

GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



January- March 2006
No. 106



Dear Reader!

Since the last edition of this Journal, many things have changed due to the implementation of the new UNDOF- Military staff structure that started on 20th December 2005. It's no wonder that one of those alterations affected the editorial staff of the GOLAN- Journal, which now is associated with the newly created Media/Public Relation and Welfare section in UNDOF- HQ, as part of the Military Personnel Branch. I'm proud to be the recently appointed SSO M/PR & Welfare and I'd like to take this opportunity to give you a short introduction of myself. I've been serving within the UN since 1978, when I started my career as a peacekeeper in Cyprus as a Posn Cdr with the rank of



sergeant. Shortly afterwards, I became an officer and with a bit of luck I got a nine year contract to serve with the Austrian army. During that time I was given the go ahead for my next mission in Cyprus, where I was posted as the Personnel Officer and Adjutant to the Commanding Officer. After finishing my active duty in Austria, I decided to take on studies of history and history of arts at the university of Graz, the

second largest city of Austria. I concluded my studies in 1991 with a Master's degree, and once more I went to Cyprus, this time as a CoyCdr. Afterwards I volunteered for UNDOF during the time when the settlement of the HQ from Damascus to CF took place. There I was the CoyCdr of the HQ Coy but then I switched positions and became the SCUNASAR as well as the Force Welfare Officer. My last mission before this one led me to Cyprus once more where I was again posted as a CoyCdr. After the mission I worked for eight years as a civilian and now I'm happy to be back at the "Heights" and now looking forward to this interesting job.

Maj Friedrich Steininger

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The Golan Journal is the magazine of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and it is intended to provide information about the Force and events within it which are of interest to its members. The UNDOF Military Public Affairs Office publishes the Golan Journal every third month. While articles and photographs are welcomed from all members of the Force, the view and opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the United Nations or the Force Commander. The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications except where an acknowledgment is made to another holder. No articles or illustrations may be reproduced without the permission of the editorial staff.

Force Commander's Message

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is always a pleasure for me to address you in the Golan Journal. This publication is the result of UNDOF's hard work, and a perfect reflection of a peacekeeper's life in the Golan. As such, I will ask all of you readers and writers, to maintain the excellent support you have been providing to the editorial team in preparing interesting articles and photographs for us to enjoy.

As you all know, the past few months have been very busy for UNDOF. While fulfilling our important mandate of maintaining peace on the Golan Heights, we have participated into and led many projects aimed at improving the Force capability and effectiveness. As an example, the Operations Branch has spent numerous hours into the UNDOF maps update. I am very pleased with the progresses made so far, and I am confident that this project, once completed, will greatly facilitate your efforts in supporting this mission's operational tasks. Also, the Liaison Branch coordinated, once again with the help of the Int. Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and both Host Nations, the transfer of apples from Druze Orchards on the Golan to the local population of Syria. This is the second year running event and I truly hope that this event may become a

tradition that will contribute to the normalization of relations between the Host Nations.

Other important events also took place in the first quarter of year 2006. To name a few, we have celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the dispatch of the Japanese Contingent to UNDOF in January. The Japanese, Polish, and Canadian Contingents have demonstrated superb military skills and have acknowledged their soldier's contribution to the peace process on the Golan through their respective medal parades in February. At the beginning of March, we participated in the Force Commander Conference in UNIFIL. This event represents an important platform for the UNDOF, UNIFIL and UNTSO senior leadership to share views and experiences, helping in understanding each other's mission and creating a greater cooperation amongst the UN missions deployed in the Middle-East. At the end of March, UNDOF said goodbye to the Canadian Contingent after over three decades of dedicated logistical support to the Force, and welcomed the Indian Contingent. Canadians unveiled the INUKSHUK



monument in front of their former Battalion HQ. This simple but meaningful monument will help us to remember Canada's long contribution to peace on the Golan and the enduring "camaraderie" we had enjoyed with our Canuck friends.

Finally, I would like to take these last few lines to thank you all, soldiers and staffs of UNDOF, and encourage you to maintain the same level of professionalism I have witnessed and enjoyed since the beginning of my tenure as your FC. I am proud to be your commander, and humbled by your dedication to protect and serve peace in this troubled region.

*Thank you Diakujem
Danke Merci Dziękuję
Arigato Dhanyavad*

Lt. General B. N. SHARMA
Force Commander UNDOF

Chief of Staff Words

Comrades of UNDOF!

Winter 05/06 was everything but a relaxing and silent period, during which we normally would try to regain energy for the coming New Year. As such, and before I go into details, I would like to thank you all once more for your efforts and your excellent cooperation over the last few months. It shows that combined efforts make it possible to achieve a lot of goals within a short period of time.

As you know, being still engaged in the implementation of the HQ's Military structure, we have already started the implementation of the next goal; the "Integrated HQ structure". This structure is mainly comprised of the following components: The Integrated Support Services led by the CISS, which integrates the military and civilian personnel working in the fields of Maintenance and Transport, General Services, IT and Communications, as well as Engineering. On the other hand, the LOG OPS cell will be responsible for the planning of logistic operations. Other components are the Mission Training Cell (MTC), under the leadership of the COO, and Mission Analysis Cell (MAC), under the leadership of the CLPIO. These last two cells became operational during the implementation phase



of the new HQ structure. All those changes will be reflected in the revised SOPs, version 2006, which is supposed to be finalized by June 06.

On the engineering side, it should be mentioned that the outpost 32A is already under construction, and that the works for a new NBC decontamination facility in Camp FAOUAR has been initialized.

In regards to the UNDOF mapping project, the first 8 draft maps have been received as pdf files from the Cartographic Section located in New York, and have been printed locally. The digital data base is currently being installed here in Camp FAOUAR, and basic training of the UNDOF Mapping and GIS cell by a member of the Cartographic Section NY is ongoing. Further, first steps

for a patrol vehicle tracking system have been made and the system should be operational by the end of year 2006.

The Transfer of Command Authority (TOCA) between the Canadian and the Indian LOGBATT has been performed in a smooth and professional manner. It must be mentioned that this would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of the members of the Indian Contingent, who were able to adapt to their new jobs within a very short period.

I wish you all the best for the coming months, and I kindly ask you to keep serving UNDOF with our common motto in mind:

Viribus unitis!

Col Dr. Andreas Stupka

New People in UNDOF



The New CISS

Lt Col Sumit Mehta was born in Ranchi, India on the 15th Sep 1969. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned into 44 Armoured Regiment / Armoured Corps in 1992, and he has served in all theatres and varied terrains that exist in India - glacier, high altitude, plains, ravines and deserts.

