THE PEACEKEEPER

The Military Activities of MINUSTAH. Your Newsletter.

MINUSTAH PEACEKEEPER...AND PROUD OF IT.

Issue #5 - January 2013
Do you have a message to send to your Peacekeeper for a special event?
Do you just want to tell him/her that you miss him/her?
Do you want to send a support message to all of Haiti’s Peacekeepers?

You can send your message to the following address: support_haiti_peacekeepers@hotmail.com

A few guidelines:
• Mention your first name, your country and the name of your Peacekeeper.
• If your message is intended for all of Haiti’s Peacekeepers, simply write that.
• Your message should be brief.

If you respect these guidelines, you will be published!

From Norma (Brazil) to Ricardo: “Que a paz de Nosso Senhor Jesus Cristo esteja contigo Que teus dias sejam voltados à dedicação, carinho e afeição a esse povo querido. E que sempre te proteja a misericórdia de Deus. Espero em breve rever-te Abraços e minha bênção”.
As we begin this year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and to congratulate the group of men and women under my command for their commitment to the service of peace in MINUSTAH.

During the past year, the Military Component has completed several projects within its mandate to maintain a safe and secure environment in Haiti. In addition to that, mitigating work was carried out during and after tropical storm Isaac and hurricane Sandy hit the island and caused the loss of many lives, damaged the infrastructure and left many wounded and homeless.

In this New Year we are going to face new challenges, and I am sure that the integration, spirit of cooperation and courage of my soldiers will be crucial for overcoming all the difficulties we may have.

I am very proud of all military and civil personnel from each unit and staff branch for the hard work and dedication during the past year towards achieving our objectives. Your dedication, technical skills, interpersonal relations and altruism in support of those in need were remarkable. Your willingness to help and your determination have made possible the achievement of our goals. Therefore, I encourage you to continue performing your assigned duties with the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, respect and tolerance, bearing in mind that UN principles and core values must be observed at all times.

I would like to highlight, in this opportunity, the privilege we have had to work under the leadership of Mr. Mariano Fernandez, Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Without his support and guidance our work would not have been possible.

Day and night, no matter how different our flags and cultural backgrounds are, we worked together as a team united under the UN banner with the ultimate goal to help the Haitian people. In this same sense of cohesiveness, I wish you all a peaceful New Year and a very successful time as peacekeepers.

FERNANDO RODRIGUES GOULART
Major General
Force Commander
MINUSTAH
Tell me your mission...

Alisson, BRABAT 1, 21 years old.

« I am Private Alisson, from the first squadron of the third combat group of the Brazilian Air Force platoon. I take part in the third Air Force Infantry troop in MINUSTAH and the contributions of my troop are well recognized. My experience in Haiti is the best possible, I’m working together with BRABAT 1 accomplishing patrolling, security, and CIMIC missions, such as food and water distribution.

Sometimes I miss home, but in these moments I remember there is a people that needs security, and I have to endeavor each day for a cause -that’s to keep a safe and stable environment in a country that needs security and has a lot of poverty. I remember the phrase that I observed daily in the main gate of the Battalion where I was stationed in Brazil: “History does not mention cowards.” ».

In the field night and day

From Nov. 6th to Nov. 20th, the Chilean- Ecuadorian Engineering Company conducted the third phase of rehabilitation of Charlemagne road, Pétion-Ville.

This global project was managed by MINUSTAH’s Military Component and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in support of Haitian Government’s development project 16/6. For this phase, 15 Engineers were mobilized.

To avoid disrupting traffic or troubling the Haitian population, a large part of the work was conducted at night. Thanks to the Engineers’ efforts the project is now 100% complete.
On November 20th, 2012, on the occasion of Children’s Day, personnel from ARGBAT took part in a festival organized in a Gonaïves orphanage acknowledged by Haitian “institut du bien-être social et de recherches” (IBESR), which is the official administration in charge of adoption. This activity was organized in liaison with other MINUSTAH units, like INDOENGCOY and FPU. Local and United Nations authorities also took part in it, including MINUSTAH Chief Regional Officer in Artibonite, MINUSTAH Civil Affairs and OCHA representatives.

