

# GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



January - March 2011  
No. 126



# DEAR READER!

The only constant in UNDOF is "change". UNDOF said "Farewell" to many a good friends and comrades and at the same time welcomed the newcomers of the Indian and Japanese contingent. From the editorial team, we bid farewell to Capt Muneyuki "Mune" Yatsuo, and wished him a heartfelt "Bye and good luck". We welcome LtCdr Reona Aso who signed up as the new D/MPIO with enthusiasm.

The political developments and events in the Middle East have certainly not left UNDOF untouched, but have not effected its dedication to the mandate. Quite to the contrary, UNDOF civilian staff and soldiers are even more convinced that their presence on the Golan Heights serves the higher purpose of peace.

Nevertheless UNDOF was struck hard as well, when we learned about the disaster which hit Japan on 11<sup>th</sup> March. UNDOF mourns the loss in human lives and the tragedies occurring, but at the same time admired the uninterrupted dedication of our Japanese comrades in fulfilling their tasks. It is indeed almost unbearable to



Our team: Wolfgang, Stefan, Reona and Gerold

continue your work, when at the same time you don't know about the fate of your beloved ones.

Our hearts and minds are with our comrades who just recently returned to a now devastated homeland.

*Maj Stefan Eder*

Yours sincerely,  
Maj Stefan Eder, SOPR

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**Front (Page 1):** UNDOF First Aid Exercise on A-Side  
Photo by WO I Wolfgang Grebien

**Back (Page 24):** Ski Patrolling the Mount Hermon area  
Photo by WO I Wolfgang Grebien

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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 Media/ Public Relations Office publishes the Golan Journal quarterly. 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

## *To the Warrior Peacekeepers of UNDOF!*

*Once again, I am delighted to present another edition of the Golan Journal. After completing one year in the mission as your Force Commander, I am ever thankful for having the opportunity to command this fine mission and serve alongside such professional soldiers from our six contributing nations.*

*I have now met many of you, and have been extremely impressed by your professionalism, knowledge of your duties and areas of responsibility, and your dedication to the mission. I am greatly reassured knowing the high caliber of professionals that are working in UNDOF. For those of you that I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I look forward to doing so as soon as possible.*

*This mission has accomplished many great things during its 37 year history, and I believe that UNDOF is a relevant and dynamic organization in the region. I feel that we have the opportunity to do more than just enforce our mandate. Although that is our key function, while we are here we also have the opportunity to directly affect the lives of those who live and work on the Golan. Not only will we do our best to keep the peace, but we should help those in need because I believe that it is also our duty to do so as UN Peacekeepers.*

*I will ask many things of you as your Force Commander, the most important of which is the need to remember that we are a team. UNDOF's motto of "One Mission, One Team, One Goal" has been my principle message since assuming command and I believe that everyone is working diligently toward accomplishing this objective. To be successful we must all be reading off of the same page and working towards the same objectives. I ask that you continue to work together as you have done in the past and I challenge you to improve in this regard. All of you, members of both international and national staff, military contingents and staff officers, bring different skills, perspectives and backgrounds to UNDOF. This diversity is our strength and when we all work together as a close-knit team, everything is possible.*

*Together we have learned much in my first year in the mission, and let us endeavor to keep working hard to continue to learn. I challenge you to help me understand your job, responsibilities and points of view and I will do my utmost best in the service of the mission as your Force Commander.*

*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

### Fellow Peacekeepers

I can hardly believe that it was three months ago, that I took over the responsibility of the Chief of Staff UNDOF. I had enjoyed a very intensive and well prepared handover from my predecessor, Col Kahlon, to whom I am still thankful. Additionally, we experienced a kind welcome from the UNDOF family – the military and the civilian staff. We, these are the members of the Chief of Staff Office, and I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce my crew to you: MA to COS Maj Andreas Trummer, SSO Org/Plans Maj Christian Plöchl and Admin NCO/Driver Sgt Armin Gogl.

I consider it an honour and privilege to be an active member of one of the oldest and most stable peacekeeping missions in the world and to pay my dues to contribute to peace in the Middle East. I am fully aware of the enormity of the responsibility that goes hand in hand with my assignment. Thus I hope that my earlier assignments to SFOR in Bosnia/Herzegovina in 1997 and UNTSO in the Middle East in 2000 hold me in good stead for discharging my duties.

After a normal and partly severe Winter, Spring has arrived here in the last weeks on the Golan Heights. The landscape is slowly but steadily changing in accordance with the established routine of nature. Besides that, we are part of historical changes throughout the entire Middle East right now. We do face some of the most interesting but uncertain times in the region's turbulent history and the significant changes of the geo-political environment have caught the imagination of all and sundry.

This changing environment in our Mission Area requires the necessity that UNDOF be online and alert to all such events on the horizon. Therefore we constantly have to evaluate their impact on the readiness, effectiveness and



efficiency in order to accomplish UNDOF's mandate. In accordance with the above mentioned I prioritized my goals for the next six months as follows. Firstly we have to review the UNDOF SOP 2011 in accordance with the UN DPKO "Policies and Guidelines" and secondly we have to evaluate and update our OPLANS and OPORDERS in order to meet the operational requirements in the future. In doing so we always have to keep in mind to coordinate and harmonize the military actions with the civilian administration. Only a so called "Joint Approach" will enable us – UNDOF – to achieve the best result for the Force.

Last but not least I'd like to stress that the staff has to support the units in the field. During the last months I had the honour to inspect all UNDOF units. I was deeply impressed by the expertise and eagerness of our Peacekeepers and I'm looking forward to optimizing the mobile concept of operations of the Force with you.

I have no doubts that under the new current Force Leadership Team, UNDOF will meet all the operational requirements and challenges that come along its path and perform in a manner that is professional, impartial and unbiased in accordance with our mandate.