In the course of his service he has been ADC to the Chief of Army Staff of India, General Staff Officer 3 of a Mountain Brigade and the AA&QMG (Chief Logistics Officer) of an Independent Armoured Brigade. He has commanded a tank squadron in strike formation, in both developed sectors and deserts. He is

an instructor in tank armament and tactics at junior command and the combat team.

Lt Col Sumit Mehta is married to Shweta and they have two children, Radhika and Shivesh. His hobbies include traveling, reading, tennis and golf. He is on his first foreign assignment with the United Nations and took over as the Chief Integrated Support Services on 07 Mar 06.



The New CO Logbatt

Born on the 25th of Jun 1969, Lt Col Ajay Singh belongs to 'Poona Horse' an elite Armoured Regiment of the Indian Army.

Lt Col Ajay Singh graduated from the National Defence Academy at Khadakwasla, Pune with an Arts Degree

and thereafter with a year's training in the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun he joined the Armoured Corps.

After completing the young officers course in Armoured Warfare, he attended the Armament Instructor's Officer's Course in the Armoured Corps Centre and School at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. He has served as a Troop Leader, Squadron 2IC and must recently the Squadron Commander of his combat group. Lt Col Singh has also served as the Gunnery Officer of the Regiment. Amongst other courses he has attended the junior Commander's Course in the Army War College and the Combat Team Commander's at the School of Armoured Warfare.

Lt Col Singh has served on a wide range of field assignments. He has served in the plains and desert sectors and mountainous terrain of the extreme north of India i.e. Ladakh region and a three-year tenure in counter-insurgency operations in North East India.



The New FMO

Lt Col Vani Suryam has joined us as the new Force Medical Officer on 20 Mar 2006. She comes from the hilly state in India called Himachal Pradesh, which lies, in the lap of mighty Himalayas.

She graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) in 1993 from the prestigious Armed Forces Medical Collage of India. That same year LTCol Suryam was commissioned into the Indian Army as a General Duty Medical Officer. Thereafter she served in various sectors including her tenure as the Regimental Medical Officer at the College of Military Engineering. She has done her postgraduate studies in Preventive and Social Medicine.

Before joining us here at UNDOF, she was the Officer Commanding Station Health Organization in the northern Sector in India. She is on her first assignment with United Nations here at UNDOF.

Lt Col Vani Suryam is married, and has one daughter. Her husband is also an officer in the Indian Army in the Corps of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering.

Her hobbies include reading, trekking and table tennis.

Visits to UNDOF



Visit of Defense Attaché from EU to 1 Coy of AUSBATT, enjoyed skiing at Mt. Hermon. (14th Mar)



Visit of Excellence Oldrich Hlavacek from Slovakia, visited SLOVCON and Quneitra. (17th Mar)



Visit of Mrs. LaRose, her daughters Ashley and Tarah, thought of their late Corporal LaRose (CAN-CON maintenance guy) and attended LaRose park Ceremony and TOCA. (20-24th Mar)



Visit of MGen Terasaki, comptroller, JGSDF, fact finding J-CON and met with CO-LOGBATT. (20-24th Mar)



Visit of Students from London school of Economics, visited CZ and Posn22. (31st Mar)

Other visitors to UNDOF

Visit of Ambassador of South Africa in Syria, fact finding UNDOF activities and visited Golan hospital and Posn27. (18th Feb)

Visit of MGen Sekiguchi, Dir of Plams & Operations Dept, Ground Self Defense Force, attended at the J-CON 10-years celebration ceremony. (23-27th Jan)

Visit of BGen Krzytof Zaleski from Poland, courage Polish Battalion. (01-08th Mar)

Visit of Ambassadors from E.U., visited AUSBATT and fact finding UNDOF activities. (30th Mar)

India and the UN

The Indian Army's participation in UN peacekeeping spans a period of 50 years during which over 50,000 Indian soldiers have served in 36 UN Missions across four continents. Presently India is the second largest troop contributing country to the UN and in addition to having troops in six UN missions, has offered a brigade group to the UN standby arrangement system and has 60 officers on the 'on call' Roll. With the taking over of LOGBATT by INDCON on 24 Mar 06, UNDOF become the 7th UN mission that India is presently contributing to.

Composition of INDCON

INDCON has been raised around a core group from The Poona Horse, an illustrious old cavalry regiment (presently Armoured Corps) of the Indian Army. The Poona Horse is one of the most highly decorated units with four Victoria Crosses pre-independence and two Param Vir Chakras (India's highest gallantry award) since, it is also the unit with the highest number of battle/theater honours in the Commonwealth, 37 in all, of which, as a point of interest Palestine is one. Around this core group are the specialist logistic elements, in the form of EME, Engineers, Signals, ASC (Supply) and AMC (Medical) all put together to form the logistic battalion here at UNDOF.

All in all the contingent contains a cross section of troops from the Indian Army representing all parts of the country, speaking several of her many

languages, hailing from hills, mountains, plains, coastal areas and deserts and representing the diversity that is India.

Hoisting the national flag

The advance party of INDCON comprising 34 persons arrived in the mission area on 19 Jan 06 followed by the first main body of 86 persons on 23 Feb 06 and Main 2 on 26 Mar 06. On 10 Mar 06, symbolic guards from all contingents joined a honour guard of INDCON in paying respects to the Indian flag as it was hoisted for the first time on the drill square in Camp Faouar. In the absence of the Force Commander, the COS Col A Stupka, was the reviewing officer for the ceremony. The different contingents brought their colours on parade and along with the Indian guard, dressed in the regimental dress of the Poona Horse and the traditionally dressed lance men; it all made for a colourful parade.



'Holi' celebrations at Camp ZIOUANI

The Indian festival of colours 'Holi' was celebrated on the 15th of March at the Golan club. Holi is a celebration of the victory of good over evil, and has its roots in Hindu mythology. Today, Holi has crossed all religious boundaries and is recognized by all in India. It is celebrated by putting colours on each other, accompanied by much eating, drinking and of course dancing. The use of colour is seen as a manifestation of goodwill and cheer and may also be interpreted as a way of bringing everyone to the same platform by making cast, colour and creed indistinguishable.

Author: Maj Nikhil Ganapathy



Indian guard, dressed in the regimental dress of the Poona Horse

AUSBATT - "24 hours until leave...."

