

MODULE 3

TRAINER’S ACTIVITY GUIDE

Mission Rules of Engagement

Role of the Military Component

AIM

This exercise is intended as a review of Modules 1 to 3. The aim of the exercise is to enhance learners’ understanding of how military contingents may respond to situations at the tactical level to protect children’s rights and promote an integrated and comprehensive response to child protection in the mission area.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the role of the military component at the tactical level in support of child protection in the United Nations mission area
- Recognize appropriate military responses to realistic situations at the tactical level and identify legal sources of authority and obligation to take action
- Describe the operational framework for collaborating with host country forces and partners and the approach to be adopted to share concerns and take action, as appropriate
- Discuss the roles and functions of other mission components and external partners in dealing with child protection issues
- Recognize the processes and issues related to coordination among mission actors
- Identify the military tasks involved in an integrated mission response to mitigate threats to children and reduce their vulnerabilities

BACKGROUND

Below are six scenarios depicting incidents that actually occurred in United Nations peacekeeping mission areas.

For scenarios A and B, use *Mission Y Rules of Engagement* and *MONUSCO Force Commander’s Directive – Protection of Children by MONUSCO Force (2021)*.

For scenarios C and D, use *Mission X Rules of Engagement* and the *Force Commander’s Directive on the Protection of Children by UNMISS Military Forces (2020)*.

For scenarios E and F, use *Mission Z Rules of Engagement*, and *MINUSCA Force Commander’s Directive on Child Protection (2018)*.

For scenarios G and H, use *Mission W Rules of Engagement*, and *Force Commander’s Directive on the Protection of Children by MINUSMA Force (2020)*.



Note: Since the rules of engagement for current operations cannot be distributed, all references to specific missions have been removed from the handouts for this exercise.

SCENARIO A

The area of Wula in South Kivu is hilly with bush, open agricultural land and small villages — most of them are secluded. Legal and illegal mining is carried out in several places, many of which are highly disputed. Local teachers, village elders, female groups and priests play an important role in the communities. Infrastructure is very poor and the area is easily infiltrated. Armed groups, such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (known by their French acronym, FDLR), Interahamwe, Rasta, Mayi Mayi, dissident splinter groups and non-aligned groups (henceforth referred to as “armed groups”) harass the local population. The United Nations does not have a sufficient number of troops in South Kivu to cover the whole province. Armed groups move relatively freely in certain areas and harass the local population. Elements of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (known by their French acronym, FARDC) have been conducting joint operations with the MONUSCO Force. Although incidents resulting from their indiscipline and human rights violations have been gradually decreasing, they are still common.

You are a Platoon Commander on a four-vehicle patrol. About halfway through your patrol, your lead vehicle comes to a halt because a girl is stumbling into the middle of the road. She is bleeding profusely and her clothes are ripped. The female platoon medical officer applies first aid, but the girl will need more medical assistance. Once the girl, who looks about 14 years, has calmed down, she volunteers the information that, about an hour ago, she was assaulted and raped by four men in uniform. The armed men had suddenly arrived in her village, started shouting at everyone and demanded food. She is very worried about her younger sister and is not sure if she was able to escape. The village is about a kilometre away.

The Force Commander of the mission has issued directions that, in order to accelerate decision-making, rules 1 to 5 of the Rules of Engagement apply and he has authorized their application.

SCENARIO B

You are a United Nations Battalion Commander in MONUSCO and based in the Kivus. Late one night, you receive an urgent phone call from one of your company commanders requesting your advice. You are aware that there have been a number of raids by armed groups on villages in the southern part of your area of responsibility. According to the Company Commander, yesterday, an armed group attacked the village of Toku, which is within the area of responsibility of his/her company. In addition to food being stolen, some buildings, including the village school, were burned down, and three girls and a boy were abducted.

The Company Commander informs you that, owing to the medical assistance and support that the company and other components of the mission have provided to villages in the area after recent raids, a level of trust has been established with the village leader in Toku. The village leader has informed the company that a 15-year-old girl from Toku knows where the armed group has its camp. The girl believes that it is the FDLR and she can show the United Nations troops the



route. The village leader has asked the Company Commander to rescue the children abducted by the FDLR, as soon as possible.

The Company Commander is uncertain about what action to take and is seeking your guidance. Before issuing guidance, you recall that there is a host government military battalion (FARDC) nearby, which should be taking the lead in this; however, it is suspected of being sympathetic to FDLR.

SCENARIO C

Sudan has been plagued by conflict for decades. In 2011, various referendums led to the creation of South Sudan as the world’s newest country. Decades of conflict in the area has made South Sudan one of the least developed countries in the world, even though it is rich in oil and the land is fertile. The country enjoys an equatorial climate with a rainy season from May through October.

Communications and infrastructure are poor in this landlocked country, and the river Nile, which flows through the central parts of the country, is an essential waterway for transporting goods and people. Herding cattle is a way of life for many South Sudanese and a person’s wealth is measured by the size of their herd.

In December 2013, serious fighting broke out between followers of President Salva Kiir, who is from the Dinka tribe, and followers of Riek Machar, the Vice President, who is from the Nuer tribe. The ongoing violence, often along tribal/ethnic lines, which targets civilians, has led to thousands of civilians being killed and three million people displaced. The increase in violence has led to a large portion of the population seeking refuge in the vicinity of United Nations compounds. Overwhelmed by the crisis, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) established, together with humanitarian partners, eight protection of civilians (POC) sites, including in the capital and throughout the country.

Despite efforts by the United Nations and the international community, the conflict along tribal and communal lines continue to pose a serious threat to civilians, including children. Sexual violence is rampant, and thousands of children are used as soldiers by armed groups and host government security forces.

Unity State is the most volatile area where UNMISS peacekeepers operate. The southern Unity region, in particular, has experienced a high level of violence. Attacks against civilians, including humanitarian workers, and recent killings of humanitarian personnel have forced NGOs and humanitarian agencies to evacuate their staff from the region.

Based on intelligence reports and assessments, UNMISS plans an integrated patrol to one of the most affected villages in the region to investigate and assess the extent of the aftermath of the fighting between host government and opposition forces.



You are the Patrol Leader. The integrated patrol consists of the patrol escort, one platoon of UNMISS military troops (40 soldiers and 4 armoured personnel carriers (APCs)), a Civil Affairs Officer, a Human Rights Officer, a UN police officer and two language assistants. As required during an integrated patrol, the requisite clearance has been obtained from the force controlling the area that the patrol is visiting, and the patrol proceeds to the affected village.

Along the way, the integrated patrol encounters a checkpoint manned by five children armed with AK-47s and wearing the uniform of the host country’s military (Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA)). They appear to be intoxicated. The children will not allow the patrol to proceed. You explain to the checkpoint leader that the patrol has been granted clearance by the host country’s military leadership in the area. The children respond that they are not under the command of any other military leader but the checkpoint leader. The children demand that the integrated patrol discontinue the patrol and return to their base. The children also attempt to extort money from the civilian members of the integrated patrol, but the patrol members explain that they are United Nations staff and that they do not give money to soldiers. Unable to convince/negotiate with the children, you decide that the integrated patrol should turn back and report the incident to the Field Integrated Operations Centre.

SCENARIO D

Unity State has the largest protection of civilians (POC) camp hosting an estimated 112,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The camp residents leave the POC camp every day to look for utilities such as firewood, grass and soil to thatch their “tukuls” (grass huts). UNMISS Forces provide protection for the residents three times a week when they go to collect firewood between 0800 hours and 1200 hours at pre-identified locations. Some residents do not come out with the firewood collection patrols or some do not fetch enough firewood and have to venture out by themselves without force protection (FP). One day, six girls, aged between 12 and 16 years, and three boys, aged between 13 and 15 years left the POC camp through the southern side, which is located a few kilometres from the nearby town, where the host government army’s regional force is headquartered. On the way to the collection site, armed men wearing the uniform of the host government army abducted the children. Two girls managed to escape and ran back to the southern gate of the POC camp, and reported the incident to the security guards and UN police (UNPOL) personnel manning the gate. The information was also relayed to the UNMISS Force Sector /Brigade Headquarters for action.

SCENARIO E

The Central African Republic, a landlocked country in Africa, is bordered by the Sudan to the northeast, South Sudan to the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south, the Congo to the southwest, Cameroon to the west and Chad to the north. It has a population of 4.6 million people, divided into 80 different ethnic groups. The majority of the population is Christian (89%), while Muslims constitute a minority (approximately 9%).

