

THE OBSERVER

FOR PEACE IN KASHMIR



United Nations Military Observer Group
in India and Pakistan

MAGAZINE 2014



United Nations
Peace Operations



HoM/CMO's Emphasis

Unity

National representative

Morality

Openness

Goal - orientation

Impartiality

Professionalism

I still remember the anxiety and excitement I felt upon hearing that I was appointed as HoM/CMO to UNMOGIP. Now after more than a year and half has passed, I feel very honored to share with you a second edition of the OBSERVER magazine.

Throughout the year, the overall situation in UNMOGIP's Area of Responsibility has remained volatile and delicate with regards to major incidents resulting in a lot of casualties along the LoC.

In order to improve the situation, UNMOGIP has actively executed the mandate by enhancing operational plans, SOPs and training programs to conduct and achieve our critical role maintaining peace in this volatile area by monitoring the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. From a support perspective, UNMOGIP is also preparing for Umoja and IPSAS which are new UN working systems/standards to upgrade our daily task performance with efficiency and transparency.

UNMOGIP's success was only possible by means of our UNMOs in the field as well as international and national staffs' support and I would like to express a sincere appreciation for the great effort they have made. I'm also grateful to the two hosts-nations and troop contributing countries to the mission: Chile, Croatia, Finland, Italy, Korea, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay and Switzerland and for the assistance of our colleagues in the Department on Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and last but not the least I would like to express special thanks to our Magazine committee members.

In connection to our accomplishment we will carry out our mandate and I believe it will be continued through the hard work and commitment of all our staff.

UNMOGIP for One, One for UNMOGIP!



Young-Bum CHOI
Major General

From the desk of mission support



Having joined United Nations in 1989, almost 25 years have passed in my service to this Organization.

My first assignment was in UNIFIL as Radio Technician as an FSO. Initially my intention was to serve only 2 years and return to my country for which my job was on hold. This didn't happen. After six months of my first assignment with UNIFIL, I received the order to prepare and move immediately to a new Mission in Central America (ONUCA). This was largely due to being a Spanish speaker but my rewards were to be nearby my country Chile. The life in UN as FSO continues in the same way: short notice of re-assignment without job application, interview or selection process as of today.

During all these years I have served in UNIFIL around seven years in different periods. The Peace Keeping Missions I have been during my years of UN tour includes: UNIFIL, ONUCA, ONUSAL, UNMIG, MINUSTAH and UNMOGIP. I have also has the privilege of being seconded at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during the process of shifting their offices from Jordan to Lebanon in 1997. The experience gained in the environment of UN for a period of 4 years was totally different than those in DPKO.

My assignment to UNMOGIP happened right after the big earthquake in Haiti during my term in MINUSTAH. I was sending applications during those last 2 years (before the earthquake) and I applied to every post that was at the higher level within my expertise in ICT. I passed the test and became FCRB cleared for both FS7 and P4. In April 2010 I was selected as Chief Communications and Information Technology in UNMOGIP. During these three and half years in Pakistan, the experience has been enormous in different responsibilities like: Chief CITS, Chairman of Staff Welfare Committee and OIC MS during the absence of CMS. Currently I have been operating for the last three months of 2013 as OIC Mission Support after the re-assignment of Mr. Michael Kitivi to MINURSO.

During these last three month of 2013 the Mission entered in the phase of preparation for the launch of Umoja by 1st of March 2014; different activities of coordination and delegation of responsibilities have been managed within the Mission assigning the roles to different staff who are going to be the main players of the project during the phase of deployment. To in charge of the Mission Support has been a challenge to me but also of a great enthusiasm which I consider as part of the rewards from the Organization for all these years of service. My way of managing has been built within UN and therefore I feel confident on my decisions and acts. Finally I just want to express the great satisfaction I feel every time someone said congrats for the Job well done, the same I want to express to all my colleagues in UN.

Do we matter?

Shortly after my arrival here at the mission, we had an incident. Exchange of fire escalated again at one of the troublesome areas of our area of responsibility. To get more information and to perform our responsibilities according to our mandate, to observe and to report, we decided to act accordingly. We combined the efforts of three Field stations and set a team of observers for continuous observation post duty. At the beginning, the exchange of fire was going on almost without end. After few days the fire ceased and hostilities ended. Later we received a comment from high authorities that one of the reasons that the exchange of fire ended was the clear and significant presence of UNMOGIP at the scene. Our actions matter.

Unfortunately this unease at the border or LoC has been going on for more than 63 years. Very often You can read in the newspapers the question why UN or UNMOGIP is not doing anything to solve this pro-longed issue. It hurts to read these comments. Especially, when I have learned during my year here, how much our people do in the framework of the mandate to provide accurate and timely information of the situation to United Nations. On the other hand, after travelling along the Line of control, I have realized how much the normal people, people like you and me, have to endure when the hostilities occur.

I have ended up asking myself a question what would happen if we were not here? Answer is short and easy to find. Our presence in the area of our responsibility is the indication that the people of the member countries of the United Nations care what happens in Kashmir. It shows that we care for the well-being of Kashmiris. Our resources are very limited but if we were not here the Kashmiri people would be in danger of being forgotten in the midst of several crises in the world. Our presence matters.

My tour of duty of one year is now over. Even though homesickness struck me every now and then, the year has gone in a flash. What I expected was nothing compared to what I have experienced. The good things have been ten times better than I thought; unfortunately the bad things have been also ten times worse. The cycle of violence has to be stopped in some way. It is easy to write but may-

be one of the most difficult things in the world to make happen.

I will never forget my time here, that I had the privilege to work in Kashmir and to see and experience one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

You can leave Kashmir but Kashmir never leaves you. I want to thank all of You for Your professionalism, dedication, and friendship I have experienced from all of You. You have my deepest respect. Like so often we ended e-mails and when sending somebody the Field stations, we wished: Be well and safe. I wish this to all of You.

Colonel Anssi Saarikoski
Deputy Chief Military Observer
UNMOGIP



How it is to be a military observer at UNFS Rawalakot



UNFS Rawalakot is placed in a mountain terrain 50 km from the Line of Control (LOC). This Field station is a challenge for all military observers. There are demanding tasks that Observers are performing at UNFS Rawalakot during their period in mission, requiring high level capabilities and experienced officers with high capacity to perform any task with good results. Area reconnaissance, Observation Post, Field trips and Investigations of ACFV are usually tasks that military observers are performing on this UNFS. As incidents across of LOC are increasing in AOR UNFS Rawalakot at last two years, we can say that Investigation of ACFV is basic task in this UNFS. While military observers are performing mentioned tasks, they spent five or six hours in UN vehicle on the one way and usually one or two nights in PA units near the LOC. To visit a place of incident some times requires two or three hours walking by foot.