"On Mission - One Team - One Goal"

Colonel Martin Dorfer  
Chief of Staff UNDOF



The COS team: Maj Plöchl, Col Dorfer, Maj Trummer, Sgt Gogl



# Visits to UNDOF

by LtCdr Reona Aso, DMPIO



*Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, inspected the implementation of ISS Command and Control Policy in UNDOF (25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January 2011)*



*VAdm Mario A. Catacutan, Inspector General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, inspected PHILBATT and met with FC UNDOF (26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January 2011)*



*LtGen Günter Höfler, Chief of Joint Austrian Armed Force, visited Camp Faouar and AUSBATT Positions and attended the Change of Command Ceremony of AUSBATT (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2011)*



*H.E. Mr. Boris Sovič, Slovenian Ambassador to Israel, visited Camp Ziouani and OP 51 (14<sup>th</sup> March 2011)*



*Gen Yoshifumi Hibako, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defence Force, visited Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani. He met with FC UNDOF and attended the Change of Command of J-CON (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2011)*

- Mrs. DUBINSKI Joan Elise, Director of Ethics Office DPKO NY visited Camp Faouar and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy AUSBATT (17<sup>th</sup> February 2011)
- 42 members of a German Delegation of Army Chaplains visited Camp Ziouani (1<sup>st</sup> March 2011)
- Mrs. HYLTON Judy Sue, UN Political Affairs Officer visited Camp Faouar (7<sup>th</sup> March 2011)
- A class of 20 students of the United States Air War College visited Camp Faouar (13<sup>th</sup> March 2011)
- A delegation of 38 members of the "Institut Francais des Hautes Etudes de la Defense Nationale" visited Camp Faouar (20<sup>th</sup> March 2011)
- 15 members of the Senat of the German Federal State of Mecklenburg and West Pomerania visited Camp Ziouani and Mt. Bental (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011)



## The new Chief Liaison/Protocol & Information Officer (CLPIO)

LtCol Bernhard Obmann was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1960 in Althofen, Austria. He joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1982 and graduated from Military Academy 1987. He started his military career as a fighter and weapons controller in the air space surveillance center. In 1996 he changed to the National Defense Academy, Language Department and in 2002 he was appointed Chief Information Operations (INFOOPS) and spokesperson of the Commander of the Austrian Land Forces. From 2005 to 2008 he gained experience in missions abroad as SSO INFOOPS at the HQ EUFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chief Psychological Operations HQ KFOR and Theater Media Director PSYOPS TF HQ ISAF, Afghanistan. From 2008 to 2010 he served as Joint Chief INFOOPS and spokesperson of the Commander of the Austrian Joint Forces. He holds a masters degree in English, Mandarin and Psychology.

LtCol Obmann is married to Karin with three children, one girl and two boys. He is interested in foreign cultures and enjoys reading, sightseeing and sports.



## The new Force Medical Officer (FMO)

LtCol Ariparamba C. Nishil was born in Kozhikode in the beautiful state of Kerala, India, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1972. A second generation army officer he is an alumnus of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, one of the premier medical colleges of India. Completing his Internship from Military Hospital Jammu, he had tenure in high altitude in the Northeast of India followed by appointments as the regimental medical officer to two armored regiments. He did his post graduation in Sports Medicine from the National Institute of Sports, Patiala. Before joining UNDOF he was commanding the Sports Medicine Centre Hyderabad, a state of the art facility for training the army and services sportsmen. He was the team physician to the athletics, handball, military pentathlon and cross country teams of the army and services. He has also worked with the national athletics, boxing and rowing teams of India. He is a WADA (World Anti Doping Agency) accredited anti-doping officer and has participated in many international championships.

He is married to Lakshmi. They have a son, Anirudh and are expecting their second child soon. His hobbies are sports and music.



## The new Chief Observer Group Golan (CO/OGG)

LtCol Nick Bolton was born on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1974 in Hobart, Australia. His military career began in 1991, and following completion of Officer Training, he was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA). LtCol Bolton served regimental postings as Section Commander, Gun Position Officer, Forward Observer, Battery Captain and Battery Commander with the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment and 8<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, RAA. He has also served as a staff officer at all grades, including positions in corporate management, information operations and operations planning. He also served as an Observer Trainer at the Australian Combat Training Centre, and later as a Directing Staff member and Instructor at the Australian Command and Staff College (Joint). In 2008-2009, he was posted on exchange to the U.S. Army, as the Deputy Chief of G-35 Future Operations at Headquarters U.S. Army Pacific. LtCol Bolton commenced his current role with the UNTSO as Chief of Observer Group Golan, and Australian Contingent Commander, in January 2011. His operational experience includes: NATO Stabilisation Force, on the staff of HQ Multi National Division (South West) in Bosnia-Herzegovina during 2000-01; Australian maritime border security operations as the Officer Commanding Transit Security Element Five during 2001-02; as the Deputy Commander of the Australian Army Training Team Iraq during 2005-06. LtCol Bolton is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College (Joint), and also holds a number of tertiary qualifications including a Master of Arts in Strategy and Management from the University of New South Wales.

He is married, and his wife and he are expecting their first child in June 2011. His hobbies include sailing, squash, and following Rugby Union.





## The new CO/AUSBATT

LtCol Andreas Schiffbänker was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1961 in Bad Ischl. He joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1980. After graduating from the Military Academy in 1984, he served in an Infantry Regiment as Logistics Officer and Company Commander. From 1995 until now he served in various positions at the Austrian Non-commissioned Officers Academy in Enns, currently being commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Division. He graduated at the National Defense College in Vienna as Master of Security and Defense Management in 2005. He served twice with UNDOF in 1988-89 and 1991-92 as the Quartermaster AUSBATT. Further international assignments were within NATO in 1997 as commander of the Austrian National Support Element in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2000/01 as a Watch Officer Joint Operation Centre KFOR and in 2006 he served as the DCO HQ Support Group KFOR in Pristina. LtCol Schiffbänker is married to Margarete and has two children, Julia and Nadine. His hobbies are mainly connected to sports and his big passion is playing ice hockey.



## The new CO/J-CON

Maj Keitaro Shido was born on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1975, in Fukuoka, Japan. He graduated from the National Defense Academy in 1998 with a Bachelor Degree in Civil engineering. Afterwards he joined Officer Candidate Course and was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1999. Maj Shido served as a Forward Observer in 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (1999-2001), Training Instructor at the National Defense Academy (2001-03), Fire Direction Center Section Leader (2003-05) and Company Commander (2005-07) in 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment. He graduated from the Command and General Staff Course in 2009 and was assigned as Company Commander in 12<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Unit. Prior to his present command post as 31<sup>st</sup> J-CON CO, he was assigned as Staff Officer of 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

Maj Shido is married, has three children, likes to watch movies, reading books and playing sports.



## The new CO/LOGBATT

LtCol Nishit Ranjan was born on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1974 at Patna, India. He graduated from the National Defence Academy and was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery from the Indian Military Academy in 1996. In addition to the various mandatory courses, he holds a Masters Degree in Weapon System and Technology and is a qualified instructor in gunnery. He attended the prestigious Defense Service Staff College, Wellington, New Zealand. He has served in various terrains ranging from deserts to mountains and has extensively operated in active Counter Insurgency areas. LtCol Ranjan has served as a Gun Position and Observation Post Officer, Adjutant of an Artillery Regiment and Battery Commander. He has been an instructor at the Indian Military Academy and has tenanted staff appointments as GSO1 (Operations) in an Armoured Brigade. Prior to his present assignment, he was the Assistant Military Secretary at the Military Secretary's Branch, Army Headquarters. LtCol Ranjan is married to Runjhun and they have two daughters – Aadya and Aarushi. He is a keen sportsman and enjoys listening to music.



