SPC expands activities in Mali

The Police Division (PD) including its Standing Police Capacity continues to provide support to the United Nations Office in Mali (UNOM) and actively prepares for the transitioning of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) into the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on 1 July.

The SPC, in close coordination with colleagues from PD Strategic Policy and Development Section (SPDS) and Mission Management and Support Section (MMSS), is on the ground in Mali, preparing to provide expanded support for the mission start-up.

In November 2012, SPC Public Order Adviser Paolo Bonnano and SPDS Planning Officer Mamadou Barro were part of the UN planning team in Mali to support the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union in joint planning efforts for the deployment of an international military force for Mali. Following this, MMSS Mission Manager Soulemanou Ngamsou was deployed to Mali to engage with Malian justice and security institutions and to provide support to the AFISMA Police from February to April 2013.

In Bamako, SPC Advisers engage with Malian authorities

On 10 April, SPC Advisers Amod Gurung and Paolo Bonanno have been deployed to Bamako to work with the Security Process and Rule of Law Section of UNOM in developing a strategy to help strengthen Malian justice and security institutions.

“Our SPC Advisers are actively engaged in the establishment of contact with the Malian authorities in order to identify and prioritize needs where assistance could be provided,” said Chief SPC General Du Toit. “Our team in Brindisi is closely monitoring the activities in Mali and actively provides remote support to our Advisers who are now on the ground.”

SPC Advisers Gurung and Bonanno are working are working to provide technical support to the Malian Internal Security forces in their plan to redeploy to Northern Mali. SPC Advisers are also engaged with the Malian Security institutions to identify short and long term training needs and to observe ongoing training activities supported by other bilateral partners.

Within the context of rule of law and security, SPC Advisers undertake their tasks of liaising, coordinating and planning by extensively interacting with the mission components and counterparts, the UNCT, Malian authorities and international stakeholders. It is anticipated that additional SPC members will deploy in the coming weeks to start-up the UN police component in Mali.

Utilizing the best practices and lessons learned from, among others, the mission start-up in Chad (MINURCAT 2007), the SPC will provide the initial operating capacity for the UN police component in Mali and support the establishment of a solid foundation for the mission’s smooth operation in the days ahead.

SPC supports UNAMA on gender issues and community policing

In April, SPC Community Policing Adviser Mona Nordberg and Gender Officer Odile Kanyono returned to Brindisi from a nearly 6-month deployment to Afghanistan where they provided technical assistance to the Police Advisory Unit (PAU) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

In close coordination with the PAU and other relevant sections of UNAMA, Ms. Nordberg supported the Mission in ensuring that the programmes and strategies of the Afghan National Police (ANP), strengthened community policing while also emphasizing gender-related aspects of policing.

During her deployment, the SPC Community Policing Adviser was a member of Community Policing Working Group, a strategic level committee of the Ministry of Interior (MOI).
One of the priorities of the Working Group was to achieve agreement on, and create, a strategic model and definition of ‘Community Policing’, Police-e-Mardume, which was incorporated in the Minister of Interior’s ten-year vision for the Afghan National Police.

The SPC team also provided inputs to the development of a two-year work plan of the Police-e-Mardume as well as to the MOI’s ten-year vision for ANP and MOI which was approved and signed by the Minister on 11 April 2013. “The security threats in Afghanistan, particularly in Kabul, posed some challenges as we had to adjust our priorities and timelines during our deployment,” said Ms. Nordberg.

“Working with colleagues in UNAMA and with representatives from international organizations and the Afghan counterparts in the MOI who are all very knowledgeable and dedicated towards the same goals certainly proves that the opportunities outweigh the challenges.”

With specific focus on addressing cross-cutting gender issues in Kabul, Ms. Kanyono supported the PAU by advising the Gender and Human Rights Department/MOI. At the same time, she also supported the UNMA PAU in advising the Afghan Democratic Policing Project on their activities on the access of women and children to justice, and in particular increasing the ability of women ANP officers themselves to effectively access justice.

SPC Public Order Adviser completes mission to Chad

In April, SPC’s second deployment to UNDP Chad in 2013 was completed. SPC Public Order Adviser Paolo Bonnano supported UNDP Chad in assisting the United Nations Joint Support Programme to the Défense Intégré de Sécurité (DIS) in retraining its trainers and setting up the new DIS Training Centre in Abeché.