Observation posts are not less demanding tasks than another, especially when that is performing during the night near the LOC. Daily OP is an opportunity for observing deployment of PA and IA posts a long of LOC. Boarding crossing OP in Thirnot is task that is performed one time per week. On that time we can see difficulties of separate families who live near the LOC.

As mentioned, distance between UNFS Rawalakot and LOC is 50 km and to reach LOC in mountain terrain requires three to seven hours to drive up to a final destination. During the field trip tasks military observers have a opportunity to see how PA units are living and working.

Although life in UNFS Rawalakot demands hard work and a lot of responsibilities, all military observers when performing this task on this UN field station are proud of their contribution for peace in this region.

**Lt COL Stanko
SIMUNOVIC **
UNMO UNFS RAWALAKOT

UN Field Station GILGIT

By: **Maj Marlowe E. Patria** (OIC, UNFS GILGIT, December 2013)



UNFS Gilgit is considered as the farthest station of UNMOGIP, being located in the northernmost area of the country - Gilgit Baltistan. The area is about 290kms (air distance) north of Islamabad and stands at a towering elevation of about 1,553 meters above sea level.

The station maintains its relevance to the mission from the time it was opened on December 1996 to these days 17 years

later. Like any other stations, UNFS Gilgit conducts Area Reconnaissance, Field Trips to Pakistan Army units and Observation Posts, particularly in areas close to the Line of Control. It also conducts investigation should there be complaints on alleged violation on ceasefire, crossing of airspace and the likes. The height of its activities happens only during off-winter season.

This is when snow is not yet hin-

dering access to areas close to LoC. When winter approaches and snow begins to pile up rendering some of the roads impassable, the station is then left with closer areas to go to for its operational activities.

Inside this station is a decent interior set-up that can be likened to one's cozy home. When you enter the main entrance, you will see an open space which caters to the dining and the living areas.



The dining is equipped with a china cabinet where the dining wares are neatly kept, a dining table for six, a refrigerator and a microwave oven. The living area at the side has a sofa set fronting a flat screen 36" TV, which is being serviced by a local cable network.

The kitchen has its own china cabinet, wash basin and gas range. The two UNMO Rooms have complete furnishing such as beddings and cabinets, which are good for two persons each. Each of these rooms also has its own toilet.

The storage room has the smallest space but large enough to accommodate a maximum of three-month supply for the whole station. The last but not the least is the station's main office. This portion is spacious

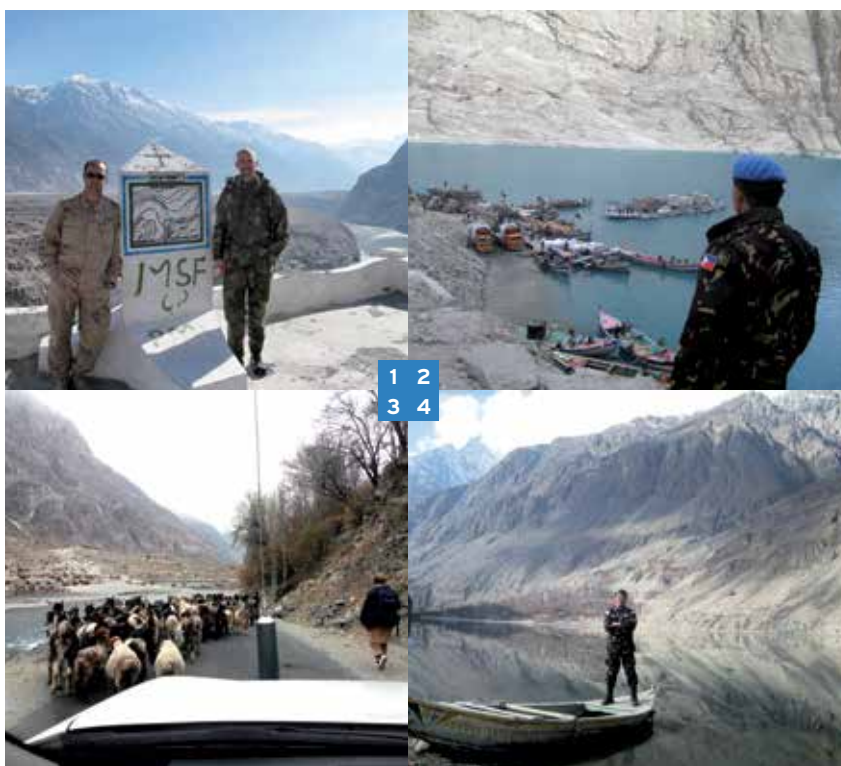
enough to accommodate the three working PC stations with several tables and cabinets at the sides. And just like any other office stations, it is also equipped with a number of communication gadgets (with internet connection though with fluctuating signal, of course) powered by the city's electric power provider. In times of black out, the station has two heavy duty generator sets alternately functioning to cover the average eight to ten hours power cut every day.



For those who have not yet been to this station, they say it is one of the best assignments an UNMO can have while on mission. It is a detail where, while you get busy with your operational tasks in the field, you will constantly be soothed and overwhelmed by the breath-taking and magnificent views of the nature's beauty all around you. And not really wanting to pre-empt your mounting excitement, here are some of the amazing spots that we captured while conducting our field tasks.

As we roam the area with much determination to accomplish our mandated tasks, we have to bear in mind one famous adage which says, "as we journey and discover new places, we take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints and kill nothing but time."

Let's go UNFS Gilgit!



1 Viewpoint - the junction where the three famous mountain ranges (Himalayan, Karakoram and Hindu Kosh) meet.

2 Hunza Lake - traders and commuters are seen busy crossing towards the other side of the lake and vice-versa.

3 Gahkuch - Traffic jam? No. All creatures have their share of space and time. Had it not been for them that we paused and waited for a while, we would not have noticed the amazing view of this valley while savoring the cold breeze of the winter winds.