## The new Chief of Information Technology Section (CITS)

Ms. Senida Panjeta was born on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1979 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She joined United Nations in May 2005, and has worked for United Nations Development Programme, peacekeeping mission in Burundi (ONUB) and DFS UNHQ. She holds both B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Electrical Engineering, department for Computer and Information Sciences, obtained from the University of Sarajevo. She has completed various courses, training and seminars related to Information Technologies and Management, and presented her work at various conferences and workshops. Prior to joining UNDOF she worked as a Business Solutions Manager in ICTD in UNHQ.

## Welcome to Mr. Bernard Lee, the new UNDOF Chief Mission Support



Born in Woking, England to Irish parents in 1963, Bernard Lee was educated at the University of Manchester and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, before being commissioned into the Royal Logistic Corps. He saw active service with the British Army in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Kosovo and as a Blue Helmet in MINURSO/Western Sahara and UNPROFOR/Bosnia and Herzegovina. After graduating from Cranfield University with an Master of Science in Logistics and the Institute Royal Supérieur de Défense, Brussels, Bernie served in a NATO appointment at HQ AFCENT and at the Ministry of Defence in London, before leaving the Army to join the United Nations in 2002. After initially working in Transport Section in New York, Bernie became Chief Joint Logistics Operation Center in

UNMIL/Liberia, Chief Technical Support in UNAMI/Iraq and UN Logistics Base Brindisi/Italy and then Chief Mission Support in MINURCAT/Chad and UNMIK/Kosovo. Bernard married his wife Christiane in 1994, they have a son Stefan and a dog Bella. Bernard is a keen supporter of Chelsea Football Club.

## OGG Change of Command Ceremony and Medal Parade



*COS UNTSO presents the medal to a Swedish UNMO*



*LtCol Gasser, MGen Mood, MGen Ecarma, LtCol Bolton*

24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 marked the occasion of MGen Robert Mood, Chief of Staff and Head of Mission UNTSO, final ceremonial presentation of the UNTSO Medal to twenty-two UNMOs, from OGG and OGL at the MAC House, Tiberias. The ceremony also comprised the Change of Command Ceremony and handover of command of Observer Group Golan from LtCol Kunibert Gasser to LtCol Nicholas Bolton. The day proved to be a resplendent occasion combining a parade, presentation of medals, changeover of command ceremony, and speeches from COS UNTSO, FC UNDOF and the incoming and outgoing COGG. The parade was commanded by LtCol Raghu Bhandary who in addition to being the Chief OGG-T and host for the occasion was the recipient of a medal. Medal parades and change of command ceremonies are important events in the calendar of UNTSO. The parades acknowledge the service of UNMOs which is best stated in the citation delivered on the day. This citation reads *"In recognition of having completely met the requirements of eligibility and having completed the necessary period of qualifying service as a military member of the UNTSO, the Secretary General of the United Nations awards....."* The day in and off itself is a landmark in that it means that time has moved on for some and has commenced for others, achievements marked and acknowledged and the cycle of what is the well-established pattern of work in UNTSO continues.

*Article by OGG*

*Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebner*



# The Enhanced Mission Induction Training – Mandatory To All Peacekeeping Personnel

The passive compliance, if not reluctance, among participants is anticipated. Listening to long lectures in an enclosed area without falling asleep is a challenge to everyone. And so, this has become a challenge to the Mission Training Cell- how to make the Mission Induction Training (MIT) more interesting to target participants. More important than making the training interesting, of course, is making the training useful and helpful to the newly arrived officers.

Hence, as a product of past evaluations, accumulated suggestions and recommendations on how to improve this training, the enhanced MIT is now only a 5-day mission-specific training. Its aim is to “equip peacekeepers with knowledge of issues that are considered to be of importance to the mission and that will enhance their early interaction into the system and allow them to support the mission operations”. The DPKO, UNNY in its letter on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 directs all peacekeeping missions to make the MIT mandatory for all peacekeeping personnel, including military, police, international and national civilian staff, and UN volunteers. The heads of units and offices are given the responsibility to provide this training to all their personnel. To maximize its utility this training is given within the 6-week period of arrival of personnel in the mission area.

The induction training is divided into 3-day lectures and 2-day tour of the Area of Separation and Area of Limitation. Lectures are brief and con-

cise and delivered by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) of UNDOF. Most of the lectures do not exceed 30 minutes. Participants do get the chance to work in syndicates in subjects like Cultural Awareness, Conduct and Discipline, and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Below presents the main subjects in the lecture series.



*SSO Trng Maj Gesim (r.) and a MIT course on Mt. Bentel*

## Strategic and Operational Overview

UN Peacekeeping Operations, Mission and Mandate, Analysis, Military Structure, Latest Operations, Commander's Intent, Safety and Security, Civil Military Coordination, Background to Conflict, Contingency Plan, Legal Framework, Rules of Engagement, Cultural Awareness

## Mission Operating Systems

Administration, Personnel, Liaison Protocol Integrated Service System, Military Police, Transport, Engineering, Communication, IT and Geographic Information

## UN Standards and Values

Gender and Peacekeeping, Conduct and Discipline, Sexual Exploitation & Abuse, HIV AIDS prevention

Just before the participants reach their threshold for stocking loads of information in too short a time, on the fourth and fifth days they will be treated to a tour of UNDOF line units and OGG units as well. The tour usually follows the sequence starting from the company HQ's of AUSBATT, then PHILBATT and to

one of the OGG Observation Posts. The last leg of the tour, which is also the culminating activity of the MIT, is a tour of the scenic Mt. Bentel in the Israeli-occupied Golan.

Feedback from the participants through the course evaluation of the last induction training from Janu-

ary 2011 indicated that they had a productive, interesting, and enjoyable time spent in the MIT. Many of them were very appreciative of this training as this is their first mission both in the UN and outside of their respective countries.

Indeed, a continuous enhancement of the induction training, achieved through course evaluations, will result to an increasing willingness and interest of new officers to participate. A high participation rate in this training, in turn, will facilitate the integration of their respective units into the UNDOF systems. And it will be an accomplishment, however small, that will benefit UNDOF as a whole.

*Article by*

*Maj Willester Robles, SO Plans*

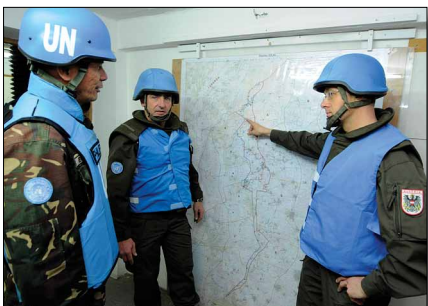
*Photo by WO Wolfgang Grebien*

# UNDOF Command Post Exercise

Exercises or drills in general are meant to enhance a group's capability to respond to real situations. On 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 the UNDOF Headquarters Command Post Exercise or CPX achieved more than that. While the two main objectives of the CPX are to test the validity of the UNDOF operational contingency plan called OPLAN 1000 and to enhance the decision-making process of the staff, in the process, the military and civilian staff proved that they could work together as effectively and efficiently as with the staff in their respective sub-organizations.



