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United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

## UNMISSET PRESS RELEASE

### *F-FDTL officers visit PKF Sector West Headquarters*

(Dili, 5 June) – Officers from F-FDTL [Timorese Defence Forces] today ended a visit to PKF’s Sector West Headquarters in Suai [Cova Lima district]. Seven officers took part in the 3-day visit with the aim of developing further their knowledge and understanding of how an operational headquarters functions.

The officers were briefed by the different Units within Sector West Headquarters, and had an opportunity to see how Headquarter staff work during a ‘command post’ exercise [a discussion-based exercise on planning the deployment of troops under different scenarios]. They also visited the Thai Battalion (THAIBATT) and received a number of briefings on how THAIBATT operate in Cova Lima, especially with regard to patrolling the Tactical Coordination Line [the ‘soft’ border between Timor-Leste and Indonesia pending formal demarcation].

The Commander Sector West, Colonel Wayne Bowen, said that visits such as this one are a very good opportunity for PKF and F-FDTL to share knowledge, adding that “we both appreciate and value the long-term importance to Timor-Leste of a strong, competent defence force”.

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For further information contact:

Marcia Poole

Spokesperson/UNMISSET

Mobile: + 670 723 0793

Telephone: + 61 8 8946 3900 Ext. 6059