT THE NEW	Material transportation
		• Leveling
6 W		Gradation
	LOG YARD 2	Compacting
		• Area: 19,970 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 3,990 m <sup>3</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
1	EMERGENCY WORKS DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE OF 12 JANUARY 2010	Support the tasks of search and rescue at the Christopher and Montana Hotels that were struck by the earthquake of 12 January 2010





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
		Leveling
		Compacting
2	AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL AREA IN PORT-AU-PRINCE	Delivery of crushed material to WFP warehouses in the airport industrial area, in Port-au-Prince
		• Area: 10,000 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 60 m <sup>2</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
		• Removal
3	DEBRIS REMOVAL FROM THE STREETS OF PORT-AU-PRINCE	Debris removal from the streets of Port-au- Prince (PAP)
		Material transportation: 1,342 m <sup>2</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
	ENGINEERING WORKS IN CORAIL CESSELESSE IDP CAMP SECTOR 3	Cleaning a vacant lot
		Leveling
		Drainage setting
4		Leveling
		Compacting
		Internal paths
		• Area: 140,000 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 36,000 m <sup>3</sup>





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
		Cleaning
		• Leveling
_	SUPPORT TO THE SALESIAN SCHOOL	Compacting
5		Embankment fill
		• Area: 400 m <sup>2</sup>
		• Sub base: 50 m³





Nr	PROJECT	WORKS
	WORK IN SECTOR 6 BARRIERE FERROUTE STARTER	• Cleaning
		Paving
6		• Leveling
		Compacting
		• Area: 7,400 m <sup>2</sup>





Throughout those years, Ecuadorian soldiers were ambassadors of peace and goodwill, under the eyes of the world due to the work which has been carried out towards the people of Haiti.

Finally, after the earthquake in Haiti, as lessons learned we can state that the Ecuadorian contingents, as members of the engineering company for horizontal constructions together with Chile, carried out a number of actions, works, operations within their missions of mobility, survival and engineering in general, but above all, they accomplished tasks of civil-military coordination by means of the actions executed with NGOs, UN agencies and local authorities, demonstrating that in the regional level and as part of MINUSTAH, it is possible to have a

deployment and support capacity to be called upon, in case of any PKO and humanitarian aid.

Nowadays, we can proudly say that Ecuador has, in the military, brave, prepared and trained soldiers to work towards peace in any tough humanitarian aid mission.

#### THE EFECTS OF THE EARTHQUAKE





**AND CONCLUSION** 



UN Medal Parade - Photo credits: ONU/Logan Abassi



#### VII. CURRENT PHASE OF MINUSTAH

#### Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center

#### BRAZIL



In the current phase of MINUSTAH, it is observed a strategical UN withdrawal from Haiti. Indicators as the downsizing of the military component, which is being implemented, and the performance of the Haitian National Police as the first element of security in the country, previously established by the directive of the Force Commander, demonstrate the ongoing changes in the mission. The UN analyzes five main courses of actions for the period between July 2015 and July 2016:

- 1. End of MINUSTAH mandate and designation of a UN Special Representative in Haiti;
- 2. End of MINUSTAH mandate to establish a Special Political Mission to develop the capacity of the Haitian National Police (HNP);
- 3. End of MINUSTAH mandate to establish a new peace mission with reduced presence (no military forces on the ground) and bigger political role;
- 4. End of MINUSTAH mandate to establish a new peace mission with reduced military presence (strategic reserve) and bigger political role; and
- 5. A change in the mandate of MINUSTAH, accounting for a reduction and the setting up of objectives for the process of consolidation which is already ongoing.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

Uruguayan Peace Operations School

URUGUAY

aiti, a country with such a rich and troubled History, has been a concern to Latin America since the beginning of MINUSTAH. Therefore, a group of countries, with different capacities and possibilities, has made a common cause out of this small country.

This common cause has been the engine which made possible the formation of combined units in quantities and dimensions as not seen for many years and for a praiseworthy goal: end or alleviate the suffering of the population of a neighboring country.

It has not been an easy way. Many times the community wondered how come so many disasters have struck this land. Floodings, hurricanes and epidemics, among others, seem to have happened to them.

Especially, the earthquake which hit the country in January of 2010 has not affected only the local population, but also the mission with so many human losses. For that reason, the mission was highly committed. That is why MINUSTAH has changed its mission from stabilization to efforts and operations to carry out humanitarian emergency. For some time, the number of troops deployed increased in a way to enable the coordination of humanitarian aid sent to Haiti from the four corners of the world. And, at the same time, the number of Engineering Companies in the Military Component increased.

However, its unselfish people continues moving on to reach again the level of development that they knew how to display and, therefore, take security and comfort to all its citizens.

Luckily, each time, there comes the day when the presence of a military component, which is supposed to promote a secure and stable environment so other organizations can work, will not be necessary. Yes, MINUSTAH's military component's days are numbered. The major assets have been withdrawn and future downsizings will lead to the decrease of the number of troops deployed.

However, we should make no mistakes, since this is a trend in all peace missions, the context of the mission is changeable and, therefore, the operational environment in which the operations are carried out changes. The challenges that the peacekeepers face and the activities developed modify at the same pace. This is the reason why the permanence of the military contingents has been extended, more than it had been originally scheduled or expected.

Presently, the military component is present in three Departments. Battalion-sized units have under their responsibility great Areas of Responsibility; however, the mission is satisfactorily accomplished. That is possible thanks to a tighter communication and coordination not only with the Haitian National Police but also with UNPOL/FPUs.

In a near future, a small unit will take the mission to constitute itself as a Reserve. Its mobility will be assured by a versatile air component which will allow prompt arrival to suffocate any crisis which threatens peace and security.

The mission was not concluded, the final date has not been announced; however, we can still state: MINUSTAH has accomplished its mission and its existence fills with pride all the international community.

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