

# THE OBSERVER

FOR PEACE IN KASHMIR



**United Nations Military Observer Group  
in India and Pakistan**

MAGAZINE 2016



United Nations  
Peace Operations





# Message from Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission



You are holding the fourth edition of *The Observer* in your hands. My predecessors and their teams did a great job of developing the annual publication of UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). I hope this magazine will remain a useful platform for sharing our perspective in the coming year as well.

Since the last issue of *The Observer* was released, there has been a change of leadership at UNMOGIP; on 3 July 2016 I assumed command of the Mission. I take this opportunity to thank my predecessor and all the Mission staff for their outstanding work. They created solid ground for me and I wish to continue the legacy of peacekeeping along the Line of Control and Working Boundary in Jammu and Kashmir with the same eagerness and diligence.

The focus for UNMOGIP is of course the situation along the Line of Control and Working Boundary.

Some of the challenges we meet

are the vast area of operations, high altitude, rugged terrain and extreme weather conditions. Winter in the mountains brings heavy snow and landslides, making travel difficult and posing a risk to the safety of our Military Observers who are there to perform the Mission's mandate. They do their outmost to handle these challenges and I appreciate their hard work and dedication. However, without the well organised and effective support from our civilian staff we would not be able to achieve any of this.

We are here to monitor and report on developments along the Line of Control and Working Boundary and investigate alleged ceasefire violations. In a departure from past practice, I have instituted new guidelines, which focus on the fulfilment of our mandate and operational needs. Always, when conducting operations, the safety and security of our personnel are of utmost importance.

I appreciate the solid commitment of our troop contributing countries -- Chile, Croatia, Finland, Philippines, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Uruguay -- who have supported UNMOGIP over many years. I also thank the UN Department on Peacekeeping Operations and Department on Field Support and other UN entities


for their assistance and support to UNMOGIP.

Our Mission has a unique position as a neutral observer in the region. We will continue to make our contributions by reporting impartially on developments along the Line of Control and Working Boundary.

I am thankful to both India and Pakistan for their continued support for UNMOGIP. The Indian and Pakistan Army liaison officers and drivers as well as security units play a crucial role in helping us carry out our mission.

UNMOGIP's staff is a community of more than 25 nations that strives for a common goal. Here we learn to accept differences and treat each other with humility and respect. The diversity of our Mission is our strength because we can achieve more by drawing out the best in one another.

We are also part of the larger UN family in India and Pakistan. Our aim is to sustain and develop our cooperation and collaboration for peace and development in the region.

  
**Major General Per Lodin**

# What is UNMOGIP?

The Jammu and Kashmir region has been a source of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan for nearly seven decades. The UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) monitors the ceasefire between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control and Working Boundary in Jammu and Kashmir.



## 1947

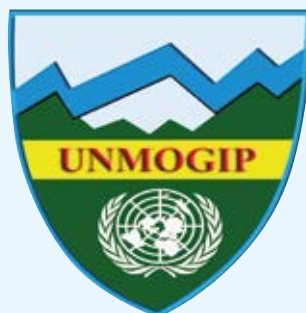
The Indian subcontinent was granted full self-governance from former British rule and partitioned into two independent states - India and Pakistan. Under the Indian Independence Act of 1947, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was free to accede to either country. Its accession became a matter of dispute between the two countries and fighting broke out later that year.

## 1948

In January, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 39 establishing a United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate the dispute in Kashmir. In April, by its resolution 47 the Council decided to enlarge the membership of UNCIP and to recommend various measures including the use of observers to stop the fighting. At the recommendation of UNCIP, the Secretary-General appointed the Military Adviser to support the Commission on military aspects and provided for a group of military observers to assist him.

## 1949

In January, the first team of unarmed Military Observers arrived in the area to supervise a ceasefire between India and Pakistan and to assist the Military Adviser to UNCIP. On 27 July, the Karachi agreement established a ceasefire line to be supervised by UN Military Observers.







UNMOGIP has six field stations in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir and four field stations in the Indian-administered Kashmir to monitor the ceasefire. Additionally, one field station is located in Sialkot, Pakistan, along the Working Boundary.

During summer months from May to October, UNMOGIP's headquarters is based in Srinagar, Indian-administered Kashmir, while in winter from November to April, the headquarters moves to Islamabad, Pakistan. In addition, a liaison office operates in New Delhi, India.



## 1951

UNCIP was replaced by UNMOGIP under Security Council Resolution 91. UNMOGIP's functions were to observe and report, investigate complaints of ceasefire violations and submit its findings to each party and to the Secretary-General.

## 1971

Hostilities broke out again between India and Pakistan at the end of the year. When a ceasefire came into effect on December 17, a number of positions on both sides of the 1949 ceasefire line had changed hands. The Security Council on December 21 adopted resolution 307, by which it demanded that a durable ceasefire in all areas of conflict remain in effect until all armed forces had withdrawn to their respective territories and to positions which fully respected the ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir supervised by UNMOGIP.