Hermon Base, Thursday, winter

0745LT, morning briefing: The Coy-Commander EDELWEISS 50 assembles his NCOs for the morning briefing at Hermon Base. Today the biggest problem is the transportation of "LEAVE-soldiers" from Hermon Hotel (2814m) down into the valley to Position 12. All "LEAVE-soldiers" have to be there tomorrow, Friday not later than 0800LT. There was 24 hours until departure of the bus.

Since yesterday evening there have been very bad weather conditions in the mountain area. All night heavy snowfall, the wind reaching speeds of wind more than 180 km/h and snowdrifts. The danger of avalanches cannot be excluded. The Company Commander decides that the first reconnaissance and snow removal will start at 1800LT. During nighttime the visibility

is better. The white contours of the terrain stand out against the black sky. During daytime orientation is hardly possible because of clouds and blowing snow. 1800LT, 14 hours until departure.

The Company Commander orders that two over snow-vehicles "Pistenbully" start at the same time with the clearing of the roads. The Company Commander EDELWEISS 50 himself drives one of the Pistenbully. He wants to clear the narrow and dangerous road down into the valley to Position 12. The most experienced driver of the Coy will drive the second "Pistenbully". Sergeant Falkner will try to reach the "LEAVE-soldiers" at Hermon Hotel. Both Pistenbully drivers get a co-driver for support. Snowfall and wind have not decreased. They are so heavy, that the windscreen wipers have great difficulties to clean

the windscreen from the frozen snow. Outside the temperature is minus 5 degrees; however, due to the heavy wind, in reality it feels like it's more than minus 20 degrees. The heating is fully switched on and inside the temperature in the car is 25 degree.

A radio message calms down the waiting soldiers at Hermon Hotel. "Reporting Point 203 passed". One Pistenbully has successfully cleared half of the distance to Hermon Hotel. The second Pistenbully is below of the "Alte Bullygarage". Since the departure from Hermon Base the road is only cleaned until "Seilwindenhaus".

1900LT, 13 hours until departure. Orientation during winter is only possible with the help of 4 to 7 meter long snowpoles. In summer the poles are placed on the left and right edges of the road. On the way down to Position 12 the Pistenbully shoves forward the heavy snow then drives backwards and forwards approximately 30 times within 200 meters. On short intervals the window of the Pistenbully must be opened for the driver to get his bearings. It is very difficult to orientate. Despite GPS it is dangerous and sometimes you can lose the sometimes invisible and narrow way. The curve „am Felsenkopf“ is passed. Via radio communication the waiting soldiers get the latest information about the situation. The masses of snow on the steep slope are very dangerous. The Company Commander scans the danger of avalanches. Decision of EDELWEISS 50:



Windspeed more than 180 km/h and snow-drifts.

AUSBATT - "24 hours until leave...."

"Break off snow-clearing due to the high risk of avalanches and drive back to Hermon Base!"

In the meanwhile Pistenbully 4982 successfully struggled to Hermon Hotel and Sergeant Walkner transports the soldiers to Hermon Base.

2200LT,- 10 hours until departure. Both Pistenbullys have arrived at Hermon Base and were filled up with petrol. Further steps are discussed while drinking warm tea. How is the weather forecast? When does the wind decrease to get better visibility? Snowfall will stop after midnight. For the next day better weather conditions are announced, sunshine and higher temperature.

Decision: "At 0100LT the next attempt will start." The Leave soldiers are disappointed in the bad situation and the information given by the Company Commander. They have been ready for the transport to Position 12. But now, it is not possible and the road is closed. Some soldiers start discussing



APC M113 passing a canyon of snow

additionally possibilities to reach Position 12 and the bus to Damascus airport. Ski down the Bullyrinne? On foot with snowshoes, secured on a rope?

0100LT, 7 hours until departure. Weather becomes better. The snowfall decreases but the wind is blowing to strong. The necessary visibility for orientation is poor. Waiting, waiting, waiting...

At last, after three hours the wind has stopped. Outside of the building the weather is clear, even the stars are visible again.

0400LT, 4 hours until departure. The LEAVE soldiers assemble at the Communication Center (COMCEN) Hermon Base. They have been woken due to the noise of the engine of the Pistenbullys. They listen at the positions of the Pistenbully, which are sent via radio to COMCEN. Reporting point "Alte Bullygarage", Report-

ing point, "Seilwindenhaus, Reporting point, "Felsenkopf". Last evening the snow clearing of the roads was stopped there because of the danger of avalanches. How is the situation today? Is it possible to pass this critical spot? If not, will the flight ticket expire? What is about the planned leave? All the time the soldiers looked at the watch. Reporting point, "Unfallkurve" passed. The next critically section of the road has to be cleaned by the Pistebulky. The Company Commander will do it successfully. He will not disappoint his soldiers.

0600LT, 2 hours until departure. At 0600LT EDELWEISS 50 has sent a radio message to COMCEN: "The road is free again, the third Pistenbully should bring the LEAVE-Soldiers down to Position 12."

0700LT, all soldiers reach the Position. Leave is important. With common strength of the 1st Coy it has been arranged that all LEAVE-soldiers are in time at Damascus airport.



Hermon Base being snowed in

Author: Maj Walter Stiegler

Increase your knowledge – Easter

History of Easter

Easter, the principal festival of the Christian church year, celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. The origins of Easter date to the beginnings of Christianity, and it is probably the oldest Christian observance after the Sabbath (originally observed on Saturday, later on Sunday). Later, the Sabbath subsequently came to be regarded as the weekly celebration of the Resurrection.

As with almost all “Christian” holidays, Easter has been secularized and commercialized. The dichotomous nature of Easter and its symbols, however, is not necessarily a modern fabrication.

Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. When the second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner.

The English name “Easter” is much newer. When the early English Christians wanted others to accept Christianity, they decided to use the name Easter for this holiday so that it would match the name of the old spring celebration. This made it more comfortable for other

people to accept Christianity.

But it is pointed out by some that the Easter festival, as celebrated today, is related with the Hebrew tradition, the Jewish Passover. This is being celebrated during Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew lunar year. The Jewish Passover under Moses commemorates Israel’s deliverance from about 300 years of bondage in Egypt.

