



UNOCI peacekeepers on patrol in Abidjan. © ONUCI / Ky Chung

The UNOCI military force is made up of approximately 7,000 men representing 45 countries, its principal contingent come from Bangladesh, Morocco, Ghana, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, Benin, Togo and France. On June 24, the Security Council increased the military component with and additional 850 peacekeepers by its Resolution 1633 of October 21, 2005. The Council also expressed its intention to re-examine, from then to January 24, 2006, the level of manpower of UNOCI in the light of the situation in Cote d'Ivoire.

The military force is mainly in charge of ensuring that the cease-fire agreement signed in May 2003 by the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) and the Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FANCI) is respected. It also assists in the implementation of the peace process and helps the Government of National Reconciliation in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The UNOCI Force is also mandated to protect the personnel and property of the United Nations, the institutions and civilians and to ensure that the arms embargo is not violated.

### Deployment of the military force

The force is deployed all over Cote d'Ivoire and is commanded from the Force HQ, which is based in Abidjan. There are two operational sector headquarters, one in Bouake, which is in the east and the other in Daloa in the west. The major part of UNOCI's military force is composed of peacekeeping units responsible for the security of the Zone of Confidence and within its capacities,

to intervene when there is a violation of the cease-fire by one or both of the parties. In addition to the deployed contingents and staff officers, there are other units which carry out missions in support of UNOCI's military force.

About 200 military observers are deployed in the larger towns of Cote d'Ivoire, in small teams, and are tasked with providing information to the Force HQ about the situation on the ground. They also take part in the monitoring of the DDR process and the application of the arms embargo.

Three engineering companies have been set up to carry out essential infrastructural work for the deployed troops and to rebuild and repair roads and tracks which benefit the population of Cote d'Ivoire. In addition, they are also skilled in handling unexploded ammunitions.

A team made up of soldiers with specialist knowledge in security matters and close protection takes part in the protection of various personalities such as members of the Government of National Reconciliation, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Force Commander. Several transport companies take part in the deployment and the rotation of the various military contingents in different parts of Cote d'Ivoire. In addition UNOCI is equipped with planes and helicopters for air transport and medical evacuations.

The Military Medical Cell comprises of several military hospitals, based in different parts of the country, with the capacity to provide medical treatment for military and civilian staff as well take part in medical evacuation of peacekeepers. These military hospitals also regularly provide health care for the population in general.



Doctors from the Bangladeshi battalion treat a young boy at their hospital in Man. © ONUCI / Ky Chung