



## MISSION STORIES

### **We deliver**

When you walk into an ONUCI compound anywhere in Côte d'Ivoire, including Abidjan, and you use a doorknob, a pen, a computer or a refrigerator, you need to think about Lt. Colonel Nasir Zia and his 200 men residing in Yamoussoukro. They are drivers, mechanics and logistic experts who are responsible for supplying all ONUCI soldiers, police and civilian staff throughout the country. Not only did the Pakistan government donate his company, it also provided the 70 trucks, 12 tankers, six tractor trailers, two buses, and a couple of ambulances that park at the Pakistan transport hub in Yamoussoukro.

The Pakistan transport hub sends vehicles from Yamoussoukro to the docks of Abidjan, to Odienne in the northwest, Bouna in the northeast, Tabou in the southwest, and ONUCI headquarters at Sebroko, in Abidjan. They carry paper, pens, petrol, containers, kitchens and soldiers to all parts of the country. When there is a change of military contingent, Colonel Zia and his guys take the departing peacekeepers to Yamoussoukro airport and ferry the new troops to their bases. You don't have any water? No problem, a tanker is on its way with clean water for cooking and bathing.

"We deliver everything to all offices in the country. We carry containers, toilets, kitchens. We are responsible to pick up the supplies and to drop them in the same condition wherever they are meant to go," explains Colonel Zia.

Strategically located in the centre of Côte d'Ivoire, the transport hub is on call seven days a week. The truckers are advised to leave at sunrise and to park at 15.30 in the afternoon. They bring their own kit and can stay at any ONUCI campsite around the country. The compound also has a level one hospital, which frequently opens its doors for Ivorians, and a full-fledged garage where trucks, cars and ambulances are serviced. All of the spare parts are provided by the company, but oil is purchased locally.

The men from the transport company also find time for extracurricular humanitarian activities. At the end of November they distributed gifts of rice, milk and cookies to some 50 families in the town of Loukoukro and they regularly save up extra rations (jam, coffee, etc.) to give away to the people living near to them.



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