

MAGAZINE

FORCE

THE QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE FORCE OF MINUSCA

N°006 - JANUARY-MARCH 2022



BRINGING PEACE, TOGETHER

FILE

JOINT AREA DOMINATION
MISSION - BAMBARA

COOPERATION

MINUSCA SUPPORTS FAC'A'S
DEPLOYMENT IN BIRAO



The new Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in CAR and Head of MINUSCA, Valentine Rugwabiza, inspects the Guard of Honour during a ceremony marking her appointment.

MAGAZINE
FORCE
MINUSCA

After several years of interruption, the Force Magazine is back, to my great satisfaction. It is a wonderful tool, both internally and externally, to show the actions that the MINUSCA Force is carrying out to accomplish its mandate. It is up to all of us to make good use of it, to promote it and to make it last.
Good reading to you all.

Lt-General Daniel Sidiki TRAORE



EDITORIAL

*Lt-General Daniel Sidiki Traoré,
Force Commander*

In the renewed context of the international community towards CAR and the means made available to me, are the reinforcement of the strength of our units (in resolution 2566), the Force is committed to implementing the new mandate placed by the SRSG, Mankeur Ndiaye, under the sign of «interactive dialogue and enhanced cooperation with the Central African government» to meet the challenges of national security reconciliation and a final return to peace.

As stipulated in Resolution 2605, «the effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates is the responsibility of all stakeholders». Without trespassing the authority of the State, the MINUSCA Force intends to continue with the existing cooperation between the government, the Central African Armed Forces, and the Internal Security Forces. The efficiency of our actions will be even greater. We must act together hand in hand for the good of the CAR.

The renewal of MINUSCA's mandate is a double mark of confidence. Firstly, that of the Security Council, which considers the

work done by all the actors to be satisfactory with that of the Central African government. This renewal is also and above all an invitation to greater involvement and commitment to achieve the objectives that have been set for us. Our priority tasks remain the protection of civilians, good offices and support for the peace process, assistance in the immediate and safe delivery of humanitarian aid and the protection of UN personnel and property. The task is immense and only an integrated approach that can guarantee success.

Indeed, the inclusion of all actors (civilian and police components, humanitarian actors and other UN agencies, FACA and FSI) in our

Bringing peace, together

strategies is the guarantee for success. For it is by combining our efforts and acting in synergy that we will be able to respond effectively, rapidly, and accurately to the needs and expectations of the Central African people, the essence of our mission. The building of a prosperous CAR requires a secure environment conducive to economic activity. This is our leitmotiv and the common objective guiding us to act in bringing peace together ■

Good reading

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MAGAZINE FORCE MINUSCA



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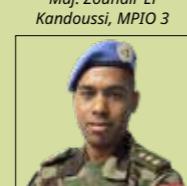
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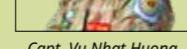


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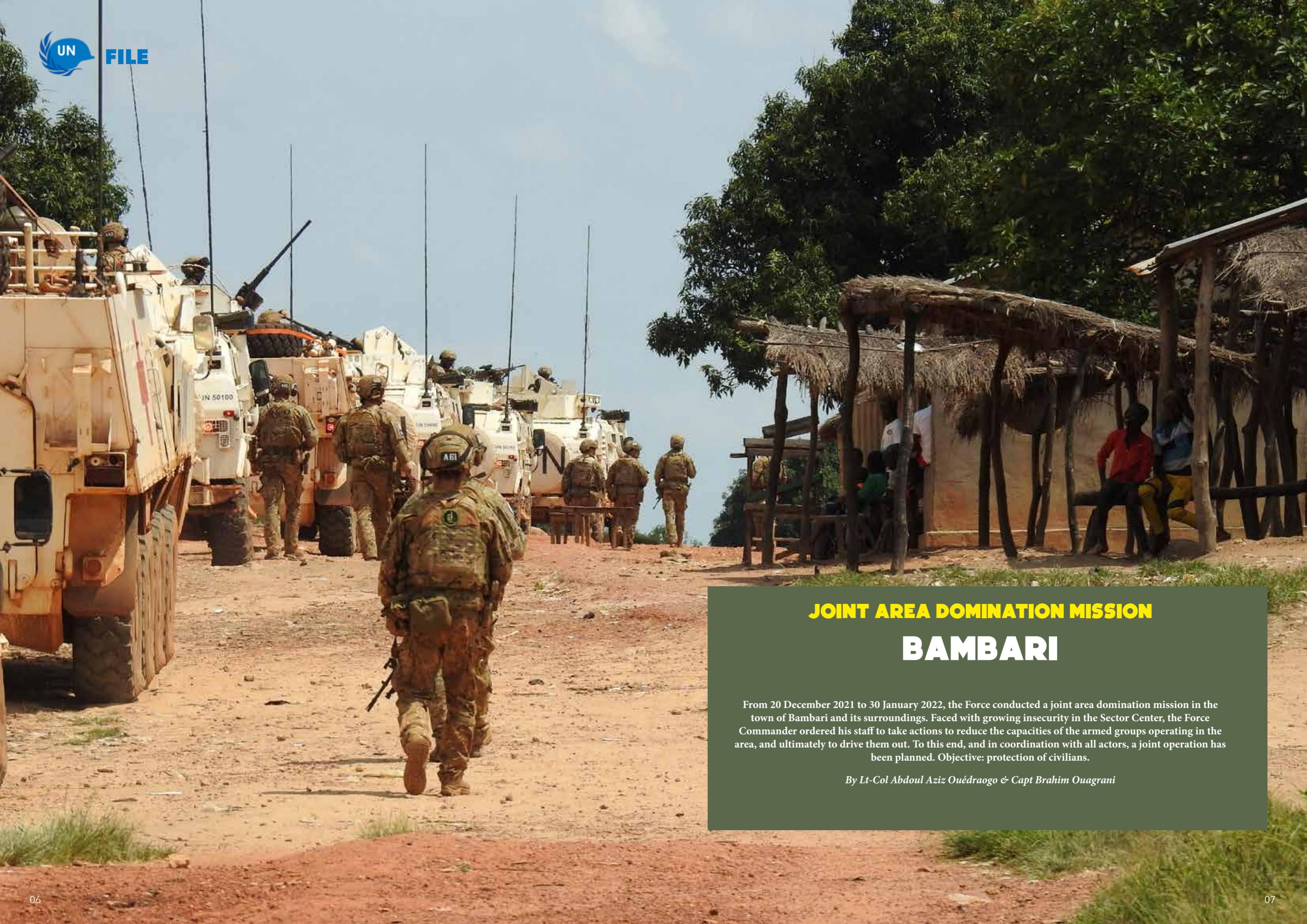
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THE FORCE ON THE WEB



