



Lesson 1.1

Overview of the United Nations Military Observers (UNMO)

Content



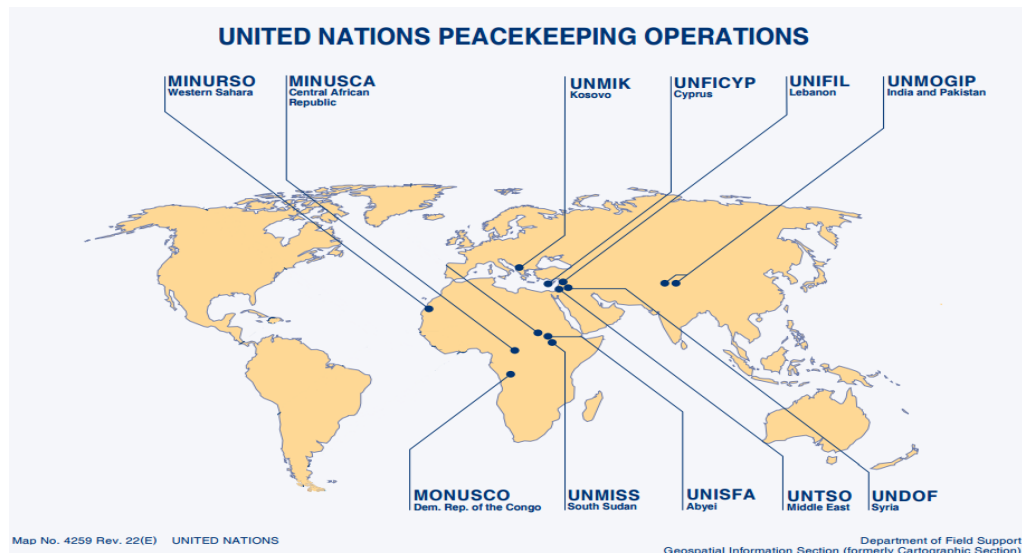
- Roles and responsibilities
- Distinctive identities
- Deployment in non-permissive environments
- Arming UNMO

Learning Outcomes

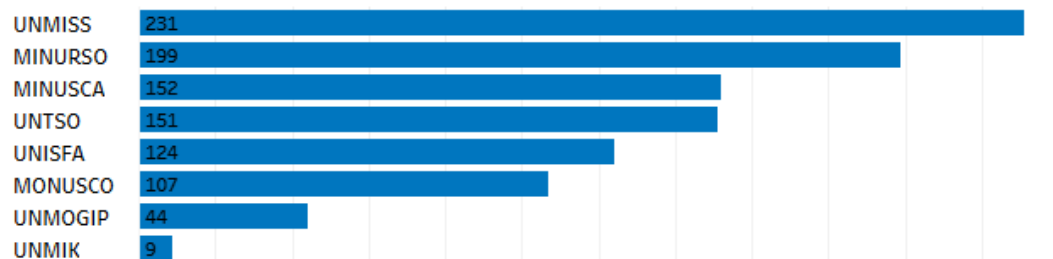


- List the main roles of UNMO in UNPKO
- Explain how UNMO maintain and display their distinctive identities
- Describe the circumstances under which UNMO are deployed to non-permissive environments
- Explain the UN policy on arming UNMO

Current UNMO Deployment in UNPKO



- DPO currently directs and provides strategic direction to 11 UNPKO
- Approximately 1000 UNMO deployed in 8 UNPKO
- Comprising 75% Male and 25% Female UNMO



11 Current peacekeeping operations

1,017 Experts on Mission
4,306 Formed Police Units
1,701 Individual Police
1,660 Staff Officer
51,580 Troops
1,036 UN Volunteers
7,492 Civilian Personnel

Core Roles of UNMO



What could be the roles of UNMO in UNPKO?



Core Roles of UNMO

Observation, Monitoring and Reporting



- Peace agreements between parties to a conflict
- Human rights violations, child rights and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)
- Issues relating to humanitarian activities, refugees and displaced persons
- Part of early warning frameworks



Core Roles of UNMO

Assessment and Verification



- Information on armed groups, allegations of ceasefire violations, post-conflict agreements, explosive hazards
- Demobilization and re-integration of armed groups, as well as the collection, storage, decommissioning of weapons



Core Roles of UNMO

Negotiation and Mediation

- Formal and informal negotiations between individuals and groups in the field
- Address a range of issues by:
 - De-escalating violence
 - Persuading parties to a peaceful resolution
 - Facilitating the exchange of prisoners
 - Enhancing freedom of movement
 - Assisting the return of refugees and IDPs





Core Roles of UNMO

Liaison and Coordination



- Mission components, local governments, host nation military forces, security institutions, armed groups, international agencies
- Between the mission and other field entities
- UN partners and non-governmental organisations
- Civil society groups, including human rights organisations, women, youth and other groups

Generic UNMO Team Site Composition



- Team Site Leader (TSL)
- S-1: Personnel Administration
- S-2: Military Peacekeeping–Intelligence (MPK-I)
- S-3/5: Operations / Planning
- S-4/6: Logistics / Communications
- S-7: Training
- Welfare Officer: Welfare of UNMO

UNMO Team Site Gender Perspective



By integrating the gender factor into the UNMO TS framework, the UN can:

- Better protect civilians, especially women and girls
- Accurately report human rights violations, including gender-based violence
- Increase access to conservative/religious environments
- Gather sensitive information



UNMO Distinctive Identities



- Vehicle markings



- Mission ID cards

- Armbands

- Vests with visible UNMO markings



- UN flag and UNMO emblems: vehicles and accommodation

UNMO in Non-Permissive Environments



- Unstable security environment delays deployment
- Risk assessment and mitigation measures required
- Deployment of UNMO subject to HOM/FC decision
- Co-locating with military or police contingents that provide force protection
- TS should not be deployed in small strength in isolated areas



Arming UNMO



- UNMO are normally unarmed
- Risk assessment conducted



- On exceptional basis, arming UNMO for self-defence may only be authorised by USG DPO, in consultation with USG DSS



- Armed groups outside peace process / terrorist groups targeting UN personnel
- Specific directive on the use of firearms



Summary of Key Messages

- The main UNMO roles are: - Observation, monitoring and reporting; - assessment and verification; - negotiation and mediation; - liaison and coordination
- Distinctive identities (special markings of vehicles, uniform) contribute to security and trust building
- Deployment in non-permissive environments may negatively affect the performance of UNMO functions
- UNMO are normally unarmed. On an exceptional basis, FC may recommend to HOM arming UNMO after risk assessment. Arming UNMO is the UNHQ's decision



Learning Activity 1

Plenary Quiz
(True or False)

1. The main roles of UNMO on missions are:

- Observation, Monitoring and Reporting
- Assessment and Verification
- Negotiation and Mediation
- Liaison and Coordination

() True

() False

Learning Activity 1



2. To maintain their impartiality, outreach-oriented identity and enhance their personal security, UNMO should be easily distinguishable from the mission's armed contingents, particularly when conducting operations while escorted by those armed contingents.

☐ True

☐ False

Learning Activity 1



3. In non-permissive environments, UNMO are always deployed carrying weapons.

☐ True

☐ False



Learning Activity 2

Group discussion

Total Time: 15 mins

Preparation: 8 min

Discussion: 7 min

- Briefly explain the main roles of UNMO.
- Describe the most effective methods for clearly identifying UNMO, which contribute to enhancing security and fostering trust among the local population.
- Explain how a Non-Permissive Environment may prevent UNMO from performing their functions effectively and independently.