

# UNITED NATIONS SIGNALS ACADEMY

## CONTEXT



ICT Training of Trainers, 10-28 June 2019, 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

- Support **Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)** objectives
- **Enhance preparedness** of military signals, police ICT specialists and other targeted uniformed personnel prior to deployment in UN missions
- Support objective to **increase women participation** in UN Peacekeeping

## 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



The triangular partnership concept is a direct outcome of the 2014 UN Peacekeeping Summit and follows up on the recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) of 2015.

The UN Signals Academy relies on the Triangular Partnership Project.

Our current partners and generous donors:

- Canada
- Denmark
- Germany
- Japan

Partnerships currently in development with France, Uganda, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

## 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 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

## ACHIEVEMENTS



6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Women Outreach Course, 14 Oct -1 Nov 2019, RSCE

- To date, more than **5,400 ICT uniformed specialists (16% female) from 104 countries** have been trained.
- 6 editions of the **Women's Outreach Course** for women ICT uniformed specialists have been organized, training 175 female officers from 57 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 is currently under development** and will reinforce traditional classroom-based training through its flexibility in terms of reach, time, mobility and language.



In-mission training: ICT Training 30 May - 4 Jun 2019, UNSOS Mogadishu

## WHAT'S NEXT

The UNSA level of ambition is growing to better respond to T/PCCs expectations and the programme aims to further strengthen its operational capacity by:

- **Enhancing existing programmes** both on UNSA site (pre-deployment training; female signals staff officers' course; train-the-trainers) and mobile training in Missions (induction and continuous learning).
- **Expanding course offer** (All basics of ICT, Situational Awareness, ISR Micro-drones, Camp security, Telehealth)
- **Develop E-Learning** courses. Accessible remotely by T/PCCs and missions.
- **Establish a Mission's Operations Centre Simulation Training Environment** at the UN Signals Academy to enhance situational awareness in field operations.
- Offering training in **other UN official languages** (esp. French language)
- **Develop the Triangular Partnership and seek support from more Partners to sustain the new level of ambition.**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION and HOW TO PARTNER WITH US

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