This magazine is intended to be interactive with you. Please send your opinions and suggestions to :

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JOINT AREA DOMINATION MISSION BAMBARI

From 20 December 2021 to 30 January 2022, the Force conducted a joint area domination mission in the town of Bambari and its surroundings. Faced with growing insecurity in the Sector Center, the Force Commander ordered his staff to take actions to reduce the capacities of the armed groups operating in the area, and ultimately to drive them out. To this end, and in coordination with all actors, a joint operation has been planned. Objective: protection of civilians.

By Lt-Col Abdoul Aziz Ouédraogo & Capt Brahim Ouagrani

ISR Missions

Bangui Mpoko International Airport. It's 7:40 a.m. and the sun is already high in the sky, illuminating the city. The roar of the engines mingling with the noise of the rotors testifies to already dense airport activity. On the tarmac, the mechanics of the Tunisian aviation unit (TUN AV) are busy around the UH1H helicopter. The weaponry is mounted, then the ammunition boxes. The sniper performs his security measures and takes his place. Next to them, elements of the Portuguese Rapid Reaction Force (PRT QRF) are waiting. They are preparing for an aerial reconnaissance mission. The mechanic makes the final checks, signals to the pilots, and boards the aircraft. The rotation speed of the blades increases, radio communication is exchanged with the control tower, the aircraft rises slowly to the vertical, then leans forward and disappears little by little towards the horizon. This is the start of two hours of ISR mission. ISR missions are intelligence, surveillance, and aerial reconnaissance missions that aim to collect all kinds of information (videos, photos, routes, terrain, etc.) on a given area. They are a strategic tool in the sense that they allow the military commander to take appropriate action and give precise orders. In the context of MINUSCA, the degraded state of the roads and the dense vegetation of the Central African territory are sometimes a handicap, so these aerial reconnaissance missions are indispensable.

LA MISSION ISR EST UN OUTIL STRATÉGIQUE POUR LE CHEF MILITAIRE.



Portuguese QRF peacekeepers on board of a Tunisian Aviation Unit armed helicopter.

Securing the central sector

The observation at the end of 2021 was that the central sector, and particularly the Bambari-Alindao axis, was subject to incursions by armed groups with attacks perpetrated and illegal checkpoints erected at certain locations. It is in this context that the Bambari zone domination operation was launched, to pacify the central sector so that the population could go about their activities. Through a determined presence

of the Force, the mission was to ensure the security of the population, protect civilians and reduce the influence of armed groups, with a main effort on the Bambari-Alindao axis. Mauritanian, Nepalese, Zambian, and Cambodian engineers, reinforced by the Portuguese rapid reaction force, will increase robust day and night patrols, establish checkpoints, conduct reconnaissance and provide escorts. They will be supported by Sri Lankan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Tunisian air units that will conduct escorts,

aerial reconnaissance, and surveillance, transport troops, and equipment, and provide medical evacuation.

Saving Boyo

About ten days ago, that started the joint operation to dominate the area began with an intensification of air and ground missions. A few weeks earlier, in early December 2021, the town of Boyo was the



A Nepalese peacekeeper protecting the population in front of the Boyo Town hall.

scene of a cowardly killing of civilians by armed elements. The Nepalese peacekeepers were then immediately sent to secure the scene. They quickly established a security perimeter and began patrolling around the city and on the main roads, especially in the market area. They were ordered to set up a temporary base on the site. Some residents reported rumors of a possible return of the armed elements that had perpetrated the attacks. The psychosis swelled and panic invaded the population. A large number of them ran to the area around the MINUSCA base and settled there. In the evening, reinforcements were airlifted to the site to support those already deployed. This prompt reaction by the force brought about a lull in the fighting. In early January, the armed groups returned, this time in large numbers. Once again, the robust posture of the Nepalese peacekeepers, led by Lt-Colonel SASHI, the Battalion Commander who came from Bambari to assist his men, as well as the vigorous patrols conducted day and night, deterred the armed elements from leaving the town.

BEDSIDE OF THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES

In addition to the prompt reaction in the aftermath of the Boyo killings, General Daniel Sidiki TRAORE, Force Commander, accompanied by the Regional Bureau Chief, the Commander of Task Force Bambari and the Mayor paid a supportive visit to the victims in their homes. Their faces still bear the pain of the loss of their loved ones. The mere presence of the authorities is already a relief for these widows and orphans. One of them spoke with a knot in her throat and a trembling voice: «We thank you very much for your presence among us. The arrival of the MINUSCA soldiers [Nepalese blue helmets] has reassured us and they are protecting us. We were very afraid and did not know if we would still be alive.» After this visit, General TRAORE went to pay his respects to the graves of the deceased. The emotion was palpable, and the families expressed the wish that justice be done and

that the perpetrators of the crimes be held accountable one day.

NEPALESE FET HAS DONE A GREAT JOB

After the robust actions of the reinforcements to secure Boyo, the Nepalese Female Engagement Team has undertaken outreach to console the afflicted women and children. On foot, they walk the streets of the city and its surroundings, chatting, discussing, and interacting with civilians, as if to say to their sisters «be strong and don't give up». They soothe, bring joy to some, and perform vital actions, such as caring for this housewife who was severely burned while cooking. It is under the clamor of a liberated population gathered in front of the town hall where the free medical campaign is planned that the Nepalese doctors and nurses are welcomed. All day, they will provide care and treatment to the crowd lined up in a single file. They treated, advised, and comforted. They came, they let their hearts speak and they gave back smiles.