The country enjoys a tropical climate with a rainy season from June to September. The Central African Republic has two official languages, French and Sango. The country is rich in minerals, oil and uranium; however, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.



Since gaining independence in 1960, the Central African Republic has been plagued by instability. The situation worsened in 2012–2013, when a Muslim rebellion, under the name of Seleka, took control of the capital, Bangui, and seized power.

A band comprised of mostly Christian militias, many of which were self-defence groups in various villages, was formed to counter Seleka. It became known as the anti-Balaka. The ensuing sectarian violence along religious lines caused tremendous suffering; thousands of civilians were killed and hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

The Security Council responded by authorizing the deployment of MINUSCA, a United Nations integrated peacekeeping mission with the priority task of protecting civilians under threat of physical violence, in particular women and children affected by the conflict.

Despite peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in late 2015, the Central African Republic continues to experience serious violence along religious lines throughout the country. Attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel are on the increase, with MINUSCA taking an alarming number of casualties.

You are a Contingent Commander deployed in the vicinity of a United Nations Field Office. You have one Company Operating Base deployed 100 km away, and two infantry companies co-located in the area, which provides security for the Field Office and conducts protection operations.

In recent weeks, a large reactionary internally displaced persons (IDP) site has grown outside the Field Office, and an armed group of the same ethnicity and religious affiliation as the residents has established a base outside the site. A smaller local village of the opposing religious affiliation is located 5 kilometres away from the Field Office.

You have just been informed by the Field Office Joint Operations Centre (JOC) that the armed group has carried out an operation within the IDP camp. Two humanitarian workers associated with a local UNICEF programme have been abducted and are being detained illegally by the armed group. This armed group was on a rampage; it passed through the village and grabbed three children: two girls aged 9 and 11 years, and a 14-year-old boy. The armed group is known for sexual violence and it is likely that the civilians and the children are seriously mistreated. The armed group’s camp location is known; in the past, United Nations negotiations with this armed group have proved unsuccessful.

You, as a Contingent Commander, coordinate a response with your Sector/Brigade HQ and carry out an operation aimed at rescuing the humanitarian workers and the children, and detaining the base commander of the armed group and his followers. During the operation, you manage to rescue the civilians and the three children. The children seem traumatized.



All but one of the armed elements escaped your cordon. You bring the captured rebel to your battalion HQ and inform Sector/Brigade HQ so that further investigations can be undertaken. You expect the authorities to arrive in a few hours or by the next morning. After several hours and questions, the member of the armed group you are holding states that he is 16 years old.

SCENARIO F

South-eastern Central African Republic has been ravaged by armed conflict over the last decade, since Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, was dislodged from northern Uganda and started operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. The group has committed heinous crimes against the population of both countries, including looting and pillaging villages, killing and maiming across borders. Adults and children have been abducted and used as porters, sex slaves, messengers and in other functions. In most cases, the adults are released after a few days, while the children (both boys and girls) are retained for the purposes mentioned above.

Between 2014 and 2017, the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) on grave violations against children verified 120 victims of abduction by the LRA. This number does not reflect the scale of violations by the LRA, as victims are mostly interviewed when they escape from the group and recount their ordeals to child protection actors. Many incidents go unreported and unverified for several reasons, including insecurity and remoteness of the localities where they occur.

You are the Commander of a Temporary Operating Base (TOB) in a remote town in southeast Central African Republic, 227 km from the nearest Field Office with a civilian Child Protection staff. Early one morning, a village chief informs you that a group of strangers, comprising a 32-year-old man, an 18-year-old woman, two girls aged 16 and 12 years, and a 2-year-old boy are in his home. They claim that they escaped from the LRA. The man has an AK-47 and three magazines of ammunition; the 18-year-old woman and the 16-year-old-girl are both pregnant; and the man says they are his wives. Further information reveals that the 18-year-old woman is of Congolese nationality and was abducted by the LRA in a Congolese village bordering the Central African Republic when she was 13 years old, and has since been used by the LRA as a sex slave and for domestic chores. She became pregnant two years ago and delivered the 2-year-old boy. The 16-year-old girl is of Central African nationality, but also claims to be of Congolese (DRC) nationality; she was abducted by the LRA in 2015. She says she was raped continuously by LRA leaders. The 12-year-old girl told the village leader’s wife that she had been abducted by the same group in January 2018 in a village in Central African Republic, and was also raped by LRA members. The 32-year-old man (a member of the LRA), says he spent 18 years in the group and that he, himself, had been abducted at the age of 14 years from northern Uganda. He decided to leave the group and take along the others who he refers to as his family, as the 18-year-old and 16-year-old girls have “fulfilled their duties” as wives.

Your base has only one unoccupied tent, which is reserved for accommodating visitors. The nearest NGO office is located 80 km away.



SCENARIO G

In recent years, Mali has been confronted by a profound crisis with serious political, security, socio-economic, humanitarian, and human rights consequences. The crisis stems from long-standing structural conditions such as weak state institutions, fragile social cohesion, deep-seated feelings among communities in the north of being neglected, marginalized, and unfairly treated by the central Government.

On 22 March 2012, a mutiny by disaffected soldiers resulted in a military coup d’état. A military junta took power, suspended the Constitution, and dissolved the government. The interim government adopted a political roadmap in the spring of 2013 and further consultations with the UN led to a proposal to establish an integrated peacekeeping mission in Mali.

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established by Security Council resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013, and tasked with support to the political process, security stabilization including the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring, the creation of conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced persons, the extension of state authority and the preparation of free, inclusive, and peaceful elections.

Since its establishment, MINUSMA has faced serious challenges in providing a safe and secure environment throughout Mali. The host government struggles to establish state authority in the North and the mission often finds itself a target for terrorist groups attacking both MINUSMA convoys and bases. In April 2021, four peacekeepers from Chad were killed and 19 injured when a UN camp was attacked in Northern Mali.

Threats against civilians are on the rise due to several factors. For instance, the weak central government, the proliferation of self-defense groups, and tensions within and between communities contribute to civilians being targeted. Illicit trafficking and jihadist insurgencies also make Mali a very volatile and dangerous environment. Women and children are especially at risk due to the lack of security at the community and provincial level.

Ansongo is a small town in the Gao Region in Eastern Mali, which has a center of mining and agricultural market (e.g., antimony, grains, livestock). A richness in natural resources (e.g., gold, uranium, and gas) has fueled armed groups activities in this area.

Extremist groups, which operate in central and northern Mali and neighboring regions in Burkina Faso and Niger, are also identified in Ansongo. Moreover, the main Malian-based umbrella group Jama’a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al Muslimin (JNIM), which is linked to Al Qaeda, has claimed attacks in Burkina Faso and Niger. Likewise, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), a part of Islamic State in the West Africa Province (ISWAP), operates in North-Eastern Mali and adjacent areas in Burkina Faso and Niger. Conversely, Burkina Faso-based Ansaroul Islam has also staged attacks in neighboring Central Mali. Despite the continuing fights between JNIM and ISGS in Sector East, it is likely that JNIM redirected their focus on international forces, mainly Barkhane, in Sector East, in retaliation to their counter-terrorist operations.



You are the Battalion Commander and staff of a battalion in Sector East. One morning, you received information from local and security sources indicating that unidentified armed individuals on several motorcycles burst into the village of Intiguart, and terrorized the villagers. This incident led to rape, sexual assault, and robbery. The assailants allegedly raped nine people at gunpoint. Three of them were girls between the ages of ten and eighteen. This zone is part of your area of responsibility.

SCENARIO H

The urban villages of Inadiatafane and Ti-n-Baradyan in Gourma Rharous cercle are administrative subdivisions of Timbuktu region. While agriculture has been introduced for poverty reduction, it is still highly labour-intensive due to the lack of investment in agricultural technology, resulting in the low level of agrarian capital per household.

You are the Battalion Commander and staff in Sector West. Your area of responsibility includes the villages of Inadiatafane and Ti-n-Baradyan. You just received a JMAC report from Sector/Brigade HQ in Timbuktu. This report highlights that nine families arrived in Timbuktu urban communities from Inalatafane and Ti-n-Baradyan. According to the report, they were fleeing from an extremist group, threatening to behead teachers and take students as hostages in school premises.