## 1972

In July, India and Pakistan signed an agreement defining a Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which, with minor deviations, followed the same course as the ceasefire line established by the Karachi Agreement in 1949. India took the unilateral position that the mandate of UNMOGIP had lapsed.



## Present

Given the disagreement between the two parties over UNMOGIP's mandate and functions, the Secretary-General's position has been that UNMOGIP could be terminated only by a decision of the Security Council. In the absence of such an agreement, UNMOGIP has been maintained with the same arrangements as established following the December 1971 ceasefire.

# UNMOGIP leadership



**Major General Per Lodin**  
Chief Military Observer-Head of Mission

Major General Per Lodin of Sweden joined the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission on July 3, 2016.

With a distinguished military career in the Swedish Army beginning in 1978, Major General Lodin has worked on important national and international assignments. He most recently served as the Director of Procurement and Logistics at the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (2014-2016). He was the Director of Strategic Planning and Development (2008-2014) and Head of Strategies, R&D and Business Development (2007-2008) in the same organization.

Major General Lodin has also served as a Commanding Officer in the NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo (2006-07). Prior to this, he was the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Swedish Armed Forces (2005-06).

Major General Lodin is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Military Sciences. He holds a diploma from the Graduate Institute of International Studies based in Geneva and attended the United Nations Senior Mission Leaders course in 2015.



**Colonel Davorko Jokic**  
Deputy Chief Military Observer

Colonel Davorko Jokic from Republic of Croatia was appointed as UNMOGIP's Deputy Chief Military Observer on November 1, 2015.

This is his second UN peacekeeping mission. Prior to this he served in UN Mission in Liberia (2012-2013) as Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Centre.

He joined Croatian Armed Forces in 1991 and has a degree in Political Science from University of Zagreb.

He graduated at Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, USA in 2003 and has held a number of national and international professional appointments. He has served the Senior Military Adviser in Croatian mission to NATO in Brussels (2003-2007). He later worked at International Security Assistance Force HQ in Kabul (2008-2009).

Colonel Davorko Jokic's last appointment in Croatian Armed Forces was chief of Tactics Department in Croatian Military Academy.



**Nester Odaga-Jalomayo**  
Chief of Mission Support

Nester Odaga-Jalomayo of Uganda joined the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) on 6 July, 2014 as the Chief of Mission Support (CMS). Prior to this, he served in similar capacity at the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone from December 2012 to June 2014.

He brings with him 16 years' experience at the United Nations. Before joining the UN, he worked for 19 years as a Foreign Service Officer for his government.

Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo started his career in the UN as a Budget Officer in UN Headquarters in New York in 1999 before going to serve as a Chief Budget Officer in Freetown, Sierra Leone (2000-2005) and Port-au-Prince, Haiti (2006-2007). He was later appointed the Chief of Administrative Services for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (2007-2012)

Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo holds a Master degree in Policy Analysis and Financial Management from Columbia University, New York, Diploma in International Trade and Finance from the Institute of Social Studies, the Hague, the Netherlands, Advanced Professional Training in Development Diplomacy from the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), Berlin, Germany and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Political Science and Philosophy from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. In addition, he has received extensive professional training from reputed international institutions as well as from the UN.

Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Leadership and Governance at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya.



**Syed Capua**  
Chief Security Officer

Syed Capua of Bangladesh joined UNMOGIP in late 2010. His professional career spans nearly 30 years which includes services in the Bangladesh Army and the United Nations. This is his second assignment as the Chief Security Officer of a UN Peacekeeping Mission. He served in a similar capacity in United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (2003-2007).

Mr. Capua started his career in the Bangladesh Army in 1984 where he held various positions. Shortly after completing the Infantry Officers' Advance Course in 1992 in the US Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Mr. Capua was appointed Instructor in both Weapon and Tactics wings in the prestigious Bangladesh School of Infantry and Tactics.

He was the Senior Operations Officer during his secondment from the Bangladesh Army to the UN Guards Contingent in Iraq in 1999.

Mr. Capua started his UN career in Iraq in January 2001.

Being a student of political science, Mr. Capua takes a great deal of interest in international relations, politics and economic developments. His research and analysis in this area is an integral part of his professional work.

# Troop contributors to UNMOGIP



Croatia



South Korea



Finland



Philippines



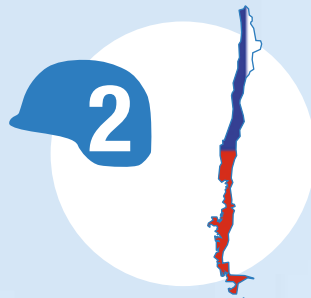
Sweden



Switzerland



Thailand



Chile



Uruguay







# Working for peace



**Colonel Davorko Jokic**  
Deputy Chief Military  
Observer

“To observe and report. We Observe For Peace And Together We Go!” This quote summarizes the mission of UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The UN has been continuously involved since the beginning of the India and Pakistan tensions in Jammu and Kashmir. It has greatly contributed to the maintenance of peace and

to the regional stability.

UNMOGIP operates purely as a UN military observer mission and works under an open-ended mandate of the UN Security Council. It reports to the Secretary-General through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

UNMOGIP's task is to observe and report on developments pertaining to the strict observance of the 17 December, 1971 ceasefire.