During this day some recreational activities were offered to children, including games and dances with clowns. They also received toys, children’s jewelry, hot dogs, cookies and juice. 150 boys and girls benefited from a health check by a medical team.
In the frame of their fight against insecurity and criminality, MINUSTAH Peacekeepers took part November 9th and 10th in a combined operation conducted in Cité Soleil, one of the most sensitive areas of Port-au-Prince.

Friday, Nov. 2, Port-au-Prince: Members of gangs from Boston and Simon Pelé, two neighborhoods of Cité Soleil, confronted each other violently in the streets. These firefights caused the death of several innocent inhabitants.

Haitian authorities and MINUSTAH decided to react strongly to neutralize these criminals, restore law and order and reassure the population. So in two days, Haitian National Police (HNP), United Nations Police (UNPOL) and Peacekeepers from the Military Component jointly conducted Operation NUIT CALME (Quiet Night).

NUIT CALME was a two-day operation of “Cordon and Search”. It aimed to isolate and surprise gang members and leaders. Peacekeepers from BRABAT 1 performed a deterrent security operation by putting up a closed cordon based on checkpoints around Simon Pelé during the first night, and Boston during the second night.

With this method, it was possible for HNP specialized units and UNPOL Officers to go into the targeted areas in order to search for suspects and arrest them.

As a result...
During operation NUIT CALME, 42 people suspected to be involved in criminal activities were apprehended.
These two nights were intensive. Soldiers and Police officers put the two neighborhoods under close control to carry out their mission.

Thanks to good coordination between the different actors, NUIT CALME was a success and allowed the arrest of 42 people suspected to be involved in criminal activities including homicides, thefts, extortion and kidnappings.
Security Operation HILL SWEEP was conducted on November 24th and 25th, 2012, in Grand-Ravine, Port-au-Prince. Peruvian Peacekeepers were in the heart of the action.

On Nov. 24 and 25, Peruvian Infantry Company took part with SRIBAT and BOLCOY in the combined Security Operation HILL SWEEP, launched by HNP and supported by UNPOL, FPU (Former Police Unit) and MINUSTAH Military Component. This operation was conducted in the area of Grand-Ravine, where the rate of criminal activity is very high. It aimed to combat crime in Port-au-Prince, to target criminal gangs and to hand them over to justice. It combined patrolling and Check Points in the main paths from those areas and was carried out in two phases. The first phase started at 10:00 a.m. Nov. 24 with the setup of eight check points on strategic locations, with four of them designated to PERCOY.

The second phase began Nov. 25 at 3:30 a.m. with the cordon and isolation of the area, while UNPOL and PNH, supported by military personnel, conducted the search in the objective area. During the operation 18 suspects were detained and held for investigation. These operations were conducted to disrupt the influence of criminal elements and to assist the Government of Haiti in reinforcing security and stability in neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince and to show the Haitian people that MINUSTAH remains committed to bringing the rule of law to Haiti.
In the frame of MINUSTAH, the Group of Helicopters of the Chilean Air Force has 12,500 flying hours to its credit. Among their missions, its Peacekeepers conducted several successful Medical Evacuations (MEDEVACs).

Since its deployment in Haiti in the frame of MINUSTAH in August, the 17th Group of Chilean Air Force has conducted several missions: air operations, transportation of passengers, and night missions with use of Night Vision Goggles (NVGs).

Its personnel are on alert 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to carry out emergency missions assigned by MINUSTAH authorities.

Peacekeepers from the Group are particularly proud of one of these tasks: Air Medical Evacuations (Air-MEDEVACs). These specific missions can be conducted in support of MINUSTAH personnel or the Haitian population.

They aim to evacuate people who need emergency treatment as soon as possible and in the best conditions to the nearest medical facility. In addition to helicopter crews, the Group has a team of military medical auxiliaries who are able to care for the patients during their transportation.