Hundreds of children do not go to school owing to the absence of teachers who are afraid of losing their lives. The escaped families said three of their daughters aged below fifteen were abducted because they refused to marry members of the extremist group. Forced marriage and abduction have become more prevalent in Gourma Rharous and Goundam cercles in Sector West, particularly in the areas controlled by armed groups. Families with children flee from these areas due to the heightened risk of forced marriage, abduction and the lack of access to education.

REQUIREMENTS

Working in assigned groups, learners should discuss and analyse the scenario(s) and prepare a 10-minute presentation to be delivered in plenary, taking into account the following:

- 1) Is it an imminent and/or a physical threat? What would happen if no action is taken?
- 2) What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on the ground (e.g., patrol or company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups?
- 3) What specific action(s) should the Force take with respect to the victim(s)?
- 4) Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share information with the stakeholders concerned.



- 5) Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.
- 6) What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?

CONDUCT OF THE EXERCISE

Learners should be divided into groups for this exercise. The exercise will be conducted over six periods, with a minimum of two scenarios for each group. To begin, the trainer(s) should introduce the exercise and explain the requirements in plenary. Then the groups should separate to discuss the scenarios, formulate responses and prepare the 10-minute PowerPoint presentations highlighting the key issues. Emphasize the need to be concise in the presentations. 300 minutes (5 hours) will be allocated for this exercise.

TIMING

- Introduction of exercise and requirements: 30 minutes
- Group discussions on scenarios and preparation of responses and presentations: 180 minutes
- Presentations of responses in plenary (maximum 10 minutes per group); question period after each presentation (5 minutes/presentation); concluding remarks after all presentations delivered (5 minutes): 90 minutes

TRAINER’S NOTES

This exercise is intended to present military personnel – including battalion and company commanders, military observers (UNMOs) and staff officers – with situations involving child protection issues that they may encounter at the tactical level in the mission area. The scenarios are based on actual events in the missions mentioned and reflect typical events frequently encountered by military patrols in multidimensional missions.

For the most part, the scenarios depict protection of civilians (POC) issues with a child protection element, and should be treated as such. At the start of the exercise, trainers should emphasize “connectivity” and focus on the child protection aspects of a complex issue that calls for a comprehensive approach based on DPO protection of civilians concept and mission guidance.

Based on the knowledge acquired during the course, learners should be able to develop a well-considered military response at the tactical level, identify the key mission and external actors who have a role to play in the situation, and use the appropriate mechanisms for sharing information and coordination with all relevant stakeholders. Knowledge of the mission rules of engagement, policy and guidelines on the use of force, a thorough understanding of the peacekeeping principles and guidelines, legal and ethical obligations and knowledge of the Security Council mandates is critical to ensuring that the military response to situations at the tactical level is robust and appropriate. Learners may be advised to quickly review some of these key concepts as they develop their solutions.



Trainers should mentor/guide the discussion groups closely to ensure that learners understand the purpose/aim of the exercise and stay focused on the issues to be addressed. The **primary objective, from an adult-education perspective**, is that learners think, discuss and arrive at solutions based on their experience and knowledge acquired in the training course.

Trainers should emphasize that there is no right solution; but responses that do not go beyond “observation and reporting” are clearly missing the point that the mission has a civilian/child protection mandate and must take action. The quality of discussions is more important than the solutions. Learners should be encouraged not to be restricted in thinking of military solutions as “soldiers”, but rather to think of mission responses as “United Nations military personnel”.

Key issues relating to the scenarios:

- In all of the scenarios (A–H), the alleged perpetrators of the violations are members of non-State armed groups or host government troops, and all pose an imminent threat. The mission rules of engagement authorize UN military to take necessary action, including detaining the perpetrators. However, although the principles of peacekeeping (e.g., non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate; use of force as a last resort; use of minimum force necessary to achieve objective) apply at all times, taking “no action” or ignoring a situation (wrongly interpreting impartiality) is not acceptable. **The UN is not and cannot be neutral**. Learners should carefully analyse the rules of engagement and specify their applicability in each scenario.
- The principle of impartiality requires the UN to take action against any side that violates the provisions of the mission mandate. Therefore, if violations occur, irrespective of whether the perpetrators are host government forces or non-State armed groups, UN response at the tactical level should remain the same. The difference would be in the manner in which the mission deals with the issue.
- Military contingents and patrols must be mindful and exercise care and caution in their interactions with children. The “Dos and Don’ts” covered in Modules 1-3 must be adhered to diligently. Remind learners that, in most situations, a civilian Child Protection staff may not be in the vicinity or even available (owing to the geographic coverage of the missions).

Depending on mission experiences, learners may have differing views and experiences and/or faced or heard of similar situations in actual peacekeeping operations. Encourage learners to share their experiences.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This exercise is expected to enhance learners’ understanding of the specific role they – as United Nations military personnel – and other mission components play in addressing child protection concerns within the peacekeeping operation and in the wider community. Learners should understand that their role as military personnel is to do more than just “observe and report”. A key child protection role of military personnel is to reduce vulnerabilities and threats in their area of responsibility by utilizing proactive means such as preventive deployments and night patrols in areas where violations occur, among others. Another key obligation of military personnel is to



take action, including using force beyond self-defence to protect children under imminent threat of physical violence.

This exercise is also expected to enhance learners’ understanding of the coordination mechanisms in missions, the key child protection stakeholders with whom they would need to coordinate and collaborate, and the importance of working with local communities.

REFERENCES

- Presentation on “Military Component Child Protection Roles and Tasks” (Lesson 3.2)
- Presentation on “Military Component Child Protection Action and Response” (Lesson 3.3)
- MONUSCO Force Commander’s Directive – Protection of Children by MONUSCO Force (2021)
- Mission Y Rules of Engagement (MONUSCO)
- Force Commander’s Directive on the Protection of Children by UNMISS Military Forces (2020)
- Mission X Rules of Engagement (UNMISS)
- MINUSCA Force Commander’s Directive on Child Protection (2018)
- Mission Z Rules of Engagement (MINUSCA)
- MINUSMA Force Commander’s Directive on the Protection of Children by MINUSMA Force (2020)
- Mission W Rules of Engagement (MINUSMA)



Scenario A

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The area of Wula in South Kivu is hilly with bush, open agricultural land and small villages — most of them are secluded. Legal and illegal mining is carried out in several places, many of which are highly disputed. Local teachers, village elders, female groups and priests play an important role in the communities. Infrastructure is very poor and the area is easily infiltrated. Armed groups, such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (also known by its French acronym, FDLR), Interahamwe, Rasta, Mayi Mayi, dissident splinter groups and non-aligned groups (henceforth referred to as “armed groups”) harass the local population. The United Nations does not have a sufficient number of troops in South Kivu to cover the whole province. Armed groups move relatively freely in certain areas and harass the local population. Elements of the host government’s armed forces (also known by its French acronym, FARDC) have been conducting joint operations with the MONUSCO force. Although incidents resulting from their indiscipline and human rights violations have been gradually decreasing, they are still common.

You are a Platoon Commander on a four-vehicle patrol. About halfway through your patrol, your lead vehicle comes to a halt because a girl is stumbling into the middle of the road. She is bleeding profusely and her clothes are ripped. The female platoon medical officer applies first aid, but the girl will need more medical assistance. Once the girl, who looks about 14 years, has calmed down, she volunteers the information that, about an hour ago, she was assaulted and raped by four men in uniform. The armed men had suddenly arrived in her village, started shouting at everyone and demanded food. She is very worried about her younger sister and is not sure if she was able to escape. The village is about a kilometre away.

The Force Commander of the mission has issued directions that, in order to accelerate decision-making, rules 1 to 5 of the Rules of Engagement apply and he has authorized their application.

Requirements

Questions	Elements of a response
<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on ground (e.g., patrol or company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and rules of engagement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Platoon Commander should report back to Company HQ; briefly describe and discuss the situation; and indicate the patrol’s intention to proceed to the village in order to disarm the accused perpetrators – if necessary, by force – and detain them. • Rule (of engagement) 1.7 in Annex A authorizes the use of force in this context. The Commander should investigate the area; confront the four men who meet the girl’s description; and confirm the report. The four uniformed men should be disarmed, if necessary, by force; and detained pending follow-up action. The scene/area of the crime should be preserved for subsequent investigation.