UNMOGIP Headquarters directs and controls the activities of field stations and reports regularly to the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Security Council Resolution 307 (1971), *“calls for a durable ceasefire and cessation of hostilities in all areas of conflict to be strictly observed and remain in effect until withdrawals will take place, as soon as practicable, of all armed forces to their respective territories and to positions, which fully respect*

*the Ceasefire Line in Jammu and Kashmir supervised by the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.”*

A durable peace between India and Pakistan is still to be achieved and incidents of alleged ceasefire violation continue to happen from time to time. In this context, UNMOGIP’s mandate takes on added importance in the maintenance of peace and security in the region. Special attention is focused on the Mission’s objectives to ensure their accomplishment.

The Mission’s strategic objectives are properly communicated and disseminated through written and verbal guidance to all military and civilian personnel. Each member has a clear understanding of their responsibilities and purpose. All senior leaders actively participate and contribute in the decision-making and assessment of the Mission’s effectiveness in implementing its mandate.

The Mission continuously improves in all aspects of its core responsibilities of observing, reporting and examining effectively the developments along the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary, with the view to seeking decrease in cross-LoC incidents.

In order to preserve its gains, the Mission continues to seek guidance from the UN Secretary-General and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the performance of UNMOGIP.

We value collaboration and teamwork for the attainment of our mandate and ensure that in doing so we work in a fair and neutral manner with both host countries.

Currently, there are 44 UN Military Observers serving in UNMOGIP. The Mission deploys UN Military Observers in UN field stations on both sides of the LoC and Working Boundary. They conduct observation posts, field trips, area reconnaissance and investigations of alleged ceasefire violation complaints and Working Boundary incidents as received. The main challenge for UNMOGIP is that we have unrestricted freedom of movement to implement our mandate only on one side of the LoC and Working Boundary.

The terrain in UNMOGIP’s area of operations is rugged and UNMOs have to travel through vast and dispersed areas. It features four mountain peaks above 8,000 meters and large patches of uninhabitable land. The climatic conditions are extreme for most

part of the year, with frequent landslides and heavy snowfall in the winter. The region also has a history of devastating earthquakes.

Since 1949, when the first group of UN Military Observers arrived in the area, a number of staff members have lost their lives. These staff members are commemorated and honoured yearly on the Peacekeepers Day on 29 May.

The resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue is in the hands of India and Pakistan. I hope that one day the two countries will bring durable peace to the Kashmiris and the region. ■



# Facilitating the observers' work

**Nester Odaga-Jalomayo**  
Chief of Mission Support

UNMOGIP is the second oldest peacekeeping mission of the United Nations, tasked with monitoring and reporting on the ceasefire agreement of 17 December 1971 between India and Pakistan.

Forty-four UN Military Observers (UNMOs) carry out the strenuous task of monitoring more than 740-kilometre long Line of Control and Working Boundary in the Jammu and Kashmir region. The role of Mission Support is to provide cost effective, efficient, reliable and prompt logistical and administrative support and services to the work of UNMOs who currently come from nine different countries. Although UNMOGIP is one of the small

missions, its responsibility expands to two countries, India and Pakistan, with alternating headquarters, Islamabad and Srinagar, a Liaison Office in New Delhi, four field stations on the Indian side and seven field stations on the Pakistani side of the Line of Control and Working Boundary – a total of 14 locations in a difficult terrain with extreme weather conditions.

We provide administrative and logistical services to 44 UNMOs, 70 drivers provided by the Government of Pakistani and 67 drivers provided by the Government of India. The two governments also provide military guards (25 military guards on the Pakistan side and 23 military guards and 11 policemen on the Indian side). UNMOGIP also assists the United

Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Liaison Office by providing various support services.

To carry out all these tasks, we have an excellent team consisting of 49 national (41 Pakistani and 8 Indian) and 25 international civilian staff members.

The relocation of Jammu, Poonch and Rajouri field stations as well as the Liaison Office in New Delhi to new premises is an important development of the past one and a half years. Staff in Islamabad Headquarters worked closely with the Indian national staff to identify new facilities. The complexity of the task was to propose facilities suitable from all angles, including security and communications. The relocation process was successfully completed in time.



The writer (left) visiting Field Station Sialkot with his team.



Field Station Rawalakot under renovation.



Exterior view of Field Station Skardu.

On my arrival, I visited some UNMOGIP field stations and noted the need for immediate renovations. Mission Support made it a priority to improve the general infrastructures and provide UNMOs with better living conditions. An additional washroom was constructed at Kotli, while Skardu received a new fuel room. Plumbing was improved in all field stations on the Pakistani side. New air conditioners and water filtration systems were installed, generators have been put on automated systems in all field stations, and flagpoles were built. These look like minor details in the overall work of UNMOGIP mean a lot to people working in the field and enhance staff efficiency.

Last but not the least, improvements have been made in logistics and communications, which are critical for the safety of UNMOs and for carrying out their responsibilities requiring them to travel long distances.