The Nepal FET nurses treating injured persons

CIMIC ACTIVITIES FOR THE POPULATION

In Bambari, the medical teams of the Mauritanian battalion in collaboration with their Central African colleagues from the hospital of Bambari are also set up for the CIMIC day at the town hall for free medical consultations. General Traoré expressed his congratulations to the first officials of the hospital of Bambari while inviting them to keep this spirit of cooperation with MINUSCA to provide the best possible care to the population. He reassured them of the Force's availability to accompany them at all times, and to this end, he donated medicines and mosquito nets. Apart from this day dedicated to civil-military activities, the peacekeepers have throughout the «Bambari operation» provided various assistance to the population ranging from the distribution of food and drinking water to the rehabilitation of administrative and road infrastructures by the Cambodian engineering unit ■





12TH FORCE COMMAND GROUP CONFERENCE

From 10 to 12 February 2022, Force Commander Lieutenant General Daniel Sidiki TRAORE held the 12th Force Command Group Conference, with the various sector and battalion commanders, as well as cell chiefs and advisors from the Force Headquarters. For three days, they discussed the new mandate, the challenges the Force will face, and actions to be taken to best ensure the protection of civilians, the Force's priority mission.

By Lt-Col Abdoul Aziz Ouedraogo & Maj Zouhair El Kandoussi

The objective of this conference is to familiarize the various military leaders at all levels with the mission's mandate, provide them with guidance and advice from the Mission leadership and the Force Commander on operational orders, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, and other key operational and administrative aspects. The Force Commander, Lieutenant General Sidiki Daniel TRAORE, in his opening remark recalled that the Force is the backbone of the MINUSCA mission, and that the men in uniform are the ones who are in front line contact with the population whose protection it is charged with ensuring peace and safety. He recalled that «the

Force must act according to a proactive and integrated approach with all other actors to achieve the objectives outlined in the Force's quarterly action plan» in line with the intention of the Force Commander. General Traore said that cooperation with the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) on the ground should be strengthened. He also, instructed that Sector Commanders should make regular visits to their units to increase interaction with local authorities in the regions for better synergy of action.

SRSG Mankeur NDIAYE in his opening remark, described the Force's operations as essential to the implementation of the mandate, as well as praising its successes

and honoring the sacrifices it has made. The Head of MINUSCA, acknowledged the increase in explosive devices as a new threat and call on Sector Commanders to submit to the coordination roles of the Regional Heads of Office, without prejudice to the military chain of command. Finally, he concluded by urging broad implementation of strategic communication to counter misinformation against the mission and reaffirmed the zero-tolerance policy against sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA).

The participants benefited from a presentation on transhumance made by Dr. Essene Hamat, Director of Cabinet of

the Central African Ministry of Livestock. Other discussions included the 2605 mandate, the Force's action plan against SEA, the «Sage/Unit Aware» system, the comprehensive planning and performance evaluation system, the importance of collaboration with UNPOL, and the recommendations of the OPSP and MPCS evaluation. Finally, the Force Quarterly Action Plan was discussed, a new key tool to periodically transmit the Force Commander's instructions, measure results, and adapt operational objectives to the mission's strategic objectives with periodic flexibility to consider changing threats and priorities ■



The group photo at the end of the opening ceremony.



MINUSCA NEUTRALIZES UNEXPLDED ROCKETS IN BOALI

On Saturday 19 March 2022 in the commune of BOALI, deminers from the Indonesian Engineers and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) destroyed unexploded rockets discovered by a team from the Ministry of Telecommunications. At the request of the Central African authorities, the mission's leadership requested the intervention of the Force EOD Teams.

By Lt-Col Abdoul Aziz Ouedraogo & Cpt Vu Nhat Huong

Boali, 95 km northwest of Bangui. This commune, known for its wonderful waterfalls, is the area of intervention of the ministry in charge of telecommunications. Indeed, as part of the Central African fiber optic backbone project, work has recently begun in various localities in the Central African Republic intending to open the country to the digital world. During this work, a team discovered unexploded rockets, thus halting the work. During a meeting, the Central African authorities reported this to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mankeur Ndiaye, who in turn informed the Force Commander, Lieutenant General Daniel Sidiki TRAORE. Thus, on Friday 18 March 2022, a team was sent to the site to assess the situation.

AN INTERVENTION TO ALLOW THE CONTINUATION OF FIBER OPTIC WORK

The next day, 19 March 2022, a team of explosive ordnance disposal specialists from the Indonesian Engineer Company and an expert from UNMAS returned to Boali. The aim was to destroy the rockets found to allow the resumption of work on the installation of the fiber optics.

Claude KODJO, an expert from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) explains: "We always work hand in hand with UNFICYP. We provide technical support, advice, and coordination with the national authorities to ensure the success of this type of action".

On the national road N°1, road traffic is dense as usual with a constant stream of vehicles. With the help of the Internal Security forces, a security cordon is established to avoid any accident and to allow the destruction operation to take place in complete safety. Safety is the keyword in this kind of very sensitive operation, as the slightest mistake can be fatal. As the security perimeter is set

up, the specialist chosen for the operation gets ready and another team takes care of the equipment. Thirty minutes later, the delicate operation begins. The deminer steps forward, crosses the security tape, and begins his intervention with delicately executed gestures. Several minutes pass, and the radio exchanges confirm the imminence of the explosion. A sound signal is heard, a detonation is heard in the distance and then smoke is seen. The neutralization operation is over.

Captain S. FIRDAUS, EOD team leader of the Indonesian Engineer Company was satisfied with the activity: «We went to the site with an officer from the Ministry of Telecommunications for a survey. Then we carefully prepared the destruction, and it went off without a hitch. Now the area is clear and secure, and the work can continue. We have the capacity and know-how to intervene, as we have done it in other locations,» said Captain S. FIRDAUS.