4 Khalti Lake in Gupis (Jandrot) - due to the stillness of the clear waters, the lake reflects the mirror image of the mountain-side banking the other end of the lake.

Living and Working in New Delhi

By: **WGCDR Kanyarat Lualon (THAI)**



**Good day dear reader.
I am Wing Commander
Kanyarat LUALON, WRTAF,
assigned as a staff officer-
in-charge at UNLO Delhi
from 8 October 13 to 5
January 14.**

I'm honored to contribute an article to our UNMOGIP Magazine to share with you how it's like to live and work in New Delhi as CMO's representative.

On one hand I was so proud and delighted to be appointed for this position as I submitted my preference and the board agreed to select me. On the other hand I was not so certain what I really had to do and whether I would be able to do it as well. However, my second thought was, "so what?" This has been my first UN mission so far, whatever I have to do would be my first task ever. Every assignment for me would be something new and I have to learn how to do it anyway. I have no reason to worry as it wouldn't help to make things get better. Therefore, here I am as Staff Officer in Charge (SOIC) Delhi.

Our UNMOGIP Liaison Office is situated in the heart of New Delhi near India Gate, one of the most visited tourist attractions. The address is 1 A-B Purana Quila Road. As SOIC in Liaison Office New Delhi (UNLO), I represent the CMO in dealing with the Indian authorities, UN agencies, and diplomatic society as the initial point of contact with UNMOGIP HQ in India. I am directly responsible to the CMO for matters pertaining to other UN Agencies in India. I am also responsible for the contacts with UNDSS regarding security matters and in all other issues pertaining to the safety and security of UNMOGIP assets in IAK which are to be staffed through the UNMOGIP Liaison office. As tasked by CMO/DCMO, I, the LO, act as a representative of the CMO at the monthly Security Management Team (SMT) and Security Cell Meetings (SCM). On a daily basis, I have to supervise three civilians: an admin assistant, a cleaner and a gardener as well as three drivers supported by Indian Army. Speaking about my Admin Assistant, Ms Gayathri Jayaraman, she has been supportive and assisted me well as required.

As New Delhi is the capital, you have everything you need in your life; all kinds of food, shopping centers, tourist attractions. You name it and you get it. After working hours, you can become a tourist and go sightseeing and visiting all the places Delhi can offer.



Swiss Military Observer in UNMOGIP

By: Maj Ariel ECHEVERIA (PHI)

Switzerland flag in the middle, waving among the rest of the TCC flags.

For some years, the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) is composed of Military Observers coming from 9 Troup Contributing Countries (TCC). These countries are South Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Croatia, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Uruguay and Chile. In total, they compose the mission's 44-strong group of Military Observers. Over the last 2 years, Sweden and South Korea, reduced by one their number of contributions, thus, reducing also the total number of Military Observers by 2. Since then, UNMOGIP was operating with 42 military observers. In this connection, an effort was made to invite Switzerland to participate in the mission. In January 26, 2014, the country of Switzerland had officially joined the mission by sending its first military observer. He is the first of the two military observers who will be com-



From L-R. Mr. Pedro BURGOS (Acting CMS), LtCol Beat KLINGELFUSS (SWI), Mgen Young-Bum CHOI (HOM/CMO), Col Jouko RAUHALA (DCMO), Col Markus MAEDER (SWISS Defense Attache).

ing from the Swiss Armed Forces. He is LtCol Beat Nicolas KLINGELFUSS. Last January 31, 2014, a flag raising ceremony for the Switzerland flag was conducted to officially welcome the Swiss contingent. The Switzerland Flag was raised by Lt-Col KLINGELFUSS. The occasion was attended by the Swiss Defense At-

tache, Colonel Markus MAEDER, with the Head of Mission/Chief Military Observer, Mgen Young-Bum Choi and the rest of the HQ UNMOGIP military and civilian staff.

With the arrival of the second Swiss Military Observer on February, 2014, UNMOGIP will be manned with its full strength of 44 military observers.

UNMOGIP 2013 Military Observers Conferences

By: **Maj Ariel ECHEVERIA** (PHI)

Every year, UNMOGIP conducts the Military Observers Conference twice. For 2013, we held it on April 11 - 12 and on November 19 - 20. But, what are these conferences all about? Or what is the significance these activities hold to all the members of this mission?

The activity is commonly termed as United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) Conference. It is a bi-annual activity that gathers not only all the Military Observers but also includes all the civilian staff in Islamabad Headquarters for a few days of mission-related interactions, information and experience sharing, and opportunities for fellowship with all your UNMOGIP colleagues. It is most significantly designed as a useful venue for the military and civilian staff to discuss and resolve the challenges, issues and concerns of the UNMOs in the conduct of their field tasks. The conference is also being highlighted with the long time tradition of military honors in a Medal Parade Ceremony commemorating the untiring and selfless contributions of all in keeping with UNMOGIP's mandate of maintaining peace between Pakistan and India. The ceremony is attended by all the members of UNMOGIP, high representatives of both India and Pakistan, dignitaries and representatives from all the Troop Contributing Countries



UNMOGIP Military Observers November 2013



CMO and DCMO with the Civilian Staff November 2013

and friends of UNMOGIP.

For this year, the UNMO conference was divided into four (4) activities namely; the UNMO Conference, the Medal Parade, Fellowship Games and a Joint Military and Civilian Dinner before the UNMOs go back to their respective field stations.

The UNMO Conferences this year were started with a simulated re-

call and generation of all UNMOs back to Islamabad HQ. The following day was dedicated to a conference among all the UNMOs and later with the civilian staff. In the November conference, the UNMOs were able to experience an activity that was different from the usual powerpoint-presentation-and-discussion type. This time, the UNMOs were participating in a Crisis Management exercise. They were

given a scenario whereby two (2) UNMOs were being held hostages by an unknown group of terrorists. All the UNMOs were divided into groups. After a certain given time, each group was given time to discuss their courses of action. The activity was found to be useful and productive as it enhanced the consciousness and appreciation of the importance of security for everyone.

The Medal Parades which captured the whole activity were held in the grounds of UNMOGIP headquarters. For this year, two (2) Military Observers were being awarded the UNMOGIP Medal with Numeral 4 for having served in the mission for at least 21 months. Major Ivica DZELALIJA from the Croatian Army received the medal in April's Medal Parade while LtCol Danilo CAPUTTO from the Uruguayan Army received his in November's Medal Parade.