Mission Support has faced some challenges too during this time. The introduction of new automated systems such as Umoja, Field Support Suite and travel related software required staff to diversify and upgrade their skills. Likewise, new requirements by host nations regarding visas and entry permits have increased the workload of Mission Support but my team has risen to the challenge and I am proud of them. ■



Field Station Bhimber under renovation.

# 'We are the eyes of the international community'



Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission Maj Gen Per Lodin.

The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has lingered on for more than 69 years and shows no sign of abating. Tension simmered along the Line of Control and Working Boundary throughout 2016, flaring up from time to time.

In his latest statement on the issue, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on 24 November that he was deeply concerned about the

deterioration of the situation along the Line of Control between India and Pakistan. He called on all involved to prioritize the restoration of calm and stability in order to prevent any further escalation and loss of life.

UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has been present in the region for 67 years to monitor ceasefire between the two countries. Major General Per Lodin

joined UNMOGIP as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer in July 2016.

Since his arrival, he has visited all UN field stations on both sides of the Line of Control and Working Boundary and met officials in Islamabad and New Delhi. He talked to *The Observer* about UNMOGIP's role in Kashmir conflict and its challenges.



**What has been UNMOGIP's contribution to peace and security of the regions over the years?** UNMOGIP has been here for quite a long time. The first military observers arrived on 24 January 1949 and we are still here. We observe, monitor, report and investigate complaints of alleged ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and incidents along the Working Boundary. I think that even if we are a few, we show the presence of the international community. This is important. I think it helps to maintain peace and security in the area. And then, of course, we shall remember that the two host countries, Pakistan and India, are regional and nuclear powers. It is a demanding situation.

**You said your presence is important. So how does UNMOGIP's reporting help in preventing the conflict from escalating?** Let's look at it in another way. If UNMOGIP was not present, who should then report about the situation -- positive or negative -- to the UN? We are the eyes of the international community along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary. Just the fact that our host nations and others know that we are there, it actually helps. And that is also the view of the Secretary-General, whose position is that UNMOGIP's mandate can only be terminated by a decision of the Security Council and in absence of such decision, the Mission will be maintained with the same arrangements.

**Does UNMOGIP's reporting also help with the diplomatic efforts for peace between India and Pakistan?**

That is not up to me to comment on. Our mandate is to report to the Secretary-General and UN Headquarters (UNHQ) and to share information about the results of our investigations with the latter. Like all other peacekeeping missions, UNMOGIP is impartial. We only share information with the diplomatic community about our mandate and how we're trying to fulfill this mandate and where we are based. The Secretary-General has repeatedly offered assurances to the two parties of the UN's good offices and UNMOGIP's objective is to maintain strong working relationships with the Government of Pakistan and India.

**There is a lot of confusion in the region about UNMOGIP's mandate in Jammu and Kashmir. Usually people say that the UN should be doing more to resolve this conflict. How would you explain your position in answer to these comments?** First of all, I understand the sentiments of the local population on both sides of the Line of Control and Working Boundary. Unfortunately, there was civil unrest in Srinagar area in the Indian-administered Kashmir from July to November this year. During this time, the local people saw the UN flag and the UN coat of arms and asked why we were not more involved. We explained to them what our role is. We keep to our mandate that is to monitor and report on the situation along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary.

**What do you report on if your movement usually is along the Line of Control and UN military observers are based in specific locations?** UN military observers report on all observations based on primary sources related to the Mission's mandate and to the UN Charter. In addition, we also report some media information to inform on the general situation that may impact the security along the Line of Control and Working Boundary.

**What are the main challenges you face during the course of your work?** The length of the Line of Control and Working Boundary is approximately 740 kilometres and the manpower in the Mission to handle this task is 44 Military Observers; however, we are between 35 to 40 observers at any given time. This is demanding. It means we have to focus our meagre resources only on monitoring and investigating complaints of alleged ceasefire violations in some field stations. The climate is challenging as it can be quite harsh and cold, especially in the Northern Areas. Also there are a lot of landslides in this mountainous region and this area of the world has had major earthquakes in the past. Finally, travelling is another challenge because of traffic accidents.

**What would be your final message with regard to UNMOGIP's role as the eyes of the international community?** We make a difference!

**Thank you very much for your time and for sharing your views.**

# A female observer navigates gendered spaces



Major Dokyoung Koo with the local people in Lamnian village near the Line of Control in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

There were many firsts when Major Dokyoung Koo from South Korea joined UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). This was her first peacekeeping mission, her first experience of working in the field and the first time someone from her department was chosen for such an assignment. She is among the five female Military Observers currently serving at UNMOGIP.

Major Dokyoung Koo had been serving in the Republic of Korea Army for 12 years as a Public

Affairs Officer when she was selected to join UNMOGIP. “It was an honour for me because I opened the door for officers junior to me to apply for such deployments,” she said. She received eight weeks of training before her assignment.

In the field, she mainly conducted investigations, field trips, observation posts and area reconnaissance. It was a pleasant break from the uniformity of her previous position in her country, but did not come without challenges.