Ultimately, the Indonesian peacekeepers present carried out a small sweep to ensure that nothing had been forgotten, the security cordon was lifted, and life could resume. In a few days, units from the Ministry of Telecommunications will be able to return to continue the work. The MINUSCA force remains ready to accompany the government whenever necessary ■



A team work between the Indonesian Engineering Company and UNMAS.



The deminer preparing the destruction.





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WOMEN PEACEKEEPERS CELEBRATED

International Women's Day has always been a special time to pay tribute to the millions of women who fight day and night for the well-being of humanity. On the occasion of its celebration in 2022, female peacekeepers from the Force Headquarters in Bangui conducted a series of activities including an awareness raising event for teenage girls, a donation of intimate hygiene kits, a meeting with a model and a cultural evening.

By Maj Amina Tijani & Capt. Vu Nhat Huong

When we arrived at Lakouanga School, the courtyard was already swarming with students and the hubbub common to all playgrounds in the world could be heard. In one of the classrooms, just as noisy, a hundred teenage girls between 14 and 17 years old are seated. The UN bus carrying the peacekeepers stops and the women of the Force Headquarters get off. A last adjustment of the clothes, blue berets on the heads, they take place at the sides of the young girls.

In order to mark this day of March 8, 2022, the women of the Force have planned to accompany the young Central African girls. In coordination with the Serbian level hospital, Dr. LJUBENOVIC Nadica, a gynecologist, will give an hour-long sexual education to the teenagers and sensitize them on intimate hygiene. The prevention of premature pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections were the central themes. At the end of the sensitization, hygiene kits were distributed.

GENERAL MAUREEN O'BRIEN, A ROLE MODEL

Major General of the Irish Army, Maureen O'Brien, 40 years of service in the Army, is a model of leadership, self-sacrifice and military competence. Currently the Deputy Military Adviser in the Office of Military Affairs of the UN Department of Peace Operations, she was previously the Deputy Commander of the UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) in the Golan Heights from September 2019 to March 2021. Her mission was to oversee the maintenance of the ceasefire between Israeli and Syrian troops.

The Deputy Military Advisor visited the field in Bambari where she attended the final of the soccer tournament between the women's teams of Bambari and MINUSCA, composed of women from the Mauritanian, Nepalese and UNPOL battalions before having an exchange with the women of the Task Force Bambari staff. Back in Bangui, she had a rich

Deputy Milad, Maj.-General, Maureen O'Brien, in meeting with women of Force HQ.



▲ Group photo with the Force leadership.

▼ Sensitization of young girls at Lakouanga school in Bangui on sexual education and intimate hygiene.



and fruitful meeting with the women military staff of the FHQ. Her background is admirable, having commanded the 27th Infantry Battalion in Dundalk, and her leadership commands respect. During their discussions, she urged the women to persevere in their respective fields and to be more involved in being the best.

A COLORFUL CULTURAL EVENING

The celebration of Women's Day continued on March 14, 2022, when all female personnel of the Force gathered in the afternoon in the ECOLOG compound of FHQ for a cultural evening. In her welcoming remarks, Lt-Col Ana De Falco, Gender and Child Protection Advisor of the Force, thanked all the women for their mobilization and involvement in the different activities, especially those of the

Police and the national staff. She invited her colleagues to remain committed to the cause of Central African women in view of the difficult context in which they live. Dressed in their best national attire, the women of each nationality made a brief presentation of the 25 Nations represented. The activity took place in the presence of the leadership of the Force, the different chiefs of the staff, the UNPOL women, civilians and national staff.

In his address, Lieutenant General Daniel Sidiki TRAORE, Force Commander, expressed his admiration and gratitude to the women peacekeepers, who «left their children and families to contribute with love to bring peace to CAR, but especially to bring back the smile to the people they work with every day». He then recalled the importance of women's



The Bangladeshi women staff during cultural performance.

participation in operational activities, as well as in civil-military activities, in order to ensure that a gender perspective is applied, specifically by taking into account the most vulnerable groups, namely women and children. Finally, he congratulated all the female personnel of the Force, especially the female engagement teams of the Zambian,

Rwandan, Nepalese, Burundian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi battalions.

At the end, cultural performances of songs and dances were made, before a dinner that consisted of a tasting of the culinary flavors of the different countries was offered to the leadership of the Force and to all the guests■



Currently, the number of women in the contingents is 717 out of 11,598 soldiers, which represents 6.18%. For military staff officers (MSO), there are 101 women on 415 MSOs, or 24.3%, and 46 women out of 148 military observers (MILOBs), or 31%. According to the United Nations gender parity strategy, the objective is to reach a percentage of 25% for staff and MILOBs, and 15% for troops by 2028, which means that MINUSCA has already met the first two objectives, and even exceeded them. The participation of women in the troops is a real challenge, because many troop contributing countries still do not have women in their armies, especially as combatants.

Lt-Col. Ana DE FALCO
Brazil Navy,
Military Gender Advisor

MINUSCA SUPPORTS FACA'S DEPLOYMENT IN BIRAO

Birao, the northernmost military post, is the capital of the Vakaga prefecture, which borders Chad and the two Sudans. The security situation in Birao and its region is under control, thanks to the presence of MINUSCA, the FACA and the internal security forces. On Thursday, March 10, 2022, MINUSCA began providing logistical support to the Central African Armed Forces. It consisted of airlifting Central African soldiers to be deployed in Birao.

By Lt-Col Aïssa Yahaya

On the morning of March 10 at Bangui M'Poko airport, the Commander of the FACA detachment that is to be deployed is busy with the administrative formalities for his elements to board the plane. Brigadier General SAKAMA, Deputy Chief of Operations of the FACA staff, is present to ensure that everything is going well. But he is particularly concerned about the weapons. Will it be able to be taken on board? We talk to him briefly, then a member of the MOVCON section arrives. After a few exchanges, everything is settled. The serial numbers of the weapons are checked one by one, then they are put in the boxes and loaded into the plane. The general is reassured. He gives his last instructions to the commander and takes his leave.

