

# UNDOF

## A New Beginning



40 years of peacekeeping

1974 - 2014



# UNDOF

**40 YEARS  
IN THE SERVICE  
OF  
PEACE**



United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

**A NEW BEGINNING**

## Imprint

The photo book “UNDOF - 40 years after” is a product of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and it is intended to provide information about the Force and activities within it.

The Media & Public Relations Office publishes this photo book to commemorate the 40 years existence of the Mission as well as the commitment, effort and achievement that all civilian and military personnel who have contributed to and supported the UNDOF mission during the past 40 years.

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**Printed in June 2014**



## BLESSINGS FROM THE CHURCH OF BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness:  
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

**Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the  
children of God.**



## 40 Years of UNDOF 1974 - 2014

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**Golan is bordered by Mt Hermon to the North**

The **Golan** or Ramat ha-Golan, is a region in the Levant. The region is a basaltic plateau bordered by the Yarmouk River in the south, the Sea of Galilee and Hula Valley in the west, Mount Hermon in the north, and the Raqqad Wadi in the east.

25 million years ago a dramatic movement started, as both Arabian and African tectonic plates started to compete on their way north. This race, in which the former outruns the later by 4mm a year, adds up to a mere 105 km by now. However, out of a race extending over 6000 km from southern Turkey to Mozambique, many an offspring were born: the Lebanon and anti-Lebanon ridges and Beqaa Valley, Mt Hermon on the horizon, the Golan and the many volcanic mounds crowning it, its fertile soil and black rocks and Jordan Valley.

The earliest evidence of human habitation dates to the Upper Paleolithic period. According to the Bible, an Amorite Kingdom in Bashan was conquered by Israelites during the reign of King Og.





Throughout the Old Testament period, the Golan was “the focus of a power struggle between the Kings of Israel and the Aramaean who were based near modern-day Damascus.” The Itureans, an Arab or Aramaic people, settled there in the 2nd century BCE and remained until the end of the Byzantine period.



**Tactical fence separating Israel from Syria in Golan**

Organized Jewish settlement in the region came to an end in 636 CE when it was conquered by Arabs under Umar ibn al-Khattab. In the 16th century, the Golan was conquered by the Ottoman Empire and was part of the Vilayet of Damascus until it was transferred to French control in 1918. When the mandate terminated in 1946, it became part of the newly independent Syrian Arab Republic.

Internationally recognized as Syrian territory, the Golan has been occupied and administered by Israel since 1967. It was captured during the 1967 Six-Day War, establishing the Purple Line.

On 19 June 1967, the Israeli cabinet voted to return the Golan to Syria in exchange for a peace agreement. Such overtures were dismissed by the Arab world with the Khartoum Resolution on September 1, 1967. In the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel agreed to return about 5% of the territory to Syrian civilian control. This part was incorporated into a demilitarised zone that runs along the ceasefire line and extends eastward. This strip is under the military control of UNDOF.



Construction of Israeli settlements began in the remainder of the territory held by Israel, which was under military administration until Israel passed the “Golan Heights Law” extending Israeli law and administration throughout the territory in 1981. This move was condemned by the United Nations Security Council in UN Resolution 497. Israel asserts it has a right to retain the Golan, citing the text of UN Resolution 242, which calls for “safe and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force”. However, the international community rejects Israeli claims to title to the territory and regards it as sovereign Syrian territory.

Israeli Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Ehud Barak, and Ehud Olmert each stated that they were willing to exchange the Golan for peace with Syria. However, in 2010, Israeli foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman told Syria to abandon its dreams of recovering the Golan. Approximately 10% of Syrian Golan Druze have accepted Israeli citizenship.

### **The Druze ...the people divided by the war**

Majdal Shams is the largest druze village in the northern Golan and has been in existence since the 11th century. The village of 10,000 with Syrian citizenship was captured by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War, and ever since, residents live in a divided reality. They belong to Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Those living in Israel identify themselves as Syrians occupied by a foreign rule. While some Druze have accepted Syrian citizenship, others do not have citizenship hence do not have any national rights.

### **The Quneitra Crossing...passageway for Syrian Druze for socio-economic purpose**

In order to carry out its mandate, the Quneitra crossing was opened to allow UNDOF personnel and vehicles movement to and from Syria and Israel. Assistance is also rendered to International Committee of the red Cross (ICRC) for special crossings for the Druze community in terms of apple crossing, student crossing, bridal crossing, medical evacuation crossing and pilgrimige crossing.





# UNDOF MISSION MANDATE

Under the Security Council Resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established to; maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria, supervise the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian Forces, and to supervise the area of separation (AOS) and area of limitation (AOL).



The AOS is 80 km long and varied in width from 10 km in the centre to less than 1km in the extreme South.

The AOL has three zones, 0-10km; 10 - 20km km; and 20 - 25km wide. UNDOF ensures that that the agreed limitations in armaments and forces are being observed in these areas.

The terrain is hilly and is dominated in the North by Mt Hermon, the highest permanently manned UN position sitting at an altitude of 2,814 metres.



# THE UNDOF MEDAL



Established in June 1974 to supervise the cease-fire between Israel and Syria; to supervise the disengagement (redeployment) of Syrian and Israeli forces; and, to establish a buffer zone, as provided in the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 31 May 1974. The Mission continues to perform its functions effectively with the cooperation of the parties. The ribbon contains a central stripe of UN blue with a red line down the middle representing the UN patrolled Area of Separation; two narrow stripes of black, representing the volcanic rock of the Golan region appear on either side with two narrow bands of white, symbolic of the snow on Mt. Hermon, outside these. At either end are wide bands of burgundy, symbolizing the purple haze at sunset and the native thistles of the Golan. Ninety days service is the qualifying time for award of the medal.

(source: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/sites/medals/undof.htm>)

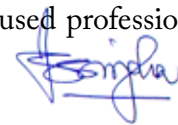
## Force Commander's Prologue

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 350 on 31 May 1974 which called for immediate ceasefire between Israeli and Syrian forces post 1973 Yom Kippur War.

In the four decades of its glorious existence, over 80,000 peacekeepers from 14 countries have served this mission with elan. 54 Peacekeepers have given the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives while striving to fulfil the mandate of the mission. UNDOF faced the challenges of the last two years with fortitude and courage and has evolved into a very assertive and experienced force. UNTSO has continued to contribute experienced observers since the inception of UNDOF and this has ensured valued addition.

UNDOF has evolved over the past 40 years and has been credited for ensuring that Israel-Syria Area of Separation remains the most stable area in the entire region. Since March 2012, the situation in the Area of Separation has taken a new turn as civil war in Syria began spreading in the contiguous Golan. The situation has been immensely dynamic since then and the presence and relevance of UNDOF has assumed more significance than ever before.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all TCCs and peacekeepers of UNDOF and UNTSO, past and present who have stood tall and strong against the fearful odds that we have been facing. The present contingents; India, Ireland, Fiji, Netherlands, Nepal and Philippines deserve a special mention as they are contributing troops during the most sensitive and trying period in the history of the mission. This Coffee Table Book is dedicated to all the peacekeepers who have served in UNDOF in last 40 years in recognition of their focused professionalism and dedication.



*LtGen Iqbal Singh Singha*  
*Force Commander UNDOF*





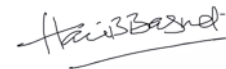
## Deputy Force Commander's Prologue

UNDOF as a mission has evolved, developed and progressed, following its modest inception in 1974. The commitment of Austria, Peru, Poland and Canada as founding troop contributing countries (TCCs) together with Iran, Finland, Slovenia, Japan and Croatia who maintained the force over the initial three decades, is to be commended. Troops from both India and the Philippines have played a vital role in the survival of the mission after some TCCs withdrew due to political circumstances in 2013. The mission's modern evolution continued with Fiji, Nepal and Ireland entering the mission at relatively short notice. This has left us in our present configuration with a more robust and capable force.

Over the past two years, UNDOF's security dynamics and environment as a peacekeeping mission has become more challenging and unpredictable for our troops, including our sister mission UNTSO and its unarmed observers. The prevailing security situation required a paradigm shift in UNDOF's mentality, including necessary institutional changes in order to enhance the mission's capability and force protection measures. With these reforms and initiatives UNDOF is better prepared and equipped to maintain its operational footprint and preserve peace between the host nations.

While I salute and acknowledge all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, dedication and commitment to international peace over the past four decades, I take my hat off to my fellow UNDOF peacekeepers and civilian colleagues in the mission for their; resolve, perseverance and professionalism despite the current challenges. It is important at this time that we also recognize the sacrifice and support we receive from our families at home who facilitate us in the fulfilment of our duties.

Have a happy 40th UNDOF Anniversary celebration!!!!



*Brig Gen Hari Bahadur Basnet  
Deputy Force Commandaer  
UNDOF*







## Chief of Staff's Prologue

UNDOF at 40 adopts the theme, “a new beginning” signaling the start of another journey as it completes four decades of illustrious voyage in service of peace. Since its exigent birth in 1974, UNDOF made historic milestones as a mission.

The world witnessed a mission born out of commitment of TCCs and courage of the pioneering Peacekeepers. We honor the gallantry of the Peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the sanctity of the mandate. Their sacrifices are beacons guiding every UNDOF member to carry their legacy in highest standards.