“I was the Officer in Charge of my field station. When I went out in the field, sometimes local people did not talk to me, shake hands with me or even acknowledge my presence,” she said. She had to depend on her driver or male colleagues on such occasions. Women are a minority in the South Korean armed forces and she is used to dealing with different perceptions of gender roles in her own country; however, this was an entirely different experience.

If at first it was difficult, Major Koo soon found out that being a



Giving security briefing as Officer in Charge before starting a field task.

female officer could also be used as a strength in a culture that practices gender segregation. It gave her access to spaces where her male colleagues could not enter and it attracted attention of the local people, which she used to assert her presence as a woman and a representative of the UN.

Once, the local unit of the Pakistan Army in Domel invited the UN Military Observers of the field station including herself to the Independence Day celebrations. She and the other members of her team had to split during the lunch because eating area was divided by gender. Sitting in the female section, she met a local teacher who invited her to visit her school.

Major Koo had a chance to see how the local schools were run. To her surprise, most of teachers were women. This changed her perception that women are

not allowed to study or work in Pakistan. Talking to several women made her realize that they want to participate in social activities and are eager to get more education. "As a female officer, I can inspire some women I meet to have more challenges in their lives," she said.

It helps with Mission activities too. Her former Officer in Charge Lieutenant Commander Robert Carlsson told *The Observer* that it is very useful to have female officers in the Mission. "I would try to send one female officer with each patrol. We see that women here appreciate very much talking to female officers and it gives us a better view of the area," he said.

Major Koo said though people are reluctant to approach female officers due to cultural barriers, but they are fascinated to see women in uniform. "One of our top priorities in field stations

is showing our presence to the public. Being a female officer helped me with this."

Major Koo found a community within the Mission where people with different backgrounds are used to working together and extend this approach to working with women. Captain Robin Johansson from Sweden joined UNMOGIP in October and served under Major Koo in Domel for a month.

He said having a female officer as a supervisor works well, because it is very clear to UN staff that respect is held for the position regardless of nationality, race or gender. "Major Koo has very good training skills. She involved us in different tasks at the field station. I think it is very important because we play the role of Officer in Charge at the field stations at some point," he said.

Currently, Major Koo is working at the UNMOGIP headquarters as a Military Information Officer and will soon be posted to field station Rajouri in the Indian-administered Kashmir. ■



# Reflections of a veteran peacekeeper



Lt Cdr Robert Carlsson at UNMOGIP HQ in Islamabad.

Sweden may not be the largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, but it has a proud legacy of peacebuilding and peacekeeping around the world. Lieutenant Commander Robert Carlsson from Sweden is on his eighth stint as a peacekeeper at the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

Lt Cdr Carlsson, 48, is currently posted as Personnel and Manning Officer at UNMOGIP Headquarters in Islamabad. Dressed in green camouflage uniform of the Swedish Armed Forces, he exuded calm and humility while narrating his peacekeeping experiences.

He joined the Swedish Navy as a

conscript in 1989 and soon after went on his first peacekeeping assignment with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. After coming back he continued to pursue a military career and a decade later joined his second mission - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization - in the Middle East in 1999 as Captain.

His next international posting was Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission in 2004 to monitor the ceasefire between the Government of Sri Lanka and the rebel Tamil Tigers during the Sri Lankan Civil War. "I was there for one year patrolling, monitoring and observing at the sea together with the Sri Lankan Navy and Tamil Tigers."

Lt Cdr Carlsson went back to Sweden and attended Staff College and rejoined the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission in 2005 as a staff officer. Before joining UNMOGIP in March 2016, he served in three more missions: UN Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan (2007), Temporary International Presence in Hebron (2010) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2015).

When peacekeepers join a mission, they do so to contribute to a noble cause. The work they do may not

always fully achieve its purpose. Nonetheless, peacekeepers touch the lives of the people they meet and take home a wealth of knowledge and experience that also contributes to their own societies, back home.

The Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission, where Lt Cdr Carlsson served twice, became controversial and was dissolved in 2008, while the civil war ended with the killing of Tamil leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in a Sri Lankan Army military operation in May 2009, an outcome contrary to the purpose of his peacekeeping efforts.

UN Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan, where he served next, had helped Sudan hold a referendum in the insurgency-hit southern parts of the country in 2011 which led to the creation of South Sudan. However, two years after independence, fighting between forces loyal to President Kiir and those loyal to his former deputy Riek Machar plunged the country into conflict. "Of course it's sad to see that the good we had achieved was overtaken by greater events in the long run," said Lt Cdr Carlsson.

His current Mission, UNMOGIP, has been monitoring the ceasefire between India and Pakistan for nearly seven decades. It is hard for peacekeepers working with the



In Lebanon (1990).



In Sudan (2007).



In Sri Lanka (2005).

Mission to see people on both sides of the Line of Control and Working Boundary suffer due to ceasefire violations.

The gratitude from people Lt Cdr Carlsson meets during his field tasks is what keeps him going. He and his colleagues ask them all kinds of questions, which many times are not mission-specific. They ask them about their lives and dreams.

