

GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



July - September 2010
No. 124



DEAR READER!



I proudly present the new edition of the Golan Journal which covers the UNDOF activities throughout the summer. During the past three months, some of the UNDOF military Press Officers were replaced. On this occasion I sadly say good-bye and wish to thank LtCol Kartik Kumar Singh (INDCON), Capt Shunsuke Nohira (J-CON), and our Canadian proofreader LCdr Scott Guild for their support and hard work. We welcome Maj Siddhendra Singh Panwar, Lt I Koji Wada, and Maj Dan Morrison. I would also like to point out that my assignment as the Staff Officer Public Relations draws to an end and I want to thank all of our loyal readers for staying with us and all the Press Officers for their hard work.

This issue covers a lot of interesting stories. Please enjoy reading about UNDOF's military competition - the UNDOF Challenge - which lasted for three days and did not only push the competitors to their physical limits but also proved their shooting and driving skills. Additionally, we cover the newly established Supply Section, the

Crowd and Riot Control training in the Force HQ-Coy, the Changes of Command in INDCON and J-CON and many other events that took place within the c o n t i n -



Our team: Arnold, Karl, Muneyuki, and Gerold

I hope you enjoy our latest issue!

Karl Curin

Yours sincerely,
Maj Karl Curin, SOPR

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Front (Page 1): Sgt Seiya Nagata, J-CON
Photo by WO II Arnold Felfer

Back (Page 24): Thistel
Photo by WO II Arnold Felfer

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Force Commander's Message

To the Peacekeepers of UNDOF!

With the hot summer days behind us and the beautiful fall days upon us I would first like to congratulate all personnel, Civilian and Military, on their continued professionalism and dedication to UNDOF and our mission.

We live in changing times more than ever. Mostly due to the continued influx of people coming to establish themselves in our area of responsibility, our mission can no longer remain static. All these local developments create an ever changing situation requiring dynamic operational and tactical responses. Finished are the days where we can sit in our positions and Observation Posts and only perform observation and reporting. We need to make our presence felt and minimize the number of violations that go undetected and uncorrected.



We also have changes in the socio-political situation. We only have to look at the events of the recent months. We have, for the first time in memory, an interest in a joint UNDOF - Syrian Red Crescent, Mine Awareness educational program to be created in our Area of Operations as well as other initiatives being created by our newly appointed Civil Affairs officer. On a positive note, due to the flexibility and adaptability of the battalions, we now see a trend of substantial reduction in smuggling activity and shepherd violations. Unfortunately, whenever one challenge seems solved, another arises that requires continued flexibility. We must continue to be vigilant!

Additionally, we also have to deal with internal change. UNDOF is a relatively small family and change is not always easy for us. I have been very pleased with how the UNDOF team has managed through the changes in civilian and military personnel and I am proud of how adaptable each of you has been throughout my tenure as the Force Commander.

To all members of UNDOF, I thank you for your continued hard work and the dedication with which you complete your tasks every day. It is your effort and accomplishments at every level that ensure that UNDOF is a dependable, trustworthy and effective force in maintaining peace on the Golan Heights.

In the Service of Peace, to everyone in UNDOF, I say to you God bless you and thank you!

Major General Natalio C. Ecarma III
Force Commander UNDOF

Chief of Staff Words



Time has really flown by and we are already at the doorstep of winter. We have weathered a lot whilst enduring the summer heat and the blistery conditions synonymous with it. A lot of changes in the HQ staff and rotation of contingents has taken place in the interim giving the composition of UNDOF a new look. Change being the only constant in life we need to take this into our stride and plan and move ahead so that the momentum generated thus far is not impeded. Some veterans in the mission area have been bid adieu and some greenhorns have been welcomed aboard. All components of UNDOF are performing their respective tasks diligently and in the most professional manner so that no cog in the wheel goes missing.

The past couple of months have seen hectic activity in the Area of Limitation (AOL) on either side as was anticipated for this time of the year and the contingents and OGG

UNMOs were geared up for it. UNDOF has made successful forays in the domain of Civic Affairs in order to further improve the understanding of its charter of duties by the local civilians and act as an interface in areas of mutual cooperation with local agencies within the ambit of the mandate. The legacy of conflict in the form of minefields poses a potential hazard to mankind in general and specifically to patrolling activities of UNDOF. Every precaution is being taken and preventive measures enforced to avoid any accidents. UNDOF is continuing to extend its expertise in this field through active supervision of civilian de-mining efforts in the Area of Separation (AOS).

The changes in the geo-political fabric tend to indicate that UNDOF is functioning in interesting times and may become part of the historic and elusive peace that may transcend on this region in due

course of time. This calls for greater resolve on all constituents of UNDOF not to be caught wrong footed by not being in tune with the complexities and nuances of the issues that affect the region. We cannot be complacent at any point of time hence the need to constantly evolve and adapt to the changing dynamics that seem so subtle and look insignificant. There ought to be no compromise on the impartiality and neutrality that forms the basis of all activities of UNDOF with the parties to the agreement. We must make a sincere effort to better integrate and synergize all constituent

elements of UNDOF so that there is greater efficiency and proficiency in all our endeavors.

The staff at the HQ should be always alive to and conversant with the situation obtaining on ground so that they can anticipate requirements and plan ahead in a realistic manner. To be a part of history calls for a special facilitating effort on the part of UNDOF and we are the ones to make it happen. I am hopeful that each member of the extended family of UNDOF will rise to the occasion so that UNDOF continues to retain the mantle of being the most successful mission of all times.