Since August, CHIAVN personnel have already conducted five successful MEDEVACs in different regions of Haiti and in many different circumstances. Thanks to their professionalism and its reactivity, six people were successfully evacuated.
To fight against trafficking, combined operations DIAMBAR and MILAN were conducted in the region of Les Cayes from 7-10 December 2012. Follow the timeline of events of Dec 7 by URUMAR (Uruguayan Marine), as if you were there. Welcome aboard!

The region of Les Cayes, in the south department, is known to be a haven for drug trafficking, trafficking of illegal goods and illegal immigration. Haitian Drug Enforcement Agency requested support from MINUSTAH to conduct lightning actions against notorious criminals of the area. Operations DIAMBAR and MILAN were planned to apprehend known criminals in the Les Cayes area. URUMAR provided sea support to counter-drug HNP operations in the Les Cayes area on Dec. 7 in order to seize three specific targets: one in the locality of Madame Bernard on Île-à-Vache, one in the locality of la Folie, near Saint-Louis-du-Sud and one in the city of Les Cayes.

Teams B1 and B2 were each composed of 3 boats (2 fast patrol boats and 1 rubber boat) and included Police forces: UNPOL Officers, Senegalese FPU (Formed Police Unit) Officers and HNP (Haitian National Police) Officers. Here is the story:

- 06:30 a.m.: Teams B1 and B2 leave the port of Les Cayes.
- 07:30 a.m.: Team B1 arrives in front of La Folie, 15 nautical miles from Les Cayes, and Team B2 arrives in front of Madame Bernard.
- 07:55 a.m.: Team B1 catches people that are escaping from HNP by swimming off La Folie.
08:00 a.m.: Team B2 stops and inspects boats leaving Madame Bernard. Nothing suspect is found.
11:35 a.m.: The suspect caught by Team B1 is disembarked in La Folie and handed over to HNP.
11:50 a.m.: After having finished its operations in La Folie, Team B1 heads for Madame Bernard to support Team B2.
02:05 p.m.: All MINUSTAH boats are on alert after a boat was reported carrying possibly one ton of cannabis. But the information is not complete and the suspect boat cannot be localized.
03:50 p.m.: Two MINUSTAH boats arrive in Les Cayes and disembark HNP Officers and SENFPU.
04:20 p.m.: A Haitian judge and UNPOL Officers embark to travel to Madame Bernard to pick up a detainee in Madame Bernard.
05:20 p.m.: The Judge disembarks in Madame Bernard and embarks two HNP to escort the detained.
06:05 p.m.: After a dangerous crossing by night with bad weather conditions, MINUSTAH boats arrive at the Port of Les Cayes.

On Monday, Dec. 10 at 6:00 a.m., the four fast boats departed from Les Cayes to Jacmel, arrived at 03:00 p.m. without incident.
To maintain its operational capabilities at the higher level, URUMAR takes part in joint training sessions. The most recent one, a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), took place Nov. 7 off Jacmel (South-East Department). One Bell 212 Helicopter, one Dash 7 Aircraft and two Patrol Boats were involved. Thanks to good coordination between these different assets, two people in distress were successfully rescued.

Mayday, Mayday...

Two months ago, the towns of Belle-Anse, Grand-Gosier and Anse-à-Pitres were strongly affected by the passage of Hurricane Sandy. Considering the gravity of the situation, the Haitian Government requested delivery by military assets of several humanitarian emergency supplies: emergency food kits, drugs, medical supplies, and water purification tablets.

MINUSTAH Military Component took charge of this mission, respecting the basic principles of Civil-Military Coordination.

Uruguayan Navy Company for Maritime Transport of Assistance (URUMAR), which has a detachment based in Jacmel, was appointed to execute this task. In close coordination with Haitian Health Authorities, URUMAR deployed in the field two patrol boats and covered 250 nautical miles to deliver almost 1,500 kilos of first-aid supplies to these three cities, helping to alleviate the suffering of the population.
For each Peacekeeper, the Medal Parade is, of course, an intense moment of pride and prestige. But it is also for the contingents an occasion to present their traditions and culture through shows of dance or sport. And, after the ceremony is over, it is time for sharing and fraternity between the nations that constitute our big family of peacekeepers.