The recent years' developments in the Area of Responsibility changed the dynamics of the operational environment. Keeping the mandate has gone far more challenging as the ongoing crisis in the Bravo side introduced new elements affecting UNDOF's operations. In the most trying stage of its journey, a metamorphic UNDOF has emerged in its finer state; ever victorious and steadfast to its mandate. A transformation made possible through the mettle and professionalism of its workforce.

This coffee table book chronicles in lens the humble but historic beginning of UNDOF and its evolution to current state. As you run through its pages, be ready to be mesmerized as the colorful history of UNDOF unfurls before your eyes.



  
*Col Ezra James Palomero*  
*Chief of Staff UNDOF*



## Chief Mission Support Prologue

I would like to echo the words of the Force Commander in thanking all the contingents, past and present. They are the reason why UNDOF exists; through their courage, skills and professionalism. I would also like to thank and remember the National Staff from both sides of the AOS who have been both our hosts and our colleagues for the last 40 years. I thank them; not only for their remarkable hospitality, but also for their expertise, commitment and dedication. I wish all the national staff; past and present, a peaceful, hopeful future for themselves and their families.



I turn to our International colleagues who have come and spent part of their lives far away from home to help in supporting one of the most successful UN peacekeeping operations. Some of them joined the UN for the first time with UNDOF, others came with the knowledge and experience of supporting other missions and then moved on, and others came here for the last years of their service before retiring. Nearly all of them have seen war at first hand, sometimes as it ravaged their own countries.

I think what unites us all and makes us all peacekeepers, is a commitment to the central purpose objectives of the UN, as stated in the Charter;

*“ to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained”*

Thank you all...

A small, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Lee'.

Mr Bernard Lee  
Chief Mission Support



# UNDOF Force Commanders since 1974



BGen Gonzalo BRINCENO - **PERU**  
June 1974 - December 1974



MGen Hannes PHILIPP - **AUSTRIA**  
December 1974 - May 1979



MGen Günther GREINDL - **AUSTRIA**  
May 1979 - February 1981



MGen Erik KAIRA - **FINLAND**  
March 1981 - April 1982



MGen Gustav STAHL - **SWEDEN**  
June 1982 - May 1985



MGen Gustaw HAGGLUND - **FINLAND**  
June 1985 - May 1986



MGen Gustaw WELIN - **SWEDEN**  
July 1986 - September 1988



MGen Adolf RADAUER - **AUSTRIA**  
September 1988 - September 1991



MGen Roman MISZTAL - **POLAND**  
September 1991 - November 1994



# The “Baton of Peace” Holders in the Golan



MGen J.C. KOSTERS - **NETHERLANDS**  
January 1995 - May 1997



MGen H. Cameron ROSS - **CANADA**  
October 1998 - July 2000



MGen David F. STAPLETON - **IRELAND**  
May 1997 - August 1998



MGen Bo WRANKER - **SWEDEN**  
August 2000 - August 2003



MGen Franciszek GĄGOR - **POLAND**  
August 2003 - January 2004



LtGen Bala Nanda SHARMA - **NEPAL**  
January 2004 - January 2007



MGen Wolfgang JILKE - **Austria**  
January 2007 - March 2010



MGen Natalio C. ENCARMA - **PHILLIPINES**  
March 2010 - August 2012



LtGen Iqbal Singh SINGHA, VSM - **INDIA**  
August 2012- to date





# CAMP FAOUAR



# **PRE - 2012**

## **Years of Peace and Tranquility**



**Children of Faouar village in happier times**

**1974** - In June, the contingents from Austria, Peru, Poland and Canada were deployed from UNEF II in Sinai to UNDOF Syria.

**1975** - In September, outgoing Peruvian Contingent handed over to the Iranian Contingent.

**1979** - In March and August, the Finnish Battalion was deployed to the Golan and replaced outgoing Iranian Battalion.

**1993** - In October, Poland completed her mission and in December Poland redeployed to Golan and replaced the Finnish Battalion.

**1996** - Japanese Contingent joined Canada to form LOGBATT, which has been functioning ever since.

**1998** - In May, Slovakia replaced 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy in AUSBATT.

**2006** - In March, the Indian Contingent replaced Canada.

**2008** - In June, Croatia replaced Slovakia as 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy in Austria

**2009** - In October, Phillipines replaced Poland.







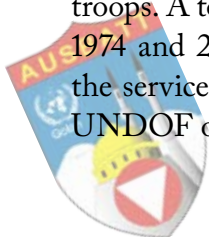
## **Austria - Longest Innings on the Golan**

As an outcome of the Agreement on Disengagement of 1974, UN Security Council set up United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and deployed the first UN peacekeepers on the Golan. At that time, an Austrian Battalion serving in United Nations Emergency Force II received orders to redeploy to the Golan.

Between 1974 and 2013, Austrian Battalion (AUSBATT) was deployed in UNDOF northern area of operations, between Mt. Hermon (2,814 m), the highest manned UN position in the world, and the road Quneitra - Damascus, also known as MSR7. The AUSBATT area of responsibility consisted of an area of 160 square km, stretching from north to south over a length of 34 km, and up to 9 km wide in the centre. Since 1974, AUSBATT 1st Coy was deployed on Mt. Hermon, 2nd Coy was deployed around the road from Quneitra to Damascus, while 3rd Coy was deployed in the area between 1st Coy and 2nd Coy.

Throughout the period of 39 years, the overall strength of the Austrian contingent in UNDOF was always more than 385 troops. On 27 May 1998, the Slovakian Contingent was integrated with AUSBATT and took over the responsibility of the 3rd Coy. On 14 March 2008, a Croatian Contingent took over responsibilities from the Slovakian Contingent and stayed until March 2013.

From the very beginning, the percentage of reservists within the Austrian Contingent in UNDOF was traditionally kept to approximately 75% of the overall strength of deployed troops. A total of 29,000 Austrian peacekeepers were deployed to UNDOF in the years between 1974 and 2013 while 23 Austrian peacekeepers paid their ultimate sacrifice on the Golan in the service of peace. Their names will never be forgotten. The last Austrian peacekeepers left UNDOF on 29 July 2013.







## Canada - Three Decades Plus of Commitment to “Peace”

The Canadian contingent was one of the first of four contingents to serve on the Golan since 03 June 1974; and initially comprised of a detached company from 73 Service Battalion of UNEF. As a result, the Canadian contingent had the same operation name as that of the Canadian contingent in UNEF – Op DANACA. They were based in Camp Ziouani.

The Canadians, along with the Polish logistics contingent (POLLOG), provided logistic support to UNDOF. With the withdrawal of the POLLOG, Canada took over all transport duties until the arrival of the Japanese contingent (JAPCON), who took over the transport and heavy equipment responsibilities.

Canada's initial contribution to UNDOF was 226 personnel. This was scaled down to 186, as UNDOF had been reduced in size in 1992 and 1993. Op DANACA came to an end on 24 March 2006; after 32 years of service with UNDOF. India agreed to replace the Canadian contingent. Four months later, in July, two of the four officers in staff positions with UNDOF ended their service with UNDOF.





## Poland - Two decades of dedication in service of “Pokoj”



On request of the UN Secretary-General the Polish Contingent was asked to take over the operational tasks from the Finnish Battalion on 22 September, 1993. On 09 December 1993, FINBATT handed over its operational duties in the southern area of UNDOF to the new Polish Battalion (POLBATT) which came from Krakow Military district and was commanded by LtCol Włodzimierz Potasinski, the former POLLOG's Chief of Staff. The last Polish Contingent in UNDOF was the XXXI rotation of POLBATT, commanded by LtCol Mariusz Jurek. It comprised of approximately 340 soldiers from the 20th Mechanized Brigade in Bartoszyce. On 22nd October 2009, LtCol Jurek handed over the southern part of the Area of Separation to the newly arrived Philippines Battalion. In March 2010, after 19 years of dedicated service, POLLOG was disbanded after its final medal parade. A team stayed behind to pave the way for the arrival of a new line battalion which was commanded by LtCol Kwasnik. Two Polish officers remained in UNDOF HQ until the end of their tour: Cdr Tadeusz BICZ as COO/UNDOF and ITO CZ, Capt Michał Kiermacz.





## Japan - Seventeen Meritorious years in service of “Heiwa”

In January 1996, peacekeepers from Japan took their first step on the Golan and were engaged mainly in logistics operations together with the CANLOG forming LOGBATT. Based in Camp Ziouani, they were responsible for providing secondary transportation support for UNDOF activities.

In January 2013, after 17 years of UNDOF peacekeeping service, Japan withdrew its 31 troops and 15 support staff from the mission, due to the worsening security situation.



## **Finland - Fourteen remarkable years in service of “Rauha”**



In March 1979, a strengthened Finnish Company from the Finnish Battalion in UNEF II, was deployed at the Golan and took over the tasks of the outgoing Iranian Battalion. In August, after the mandate of UNEF II ended, the whole Finnish Battalion was sent to the Golan.

Fourteen years later, in October 1993, following the reorganisation of UNDOF, the Finnish government decided to pull its troops out of the Golan.

## **Iran - Four unprecedented years in service of “peace”**



In September, 1975, the Iranian Contingent took over responsibilities in the southern part of the Area of Separation from the outgoing Peruvian Contingent. They pulled out after four years in March, 1979.

## **Peru - A year of “Pazy Tranquilidad”**

In June 1974, Peruvian contingent (PERBATT) joined UNDOF and occupied the Southern part of UNDOF. One year later in September, 1975 PERBATT handed over their tasks to the Iranian Contingent.