Best Wishes,

Col Gurvir Singh Kahlon
Chief of Staff UNDOF

Visits to UNDOF

by Capt Muneyuki Yatsuo, DMPIO



H.E. Mrs. Maria Kunz, Austrian Ambassador, visited Camp Faouar and AUSBATT 1st Company (29th July 2010)



Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, Japanese Deputy Ambassador, visited Camp Ziouani and met with COS UNDOF (11th August 2010)



Mr. Masahisa Sato, a member of the House of Councilors, visited Camp Ziouani, Position 22 and OP 51 (18th August 2010)



BGen V. George, Deputy Director General Staff Duties (A) of the Indian Army, inspected INDCON and met with FC UNDOF (19th - 23rd August 2010)



Col Ronald Knauseder and Col Jasenko Krovinovic inspected Austrian and Croatian troops and visited UNDOF HQ (24th - 29th August 2010)



17 Embassy Interns received an UNDOF briefing at Golan Hospital in Quneitra (28th August 2010)



The new CO/LOGBATT

LtCol Samarjeet Kumar Pal was born on 14th Jul 1971 in Siliguri, West Bengal, India. After completing training at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai, he was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery on 20th Aug 1994. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from North Bengal University, Siliguri and a Master of Science degree in Weapon Systems and Technology from Poona University. He has undergone the Artillery Young Officers Course, the Advance Gunnery Course, the Regimental Survey Officer Course and the Junior Command Course. He has also successfully completed the Long Gunnery Staff Course and is a qualified Instructor in Gunnery (IG).

LtCol Pal has served as a Troop Leader, Gun Position Officer, Observation Post Officer, Battery Commander, Adjutant, and Second in Command at different operational and peacekeeping regions while with 169 Fd Regt (OP Hill) and other artillery regiments. He has also served as a Company Commander with the Special Counter Insurgency Force, the Rashtriya Rifles. In addition to the numerous regimental appointments, he has also served as a General Staff Officer - Grade One (Operations) in a Strike Corps formation.

LtCol Pal is married to Tulika and they are blessed with an eight year old son, Sanskaar and two year old daughter, Samridhhi. He likes reading, listening to music and making electronic gadgets.



The new CO/J-CON

Maj Toshikatsu Musha was born on 19th Mar 1976, in Gunma, Japan. Maj Musha graduated from National Defense Academy in 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in International Relationships. Following graduation he joined the Officer Candidate Course and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in 1999. He was assigned as a Rifle Platoon Leader and the S-3 Operations Officer in the 6th Infantry Regiment until 2005.

Further on he was a student at the Expeditionary Warfare School, United States Marine Corps, from 2005 to 2006 and graduated from the Command and General Staff Course in 2008. After graduation he was assigned as a Rifle Company Commander in the 16th Infantry Regiment. Prior to his present command appointment as the 30th J-CON Commander, Maj Musha was assigned as a Staff Officer within the Japanese Defense Force 4th Division. His motto to his soldiers are the words "Challenge and Ready" – in Japanese "Semeyo Sonaeyo" emphasizing the need to meet challenges by being ready.

Maj Musha is married and has three children, one girl and two boys. He enjoys tennis and traveling.



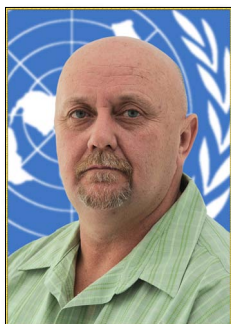
The new CO/CANCON

Maj Kent Stewart was born on 4th Dec 1963 in Toronto, Canada. He joined the Canadian Forces in 1985 and was posted as a Tank Troop Leader and Instructor in the Armor School. In 1993 Maj Stewart was appointed as the Battle Captain of the Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron and completed as the Second in Command. In 1996 he was posted to the 1st Canadian Division Headquarters in Kingston as the G5 Civil-Military Cooperation Plans Officer. While there he deployed on two humanitarian operations, initially to Uganda and Rwanda in 1996 and later in 1997 to Winnipeg during the Red River Flood crisis. Since 1999 he was the Commander's Executive Assistant in the Land Force Doctrine and Training System (LFDTS) Headquarters. Maj Stewart also served in Eritrea/Ethiopia as a Military Observer in

2002. Upon his return he was Instructor, Operations Officer, and the Adjutant of the Peace Support Training Centre. In 2005, Major Stewart deployed to Afghanistan as the Task Force Commander's EA. His latest appointment was the LFDTS HQ Commanding Officer.

Maj Stewart is a graduate of the Armor School and the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College and was appointed to the Order of Military Merit in 2009.

He is married to Leslie and they have one son, Dylan. He and his son play in the drum corps of the Rob Roy Pipe Band and he enjoys studying history.



The new CSO

Mr. Anthony Feeney was born on 2nd Mar 1964 in Geelong, Australia. Mr. Feeney joined the United Nations in March 2005, accepting a position as the Quality Manager in MINUSTAH (Haiti) and latter moving into the position of Chief Rations Unit. When the position of the Chief Supply in UNDOF became vacant, he applied and arrived in the mission on 23rd Jun 2010.

Prior to joining the United Nations Mr. Feeney completed 24 years in the Australian Army. He enlisted at the age of 18. His service included a tour of duty in East Timor, and finishing with the rank of Warrant Officer Class One.

Mr. Feeney is married with two children aged 18 and 21 who reside in Australia. He enjoys spending time with his children, following rugby and traveling.