It was in during this Passover in 30 AD Christ was crucified under the order of the Roman governor Pontius Pilate as the then Jewish high priests accused Jesus of “blasphemy”. The resurrection came three days later, on the Easter Sunday. The early Christians, many of them being brought up in Jewish tradition regarded Easter as a new feature of the Pascha (Passover). It was observed in memory of the advent of the Messiah, as foretold by the prophets. And is equated with the proclamation of the resurrection. Thus the early Christian Passover turned out to be a unitive celebration in memory of the passion-death-resurrection of Jesus. However, by the 4th century, Good Friday came to be observed as a separate occasion. And the Pascha Sunday had been devoted exclusively to the honor of the glorious resurrection.

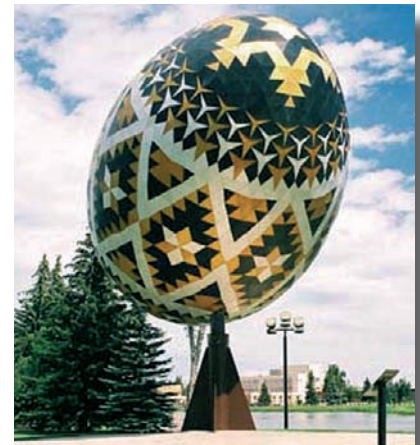
The Feast of Easter was well established by the second century. But there had been dispute over the exact date of the Easter observance between the Eastern and Western Churches. The East wanted to have it on a week-

day because early Christians observed Passover every year on the 14th of Nisan, the month based on the lunar calendar. But, the West wanted that Easter should always be a Sunday regardless of the date.

To solve this problem the emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicaea in 325. The question of the date of Easter was one of its main concerns. The council decided that Easter should fall on Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. But fixing up the date of the Equinox was still a problem. The Alexandrians, noted for their rich knowledge in astronomical calculations were given the task. And March 21 was made out to be the perfect date for spring equinox.

The dating of Easter today follows the same. Accordingly, churches in the West observe it on the first day of the full moon that occurs on or following the Spring equinox on March 21., it became a movable feast between March 21 and April 25.

Author: WO II Roland Maresch



Vegreville, Canada boasts of having the world's largest Easter Egg

UNDOF MP – Change Of Command

The winds of change swept over the MP Pl with Capt Renée Point, the Force Provost Marshall handing over command to Capt Jan Witkowski on 17 Mar 06. The occasion was marked with a short and crisp parade at the UNDOF HQ parade ground. MPs from Canada, Poland, Austria, Slovakia and India marched smartly in the parade. It was heartening to note that these MPs of five different nations, in their national uniforms and having totally different drills, were marching in step, epitomising the United Nations's ethos of 'Team Work'. The ceremony also was the first step on the way to the complete change of Contingents in UNDOF. The Canadian MPs changing guard with the Indians after 32 yrs of dedicated service in the Golan Heights

A farewell party was organised by the MPs for the Canadians at the Austrian NCO's Mess, which has seen many MP



Handover of the MP insignia

parties throughout the tour. Everybody exchanged gifts which also included some mock gifts. Sgt Steve Card, the Canadian B Det Commander turned out to be the most popular MP and had to be helped to carry all the gifts given to him including a bathroom door.

In honour of the Canadian Military Police who served in the Golan Heights from 1974-2006 the UNDOF MP Platoon

have dedicated the MP Lounge at the Pl HQ as the „Thunderbird Lounge” and all the names of all the last Canadian MP Contingent will be placed there. Change, as is often said is the only thing certain in life, so the MP Pl is also looking forward to working with the Indians, in a different way yet retaining the overall character of the MP Pl which will always have the Canadian touch.

Author: DFPM Maj Amit Mathur



The New FPM

Capt Jan Witkowski was born 13 March 1979, in Krakow, Poland. At the age of 8 started training judo and shortly afterwards became a professional sportsman. Won gold, silver and bronze medals in Junior's Championships of Poland, was member of the WISLA Krakow team, which won the Teams Championships of Poland. He also collected 6 gold and 2 silver medals in Military Championships between 1998 and 2002. In 1998 joined Polish Armed Forces as a Cadet in Military Academy in Wroclaw. In 2003, attended and graduated a special officer's Military Police course at the MP School in Poznan, then was transferred to Krakow to lead an MP Platoon in Krakow's MP unit. In 2004, transferred to a MP Company as the CO and in July was transferred to IRAQ to be the Multinational MP PL CO- part of the Multinational MP Coy in Multinational Division Central – South. In October 2005 was promoted to a Deputy Commander of the Crime prevention Section in Krakow's MP Unit. In November 2005 after attending the Hostage Negotiators Course at the Police Academy in Legionowo, he became a Military Police Negotiator. In January 2006 was posted to Syria and joined the UNDOF MP Platoon. Other hobbies are skiing and Scuba diving.

Canadian Flag lowered after

It was a warm spring morning on March 24 when the Canadian Forces (CF) closed out Operation DANACA- Canada's contribution to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) since 1974 - and transferred Canadian responsibilities to India during an emotional ceremony held at Camp Ziouani, in the Golan Heights. As the parade and speeches neared the end, the Canadian National Anthem played one last time. To smart military salutes, Canada's flag was slowly lowered after flying there proudly for the past 32 years. Strategically placed between the Israel and Syria border, the CF provided supply, maintenance and communications specialist personnel making up the majority of the UNDOF 2nd Line Logistics Battalion.

"Canadians can take pride in the key supporting role Canadian Forces personnel played in the success of this mission

over more than three decades," said Major-General Michel Gauthier, Commander of Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM), who came from Ottawa, to take the final salute from the troops as they marched out the main gate for the last time. "Given the high demand for personnel with specialized skill sets, and given the relative stability in the Golan Heights region, the decision to close out DANACA enables us to re-direct these critical enablers to CF operations where the need is greater," he added.

Troops from India's historic Poona Horse proudly stood on the parade square on this historic day to take over Canada's responsibilities within UNDOF. The outgoing

Canadian Task Force Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Sylvain Mongeon signed over his transfer of command to Lieutenant Colonel Ajay Singh of India, witnessed by Lieutenant-General Bala Nana Sharma, the Force Commander for UNDOF. "It has truly been an honour to lead the troops on this mission over the past nine months, but equally an honour



The sign over between Lt Col Mongeon & Lt Col Singh

to serve as the last Commanding Officer for this mission," said LCol Mongeon. "I would also like to pay tribute to the 12,000 soldiers, sailors and air personnel who served proudly in the Golan Heights over the past 32 years," he added.

