

UNMO STM Lesson 3.10 Learning Activity

Reporting Procedures

Role Playing Exercise

In this role-playing exercise with a military scenario; UNMOs in training should put into practice the knowledge about UNMO reporting, correspondence and briefing presented in UNMO STM Lesson 3.10



Learning Activity Time Required:

10 minutes	Activity introduction and instructions and reading the scenario
15 minutes	Role-playing exercise
10 minutes	Draft a special incident report individually
05 minutes	Debrief in small groups
10 minutes	Debrief in the plenary group
Total time:	50 minutes

Gamagara Ceasefire Violation Scenario

The current crisis in Naraland (see attached map), a fictitious island country off the eastern coast of Southern Africa, has its origins in pre-colonial times. In the 1800s the Kambo tribe was forced to flee from its ancestral lands by the more powerful Mananca. The Mananca retained possession of the land now called Manancaland, while the Kambo eventually settled east of the Mananca, in what is now the province of Kambona. The Kambo have never abandoned their claims to Manancaland.

During the 1960s, the Kambo launched an unprovoked attack on Manancaland, which the Mananca successfully halted. The areas held by the belligerent parties at the end of those hostilities established the current provincial boundaries. Those boundaries have never been accepted by belligerents, despite efforts by the Naraland Government to mediate. Since then, repeated minor combats have taken place between the two provinces and both sides have formed militias that have caches of light weapons and landmines at their disposal.

In recent times, the Kambona Liberation Movement (KLM) and the Manancaland Resistance Movement (MRM) have launched several attacks on each other's provinces. Despite heavy fighting which has resulted in a large number of casualties, especially among the civilian population, neither of the belligerents has been able to achieve its military objectives. The Naraland Government was able to negotiate a ceasefire (the Treaty of Windhoek) and both parties agreed to international mediation and intervention.

The UN has responded by deploying an observer mission, the United Nations Mission in Naraland (UNMIN), to monitor the belligerent parties. The Treaty of Windhoek set in motion the establishment of a demilitarized zone (DMZ) and disarmament of militias.

UNMIN has now been deployed for 8 months and is well established. During the past month, in particular the last 10 days, various incidents have occurred that indicate an upsurge in tension among the two parties, including several shooting incidents, reports of smuggling, unrest and recruitment in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, and evidence of freshly laid anti-personnel mines.

As a result, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has tasked the Chief Military Observer to instruct all the Sector Commanders to arrange meetings with the local rebel commanders and local civil authorities in order to stabilize the situation and reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Activity Guidelines:

1. Use the first few minutes to distribute and allow the participants to read through the scenario background and instructions.
2. Divide the participants into three - four groups of equal size:
3. Designate at least one instructor/facilitator for each group to act as local villager (Manancan Local Villager).
4. Ensure that someone is appointed to observe the investigation process and report back to the group after the role-playing exercise.
5. Allow each group to study its own brief and decide on the strategy. All group members should play the UNMO role.
6. Allow the interviewing to take place according to the scenario until 5 minutes before the end of the exercise.
7. Stop the activity 5 minutes before the end of the exercise. Have each of the groups evaluate its own performance in terms of investigation efforts and should prepare a briefing about the incident during the debriefing in the plenary discussion.
8. Group members are to draft a special incident report individually and give them to the instructors for evaluation purposes.
9. As instructors/facilitators, monitor the progress and content of the interviews and regularly remind participants of the objective of the exercise, without interfering unduly.

Confidential Brief for UN Military Observer

You are the Senior UNMO in Sector East. You have been tasked to conduct patrols in your sector to investigate alleged abductions of local people. During the patrol, a villager asked to see you. He/she is desperate and looks exhausted. For two days he/she have been running to escape the abductions in Kambona. You have started an investigation on the spot.

During the investigation, you should:

- Organize your team and designate responsibilities.
- Employ applicable investigation procedures.
- Try to determine what happened
- Draw conclusions.
- Prepare a special incident report on the case.
- Be ready to conduct a special briefing on the incident

Your approach is that of an impartial investigator. Your task is to determine if the allegations are true and prepare a report on the case.

Confidential Brief for Kambonand Local Villager

You are a Local Villager of Kambona. You are desperate and exhausted. You are talking fast and in disorder: for two days you have been running with your 4 boys, you want to bring them to a safe environment. The reason: the abductions in your villa three days ago. You are seeking for help and expect the UNMOs to bring your children to your cousin's place, far away from here.