The new CGS

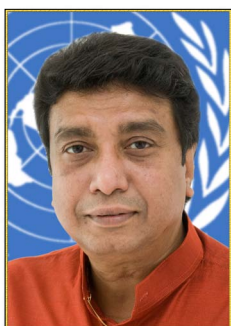
Mr. Ivan Radev was born on 22nd May 1959 in Sara Zagora, Bulgaria. He graduated from Foreign Language Lycee in Stara Zagora in 1978 (French, Russian and English), the National Military Academy in Veliko Tarnovo in 1982 (Communications) and National Defense College in Sofia in 1999 (Logistics). In addition to that in 2003, after three years studying from distance he obtained a Degree in Business Administration in Svishtov, University of Economics, Bulgaria and Senior Management and Administration Training (SMART) in UNLB, Brindisi in 2009.

His professional career began in 1978 when he joined the Bulgarian Army. From 1982 until 1992 he served as a Platoon Leader, Company Commander in different Battalions and Regiments and as Chief of Communication Center in the National Defense College. In September 1993 Mr. Radev was assigned as Chief Personnel for the National Defense College until December 1999 when he decided to retire.

During his military service Mr. Radev worked in two DPKO missions – UNTAC, Cambodia in 1992 as Military Observer and UNMOT, Tadjikistan in 1995 as Chief Military Personnel and Logistics Officer and Team Leader.

After his retirement, in Mar 2001 he joined United Nations as a civilian staff member as a Supply Officer in MONUC, Congo until Feb 2005. From Mar 2005 until Jun 2010 he was appointed as a Supply Officer in MINUSTAH, Haiti. During all this period Mr. Radev has been performing the duties of Warehouse Manager, Planning and Requisitioning Officer, Regional Supply Officer and Chief of General Supply Unit. For almost ten years civilian service in missions, Mr. Radev has 27 months experience as OiC Section Chief. From 1st Jul 2010 Mr. Radev took over the duties of Chief General Services in UNDOF.

Mr. Radev is divorced and has two children, a son, Ilyan (24) and a daughter, Albena (17). He likes music, movies, books, traveling, fishing and hunting as well the good cuisine.



The new CCPO

Mr. Nihal Saheed was born on 23rd Sep 1958 in Karawanella, Sri Lanka. Mr. Saheed was educated at Kingswood College in Kandy, Sri Lanka. He holds a Masters Degree in Business Management and a Diploma in Human Resources Management from Fairfax University, Louisiana, USA.

Mr. Saheed started working with the private sector in 1984 with Bartleets Electronics Limited, Colombo, Sri Lanka and joined the NGO Sector as a Consultant for a Danish Company Kamsax Kruger (DANIDA) in 1988. After four years he joined the UN as a United Nations Volunteer – 1992/93 and worked in UNTAC, Cambodia 1994. He joined the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) in 1995 and UNMIK, Kosovo in 1999. From 2002 onwards he was assigned to UN Headquarters in New York and went to UNMOGIP, Pakistan in 2005. Since 2nd Aug 2010 he was assigned to UNDOF as the new CCPO.

Mr. Saheed is married to Vijitha and they have one son, Nisala. His hobbies are reading, playing guitar and harmonica and he is interested in Jazz, Blues and Country music.

Supply Section, Life Blood of the Mission

Supply Section provides supply support to the mission ensuring the operational tempo is maintained.

The Supply Section was established in April 2010, by splitting functions previously held under the General Services Section. The Section as a whole provides the life blood of the mission

providing rations, fuel and general supply items to the Force. Without these items the mission would quickly fail to maintain their mandated operations.

The Supply Section is staffed by 20 members; the section has an integrated workforce consisting of two international staff members, ten military staff and eight national staff members. The section consists of three units; the Rations Unit, the Fuel Unit, and the General Supply Unit. These units are responsible to the Chief Supply Officer, Mr. Anthony Feeney.

The Rations Unit provides rations to deployed members of UNDOF;

this is sometimes a thankless area of expertise. Rations are always closest to the soldier's heart (an army marches on its stomach!) and one which is always under the closest scrutiny by the diners. In addition, the unit provides drinking water to offices for both military and civilian staff and caters and maintains the mission reserve stocks of ration packs and bottled water; these stocks are distributed and stored at the contingent positions, and monitored for serviceability and shelf life. The unit, in conjunction with the Force Hygiene Officer, conducts

food safety and hygiene inspections on kitchens and storage facilities in all camps and positions. This also provides the opportunity for the unit to work closely with the contingents and provides them with a better understanding of their catering



Mr. Anthony Feeney (center) along with his integrated workforce of Supply Section



CGSU briefing the new SO Supply on AOR

equipment requirements. The unit is also responsible for all the kitchen equipment and provides support in the replacement of old and broken equipment.

The General Supply Unit is a constant hive of activity, providing



SO Food inspects the ration stock



Warehouse staff at work



Issuance of stationery



Fuel staff updates the Fuel Log system

everything from pens to night vision devices, monthly issues of stationery and cleaning equipment, and reacts to adhoc requests in support of the mission. To provide this support, the unit maintains four warehouses in Camp Faouar for stationery, cleaning equipment, general stores, and major equipment assets and also holds the mission's 30 day strategic reserves.

The Fuel Unit is a never ending story allocating Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants to the mission on a daily basis to ensure the fleet of vehicles and generators are running. In support of the mission the unit provides fuel to twenty fuel distribution points, six of these being fuel stations operating fifteen pumps. The fuel is delivered to Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani by contractors, and then the

Fuel Unit manages the distribution to contingent positions by four fuel trucks which are maintained by the contingents and tasked by Fuel Unit to complete the deliveries as required. Oils and lubricants are issued as

requested. The unit accounts for the fuel by the Fuel Log system which records all issues and receipts of fuel in the mission. To maintain and keep the system serviceable consumes a great deal of time from the Chief



Warehouse manager verifies stock list

Fuel Unit.