Prior to the parade of Canadian, Indian and Japanese troops, the Canadian Ambassador to Israel, Mr Donald Sinclair, unveiled a plaque and a large Inuksuk outside the headquarters building as a permanent testimony to Canada's long-term commitment to the UNDOF mission. Commenting on the number of Canadian troops who have served in the region over the



MajGen Michel Gauthier, Commander of Canadian Expeditionary Force Command

32 years in Golan Heights

years and given the relative stability of the region, Mr. Sinclair remarked that, "the number of CF personnel who served here, could populate a small Canadian town, but they have made an enormously large contribution to peace. I am certain that without the Canadians, this place would have been more dangerous."

After the Canadian flag was lowered and folded, it was presented to the Canadian Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), Chief Petty Officer 1, Joe Arseneau who is due to retire upon his return to Canada. CPO1 Arseneau is also the first Canadian Navy member to serve as a RSM with the UN. It was only fitting therefore, that the LOGBATT contingent marched onto the parade square to the sound of "Heart of Oak" a CF Naval march. "Canada's role here in UNDOF was



Folding the Canadian flag

After the parade the Canadian contingent proudly marched out the main gate flanked on both sides to the applause of the remaining contingent. Once outside the gate, the Canadians stood at attention while their piper played "Auld Lang Sai" as a testament to the great bond between these brothers in arms. Proud soldiers soon showed their human side as the hugs and tears began to flow as the realization that the mission was truly coming to an end for Canada. Indian, Japanese and Canadian troops had worked delinquently side by side; they ate and slept in the same camp and together,

shared a common goal of peace. The Japanese Contingent, in an unrehearsed gesture of true friendship between nations, waved and yelled in unison, "Bonsai, Bonsai, Bonsai", as the buses pulled away. The Canadians are gone now and India's flag flies high where once the Canadian Maple Leaf flew so proudly. Canada is still committed to UNDOF however, as two senior officers remain indefinitely with the mission; one as the Military Assistant to the Force Commander and the other as the Senior Staff Officer Personnel in UNDOF HQ. Life moves on at Camp Ziouani, but history will remind us that at one time Canada served with UNDOF here and as our anthem says; we stood on guard for thee!

Author: Lt Ken Allan



Hoisting the Indian flag

vital to the success of the mission. We provided a critical service to the UN, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week," CPO1 Arsenault said.

J-CON celebrates its 10th Anniversary

On 22nd and 25th January 2006, the Japanese Contingent celebrated its 10th Anniversary in both Damascus and in Camp Ziouani.

Ceremonies and events were held, congratulatory addresses were given by LtGen Sharma, by the Japanese Ambassadors to Israel and Syria and by the Chief of Staff, Gen Mori, from the Japan Ground Staff Office live on Video telecommunication system.

Ten years ago, on the 1st of February 1996, the first Japanese Contingent was deployed to UNDOF on the Golan Heights. The 43 members of the first J-CON took over the Transportation Platoon of LOGBATT and the additional two were deployed to UNDOF HQ. Over the past ten years, a total of 880 Japanese Peacekeepers have served this mission. The total transport distance by the Japanese Contingent in 10 years is about 2.62 million kms (It is almost the same as 65 times around of the earth). And the gross weight of transportation was about 23 thousand tons.



Demonstration of japanese archery Kyudo in Camp Ziouani

The total distance of tending roads is more than 350 km and that was and remains the most important mission for the Japanese support of UNDOF.

20th J-CON, CO Maj Shirakawa, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals who contributed to J-CON's successful absorption, who cooperated, assisted and supported J-CON with professional guidance and much needed patience.

The commemoration copper plates, which were placed by

LtGen Sharma and Maj Shirakawa, have been put on the wall in two wooden framed tablets in the facility of the Japanese Contingent HQ.

So much has happened in ten years, but most notable is the successful creation of one team with one goal out of the different traditions, cultures and languages of UNDOF. J-CON wishes to thank all those who took part and participated in the events. Arigato.

Author: Lt I Koichi Kumada



The New CO-JCON

Major Kazushi Ueno was born 1971 in Nara-prefecture, next to Kyoto a traditional area of Japanese culture. He entered the National Defense Academy in 1989 and graduated in 1993 with bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering. After completing Officer Candidate School in Sep 1993, he served as a platoon leader and HQ training staff officer of 39th Infantry Regiment. Maj Ueno was then posted as an instructor to the Infantry School Regiment in 2001. After graduating the Command and General Staff College in 2004, he was promoted and assigned as a company commander of 25th Infantry Regiment 3rd Company. Major Ueno was designated as a CO-JCON in 2005, he organized, managed and trained his men at 2nd Division Headquarters so that they could successfully deploy in support of UNDOF. Major Ueno is married to Yuki and has two sons, Kanta (2) and Souta (1/2). His hobbies are reading and travelling.

CANCON - train-the-trainer

Within a few short hours of the Indian Contingent's Advance Party members arriving at Camp Ziouani, training began. The aim during the Advance Party training phase was to provide train-the-trainer training at both functional and collective levels for the Advance Party members. Preparation for the Advance Party training had commenced weeks in advance, with the LOGBATT training team putting together collective training packages and the various platoons and troops consolidating platoon level training plans and handover packages for the Indians. There were certainly an ample collection of briefings, presentations, and handouts that were consolidated for the Indians. Beginning 20 Jan 06, the first two weeks of training was focused on individual and functional training, where Advance Party members received comprehensive handovers from their Canadian counterparts. During this period, the Indians learned not only about their primary jobs but also all key responsibilities and tasks within their individual platoons and troops. Both the Indians and Canadians worked long hours together to ensure that nothing was missed and with the amount of required reading involved (such as SOPs, directives and OP Plans), there was no shortage of "homework".

Over the next two-week period, collective level training for the Advance Party members followed. Collective training packages included: NBCD,

bunker drills, mine awareness and first aid, camp security, range procedures, RRG training and ELG training. The training packages involved a series of lectures, demonstrations, exercises and a rifle range practice. In addition, an area familiarization tour of the northern and southern AOS took place. During this training phase, driver training and testing was also completed. Facing tight schedules, cultural differences, and language barriers at times, many challenges were faced. However, the professionalism, dedication and patience demonstrated by both contingents ensured that the transition was a smooth one.

The first INDCON Main body flight arrived on 23 Feb 06 and as with the Advance Party, their training began almost immediately. Working closely together, members of the LOGBATT training team and INDCON Advance Party members developed a rotation training package for their main body personnel. As with training during the previous phase, both collective and functional aspects of training were included.