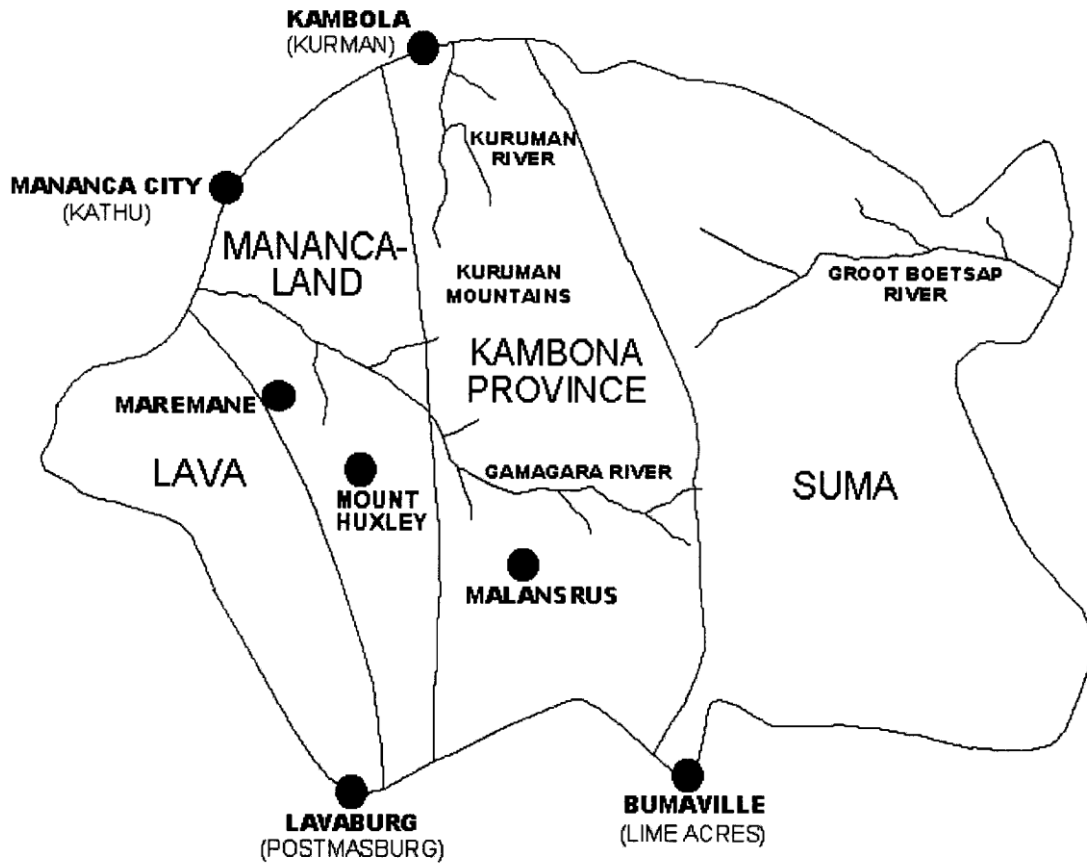
At the investigation conducted by UNMOs, you should:

- Ask for help to bring your four children to your cousin's place. Explain that the children are exhausted and also need food and water (you have left the children in a safe place)
- If UNMOs refuse to provide help, you may be insistent and do not understand their refusal. You now are not rational, you must protect your children, the only family left, at this moment you may start weeping.
- Explain UNMOs that you have suffered from the war: you have lost your wife/husband and two of your cousins, they all were fighting for KLM and were killed during the conflict.
- Explain UNMOs that you have survived only with difficulty. During the spring it was alright, you could find fruit and vegetables and luckily some neighbours in the villa helped you with two boys, they also helped you with the goats. But now in summer is harder to survive, your reserves are practically gone. With the attack to Kambona you are afraid that they would come to take your children and they are the last family you have.
- Explain UNMOs that you are angry to UNMIS, as it is here but abductions are still going on. You think they are not doing their jobs. You do not trust blue berets. You are reluctant to talk with them. You would rather continue running as you did before, but your children are exhausted.
- Explain UNMOs that at the beginning of the conflict you were proud that your husband/wife was part of KLM. But since they started the abductions you are disillusioned. You would rather die than see your children going with them.
- Argue that you know there have been other abductions in previous weeks in another village: in Maremane.
- Ask UNMOs to help you and to bring your children to your cousin's place.

You should keep asking for help because you have to save your children throughout the investigations. You are very emotional and desperate. From time to time you may interrupt the UN Military Observer.

Provide all information and evidence available to you.

Map of Naraland



Reporting, Correspondence and Briefing Check List

How to Draft Daily/Weekly Situation Reports

- ☑ The description of any event, incident or development must answer the basic questions of “who, what, where, when, why”.
- ☑ Geographical locations, except for the main cities, must be identified through the place name and distance from the closest major town or closest UN position. Missions with GIS capacity should include either a map and/or the geographic coordinates of a reported incident or operation.

Special Incident Reports

- ☑ Special Incident Reports meet the need for speedy and increased information flow during a crisis or rapidly deteriorating situation. Like daily SITREPS, they are meant to answer the basic questions of “who, what, where, when, why”, and need not provide any assessment of trends or implications. Geographic information should be included as stated under SITREP.
- ☑ Special Incident Reports do not follow any prescribed format and are transmitted to the DPKO Situation Centre by clear or encrypted e-mail, depending on the sensitivity of the material.
- ☑ Special Incident Reports are vital to DPKO’s ability to keep the Secretary-General, the Security Council and troop/police-contributing countries informed during a crisis. They are supplemented by more detailed briefing notes and background information provided to UNHQ through the regular channels.

Dos

- ☑ Be concrete and specific, rather than vague and indirect.
- ☑ State your facts or ideas directly (subject-verb-object).
- ☑ Use verbs in the active rather than the passive voice.
- ☑ Use concrete rather than abstract words.
- ☑ Use short words, short sentences, and short paragraphs rather than long words, long sentences and long paragraphs.

Don'ts

- ☑ Don't use any more words than necessary to convey your meaning.
- ☑ Don't use a circumlocution if a single word or phrase will do.
- ☑ Don't use emphasis (bold, italics, underlining) in correspondence.
- ☑ Don't use needless adjectives and adverbs (don't overemphasize).
- ☑ Avoid anything which might offend the sensibilities of the readers.

- ☑ Well-constructed papers present soundly reasoned propositions, starting with introductory paragraphs, followed by intermediate paragraphs to develop the narrative point-by-point and ending with concluding paragraphs to present recommendations, make requests or invite other forms of response.
- ☑ Introductory paragraphs should normally begin with a statement of the proposition to be presented in the paper. These paragraphs should be brief, with no more than six lines of text; the major points to be covered in the paper should be identified.
- ☑ The narrative should be developed in a series of intermediate paragraphs analyzing the points in order of importance as set out in the introductory paragraph.
- ☑ Concluding paragraphs should be very brief, recapitulating the analysis, drawing conclusions and making recommendations, inviting comments or whatever form of response is desired.