In closing we look forward to your support in achieving our goals and aim to provide the most effective supply support to the mission.

*Article by Maj Mandeep Viridi,
SO Supply*

Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer



Loading of rations for issuance



Contract delivery of rations in Camp Faouar

UNDOF Challenge

UNDOF soldiers once again demonstrated their proficiency of military skills during the conduct of the “UNDOF Challenge 2010” competition organized by the Mission Training Cell (MTC) from 1st – 3rd Jul 2010.

The objectives of the UNDOF Challenge are to develop camaraderie amongst peacekeepers, motivate soldiers to improve their core military skills and test their level of proficiency. This year's events were: a GPS based Navigation Competition, a Shooting Competition, and a “Rodeo” Driving Competition. To ensure that the events were conducted smoothly, MTC delegated the execution of the competition to the units. In one of the conferences, UNDOF Training Officers agreed on the dates, number of participants per team and the units responsible to conduct the competition.

Before starting the first event on 1st July, Maj Rodolfo Gesim, SSO Training/Plans briefed all the participants of the 13 competing teams on the objectives and different events to be completed during the UNDOF Challenge.



The participants are briefed about the UNDOF Challenge

1st Jul 2010 - GPS Competition

The GPS Competition was conducted by the LOGBATT in the area of the Kibbutz Odem on A-Side. The Operations Officer briefed the participants on the rules and regulations of the competition. He emphasized the “no crossing policy” over fences, minefields and identified danger areas as the competition took place close to an IDF training area. At 10:00hrs, the first team was released followed by succeeding teams with a gap of five minutes. All teams were tasked to locate six targets marked by UNDOF personnel within approximate navigational distance of 20 km. The J-CON team was held-up by IDF soldiers due to their live firing exercises which were conducted very close to the navigational area, but they were released a few minutes later and continued their navigation safely.

The Indian teams had an overwhelming desire to win and were running from the release point toward their last target. It is no wonder that they achieved the shortest time in this competition.

GPS winners: 1st – INDCON1 in 2:46:00, 2nd – 1st PI/FHQ-Coy in 3:41:00 and 3rd – 2nd Coy/ PHILBATT in 3:53:00.

2nd Jul 2010 - Shooting Competition

The Shooting Competition was conducted by AUSBATT at the Mazra Bayt Jinn range. At 08:30hrs the Cdr HQ-Company briefed the participants on the mechanics of the event. The participants had to cross the 400 m obstacle course towards their firing positions, which included trip wires, carrying a load of 80 kg on a stretcher, breaking through other obstacles, and then shoot their 16 targets at a distance of 40 meters. Teams that returned ammunition (displaying excellent marksmanship) had time deducted from their total time.

Result of Shooting Competition: 1st – HQ-Coy/AUSBATT with a time of 0:54, 2nd – 2nd PI/FHQ-Coy in 2:15 and 3rd – 2nd Coy/PHILBATT in 2:21.

3rd Jul 2010 - “Rodeo” Driving Competition

The Rodeo Driving Competition was conducted on the parade square in Camp Faouar by FHQ-Coy. The participants had to push a vehicle 30 m from the start line to the second station where they would have to change one tire. The teams would then drive the vehicle, passing along a series of obstacles, and finish in a parking lot. For every obstacle bumped, a penalty of additional time was awarded to ensure driving proficiency.

Winners of Driving Competition: 1st – 2nd Coy/AUSBATT with 4:04, 2nd – 1st PI/FHQ-Coy in 4:08 and 3rd – HQ-Coy/AUSBATT in 4:21.

*Article by Maj Rodolfo Gesim,
SSO Training/Plans
Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer*

The UNDOF Challenge was attended by the Force Commander and members of the various contingents. On the last day at 14:00hrs, FC UNDOF, MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, National Contingent Commanders, Branch Heads and other UNDOF personnel gathered at the parade square in Camp Faouar to witness the award ceremony.

The winning prizes were handed over by respective unit commanders while major prizes were presented by Force Commander assisted by Acting COS, LtCol Volkmar Ertl. The Overall Champion was 1st Pl/FHQ-Coy under its team leader SSgt Thomas Eichelsberger, followed by HQ-Coy/AUSBATT under Sgt Anton Haider and 3rd place went to 2nd Coy/PHILBATT under Capt Loel Talpis. All winners received plaques and all participants were awarded UNDOF Challenge certificates.



HQ-Coy AUSBATT took 2nd Place



1st Place - taken by 1st Pl/FHQ-Coy



2nd Coy PHILBATT was on 3rd Place



Every participant is a winner having successfully completed the UNDOF Challenge

UNIT	TEAM LEADER	POINTS EARNED			TOTAL	STANDING
		GPS	SHOOTING	RODEO		
1/FHQ	SSgt Thomas EICHELSBERGER	12/2 nd	10	12/2 nd	34	1 st
HQ/AB	Sgt Anton HAIDER	8	13/1 st	11/3 rd	32	2 nd
2/PB	Capt Loel TALPIS	11/3 rd	11/3 rd	7	29	3 rd
J-CON	WO II Katsuma YAMABE	10	7	10	27	4 th
2/FHQ	Sgt Ricky MENDEZ	4	12/2 nd	8	24	5 th
INDCON1	Cpl B. K. YADAV	13/1 st	6	4	23	6 th
2/AB	Sgt Galid SALIHOVIC	1	9	13/1 st	23	6 th
1/PB	Capt Vicente DELOS SANTOS	6	5	6	17	8 th
INDCON3	Capt Vikas BALIYAN	8	3	5	16	9 th
3/AB	SSgt Aleksandar MARKOVIC	2	4	9	15	10 th
INDCON2	Sgt Satyaveer SINGH	9	2	3	14	11 th
INDCON4	Sgt A. K. SWAIN	5	8	1	14	11 th
HQ/PB	Maj Jonas TEMPLO	3	1	2	6	13 th



OF
enge

FIRST PLACE

SECOND PLACE

THIRD PLACE



Civilian Mine Clearing in AUSBATT AOR

For the benefit and safety of the local Syrian population, mine clearing specialists of AUSBATT supported a civilian mine clearing project.