<p>Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or the non-State armed groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All rules are authorized by the Force Commander, who may accelerate the decision. The following rules of engagement apply in this particular case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Imminent threat b) Definition of hostile act and hostile intent c) Rule 8 (J) (1) on use of force beyond self-defence d) Rule 1.7 in Annex A. If possible, Platoon Commander should confirm with the Company Commander; if not possible, he/she should act in accordance with Rule 1.7. e) Rule 1.13 f) Rules 4.1 and 4.3 • Irrespective of whether the accused are FARDC soldiers or members of non-State armed groups, they should be disarmed and detained. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the accused men are FARDC soldiers, the Platoon Commander should try to contact (via Company HQ) the local FARDC commander. If not possible, the Commander should take action to detain them and hand them over as soon as possible to the local host government authorities (i.e., the “auditeur militaire”) for prosecution. - If the men are members of an armed group, they should be disarmed, detained and handed over to the local host government authorities for prosecution. That may take longer than the rules indicate, and may also be a case of “force majeure”, which is never a reason to release perpetrators of grave human rights abuses.
<p>2. What specific actions should be taken with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The female medical officer on the patrol provided immediate assistance to the girl, but she should be referred, with her informed consent, to a medical clinic (either UN hospital or local clinic in area) and receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV infection and emergency contraception, as soon as possible. • Immediately inform the civilian Child Protection staff in the mission. • Everyone involved should be aware of the extremely delicate and sensitive situation. Under no circumstances should photographs be taken of the victim of sexual violence. Immediately evacuate the girl, and with her informed consent, refer her to the designated service provider for medical treatment. • Ensure the girl’s parents or next of kin are informed of where she has been taken for medical assistance. Do not tell the parents that the girl has been raped. That is the girl’s decision. In many cultural contexts, victims of sexual violence will experience stigma and may sometimes be rejected by their communities and blamed for what happened.
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the mission Child Protection staff without delay. Also inform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) UN Police b) Head of Office (Sector)

<p>be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share information with the stakeholders concerned.</p>	<p>c) Human Rights Officer in the area d) If no mission Child Protection staff, any external child protection actors, such as UNICEF and child protection NGOs operating in the area.</p>
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Company Commander should discuss with local host government military and police authorities what can be done to strengthen security in the area, and consider establishing a temporary UN military presence in the village. • The Commander should report the incident to the higher formation and recommend that the Sector/Brigade Commander report the incident to the highest host government forces (FARDC) authorities for them to take action and sensitize their soldiers about sexual violence. See about coming to an agreement with the local host government authorities to designate the province as a weapons-free zone. FARDC soldiers should only carry weapons when on duty, not when they are off duty. • The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should consider maximizing the deployment of night and helicopter patrols, quick-reaction units, overnight presence in the area, etc.; and should advise/propose to the FARDC Commander in the region to control/take charge of the units under his/her command as he/she is responsible for their (mis)behaviour, (mis)conduct and discipline. • The Battalion Commander should discuss with local leaders, the mission Child Protection staff and other child protection actors, UN Police, Civil Affairs and other stakeholders in the area ways and means to strengthen early-warning mechanisms between local communities and the UN mission. • For discussion: How to manage the (sometimes) seemingly contradictory mandate to support the host government armed forces (FARDC) and protect civilians?
<p>5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete details, to the extent allowed by the situation, must be ascertained; this is critical support (acting as the “eyes and ears” of the mission) that the military can provide to the civilian Child Protection staff and other relevant actors. The patrol report should contain detailed information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What, when and where about the event(s)? b) Who was involved (details) – victim(s), perpetrator(s), witnesses, if any? c) How/under what circumstances did it happen? d) What action was taken by the patrol?

	<p>e) Who was informed – local host government police/authorities, UN Police, Head of Office (Sector), Human Rights/Child Protection staff (mission), external actors (UNICEF, NGOs, other agencies), etc.? All information should be reported/communicated through the mission reporting chain.</p> <p>f) What means were used to communicate the information (if considered necessary and relevant)?</p>
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Scenario B

Democratic Republic of the Congo

You are a United Nations Battalion Commander in MONUSCO and based in the Kivus. Late one night, you receive an urgent phone call from one of your company commanders requesting your advice. You are aware that there have been a number of raids by armed groups on villages in the southern part of your area of responsibility. According to the Company Commander, yesterday, an armed group attacked the village of Toku, which is within the area of responsibility of his/her company. In addition to food being stolen, some buildings, including the village school, were burned down, and three girls and a boy were abducted.

The Company Commander informs you that, owing to the medical assistance and support that the company and other components of the mission have provided to villages in the area after recent raids, a level of trust has been established with the village leader in Toku. The village leader has informed the company that a 15-year-old girl from Toku knows where the armed group has its camp. The girl believes that it is the FDLR and she can show the United Nations troops the route. The village leader has asked the Company Commander to rescue the children abducted by the FDLR, as soon as possible.

The Company Commander is uncertain about what action to take and is seeking your guidance. Before issuing guidance, you recall that there is a host government military battalion (FARDC) nearby, which should be taking the lead in this; however, it is suspected of being sympathetic to FDLR.

Requirements

<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local population has high expectations of the protection that the deployed UN unit might provide. The credibility of the UN is at stake. The Company Commander should first discuss with the host government forces (FARDC) Commander what action the UN intends to take. Then he/she should discuss the situation with the Battalion Commander, explaining the action he/she intends to take.
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<p>mission’s mandate and rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case the local host government security forces are unable/unwilling to take action, the Company Commander should try to locate the abducted girls with the help of the village elder; and to disarm and detain the perpetrators until they can be handed over to the host government police (Congolese National Police (CNP)). Under no circumstances should the UN unit use the 15-year-old girl as a scout; this would place the girl in immediate danger as well as expose her – and the village – to longer-term repercussions from the armed group. • For discussion: How to deal with situations in which the local population/community expects the UN mission to play a law enforcement role in the absence of (strong) host government authorities? • The local population expects the UN to protect them. The mission has the mandate to “take all necessary measures to ensure effective, timely, dynamic and integrated protection of civilians under threat of physical violence t” (see SC resolution 2666 (2022)). Governments hold the primary responsibility for ensuring the security of civilians on their territories; however, in conflict and post-conflict situations, the capacity of Governments to live up to this responsibility may be limited. Sometimes, the very Government that is responsible for protecting the civilian population, including displaced persons, may have caused its people to flee in the first place; or, it has shown itself incapable of protecting its citizens from marauding armed groups or from sexual violence and persecution. In practical terms, the mandate to protect civilians provides that the military component of the UN mission should allow the host government authorities to take appropriate action whenever they demonstrate the intent and/or are capable of doing so.
<p>2. What specific action(s) should the Force take with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the girls and the boy who were abducted are in need of medical assistance upon being rescue, they should be taken to a hospital/clinic as soon as possible to receive treatment. Inform the civilian Child Protection staff, and their parents/next of kin. The Company Commander should discuss how to assist the victims first and foremost with the Child Protection staff, and also with the village elder, local medical clinic and other local stakeholders (e.g., religious leaders, teachers, etc.) as appropriate. If the children are victims of sexual violence, activate the referral mechanism - refer the children, with their informed consent, to the designated service provider for assistance.
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always inform the mission Child Protection staff in the area. The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should also discuss the security situation with the Head of Office (Sector) and sector team.