*"Shelter Alert"*



*FC, COO and COS discuss the situation in the Joint Operations Center*

The Force Commander MGen Natalio Ecarma intended to develop the ability of UNDOF HQ staff to react effectively to crisis situations in the mission area by improving their operational planning procedures through the mission decision making process. Led by the Chief

of Staff Col Martin Dorfer, all the Branch heads, FSA, CISS, CAO, and LEGAD eagerly participated in the CPX. Through the direction of Chief Operations Officer LtCol Volkmar Ertl, the Mission Training Cell generated hypothetical scenarios within the mission area, each of which reflected a degree of tension to which the staff were challenged to respond accordingly. Following the decision making process, both military and civilian staff had to sit down together a good number of times in the course of five full days, discuss the scenarios in-depth, as if they actually happened, and come up with courses of action with the end view of diffusing the tension. What resulted was a remarkable increase in the trust and confidence of both military and civilian staff to work with one another, having had the opportunity to know better how their counterparts think, analyze situations, and dispense critical decisions. Moreover, the exercise reminded them that in real situations they would have to rely on their military or civilian counterparts if they wanted to achieve a common goal.

The objectives of the exercise were not also lost on the senior and junior staff officers under the supervision of each Branch head. Depending on the given situation, they were able to test the OPLAN 1000 procedures, which, otherwise, would only have been tested during real situations. After the best course of action was decided upon by the staff, Operation Orders (OPORD) and/or Fragmented Orders (FRAGO) were drafted immediately for the approval of the Force Commander. This exercise has recently been proven to be indispensable with the present secu-

rity situation of UNDOF amidst the political crisis in the region. As for the validity of the OPLAN 1000, most of the contents were found



*The HQ is on fire and victim evacuated*



*First medical treatment is provided*

out to be valid and applicable in the early stages of tension escalation. Come a more substantial threat to UNDOF security, however, the staff recommended a calibration of corresponding contingency operations of OPLAN 1000 to rationalize the





*A very demanding "mass casualties" exercise scenario*

allocation of resources that would accomplish the same objective and without compromising the fulfilment of the UNDOF mandate.

Of equal import to CPX are the small unit exercises for the benefit of operating units in the field. Recognizing that there will be instances where support from host countries will be needed during emergency situations such as medical evacuation and major hospitalization, UNDOF, in close coordination with IDF, conducted a Joint Medical Evacuation exercise between its own medical units and IDF soldiers and civilian medical teams on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 in A-Side. The objective is to test the lines of communication and interoperability of medical personnel of both entities. To achieve this, the injected scenario was a vehicular accident with mass casualties, wherein the medical requirements of injured personnel were beyond the capacity of UNDOF so that responding Medical team had to request support from the nearest host country's medical units. After the exercise, both parties were convinced that they had had a very fruitful activity in that they not only



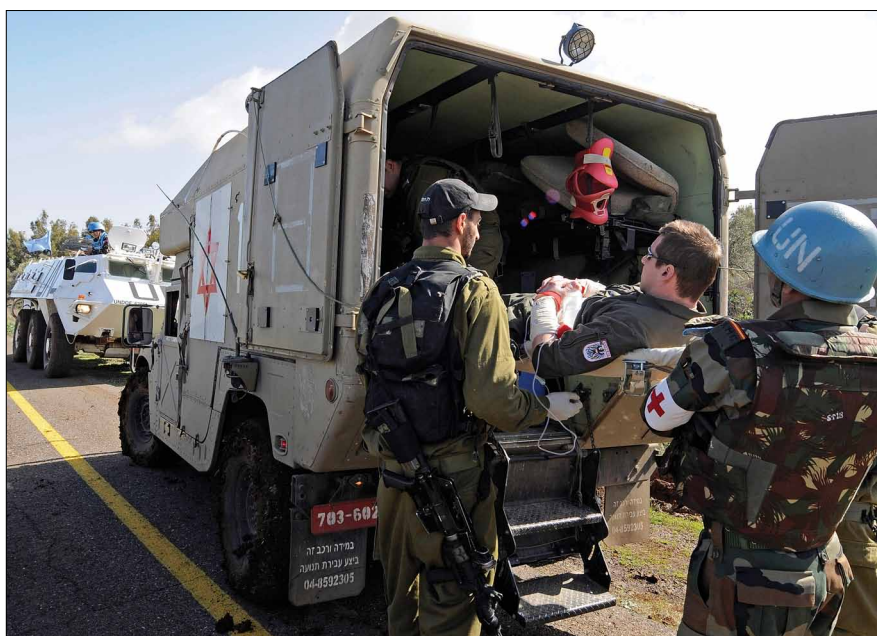
*Co-ordination is crucial*

achieved the stated exercise objectives, but they also took home to their respective units valuable lessons in incident management and mass casualty recovery. UNDOF medical units, for example, learned that there has to be an Incident Manager in every serious medical situation, that is to be the focal point of all coordination from the incident to medical units and other units and vice versa. Other lessons include constant practice in casualty recovery and other small procedures such as traffic control and radio communication that support said recovery. So successful was the Joint Medical Evacuation exercise that both parties recommended that said exercise be conducted on regular basis. UNDOF, meanwhile, has to replicate this accomplishment with the other host country and has to work on coordinating with Syrian authorities for the conduct of similar joint exercise with Syrian fire fighting units.

*Article by*

*Maj Willester Robles, SO Plans*

*Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*



*IDF and UNDOF medical teams work closely together - still, improvements are necessary*



# New accommodations for AUSBATT Posn 32

.... and the story of how it came into being



*Guard of Honor ready to salute the guests*



*Cutting the ribbon: LtCol Wolf, MGen Ecarma, a/CMS Roy Joblin, WO I Abl, Capt Wasinger*



*Maj Zaller, Mr. Weisbrod-Weber, Maj Salzmann*



*CO AUSBATT reports Posn 32 "operational"*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January the inauguration ceremony took place for the new Posn 32 kitchen and accommodation building. LtCol Wolf, CO AUSBATT, addressed the audience with an opening speech. The audience was led by a high-ranking delegation coming straight from UNHQ NY. But prior to FC MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III cutting the ribbon for its official opening, there is more to say regarding the recent Posn 32 and possible further improvements. Originally in 2005, and in accordance with the new UNDOF operational concept of mobile patrolling, Posn 32 was supposed to be demolished. Generated by AUSBATT OPS Maj Apfalter, and based on a comprehensive operational reassessment, the plan was finally changed. A project application for refurbishing the position was submitted to UNNY HQ. In March 2006, the approval for developing a design for the "new" Posn 32 was given to UNDOF. In the next sequence of events, there were monetary considerations and a budgetary phased plan to be rolled out. The designing of the layout could then start. In this process many requirements and functions were taken into consideration which would affect the work of the troopers, focusing on eas-

ing their daily lives on this secluded position. The groundbreaking took place on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Many contributions had to be co-ordinated and were taken to action in order to turn out such a facility as it can be seen today - one name needs particular mention. The project came forth well under the dedicated supervision of the Engineering Officer AUSBATT, Maj Reinhard Salzmann. In January 2011 final efforts were provided by J-CON, in terms of landscaping and in relocating of the position's

landmark, the side-way cross. Yet, that may not be the end of the scope of work. In the future Posn 32 should be connected to the local power network, thus saving generators and fuel. If feasible, the position may as well get its own water-well. The directors of DPKO, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Office of Operations, and Mr.