## Slovakia - A dutiful decade in service of “Mier”

On May 1998, peacekeepers from the Slovakian Republic (SLOVCON) were integrated into the Austrian Battalion and in May 1999, the reinforced SLOVCON took over the 3rd Coy in AUSBATT; also providing five staff personnel to various HQ functions. They occupied positions 10, 16, 17, 30 and 31 in the AUSBATT area of responsibility. On Friday, 06 June 2008, after ten years of outstanding service to the peace process in the Middle-East, Slovakia closed its contribution to UNDOF.



# Croatia - Five spirited years in service of “Mir”



In June 2008, the first contingent from Croatia took over their tasks in the 3rd Coy of AUSBATT and HQ functions. With effect from 27 February 2013, all operations of the Croatian contingent within UNDOF were restricted to static activities due to the escalation of violence in Syria. Five years later on March 2013, 97 servicemen from the Croatian contingent were withdrawn from the Golan.





# POST 2012

Pandemonium in the last three years...UNDOF still standing firm



# **The Saga of UNDOF**

**JULY 2012 . . . . . A New Chapter  
Unfolds.....**

**The Arab Spring and then the concurrent  
Syrian Civil war changed the course of  
Winds on the Golan. The mission entered  
its most turbulent times, unforeseen since..... 1974**

The war in Syria had forced the missions HQ to shift from Damascus to Camp Faouar on the Golan in July 2012. The situation worsened further and the fog of the likely turn of events pressurized the troop contributing nations to pullout. The Japanese and Croatians were followed out by the Austrians by the end of June 2013. The mission stood at a crossroads of uncertainty. Besides being caught in the cross fires between the rebels and the Syrian Armed Forces, the peacekeepers had to brave incidents of Kidnappings, Carjacking and Equipment Snatching. The times were testing and beyond the call of the missions mandate.....

**The June of 2013 . . . . . the Clarion call.....**

This was probably the toughest June, ever seen in the mission and in its warm winds had a veiled predicament for the Force Commander. Lt Gen IS Singha instinctively responded by his reflexes, attuned by the superlatively vast experience in insurgency across a wide spectrum. He foremost addressed the feeling of hopelessness by leading Command patrols at great personal risk and arrested the negativity being fostered by some. Then came the immediate task of filling the vacuum created by the withdrawal of troops. All in the mission rose to the occasion, reassured and rejuvenated by the dynamicity of FCs leadership and clarity of purpose. LOGBATT (Indians) was deployed to hold positions, PHILBATT was stretched and the civilian staff worked shoulder to shoulder with the military. Camp Faouar was the missions' hub of hope with military and civilian colleagues delivering in the time of need. The inertia of the past was quivered out and all hands military and civilian contributed to see the UNDOF deliver its mandate under the UN Flag fluttering high on the Golan.

The flag was ruffled a bit but it flew as calmly as ever.. . . . .





## Hard times in 2013 – Epitomizing missions indomitable spirit



## **The Metamorphosis . . ‘Aura of Sukanaivalu and Prithvinarayan’, in the Golan . . . . . July of 2014**

The situation was stable but stressfully volatile. The need was to have additional boots on ground to build up to the missions mandated strength. The world took note of the fortitude and courage shown by UNDOF and nations volunteered to contribute troops but with caveats. This was not to happen as Gen Singha stood by his conviction for that he believed, “Sending a soldier with caveats is like sending him to war without a weapon”. Finally the perseverance paid off and Fiji a tiny island nation in South Pacific volunteered to rise to the missions call on the missions’ terms by contributing 511 soldiers. This build up was further reinforced by a company of troops from Nepal (UNIFIL) to occupy the position on Mount Hermon, the highest UN position in the world at an altitude of 2814m. The mission had stood the test of trying times and proved its mettle amidst the continuing uncertainty of the situation by adapting itself to ‘Omnipresent Changes’.

### **The journey there on . . . . .**

The Missions’ sustainability, after the human element of ‘Blood n Guts’ had delivered and was further substantiated with force protection measures. These were translated on ground in terms of strengthening of existing locations, erection of robust observation posts and induction of Armoured vehicles. The rules of engagement were altered and UNDOF personnel now operated in a more assertive posture with mounted weapons, conveying aptly the intent to fire back if fired upon and since have done so.....

### **The spirit of Cu Chulainn . . . The Irish join UNDOF**

In the true spirit of the epic Irish hero CU Chulainn the Irish mowags rolled onto the Golan in September of 2013 as the Force Reserve Company. This further boosted the response capability of UNDOF to the enormity of contingencies being faced in these tough times.





# **UNDOF Epitome of One Mission, One team, one Goal . . . . .**

The herculean transition of UNDOF in the recent times has not only heralded a new chapter in the history of peacekeeping operations but also epitomized the synergic strength of human will, military and civilian. UNDOF quietly continues to carry out its mandated tasks with pride and honour, in times when it seemed the mission was not sustainable.



**“The Rock Hard Resolve of the Missions  
Leadership! of the Time  
And  
the Tenacity of the Boots on Ground!! for their Courage  
under Fire”  
ensures an unruffled UN flag flying high!!! on the Golan.**

**THE SAGA OF UNDOF CONTINUES...**



# The Hard Times...We stood by each other and the mandate



**CAMP ZIOUANI - SAAF SPILLOVER FIRE**



**VEHICLES HIT IN CROSSFIRES**



**DAMAGED SHELTERS**

*Filipino peacekeepers nabbed by Syrian rebels near Israel border  
Gunmen demand that regime remove all its soldiers from Syrian Golan  
accuse Assad, UN of 'collaboration with Israel'  
(The Times of Israel)*

*A Canadian lawyer working with the UN has made a dramatic escape from kidnappers in Syria. Paola Samuel has the story. (Glocal News)*

**Philippines demand release of UN peacekeepers in Syria.**

The Philippines has demanded the immediate release of 21 of its nationals working as UN observers who have been kidnapped by rebels in Syria. The group is being held by armed fighters near the Golan . (BBC News)

**STOP PRESS - MEDIA CONCERNS**





## Fijian Stalwarts in UNDOF

It was in early March 2013 that the Government of the Republic of Fiji was offered the opportunity to provide Peacekeeping Troops to the Golan Heights in the illusive pursuit of peace. Shortly after midnight on 28 June 2013, a 182 strong Fijian contingent including the Level 1 Plus Medical Team arrived at Beirut International Airport under the command of LTCOL Sitiveni Qiliho. A second group of 158 arrived on 27 July 2013 with the last batch arriving on 29 July 2013 and were deployed to the 2nd and 3rd Company positions. UNDOF HQ Staff Officers and the Battalion Headquarters with Admin Company remained at Camp Faouar whilst a 30 member Heavy Equipment Platoon was deployed to Camp Ziouani under the operational command of LOGBATT.

FIJIBATT 1 formally took over from AUSBATT on the 5th of July 2013 after a handover ceremony at camp Faouar. Initially FIJIBATT 1 took over 5 positions in the 2nd Company Area of Operations and 4 positions in the 3rd Company Area of Operations. However due to ever changing operational situation 3rd Company re-occupied Position 32A on the 16th of August 2013 and 2nd Company took over Position 62 from PHILBATT on 26 August 2013. Three personnel from Position 62 are also tasked to provide security to the OGG at OP 56 due to the disparaging operational situation in the UNDOF Southern Area of Operations.

NEPCON arrived via UNIFIL on 19 July 2013 and were deployed to the 1st Company Area of Operations on Mt Hermon. The FIJIAN contingent was fortunate that NEPCON provided the troops with Alpine Training in the summer and Ski training in the winter.

The last to arrive into the Area of Operations on 19 November 2013 were 11 members of Level 1 Medical Team that is based at the Medical Center in Camp Faouar. Apart from Staff Officers FIJIBATT 1 also provides clerks, Engineers, Logistic personnel and Military Police as support staff at UNDOF HQ.

Now into the 12<sup>th</sup> month of operations in the Golan, FIJIBATT 1 has adapted not only to the fluid operational circumstances but also to the cold snowy winter in the Golan, a drastic change from the tropical conditions of our homeland.

FIJI is proud to be a part of UNDOF and is adamant that the Republic of Fiji Military Forces will remain on the Golan until such a time when the pursuit of PEACE is achieved.