<p>be informed of the event(s), and why? Also, explain how you would share the information with the stakeholders concerned.</p>	<p>In particular, they should consider ways to enhance security around marketplaces, including patrolling during trade hours, designating a “weapons-free zone”, accompanying women to/from the market, rehabilitating transportation, etc. UN Forces should appear unannounced at marketplaces and at irregular times, circulate at night and secure the area. The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should discuss possible measures to take with the mission’s Human Rights and Child Protection sections; (local) NGOs (e.g., OXFAM, International Rescue Committee (IRC), CARE, Save the Children, etc.); and national civil society in the provincial capital. The Commander should also discuss with the FARDC Commander in the region about the latter’s overt involvement/collaboration with the FDLR. That should also be brought to the attention of mission HQ in Kinshasa to discuss with the host government.</p>
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent the recurrence of similar violations against children in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Company Commander should discuss with local host government military and police authorities what can be done to strengthen security in the area, and consider establishing a temporary UN military presence in the village. • In situations like this, the best durable solution is to reduce the threat by permanently disarming the armed groups. This may take a long time, therefore the UN military commander in the area should analyse options and determine the most effective means of reducing vulnerability and existing threat, until a more permanent DDR process can be implemented. • The Commander should report the incident to the higher formation and recommend/discuss what can be done with regards to FARDC collaboration with armed groups. The Sector/Brigade Commander may also discuss with the Force Commander to put pressure on the regional FARDC Commander to ensure perpetrators are held accountable, and that the unit is removed from the area. • The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should consider maximizing the deployment of night and helicopter patrols, quick-reaction units, overnight presence in the area, etc.; and should advise/propose to the FARDC Commander in the region to control/take charge of the units under his/her command as he/she is responsible for their (mis)behaviour, (mis)conduct and discipline. • The Battalion Commander should discuss with local leaders, the mission Child Protection staff and child protection actors, UN Police, Civil Affairs and other stakeholders in the area ways and means to strengthen early-warning mechanisms between local communities and the UN mission.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Rights section (OHCHR) and UNICEF may be called upon to provide further assistance. What is important, in this respect, is to find ways to prevent the violence from recurring.
5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See bullet points as for scenario A above; they also pertain to this scenario.

Scenario C (SOUTH SUDAN)

Sudan has been plagued by conflict for decades. In 2011, various referendums led to the creation of South Sudan as the world’s newest country. Decades of conflict in the area has made South Sudan one of the least developed countries in the world, even though it is rich in oil and the land is fertile. The country enjoys an equatorial climate with a rainy season from May through October.

Communications and infrastructure are poor in this landlocked country, and the river Nile, which flows through the central parts of the country, is an essential waterway for transporting goods and people. Herding cattle is a way of life for many South Sudanese and a person’s wealth is measured by the size of their herd.

In December 2013, serious fighting broke out between followers of President Salva Kiir, who is from the Dinka tribe, and followers of Riek Machar, the Vice President, who is from the Nuer tribe. The ongoing violence, often along tribal/ethnic lines, which targets civilians, has led to thousands of civilians being killed and three million people displaced. The increase in violence has led to a large portion of the population seeking refuge in the vicinity of United Nations compounds. Overwhelmed by the crisis, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) established, together with humanitarian partners, eight protection of civilians (POC) sites, including in the capital and throughout the country.

Despite efforts by the United Nations and the international community, the conflict along tribal and communal lines continue to pose a serious threat to civilians, including children. Sexual violence is rampant, and thousands of children are used as soldiers by armed groups and host government security forces.

Unity State is the most volatile area where UNMISS peacekeepers operate. The southern Unity region, in particular, has experienced a high level of violence. Attacks against civilians, including humanitarian workers, and recent killings of humanitarian personnel have forced NGOs and humanitarian agencies to evacuate their staff from the region.



Based on intelligence reports and assessments, UNMISS plans an integrated patrol to one of the most affected villages in the region to investigate and assess the extent of the aftermath of the fighting between host government and opposition forces.

You are the Patrol Leader. The integrated patrol consists of the patrol escort, one platoon of UNMISS military troops (40 soldiers and 4 armoured personnel carriers (APCs)), a Civil Affairs Officer, a Human Rights Officer, a UN police officer and two language assistants. As required during an integrated patrol, the requisite clearance has been obtained from the force controlling the area that the patrol is visiting, and the patrol proceeds to the affected village.

Along the way, the integrated patrol encounters a checkpoint manned by five children armed with AK-47s and wearing the uniform of the host country’s military (Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA)). They appear to be intoxicated. The children will not allow the patrol to proceed. You explain to the checkpoint leader that the patrol has been granted clearance by the host country’s military leadership in the area. The children respond that they are not under the command of any other military leader but the checkpoint leader. The children demand that the integrated patrol discontinue the patrol and return to their base. The children also attempt to extort money from the civilian members of the integrated patrol, but the patrol members explain that they are United Nations staff and that they do not give money to soldiers. Unable to convince/negotiate with the children, you decide that the integrated patrol should turn back and report the incident to the Field Integrated Operations Centre.

Requirements

<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and the rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This situation creates a dilemma: Should the patrol use force to disarm the children and the checkpoint, or should they turn back when negotiations fail. The former response may cause injuries or death to one/more children; the latter may lead to loss of credibility and failure to accomplish a protection task (i.e., reach the village where other civilians may be under threat). • Facilitate a discussion around these issues; explore the option of retreating to a safe distance; elevating the situation to higher command; putting pressure on the local/regional commander to dismantle the checkpoint and hand over the children to UNMISS or other child protection actors. • See the <i>Force Commander’s Directive on the Protection of Children by UNMISS Military Forces (2020)</i>, Annex A, para. 5.
<p>2. What specific action(s) should the Force take with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally, child protection experts should facilitate and negotiate the release of the children and they should be provided with medical treatment, if needed, and unified with their families, if possible.



<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share information with the stakeholders concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always inform the civilian Child Protection staff, in this case at the Field Integrated Operations Centre. • Mission components, other UN agencies and programmes and NGOs (deployed in the area) should be informed; they can raise awareness about local host government forces employing children at checkpoints. • If the children were released, child protection actors should be informed to be ready to receive the children for interim care.
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In consultation with mission entities, including the Head of Office, the office team, and the Child Protection staff, the Sector/Brigade or Battalion commander should discuss ways of convincing the commander of the local host government forces that the use of children is a violation of international human rights law, and a grave violation, and work towards identifying and releasing all the children under his/her command. • Training on and actions under the rules of engagement when freedom of movement is hindered by checkpoints manned by children should be rehearsed to ensure all feasible measures are taken to minimize child casualties.
<p>5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same bullet points as for scenario A above, as they also pertain to this scenario.

Scenario D (SOUTH SUDAN)

Unity State has the largest protection of civilians (POC) camp hosting an estimated 112,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The camp residents leave the POC camp every day to look for utilities such as firewood, grass and soil to thatch their “tukuls” (grass huts). UNMISS Forces provide protection for the residents three times a week when they go to collect firewood between 0800 hours and 1200 hours at pre-identified locations. Some residents do not come out with the firewood collection patrols or some do not fetch enough firewood and have to venture out by themselves without force protection (FP). One day, six girls, aged between 12 and 16 years, and three boys, aged between 13 and 15 years left the POC camp through the southern side, which is located a few kilometres from the nearby town, where the host government army’s regional force is headquartered. On the way to the collection site, armed men wearing the uniform of the host government army abducted the children. Two girls managed to escape and ran back to the southern gate of the POC camp, and reported the incident to the security guards and UN police



<p>(UNPOL) personnel manning the gate. The information was also relayed to the UNMISS Force Sector /Brigade Headquarters for action.</p>	
Requirements	
<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on the ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and rules of engagement? Should the military response should be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local population has high expectations of the protection that the deployed UN unit might provide. The UN’s credibility is at stake. • The Contingent Commander should discuss rescue operations with the Head of Office and the Sector/Brigade Commander. • For discussion: How to tackle situations in which the local population expects the UN Mission to play a law enforcement role in the absence of (strong) host government authorities? • The local population expects the UN to protect them. The mandate provides guidance: “...to protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment.” (See SC resolution 2625 (2022)). • Governments hold the primary responsibility for ensuring the security of civilians in their territories. However, in conflict and post-conflict situations, the capacity of Governments to live up to this responsibility may be limited. In this case, host government forces (SPLA) are the perpetrator. • In practical terms, the POC working group should raise this at the political and military level with host government counterparts. Simultaneously, the military component should plan, and if necessary, conduct a rescue operation, (when authorized by political/military leadership). If political and senior military negotiations fail, the mission should be prepared to take action to free the children. • Time is of the essence for these children; action must be taken by the leadership and military units on the ground.
<p>2. What specific action(s) should the Force take with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If in need of medical assistance upon rescue, the girls and the boys should be brought to a hospital as soon as possible to receive treatment. • Inform their next of kin. The commander on the ground should discuss how to assist the victims with the civilian Child Protection staff, who should engage with the protection of civilians camp leadership, family members, local elders, the local medical clinic etc.
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owing to its grave nature, the incident should be discussed by the POC working group, led by the Head of Office. UNMISS Sector/Brigade or the Contingent Commander should participate.