EOD commander briefs the AUSBATT team

In 2005, the first so-called "civilian mine clearing project" was initiated in the area of the 2nd Company of AUSBATT near the village of Al Hamidiyeh. In this project, agricultural land within the Area of Separation (AOS) was cleared of mines by minesweepers contracted from a civilian company in order to ensure the safety of farmers cultivating this land.

As it is the intention of the Force Commander, MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, to continue to support these projects within the UNDOF mandate, a similar request by Syrian authorities to continue with another project south-west of the village of



Civilian minesweepers prepare their equipment

agreement was reached as to which land and how much area would be allowed to be cleared. A distance of at least 100 m must be maintained towards the A-Line, which is clearly marked with red-white-red barrels. Furthermore, it was agreed, that AUSBATT

EOD specialists will monitor the activities of civilian minesweepers to ensure their safety in accordance with UNDOF standards. It became apparent at the first meeting that their safety regula-

tions did not fulfill AUSBATT standards. Therefore, a much more thorough and detailed briefing was provided by the Austrian EOD team to lower the risk of potential harm for our own troops and also for the Syrian team. For this reason our EOD team trained the civilian company on site and carried out the first blasting of mines in order to achieve the required safety standards. With the cooperation of all, the project was successfully finished at the end of September without any incident, resulting in the production of three hectares of safe farmland that can now be used for agricultural development. In the meantime another request for the clearing of three additional fields has been approved and these projects should be completed by the end of January 2011.



Dangerous job to search for mines between the rocks

During the period 2005-2006, a total of 2600 anti-tank mines were collected and blown up by the civilian experts. Last year, the fields were cleared of about 1800 mines for the benefit and safety of the local population living in the AOS.

*Article by Maj Udo Hofer,
COO AUSBATT*

Photos by MSgt Wolfgang BAUER



Future fields for Syrian farmers

PHILBATT EOD and Engineers Undertake the "Barreling Project"

Engineer Teams successfully finished the "Barreling Project" along the A-Line and constructed a total of 17 new barrels and relocated 60 barrels in the AOS.



PHILBATT EOD uncovers ATM

With strong determination, the PHILBATT EOD and Engineers fused together and commenced the arduous groundwork of clearing minefields. Then began by marking specific places based on GPS UTM coordinates. This information was later confirmed by a team from the GIS, UNDOF. Also, EOD personnel cleared footpaths about a meter wide to provide safe passage to the

and freezing rain to heat. Not even the dangerous and tricky pathways filled with "Danger Mines" could deter them from achieving their goal to complete the project. The EOD Team unearthed 21 unexploded mines to pave the way for the Engineers. A total of 17 new barrels were constructed and 60 barrels relocated, refurbished and relabelled along the A-Line.

Here is one story: Its 06:00hrs and as the sun rises east of 86A Watchtower, a PHILBATT engineer team of about 14 men start their descent to the rugged ravine and steep slopes of Wadi ridges. On the back of each man is either a sack of sand or gravel, cement, digging tools or water container. Down the treacherous terrain runs a small stream where water will be collected into containers, and with other materials, will be carried again uphill to a GPS-determined location where a barrel is to be constructed.

The barrel itself is heavy stuff, made of two empty petrol drums welded together by a 5 cm diameter steel pole at both ends. Its length varies but at an average, it stands about 4.5 m that is visibly recognizable at a far distance when erected. The barrel is painted red with large white letters and numbers. But for PHIL-



E2 barrel put in place

BATT AOR alone, there were about 77 barrels at various locations along the A-Line. Not an easy project, but a job well done!

*Article by Maj Ricardo Ellorda, PIO
Photos by PHILBATT*



Heavily loaded on the way to the Wadi

sites and protect workers from anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. A medical team was also on standby in case of emergency in the area. The Engineers prepared the barrels, and then hauled gravel to the different sites, cemented the bases, and piled up boulders, all in an environment that ranged from winter cold wind



Cementing in - task complete

“The Logistics Limbs”

Even the finest soldiers function much better when provided with an efficient administrative and communication support. The Engineer and Signals Platoons of LOGBATT are designed for that very purpose.

The Indian Contingent Signals Platoon is responsible for providing first line communication support to LOGBATT. The personnel are the chosen from the best of the Corps of Signals of the Indian Army. Each soldier has a vast and varied experience in communications in diverse terrains of high altitude, deserts and jungles and also in counter terrorism and actual war scenarios.

The support by the platoon to UNDOF is for military radio equipment repair to component level, operation of combat net radio and maintenance of local cable reticulation. The primary support to LOGBATT consists of operating the various radio nets, namely HQ UNDOF, OGG, LOGBATT/INDCON and CZ Fire Net. The task also includes maintenance of the various types of communication cables and

handling of alarm and public address systems. In addition, the signals personnel also handle the national satellite rear link to India which provides a vital connection to the contingent's homeland.

the platoon for contingent purposes. A small number of private internet connections also provide low cost telephone connectivity to India for welfare purposes utilizing contingent-owned equipment.