Position 16



Position 37



Position 22

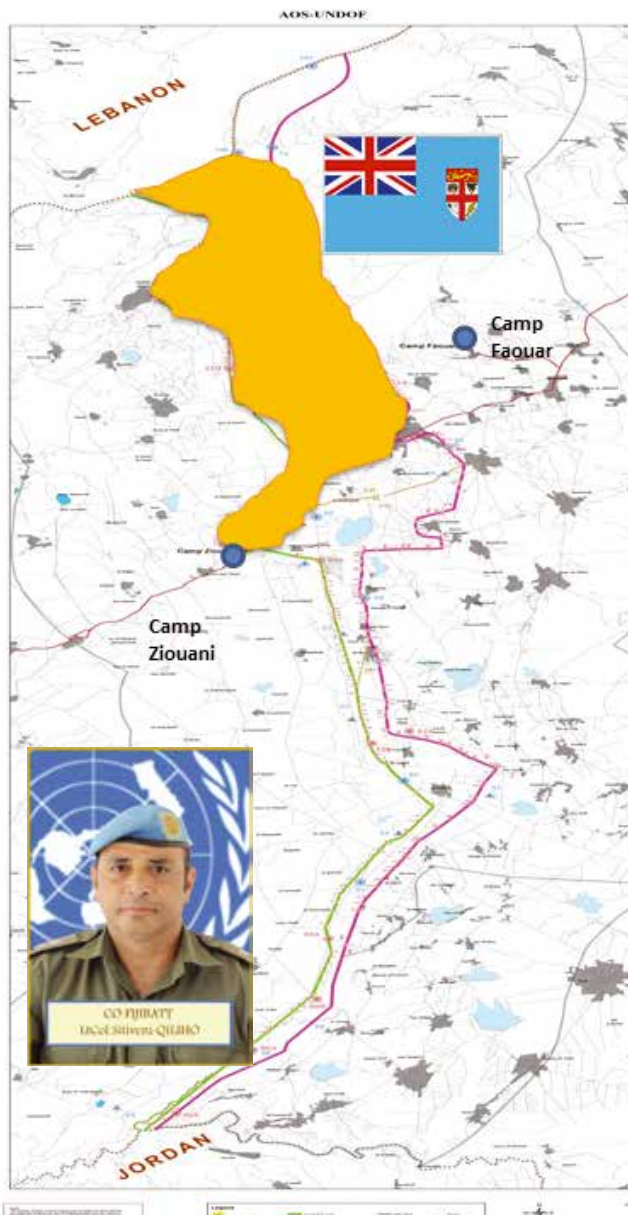


Position 27



Position 62

# FijiBatt positions



Position 10



Position 31



Position 30



Position 32A



Position 32



Position 25





# First Fijian medal parade on the Golan





## Lt Col Qiliho and his Warriors with Force Commander





## **The Men...**



**...And their Machines**

# PhilBatt - In commitment to Peace....



Five years ago, the 1st Philippine Contingent to Golan Heights (1PCGH) formed part of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) as it set foot in the mission area on 22 October 2009. The Philippines government has sent a total of 2,353 Officers and Men from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that composed the Philippine Battalion (PhilBatt), and UNDOF General Headquarters staff, from the year 2009 till date.

Currently, Philippine contingent is headed by Col Ezra James ENRIQUEZ who is the National Contingent Commander and the UNDOF Chief of Staff, with LtCol Ted B. DUMOSMOG as the PhilBatt Commanding Officer.

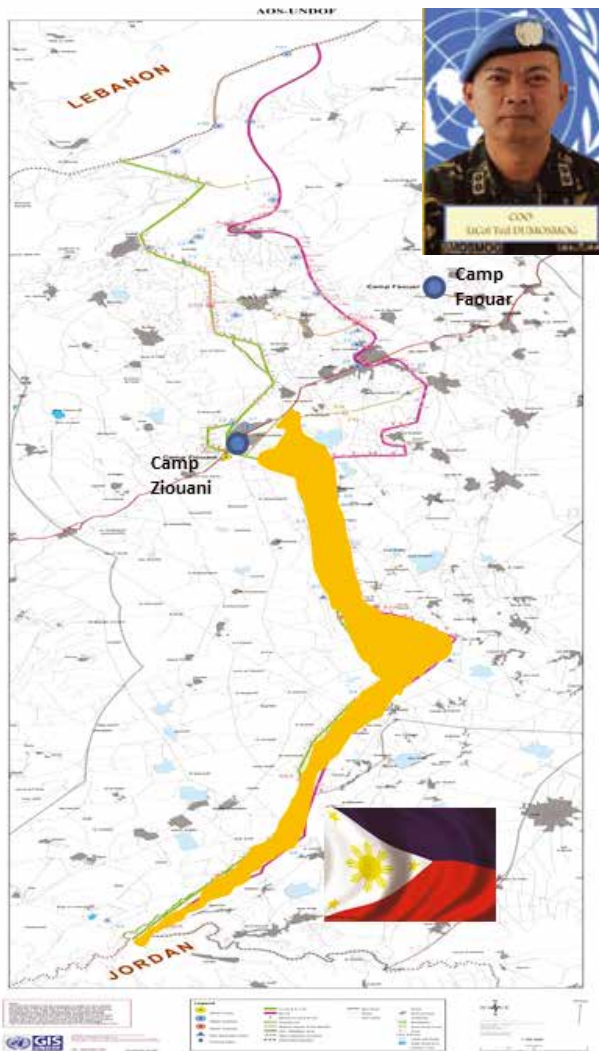
The Contingent has been braving the shellings and hostilities in the Syrian civil war while performing its mandated tasks. Shelter drills, Road opening Patrols, resupply amidst battles and defence of its positions are routine for the troops.

During one of the command patrols led by LtGen Iqbhal Singh Singha, UNDOF Force Commander; to assess the situation in the different positions of PhilBatt, the convoy was caught in the middle of Mortar and Artillery shelling impact zones. The Force Commander and the convoy manouvered through to reach position 69. The Command Patrol was then welcomed by a tank round impact at just about 100m away.

Disregarding the impending risks and the burden of restrictions that limits movements of troops and other factors, the Filipino soldier is bent on accomplishing its mission; abiding by the UNDOF's ROEs as part and parcel of the job.



# PhilBatt positions





# Phillipines medal parade - Camp Ziouani





# Lt Col Ted Dumusmog and his “Magiting”



## g na Kawal” with the Force Commander







# IndCon LogBatt - UNDOF's Backbone

LOGBATT has challenging tasks in most volatile and sensitive international scenario. First Line tasks are in support of Camp Ziouani, while Second Line tasks are in support of UNDOF HQ and the Line battalions. The Indians took over in January 2006.



**Past was glorious future is shining**



17 (POONA) HORSE  
(Mar06 – Jun 09)



169 Fd Regt (Jun 09 – Sep 11)



17 Para (Fd Regt) (Sep 11 – Apr 13)

## 315 Field Regiment (Kargil) - April 2013 to June 2014



Lt Col Sanjeev Hayal taking over command of LogBatt

The present rotation consists of troops from 315 Fd Regt (KARGIL) along with support Platoons from Supply, Signals, EME, Medical and Engineers.

Currently, INDCON is headed by LtCol H.S. Billing who is the National Contingent Commander and the Deputy Chief of Integrated Services, with LtCol Sanjeev Hariyal, SC the Commanding Officer of LOGBATT.





Kargil Gunners with their Fijian counterparts at UN Pos 27 on operational deployment



Engineering Support



Communications within and outside UNDOF





# Festivities and Adventure



# Nepal - Ice Cool and Committed!



NepCon...stamping their mark

The predicament of shortage of TCC's was further eased out when Nepal volunteered to support and one Coy of NEPBATT troops from UNIFIL mission were transferred to UNDOF on 19 July 2013 as NEPCON-I.

NEPCON-I successfully completed eight months tour of duty and NEPCON-II stepped in to the mission area on 28 March 2014 with soldiers who were trained in Nepalese Army High Altitude Mountain Warfare Training School.

NEPCON is operating at four different positions namely, Hermon Base, Hermon South, Hermon Hotel and Pos 12 with the task to observe, monitor, and report any violations made within its Area of Responsibility.



FC and DFC visit NEPCON



Brig Gen H.B. Basnet at Hermon South





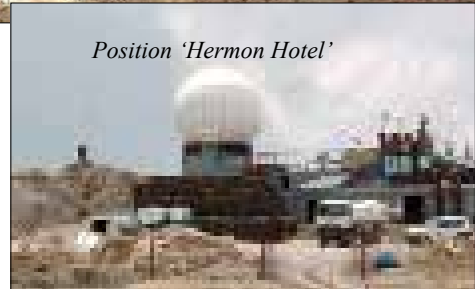
# Nepal Positions



*Position 'Hermon Base'*



CO NepCom  
LtCol Mohan Chitrin



*Position 'Hermon Hotel'*



*Position 'Hermon South'*



*Position 12*





# Custodians of Mt Hermon

The Nepalese could easily adjust themselves in the mountains within short period of time despite the adverse weather condition and the volatile security situation within the AOR. As a result, 11 personnel of NEPCON-I received the Force Commander's commendation for their outstanding performances. NEPCON is maintaining its operational readiness by conducting various operational and logistic activities which also includes a RRG at Hermon Base.





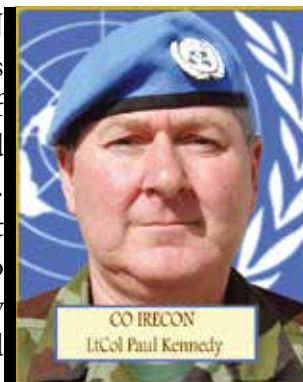
# Ireland - The Valiant Cavaliers of Golan

In September 2013, the Irish government was requested by the UN Secretary-General to provide a contingent of troops to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the first contingent of Irish troops, the 43rd Infantry Group, consisting of one hundred and fifteen personnel all ranks, deployed to UNDOF on 28th September 2013.

The deployment of the 43rd Infantry Group to the Golan as part of UNDOF signaled the Defence Forces' continued commitment to International Peacekeeping and its contribution to peace and security in the region. The successful tour of duty in the mission area by the 43rd Infantry Group is continued by members of the 44th Infantry Group

consisting of one hundred and thirty personnel all ranks. As the second Irish contingent to this mission the 44th Infantry Group brings with it a wide range of skills and capabilities some of which include Infantry Light Support Weapons specialists, Armoured Personnel Carrier specialists, Communications specialists, Engineer Specialist Search Team and an Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Team all of which have the support of an experienced logistical and administrative team.