<p>and why? Also, explain how you would share information with the stakeholders concerned.</p>	
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This incident requires a joint approach to reduce the vulnerabilities of children in the POC camp, to sensitize children and families to the dangers of leaving the camp without an escort. • The mission should also take measures to reduce the threat, in this case from SPLA. Robust patrolling by the military outside the camp, and by the police within the camp. Political leadership should demand that the perpetrators be held to account for their actions. The Force or Sector/Brigade Commander should call for a halt to such violations by their SPLA counterparts. • UNMISS Battalion Commander should discuss with local leaders, civilian Child Protection staff and child protection actors, UN Police, Civil Affairs and other stakeholders in the area, the ways and means to strengthen early warning mechanisms between the POC camp and the UN. • UN Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) can provide further assistance. It is important to find ways to prevent the violence from recurring.
<p>5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same bullet points as in scenario A above, as they also pertain to this situation.

Scenario E (CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC)

The Central African Republic, a landlocked country in Africa, is bordered by the Sudan to the northeast, South Sudan to the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south, the Congo to the southwest, Cameroon to the west and Chad to the north. It has a population of 4.6 million people, divided into 80 different ethnic groups. The majority of the population is Christian (89%), while Muslims constitute a minority (approximately 9%).

The country enjoys a tropical climate with a rainy season from June to September. The Central African Republic has two official languages, French and Sango. The country is rich in minerals, oil and uranium; however, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Since gaining independence in 1960, the Central African Republic has been plagued by instability. The situation worsened in 2012–2013, when a Muslim rebellion, under the name of Seleka, took control of the capital, Bangui, and seized power.

A band comprised of mostly Christian militias, many of which were self-defence groups in various villages, was formed to counter Seleka. It became known as the anti-Balaka. The ensuing sectarian violence along religious lines caused tremendous suffering; thousands of civilians were killed and hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

The Security Council responded by authorizing the deployment of MINUSCA, a United Nations integrated peacekeeping mission with the priority task of protecting civilians under threat of physical violence, in particular women and children affected by the conflict.

Despite peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in late 2015, the Central African Republic continues to experience serious violence along religious lines throughout the country. Attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel are on the increase, with MINUSCA taking an alarming number of casualties.

You are a Contingent Commander deployed in the vicinity of a United Nations Field Office. You have one Company Operating Base deployed 100 km away, and two infantry companies co-located in the area, which provides security for the Field Office and conducts protection operations.

In recent weeks, a large reactionary internally displaced persons (IDP) site has grown outside the Field Office, and an armed group of the same ethnicity and religious affiliation as the residents has established a base outside the site. A smaller local village of the opposing religious affiliation is located 5 kilometres away from the Field Office.

You have just been informed by the Field Office Joint Operations Centre (JOC) that the armed group has carried out an operation within the IDP camp. Two humanitarian workers associated with a local UNICEF programme have been abducted and are being detained illegally by the armed group. This armed group was on a rampage; it passed through the village and grabbed three children: two girls aged 9 and 11 years, and a 14-year-old boy. The armed group is known for sexual violence and it is likely that the civilians and the children are seriously mistreated. The armed group’s camp location is known; in the past, United Nations negotiations with this armed group have proved unsuccessful.

You, as a Contingent Commander, coordinate a response with your Sector/Brigade HQ and carry out an operation aimed at rescuing the humanitarian workers and the children, and detaining the base commander of the armed group and his followers. During the operation, you manage to rescue the civilians and the three children. The children seem traumatized.

All but one of the armed elements escaped your cordon. You bring the captured rebel to your battalion HQ and inform Sector/Brigade HQ so that further investigations can be undertaken. You expect the authorities to arrive in a few hours or by the next morning. After several hours and questions, the member of the armed group you are holding states that he is 16 years old.



Requirements	
<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and the rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups ?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Contingent Commander should discuss the options with Sector/Brigade HQ and the Head of Office, and plan and carry out a rescue operation. Time is of the essence; two of the abducted children are girls, and their exposure to sexual violence is imminent. • Inform the civilian Child Protection staff at the Field Office about the situation and seek guidance on how to ensure the safety and well-being of the children once they have been rescued. • If host government forces are the perpetrators, the same principles for protection apply. As a first action, the Head of Office and the Sector/Brigade Commander can put pressure on the host government forces and demand the safe return of the (civilian) humanitarian workers and the children. • The local population expects the United Nations to protect them. The mandate of the mission is “to protect ... without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the CAR authorities and the basic principles of peacekeeping, the civilian population under threat of physical violence” (see SC resolution 2659 (2022)). Governments hold the primary responsibility for ensuring the security of civilians in their territories. However, in conflict and post-conflict situations, the capacity of Governments to live up to this responsibility may be limited. At times, the very Government that is responsible for protecting the civilian population, including displaced persons, may have caused the people to flee in the first place. In other cases, the Government may have shown itself incapable of protecting its citizens from marauding armed groups or sexual violence and persecution. In practical terms, that phrase requires that the military component allow the host government authorities to take appropriate action whenever they demonstrate the intent and/or are capable of doing so.
<p>2. What specific action(s) should the Force take with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abducted children: if the children need medical assistance once rescued, the girls and the boy should be taken to a hospital as soon as possible to receive treatment. Inform the civilian Child Protection staff at the sector level, and their next of kin. The Commander should discuss how to assist the victims first and foremost with the Child Protection staff, and also with the village elder, local medical clinic and other relevant local stakeholders, such as religious leaders, teachers, etc. • If the children are victims of sexual violence, activate the referral mechanism - refer the children, with their informed consent, to the designated service provider for assistance.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children associated with armed forces and armed groups: Once the boy’s age has been confirmed, all questioning should stop. The boy should be given medical treatment, if needed, and food and water. The civilian Child Protection staff should be notified of the presence of the boy, and advice on the early handover of the boy to local host government child protection authorities or other child protection actors. Note: Learners should question the length of the initial interview/questioning (12 hours) before the boy’s age was established. Remind learners that, if in doubt, always treat a disarmed combatant as a child.
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share information with the stakeholders concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always inform the civilian Child Protection staff in the area. The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should also discuss the security situation with the Head of Office and his/her team. The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should discuss possible measures to take with the mission’s Human Rights and Child Protection sections; (local) NGOs (e.g., OXFAM, IRC, CARE, Save the Children, etc.); and national civil society in the area. • Local host government child protection authorities or other child protection actors should be informed to be ready to receive the boy for interim care.
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Company Commander should discuss with the local host government military and police authorities what can be done to strengthen security in the area, and consider establishing a temporary UN military presence in the village. • They should consider ways to enhance safety in the area, including increased patrols, deployment of a Temporary Operating Base (TOB), and ensuring a presence during the day and at night. • In situations like this, the best durable solution is to reduce the threat by permanently disarming the armed groups. This may take a long time, therefore the UN military commander in this area should analyse options and determine the most effective means to reducing vulnerability and existing threat, until a more permanent DDR process can be implemented.
<p>5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same bullet points as for scenario A above; they also pertain to this scenario.

Scenario F
(CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC)

South-eastern Central African Republic has been ravaged by armed conflict over the last decade, since Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, was dislodged from northern Uganda and started operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. The group has committed heinous crimes against the population of both countries, including looting and pillaging villages, killing and maiming across borders. Adults and children have been abducted and used as porters, sex slaves, messengers and in other functions. In most cases, the adults are released after a few days, while the children (both boys and girls) are retained for the purposes mentioned above.

Between 2014 and 2017, the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) on grave violations against children verified 120 victims of abduction by the LRA. This number does not reflect the scale of violations by the LRA, as victims are mostly interviewed when they escape from the group and recount their ordeals to child protection actors. Many incidents go unreported and unverified for several reasons, including insecurity and remoteness of the localities where they occur.

