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# United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

## OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 2013 UPDATE: UNISFA



UNISFA staff member learns about UNMAS field operations



UNMAS training session for UNISFA peacekeepers

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is mandated by UN Security Council resolutions 2024, 2126, 2075 and 2104 to ensure freedom of movement for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) and to contribute to supporting the protection of civilians.

During the rainy season, field operations are curtailed due to mobility limitations; therefore, UNMAS uses this time to provide capacity development training and prepare for upcoming operations. In October and November, UNMAS activities included:

- Providing technical advice and training support during the annual accreditation exercise for UNMAS' implementing partner - The Development Initiative (TDI). The exercise, which was conducted from 6 October to 17 November, culminated in accreditation for some JBVMM Patrol Support Teams for specific field procedures.
- Conducting induction briefings and awareness training on mines and explosive remnants of war for approximately 72 new UNISFA Military Observers (MILOBs) and peacekeepers.
- Providing Quality Assurance monitoring, training support, and accreditation for TDI's Multi Task Team and Mechem's Route Verification and Clearance Teams.
- Issuing tasking orders for general mine action surveys and route verification and clearance operations to commence in 34 locations in support of Mission priorities.

## JOINT BORDER VERIFICATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM

JBVMM monitoring teams are comprised of five elements: National Monitors from Sudan and South Sudan, UNISFA MILOBs, Force Protection and UNMAS. UNMAS will supply Patrol Support Teams (PST) consisting of CASSPIR mine-protected vehicles and trained crews with limited explosive ordnance disposal capability. The JBVMM teams will function within the SDBZ, with sector headquarters in Kadugli, Buram, Gok Machar and Malakal.

UNMAS activities during October and November included:

- Providing training on weapons awareness, personal security, patrolling skills in CASSPIR mine-protected vehicles (theory), and the history, background and culture of Sudan and South Sudan to 18 JBVMM officers and 4-14 Sudanese and South Sudanese National Monitors (numbers varied depending on the course topic).
- Operations Managers and Team Leaders from TDI conducted field-based training and re-training for JBVMM PST members in the Sector 1 and Sector 2 team sites at Gok Machar, South Sudan and Kadugli, Sudan.
- The UNMAS PSTs in Gok Machar and Kadugli remained on stand-by for emergency mine action tasks in their areas of responsibility.



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'Battle Area Clearance' training in Sector 1



© 2013, L. Lotter  
MECHEM clearance team training with detectors

**\* IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT.  
CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY.**