The 44th Infantry Group fulfils the role of Force Reserve Company in the mission area. The main task of the Force Reserve Company is to provide an Armoured Quick Reaction Force at fifteen minutes notice to move on order by the Force Commander. Other tasks include serving as an independent FRC; deploying at Pl and Coy level within UNDOF AOR; remaining on high readiness as a QRF and react to emerging situations throughout the UNDOF AOR; contributing to monitoring and reporting throughout the UNDOF AOR; providing an Improvised Explosive Disposal Device Team (whilst embedded with an FRC unit). throughout the complete UNDOF AOR; being prepared to conduct mobile or combined patrols by day and night independently or in conjunction with other UNDOF patrols; being prepared to reinforce vulnerable UNDOF positions and UNTSO OP's; being prepared to assist in the securing, extraction and evacuation of UN personnel under threat; and being prepared to conduct other Operations within capability when tasked.







Drill and Deliverance...







## Observer Group Golan (OGG)

Since its establishment in 1974, UNDOF have been supported by UNTSO military observers of Observer Group Golan consisting of approx. 80 officers of more than 20 different nations. OGG works under operational control of Force Commander UNDOF and is structured in OGG HQ at Camp Faouar and two substations located in Damascus (OGG-D) and Tiberias (OGG-T). Observer Group Golan is responsible for 11 Observation Posts (OP) on strategic hills to observe the AOS: 6 OPs on the A-side and 5 on the B-side. Beside static observation from OPs the UNMOs perform regular inspections, car patrols and special investigations in the AOL on both sides. The OPs are manned with 3 to 4 UNMOs at all times in order to conduct 24/7 observations.

As a result of the deteriorating situation in the course of the Syrian civil unrest the two most southern OPs on the B-side (OP 57 and OP 58) had to be temporarily vacated and all mobile operations on B-side had to be suspended in 2013. All other OPs are being enhanced and receive more robust protection in order to create a safer and more secure environment. Because UNMOs are unarmed, UNDOF are providing Force Protection on two OPs in the form of armed soldiers.



UNTSO personel with PHILBATT Security detail



# Observer Group Golan (OGG)



OGG Watchtower



# Netherlands - The Brave Dutch “Buddy Pair”

The Netherlands contingent is the smallest contingent within UNDOF and has only two staff officers working within the Liaison and Protocol Branch. The deployment of Dutch military personnel in this mission is for six months, as it usually is for Dutch deployments abroad for peacekeeping operations. As a small contingent they do not have the time or the possibilities to create their own national community on a base or within a compound. But to be honest, up to now they have not missed this for a minute. As a small entity within a mission they have the advantage that everybody does their best to make them feel welcome and part of their team. The Dutch are making their contribution to the stability in this region for the years to come.



Maj Chris Schumacher on Mt Bental



LtCol Chris Brouns... ready for operation...





# Force Commander's Staff



**Mr Ibrahim Shaik Ali**  
Translator



**Ms Cornelia Frank**  
Special Adviser



**Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay**  
Chief Security Officer



# UNDOF THINK TANK

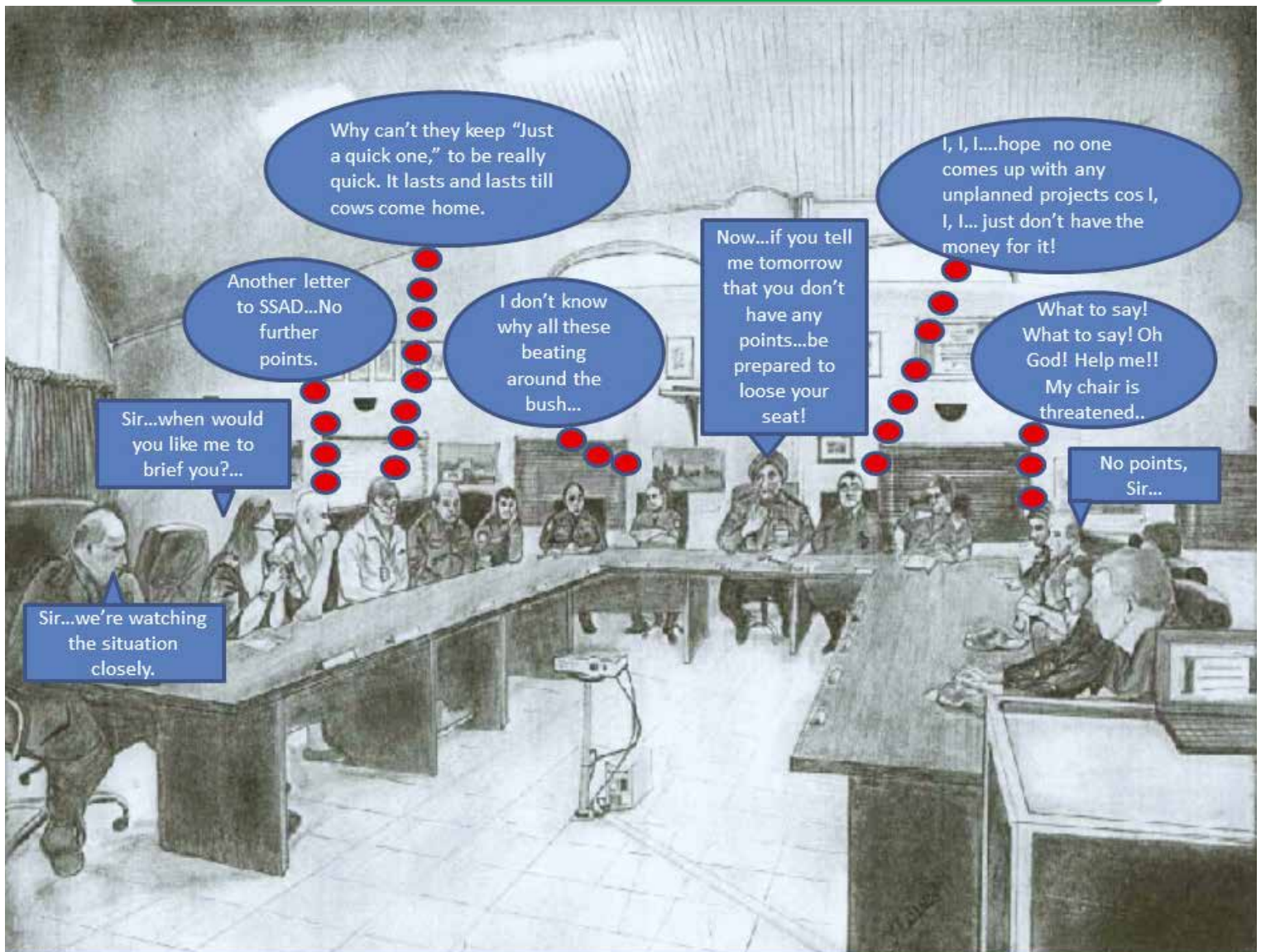


The Force Commanders morning conferences are soaked in the collective experience and force multiplying inputs from senior military and civilian specialists of the mission. The Pentagon is testimony to the brainstorming sessions and collective hardwork put in by all to live up to the Force Commander's level of expectation, in efficiently operating the mission in the present demanding times...





## IN LIGHTER VEIN...THE MUZZLING MINDS OF UNDOF





# Operations Branch

The Operations Branch is located in Camp Faouar and is under command of the Chief Operations Officer. It operates in the Joint Operations Center (JOC) in close cooperation with the Mission Information Cell (MIC). The JOC is the center of gravity where all incoming information is collected and, after assessment by its experts, is forwarded to UNDOF HQ for decision making process. The JOC operates 24 hours a day, seven days per week. It is equipped with modern infrastructure for all essential Staff and Liaison Officers from each battalion.

Since UNDOF was established in 1974, the concept of operations has changed from static to mobile and pro-active concept. UNDOF peacekeepers closely monitor their respective sectors continuously from their watch towers at the permanently manned positions in the Area of Separation. Key positions located on main roads monitor movements in order to observe and report military personnel and vehicles entering the Area of Separation in accordance with the Mission Mandate.

Temporary observation posts and observer posts reinforce the surveillance system of regular Observation Posts operated by Observer Group Golan of UNTSO, UNDOF positions and patrols.

In addition UNDOF conducts numerous mobile patrols operating from the permanently manned Positions to ensure a round the clock surveillance. Ready Reaction Groups (RRG) and Ready Reaction Patrols (RRP) can be deployed when suspicious activities require immediate additional observation and action within the UNDOF mandate.

The **present security situation** has **demand a lot of analysis** and scenario painting by the JOC. Brainstorming sessions on all likely scenarios are a norm in JOC, in conjunction with the **Crisis Management group headed by the Force Commander.**





The Chief Operations Officer, LCdr Marika Vosawale (centre) and his team.



# Mission Training Cell

The Mission Training Cell, under command of the Chief Operations Officer in the Operations Branch, is responsible for supervision of training and developing innovations and coordination required for future operations. It identifies training requirements for pre-deployment training, conducts in-mission training and supervises all training within UNDOF.

The Mission Training Cell currently consists of two Staff Officers, the SSO Training and the SO Training. The year 2014, has been challenging but amicable to the branch due to the coordination and support shown by the military and civilian sub sections.



Induction training for newcomers to the mission







# Mission Information Cell

The Mission Information Cell (MIC) was established on 18 May 2013 pursuant to UNDOF Directive due to the current environment in which the mission is operating and the nature of the mission's mandate. The intent was to ensure that the mission had a dedicated capacity to monitor developments and to understand the operational environment on a continuous basis. The cell is the focal point for the fusion of information from all sources.