Xavier Dechambod, Department of Field Support, gained a deep appreciation of UNDOF's logistics enabling capacities, led by the Chief Integrated Support Services (CISS), Mr Gerry Buckley. Mr. Buckley finally added a confirmation of successful accomplishment of the project. In conclusion, UNDOF, and in particular the operational personnel at Posn 32, have received real improved services to utilize their future duties and challenges in a better way.

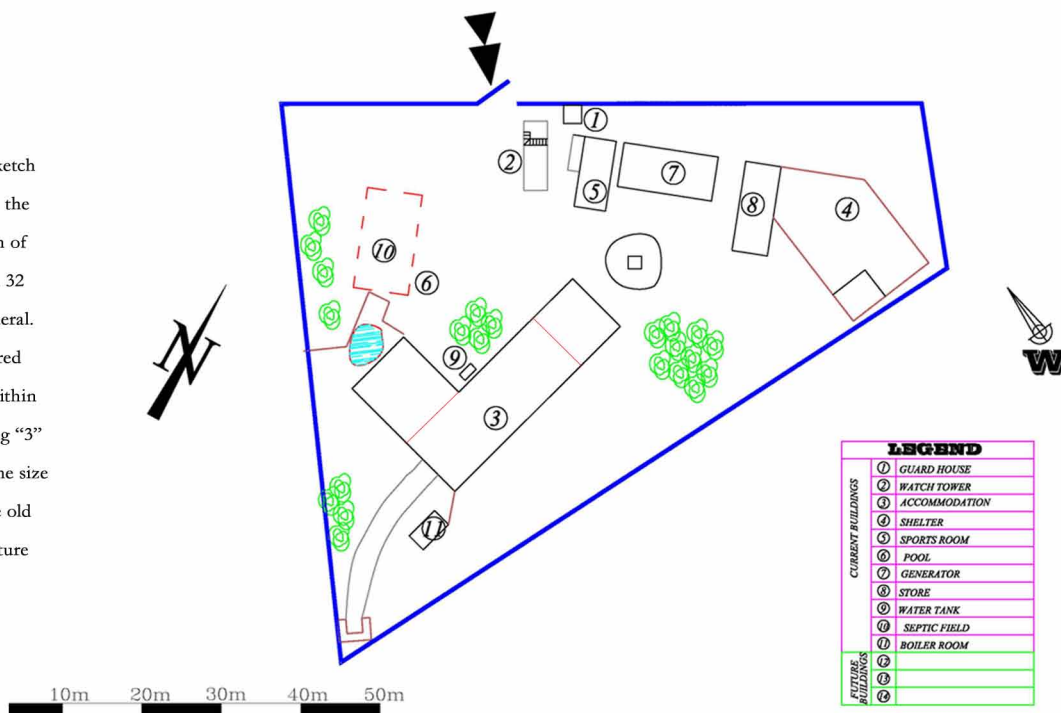


*Article by Maj Roman Zaller, FCEO  
Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*





This sketch shows the design of Posn 32 in general. The red lines within building "3" mark the size of the old structure



#### Factsheet on AUSBATT Position 32 refurbishment

Design	Maj Erwin Klem, FCEO
Planning Team	Maj Roman Zaller, FCEO
Purpose Of Project	New accommodation and kitchen for 10 soldiers
Project Background	The previous Posn 32 was supposed to be demolished according to the Force Modernization Program, but a re-assessment in 2005 concluded to keep the location operational. This decision was approved by HQ UN DPKO in 2006 and funds for refurbishment requested. After the approval and allocation of funds the design process was initiated in 2008/09 and construction finally commenced and concluded in 2010.
Duration Of Project	2 <sup>th</sup> July 2010 to 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2011
Project Monitoring	On almost daily basis by AUSBATT Engineers Officer Capt Reinhard Salzmann to assure the contractors adherence to the drawings and specifications
Quality of Performance	High professional Level
Special Features	Electricity Supply: two generators á 45KVA Heating : central heating system Water : 2.000 - 3.000 liter by truck from Camp Faour
Cost Of Project	Roughly US\$ 120.000.-





# Change of Command – LtCol Schiffbänker is the new CO AUSBATT

After one year, LtCol Karl Wolf handed over the reins of the Austrian Battalion to LtCol Andreas Schiffbänker. He succeeded excellently in his main goals, handing over a well prepared and fully operational battalion, and bringing home all soldiers under his command unharmed.



*The flags of AUSBATT and HVRCON marching in*

Camp Faouar, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011—The rain poured down and the temperature was close to the freezing point. Nevertheless the Austrian Battalion was on parade to farewell outgoing LtCol Wolf and welcome the new CO LtCol Schiffbänker. High ranking guests from the Diplo-



*LtCol Wolf says "Farewell" to AUSBATT*

matic Corps, Austrian Armed Forces and the Host Nation Syria as well as UNDOF military and civilian staff, honored the ceremony with their attendance.

Force Commander UNDOF MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III presided over the ceremony. After signing the documents LtCol Wolf handed over the

flag of the Austrian Battalion to the Force Commander, who presented it to LtCol Schiffbänker as the symbol of the transfer of command. In their speeches the Austrian Ambassador to Syria, Mrs. Maria Kunz, LtGen Günter Höfler of the Austrian

Armed Forces Command and FC MGen Ecarma, emphasized the excellent leadership of LtCol Wolf as CO AUSBATT and his dedication to the goals of UNDOF. They wished him well in his future appointment back home.

LtCol Wolf thanked the FC, the Austrian Ambassador and the Armed Forces Command but especially the soldiers for their enthusiasm and support, enabling him to fulfill his tasks successfully. LtCol Schiffbänker promised to continue to lead the Austrian Battalion with dedication in the tradition of his predecessors.

The ceremony concluded with the troops parading in front of the honorary guests, and the old and new commanders. A reception at the Austrian Officers Club gave an opportunity not only to get warm and dry again, but to say personal "Farewell" and "Welcome" in an informal and relaxed environment.