Based on the train-the-trainer training that was provided to the Advance Party, Main 1 training was adapted and modified to suit India's national SOPs and language in order for the training to be meaningful

and relevant to the Indians, as well as to ensure proper comprehension. As such, training and instruction for INDCON Main 1 was primarily provided by the Advance Party members. Canadians, however, continued to be available as subject matter resources for the Indians, especially for the training of skill sets not covered during Advance Party training.

After an intense 15-day period, training for Main 1 finally began winding down due to the high tempo of final closeout activities for the Canadians. Overall, the training team had validated and assessed INDCON's training to be of a high standard. The Indians had demonstrated both competence and professionalism throughout the training period. Upon arrival of Main 2, there is little doubt that INDCON will be trained into a cohesive and highly effective logistics battalion, ready and more than capable of providing a high level of logistics support to UNDOF.

Author: Capt M. Thangarasu



Train the trainer

32 years Polish Military Contingent on the Golan

The tradition of a Polish Military Contingent on the Golan Heights dates back to 1974.

According to a Resolution of Security Council of United Nations, a Polish Battalion was appointed to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. On the 3rd of June 1974 a 92 person logistic group, singled out of the second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), commanded by Maj E. Nowak, became a part of UNDOF. After 5 years of service, when UNEF II was disbanded, they took the name of the Polish Logistical Contingent (POLLOG). POLLOG numbered 154 service personnel and they were responsible for the transport of water, food and other equipment. POLLOG also had a sanitary and epidemiological laboratory, as well as platoon of engineers, which took part in inspection and the demining of mine fields.



POLBATT group photograph

In 1993, POLLOG completed its mission and returned to Poland and later that same year the Polish Infantry Battalion was appointed to take over AOS from our Finnish Army colleagues.

Since that time, Polish soldiers have occupied 14 positions and 9 outposts in order to observe, monitor, and report violations of agreement and ceasefire in the AOS between both sides. POLBATT is responsible for the southern area of the AOS approximately 50 km in length and up to 9 km wide. Everyday our soldiers, carry

out mine clearing tasks and patrols in this area.

From the time, when POLBATT took over from the Finns, they have rotated every twelve months. Presently rotation XXV has begun to carry out its mandatory duties. To date approximately 7100 polish soldiers have served on Golan Heights as proud peacekeepers. POLBATT has received recognition from the UN and Poland as a result of the efforts of these soldiers while working in a multinational environment.

Author: Capt Pawel Szyller

The Rotation in Polbatt



LtCol Paduch says good bye to the old shift

P olbatt rotated its troops on the 1st and 8th of March 2006. Soldiers representing military units from different regions, most notably Elblag Military district replaced the 174 soldiers from the XXV rotation.

A commission under the command of Brigadier General Ksyztof Zaleskiego

oversaw transferring duties. During the serious meeting, CO Polbatt, Lt. Col Paduch requested the new soldiers were to meet their responsibilities the same professional manner as their predecessors had done, so that the "Soldier's Luck" will remain with them.

After the receiving of the basic induction training, all soldiers started their active duty in the areas of their responsibility.

Author: Capt Pawel Szyller

A brief history on the “Apple Crossing”⁷⁾



It's more than likely, that all of you have already noticed the restart of Operation APPLE. Those people who have experienced a delay while trying to cross at A/B Gates during the apple transfer should be provided with the background of this extraordinary event between Syria and Israel.

Last year when the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Countryside Development approved a request from Druze Sheikhs and Farmers from the Golan for exporting their apples to Syria the process was started for the first time. With the successful activation of the International Committee of the



ICRC trucks to be loaded

Red Cross (ICRC) the Syrian government was approached on this matter and the decision was made to help the Golan people execute the deal through the disengagement line. The Force Commander, LtGen Bala Nanda

Sharma conducted official talks with the Syrian Government concerning the sensitivity of this issue especially since there are no international borders established between both countries. The only chance for success was to operate through the checkpoints that are for the crossing of UN personnel. Therefore, many inquiries were raised by the FC to find an appropriate method of executing the deal practically.

On 19th March 2006 the Operation APPLE started for the second time and obviously is well on the way to become an annual event. It is expected that some 5000 tons of apples will pass through the A/B Gates with the operation lasting approximately 50 days.



Crossing the B-Gate

Author: Maj Friedrich Steininger

The ASFR and its international peacekeeping

The Slovak Republic take a pride in performance of the Slovak Armed Forces – ASFR that have been contributing troops to international peacekeeping force since 1993, when the independent Slovak Republic was established.

Everything began in the Peacekeeping Forces Training Base in Nitra. Training base Nitra was established in 1993. The UN peacekeeping force-training base in Nitra had become central to the Army of the Slovak Republic.

Training center Nitra conducts training for the professional soldier the ASFR and prepares them for UN and NATO missions. During 2004 the training base has fulfilled UN demands concerning observed missions. The training base has been adapted its training programs according to the UN and international organizations standards. Personnel experiences from missions cre-

ated the base training for future peacekeepers. The missions each have a list of essential functions. According list of functions a committee will chose the sort of soldier that will be sent to the mission. Soldiers who want be sent to a mission must write a request, which has to be agreed to by their commanders. It is essential to theoretical information about every mission. E.g.: Why does Israel occupy the Golan Heights? Why 10 years ago did Serbian soldiers have killed more than 7000 Bosnians Civilians close to Srebrenica? Why were their human rights not kept? Why is there military conflict in Iraq, Eastern Timor, and Georgia? Why are filed mines dangerous for the civilians people long period after the war? How are minefields marked? Soldiers are learning the military English, a missions' history, the kind of armament of the local armed forces, UN rules

for conduct within the mission, Geneva agreement and another necessary things.

After completing the theoretical studies soldiers can then create a personal view about the mission area. My knowledge about Golan Height after training has been as follows: UNDOF Mission is located at the Gaza Strip, the Sinai, Palestine, the Golan Heights. Since the time when the Israeli state was established, the world has seen these places and regions be pockets of armed conflicts. Human suffering and encounters between states and their peoples, based on different nationality or religion, which is often completely incomprehensible in terms of a modern world. With concurrence of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East, where the Agreement on Disengagement was signed in 1974 between Syria and Israel, the UN undertook delineation and marking of the lines bounding the area of separation to keep the belligerent parties to the conflict apart. Apparently, none of the opposing sides considers the status quo fair. The borderline exists, though. It is created by what is called a technical fence.