“They feel important that somebody is actually listening to them or interested

about their lives. You can feel that they appreciate our presence,” he said.

In Sri Lanka, the village leaders told Lt Cdr Carlsson they were grateful for the UN presence because whenever UN cars appeared, the situation calmed down. Once there was a dispute between the army and the fishermen. The situation had heated up to the extent that there was danger of fighting but when the UN personnel showed up, the two sides started talking to each other.

Cultural diversity within the missions also taught him new things. “We are a little bit the same as officers but we are also very different in our thinking because we come from different countries and we learn so much in the process of working together,” he said.

Sometimes, Lt Cdr Carlsson feels he has missed part of the childhood of his daughters while serving abroad but then recalls he has seen and

done many more things than other people do.

“If I put it in the scale and look at everything I have seen and done, the fantastic people I met, I don’t regret my choices,” he said.

His experiences abroad have also informed his political views at home. In the wake of the migrant crisis in Europe and the influx of refugees from Syria and other countries into Sweden, many Swedish people have begun to think that their country cannot take more responsibility for the crisis.

“I am still supporting this because I have seen how bad the situation can be in many countries. And I know how good a life we have in Sweden,” he said.

Lt Cdr Carlsson plans to return home and resume his job in the Swedish Armed Forces after the end of his assignment in March 2017. ■

# Capt Sandra Katić recognized for service



Captain Sandra Katić receiving medal from Maj Gen Per Lodin.

Captain Sandra Katić of Croatia was recognized for completing 21 months of service with UNMOGIP at the Medal Parade held on November 10 in Islamabad. She is entitled to affix the numeral 4 to her UNMOGIP ribbon.

Captain Katić first arrived at UNMOGIP in 2012 and completed her tour of duty in 2013. She rejoined the Mission on January 31, 2016. During her time here, she has served at all the UN field stations on both sides of the Line of Control and Working Boundary.

“I’m very proud to be here the second time and honoured to be recognized for my service,” she said after receiving the medal.

She said her work as a Military Observer was challenging but also rewarding. She was touched by the willingness to

help and hospitality of the people she met in the field.

Before joining UNMOGIP, Captain Katić served as an engineering officer in the Croatian Army’s Engineering Regiment. Croatia has been sending Military Observers to UNMOGIP since 2002 and has progressively increased their number, which currently stands at nine. From December 2005 to December 2007 Major General Dragutin Repinc, a Croatian, served as the Chief Military Observer-Head of Mission of UNMOGIP.

Twice a year, UN Military Observers (UNMOs) gather at the Headquarters in Islamabad for a conference and a Medal Parade. In the second Medal Parade held on 10 November, the Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission Major General Per Lodin awarded medals to

35 UNMOs from nine countries. The first parade was held on 6 April.

UNMOs are eligible to receive a medal after three months of service with the Mission. The second time recipients can affix numeral 2 to the UNMOGIP ribbon. Since Captain Katić is serving the Mission for a second time, this was her fourth medal.

The UNMOGIP ribbon bears a wide central band in various shades of green to represent the Himalayan Range and the Kashmir Valley, flanked by narrow white stripes representing the snow-capped mountains. Two equal bars of UN blue appear at either end of the ribbon. ■

*See pictures of the medal parades held on 6 April and 10 November on pages 29-31.*



# UNMOGIP staff members learn about ethics



Director of UN Ethics Office Ms Elia Yi Armstrong giving a presentation.

The United Nations expects its staff to maintain the highest ethical standards during their work. What are those standards? The director of the UN Ethics Office, Elia Yi Armstrong, gave a detailed presentation on ethical principles at UNMOGIP Headquarters in Islamabad on 10 November.

She said most UN staff members are honest people and they care about the high standards of ethics, but everybody needs a reminder. "If they see some bad behaviour and it's not addressed, they may think I can do this too," she said.

Opportunistic misconduct and corruption can also happen in situations where there is no oversight and people are working in risky environments. "Some vendor may come to the office with a bribe and they might be tempted unless they are reminded and shown that this has repercussions," she told *The Observer*.

UN staff members may face a question like, "Can I own a business or have investments in business ventures?" Ms. Armstrong explained a UN staff member should not be actively associated with holding a financial interest in any

business or other concern if the entity has the opportunity to benefit from their position with the United Nations.

Another question she addressed was about receiving gifts. Ethical standards require that the staff members may not accept gifts from any government source. However, if refusal would cause embarrassment for the Organization, they may receive it on behalf of the Organization and then report and entrust it to the Secretary-General.

Staff members may not accept any gift, remuneration or favour from any source having or seeking to have any type of contractual relationship with the Organization.

Chief Transport Officer at UNMOGIP Patrick Frederick Mwanje, who has previously attended online trainings on ethics, said that this presentation was very useful because it was interactive and discussed real life situations. "I learnt that whistle blowers are protected. I also learnt where to report fraud and corruption," he said.

If a staff member sees some misconduct, they could report it to the Head of Mission. If it is very serious and they do not wish

to report within the Mission, they could report to the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in New York or at one of its regional offices through a hotline or email.