*Article by MSgt Wolfgang Bauer  
Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*



*LtCol Wolf, MGen Ecarma, LtGen Höfler and LtCol Schiffbänker salute the rising of the flag*



*LtCol Schiffbänker takes flag and command*



*The Austrian Guard of Honours presents arms*



*Proud cooks show a selection of Austrian sweets*



# Wolves and Avalanches

## Wolves seek shelter at Position Hermon Base



*Wolvetracks in virgin snow*

Though it is known that wolves have returned to the Mount Hermon area, the soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Coy have had no close encounters with these beautiful beasts. That changed on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 when the guard of Posn HB was directly confronted with a small pack of wolves. In this night Pte Strachowitz was checking the perimeter of the position, when he suddenly faced the wolves at the so called Bully-Garage. A pack of five had obviously sought shelter from the harsh weather in this windbreak. The beasts were as surprised as Pte Strachowitz and fled into the darkness. No further inci-



*A snapshot of the shy predators*

dent of this kind was reported, but as a precaution the guard on duty is now equipped with a shotgun when inspecting the perimeter. Nevertheless the members of 1<sup>st</sup> Coy welcome the enrichment of wildlife in their AOS and everyone considers themselves lucky to have a glimpse of the wolves, though from a safe distance.

## Controlled triggering of avalanches

Now avalanches are not something one might expect in Syria. Though for the 1<sup>st</sup> Coy AUSBATT it is not uncommon, that this “alpine” danger causes threats to its communications. To counter this dan-



*The moment of igniting the charge*

ger from Posn 12 to Hermon Base. Therefore it was vital for 1<sup>st</sup> Coy to get rid of this danger to ensure safe passage for men and material up and down Mount Hermon. On a windy morning

WO I Josef Schernleitner and his EOD-Team, in exhausting work, set two loads of a special explosive. The explosion triggered the avalanche and masses of snow rumbled downhill. According to plan, the snow stopped where expected, and the team could report the road safe from danger to

the observing Chief Joint Austrian Armed Forces, LtGen Günter Höfler and CO AUSBATT, LtCol Andreas Schiffbänker.

ger avalanches can be triggered by a controlled explosion. On 9<sup>th</sup> February the amassed amount of snow at one location endangered the road



*Patrolling is safe now*

Article by Maj Stefan Eder  
Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien  
and MSgt Wolfgang Bauer

# International Marches: The Test of Will and Determination

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Battalion hosted the annual Wadi and Tamaraw March Challenges at 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, PHILBATT Area of Responsibility (AOR).

**T**he march's aim is to provide the peacekeepers with an opportunity to experience physical and psychological challenges and strengthen teamwork among the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force members and also to showcase the presence of the UNDOF forces in the Area of Responsibility. Since the arrival of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Contingent to the Golan Heights on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the Contingent has already facilitated and carried out two grueling marches. One was the "WADI March" a 19-kilometer foot march along the Wadi Al Raqqad and the "Tamaraw March", a twenty four kilometer journey along the AOR of 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy, PHILBATT. It was a test of physical and psychological strength and is considered as an alternate way of maintaining excellent health conditioning among UNDOF members. These tests of endurance are not a competition, but instead intend to develop team spirit and esprit-de-corps among the members of the different participating teams. During the conduct of the Wadi March, 187 participants registered and organized into 34 teams, from the Austrian, Croatian, Indian, Japanese, Canadian and Philippine contingents challenged the distance. Civilian staff from UNDOF, German and Austrian Embassies also joined the Wadi March. For the Tamaraw March, 32

teams composed of two hundred one military and civilian personnel coming from different UNDOF units and offices registered to participate. To ensure safety and security during the march, the activity started with a short briefing by Maj Ferdinand C. Compay, CO 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy, PHILBATT

LtCol Sanny L. Gadot, CO PHILBATT led the Philippine contingent in conquering the daring rugged terrain route, walking under the heat of the sun, which was sometimes aggravated by periodic rain showers. The march was such a challenge that not all reached the finishing line on time due to minor leg cramps. However, despite the difficulties, everyone enjoyed the mountaineering challenges and managed to reach the designated finishing line. It was indeed a test of endurance and determination! Prior to the conduct of the event, detailed and tedious preparation was undertaken by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, PHILBATT to ensure the safe passage of the participants. Patrol paths were cleared from mines, the entire stretch of stone markings were repainted, refreshment points were established and mobile medical and rescue teams were strategically positioned along the route of the march for a quick response to any possible emergency. After crossing the finishing line a simple lunch was served and Certificates of Completion, march pins, T-shirts and other tokens and recognition items were handed to the successful competitors.



*A PHILBATT marching team arrives*



*Japanese soldiers receive the completion certificate*

on administrative guidance for team organization, safety measures, procedures and terrain overview. Each team was composed of five to seven members and the first participating team was released followed by other teams at a three minutes interval.

*Article by Maj Juanito Y Sy,  
PIO/PHILBATT  
Photos by PHILBATT*



# “Happy Shooting Challenge”

**An opportunity for international and military staff get to know each other**

**B**ringing different mission components together in a social setting is an excellent way to interact and gain an understanding of each of our roles in UNDOF. That was the reason that Force Headquarters Company (FHQ-Coy) set up the so-called “Happy Shooting Challenge” together with the international staff members of UNDOF. Until now, FHQ-Coy has conducted the “Happy Shooting Challenge” twice, in October 2010 and in March 2011. We organized an event, where we could spend time with the international staff of UNDOF, to get them known and establish a better relationship, not only limited to the ritual phrase of “have a good day” and “how are you”. The main civilian players within UNDOF at that time, Mr. Roy JOBLIN, then Acting Chief Mission Support, and Mr. Gerard BUCKLEY, Chief Integrated Services Support, not only motivated their staff to participate, but were also seen as role models, presenting very positive leadership

attitude and behavior. *“Managers are enabled by their emotional competence, their conceptual and their technical experience. They manage people, action and change and navigate across organizational boundaries in order to achieve results and objectives. Respect for diversity is a core value for the United Nations and a key enabler to create a climate of openness and trust.”* Time always runs faster than expected, and when the day of the “Happy Shooting Challenge” arrived, FHQ-Coy was ready to welcome our Force Commander, MGen Natalio C. ECARMA, together with the guests from the international staff in a friendly and amicable way. The introduction of the company members, coming from three different nations, was followed by a short briefing on the FHQ-Coy’s tasks. Then our guests were introduced to the shooting competition and security regulations and the excitement reached its peak. After some rounds to familiarize the competitors with the rifles, the challenge got started. After the

final shot rang out, the result showed Mr. Emmanuel BERNATEAU from the Transport Section, as the top scorer and master marksman. Having enjoyed a fine barbeque, the award ceremony was held in the afternoon. The first three winners were awarded with statues of “Peacekeepers”, to remind them of the “Happy Shooting Challenge”. But every contestant could consider themselves a winner for having participated in the competition. It was an unforgettable experience for us from the FHQ-Coy as well as our guests, and now friends, from the international civilian staff of UNDOF. *“It was great fun and everybody looks forward to do it again when the warm weather returns.”* We – the members of the FHQ-Coy – will try our best to organize another successful event in the future.

