SPC Chief contributes to the United Nations strategic review for Somalia

Mr. Generaal Maritz Du Toit, Chief of Standing Police Capacity (SPC) returned to base in Brindisi from a two-week mission to Nairobi where he joined the Headquarters-led Review Mission to develop an integrated strategic approach for all the activities of the United Nations in Somalia.

The Review Mission, led by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and under the general guidance of the Somalia Integrated Task Force (ITF), was the second of the three phases of the Somalia Strategic Review. It was convened from 18 to 30 November in Nairobi, Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Baidoa, Garowe, and Addis Ababa. Members of the ITF, including representatives from the UN Headquarters and UNCT, UNPOS, UNSOA, and international and humanitarian communities have participated in the Review Mission.

Mr. Du Toit participated in meetings with the representatives from the Government of Somaliland, Puntland, the African Union in Somalia (AU Police), civil society organizations and the business sector.

“It was a privilege to have been part of the Review Mission, where key players came together to contribute to an international strategy,” Mr. Du Toit stated. “Everyone involved, including my colleagues in SPC who also provided ideas and suggestions, believe that this Mission will encourage stronger commitment from the Member States to support the peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations in Somalia.”

In consultation with the Somali Government and regional and international partners, the Review Mission developed an updated strategy and outlined future priorities and structure of the UN presence in Somalia.

Following the “Istanbul II” conference in June 2012, the options and recommendations drawn from the Review Mission were aimed at assisting Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in advising the Security Council on the overall situation and needs in Somalia.

SPC Team Leader acting Senior Police Adviser to UNPOS

Mr. Mohammad Azim Arshad, Team Leader of the Standing Police Capacity (SPC), was deployed as temporary Senior Police Adviser (SPA) to the Security Sector Development Office (SSDO) of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) from 29 April until 25 October 2012.

During his stint with UNPOS, Mr. Arshad supported ongoing projects on developing operational capacity of Somali Police Force (SPF), organized Police Technical Working Group (PTWG) meetings, contributed to several interventions in support of rule of law and security sector activities in Somalia, and assisted SSDO Police Unit in developing its Annual Workplan 2012.

“My role as temporary SPA to UNPOS-SSDO Police Advisory Unit focused heavily in assisting the Mission in providing a strategic direction to policing in Somalia.”

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Standing Police Capacity, United Nations Police Division

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Mr. Arshad supported the Government of the Republic of Somalia in organizing a workshop titled “SPF Institutional Gaps Assessment and Future Strategy” held on 11-12 October 2012. Ofﬁcers of different ranks from SPF, including a significant number of female ofﬁcers as well as representatives and experts from UNDP, AMISOM Police, and UNPOS advisers from Human Rights, Child Protection and Gender Units participated in the workshop. The workshop report has been shared with the Government of Somalia for its approval and for development of a Strategic Development Plan for SPF.

Mr. Arshad supported the Government of the Republic of Somalia in drafting four quick impact police projects in consultation with key stakeholders including SPF and the Somali Ministry of Interior and National Security. The projects included (1) Provision of equipment and stationery for ten police stations and the Police Headquarters; (2) Provision of running cost for SPF transport; (3) Training of SPF drivers and communication operators; and (4) Establishment of an Information Technology Laboratory at the Police Academy in Mogadishu. Mr. Arshad was also involved with the acceleration of the procurement process for the rehabilitation of four police stations in Mogadishu.

In close consultation with the SPF, Police Division including SPC in Brindisi, and UNPOS Police Advisers, Mr. Arshad formulated the first draft of the SPF Strategic Development Plan.

The draft document is under discussion with the Somali Ministry of Interior and National Security, SPF and other stakeholders including UNDP and AMISOM Police. Once finalized, the document should provide strategic direction transform police in Somalia and will hopefully ensure more effective coordination among different stakeholders engaged in capacity building and institutional development initiatives in the country.

Mr. Arshad also initiated discussions with the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt to arrange training of SPF ofﬁcers in specialized policing areas in Cairo, Egypt. The ﬁrst batch of ofﬁcers was trained on “Countering Organized Crime and Terrorism.” Further training of ofﬁcers will be conducted in the areas of investigation and public order management.

Mr. Arshad maintained close partnerships with key stakeholders including SPF leadership, AMISOM Police and the Government of the Republic of Somalia. He also collaborated with UN colleagues within the Mission, UNDP, UNODC, Interpol, UNSOA, Police Division in New York and the SPC remote assistance team in Brindisi, Italy.

Recognizing the effective support to the Mission and to policing in Somalia in general, UNPOS requested that Mr. Arshad be redeployed from the SPC to continue as Acting Senior Police Adviser to UNPOS-SSDO from 16 November for an additional three months.

81st INTERPOL General Assembly in Rome calls for a common approach to combat crime

The 81st INTERPOL General Assembly (5-8 November) held in Rome, which made history with its more than 1,000 delegates from 170 countries and the election of its ﬁrst female President, called for stronger partnership among member states to effectively respond to criminal violence.

The four-day conference discussed a wide range of issues including among others, border security, organized crime, terrorism, incident response and real-time operational support, fugitive investigations, stolen works of art, technology and innovation in policing.