The days in Islamabad with all the UNMOs around would not be more fun without the fellowship games. In April, UNMOGIP's civilian and military golfers and enthusiasts went to Margalla Golf Course to enjoy a day of fellowship tournament. For the Individual category, LtCol Ricardo LUCERO of the Philippine Army bested everybody while the former Chief of Mission Support Michael KITIVI was the runner-up. In November's fellowship games, it was equally exciting as the UNMOs managed to squeeze out some time for a football match. The games were initially designed to be played by teams composed of Military Ob-

servers by country-groups and a team from the civilian staff. However, due to lack of time, it ended with one prominent team against the rest. It was the "Latinos Team" who kicked those goals in to almost without efforts.



Finally, what a better way to culminate the activities than to brush elbows, share a moment of fun and give cheers to everyone, in a night with excellent food and drinks. The French Club in the Diplomatic Enclave was the year's venue for the two nights of memorable time of togetherness among the UNMOGIP family.

Those nights saw the once-in-a-blue-moon performances of the UNMOs and the civilian staff. It showcased the unique performances from the members of each country. Those were indeed nights to remember! However



the performances were executed, surely, the fun and excitement were louder than the songs and dances being ever carried out. See you all in the next UNMO conference. We go together!

Women UNMOS



Name: Visnja Prebeg **Rank:** Captain **Nationality:** Croatian
Period of time in the mission: 8 March 2012 – 8 June 2013
UN experience: UNMOGIP only (MIO officer in UNMOGIP HQ, OIC UNFSS Sialkot, Jammu, Rawalakot)

Military experience: 20 years, 12 years of active duty, Military History Teacher (NCO Basic and Advance Course), Communications Skills Instructor (Basic and Advance Officer Course), CIMIC Staff Officer in Exercise Detachment (Simulation Center), Exercise

Planning Officer in G7 Department (Army HQ), Planning Officer in G5 Department (Army HQ)

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: Nice friends, beautiful countries with very friendly people and amazing cultural and natural heritage, unforgettable experience



Name: Milim HAN **Rank:** (P)Captain **Nationality:** South Korean
Period of time in the mission: 17 December 2012 – 17 December 2013
Military experience: Intelligence Analysis, I&W charge, Target analysis

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: “Even as a Military officer living in a technical war situation back home, I happen to forget the reality. It felt quite strange feeling the sorrow and grief for my country through facing Kashmir and could also

realize the grief that Kashmiri would be feeling. Though in a way it seems for us to control the situation seems to be quite limited I believe and feel very much privileged to serve as a member contributing to build peace in Kashmir.”



Name: Kanyarat LUALON **Rank:** Wing Commander **Nationality:** Thai
Period of Time in the Mission: 13 March 2013-13 March 2014
UN experience: None

Military Experience: Language Instructor, Chief of Education and Planning.

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: “UNMOGIP is my first UN mission and probably my last and only as back home several officers are on the On call list waiting to serve in the UN

mission as well. I'm proud to be the first Thai female representative in UNMOGIP mission working with other UNMOs from 8 different countries learning some of their cultures; moreover, learning to work together as efficient UN personnel. To me, peace in UNMOGIP AoR seems hard to achieve but we never lose hope.”



Name: Erica Carlsson **Rank:** Major **Nationality:** Swedish

Period in UNMOGIP: Feb 2013 - Feb 2014

International experience: CIMIC-officer in ISAF (Afghanistan, 2008), Contributor in CIMIC-conference (Kiev, 2009), Liaison-officer in KFOR (Kosovo, 2009-2010).

Other military experience: National service: Commander of Artillery Recce Platoon; Active officer 2002 - 2006: Logistic troops; Active

officer 2006 - 2011: Instructor leadership, Military Academy, and Project coordinator for Development of Leadership, Organization and Education within Armed Forces, Military Academy; Reservist 2011 - 2013: Army Intelligence Officer.

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: "Never for the sake of peace and quiet deny your own experience or convictions". /Dag Hammarskjöld'



Name: EunKyeong LEE **Rank:** Captain **Nationality:** South Korean

Period of time in the mission: 20 May 2013 - 20 May 2014

UN experience: This is my first mission

Military experience: Platoon leader, G-4, signal & IT staff.

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: This is the special opportunity to make me have more open mind. As a peacekeeper I will do my best until there is no need UNMOGIP between India and Pakistan.

Name: Jungdul KIM (J.D.) **Rank :** Army Major **Nationality:** South Korean

Period of time in the mission: April 23, 2012 - April 23, 2013

Prior UN experience: None

Military experience: Coordination officer to UNCMAC & NNSC of The United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission, Korea / Artillery Analyst of ROK-US Combined Forces Command

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: "Happy to see the second issue of annual UNMOGIP magazine is on action since I was the editor of the first issue last year. I enjoyed and learnt a lot during my service while communicating both military and civilian colleagues from various countries. Thank you everyone and I miss you all!"



Name: KATID SANDRA **Rank:** Captain **Nationality:** Croatian

Period of Time in the Mission: 31st July 2012-31st July 2013

Military Experience: Head of subsection ENG Bn S-4, Logistics Officer, Support Operational NCO

Overall feeling toward UNMOGIP mission: "UNMOGIP is my first UN mission and hopefully not the last. I'm proud that I was part of a team for a peace in the world with selfless contribution of other nations. With happiness I have accomplished any given

task - challenge during my service in UN mission. During this period I have improved my skills and abilities as UN personnel for further progress of peace in the world."

Women, Civilian Staff of UNMOGIP



Name, rank: Reem Al-Wakil, Finance Assistant **Nationality:** Iraqi

Period of time in the mission: 25 APRIL 2005 - PRESENT

UN experience: UNIIMOG, UNHCR, AUB/UNGCI, UNROP, UNTAC, UNISOM, UNPF, UNPREDEP, UNMIK, BINUCA and UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

I started to work with United Nations since 1988 in different types of missions and offices: military, political and humanitarian. In the beginning of my career, I was blessed to work with dedicated and professional team of UN staff, which was quite helpful for me for building a sound professional foundation that had great positive influence on me both in professional and personal life. I also had an extra advantage that enriched my experience by having the opportunity of working in different cultures and environments with a great number of diversified personalities and nationalities that have their own charm and uniqueness. I also experienced a lot of challenges and difficulties that gave me wider exposure and deeper analysis to the surroundings. I enjoyed every moment of those experiences, and I intend to publish a book in order to share those interesting stories and experiences working in the organization.