- JAPENGCOY & JORBAT - NOVEMBER 22, 2012 CAMP CHARLIE, PORT-AU-PRINCE.
At the end of December 2012, the Korean and Japanese contingents of the MINUSTAH Military Component concluded their mission in Haiti. Through their work, their courage and dedication, these two engineering companies rendered immense services to the country and its people. MINUSTAH military authorities and their comrades serving under the UN flag take this opportunity to show them their respect and gratitude.
MINUSTAH Military Component Headquarters is composed of several branches working in different domains to give global coherence to Peacekeepers’ actions on the ground. Among these branches, U-5 has to define plans and strategic policy in the middle and the long-term.

The Plans and Strategic Measurements Branch (U-5) of the Military Component of MINUSTAH is responsible for the direction, coordination, and supervision in developing strategic plans. A planning branch will typically look farther out and focuses their timeframe in terms of months and years, vice what is occurring in the upcoming weeks.

Specifically the plans branch:
- Provides proposals to the Force Commander (FC) that achieve MINUSTAH military goals.
- Conducts analysis and planning sessions to meet the Commander’s intent, and proposes various courses of action to support these intentions.
- Leads, updates, manages, and measures the progress of the mission, and all operational orders; this provides direct feedback to ensure MINUSTAH is moving in the right direction.

With a desired Military strategic end state of Haitian authorities having total responsibility for Rule of Law and security issues, the strategic planners take this vision to work collaboratively with military, police and civilian MINUSTAH staff and create policy, position forces, and provide the near-term way ahead. Along the way, events such as natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and civil unrest create difficulties and impede progress of the Mission’s goals; however, having established contingency plans for such occurrences enables MINUSTAH to take prompt action and continue down the path of progress.
On Nov. 12, engineers from BRAENCOY started the cleansing work on the “3BB” canal, in the city of Port-au-Prince. Using a high-load backhoe and several dump trucks, the company is removing the garbage accumulated in the channel and moving it to the Truiter dump site. This situation exposes inhabitants who live around the canal to the risk of diseases and flooding. This job is part of the effort made by the Brazilian Contingent to reduce the community violence in the area of Cité Soleil. The project aims to reduce the crime rate in this zone by improving the neighborhood environment and the quality of life of the population.

The “3BB” canal is the biggest water line of the city, starting on the Route Nationale 1, in Delmas neighborhood, crossing Cité Soleil, the main poor area of the capital, and flowing into the sea. Because of heavy rains and the lack of sanitation structure in the region, the canal accumulated a large amount of garbage in its course, restricting its flow capacity.

Due to consequences of the 2010 earthquake and repeated natural disasters like storms and hurricanes, Haiti has faced major challenges concerning environmental and public health. Thanks to MINUSTAH Engineering companies, Peacekeepers take part in this fight - because security is nothing without a decent living environment.
From Oct. 22 to Nov. 13, the XVIth Peruvian Contingent organized the First Gastronomic Workshop, named Peru - Haiti “Mucho Gusto”. It was conducted with eight Haitian women with the purpose of sharing Peruvian and Haitian culinary culture and giving participants more choices for preparing dishes with balanced local products. Additionally, the goal was also that the participants can share what they learned in their communities.

Peruvian cuisine is considered a varied and exquisite cuisine and is one of the greatest assets of Peruvian culture.