It is staffed with UNDOF civilian and military analysts from the different Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), as well as with an UNTSO OGG Military Information Officer. They collect information that is available from open sources and integrate it with information gathered by all elements of the mission. The information then is processed and disseminated within the mission and towards regional UN partners as well as UNHQ.

One of the primary functions of the MIC is to provide information to support the planning and decision-making of the Force Commander and the Mission Leadership Team (MLT). The MIC basically generates integrated short and medium term analytical products. The purpose is to provide the FC and MLT with incisive understanding of issues and trends, their implications and potential developments, as well as assessments of cross-cutting issues and threats that

may affect the implementation of the mission's mandate and the security of UN personnel, equipment and facilities. It also provides analysis in accordance with mission-wide information priorities identified by the FC and MLT and supports individual mission components to enhance their decision-making capabilities.





# Mission Information Cell



The Chief Mission Information Cell, Lt Col John O'Neill (centre) and his information analysts





# Military Police

According to great naturalist Charles Darwin, “It’s not the strongest of the species that survives, not the most intelligent, it is the one that is most adaptable to change” Taking into account and fitting-in to this year’s UNDOF anniversary theme of “A New Beginning”, the Military Police have certainly risen to the challenge of adapting to the numerous demands brought about by the ever-changing situation in the mission area. Unable to experience and savor the “F-UNDOF” era, the current UNDOF MP rather takes pride in his/her ability to continuously enforce the highest standard of discipline within the Force through swift and timely action to situations that involve a breach of UNDOF regulations.

The UNDOF Military Police has maintained its authority to carry out its duties and functions in the UNDOF Mission Area. Authority is entrusted to MPs by Troop-contributing countries (TCC) over their military personnel and by the Force Commander over the international civilian staff of UNDOF and host country nationals. SOP MP 2011 provides the guidelines and directives on the operational activities and procedures of the UNDOF Military Police. Detailed procedures are further laid out in the Military Police Instructions (MPI). These references are in the process of gradually being reviewed and updated to suit the current structure, tasks and operations the UNDOF MP had been undertaking and performing.











Members of MP Platoon assisting in student crossing



MPs learn how to apply basic first aid



And this is how you direct a vehicle...



Supervising transfer of luggage across the border



Farewell to IRECON MP's



MP being briefed by Liaison Protocol Officer



# Security Branch

In the past, before the current civil unrest started in Syria, the UNDOF security section consisted of only two security officers. The present situation in the area of responsibility, along the main supply route and in most neighborhoods of Damascus has become very volatile.

As of 15 April 2014, the UNDOF Security Section has in total seven international security officers. A newly appointed Security Advisor and Chief Security Officer, a Deputy Chief Security Officer, a Security Information Analyst, the Supervisor of Operations, the Security Investigator and Training officer, the Camp Security Officer, the Area Security Officer for Damascus and the Force Protection Officer (military appointment) are all part of the section.

In addition, a convoy escort team consisting of four national security drivers have been added. Come 2017, the total number of the security personnel should have increased to 15.



# Liaison Protocol Cell

The Liaison and Protocol Branch is responsible for establishing a permanent direct link between UNDOF and the respective counterparts of both sides. This means we stay in close contact with the Office of the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate (SSAD) and the Golan Israeli Liaison Office (GILO) on a 24/7 basis. Therefore we also facilitate the exchange of routine and non-routine documents between all parties, as well as provide senior liaison between UNDOF, UNTSO and UNIFIL.

To perform these tasks we currently have two military officers and a UN civilian staff officer at the UNDOF Headquarter in Camp Faouar. Together they advise the UNDOF staff on liaison matters and they coordinate and deal with all non-routine matters that require liaison on either side. Next to them there is the Crossing Management & Administration cell which is manned by three NCO's and that is responsible for administration related to the crossing of personnel over the A-line in both directions and in and out of Syria.

For dealing with the routine liaison matters on both sides the Branch has two liaison teams, the LO-A and the LO-B team. Both teams are manned with two officers and a NCO. LO-A team has one officer permanently attached from UNTSO and operates from Camp Ziouani and the LO-B team operates from Camp Faouar.

For the execution of their work it is essential that the liaison personnel maintain good relations, impartiality and transparency to representatives of both sides at all times and under all circumstances.





# Integrated Support Services

ISS branch strives to serve the mission in the current complex operational environment. UNDOF is located on the Golan, far from airports and sea ports. The logistic effort required to sustain the force is substantial and is very much dependent on strong mediation and advocacy skills, forward planning, determination and a little luck.

The ethos of integration is one much espoused and encouraged by Senior Management within the United Nations. The current crisis has demanded greater cohesion and unified effort by the military and civilian personnel. This has manifested itself on ground in the strong and unified leadership given by the Chief of ISS Mr Gerard Buckley and the Deputy Chief of ISS Lt Col H. S. Billing. Their continued insistence on the ethos of integration has developed and encouraged ownership by all, civilian and military staff

The Mission has overcome a rapidly evolving situation over the past 2 years. The inaccessibility of Damascus Airport, the withdrawal of the Austrians in 2013 and the intensification of the



conflict in Golan called for reassessing supply chain and provide workable alternatives. The Austrians were replaced by Fijians, Nepalese and Irish. These logistical moves posed numerous challenges which were overcome by a steely determination ensuring survival of the mission. Both Philbatt and INDCON paved the way for the new inductees. Despite the ongoing crisis the supply section ensured the continuous supply of daily life support items, engineers managed to maintain and grow infrastructure in line with enhancing the security of positions and outposts. Drivers and mechanics continued to maintain the fleet and successfully achieved a marked reduction in road traffic accidents. Our medical personnel continue to provide valuable medical assistance.

The Branch is committed to the furtherance of the Force Commander's vision for the mission, while at all times aware of his dictum:

**“My logisticians are a humorless lot ... they know if my campaign fails, they are the first ones I will slay.”**



# Engineering Section

The Engineering Section comprises of 30 persons including three international staff, 11 military staff and 19 local staff members. The Engineering Section provides construction services and infrastructure maintenance for all UNDOF positions as well as power generation, power distribution and fire services. The Engineering Section also provides material and technical support to the battalion's construction engineering units. The services provided by the Engineering Section have been essential for the mission's operation as without power and facilities no branch or section in the mission is able to operate effectively.

The Engineering Section has dealt with numerous challenges over the history of UNDOF. These range from the initial set up of the main camps and positions at the start of the mission to the continuous upgrades and improvements as well as the Headquarters transfer from Damascus to Camp Faouar in 1994. Furthermore with the dynamic transition of security situation in the AO, Engineers have provided numerous solutions in the upgrading of protection in the positions. The quality of life for staff and soldiers has been improved drastically by the work of the Engineering Section over the years with new quarters, kitchens, shelters, a vast increase in the availability of air conditioning and the establishment of water wells on most of the positions. The stability of the power generation and distribution systems has been outstanding with primary and backup generators ensuring operations are not effected by problems on the local power grid.

The achievements of the Engineering Section have been made possible by an efficient and integrated way how the military and civilian staff work together. As we like to say in the Engineering Section: "The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes us a little bit longer."







Members of the UNDOF Engineers Section - 2014



All hands on deck...construction of new OP in CF



New medical accomodations



## Supply Section





# Transport Section

Transport Section with strength of two international staff, eight military staff and 16 National Staff are responsible for the provisioning, accounting and maintenance of the entire fleet of the Mission including the APCs, Light Vehicles, buses, load carrying vehicles, water and fuel trucks. The repair and recovery cover on Bravo Side is provided by LPV and LAV Workshop and Critical Detachment. The same is provided on Alpha Side by the LOGBATT Workshops and Civil Repair Workshop. A small detachment at ROD undertakes minor repairs and adjustments.

Transport Section under the helm of Maj Saurabh Ahuja, Acting Chief Transport Officer has achieved 100% availability of APCs and 98% availability of other transport assets. The section has taken the onerous responsibility and contributed effectively in smooth transition of the Mission from Soft Skinned transport assets to Light Armored assets. All members of the transport team complement each other and work dedicatedly towards achieving the objective of “One Mission, One Team, One Goal”.





# Geographical Information Systems

The Geographical Information Systems is a unit of three members; one international, one Military Major and one National staff. We are in charge of geo-spatial information, including mapping and geo-services. Our customers are mainly military and we support the operations on the ground. The unit currently has different projects to help the force which includes; 3D models of the AOR and operational matters for better planning and decision making, monitoring each 20 days few conflict areas to be aware of the situation on the ground, through satellite imagery and analysis and putting in place a system for incidents reports, in cooperation with UNIFIL. This web application will allow the operations branch and the senior management to see in real time the incidents in the AOS-AOL.



# Medical Branch

The HQ UNDOF Medical Branch under the Integrated Support Services is responsible for all medical and health issues as well as pharmaceutical requirements including its economic and logistic considerations.

The Force Medical Officer (FMO), the head of the Medical Branch is assisted by the Force Hygiene Officer, Chief Of Laboratory and Med Log in effectively running the medical set up of UNDOF, besides the doctors who provide cover in the various medical facilities of UNDOF

UNDOF has three Medical Centers: The Camp Faouar Medical Center (Level 1 Plus) Camp Ziouani Medical Center, and POS 80 Medical Center, supervised by different SMOs and Medical Staff of FIJIBATT, LOGBATT, and PHILBATT respectively.