I enjoyed my work at UNMOGIP which added further knowledge to me and I loved my stay in beautiful Islamabad. I appreciate the hospitality and politeness of the local people. United Nations is my second home and my family, I owe everything I learnt during my 25 years of service to each person I met and dealt with during my career in the UN. And last but not the least, it is my pride that I am part of the UN.



Name, rank : Amal Al-Shehabi, Procurement Assistant

Nationality: Syria

Period of time in the mission: 20 April 2007 - Present

UN experience: UNDOF, UNAMA, UNMIT and UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

It's an honor to work for United Nations Family in general and for UNMOGIP in particular. During my stay in Pakistan, India and Srinagar, I have learned a lot from working in the multi-cultural environment where we exchange ideas and experience new things and strive for peace and prosperity to prevail all over the world. While working for UNMOGIP, I developed friendly relations with the military observers as well as national and international staff members. I believe that friendship is one of the most important values in human life.



Name, rank: Venus Phoompiew, Administrative Assistant to Chief of Mission Support

Nationality: Thai

Period of time in the mission: 24 January 2008 - Present

UN experience: UNBRO, UNTAC, UNOPS, ILO, UNFPA, UNAMSIL and UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

I am proud to work with one of the challenge missions like UNMOGIP, especially when people ask me "in which country do you work?" The answer can be "I work in Pakistan, India or Kashmir" because UNMOGIP Operational areas are covered these three locations. And it is nice to work with Military Observers from many different countries including Thailand.



Name, rank: Lorette M. Alejandro **Nationality:** Filipino

Period of time in the mission: mid October 2008 - Present

UN experience: UNMIK and UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

I started working with the UN in mid-August 2000 in Kosovo and have been more than five years with UNMOGIP. It is a very exhilarating, educational and uplifting experience for me to be a part of a multi-cultural, multi-dimensional international organization which helps in establishing world peace. I am always proud to be a peacekeeper and I am very happy to contribute in my own little way to give a better world to the future generations.



Name: Loidie Stella D'Haiti

Position: Administrative Assistant to the Head of Mission/Chief Military Observer

Nationality: Haitian

Time/period in the mission: 19 November 2010-Present

UN experience: UNOCI, UNMOGIP

Overall feeling UNMOGIP mission:

Travel around the world, leaving your family to contribute to peace in the world is very challenging, especially for women who are fighting for their rights. I cannot be more proud to prove to the world what women are capable of. I've been working in the field especially in Srinagar which is a difficult region in so many aspects. First of all, I am the only civilian female working at the Headquarters with more than ten (10) males military Officers; in addition, I also have to live in a hotel for six months. Wow, what an experience!!



Name, rank: Huma Shahid, Human Resources Assistant

Nationality: Pakistani

Period of time in the mission: 01 December 2000 - Present

UN experience: UNOPS, UNDP and UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: I have been a part of UNMOGIP since 2000, and have certainly had a unique and memorable experience with the diverse and delightful staff at the office. My time at the

UN has inculcated in me appreciation of a diverse working environment and shaped me into a more refined and professional person.



Name, rank: Ms Gayathri Jayaraman, Administrative Assistant, UNMOGIP Liaison Office, New Delhi

Nationality: Indian

Period of time in the mission: Since December 2008-Present

UN experience: UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

It's been a privilege and a rare opportunity to work with UNMOGIP. Working for the prestigious UNMOGIP Mission has not only been stimulating but also interesting. Combining the best of camaraderie and discipline at work, the interaction with military officials enhances the morale of the civilians to give their best support to the Mission, and therefore, working for such a Mission is both stimulating and interesting.



Name, rank: Kainat Niazi, Secretary/Billing Assistant

Nationality: Pakistani

Period of time in the mission: 11 November 2009 - Present

UN experience: UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission: This is my pride that I am a staff member of UNMOGIP and am happy to start my UN career working for such a mission.



Name, rank: Nazma Khan, PMU Assistant

Nationality: Pakistani

Period of time in the mission: 01 July 2010 - Present

UN experience: UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

I Joined UNMOGIP on 01 July 2010 which I feel is not only a good career but it's such a pride being a part of peacekeepers in the world and working for humanitarian cause. What I am proud of is my determination, learning tendency and analytical skills which helps me a lot through busy times. I am reaping on the basis of what I have learned, enjoying the fruits and still learning for the future.



Name, rank: Shumaila Shakoore, Personnel Assistant

Nationality: Pakistani

Period of time in the mission: 1st November 2013 - Present

UN experience: UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

I joined UNMOGIP on 1st November 2013. This is my first experience working with United Nation and so far the experience is good and it has given me the opportunity to work with a diverse group of people, different nationalities, religion, culture, and socioeconomic backgrounds. UNMOGIP has a lively atmosphere, co-workers are knowledgeable and willing to help with everything.



Name, rank: Robina Khan, Inventory & Supply Assistant

Nationality: Pakistani

Period of time in the mission: 01 MAY 2010 - PRESENT

UN experience: UNMOGIP

Overall feeling towards UNMOGIP mission:

Working with UNMOGIP is a wonderful experience in my so far career life. Its Multicultural environment added lots of new learning in my knowledge and enhanced my ability to work anywhere in the world. I am proud to work with UNMOGIP's such professional, dedicated and most of all friendly team of great people with great minds and hearts. I wish to continue my this experience for a long period of my life.

COUNTRY PROFILE: FINLAND

Official name: Republic of Finland

Year of Independence: 1917

Area: 338,432 km²

Population: 5.4 million

Capital city: Helsinki

Life expectancy: Women, 84 yrs; Men, 77 yrs

People: Finn 93.4%, Swede 5.6%, Other 1%

Official languages: Finnish, Swedish, Sami

Major religion: Christianity

Currency: Euro (= 100 cents)



Finnish Sauna



The Finnish sauna is a substantial part of Finnish culture. There are some 5,4 million inhabitants and over two million saunas in Finland - an average of one per household.

For Finnish people the sauna is a place to relax with friends and family, and a place for physical and mental relaxation as well.