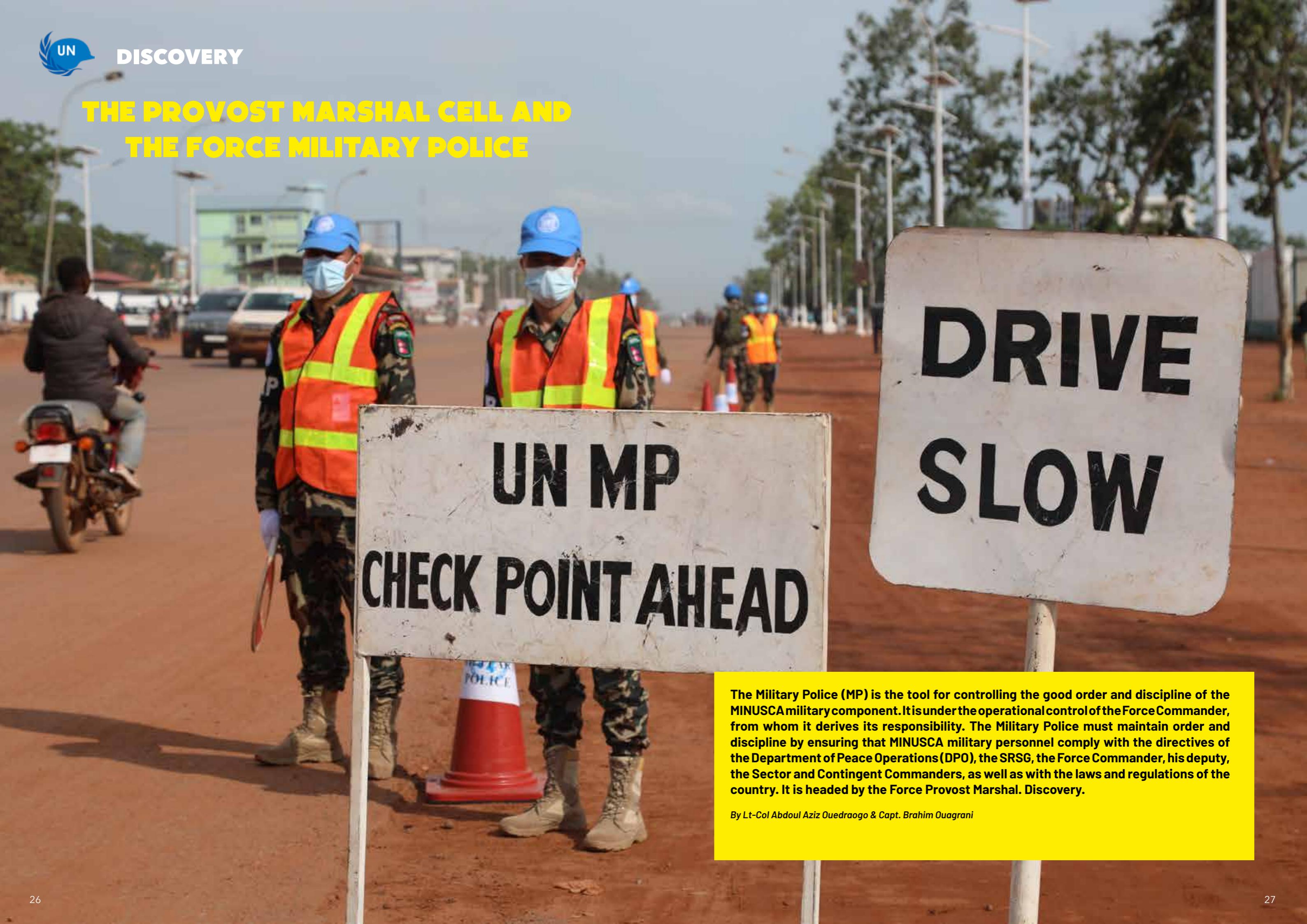
Continuing its efforts to implement its mandate to «support the extension of state authority, the deployment of security forces and the maintenance of territorial integrity,» MINUSCA's force organized, at the request of the Central African government, the rotation of FACA from March 10 to 17,

2022. As stipulated in the mandate, it must «provide, at the request of the Central African authorities, logistical support for the progressive redeployment of FACA members...». Thus, for one week, ten rotations will be carried out to bring the incoming soldiers to Birao and bring back those at the end of their mission to Bangui. This air logistical support from MINUSCA to the Central African Armed Forces comes a few months after the one carried out in Obo in January 2022.

In accordance with its mandate to assist in the restoration of state authority, MINUSCA regularly assists the Central African government when requested. On the security front, it has already contributed to the resettlement of FACA and internal security forces in several locations. But also, it assists in the operational deployment of the Central African military in the most remote areas, often difficult to access. Already in 2019, thanks to the support of MINUSCA, the public administration and the Central African national army made its grand return to the Vakaga ■



THE PROVOST MARSHAL CELL AND THE FORCE MILITARY POLICE



The Military Police (MP) is the tool for controlling the good order and discipline of the MINUSCA military component. It is under the operational control of the Force Commander, from whom it derives its responsibility. The Military Police must maintain order and discipline by ensuring that MINUSCA military personnel comply with the directives of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the SRSG, the Force Commander, his deputy, the Sector and Contingent Commanders, as well as with the laws and regulations of the country. It is headed by the Force Provost Marshal. Discovery.