SPC Training Adviser Amod Gurung who represented Police Division in the GA as an observer believes that further strategic alliance with INTERPOL in the area of training and capacity development should be further enhanced so as to help the member states.

During a workshop titled “SPF Institutional Gaps Assessment and Future Strategy” held on 11-12 October 2012. Mr. Arshad supported the Government of the Republic of Somalia in organizing the said workshop.
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SPC joins integrated planning team in Mali

SPC Public Order Adviser Paolo Bonanno joined the initial UN planning team which convened in early November in Bamako, Mali to assist the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) in the joint planning efforts for the deployment of an international military force to Mali.

Led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the police planning team supported the assessment of the personnel, equipment and training needs of the Malian Security Forces in consultation with their leadership.

The police planning team also played a key role in the establishment of a basic training strategy and in the development of a Police Concept of Operations for the Malian Police according to the recommendations by the AU, ECOWAS and local security forces. Mr. Bonanno, who was part of the Police Working Group, actively contributed in these activities including the assessment of justice and detention mechanisms and functioning in Mali.

Lessons learned study on UNMIT Police activities

The Training Adviser and the Legal Affairs Officer of the Standing Police Capacity left Brindisi on 14 November for a six-week mission to conduct a lessons learned study on UNMIT police activities in Timor-Leste. The UNMIT Police Component requested the deployment to assist UNMIT to document the processes, actions, and decisions related to mandated activities by the UNMIT Police Component from 2006 until the end of UNMIT police operations in Timor-Leste.

The study will present best practices and lessons learned that could be of use for ongoing and future peacekeeping missions.

SPC provides legal support to UNMISS Police Component

SPC Legal Adviser Jeffrey Buenger arrived in Juba on 4 November for a one-month deployment to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to provide legal assistance in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Mission and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on assistance to and cooperation with the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS).

Continuing the ongoing support from SPC to UNMISS Police Component, which included provision of acting Police Commissioner, Chief of Training, Chief of Reform and Restructuring, support to ROLSIPO (the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Support Office) and earlier legal support in developing the MOU, Mr. Buenger has been supporting UNMISS Police Component in finalizing various Directives, SOPs, and other legal documents related to areas such as training efforts of the SSNPS Auxiliary Police and operationalization of the SSNPS Diplomatic Protection Unit. Further, he is commencing assessment of legal frameworks and proposals including proposed revisions to the Police Act.
The Standing Police Capacity (SPC) on 1 November deployed Ms Mona Nordberg, Community Policing Officer, and Ms Odile Kanyono, Gender Issues Officer, to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to provide support and technical assistance to the mission’s Police Advisory Unit (PAU).

“During this deployment, we are expected to assist the Mission in developing and coordinating programmes to further professionalize the Afghan National Police (ANP) and in strengthening its relationship with the local community,” said Ms Nordberg.

“At the same time, we will provide specific focus on ANP female officers and address some cross-cutting gender issues in the mission,” said Ms Kanyono.

Ms Nordberg and Ms Kanyono have started collaborating with key players in the Mission including meeting policing counterparts in Afghanistan.

“Together with our colleagues in Brindisi who are providing us with vital remote assistance, we are determined to deliver the urgent requirements of PAU,” Ms Nordberg added.

Group photo taken after the induction training for the pioneer UN Police Officers to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The training was organized by SPC Policy and Planning Officer Francis Tsidi (second from the left) who has been assigned as OIC/UNISFA Police since 5 September 2012 to provide start-up capacity for the Police component. Also in the photo is the Head of Mission and Force Commander for UNISFA, Lt. Gen. Tadesse Tesfaye (fifth from the left).

SPC Police Reform Adviser Georg-Paul Albu (second from the left) and SPC Planning Officer Alice Holmes (in the middle) during the International Coordination Meeting on Police (ICMP) held on 18 November 2012 at the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). UNSMIL Police and Internal Affairs Attaches from the embassies present in Tripoli participated in the ICMP which was organized to facilitate the coordination of international advice and assistance to the Libyan Ministry of Interior (MoI), with a particular focus on the Libyan Police system. Mr Albu and Ms Holmes have been deployed to UNSMIL since 22 August 2012 to assist the Mission in developing a national strategy for reforming the Libyan Police.
The Standing Police Capacity (SPC) is the rapidly deployable arm of the Police Division with an approved operational capacity of 40 staff members and a unique blend of leadership and specialized knowledge. It assists in the fulfillment of the strategic mission of the UN Police, which is to build institutional police capacity in post conflict environments.

To provide immediate start-up capability for the police components

SPC officers are normally the first UN personnel deployed to a new UN peacekeeping operation.

SPC assists police components in developing:

- strategic direction and organization
- police command structure
- framework of cooperation with national and international counterparts
- detailed logistical and infrastructural arrangements
- mission specific guidelines

To provide rapid support, advice, and expertise to police components of existing UN peacekeeping operation as well as to UN agencies, funds and programmes

When not required to start-up, police components, SPC members are deployed strategically to provide time-limited and targeted advice on institutional law enforcement, training, capacity building, gender affairs, community policing, public order, among others.

When requested, the SPC participates in operational assessments and evaluation of activities, and in possible updating of mandate, implementation plans, concepts of operation, and other planning tools.

SPC Engagements

as of November 2012