One reason the sauna culture has always flourished in Finland has been because of the versatility of the sauna: You could live in it, make food in the stove, take care of your personal hygiene, and, most importantly, give birth in an almost sterile environment. Unlike many other, more densely-populated places in Europe,

the availability of wood needed to build and warm the sauna has never been an issue. Another reason for its popularity is that in such a cold climate, the sauna allows people warmth for at least a short period of time. However, it is just as popular in the summer as in the winter. The traditional sauna day is Saturday.

Often after the sauna it is a custom to sit down in the dressing room or the porch of the sauna to enjoy a sausage, along with beer or soft drinks. Many different types of sauna can be found in Finland. The sauna tradition is so strong that even Finns abroad enjoy a good sauna. Finnish soldiers on peacekeeping missions are famous for their saunas; even on UNMOGIP mission there is a sauna almost at every field station. Saunas, even in the military, are strictly egalitarian places. No titles or hierarchies are used in sauna.

Supporting the peace around the world

50,000

Men and Women

37

Different Operations

39

Death Finnish Soldiers

1956

1975

2000

2013



10

Crisis Management
Operations at 2013

1961

Finland Enters
UNMOGIP

2,000

Maximum Simultaneous
Peacekeeping Forces

100%
Volunteers troops

Finland has a long track record in international peace operations. Some 50,000 men and women have served in 37 different operations since Suez in 1956. Finnish troops are well-educated professionals with special knowhow, state-of-the-art technology and time-proven expertise. Since 1956, 39 Finnish soldiers have died while serving in peacekeeping operations

Finland may participate in peace and security building or humanitarian operations, and operations tasked to protect civilian populations. Such operations have the approval of the UN or the OSCE. According to the Finnish law the maximum simultaneous strength

of the peacekeeping forces is limited to 2,000 soldiers. Most of Finland's troops are from the reserve, and 100% are volunteers.

Currently (2013), Finland participates in ten different Crisis Management Operations around the world. Finnish contingent contribute its work in Afghanistan and Lebanon.

Besides this, there are some Finnish soldiers working as Staff Officers and Military Observers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Kosovo, Liberia, Middle East (incl. Syria) and Somali coastal areas. There are also Finnish military trainers in Mali.

Finland has participated in UNMOGIP since 1961.

Military crisis management is on the main tasks of the Finnish Defence Forces. By developing the military crisis management capability and participating in crisis management operations, Finland accepts its international responsibility and helps prevent the spread of side-effects of crises to Finland. Military crisis management is being developed in cooperation with other countries both in the European Union and in NATO.

Mannerheim Cross

The Mannerheim Cross of Liberty (Finnish: Mannerheim-risti) is the most esteemed Finnish military decoration. The medal, inspired by the Old-Scandinavian Fylfot (synonym for swastika), was introduced after the Winter War in 1940 and named after Field Marshal Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim.

The award was introduced into the Order of the Cross of Liberty and the bearer of the cross is called a Knight of the Mannerheim Cross. While the 1st class is the 5th and the 2nd class the 9th in the order of precedence of Finnish awards, the Mannerheim Cross 2nd class has become the most distinguished military award in Finland.

This is due to the fact that Mannerheim Cross 1st class has been awarded only twice, to the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal

C.G.E. Mannerheim and General of Infantry Erik Heinrichs.

The Second Class of the award was instituted as the universal award for extraordinary bravery, for the achievement of extraordinarily important objectives by combat, or for especially well conducted operations. The Cross could be awarded to any soldier of the Finnish Defence Forces, regardless of rank. Mannerheim Cross Second Class has been awarded to 191 persons, all during World War II.

Four persons have been awarded it twice. De jure, the decoration is still active and can be awarded to any Finnish soldier, although it is highly unlikely that this would be done during peacetime or even in a minor conflict.



UNMOGIP Finnish Military Observers 2013

**Captain Aleksis Valve,
Captain Antti-Pekka Kiiski,
CMO,
Colonel Anssi Saarikoski,
Captain Petri Oljakka,
Captain Tomi Mertanen,
Captain Jukka-Pekka
Kaasinen (from left)**



Mannerheim Cross 1st Class.



Mannerheim Cross 2nd Class.

COUNTRY PROFILE: CROATIA

Official name: Republic of Croatia

Year of Independence: 1991

Area: 56,594 km²

Population: 4.3 million

Capital city: Zagreb

Life expectancy: Women, 79.9 yrs; Men, 73.8 yrs

People: Croats 90,4%, Serbs 4,4%, Bosniacs 0,7%, Others 4,5%

Official languages: Croatian

Major religion: Christian Catholic

Currency: Kuna



COUNTRY PROFILE: CHILE

Official name: Republic of Chile

Year of Independence: 1810

Area: 756,096 km²

Population: 17 million

Capital city: Santiago

Life expectancy: Women, 82.5 yrs; Men, 76.5 yrs

People: 95.4% white people and Mestizo, 4.6% of amerindian population

Official languages: Castellan Spanish

Major religion: Christian Catholic

Currency: Chilean Peso



A long and narrow coastal South American country on the west side of the Andes Mountains, Chile stretches over 4,300 km (2,670 mi) north to south, but only 350 km (217 mi) at its widest point east to west. This encompasses a remarkable variety of landscapes. It contains 756,950 square kilometers (292,260 sq mi) of land area. It is situated within the Pacific Ring of Fire. So, earthquakes, volcano eruptions and tsunamis are frequent. The northern Atacama Desert contains great mineral wealth, primarily copper and nitrates. Is commonly known as the driest place in the world, the average rainfall is about 1 millimetre (0.04 in) to 3 millimetres (0.12 in) in a year. Moreover,

some weather stations in the Atacama have never received rain. Periods of up to four years have been registered with no rainfall. The relatively small Central Valley, which includes Santiago, dominates the country in terms of population and agricultural resources. This area also is the historical center from which Chile expanded in the late 19th century, when it integrated the northern and southern regions.

Southern Chile is rich in forests, grazing lands, and features a string of volcanoes and lakes. The southern coast is a labyrinth of fjords, inlets, canals, twisting peninsulas, and islands. The Andes Mountains are located on the eastern border.

Chile controls Easter Island and Salas y Gómez Island, the easternmost islands of Polynesia, which it incorporated to its territory in 1888. In this way Chile has presence in three continents: South America, Oceania and Antarctic. The stringency of their extreme climates, permanent scourges of nature and situation of isolation between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean have sculpted the character of its people, leading to a stoic, proud and persevering kind at once warm and generous.