You are the Commander of a Temporary Operating Base (TOB) in a remote town in southeast Central African Republic, 227 km from the nearest Field Office with a civilian Child Protection staff. Early one morning, a village chief informs you that a group of strangers, comprising a 32-year-old man, an 18-year-old woman, two girls aged 16 and 12 years, and a 2-year-old boy are in his home. They claim that they escaped from the LRA. The man has an AK-47 and three magazines of ammunition; the 18-year-old woman and the 16-year-old-girl are both pregnant; and the man says they are his wives. Further information reveals that the 18-year-old woman is of Congolese nationality and was abducted by the LRA in a Congolese village bordering the Central African Republic when she was 13 years old, and has since been used by the LRA as a sex slave and for domestic chores. She became pregnant two years ago and delivered the 2-year-old boy. The 16-year-old girl is of Central African nationality, but also claims to be of Congolese (DRC) nationality; she was abducted by the LRA in 2015. She says she was raped continuously by LRA leaders. The 12-year-old girl told the village leader’s wife that she had been abducted by the same group in January 2018 in a village in Central African Republic, and was also raped by LRA members. The 32-year-old man (a member of the LRA), says he spent 18 years in the group and that he, himself, had been abducted at the age of 14 years from northern Uganda. He decided to leave the group and take along the others who he refers to as his family, as the 18-year-old and 16-year-old girls have “fulfilled their duties” as wives.

Your base has only one unoccupied tent, which is reserved for accommodating visitors. The nearest NGO office is located 80 km away.

Requirements

1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately inform the chain of command (Company/Battalion). • DPO and Mission specific guidance specify that victims should not be accommodated with perpetrators. Even if the Temporary Operating Base has only one tent, the children should be separated from the LRA
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<p>on the ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and the rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups?</p>	<p>soldier. As family unity should be preserved, the 2-year-old boy should not be separated from his mother (18-year-old woman), as long as it is in his best interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the civilian Child Protection staff at the Field Office of the situation, and seek guidance on how to ensure the safety and well-being of the children once they have been rescued. • Inform the DDR section that you are holding an LRA escapee, who claims that he is a child. • Inform Human Rights Division which will have to ensure that once transferred to host government authorities, the perpetrator’s rights should be protected. • Disarm the LRA member. • It doesn’t matter whether the perpetrator is a member of host government forces or of a non-State armed group. The difference is that, if the perpetrator is a member of the host government forces, the host government should be informed and not the DDR section.
<p>2. What specific action(s) should be taken with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abducted children: Since the Commander (is supposed to) know who the child protection actors in his/her area of responsibility are, he/she should go ahead and inform the NGO located 80 km away to make arrangements to temporarily accommodate the victims, and provide them with medical and psychosocial assistance. The Commander should discuss how to assist the children first and foremost with the civilian Child Protection staff. Pending the arrival of the NGO, the Commander should see about accommodations for them, including in the home of the village chief, and ensure security there through patrols. Ensuring security is important since the victims are escapees from the LRA, which may be searching for them. • Since the children are of/claim to be Congolese, UNICEF or ICRC should be informed, if they are present, to assist with the tracing of the victims’ families in their country of origin.
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share with all concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always inform the civilian Child Protection staff in the area. The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander having been informed, should also discuss the security situation with the Head of Office and his/her team. The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should discuss possible measures to take with the mission’s Human Rights and Child Protection sections; (local) NGOs; and national civil society in the area.
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Company Commander should discuss with local host government authorities (e.g., mayor, local chiefs) about what measures can be taken by the population to prevent abduction by the LRA in the locality, such as establishing a community alert network.



<p>against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TOB should enhance security/safety in the area, including by increased patrols during the day and at night. • Child Protection staff, DDR and Human Rights section, NGOs and UNICEF should be informed and involved.
<p>5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumstances relating to notification of the arrival of the escapees in the village, number of escapees, ages, genders, perpetrator, and actions taken.

Scenario G (MALI)

In recent years, Mali has been confronted by a profound crisis with serious political, security, socio-economic, humanitarian, and human rights consequences. The crisis stems from long-standing structural conditions such as weak state institutions, fragile social cohesion, deep-seated feelings among communities in the north of being neglected, marginalized, and unfairly treated by the central Government.

On 22 March 2012, a mutiny by disaffected soldiers resulted in a military coup d’état. A military junta took power, suspended the Constitution, and dissolved the government. The interim government adopted a political roadmap in the spring of 2013 and further consultations with the UN led to a proposal to establish an integrated peacekeeping mission in Mali.

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established by Security Council resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013, and tasked with support to the political process, security stabilization including the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring, the creation of conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced persons, the extension of state authority and the preparation of free, inclusive, and peaceful elections.

Since its establishment, MINUSMA has faced serious challenges in providing a safe and secure environment throughout Mali. The host government struggles to establish state authority in the North and the mission often finds itself a target for terrorist groups attacking both MINUSMA convoys and bases. In April 2021, four peacekeepers from Chad were killed and 19 injured when a UN camp was attacked in Northern Mali.



Threats against civilians are on the rise due to several factors. For instance, the weak central government, the proliferation of self-defense groups, and tensions within and between communities contribute to civilians being targeted. Illicit trafficking and jihadist insurgencies also make Mali a very volatile and dangerous environment. Women and children are especially at risk due to the lack of security at the community and provincial level.

Ansongo is a small town in the Gao Region in Eastern Mali, which has a center of mining and agricultural market (e.g., antimony, grains, livestock). A richness in natural resources (e.g., gold, uranium, and gas) has fueled armed groups activities in this area.

Extremist groups, which operate in central and northern Mali and neighboring regions in Burkina Faso and Niger, are also identified in Ansongo. Moreover, the main Malian-based umbrella group Jama’at Nusrat ul-Islam wa al Muslimin (JNIM), which is linked to Al Qaeda, has claimed attacks in Burkina Faso and Niger. Likewise, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), a part of Islamic State in the West Africa Province (ISWAP), operates in North-Eastern Mali and adjacent areas in Burkina Faso and Niger. Conversely, Burkina Faso-based Ansaroul Islam has also staged attacks in neighboring Central Mali. Despite the continuing fights between JNIM and ISGS in Sector East, it is likely that JNIM redirected their focus on international forces, mainly Barkhane, in Sector East, in retaliation to their counter-terrorist operations.

You are the Battalion Commander and staff of a battalion in Sector East. One morning, you received information from local and security sources indicating that unidentified armed individuals on several motorcycles burst into the village of Intiguart, and terrorized the villagers. This incident led to rape, sexual assault, and robbery. The assailants allegedly raped nine people at gunpoint. Three of them were girls between the ages of ten and eighteen. This zone is part of your area of responsibility.

Requirements

<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on the ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and the rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion Commander and staff immediately recognize that the situation requires an urgent response. The Commander also recognizes that the rapes require a coordinated response with Women Protection, Child Protection and Human Rights experts. • The Battalion Commander should report back to Sector/Brigade HQ; briefly describe and discuss the situation; and indicate the battalion’s intention to send a patrol to the village to provide immediate security, and to identify and secure the victims and witnesses. The patrol should have female members and medical personnel to provide immediate assistance to the rape victims. • The Sector/Brigade Commander, recognizing the urgency of the situation, should deploy a Joint Protection Team to the village to provide urgent medical care to the victims, and to transport the victims to an adequate medical facility, if needed and with their informed consent.
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<p>government forces or non-State armed groups ?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion Commander should discuss with the Sector/Brigade Commander military actions to find and apprehend the perpetrators. • Inform the civilian Child Protection staff and Women Protection Adviser at Sector/mission level immediately. • If the perpetrators are located, plan and conduct an operation to apprehend them in line with rules of engagement Annex, Rule 4.1 and 1.5. • The following rules of engagement apply in this particular case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Definition of hostile act and hostile intent b) Rule 7.1 on use of force beyond self-defence c) Rule 1.5 in Annex A. If possible, the Battalion Commander should confirm with the Sector/Brigade Commander. If not possible, he/she should act in accordance with Rule 1.5 d) Rule 1.13 e) Rules 4.1 and 4.3 • Irrespective of whether the accused are host government soldiers or members of non-State armed groups, they should be disarmed and detained. • If the alleged perpetrators are host government forces, the Battalion Commander should try to contact (via Sector/Brigade HQ) the local Mali Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) commander. If not possible, the Commander should take action to detain them and hand them over as soon as possible to the local host government authorities for prosecution. • If the men are members of an armed group , they should be disarmed, detained and handed over to the local host government authorities for prosecution. That may take longer than the rules dictate, and may also be a case of “force majeure”, which is never a reason to release perpetrators of grave violations against children.
<p>2. What specific action(s) should be taken with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The female medical officer(s) on the patrol should provide immediate assistance to the women and girls, and with their informed consent, should refer them to a medical clinic (either UN hospital or local clinic in the area) and receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV infection and emergency contraception. as soon as possible. • Everyone involved should be aware of the extremely delicate and sensitive situation. Under no circumstances should photographs be taken of the victims of sexual violence. Immediately evacuate the women and girls, and with their informed consent, refer them to the designated service provider for medical treatment. • The girls’ parents or next of kin should be informed of where the girls have been taken for medical assistance. Do not tell the parents that the girls have been raped. That is the decision of the girls. In many cultural contexts, victims of sexual violence will experience stigma