*Article by Capt H. Fiedler, FHQ-Coy  
Italics are citations by Mr. Roy Joblin  
Photos by FHQ-Coy*



# LtCol Ranjan and the 10<sup>th</sup> INDCON Rotation take over responsibility

**The tenth rotation of INDCON took over the functioning of the Logistics Battalion and affirmed to continue and even better the professionalism of its predecessors.**

India is bidding farewell to its comrades on a bright Golan morning, the 10<sup>th</sup> rotation of INDCON took over the responsibility of logistics battalion of UNDOF on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 during the official parade in Camp Ziouani. The parade was reviewed by MGen Natalio C Ecarma, Force Commander, UNDOF and was commanded by the DCO of the outgoing rotation, Maj Amitabh Srivastava. Personnel of both the incoming and outgoing rotations participated in the parade. The guests on the occasion consisted of HQ UNDOF military and civilian staff, personnel of other contingents, host nation personnel and local civilian staff.

The Force Commander in his address lauded the troops of the outgoing rotation for their sterling display of military professionalism, discipline and conduct. He encouraged the newly inducted personnel to live up to the high standards already set. The outgoing Commanding Officer, LtCol Samarjeet Kumar Pal then expressed his gratitude to all personnel of the force for making his team's tenure successful and cherishable. He handed over the command baton to LtCol Nishit Ranjan and wished him and his rotation good luck. The event was culminated with lunch in the International Kitchen of Camp Ziouani.

The 10<sup>th</sup> rotation consists of a core group of 48 personnel from 169 Field Artillery Regiment and 19 person-

nel from 17 Parachute Field Artillery Regiment. 169 Field is the most decorated while 17 Para Field is a highly specialized and one of the two elite parachute artillery regiments of the



*The new CO LOGBATT*

Indian Army. The strength of the four specialist logistics platoons of Engineers, Signals, Supply and Maintenance remains unchanged at 20, 26, 23 and 32 respectively. The personnel of the logistics platoons are chosen from the best in their respective fields. A rigorous selection procedure ensures that only the most professional troops serve in the mission. The composition of medical, postal, military police and finance personnel is also unaltered.

*Article by Maj S.S. Panwar, SigO LB  
Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*



*INDCON Guard of Honor*



*Attentative listeners*



*LtCol Pal, MGen Ecarma, LtCol Ranjan*



*Parade of the INDCON soldiers*



# INDCON "Holi Festival"

**Colors and water mixed with a great deal of zeal and camaraderie marked the occasion of 'Holi' which was hosted by the Indian contingent in Camp Ziouani on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 2011.**

**H**oli in India is the festival of colors and is meant to welcome the spring and win the blessings of Gods for good harvests and fertility of the land. It is undoubtedly the most fun-filled and boisterous of Indian festivals. It is an occasion that brings in unadulterated joy and mirth, fun and play, music and dance.



*FC being welcomed to the celebrations*

During this festival people throng the streets in large numbers and smear each other with bright hued powders and squirt colored water on one another using water guns irrespective of caste, color, race, sex or social status; all these petty differences are temporarily relegated to the background and people give into an unalloyed colorful rebellion. There is exchange of greetings, the elders distribute sweets and money, and all join in frenzied dance to the rhythm of the drums. The colors of Holi, called 'gulal' in the medieval times were made at home, from the flowers of the 'palash' tree, also called 'the flame of the forest'. These flowers, bright red or deep orange in color, were collected from the forest and spread out on mats to dry in the sun and then

ground to fine dust. The powder when mixed with water made a beautiful saffron-red dye. This pigment was extensively used in Holi colors.

Holi is also a symbolic commemoration of a legend from Hindu Mythology. The story centers on an arrogant king who resents his son Prahlad worshipping Lord Vishnu. He attempts to kill his son but fails each time. Finally, the king's sister Holika, who was said to be immune to burning, sits with the boy in a huge fire. However, the prince Prahlad emerges unscathed, while his aunt burns to death. Holi marks this event from mythology, and huge bonfires are burnt on the eve of Holi as its symbolic representation.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, the Indian Contingent celebrated this festival in Camp Ziouani along with personnel from other contingents, international staff, host nation representatives and fellow Indians living in the country. The Force Commander and other senior staff personnel of the force, made a spirited appearance for the event and were merrily swept away in the revelry that ensued. The folk dances by the Indian troops were energetic enough to draw active participation of all guests and the colors and the water showers made everyone forget the chill and warm up heartily to the occasion. The specially made Indian sweets too offered a unique culinary experience. Though the onslaught of homemade traditional cannabis appetizers were

not brought upon the unsuspecting invitees due to constraints of the mission area, the enthusiasm of Indian contingent was enough to get everyone onto a distinct high. The day was an ideal example of bonhomie and camaraderie amongst personnel of the force who despite belonging to a wide spectrum of cultures and tra-



*UNDOF staff indulges in the frolic*



*"Bhangra" folk dancers in action*

ditions, indulged in the celebrations with unabated passion and fervor. It was a singular experience for everyone who had not previously encountered the famed Indian 'Festival of Colors'. The Indian contingent was elated on its part to play hosts to an incredible assemblage of friends.

*Article by Maj S.S. Panwar, SigO/LB  
Photos by Pte Pradeep Kumar  
Pte Patole Sunil, LB*

# "Bocca Alley"

**The Croatian Contingent inaugurates the latest addition to the UNDOF recreational facilities.**

To start with, this is not a typical military story. It will not deal with tasks and mission. This story is about Croatian soldiers dedicating their spare time to improve their life and welfare in UNDOF.

Arriving in the UNDOF mission in late 2010, members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy/ AUSBATT thought about a project on which they could spend their "off duty time" at Posn 10. The largest position in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy area is home to 40 soldiers of the Croatia Contingent.