The personnel of Signals Platoon also engage in training others in the field of IT outside UNDOF working hours as the present environment is highly conducive for the troops to get themselves technologically abreast of the rapidly evolving field of commu-

nication and networks.

Though their work is rarely visible on the surface, the high degree of professionalism and the relentless around the clock provision of communications by the Signalers goes a long way in ensuring that UNDOF and LOGBATT perform their operational role effectively.



Signals Platoon commanded by Maj S S Panwar (center)

The satellite television equipment and network for LOGBATT is also effectively managed by the Signals Platoon. The cable network provides a wide variety of Indian TV channels and also caters to the Japanese contingent requirements. An Information Technology (IT) training centre as well as a cyber café is run by





The Engineering Platoon is comprised of one officer, four warrant officers and 15 soldiers. The Platoon HQ is manned by the Chief Engineering Officer (CEO), two warrant officers and two sergeants and works with assistance from the Integrated Support System. This system enables any user connected to the UNDOF intranet to lodge a complaint for repairs or maintenance. The advantage that this system gives to engineers is that it assists in streamlining and prioritizing the tasks being allotted to them.

The most sought after workshop team of the engineers is the Air Conditioner (A/C) maintenance/repair team and the Plumbing and Heating team in summer and winter respectively. With the onset of summer, the air-conditioning systems function on peak load and hence the A/C team is tasked to carry out the requisite maintenance. The same is the case with the Plumbing & Heating team, though they are in demand mainly in the winter.

The other workshops in the platoon are of the electrician, carpenter and the construction supervisor. They are the unsung heroes of the platoon as they are less seen on the ground but do their bit to make the ambience and stay of the UNDOF personnel more comfortable.

The Electrician Workshop is manned by three electricians, who are responsible for three generators on the A-Side and security lighting

in Camp Ziouani (CZ), and first line electrician support to LOGBATT and second line support to PHILBATT.

The construction supervisor takes care of masonry construction in CZ and for providing details and estimates for renovation and new construction. The carpenter provides first line support to LOGBATT and second line assistance to PHILBATT.

The elite Indian Corps of Engineers has proved its mettle in this foreign land and in an international environment, and will continue to do so in future, living up to the much prided “EK EK SE DO GUNA” tradition, literally meaning every person giving 200%!

*Article by Maj S S Panwar, SigO
and Capt Abhimanyu Pathania, CEO
Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer*



Capt Abhimanyu Pathania (center), CEO and the Engineering Platoon

Shooting from the Personal Arms of the Croatian Contingent (HRVCON)

On 24th Sep 2010 the Croatian Contingent arranged a life firing exercise with the participation of FC, COS and COO UNDOF.



Top results for the first time firing the HS 2000 pistol



FC fills in another target with the HS 2000

In June, the Force Commander, MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, visited Position 16 in 3rd Company AUS-BATT. During an informal conversation, FC mentioned that he is a fan of weapons, particularly short arms. He further said that in his personal collection has a respectable number of pistols from different manufactur-

tion began immediately: assembling, disassembling and describing the characteristics of the weapon. Finally, the NCC proposed that FC could participate on the next life

firing exercise, so that he could be personally convinced of the quality of this weapon.

The realization of the shooting exercise was not so easy, due to the many obligations of the FC, the COS, Col Gurvir S. Kahlon, and COO UNDOF, LtCol Volkmar Ertl, but was finally arranged on 24th of September with the following weapons: HS 2000, AK 47 and M70 PS. Introducing of all weapons, firing mode, loading and unloading was presented by Lt I Damir Krobot,

Supply Officer, who himself once practiced shooting, and is currently authorized as a judge in the shooting. Following this orientation, the FC first fired the HS 2000, on the circular target from a distance of 25 meters. After first five rounds the FC

ers. The Position Commander gave him a presentation of the Croatian pistol HS 2000. The HS 2000 is currently one of the most wanted in the world market, particularly for its features. The presentation



Lt I Krobot introduces the AK 47 to the FC



COO UNDOF rips up the bullseye with the AK 47



COS practices with the M70 PS

proved that he is an excellent shooter and an expert in weapons. After that, COS and COO UNDOF showed that they do not fall far behind in the results. All results are for the first time very impressive, which can be attributed to the quality of the HS 2000 and also the expertise of the specialists operating the weapons. Afterwards, participants were shown different positions of the shooting as well as top results.

After the pistol, the group fired

the AK 47. Well known and respected around the world, this rifle in the hands of skilled archers only confirmed their military skills and training. The FC had a chance to shoot this rifle for his first time, and achieved remarkable results. Furthermore, FC presented the skills of Marines: shooting from the movements and instinctive shooting.

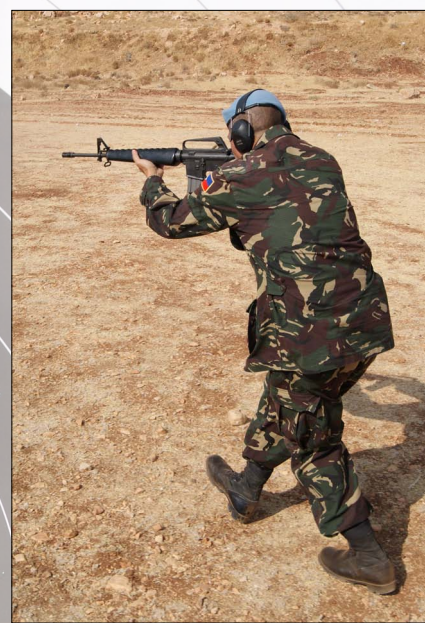
All participants then fired from an AK 47 and M70 PS, and reaffirmed the excellent results.