The UNDOF Medical Branch continues to evolve with an unwavering commitment to maintain the health and well-being in the Mission, in the face of highly-volatile situations surrounding it, striving to reach the highest possible standards, levels of efficiency, effectiveness, and quality in all its endeavors, driven by the principles of excellence, improvement and innovation.



Members of the UNDOF Medical Branch headed by the Force Medical Officer, LtCol Teresita De Los Reyes (seated centre)



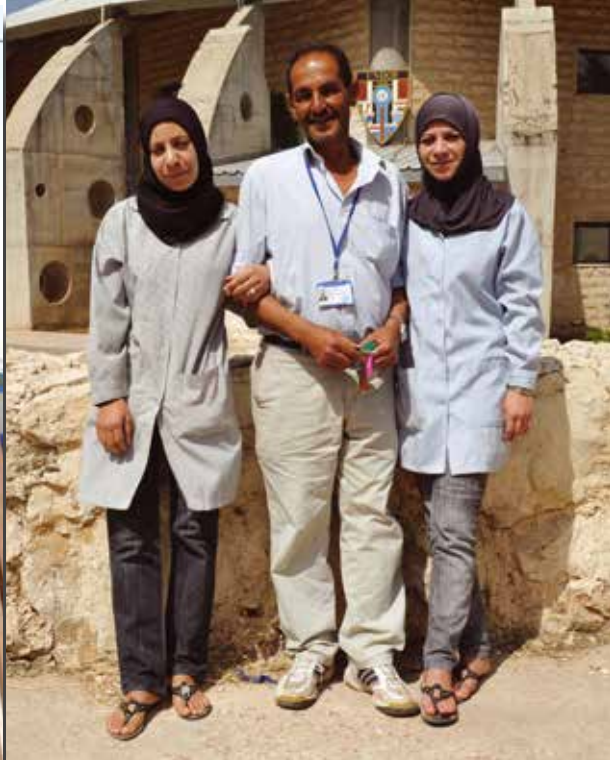




# General Services Section

The General Services Section (GSS) has many areas of responsibility and the work carried out by GSS staff affects everyone working in UNDOF. This is the section that manages property, food, fuel, registry and camp services and is responsible for all the furniture used in the offices and accommodations.

The section is comprised of six units, the Property Control & Inventory Contingent owned Equipment and Disposal Unit, Property Survey Board and Claims Unit, Receiving and Inspection Unit, Registry and Archives Unit, the MovCon - Travel Shipment Unit and Camp Services



# International Kitchen

## Camp Faouar



The hardworking Staff of the International Kitchen in Camp Faouar



# **International Kitchen**

## **Camp Ziouani**



PHILBATT and INDCON kitchen staff at Camp Ziouani





## Civilian Staff of Camp Faouar







## ROD civilian staff

The Representaitonal Office at Damascus of UNDOF or ROD as we call it, is the omnipresent link between UNDOF HQ at Camp Faouar and the Syrian Authorities in Damascus since the shifting of UNDOF HQ from Damascus to Camp Faouar in July 2012.





## Camp Ziouani civilian staff



# Information and Communications Technology Services (ICTS)

The Information and Communications Technology Services (ICTS) comprises of eleven international, twelve national and six military staff to provide proper communications to the mission. ICTS ensures smooth functioning of e-mail services, internet services, computer based office work environment and the telephone services at several locations throughout the mission. ICTS also ensures radio communication and video conferencing services.







# Mission Support

## BUDGET

The Budget Office at UNDOF is located within the office of the Chief of Mission Support (CMS) and is staffed by a Budget Officer and Budget Assistant.

UNDOF's approved budget for 2013/2014 is up to \$60.65 million. The budget unit plays a very important role in monitoring and approving on a daily basis all requisitions, as well as to ensure that all requirements raised are in accordance to the procurement plan.

Budget office provides budgetary and planning support to the Chief of Mission Support on a regular basis and also co-ordinates the formulation of the budget within the mission, between the Cost Centre Managers and the Head of Mission and Chief of Mission Support. It also liaises with counterparts at Headquarters to ensure that their inputs and recommendation are taken into consideration.

At the end of the financial period, the Budget Office prepares the financial performance on the approved budget; this includes providing details on expenditure patterns, plans implemented and any deviations justified appropriately.

## FINANCE

The Finance Office is responsible for the administration of the mission's accounts under authority delegated by the Controller. This office is made up of the following five units: Accounts, Cash, Vendors, Payroll, International Staff and Military Claims Unit and the newly created Invoice Processing.. The main goal of the section is to provide efficient financial services to UNDOF in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations and to ensure that internal financial controls are in place and functioning.





# Civilian Personnel Branch

The Human Resource Branch is headed by the Chief Civilian Personnel Officer commonly known as the Chief Human Resources Officer. The HR branches are located at ROD, Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani. The branch is staffed by seven personnel with the primary responsibility of administering entitlements to local and international staff, recruiting the best qualified personnel, advising staff members on career path as well as advising senior management on HR matters.





# Military Personnel Branch

The Military Personnel Branch is headed by Cmdr Humphery TAWAKE as the Chief Military Personnel Officer (CMPO) of UNDOF. It has two Sections under it, the Military Personnel Section and the Media/Public Relation's Section.



## Welfare Section

The Staff Officer for Welfare is under the direct supervision of the Senior Staff Officer for Personnel. Primarily, the SO Welfare acts as the key focal point for all welfare and recreational (W & R) activities and services in UNDOF. Having no personnel of his own, he keeps in close contact with the respective contingent W & R focal points. As a team, they create opportunities to increase the relationships between members of the different nationalities and between military and civilian staff in UNDOF and OGG.



These activities are conducted in the form of sportsfests, happy hours and organized recreational trips.



# Military Personnel Section

The Military Personnel Section is headed by the Senior Staff Officer for Personnel (SSO Pers) and has two Sub-Sections under it, the Welfare and the Registry. The functions of the Personnel Section includes; facilitating the rotation of different Contingents (Philippines, Fiji, India, Ireland, and Nepal) deployed in the mission area and all Military Staff Officers assigned in UNDOF. We also facilitate in the request for the “Brown Envelope (BE)” to the SSAD (through the CLPO). All leave applications for military personnel are processed through the Mil Pers Office. We also have to update and submit names of UNDOF personnel crossing in the “Alpha” and “Bravo” gates inside the Area of Separation (AOS). Further, we prepare a monthly report for DPKO, UNDOF’s Nominal Roll, the Military Staff List, Arrival/Departure list of UNDOF’s Staff Officers (SO), Mission Monthly Strength Report (MMSR), and the MSA Report. We are also responsible for preparing shelter lists and ID cards.



# Media Public Relations

In considering all the Media and Public Relations products that have been produced, no one would guess that the Media PR section is staffed with only three personnel; the SSO Media/PR, SO PR and the Force Photographer. Between the three staff, the responsibilities include; daily media updates to the Force Commander, organizing and coordination of UNDOF visits, producing the Golan Journals on a quarterly basis and other booklets (including this 40th Anniversary coffee table book), updating the UNDOF websites, taking photographs of UNDOF events, making passport photos and updating UNDOF VIP lists. With the overwhelming responsibilities, the hardworking media team manages to meet its deadlines by working overtime and by keeping a positive mental attitude.





# UNDOF acknowledges women peacekeepers

**10 March 2014** - To mark the International Women's Day, UNDOF Peacekeepers made a statement of their commitment to supporting advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way by marching to the beats of drums through Camp Ziouanni. The Force Commander (FC) and Head of Mission (HoM), Lt Gen Iqbal S. Singha thanked all the women peacekeepers for their contribution to the running of the mission. He also highlight how vital and demanding the role of women in UN missions can be at times especially in troubled areas where most of the atrocities are suffered by women and children. He said that regardless of their cultural, social and economic backgrounds, women in the world do share the same language of femininity. He added that women peacekeepers in this way give a humane touch to any peacekeeping mission, as well as inspire not only their colleagues or comrades, but all the women out there who want to have equal rights and opportunities. "There are instances of women peacekeepers organizing women groups who in turn forced their men folks to give up arms. Yes, women are more effective in carrying our DDR," he said.



UNDOF female peacekeepers make a stand...



# Fiji President visits Golan

The opportunity is rare when it comes to meeting the Head of State of any nation. His Excellency the President of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau is the highest dignitary to visit his troops in Golan since the current Head of Mission (HOM) and Force Commander (FC); Lt Gen Iqbal Singh Singha took Office in August 2012. His visit, along with the Commander of the Republic Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Brig Gen Mosese Tikoitoga was welcomed with a 100 - men guard at Camp Ziouani. This was followed by a traditional Fijian welcome.



Exchange of gifts between Force Commander and His Excellency, The President of Fiji

The two day presidential visit to Golan on 21 – 22 May 2014 allowed the President to meet with the UNDOF FC. In his speech to the Officers, men and women of the RFMF, he reminded them to be loyal to the Head of Mission and FC; to continue to support each other; and to work harmoniously with members of other troop contributing countries (TCC's). The FC, Lt Gen Singha said that he was honored to meet with his Excellency the President and commended the performances of all the TCC's.



Fiji's Head of State and Commander in Chief inspects the 100-men guard.

His Excellency, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau who has also served with the First Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment in the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (1FIR/UNIFIL) was briefed on the administrative and operational status of the 1FIR/UNDOF prior to having a “sit down” time with the soldiers to exchange experiences and to hear out any concerns from them.

The last Presidential visit to Golan was by the Croatian President Ivo Josipović in 12 February 2012 two weeks before they pulled out of the mission.