	<p>and may sometimes be rejected by their communities and blamed for what happened.</p>
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share with all concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the mission Child Protection staff without delay. Also inform: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) UN Police b) Head of Office (Sector) c) Human Rights Adviser in the area, d) If no mission Child Protection staff, any external child protection actors, such as UNICEF and child protection NGOs operating in the area.
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion Commander should discuss with local host government military and police authorities what can be done to strengthen security in this area, and consider establishing a temporary UN military presence in the village. • The Commander should report the incident to the higher formation and recommend that the Sector/Brigade Commander report the incident to the highest host government forces (MDSF) authorities for them to take action and sensitize their soldiers about sexual violence. See about coming to an arrangement and discuss with the local host government authorities to designate the province as a weapons-free zone. MDSF soldiers should only carry weapons when on duty, not when they are off duty. • The Battalion or Sector/Brigade Commander should consider maximizing the deployment of night and helicopter patrols, quick-reaction units, overnight presence in the area, etc.; and should advise/propose to MDSF Commander in the region to control/take charge of the units under his/her command as he/she is responsible for their (mis)behavior, (mis)conduct and discipline. • The Battalion Commander should discuss with local leaders, the mission Child Protection staff and child protection actors, UN Police, Civil Affairs and other stakeholders in the area ways and means to strengthen early warning mechanisms between local communities and the UN. • For discussion: How to manage the (sometimes) contradictory mandate to support the host government armed forces (MDSF) and protect civilians?
<p>5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same bullet points as for scenario A above; they also pertain to this scenario.

Scenario H (MALI)

The urban villages of Inadiatafane and Ti-n-Baradyan in Gourma Rharous cercle are administrative subdivisions of Timbuktu region. While agriculture has been introduced for poverty reduction, it is still highly labour-intensive due to the lack of investment in agricultural technology, resulting in the low level of agrarian capital per household.

You are the Battalion Commander and staff in Sector West. Your area of responsibility includes the villages of Inadiatafane and Ti-n-Baradyan. You just received a JMAC report from Sector/brigade HQ in Timbuktu. This report highlights that nine families arrived in Timbuktu urban communities from Inalatafane and Ti-n-Baradyan. According to the report, they were fleeing from an extremist group, threatening to behead teachers and take students as hostages in school premises.

Hundreds of children do not go to school owing to the absence of teachers who are afraid of losing their lives. The escaped families said three of their daughters aged below fifteen were abducted because they refused to marry members of the extremist group. Forced marriage and abduction have become more prevalent in Gourma Rharous and Goundam cercles in Sector West, particularly in the areas controlled by armed groups. Families with children flee from these areas due to the heightened risk of forced marriage, abduction and the lack of access to education.

Requirements

<p>1. What actions should the military tactical commander facing the situation on the ground (e.g., patrol/company commander) take, considering the mission’s mandate and the rules of engagement? Should the military response be different if the alleged perpetrators represent host government forces or non-State armed groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion Commander and staff immediately recognize that the situation requires an urgent and integrated response. • The Battalion Commander should report back to Sector/Brigade HQ; briefly describe and discuss the situation; and indicate the battalion’s intention to send a patrol to these villages to provide immediate security, investigate the threat, and identify and secure the victims and witnesses. The patrol should have female members and medical personnel to provide immediate assistance to the female victims, particularly underaged girls if encountered. • The Sector/Brigade Commander, recognizing the urgency of the situation, should deploy a Joint Protection Team to the villages to discuss with the community leaders how to improve security, in particular for children and teachers. • Child Protection staff, the Battalion Commander and Joint Protection Team should discuss with the community leaders how to protect schools and teachers, and ensure that children are able to safely return to school. This may include the deployment of a military presence (Temporary Operating Base) to the villages until a
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	<p>community protection plan and / or a community alert network are established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion Commander should discuss with the Sector/Brigade Commander military actions to find and apprehend the perpetrators and rescue the three girls. If appropriate, local host government authorities and the Mali Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) should be engaged to enhance security and locate the extremist armed groups who abducted the girls. • The Battalion Commander should reach out to the civilian Child Protection staff at sector level to seek information about the girls and actions being considered by the Child Protection Section/Unit. • If the perpetrators are located, plan and conduct an operation to apprehend them and free the three girls in line with rules of engagement Annex, Rule 4.1 and 1.5. • The following rules of engagement apply in this particular case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Definition of hostile act and hostile intent b) Rule 7.1 on use of force beyond self-defence c) Rule 1.5 in Annex A. If possible, the Battalion Commander should confirm with the Sector/Brigade Commander. If not possible, he/she should act in accordance with Rule no 1.5. d) Rule 1.13 e) Rules 4.1 and 4.3 • Irrespective of whether the accused are host government soldiers or members of non-State armed groups, they should be disarmed and detained. • If the alleged perpetrators are host government forces, the Battalion Commander should try to contact (via Sector/Brigade HQ) the local Mali Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) commander. If not possible, the Commander should take action to detain them and hand them over as soon as possible to the local host government authorities for prosecution. <p>If the men are members of an armed group, they should be disarmed, detained and handed over to the local host government authorities for prosecution. That may take longer than the rules dictate, and may also be a case of “force majeure”, which is never a reason to release perpetrators of grave violations against children.</p>
<p>2. What specific action(s) should be taken with respect to the victim(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a rescue attempt is successful, the female battalion medic(s) should take care of the three girls and ensure they are handed over to Child Protection actors as soon as possible. • The Battalion Commander should assume that the three girls have been exposed to rape or other sexual violence while in captivity and act accordingly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone involved should be aware of the extremely delicate and sensitive situation. Under no circumstances should photographs be taken of the victims of sexual violence. Immediately evacuate the women and girls, and with their informed consent, refer them to the designated service provider for medical treatment. • The girls’ parents or next of kin are informed of where they have been taken for medical assistance. Do not tell the parents that the girls have been raped. That is the decision of the girls. In many cultural contexts, victims of sexual violence will experience stigma and may sometimes be rejected by their communities and blamed for what happened.
<p>3. Which mission components and external actors should be informed of this event, and why? Also, explain how you would share with all concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the Sector and mission Child Protection staff without delay about the actions that the Sector/Brigade and Battalion are planning/undertaking. Also inform: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) UN Police b) Head of Office (Sector) c) Human Rights Adviser in the area, d) If no mission Child Protection staff, any external child protection actors, such as UNICEF and child protection NGOs operating in the area.
<p>4. Recommend actions to take to reduce threats to children and prevent similar violations against children from recurring in the future. Identify other child protection actors and stakeholders that should be involved, and explain why.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion Commander should discuss with local host government military and police authorities what can be done to strengthen security in this area, and consider establishing a temporary UN military presence in the villages. • The threat of the extremist armed group is ongoing until the group is disarmed. The Sector/Brigade Commander will discuss military actions with the Head of Office and ensure that actions to apprehend the extremist armed group and mitigate consequences of such actions (e.g., reprisals against civilians, attacks against UN personnel) are taken. • The Battalion Commander should discuss with local leaders, the mission Child Protection staff and child protection actors, UN Police, Civil Affairs and other stakeholders in the area ways and means to strengthen early warning mechanisms between local communities and the UN. A UN military presence in these two villages is key until the threat has been mitigated. This military presence can be in the form of daily patrols, a Temporary Operating Base, or more random patrols. If the extremist armed group is active at night, the UN must patrol these villages at night time. • The safety of the teachers and their ability to return to school is a priority. A durable plan to ensure the teachers’ safety and the protection of schools should be developed by child protection partners, the UN military and local host government authorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For discussion: How to manage the (sometimes) contradictory mandate to support the host government armed forces (MDSF) and protect civilians?
5. What are the key observations of the events that you would include in your report?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same bullet points as for scenario A above; they also pertain to this scenario.

