



# UN SIGNALS ACADEMY

## CONTEXT



Training of Trainers, 30 October-17 November 2017, RSCE

With over 100,000 authorized personnel deployed in often **remote and high-risk locations**, UN-supported peacekeeping operations **require specialized and high-performing communication and technological capabilities** to guarantee the flow of information between leadership, military, police and civilians.

The UN Signals Academy (UNSA) was established to help train and equip uniformed personnel with key ICT technologies. **Signals are military and police information and communication technology specialists**. They link Force and Police Headquarters to military and police units deployed in peacekeeping missions.

## OBJECTIVES

UNSA was launched in fall 2015 in Entebbe, Uganda, as a **triangular partnership project** between troop and police contributing countries, other UN Member States and the UN Department of Field Support (DFS).

The goal of the project is to **strengthen the capacity** of signals personnel through **specialized training on technology**, the provision of **key equipment** and the familiarization of personnel with **UN procedures and operating environments** across peacekeeping missions.

The UN Signal Academy is one of the outcomes of the **Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping**. Managed by the Office of Information and Communications Technology Operations Support Division (OICT/OSD) at UN Headquarters, the project is implemented by the Regional Service Center Entebbe (RSCE).

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

As highlighted in the **Santos Cruz Report, Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers** (2017), between 2014 and 2017, a consistent increase in peacekeeper fatalities resulted in 195 deaths. With 56 fatalities, 2017 has been the deadliest single year on record since 1994.

Fatalities are occurring because personnel are unprepared regarding training and equipment to deter and respond to hostile acts. In this respect, **improving capacity has been identified** by the Report as **one of the critical areas where the UN and Member States must take action**.

The project is in line with the recommendations from the **Secretary-General Report on a mechanism to fill uniformed capability gaps**. The Report is a response to UN Security Council Resolution 2378 (2017) and identifies **enhancing specialized capabilities through targeted training and capacity building support and triangular partnership projects as a high-level priority**.

## TRIANGULAR PARTNERSHIP



## APPROACH

The project offers flexible opportunities to foster partnerships between troop and police contributors (TCCs/PCCs) and financial supporters of UN peacekeeping around **two key objectives**:



### TRAIN

Provide **standardized and mission-specific training** on ICT field technologies to UN military and police signals personnel:

- **On-site training:** delivers courses at RSCE training facilities in Entebbe (pre-deployment; train-the-trainers)
- **Mobile training:** provides training in missions through mobile training teams (induction and continuous learning)



### EQUIP

Procure **UN-owned equipment** to support training



## BENEFITS



### TROOP CONTRIBUTORS

Better **coordination & interoperability** between contingents from different countries



### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Opportunity to flexibly **support enabling capacity** in peacekeeping missions



### UNITED NATIONS

Enlarged pool of **signals personnel** with strengthened communication and technological capacities



### CROSS-CUTTING BENEFITS

- Enhanced **performance and efficiency** of signals staff, in line with UN standard operational requirements
- Improved **gender equality** among signals personnel
- **Economies of scale** for missions' operations



WOC course graduates deployed to UN peacekeeping missions

## ACHIEVEMENTS



2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Women Outreach Course, 6-17 March 2017, RSCE

- To date, **2,646 ICT uniformed specialists (11.6% female) from 104 countries have been trained**, both on site and by mobile teams.
- 5 editions of the **Women's Outreach Course** for women ICT uniformed specialists have been organized, training 155 female officers from 53 countries.
- **23 course graduates (15%) have been deployed** as signals/ICT staff officers, military observers and police advisors.
- Some of them are **among the first female to be deployed to signals staff officers positions**.
- **E-learning has been developed** and will reinforce traditional classroom-based training through its flexibility in terms of reach, time, mobility and language.

## WHAT'S NEXT

UNSA aims to further strengthen its operational capacity by:

- **Enhancing existing programmes** both on-site (pre-deployment training; female signals staff officers' course; train-the-trainers) and mobile training (induction and continuous learning).
- **Expanding course offer**, including introducing a new course on Modular Command Centre (MCC) deployment. The MCC is an integrated solution that provides command and control capacity to military components in remote and high-risk locations.
- **Establishing a Mission Operations Centre Simulation Training Environment** as a key element to enhancing situational awareness in field operations. The facility is expected to come on line at the end of 2019.
- **Developing e-courses** on ICT and situational awareness.
- Offering training in **other UN official languages**, e.g. French.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For more information or to become a partner, please contact:

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