## **UNDOF Cyclothon - Celebrating 40 years of Peacekeeping**



As part of the events to mark the 40th anniversary of UNDOF, a cycle expedition was organized from Golan to Eilat covering a distance of 480 km in five days. From the word “go” and flagging off by Mrs Ballie Singha, the valiant peacekeepers representing various contingents, led by the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Lt Gen Iqbal Singh Singha, paddled off under the scorching sun from camp Ziouani making four stops until they reached Bet Shean on Day 1. While Days 1, 2, 4 and 5 were easy going due to the downslope and flat terrain, Day 3 was the most challenging as the terrain was mostly up slope from Megillot Regional Council to En Gedi. The degree of camaraderie and bonhomie amongst the participants was enough to see that everyone enjoyed and completed the expedition.

The expedition also attracted representatives from various communities and civilian cycling clubs who moved along with the UNDOF cyclists further supporting the “cycle for peace” theme of the expedition.





# UNDOF 40th Anniversary Celebrations

UNDOF commemorated its 40th year of existence in a big way. Celebrations were held at both sides of the Area of Separation and were attended by the Diplomatic Corp, representatives from local authorities, soldiers and staff of UNDOF and UNTSO representatives. More meaning was brought to the celebrations with the presence of representatives from previous troop contributing countries (TCCs).

On May 22, the celebrations kicked off at the UNDOF Representation Office in Damascus and one week later, on May 30, celebrations were held at Camp Faouar. Forty years and nine days later, on June 09 a final parade was held at Camp Ziouani.

The prestigious occasions were also an opportunity to remember the 54 peacekeepers that had fallen in the service of peace in Golan. This included twenty four peacekeepers from Austria, thirteen from Canada, eight from Poland, seven from Finland and two from Iran. Mr Sammi K. Issa, a civilian from Syria was also remembered during the ceremony. Wreaths were laid on the memorial stone and two minutes of silence was observed in their honor.

As a token of UNDOF's appreciation for their support, plaques and 40th anniversary medallions were presented to the guests and to representatives of the TCCs. Further, cultural dances and national booths were displayed by representatives of the various contingents and by locals; giving a "sobering effect" on the diverse culture of the United Nations in particular UNDOF. The celebrations further allowed the participants to learn, appreciate and respect each other's culture.



## Representation Office in Damascus





## Laying of Wreaths - Camp Faouar, Syria





## Laying of Wreaths - Camp Ziouani, Israel



## Presentation of Medallion





## Contingent Stalls on display...



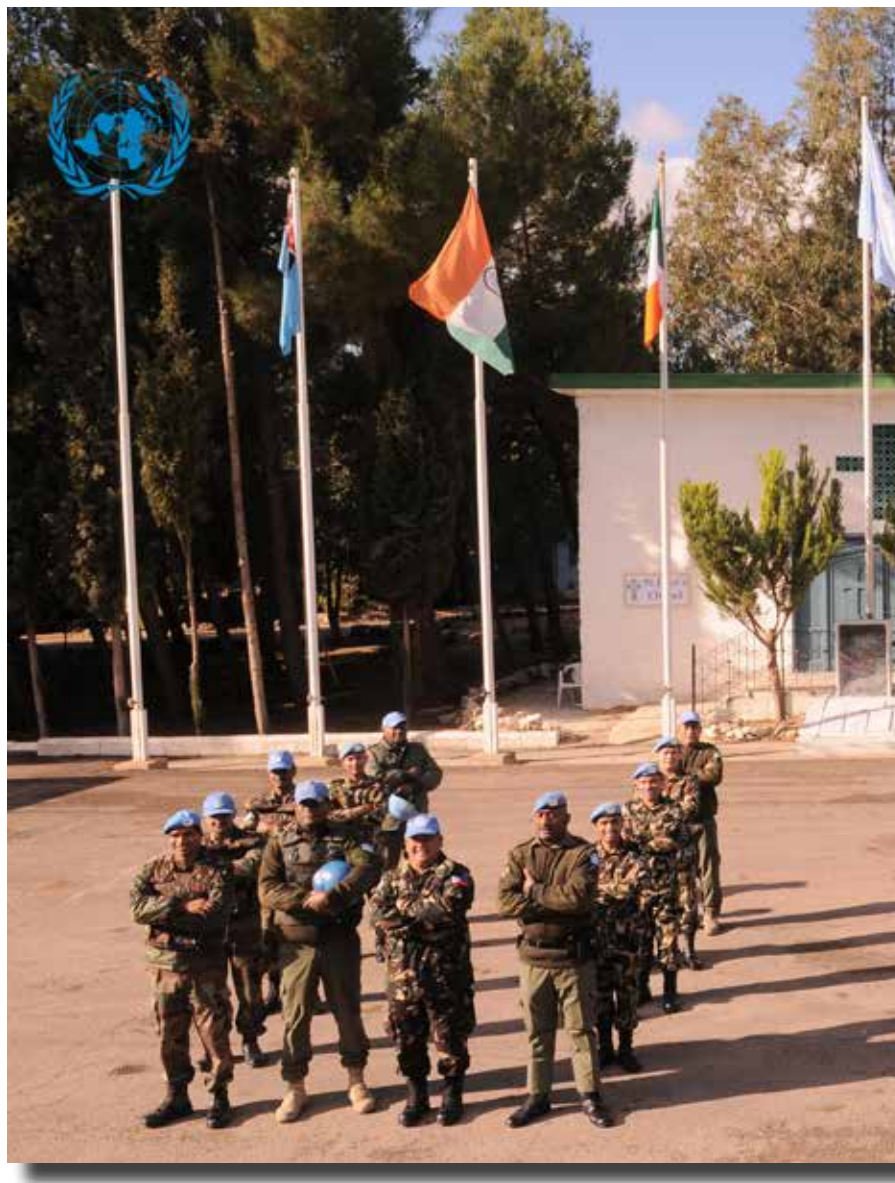


## Entertainment...



## LEST WE FORGET... THOS

MCpl	Hofer Hans	Austria
Cpl	Sturm Helmut	Austria
Pte	Neuhauser Walter	Austria
Pte	Voloder Alija	Austria
Capt	Foster Gary	Canada
MWO	Landry Gaston	Canada
MCpl	Spencer Roland	Canada
Cpl	Simpson Mike	Canada
Capt	Mireau Keith	Canada
Capt	Wicks Bob	Canada
MWO	Korjeo George	Canada
Cpl	Kennington Morris	Canada
Cpl	Stringer Bruce	Canada
Lt II	Pisa Leopold	Austria
Pte	Moradpour Yadollah	Iran
WO	Aghei A. A.	Iran
Cpl	Ross Darryl	Canada
Maj	Pellegrini Ernest	Austria
LCpl	Hörmann Peter	Austria
MCpl	Grasserbauer Anton	Austria
WO II	Krupicka Peter	Austria
Pte	Krainz Wolfgang	Austria
Pte	Bogner Manfred	Austria
MSgt	Skrzek Lucjan	Austria
MCpl	See Werner	Austria
Pte	Hinteregger Rudolf	Austria





## OSE WHO HAVE FALLEN...



SrLt	Lindman Eerik	Finland
WO	Tupvinen Ilkka	Finland
Capt	Haapala Matti	Finland
Sig	Porter Perry	Canada
SSgt	Korvensalo Keijo	Finland
LCpl	Kratzer Günther	Austria
Cpl	Hudon J.P.R.	Canada
WO II	Müllner Reinhard	Austria
NCO	Pellinen Mauri	Finland
NCO	Kruskope Juhani	Finland
NCO	Mutikainen Pasi	Finland
Cpl	Dörfler Siegfried	Austria
MSgt	Mandl Wolfgang	Austria
MSgt	Kajszozak K.	Poland
Pte	Jankowski Robert	Poland
MWO	Caban Wieslaw	Poland
Sgt	Lenczewski Wiktor	Poland
Cpl	Larose Gregory	Canada
Sgt	Chmura Jozef	Poland
Pte	Zuzanski Jozef	Poland
LCpl	Zaruba Herbert	Austria
WO I	Grasser Wolfgang	Austria
MCpl	Karnitschnig Gerhard	Austria
WO I	Ecker Wolfgang	Austria
Cpl	Krzysztof Wysocki	Poland
WO I	Tschon Wolfgang	Austria
Cpl	Szukielajc Ctrzegorz	Poland
WO I	Reinhold TEMMEL	Austria
Mr	Sami K. Issa	Syria





# A Dream Come True

When I got my posting to Golan  
a chance to serve with élan  
it was a dream come true  
I was allowed to take my crew

Military History was a favourite of mine  
spent years of studying in quarantine  
to visit and live in a battlefield sublime  
the pleasure is entirely mine

To serve UNDOF in difficult times  
had perceived the land of war  
would be bare and barren  
with war-like situation all the time

Amazed on reaching when I found  
rolling hills and flowers abound  
fruit orchards and fine wines  
Golan looks totally divine  
Mother Earth has been extra kind

Home away from home for sometime  
want to do more than I can  
for the people of this Holy Land  
who are suffering the misery  
of bombs, bullets, guns and carbine  
saddened me to see the manmade divide

The traditions and customs are the same  
No matter whether they are yours or mine  
I wonder why cannot we live in peace  
leaving our hatred behind

bequeath a better world for next generation  
which is full of love and harmony for mankind

We can be one goal, one team  
and one mission all the time.



Poems written by Mrs Ballie Singha  
based on narration by the Force Commander