"If it has to do with harassment or sexual harassment issues, they can also reach out to the Office of Human Resources Management in New York. But typically, unless it's very serious, they usually send it back to the Head of Mission or Head of Office," said Ms. Armstrong.

It was the first visit from the Ethics Office to UNMOGIP since it was established 10 years ago to promote an ethical organizational culture based on the shared values of integrity, accountability, transparency and respect. Ms. Armstrong hopes that the workshop will be followed by more such trainings. The purpose is to make sure that all across the UN -- in all the field operations and Headquarters -- there is one set of standards.

Ethics Office covers about 42,000 staff members working with different offices of the UN secretariat. In order to expand its outreach Ethics Office has developed easy to understand broadcast and written materials. These resources are also available on its website.

"But we also encourage staff to come to us with specific questions about themselves and their situation," said Ms. Armstrong. Advice and guidance rendered by the Ethics Office is confidential and is treated at all times as such. ■

For more information, visit <http://www.un.org/en/ethics/>

# Finding rapport with women I meet in the field

**Orapim Pakdeesongkram**  
Flight Lieutenant

I am from Thailand and was serving in the Royal Thai Air Force when I was selected as a UN peacekeeper for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Working as a female Military Observer in a patriarchal society can be challenging. But after spending four months with UNMOGIP, I feel that my experience will last a lifetime.

I have worked in two field stations so far in Domel and Rawalakot on the

Pakistani side of the Line of Control. Part of my job is to go for area reconnaissance, also known as area recce. We contact local people and ask them questions about the area and sometimes about their lives.

When we go for area recce along the Line of Control, I do not see many women. I believe they are mostly at home. When I do have a chance to meet them, I like to talk to them. My Officer in Charge at Domel had said to me, "The fact that you are a woman will help you to contact effectively the female local population." This encouraged me.

The first time we went on a patrol to Chinari, a small town in the area, I tried to observe if there were any women around or not. We stopped by a traditional clothes store. Its owner was male, but inside was an old woman, like my grandmother. She was there to buy something. At first I just smiled at her. After I finished talking to the owner, I went to her.

The moment I kneeled down to talk to her was a miracle for me. Her face lit up and she smiled. She touched my hands and face. It was just like my grandmother when she talked to



Meeting women at a vocational training centre in Dhirkot in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir.



Talking to a doctor at a local hospital.

someone in my family. The woman was very old and told me that she had been in the area since the conflict started. Before I left, she gave me her blessings.

During a field task, I noticed a vocational training centre for women in Dhirkot. During our following visit, I stopped by the centre where women learnt skills like knitting, stitching, crochet, etc. Their work was incredible and, more importantly, they were really happy to meet me. I talked to the

head of the centre who has been teaching there for almost 20 years.

I also met a 22 years old student at the centre and asked her about college. She told me that she attended evening classes and came to the centre during the day with her mother who is a teacher. I really enjoyed my time with these women and used this opportunity to tell them about the Mission, why we are here and what we do.

On another day, I went for a recce in

a new area and decided to go to the local hospital because I had never visited a hospital in the region. I met a brilliant female doctor who had deep understanding of social issues and world affairs. She told me that initially she wanted to be a journalist, writer and motivational speaker, which surprised me.

I asked her about women's role in Pakistan. Her answer simply blew my mind. She said that her religion never taught that women should not have an important role in society but nowadays people mix religion with social values. It's the social values that restrict women, not religion.

She also said that women have a crucial role in society, equally important as men's role. Education is very important for women to be a force for their country and a role model for their children, she said. Through their own example, women may teach their sons and daughters that women are strong and may play an active role in society. This was a very special day and this conversation gave me a lot to think about from a different perspective.

I am grateful for an opportunity to meet all these women and through my presence let them know that there is nothing women are unable to do. ■



# Life at Field Station Poonch

## Major Allan Reyes

Former Officer In Charge,  
UNFS Poonch

UN field station (UNFS) Poonch is situated on the Indian side of the Line of Control. Poonch is one of the relay stations of UNMOGIP with the primary task of monitoring and relaying all movements of UN Military Observers during the conduct of operational and support tasks.

Due to its strategic location and good communication signals, UNFS Poonch is considered one of the most reliable relay stations.

It takes a day to reach Poonch from Sialkot. After crossing the Working Boundary from Sialkot we stop at UNFS Jammu to change vehicles. Our second stopover is in Sanderbani. Then we stop for a short break at UNFS Rajouri before reaching our final destination. The stretch of the road from Jammu

to Poonch is worth the experience since one can enjoy the company of small monkeys and beautiful scenery. I pulled over a few times to take pictures with the lovely animals but with caution as these are sometimes aggressive.

The relay duty in a field station is considered a tough job for a UN Military Observer because he or she stays the whole day in front of the radio, monitoring and relaying messages to the UNMOGIP Headquarters.

A message from Operations Control that all tasks are "C", i.e. 'Charlie' or finished, signals the end of a tiring but challenging day. However, sitting all day long in the field station may have some advantages. For one, you have more time watching news on different channels such as CNN, BBC and Aljazeera that keeps you updated on current events in the region and the world.