Training contains a practical part as well. Radio communication in all in the English language, driving skills, shooting exercises, soldiers spend a period of two weeks training for events, which they will experience in the mission area.

The last part of training for UNDOF is in Austria in the



Slovakia soldiers training during the Gopher Hole 2006

The ASFR and its international peacekeeping



Vehicle control

iles, and support the activities of humanitarian organization.

Contributing to AFSR in international missions is one of our most important tasks. This is one way for us of representing our country. We gave our agreement to send troops and now we have fulfilled this promise. We are a member country of the UN as well as a full member of the EU, the NATO and we are the 30th country of the OECD too. The Slovak Republic is a donating country and keeps on helping poorer countries.

Author: Capt Oliver Murani

training center Goetzendorf an der Leitha. Soldiers who have been nominated for keys position in the mission usually attend this training, which ends a few days before their deployment to the mission area.

The AFSR has cooperated with many countries in UN Missions. Besides Austria we support the tasks of Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, USA, Germany and others.

Negotiations to create a joint Czech- Slovak unit for KFOR are ongoing. Training KFOR's commanders is at the Vyskov peacekeeping base. The former Slovak engineer detachment became an integral part of KFOR under NATO command in September 1999. At the time the detachment was based in Camp Casablanca near the town of Suva Reka and its area of responsibility was in the German Czech - Slovak KFOR battalion. Over the years our military service personnel have

been directly subordinated to the Commander of Multinational Brigade Centre with headquarters in Pristina, but they remain stationed in the Czech-Slovak camp in Sajkovac.

Currently, approximately 17000 servicemen and woman serving from 35 countries are serving in the KFOR mission. Slovak contingent fulfill tasks as part of the multinational brigade Centre. Their tasks are to patrol the border with Serbia, protect the Serbian minority, returning Serbian ex-

ASFR UN mission

	Mission	Country	Tasks	Duration
1.	UNFICYP	Cyprus	Observing land between conflict sides. Sec4. buffer zone and humanitarian help	2001 – go on
2.	UNDOF	Syria	Supervise the implementation of the agreement and maintain ceasefire	1998 – go on
3.	UNTSO	Izrael, Lebanon, Syria	Monitoring and observing peace activity and escort humanitarian goods	1998 – go on
4.	UNOSOM	Somalia	Monitoring stop fire, escorting humanitarian	1992 - 1993
5.	UNAVEN II. III. MONUA	Angola	Monitoring stop fire, support renew peace, MONUA support renew country	1992 – 1999
6.	UNTAG	Namibia	Observers - With former Czechoslovakia	1991-1992
7.		Yugoslavia	Unarmed given part of country, support humanitarian help, EOD tasks, engineering installations	1992- 1996
8.	UNATES	Former Yugoslavia East Slavonic	Supervising unarmed, humanitarian help, EOD work, monitoring arrived refugees, support reintegration under administration Croatia	1996- 1998
9.	UNOMIL	Liberia	Investigation misconduct peace keep, unarmed warriors	1993-1994
10.	UNMUR	Uganda	Monitoring border between Uganda and Rwanda	1993-1994
11.	UNAMIR	Rwanda	Support implementation peace agreement	1994-1994
12.		West Sahara	Monitoring cease fire line and prepare referendum	Has not been started
13.	UNAMSIL	Sierra Leone	Implementation peace agreement, supervising on unarmed, demobilization and reintegration	1999-2005
14.	UNGCI	Iraq	Support humanitarian help	2000- 2003
15.		Iraq	Verification liquidation NBC weapons and rockets	2003-2003
16.	UNMEE	Eritrea/ Ethiopia	Mine cleaning border strip and other engineering works	2000- 2004
17.	UNTAET UNMISSET	East Timor	Health help in the temporary period after get independent	2001-2003

OGG - Family OP Visit

The Families of the Military Observers had a wonderful opportunity to visit OPs 57 and 58, find out more about UNMOs' life during OP weeks, and to visit the destroyed village of Qunaitra and Khan Arnabe...

Even if all of the dependants could live without knowing exactly what an OP looks like, the opportunity to see OPs, places where UNMO's, our fathers, husbands and friends are spending their weeks, while we are waiting for them in Damascus, was something that almost nobody wanted to miss.

So, 30 of us, for the majority a totally new experience, left Damascus in the bus, on a sunny but windy Friday morning, 10th of March 2006.

While travelling to the Golan Heights, we were very lucky to have Capt. Arjan van Daalen acting the role as our tour guide. He was able to answer almost all our questions, (and you can just imagine how many questions women can ask). He told us some very interesting stories about life in this part of Syria, about local customs, and more importantly about UNMO's experiences, like the story about the dog Oscar that came back to the OP after four days, after everybody thought that he would never be seen again...

Of course, Capt Van Daalen provided us with information about recent history, and about very important UN experiences in this region for the last 58 years.

We visited OP 58 first. Everything was a new experience for



The Families of the Military Observers

us. Comdt. Johan Demuynck, and Capt. Francesco Arzente, were already on this OP for four days and they did an excellent job, showing us around and explaining everything about their life on OP. They told us a lot about their duty during the whole OP week. And, thanks to this OP trip, they both had an unusual opportunity to meet their wives as OP guests in the middle of OP week.

Like really good hosts, they offered us coffee, tea, biscuits... But we still do not understand why they did not make biscuits for us themselves, since they have a very good kitchen, and, obviously, a lot of experience in cooking.

On OP 57 we met Capt. Dejan Okovic and Capt. Giovanni Rossi. They showed us their OP, where they had just arrived that morning only a few hours before us. Anyway, with the help of their colleagues, they managed to or-

ganize lunch for all of us – some typical syrian fast food shwarma, and soft drinks, coffee and tea.

On our way back we visited Qunaitra, a village totally destroyed during the October war, and Marko's and John's Jewellery shop in Khan Arnabeh. Marko's is a very well known shop that is celebrating its 15th anniversary of opening. Marko offered us almost everything you can imagine. John offered for sale all kinds of jewels and one of the employees kept telling us: »If your husband really loves you, he will buy a diamond ring for you in our shop...«

Anyway, our day on the Golan, visiting OPs manned by Team Oasis was something really special for all of us. We came back home, to Damascus a little bit tired because of the long journey, but completely satisfied with our experience.