The gathering ended with a presentation of the Philippine Armed Forces weapons: M-16 A1 rifle and pistol Cal .45. The FC presented the skill of shooting with three fingers from the Cal .45 to prove that the recoil of this pistol is not that strong. After that, the remaining participants had an opportunity to shoot with the M-16 A1 and the pis-

tol Cal .45. Satisfied with the results the FC said: "This could be my team for the UNDOF Challenge, I would not have hesitated a single moment to compete with this team."

Upon completion of shooting, the FC, COS and COO UNDOF expressed their appreciation for a pleasant afternoon and a very professionally organized shooting exercise.

*Article by LtCol Slavko Stojanović,
NCC HRVCON
Photos by Cpl Dario Stekic*



FC fires during forward movement



FC demonstrates eagle's eye proficiency shooting from the prone position

Change of Command of Indian Contingent

The ninth rotation of INDCON took charge of LOGBATT on 23rd Jul 2010 at the Camp Ziouani parade ground in the presence of the Force Commander.

Amidst a dignified gathering of honored guests and following a splendid parade display by the INDCON troops, the Commanding Officer of the INDCON ninth rotation, LtCol Samarjeet Kumar Pal took over reins of LOGBATT from LtCol Tarak Mazumdar. The ninth rotation

consists of 46 personnel of 169 Field Regiment (OP Hill), 21 of Army Air Defense, 26 of Corps of Signals, 20 of Corps of Engineers, 23 of Army Service Corps, 32 of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, five members of the Army Medical Corps and seven members of the Corps of Military Police. The highly specialized composition was addressed by the Force Commander, MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, and encouraged to continue and further improve upon the operational efficiency of LOGBATT during their six month/one year tenure. The ceremony culminated with lunch at the International Kitchen.



The signing ceremony

The ninth rotation now with its feet firmly planted is leaving no stone unturned in accomplishing its role.

*Article by Maj S S Panwar, PressO
Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer*



INDCON presents a General Salute

J-CON Change of Command

The 29th Japanese Contingent handed over responsibilities in Camp Ziouani on 1st Sep 2010.

Force Commander, MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, H.E. Mr. Haruhisa Takeuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Israel, and honored guests from UNDOF and the host nation took part in this important event.

The 29th J-CON members lined up with pride and a sense of fulfillment, and the 30th J-CON soldiers with real excitement upon becoming members of the UNDOF fam-

ily. The incoming 30th commander, Maj Toshikatsu Musha, addressed guests, emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and pointing out that this is J-CON's 15th anniversary in UNDOF. He admired the achievements and contributions of the outgoing contingent under the command of Maj Shinji Sato and he promised to contribute further to the UNDOF mission, cooperating with fellow forces, in the same spirit as the former J-CON.

The event was followed by a reception with Japanese food in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere. In this way, the ceremony finished and the mission of the 30th rotation began. J-CON is a small unit con-



The Change of Command is official

sisting of only 43 soldiers but has received high evaluation by UNDOF HQ and other foreign forces since 1996 when we arrived to the mission. We will continue to do our best in UNDOF succeeding in the delivery of Japanese dedication to world peacekeeping.

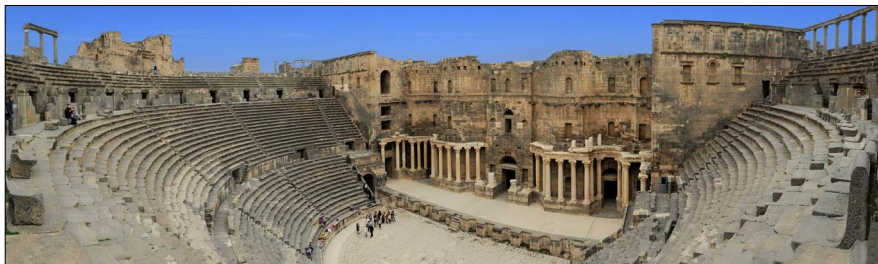
*Article by Lt I Koji Wada, PressO
Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer*



FC inspects J-CON troops

UNDOF Summer Welfare Activities

Useful leisure-time activities besides the duties increase the motivation of the soldiers. This was the slogan for the past welfare activities.



The Roman theater in Bosra

On 31st Jul 2010 a cultural tour was organized to the first Nabatean and later Roman Empire city of Bosra. The Force Commander, MGen Natalio Ecarma III, was joined in this welfare activity by the participation of 93 military and civilian personnel from UNDOF, all enjoying the pleasure of the acoustics in the second century Roman theater.



A good start - the first step to victory



For the first time in the history of UNDOF, a go-cart "grand prix", with 18 participants from Belgium, Canada, Philippines, Croatia, India and Austria was organized on 15th Aug 2010 at the track near the Damascus airport. The international competition was initiated by two warm-up and qualifying sessions that determined the starting grid for the race. Even beginners were able to improve their lap times by ten seconds during the sessions. Never the less, the Austrians dominated the "Grand Prix de Syrie" race, earning all three podium positions, first, second and third! Every participant received a racing cap and the winners were presented with trophies. This will certainly be an event continued in the future.

The "UNDOF Tennis Open" was also followed with great interest by a crowd of spectators held on the Camp from 17th - 19th Sep 2010. In total, the

tournament included 42 participants from J-CON, INDCON, PHILCON and AUCON, competing in singles and doubles competition. Also COS UNDOF, Col Guvir Kahlon, proved his talent and passion for the game, participating in both competitions! The Championships were hosted on the final day of competition, and again the Austrians captured first three places in the singles competition and also first place in the doubles, followed closely by two Philippine teams.