Mr. Bonnano facilitated specialized training on crowd control, police techniques, weapons handling and basic techniques on VIP protection. Other contributions included a training curriculum for new trainers, presentations and lesson plans for topics developed for the retraining course and the specialized training courses, a new policy on the organization of the training centre, an evacuation plan, training centre rules, a map of the training centre and job descriptions for trainers, the director of the training centre and training coordinators.

“I worked closely with UNDP in liaising with the local authorities to identify training needs and to focus on the main priorities,” said Mr. Bonnano.

“While I have achieved the goal of my mission, I wasn’t able to attend to some follow-up activities after the implementation of the new centre since my mission to Chad was shortened due to my urgent deployment to Mali.”

The SPC Gender Officer also sought to empower women police through literacy training and the organization of women police councils.

During her deployment, she also worked with UNAMA PAU, providing inputs to a gender policy to be submitted to the MOI for adoption, as well as to the Sexual Harassment Policy for the MOI, which was adopted on 16 February 2013.

“The adoption of the Sexual Harassment Policy by the Minister of Interior is one of the greatest decisions in favour of women police. This policy, if it is well implemented, will help to reduce violence against women police by their male counterparts,” said Ms. Kanyono.

Support was also given in developing concept notes for a joint “Training of Trainers” course for 25 police officers of the MOI to help them deliver training on gender, human rights, child protection, detention and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The SPC Community Police Adviser and Gender Officer were deployed to Kabul in November 2012, under the leadership of the Senior Police Adviser to UNAMA.

SPC Legal Adviser participates in DPKO and DFS Mission Review for UNMIS

On 14 April, SPC Legal Adviser Jeffrey Buenger arrived at the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to participate in the joint DPKO/DFS and UNMIS Mission Review. The review included representatives from the Integrated Operational Team, including its Principal Officer, Mr. Francois Grignon, DPET, DFS/LSD, and the mission.

The Mission Review was aimed at assessing the structure, organization and functions of UNMIS in order to deliver against its mandate. It also aimed at adjusting the Mission Concept in line with the changes in the political, economic and security climate since UNMISS was established in July 2011. Currently, the UNMISS Mission Concept includes three programmatic priorities: protection, political and early peace-building, and an operational one – decentralization.

The review focused on: (a) an analysis of the effectiveness in the use of existing resources and capabilities to implement activities against mission priorities, with a particular focus on Protection of Civilians (POC) and support to extension of state authority; (b) an analysis of the implications of the divergence between the planning assumptions at the start of the mission and the present environment on the programmatic priorities: protection, political and early peace-building; and (c) consideration of possible ways to refocus and reprioritize mission activities which may include a recommendation for changes to the mandate.

The key findings and recommendations of the forthcoming Mission Review report are expected to be incorporated in the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee paper and to be reflected in the next Secretary-General’s report, both of which are due in May 2013 and which should inform discussions in the Security Council.
ITS develops new tactical level pre-deployment training module on Protection of Civilians, SPC Team Leader facilitates pilot session

The DPKO/DFS Integrated Training Service (ITS) conducted a pilot course on the UN Tactical Level POC Training Module, which was held at the United Nations Regional Service Centre (UNRSC) in Entebbe, Uganda on 15-19 April 2013.

SPC Team Leader Dag Dahlen was among those facilitating the pilot course which was conducted to gauge how the participants would interact and perceive the presentations and scenario-based exercises that were developed as part of the new pre-deployment tactical level training modules on POC.

A total of 21 participants from Member States with experience as peacekeeping pre-deployment training instructors took part in the course. The feedback received from the participants will be used by ITS to improve and enhance the effectiveness of the newly-developed training materials.

SPC Transnational Crime expert delivers presentation at INTERPOL’s meeting in Lyon

On 5 April, the General Secretariat of INTERPOL held a meeting to prepare a “New Africa Initiative on Drug Trafficking,” to support and initiate investigations/operations and follow-up activities against drug trafficking throughout Africa.

SPC Transnational Crime Officer Fernando Moya Castro represented SPC Transnational Crime Officer and delivered a presentation on the “Impact of Organized Crime on Host Countries and Missions – UNPOL Assistance.”

Unlike previous initiatives on combating drug trafficking in Africa, which have largely been limited to combating cocaine trafficking to Europe, the “New Africa Initiative on Drug Trafficking,” is said to be wider in scope and covers heroin, methamphetamine and synthetic drugs destined for markets in East Asia as well.

A total of 71 representative from 39 countries and six participants from international organizations attended the meeting, which was a follow up to INTERPOL’s 4th Operational Working Group Meeting on the Project White Flow on cocaine trafficking from Latin America to West Africa.