By Lt-Col Abdoul Aziz Ouedraogo & Capt. Brahim Ouagrani

The roles and missions of the MINUSCA Military Police can be categorized into police functions, investigative functions, and functions related to road safety regulation. It is the body that oversees law enforcement matters applicable to the military component, coordinating with the host FACA as well as the Internal Security Forces (ISF) with respect to detainee management, force protection, and assisting in the implementation of physical security policies. In addition, it performs other tasks such as assisting in the promotion of good conduct and discipline by military personnel, advising the Force Commander on technical and procedural aspects of physical security, and conducting all investigations into misconduct by military personnel. The MP has jurisdiction over the entire MINUSCA mission area and has the authority to investigate and act within that area. Outside the mission area, and as approved on a case-by-case basis by the Force Commander, the Military Police are authorized to investigate and take action with respect to

military activities related to MINUSCA. Currently, the Military Police have nine detachments in the Central African Republic.

According to Colonel George M. BANGURA, Force Provost Marshal, «*The most critical element affecting the Force is the road accident. There has been an increase in traffic accidents among military contingents only. A total of 15 cases were reported from January through the end of March 2022.*» Although there have been no casualties, road traffic accidents diminish the credibility and perceived professionalism of peacekeepers in the eyes of the general public and undermine their confidence. Colonel Bangura therefore called on unit commanders to ensure that their men are well trained and informed, that their vehicles and accessories are in good working order, and that the condition of vehicles is carefully checked before any movement. For his part, Major Kodou JATTA, in charge of training in the Military Police Cell of the Force Headquarters, added that: «*Because of the upcoming rainy season and the degraded road conditions, the number of accidents will certainly increase. Therefore, we are sensitizing the contingents to be careful and adopt a defensive driving*



The Force Provost Marshal in interaction with his staff.



The Military Police ensures that the speed limit is respected.

style». The Military Police also conduct daily night patrols in Bangui to ensure compliance with MINUSCA regulations. Another task is to check the luggage of units at the end of their mission. As Major Eunice HOLMAN told us, «*When it's time to go on rotation, we check the luggage of the soldiers of the contingents in order to prevent prohibited items from being taken away, such as elephant tusks, protected animal skins or UN property.*

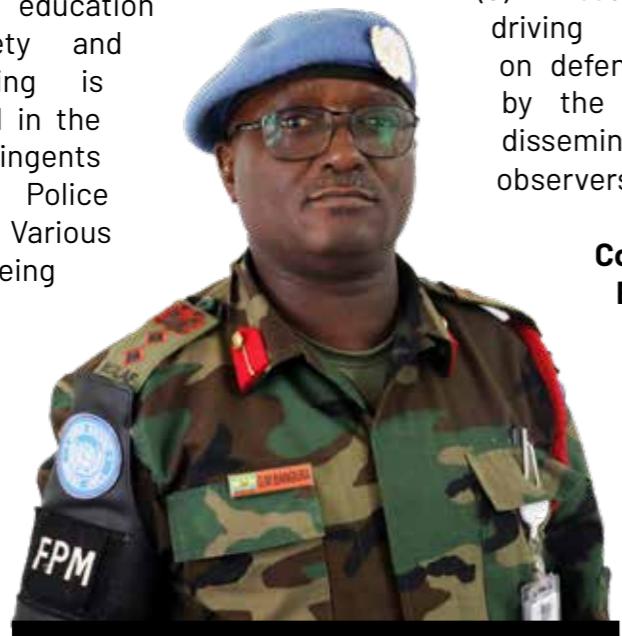
INTERVIEW

FORCE PROVOST MARSHALL

What is the Force Provost Office doing to reduce road traffic accidents?

In order to reduce the number of RTA cases, the following activities are undertaken:

(1) Awareness. Massive awareness and education on road safety and defensive driving is being conducted in the various contingents by the Military Police detachments. Various topics are being covered in relation to MINUSCA's rules of the road.



**Colonel George M.
BANGURA,**
Force Provost Marshal

(2) Increase the number of surprise checks and speed checkpoints. More speed checkpoints are installed daily to monitor the speed of all UN vehicles, in order to avoid speeding which is a major cause of road accidents.

(3) Dissemination of defensive driving instruction. Instructions on defensive driving were issued by the Force Commander and disseminated to all contingents/observers/staff.

DIRECTIVE ON DEFENSIVE DRIVING PRACTICES

Defensive driving consists of preparing, observing and acting in relation to road users. It recommends the following guidelines:

- a) Regular vehicle checks before any movement.
- b) During all movement, drivers should be assisted by a co-driver.
- c) Controlling of speed.
- d) Always planning for the unexpected.

- e) Respect for other drivers/road users on the road.
- f) Being prepared to react to other drivers/riders.
- g) Never assume the other drivers/riders' intentions.
- h) Adapting driving to the different road conditions.
- i) Always remaining alert.
- j) Not getting distracted whilst driving.

INTERVIEW

NEPAL MILITARY POLICE COMMANDER



MP Commander briefing before patrol.

What are the challenges for the Nepalese Military Police?

In the current volatile, uncertain and ever-changing situation, the main challenge for us is logistical.

It is to reach the incident sites as quickly and safely as possible, especially in the operational bases outside Bangui. The rugged terrain as well as the threat of IEDs make this task more difficult in some locations. In addition, in many cases of investigation, the search for and preservation of evidence is very complicated due to certain constraints. Secondly, we are facing a lack of human resources to increase the number of our detachments in order to be closer to the contingents. Finally, the state of the roads in some areas has a huge impact on the quality of the driving, especially when the drivers have limited knowledge of the terrain.

Any message

The Nepalese Military Police is an essential element in the proper functioning

of the MINUSCA Force, especially in terms of compliance with the rules and regulations of the mission. To ensure this, we sometimes have to adopt rigid and strict methods that are often not well

understood by many personnel. I therefore call for a better understanding of our role and a

great deal of cooperation from all of us, in order to facilitate the execution of our mission. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my men and encourage them to maintain the same determination and dedication in the implementation of MINUSCA's mandate. ■



BEYOND PROTECTING CIVILIANS

PUTTING A SMILE ON FACES



“A smile is worth its weight in gold”. Taking this statement to heart, the Force never misses an opportunity to put a smile on the face of the local population, especially children. During patrols, courtesy visits and civil-military activities, peacekeepers go beyond their primary mission of protecting civilians and very often spread joy to communities in need through heartfelt actions and gestures.