Their armed forces, guardians of its treasures, have kept the peace for over 130 years and today is actively involved bringing peace to those parts of the world where it is needed.

COUNTRY PROFILE: KOREA

Official name: Republic of Korea

Year of Independence: 1948

Area: 219,140 km²

Population: 48.8 million

Capital city: Seoul

Life expectancy: Women, 83 yrs; Men, 77 yrs

Official languages: Korean

Major religion: Buddhists, Protestants, Catholics

Currency: Won



The Republic of Korea is a small country on the far eastern edge of Asia. Although it ranks 109th in the world in terms of land area, the country is a center of economic activity, culture, and arts. Korea was colonized by Japan in the early 20th century and later had to endure the Korean War (1950-53), but it has achieved amazing economic growth in a short period, dubbed “the Miracle on the Han River.”

Today, Korea is an industrial nation standing tall on the world stage. Its semiconductor, automobile, shipbuilding, steel making, and IT industries are on the

leading edge in global markets. It hosted the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan. More recently, Korean dramas, movies, and music are attracting many audiences in Asian countries and beyond, creating what is being called the “Korean Wave.” Korea’s new standing in the international community was highlighted in 2010 with the nation becoming the first Asian country to chair the G20 and host the G20 Seoul Summit.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Republic of Korea, founded in 1948, upholds the values of democracy and free-market economy. The Cold War confrontation that emerged in the aftermath of World War II divided the world into two antagonistic blocs, and the Republic of Korea aligned itself with the democracies of the West.

As the Cold War intensified, the Republic of Korea focused on further cementing ties with its traditional allies and building cooperative relations with Third World nations. Since the 1970s, South Korean diplomacy has been aimed at promoting the peaceful reunification of the peninsula. To this end, South Korea has bolstered ties with allies and played an active role in the international arena.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND COOPERATION

Since the Republic of Korea joined the United Nations in 1991, it has played an ever more active role in the efforts to address a whole range of global issues, acting both as a regional facilitator and an influential international actor. In 1996-1997, Korea served as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. During this period, it played an important role in advocating the protection of civilians caught up in armed conflicts. Korea held the Presidency of the 56th Session of the General Assembly in 2001, and in 2006, former Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon was elected the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATION

Peacekeeping operations have emerged as a vital and powerful means for the UN to help countries torn apart by armed conflict. Fully aware of the importance of international peace and security in light of its own experience of post-war nation-building, Korea has actively participated in UN peacekeeping operations in 11 missions including those in Lebanon and Haiti as well as in cease-fire monitoring and confidence-building efforts. Korea has also contributed to initiatives to assist local communities' attempts to recover through the provision of medical services and assistance with local construction projects. and will continue to contribute to strengthening the PSI counter-proliferation networks.

Korea military initiated deploy-

ment of Officers to UNMOGIP from September 1994, and now the total number has reached to 165 personnel who have participated. Moreover UNMOGIP is the first mission for Korean General to be designated as a CMO/HoM. At present with Major General Young- Bum CHOI the third Korean General as of CMO/HoM, 7 Korean UNMOs are deployed as Military Observers.

UNMOGIP Headquarters Srinagar



As UNMOGIP is hosted by two countries both Pakistan and India the mission has two Headquarters, one based in Islamabad, Pakistan and the other in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India. Half of the year, the Military Observers spend the winter period in Islamabad and the summer period in Srinagar. The Indian Government has provided an exceptional location in the heart of beautiful Srinagar. Most recently renovations have been made to our premises. The main building of UNMOGIP-Headquarters Srinagar is approximately 125 years old constructed during Maharaja's time. The building is 90 percent of wooden structure and from time to time the mission and the host government have refabricated/modified the building inside but the outer structure remains the same, as the UN is not allowed to change its outer shape being that it

is a HERITAGE BUILDING in Srinagar. The building consists of three stories, the ground floor, first floor and third floor.

Till 31 October 1989, all the Military/International Civilian were living outside the compound during the period 01 May to 31 October, and this building was used as Offices for all the Military staff and for communications, then named as Radio Room. Another building "B" (U-shaped), which was used as offices for International Civilian Staff for the

summer period were converted into the bed rooms in January 1990, for Milobs stationed in Srinagar, due to security/safety reasons, when we were not allowed to live outside the compound. In January 1994 Maj. Gen. Alfonso Pessolano the then HOM/CMO, upon his instructions the Main Building was renovated and changed to bedrooms for Milobs, and Building "B" (U-Shaped) was turned again to offices for Military Staff.

In February 2012, due to security and safety reasons, the Building "B" was again refabricated and converted to bedrooms for the Military Staff, which consists of Nine Bedrooms with six bathrooms, which proved to be sufficient for Military Staff during this period.

There is another single story building called as Building "C" Ingle Nook, used as Dinning Hall, Kitchen and one bedroom with attach bathroom mostly being used as bedroom for D/CMO, therefore are Six single story buildings being used by Indian Army Transport Platoon and CRPF Guards inside the UNMOGIP Premises.



Staff Welfare Committee

In September 2010, less than three months upon joining UNMOGIP, I was appointed by the CMS, Mr. Michael Kitivi, as the Chairman of Staff Welfare Committee (SWC). From the very beginning, I found this assignment quite daunting to achieve the goals as I was still in a period of adjustment with a lack of familiarity with the staff members and in addition a SWC with no official budget. The first meeting of SWC was in late September 2010 where the SWC established the terms of reference, planned future events, and most importantly, the financial aspect or lack thereof. The first event, on 08 October 2010, was a "Happy Hour" with the purpose of supporting friendship and familiarization with different ideas. The "End of the year party for 2010" was organized and the event was very successful with all staff of UNMOGIP, UNAMA and UN-ODC (UN Agencies in the compound) participating in the party. Late in November 2010, the CMS then assigned to SWC the responsibility for the management of the UNMOGIP Cafeteria; this was one of the most challenging tasks during 2011 and 2012. Several difficulties, discrepancies, meetings and agreements occurred during this period with the final result of a very popular cafeteria finally getting established and stabilized. Now UNMOGIP cafeteria successfully serves not only UNMOGIP personnel but also all Agencies in the compound (UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNOPS and UNAMA).