A mighty swing by COS



"UNDOF Tennis Open" participants

*Article by Capt Ekkehard Gröppel,
SO Welfare*

*Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer
and MSgt Peter Grassl*



How to Control a Crowd

During the past three months the soldiers of the Force HQ-Coy focused their military training attention on Crowd and Riot Control capabilities completed with an exercise in Camp Faouar.

Tension fills the air as the crowd stands apart. A large group of men were shouting, cursing and throwing things at UN soldiers. Step by step they were coming closer to our position forming a wall of man power with the intention to get into the position and take hostages.

One of our soldiers gets injured by a stone thrown from this rioting group of demonstrators. This was the proper time for the Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) team to arrive. The CRC team marched onto the scene wrapped from head-to-toe in body armor, with shields and batons at the ready. Immediately they formed a strong line, ready to repel the taunting crowd. This is a typical scenario of an exercise to train the CRC teams from the three different nations, the Philippines, Croatians and Austrians within the Force HQ-Coy.

CRC refers to the measures used by military or police to control and disperse civilians, who are involved in a riot, demonstration or protest. Furthermore different techniques

can easily be used for the protection and escort of civilians or soldiers. Concerning the principles in the application of force, the practical CRC lectures teach such concepts as, "Use of minimum force" and "Prevention".

We have to get our soldiers acquainted with the equipment they have to wear and to use in every situation and give them information about many other challenges that they may encounter during the performance of such an exercise.

Working here in the mission area, it is realistic to be prepared for UN



The "protection" formation during training ...



... and during the exercise

members becoming involved in demonstrations, and we have to be well trained to ensure the wellbeing of each member of UNDOF. It always takes some time to train three different nations, not only to learn individual skills, but to learn to work together as one team to ensure that you have confidence in the comrades by your side. Even the best soldier cannot do everything on his own; therefore team building is absolutely essential and fundamental to our success.



The "close line" formation to deter demonstrators

*Article by Capt Helmut Fiedler,
Cdr FHQ-Coy
Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer*

Four Nations Coexisting Under One Roof

The life between two gates – the life of MP Charlie Detachment where six MP members of four nations live together.

“It’s a privilege to be assigned here!” WO II Johann Horvath confides. “Knowing that I contribute, in my own little way, to preserve that fragile peace along the only passageway in the Area of Separation between Syria and the Israeli occupied area.” WO II Horvath knows of what he speaks. He is the Deputy Commander of the Military Police (MP) Charlie Detachment and has been with the MPs for over two

years now, also having served in other mission areas, but he likes it most to be in the MP Charlie Detachment.

MP Charlie Detachment is located between the Alfa- and the Bravo-Gate. It was established in 1974 and was originally known as Position 28. In 1992 the UNDOF Military Police assumed control from the AUS-

BATT. Today it is home to six MPs from Austria, Croatia, India and the Philippines - all living together under one roof.

Beaming with enthusiasm and professionalism, they are serving as the interface between the Gate to the A-Side and the Gate to the B-Side. They control and supervise the movement of UN members, ensuring that everyone is clean of contrabands and that

each has the proper documents to cross the gates. They also assist the ICRC when it conducts Humanitarian Crossings for Druze pilgrims and students, among others.

“Our daily routine starts when the gates open at 07:00hrs, and ends when they close at 17:00hrs when permanently one MP member is on



Druze pilgrims pass by at C-Detachment



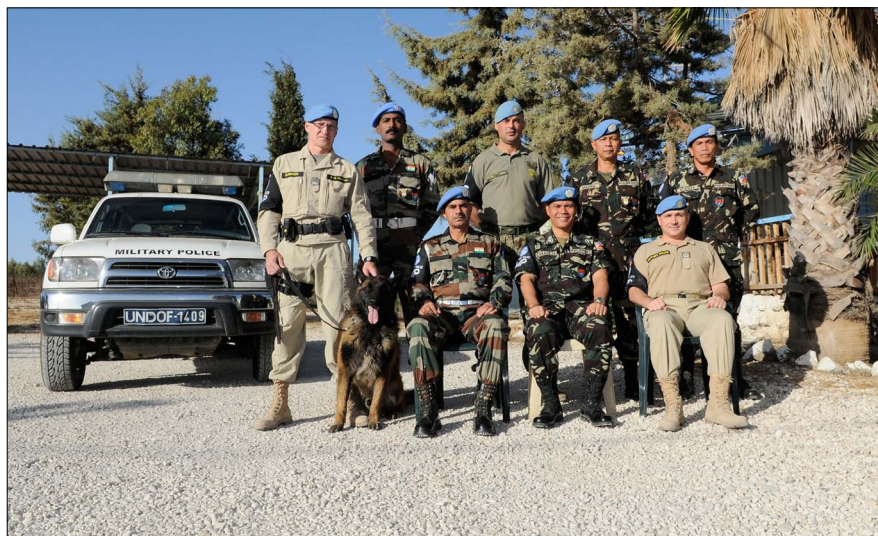
MP verifies the authenticity of documents



Routine vehicle inspection



MPs and ICRC staff from both sides



The members of MP C-Det with D/FPM and dog handler

duty and another one on standby”, relates WO II Horvath. “But there are times when we have to accommodate late or early crossings, so even during the time of closure one member is on stand-by duty. Everyone dutifully submits to us for inspection. So far, we have not found any explosives or drugs”. He is quick to add: “There have been a few minor issues, however. But mostly those are borne out of ignorance of the SOPs”.

*Article by Capt Floro Canaleja,
D/FPM*

Photos by WO II Arnold Felfer