By Lt-Col Abdoul Aziz Ouedraogo



"OUR REWARD, THE SMILE TO ALL THESE CHILDREN WHO ARE SUFFERING "

There is no need to demonstrate the benefits of a smile. Faced with emergencies and distress, whether health, social or food, the peacekeepers of the various contingents throughout the country never miss an opportunity to brighten the faces of the thousands of children they see every day. Being themselves fathers of families and caring mothers, peacekeepers cannot remain insensitive to the situation of these innocent children who deserve to be happy as well. As such, soldiers understand the significance of touching the hearts of those they protect. Healing, brightening, entertaining, comforting, the Force is always there to put a smile on a child's face. Whether on routine patrols or special missions, MINUSCA peacekeepers try to spread joy wherever they go. The women's engagement teams from the Zambian, Nepalese and Pakistani contingents have a specialty in this area. «To see the smiles on the faces of those they have come to assist, to see the children's faces lit up with happiness and to make them forget



Peruvian contingent organized Christmas tree for children at Bouar.

for a moment the difficulties they are experiencing is an indescribable feeling and a great reward for any peacekeeper,» says Lt-Col Samia CHAOUI, Chief of the Force's CIMIC Office. Through their actions, these women of the MINUSCA Force help vulnerable populations not to give up and to believe in a better future. They give them the confidence to change their lives by themselves.

FACILITATING THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Despite MINUSCA's ongoing efforts to ensure the protection of civilians and the freedom of movement of populations, they remain trapped by armed groups and continue to be severely affected by their actions. Although the work of the Blue Helmets has contributed to a significant decrease in attacks against the population, the psychosis is creating massive displacements of populations to whom humanitarian aid has become indispensable. Given this need and the security situation that prevents humanitarian organizations from carrying out their work, the MINUSCA force is more than ever in demand, and must adapt to enable civilian populations to receive the aid intended for them. In 2022, it is estimated that approximately 3.1 million people in CAR will require humanitarian assistance and protection. Of these, 2.2 million will require severe assistance due to the combination of shocks from the Covid 19 pandemic and the deteriorating situation. Therefore, do everything possible to help humanitarian actors get aid to the people. Between routine actions, special escort missions, and operations to secure certain areas, the blue helmets of the various MINUSCA contingents are doing everything possible to ensure that humanitarian aid is delivered to the population. An action that puts a smile on the faces of its recipients and allows them to look forward to their daily lives with serenity ■



HELPING PEOPLE

HEALTH ABOVE ALL

The MINUSCA Force, through all its units deployed on the Central African territory, has always had a keen eye for the health of the population in a context where the public offer of health care is not able to cover their needs. Thus, the hospitals and infirmaries of the various battalions treat men, women, and children free of charge every day. The Force's medical facilities, notably the Rwandan, Bangladeshi and Serbian level 1 and 2 hospitals, offer specialized care that patients in certain localities cannot get unless they travel to the capital, Bangui. Had it not been for these life-saving actions, many people would have been left with ailments that could have been aggravated due to lack of resources. In addition, there are free medical

campaigns organized in places where there are no health centers, as well as spontaneous acts of care during patrols conducted to get closer to populations in need. The leitmotiv of the MINUSCA force is to bring healthcare to patients without having them travel.

CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATION

Young people, especially children are the future of a nation. Investing in education is important because it is a powerful vehicle for change and especially for development. Going to school and getting an education not only impacts the future of the children, but that of their families, their communities, and therefore, their country. That is why the Force units have always mobilized their efforts to enable thousands of Central African



children to benefit from apprenticeships or to have access to adequate didactic means to go in search of knowledge. The Egyptian, Moroccan, Bangladeshi and Burundian battalions have distributed school kits to more than 5,000 students since the start of the school year throughout the Central African Republic, from Bangui to Bouar and from Sibut to Bangassou. Tanzanian peacekeepers have built and equipped two classrooms in Berberati, while the Zambian contingent has rehabilitated several classrooms in their area of responsibility. Nepalese peacekeepers are providing English language training to youth in Bambari, and Bangladeshis are providing support classes and sewing training.

BRINGING JOY TO CHILDREN

A child is still a child, and no matter the situation, he or she needs to play, have fun, and be happy, because joy is a primary, healthy, and beneficial emotion. Aware of this, MINUSCA peacekeepers are constantly reaching out to them, developing a certain ability to make children happy through play activities, donations, meals, and visits. The Portuguese and Serbian contingents in Bangui donated toys and clothes to young children in several orphanages in the capital. Pakistani peacekeepers have repeatedly

introduced children to drawing in Kaga Bandoro and Bangassou, even organizing a drawing contest for their benefit. On special occasions such as Christmas, the celebration was marked by the organization of a Christmas tree in Bouar and Bangassou, respectively by the Peruvian and Moroccan contingents. These were moments of joy and conviviality that were much appreciated by the children, ending with a meal shared with the MINUSCA peacekeepers. The sister in charge of the Catholic mission in Bouar does not hide her joy: *«I am very happy because the children are happy, as you can see. These moments of joy are priceless for a child and these are the things that mark them for life. I would like to thank the Peruvian contingent for organizing this Christmas tree.»* ■



By Lt-Col.
Walaa El Bayoumi
Egypt Army, U9 cell



DR RADUNOVIC, THE COLOSSUS WITH A BIG HEART

He is tall. Very tall, even with his 2.07m height. Colonel Aleksandar Radunovic was born in Prizren, Serbia, on April 7, 1971. April 7 is World Health Day. This coincidence appears as a premonition to his childhood dream of becoming a doctor.

He later entered the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Belgrade, obtained his doctorate and specialized in large joint replacement and revision, trauma management, sports injuries and regenerative therapy in orthopedics. The Serbian Ministry of Health awarded him the highest medical professional title: Primarius. Prior to his

deployment with MINUSCA, he was the head of the Orthopedic Surgery and Trauma Clinic. Continuously involved in medical cooperation and international military medical exercises in Serbia and abroad, he is a member of the first Serbian surgical team in a UN mission, in MINURCAT, in Chad in 2009.