The first charity raffle in the history of UNMOGIP was organized for the "End of year party 2012" with proceeds going to a number of charitable organizations. During this party UNMOGIP had around 350 UN staff and families participating from all Agencies around. During this past year we continued with events on monthly basis. SWC has organized sport competitions, farewell parties, cricket tournaments, end of year party with charity raffle

and weekly Happy Hours. In 2013 the SWC also re-established the SWC Recreation Room (OP-19) located in the Islamabad HQ. The SWC has also included activities in Srinagar HQ during the opening of HQ last May; refurbishing of the Gym and purchase basic gym equipment. As a Chairman of SWC I have to thank everyone who has been supporting the different activities and especially to all the SWC team, without them nothing could have happened.



Eid gift-giving to cleaners



Cricket match with other UN agencies



Football match between Military and Civilians



Inauguration SWC Recreation Room "OP-19"



CMS Michael Kitivi's Farewell Party



Some of the SWC committee members during 2013 End of year party



Table Tennis Competition Winner Waqar Rashid



Winners of the UNMOGIP Golf Tournament

UNMOGIP Post Store



The name of organization is “UNMOGIP Post Store”. It is a member’s co-operative and supplies its services to its members. It was formed within the framework revised by the privileges and concessions granted to United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) by the Government of Pakistan under the Act XX (1948) in order to import and distribute consumables to privileged personnel. The UNMOGIP Post Store has its background in the Observer’s Manual Chapter 5 Para 513 and has been in practice since the inception of the mission in 1948. There are two main categories of members Regular and Associate. The regular membership is strictly limited to Military Observers and Civilian International staff members assigned to UNMOGIP. The Associate membership is open to International personnel who are assigned to other UN agencies working in Pakistan. We do not have any written history of exact date of inclusion of associate membership however a letter from MOFA dated 18th February 1991 is on the files in which MOFA said that “Ministry considers all UN Organizations in Pakistan as one entity for certain administrative purpose; hence the necessary prescribed quota which is based on individual entitlement is given collectively for distribution to UNMOGIP Post Store. Since UNMOGIP has been obtaining exemptions through the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs, it caters for the entire UN agencies stationed in Pakistan”. A Post Store committee, consisting of (03) three UNMOs and (03) three civilian International Staff Members, is responsible for the directions and supervision of the general operations of the Post Store. The Post Store committee is also responsible to the Head of Mission/Chief Military Observer (HoM/CMO) to ensure that the rules, laws and regulations are strictly adhered to. The Post Store Manager heads the Daily Operation of the Post Store and other personnel employed as required for this purpose. The Post Store Committee is fully responsible for the hiring of suitable staff to manage the requirements of the Post Store. All the members of the store have to make an initial refundable deposit of US\$500 (Excepting UNMOs who pay \$200). The deposit is used to purchase stocks for the Post Store and also serves as a security against credit purchases. All profits are the property of the current regular membership and can only be liquidated by the consensus of opinion obtained at the General Meeting. The commodities are restricted to food items, tobacco products, spirits, beverages, cleaning and washing products. A limited number of cosmetics, hair grooming products and gift items are also available. The Post Store imports these items under a quota agreed with the Foreign Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs of Pakistan through an agreement reached on 5 March 1991 on behalf of its members and distribute among them under strict controls.

By signing the application form for membership of the Post Store the member forfeits his rights for personal importation of above items. However within the set time limit by Central Board of Revenue a member may purchase electric or electronic items from any bonded store. The entrance to the store is strictly limited to its members and their UN recognized dependents only. No local staff is allowed to visit or shop from the store. The store has never abused or deviated from the official rules of the host country in connection with any imported shipments. However if abuse of the privileges and regulations accorded to the members becomes evident, the committee can cancel the membership of the said member. The membership can only be re-established if all allegations of privilege abuses are proven false.

The accounts of the UNMOGIP Post Store are maintained on a system of double entry bookkeeping that is approved by the committee. External auditors carry out audit of the Post Store accounts every year prior to Annual General Meeting. The profits of the Post Store are mainly used to cover its operating expenses and to increase the range of items in the store.

Mr. Pramod Vaidya

FSOs (Field Service Officer) are the pioneers of peace keeping operation. They are recruited to operate in very tough and difficult environment and can be deployed within short notice to the needed mission. In the beginning there are only four categories of FSOs ie radio technician, transport, security and secretary, they were the main support of many successful peace keeping operation around the world. FSO Pramod Vaidya was initially

posted at UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) in Jerusalem early July 1989 as a radio technician, and later transferred to UNMOGIP in the same year. Pramod retired in UNMOGIP on 28 February 2013, after nearly 23 years of service with DPKO. His expertise in VHF&HF, satellite and telephone was a great contribution to the organization. His sense of humor always kept his colleagues very happy and made it enjoyable to work with him.



**UNMOGIP wishes him
all the best for his
retirement in Nepal.**



Saying Goodbye to Mr. Mohammed 'Ashiq' Shiekh, the Longest Serving UNMOGIP Staff Member

With 40 years of service, Mr. Mohammad 'Ashiq' Sheikh's tenure in UNMOGIP was the longest of any staff category. Ashiq started his employment in UNMOGIP on 29 December 1973 and dedicated his entire career to the service of peace. He retired in February 2013 at the age of 60.

Ashiq's employment with UNMOGIP was multi-functional as he was assigned to different sections such as Supply, Procurement, General Services and Personnel, where he handled many different duties with both professionalism and care.

During Ashiq's service with UNMOGIP, he served with full dedication to ensure that UNMOGIP was his priority. Ashiq rarely went on leave and a lot of the time worked outside of normal working hours. This was especially true of that time period when UNMOGIP was utilizing an aircraft to fly between the Field Stations and onwards to UNMOGIP's rear HQ in Srinagar. Ashiq helped coordinate the logistics regarding the departure and landings at all facilities within Pakistan.

Before leaving on retirement, Ashiq was able to convey how much he enjoyed his tenure with

UNMOGIP where he met and developed good friendships with both his national colleagues, international staff, and military observers from all over the world.

Ashiq remains in good health and now enjoys his retirement at his home in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.







United Nations
Military Observer Group
in India and Pakistan

Visual communications developed by



UNITED NATIONS
Information Centre
I S L A M A B A D