The closing ceremony took place on Nov. 13 on the premises of PERCOY (Peruvian Infantry Company - Charlie Camp) and was attended by the head of the Office U9 (CIMIC), Captain Gustavo Gomez, and staff members of the Military Component. At the end of the ceremony all the Haitian participants received certificates for their outstanding participation in this workshop and everyone had the opportunity to taste the delicious meal prepared by the Haitian women.
In Haiti, Christmas traditions vary from cities to the countryside. However, it is a season of joy and happiness for kids and adults. Haiti’s Christmas season starts in November, when you can listen to the melodies of Christmas songs on all radio stations and people start to set up their Christmas trees. During the Christmas season, all streets are blocked by the heavy traffic from North to South. There are lots of activities, and people go to the stores and to the local market to buy gifts, food and decorations. It is true they do not have too much money because of the economic issues, but even with less in their pockets, they work to make the season as joyful as possible.

Christmas is the season when most couples decide to get married. So churches are well-decorated and the attendees well-dressed for the ceremony. It is also the season of the biggest concerts; all musical groups give the best of their abilities in the nightclubs by performing for the satisfaction of their fans. As Haiti is a very religious country, Haitians take the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. On Christmas Eve, many go to the traditional mass and at midnight start wishing Merry Christmas to everyone. On Dec. 25, nearly everyone stays at home for the family dinner which is a very great feast composed of national rice, native chicken, salad, etc.

To conclude, Christmas is one of the major festivals in Haiti, and it is celebrated in a big way by all.

Haitian people also love proverbs. So we propose you learn a new Haitian proverb in each issue of “the Peacekeeper.” This month’s proverb: “Sa w fè se li ou wè” (“What you do is what you see”).

Meaning: You reap what you have sown.
Busy Christmas for Santa Claus

Like every year, Santa Claus had a busy night recently. He visited many Haitian children to offer them gifts and toys. With a little help from MINUSTAH Blue Helmets...
SANTA CLAUS OFFICE

OFFICIAL NORTH POLE GRATITUDE CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO EXPRESS MY Deepest Gratitude TO:

Unstah Peacekeepers

FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MY SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS 2012 FOR HAITIAN CHILDREN.

Santa Claus
From Marcos, BRAENGCOY: “On the night of Dec. 28, Military troops of BRAENGCOY supported the Haitian Fire Department to fight a fire at one of the main street markets in Port-au-Prince. Using trucks for water supply and working together with Chilean and Paraguayan troops, BRAENGCOY collaborated to have the fire controlled by the dawn of Dec. 29. We did our best to limit the damages and I am so proud of my colleagues.”

From Bibek, NEPBAT: “Before its rotation, NEPBAT organized on Dec 17 a Fun Run along with the Deputy Force Commander in the Charlie Camp Premise. The Nepalese Contingent Commander, the NEPBAT Commander, officers and a total of 160 troops participated in the Fun Run. After the run program, the Deputy Force Commander addressed the Nepalese troops (Garud dal BN-XI) for their invaluable and outstanding performance in MINUSTAH.”

From Aditya, INDOENGCOY: “From November 2012 to February 2013, Indonesian Engineering Company is conducting the first phase of road repair from Port-de-Paix to Jean Rabel. It represents 40 kilometers. This project will improve the lives and facilitate movements of the population of north-east department. It is hard work but we are resolute.”

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From Military Public Information Office, Headquarters: “Two new officers joined recently our team. Lieutenant Laura Stegerr, who arrived last November, is from the United States Navy. Captain Jorge Perez, who arrived last December, is from the Peruvian Army. Each is appointed for a one-year tour within MINUSTAH. They are already very busy!”

From Alejandro, CHIBAT: “About 600 participants, including 50 children, 60 women and one disabled person took part at the second “Run for Peace,” organized on Dec. 29 by the eighteenth Chile Battalion in Cap-Haïtien. For the organizer of the event, Lieutenant Daniela Arenas, this activity aims to build friendship between the troops and Haitian people. “This is a CIMIC activity, and has the same purpose as the delivery of school kits, visit to orphanages and water delivery, among others,” she said. The Chilean Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Sergio Estévez Valencia, congratulated each of the participating athletes, noting that “today the big winner of the race is all of us who work for peace and stabilization of our sister nation, Haiti.”
”Peacekeeping is not a job for soldiers, but only soldiers can do it”.

Dag Hammarskjöld,