Author: Adriana Kui

OGG-T - Change of Command

A Combined Medal Parade and Change of Command Ceremony was hosted by OGG-T in the MAC House Tiberias on 24 Mar 06. There were twenty-two medal recipients on parade – from UNTSO HQ, ODD, OGG-D, OGG-T and OGE. Personnel from OGL did not, unfortunately, attend due to the closure of the crossing at Rosh Haniqra.

COS UNTSO presided over the combined ceremony and guests included Senior Staff from UNTSO HQ and UNDOF HQ, representatives from AUS-BATT and POLBATT UNDOF,



22 medal recipients on parade from UNTSO HQ, ODD, OGG-D, OGG-T and OGE

representatives from GILO and families of OGG-T UNMOs.



Lt Col Armin Lehner handed over command to Lt Col Jan Willem Mezger

At the Change of Command Ceremony, outgoing Chief OGG-T, Lt Col Armin Lehner handed over command to Lt Col Jan Willem Mezger from the Netherlands. Following the Ceremony, the guests were treated to a light meal and refreshments. The day was considered a success by all who attended.

Author: Comdt Jerry Crowley



The New Chief OGG-T

Lt Col Jan Willem Mezger is 46 years old, and is married with three daughters. He joined the RNLA in 1979 and was commissioned as a professional Cavalry Officer. He served for 14 years with Tank Battalions in Germany (1983-1990) and the Netherlands (1994-2000).

His first UN mission was with UNTSO 1990-1991 and he served in OGG-T and OGL. In 1997 he served as a Maj in Operations with a mechanised battalion (SFOR 2) in Bosnia. During the last 5 years he has been Commanding Officer of the Dutch Cavalry School and Military Commander of the Northern Netherlands.

Electrical power distribution in UNDOF

The power comes from 95% of Generators and 5% from the local power grid, supplying power to all HQ'S and Positions in AOS. After the power is created, someone needs to distribute this

Power to its Consumers. This is the jobs of the civilian and military electricians serving in the mission.

The Field Service Electrical Unit, now part of the Engineering Section has been in charge of Electrical Management since 1985/87, which includes budget for electrical project & maintenance, material and tools for the mission. All planning and approval for project & maintenance repair and regular inspections is part of the responsibilities. On my return from East Timor, November 2000, the Electrical Unit started the process of planning process of upgrading Camp ZIOUANI, Camp FAOUAR and Positions in AOS. As of April 05, 2006 Electrical



Group photograph: l-r, f-b: WO I Bernhard Brüstle, Moursel Rakkab, Ian P. Murray, Terje Andersen, Sgt Surendra Singh, Sgt Yallappa Hugar, Cpl Rene Bartl, Cpl Gregor Hirschberger, Cpl Christian Hofer, LCpl Valentin Podobnig, Rafi Amoghlian, Garabe Mildosian, Ismael Diab, Samer Al-Khoury, WO I Alfred Konrad

Unit has upgraded all UNDOF with new power distributions, security lighting and support to all new and some old constructions with new electrical installations. As to complete the overall renovations, I provided UNDOF with an Introduction

to the International Electrical Engineering Wiring Regulation, based on British Standard (BSi). This introduction material was based on training material provided by NY/UNLB training courses in Brindisi and Asmara (Eritrea) attended by my self and Mr. Amoughlian and Mr. Mildosian. The main issue for these introductions to UNDOF Contingent & Engineering Sections and all electricians and its consumers is to make attentions to "Continuing Future Safety Development" "After Well Done Job Completed". Improvement of LOG.DIR 608 is part of these developments.

Mr. Murray attended the opening of the seminar, emphasizing to all the participants, the importance of the awareness to ensuring Safe and Sound Electrical Installations for UNDOF.



Chief Civilian Engineer Officer Ian P. Murray attended the opening of the seminar

Author: Terje Andersen

UNDOF Force Modernization Program

The UNDOF FC, General Wrangler had initiated the Force Modernization Program, in 2001. After planning tasks have been issued in the years 2001/02 the very first projects became visible on the ground in the year 2003. With the inauguration ceremony of the consolidated kitchen in Camp Ziouani we will experience the conclusion of this extensive undertaking.

Before celebrating such a momentous occasion, we must recognize the huge responsibility given the UNDOF Engineering Section for the years 2004/05. Viewing the vastness of activities will eventually explain this more clearly.

During this period of time new quarters have been provided to more than 500 soldiers within UNDOF, which equals roughly 50 % of its total strength of military personnel. The DOMINO Plan was initiated and within 14 months, 11 positions were demolished successfully completing this plan.

Meanwhile remaining positions were upgraded, receiving new generators thus increasing the power output. In addition, six water wells were drilled and linked together with water filtration systems enhancing the water supply of some UN installations. At the same time septic fields were installed at every UN installation with the aim to pay more attention to the environment impact the UN has on the local area. Morale being very important to the success of any mission led to the provision of new kitchen

facilities and appliances to most positions.

In the field of operations, two new command posts have been constructed. They have been handed over either to the Austrian or the Logistics Battalions. Approximately 25 km of the patrol track has been widened, levelled and maintained by JCON heavy equipment assets in order to support the concept of Mobil Patrolling in an effective manner.

In the area of communications and its modernization, tremendous engineering achievements have been accomplished. Two building structures, 'Radome Shapes' have been put in place at Hermon South and on top of Hermon Hotel at the altitude of 2,814 m. To each site 70 tons of cement was delivered. In addition 13 foundations have been constructed including rebar and anchors, serving as bases for the erection of self-supported communication towers. Some towers reach a height of 70 m like at Posn 80 A. The spacious double storey CITS building at Camp Faouar was operational for quite a few months and has an in floor heating system.

In the range of security engineering several shelters have been constructed. These were engineered with the comfort of the soldier in mind. Apart from security & safety they will offer more comfort to the troops should the requirement to occupy them ever occur.

In security related matters more projects will follow which my successor will have to deal

with as well as with the re-construction of the new medical centre at Camp Faouar. Requirement and functional analysis have been concluded recently, consuming a lot of time, taking both the engineers and the medical staff several months to complete.

Generally it was my engineering staff at UNDOF HQ Engineering Section, which contributed so many efforts into the completion of the Force Modernization Programme and its ultimate success. However, I cannot forget the Battalion engineers who made the structures cosy at the end.

In closing I would like sincerely thank and to congratulate not only the engineers but also everybody who did their part to make such a challenge a resounding success.

Author: Maj Roman Zaller



*The 'Radome Shape' at Hermon Hotel, 2814m
Mission accomplished for Engineers*



טעג
שטח פערדע
הכניסה לרובע צא
חסרה