The commander of the Serbian contingent of MINUSCA, Colonel Mico Brankovic, said of him that «when he is there, I fear nothing, he brings serenity wherever he is. He is like a deputy for me and through his leadership, he leads everyone to strive for excellence. Dr. Aleksandar Radunovic,



EVERYTHING IN THIS MISSION MAKES ME BETTER, MAKES ME A BETTER SOLDIER, A BETTER DOCTOR AND A BETTER MAN



by his own admission, has very positive personal and professional memories of the mission in CAR. He remains marked by the dual experience of being a peacekeeper and a doctor, because in this kind of mission, he says, «you meet and serve people from different cultures who are in real need and you can see on their faces that their gratitude is sincere. That feeling is unique for me.

As advice to his young brothers in arms, especially doctors, he advises them to seize the opportunity to serve in MINUSCA, because they will learn a lot both humanly and professionally, and also because they will see and experience things they have never known. During his mission, the challenges he faced were the fact that he had to do something else. «You couldn't just be an orthopedist, you have to be so much more because we don't have all the specialties, and medicine is very broad.»

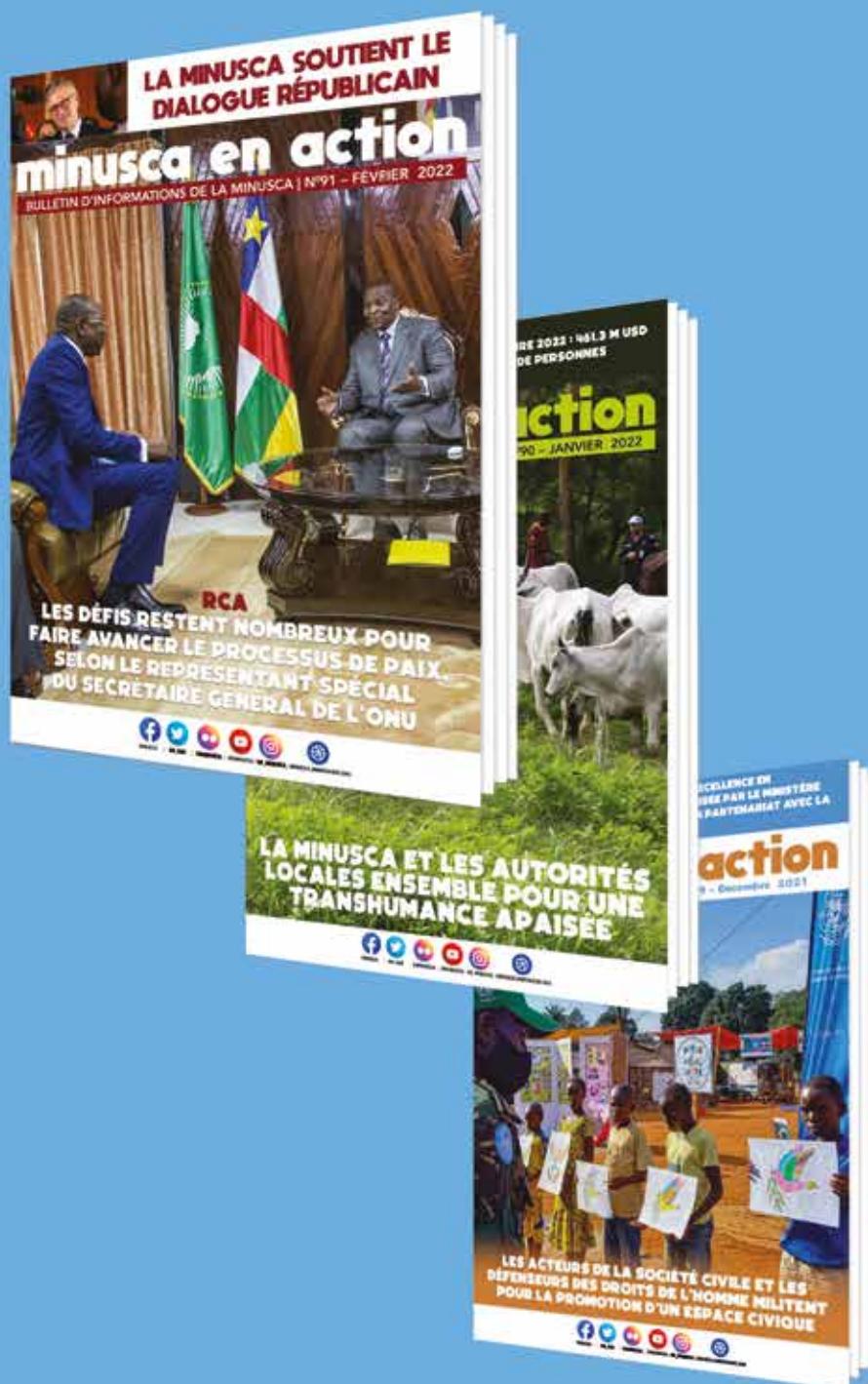
In my interview with him, I saw a committed officer, a doctor who was passionate and dedicated to his profession. A beautiful soul who has sports as a hobby and music as a passion. A guitarist in his spare time, he likes to play notes and sing for his colleagues. With the feeling of duty accomplished and the feeling of having been useful for the peacekeepers as well as for the Central African civilian population, he leaves after one year of good and loyal services to MINUSCA to be reunited with his family, his sons Ognjen and Filip, his wife Vesna, his sister Natasha and his parents Milan and Radmila ■

By Lt-Col Abdoul Aziz Ouédraogo

minusca en action

BULLETIN MENSUEL D'INFORMATIONS DE LA MINUSCA

**Choisissez d'être bien informé(e)
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POUR EN SAVOIR DAVANTAGE

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