SPC contributes to CoESPU training courses

In continuation of the cooperation between the United Nations Police Division and the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), the SPC contributed to CoESPU’s Police, Civil and Military (PCM) Relations Course, the Protection of Civilians (POC) Course and the Training Building Course which were held at CoESPU in Vicenza, Italy on 8-24 April 2013.

The objective of the SPC’s contribution was to provide appropriate practitioners’ perspectives on UN peacekeeping operations through the delivery of different training sessions.

The SPC contribution included several lectures, practical exercises and discussions among the participants on various topics including, among others: (1) Establishment and operationalization of Security Council mandates for peacekeeping operations; (2) How United Nations peacekeeping operations function; (3) Police component; (4) Civilian component in UN peacekeeping operations; (5) Security Gap: an integrated response; (6) Investigative techniques, including support for the related exercise.

Aimed at providing cross-sector training for senior military and police officers, the PCM Relations Course was attended by 25 participants (4 Military and 21 Police) from 15 countries. It was designed to enhance participants and organizers pose for a group photo during the meeting on the INTERPOL project, “New Africa Initiative on Drug Trafficking.” Photo credit: INTERPOL.

SPC Team Leader Dag Dahlen facilitating POC training.

SPC members undertake training on mentoring and advising and gender enhancement

In April, SPC members participated in the Mentoring and Advising Training for OROLSI Components and the Gender Enhancement Training which were both held in Brindisi by DPKO.

The Mentoring and Advising Training focused on the skills and techniques required to build a trusting relationship with a mentee, to conduct an assessment of the mentee’s mentoring needs, and how to employ a wide variety of adult learning and communication strategies.

Participants received instruction on training mentors and they can now be deployed to various missions to conduct mentoring training.

Other key areas covered the stages along the adult learning continuum, application of best practices in mentoring, key differences in cross-cultural communication, techniques in interaction, and a coaching and feedback model for mentors.

Facilitated by a gender trainer based in DPKO/DPET, the five-day Gender Enhancement Training focused on enhancing the capacities of gender focal points in the more efficient implementation of gender mainstreaming aspects of mission mandates, including how to develop indicators and how to transfer knowledge on gender mainstreaming.

Gender-related topics covered included conflict-related sexual violence, gender and security sector reform, mainstreaming gender into work plans, mission Gender Task Forces, strategic planning, leadership and management with Interactive sessions with group exercises and role play activities. Participants were also requested to help pilot the Gender and Peacekeeping Online Course.
SPC in the field

In Abyei, SPC Policy and Planning Officer continues role as Acting Senior Police Adviser to UNISFA

On 16 April, SPC Policy and Planning Officer Francis Tsidi returned to Abyei to continue as Acting Senior Police Adviser to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Since his initial deployment to UNISFA, Mr. Tsidi has been providing critical contributions to the Mission particularly in facilitating discussions on the establishment of the Abyei Police Service (APS) between the technical teams of Sudan and South Sudan.

Mr. Tsidi has also contributed in establishing the UNISFA Police Component.

In Monrovia, SPC budget expert undertakes functions of Budget and Finance Officer in UNMIL

SPC Budget and Fund Management Officer Sanjeev Joshi arrived in Monrovia on 14 April for a three-month deployment to temporarily undertake the functions of Budget and Finance Officer in the Police Component of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Mr. Joshi will assist UNMIL in supporting the institutional capacity building of the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the National Police Training Academy (NPTA) in the critical areas of budget and financial management.

SPC deploys gender expert to Chad

On 14 April, SPC Gender Issues Officer Odile Kantyono was deployed to Chad as part of the extended support of the SPC to UNDP Chad to provide expert advice and assistance to the DIS in various gender-related activities.

Ms. Kantyono has been providing support to DIS in increasing the professional capacity of female DIS Gender officers by coordinating and organizing capacity building programmes related to gender and SGBV.

In Tripoli, SPC’s support focusses on border security and management

On 2 April, SPC Police Reform Officer George-Paul Albu was deployed to Tripoli to support the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in assisting the Libyan Government in strengthening its capacity to effectively secure and manage its borders, in cooperation with the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Libya.

Support will be given in the implementation of Libya’s priorities agreed at the International Ministerial Conference from Paris on 12 February 2013, particularly through the preparation and facilitation of a Libyan workshop to gather all national border security entities and subsequently for the implementation of the agreed next steps.