Module 3 Operational Framework for the United Nations Military Observers (UNMO)
Module 3 Content

• 3.1 Basic UN Investigation and Verification Techniques
• 3.2 Liaison and Coordination
• 3.3 Negotiation and Mediation
• 3.4 Interviewing Techniques
• 3.5 Weapons, Vehicles, and Aircraft Recognition
• 3.6 Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)
• 3.7 Mines, Explosive Remnants of War, Improvised Explosive Devices and Crater Analysis
• 3.8 Use of Language Assistants
• 3.9 Media Relations
• 3.10 UNMO Reporting Procedures
Lesson 3.1
Basic UN Investigation and Verification Techniques
Lesson Content

• Definition of verification
• Phases of a verification / inspection
• Investigations
• Evidence
• Witnesses
Learning Outcomes

• Explain the definition, aim and phases of the verification / inspection process in a UN peacekeeping operation

• Define and identify the types of investigative procedures
Verification Definition

“The process of establishing the truth or validity of something”
Verification

• Aim- mandate, agreement compliance

• Authority- mandate

• Scheduling a verification- regular or irregular basis according to agreements, SOPs
Phases of Verification / Inspection

- Phase 1: Planning, preparation and briefing
- Phase 2: Execution
- Phase 3: Debriefing and reporting
Phase 1: Planning, Preparation, Briefing

- Clarify aim and objectives
- Plan route, localities for visits
- Liaison Officer or interpreter
- Check vehicle and kit
- SOP, restrictions
- Information, intelligence
- IDs
- UN flag on vehicle
Phase 2: Execution

- Enter main entrance
- Count armaments according to agreement
- Cover entire area
- Continuous radio contact with HQ
- Log all figures
- All members sign file
- Ops Centre log reports on restrictions, incidents ("log-in time")
Phase 2 : Execution (cont)

• Never show to non-mission personnel

• Report facts only

• Be suspicious and cautious

• Be impartial, do not yield to pressure

• Observe road conditions, terrain, obstacles, minefields
Phase 3 : Debriefing and Reporting

Complete debriefing and patrol report immediately upon return from the mission
UNMOs may be required to be the initial investigating authority for an incident.
Investigation

Legal and analytical process to gather information to determine whether wrongdoing occurred and, if so, the persons or entities responsible
Types of Investigation

Firing violation
Construction upgrading
Entries in DMZ
Hostage-taking, hijacking, abductions or missing persons
Assaults / murders
Human rights violations
Authority to Conduct Investigation

Stipulated in the Force agreement and mandate
Preparation for Investigation

- Brief investigative team
- Aim of investigation
- Map reconnaissance
- Assemble required kit
- Collect and review pertinent information - intel
- Identify, contact other parties
- Review SOP, legal considerations
- Verify restrictions and need for interpreters
- Notify HQ of destination / intentions
Investigation Procedure

- Maintain radio contact and reporting movement progress
- Recording all activity
- Upon arrival, isolating and protecting the scene
- Designate responsibilities for undertaking
- Attempt to determine what happened
- Draw conclusions based on facts
Forms of Evidence

- Verbal
- Material
- Circumstantial
Evidence Handling

• Record location
• Photos
• Do not disturb evidence
• Minimize number of persons handling
• Maintain a record / define continuity of evidence
• Scale of reference when taking photos
• Call legal assistance or directions if required
Evidence handling

- Confirm identities
- Ascertain and record
- Separate witnesses to be interviewed
- Witness can become suspects
- Consider witness’s motivation to talk
- If language assistant used, exercise caution
- Establish interpreter ground rules
Evidence Assessment

• Compare notes
• Assess the credibility of witnesses
• Identify any corroborating information
• Identify any contradictory information
• Exercise caution in drawing conclusions
• Cross check different sources of evidences
Lesson Take Away

• Planning, execution, debriefing and reporting are key elements of the investigation process

• Investigations can include: firing violations, construction upgrading, entries in DMZ, hostage-taking, hijacking, abductions, missing persons, assaults, murders, and human rights violations
Questions