The Brigade Commander of the Indian Army unit near the UN field station is very friendly and supportive. We appreciate his collaboration and the provision of drivers for our movements. As a gesture of kindness, he offered the UN Military Observers to use his unit's sports facilities.

Viewing the Line of Control from the UNFS Poonch at night is an interesting sight due to its beautiful perimeter lights. A small town is just a few minutes away from the field station where I found most of the basic necessities.

To conclude, one's assignment with UNFS Poonch is a fulfilling experience, primarily because of the unique and essential task. The role of this field station is considered valuable because it's difficult for other field stations to relay their locations every hour. Only one military observer is posted at Poonch and life here is challenging but I found fulfilment because I made a contribution to the Mission's mandate. ■

*This article was written before UNFS Poonch was relocated to new premises in August this year. Major Allan Reyes from Philippines completed his tour of duty with UNMOGIP in September 2016.*



With Indian Army drivers at field station Poonch.



Amazing spectators on the road from Jammu to Poonch.

# Images of peacekeeping

Military Observers' operational tasks include conducting investigations of alleged ceasefire violations, field trips, area reconnaissance and observation posts. Support tasks include receipt of petitions and Working Boundary crossing duties, among other things. Here are some pictures from 2016.





# Images of peacekeeping







# Images of peacekeeping





# UNMOGIP family



Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission Maj Gen Per Lodin and Deputy Chief Military Observer Col Davorko Jokic with Military Observers.



Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission Maj Gen Per Lodin, Deputy Chief Military Observer Col Davorko Jokic, Head of Mission Support Nester Odaga-Jalomayo and Chief Security Officer Syed Capua with civilian national and international staff in Islamabad.

# Medal Parade

UNMOGIP organizes Medal Parade twice a year to award medals of service recognition to the Military Observers. This year Medal Parade was held on 6 April and 10 November at UNMOGIP Headquarters in Islamabad.

## 6 April

The Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi from July 2014 to June 2016 inspected the parade and awarded medals to the Military Observers.





# Medal Parade

## 10 November

The Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission Major General Per Lodin since July 2016 awarded medals to the Military Observers in an elegant ceremony. The Medal Parade was attended by the diplomatic community, representatives of UN agencies, and civilian and military officials.





# Medal Parade





# International Day of UN Peacekeepers

International Day of UN Peacekeepers honours the men and women who've served under the UN flag. Ceremonies were held at both headquarters in Srinagar and Islamabad to pay tribute to the Blue Helmets on 29 May.

## Srinagar



## Islamabad



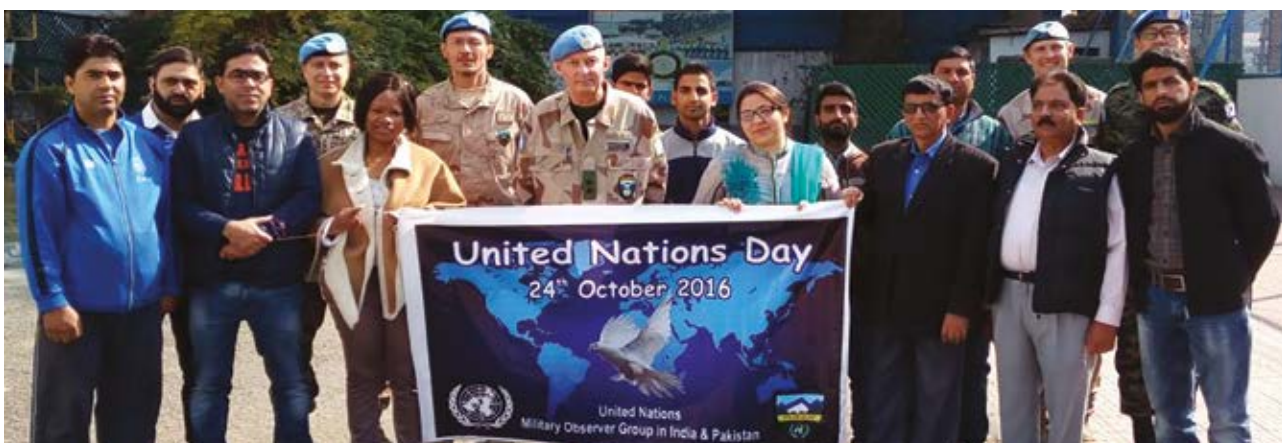




# UN Day 24 October

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. Ceremonies were held in both headquarters in Srinagar and Islamabad on this occasion.

## Srinagar





# UN Day 24 October

The United Nations System in Pakistan held its main UN Day ceremony at UNMOGIP HQ in Islamabad. The event was attended by all UN agencies, foreign diplomats, military and government officials.

## Islamabad





# UN Staff Day 25 October

The UN family gathers on this day in celebration of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of the men and women who became international civil servants. A day-long event was held at UNMOGIP HQ in Islamabad for all UN staff and their families featuring sports competitions and other activities.







United Nations  
Military Observer Group  
in India and Pakistan



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