*All you need for playing "bocca" is this.*



*Happy faces at the ribbon cutting*

The idea that was proposed by a group of soldiers from the Dalmacija Region, was to build an alley to play the traditional Mediterranean sport of "Bocca". At the beautiful costal region of Croatia, the game with the colored wooden balls is very popular. It is played in professional competi-

tions but mostly enjoyed as a means of recreation amongst the local population and tourists. The goal for a player or team is to roll or throw a larger ball as close as possible to a small one – the so-called "Bulin", which is thrown randomly within the Bocca alley at the start of the game. The sum of boccas closest to the "Bulin" provides the total of points. Winner is the team that first reaches a predetermined number of points. Lead and supervised by SSgt Nenad Labrović the construction was completed in the spare time of Posn 10 members within 30 days. AUBATT Engineers Platoon assisted the work by providing technical support as well as the necessary materials. After an unsuccessful quest for buying the "boccas", or balls, in Syria, SSgt Nenad Labrović ordered them from Canada. Having recently received them, the alley was operational by mid March.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March the "Grand Opening" of the bocca alley at Posn 10 was to be celebrated. Comrades from UNDOF and civilian friends of the Croatian Contingent applauded the first players, UNDOF FC MGen Natalio C. Ecarma, COS Col Martin Dorfer, NCC HRVCON Maj Denis Vuković, 2IC of 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy Lt I Siniša Troha and SSgt Nenad Labrović. The result of the game is not as important as is the FC's message of taking care of the well-being of the soldiers under his command. After the game the Force Commander cut a ribbon and the "Bocca Alley" was declared "operational". The alley is dedicated to three Croatian soldiers killed in a



*The FC throws the first "bocca"....*



*... and SSgt Labrović continues the game.*



*The "MARKAN" memorial*

car accident shortly before arrival of the 4<sup>th</sup> HRVCON in October 2009. It is named "Markan" after one of the three soldiers who enjoyed a passion for the game of Bocca.

*Article by Lt I Siniša Troha,  
2IC/3rd Coy AUSBATT*

*Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*



## J-CON Change of Command

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, J-CON Change of Command from outgoing CO J-CON Maj Toshikatsu Musha to incoming CO J-CON Maj Keitaro Shido was held in Camp Faouar. In honor of this ceremony, Force Commander UNDOF, MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, Japanese Ambassador to Syria H.E. Toshiro Suzuki, Chief of Staff Japan Ground Self Defense Force, Gen Yoshifumi Hibako and many special guests arrived to celebrate this important and honorable event. The outgoing and incoming COs and distinguished guests presented their addresses. MGen Ecarma expressed special thanks to Maj Musha for an excellent job, as well as appreciation for his support to the UNDOF mission. The FC also gave an encouraging welcome to the new CO, Maj Shido. Following the first official part of the ceremony, all honorable guests were invited to a very nice Japanese style lunch. The reception was held at Austrian Officer's Club in a pleasant atmosphere and all guests enjoyed themselves.



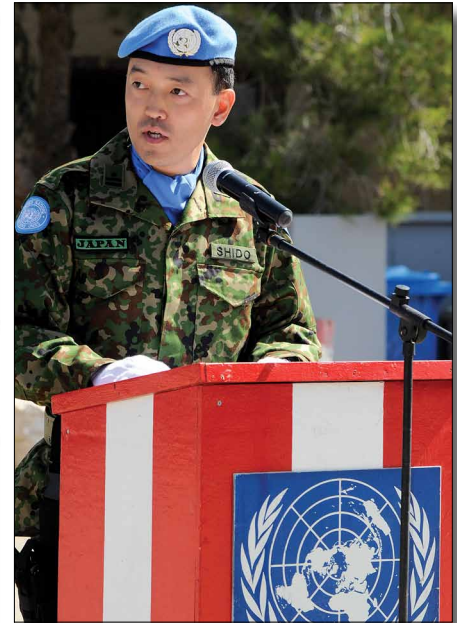
*MGen Ecarma, H.E. Mr. Toshiro Suzuki, Gen Yoshifumi Hibako, Maj Keitaro Shido*



*The "Handover-Takeover Certificate"*



*J-CON Guard of Honour*



*Maj Keitaro Shido addresses the troops*



*The bugle - an important instrument in the Japanese Contingent's ceremonies*

*Article by Lt I Katsumasa Takaura, PO  
Photos by WO1 Wolfgang Grebien*

## First Impression of Golan Heights

It has been about one month's time since I was deployed to the Golan Heights. At first I was worried about traffic congestion and aggression, new and foreign working conditions as well as security fears that come with being deployed to an area of disengagement. Now, after a warm welcome from fellow peace keeping

comrades and a thorough handover from my predecessor, I can leave my anxieties behind. It is with great pride that I take on the responsibility to command the J-CON Transport Section, responsible for 2nd line transport and vehicle maintenance. In addition, I will be managing the J-CON Sakura Club and invitations

are extended to all. This is a difficult time in Japan and a difficult time to be so far away. We stand united behind our commander, J-CON CO Maj Shido, and will do our best to overcome mission challenges and represent Japan honorably.

*Article by  
Lt I Shinji Nakagawa, MTO/J-CON*



# Observer Group Golan Tiberias Outstation Training

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011, Observer Group Golan Tiberias (OGG-T) conducted outstation training, which was hosted by Team Hermon at OP 51. The main goal of the training was to give UNMOs the latest data about development in operations, SOPs, procedures and manuals and to give them opportunity to raise questions concerning issues that are not totally clear to them. Furthermore, UNMOs had an opportunity to openly speak with a COGG-T who also attended the outstation training and to get a good overview about latest situation in the Area of Responsibility. "Outstation training (OT)" also involved a first aid stand conducted by Capt Matt Lewis from Australia. The first aid activities focused on revision of casualty management using a range of scenarios that required from UNMOs to practically demonstrate their basic first aid skills to assess the situation

and provide the appropriate treatments. This was followed by a more advanced review of trauma management for burn injuries. The UNMOs

mission and operations. The second pillar is delivered by the operation cell and deals with issues concerning operations and reporting system.



*The participants of the Outstation Training at OP 51*



*Resuscitation Training*

from OGG-T showed a high level of enthusiasm to refresh and learn additional skills that would benefit them in the event that they are the first responders to an incident site." According to OGG-T training officer Capt Dominik Wäfler, OT is one of the central training pillars of OGG-T. It provides the platform for the Training Officer to deliver specific directed outstation training to meet the operational needs, threats and safety requirements of the outstation. The training is delivered on a three pillar system. Each of which supports the continuous training and development of UNMOs in the outstation. The first pillar is delivered by the training officer on a topic determined by him and usually covers regional issues impacting UNTSO

The third and final pillar is a specialist training area delivered by a qualified UNMO or external expert and is usually connected with safety and security of the OGG-T personnel. The outstation has in place training with all other UN agencies in the region. Especially training activities in cooperation with OGL and OGG-D has enhanced the training, knowledge level and understanding of the mission specific tasks. The outstation training is therefore conducted on a smaller scale in order to deal with the current questions and challenges faced in the outstation. We profit from the expertise in other agencies as we invite instructors and specialists to deliver training.

*Article and Photos by Maj Libor Nyeki*



# We are the UNDOF Military Police – Resistance is futile!

Actually you are an experienced driver. Whenever you see a traffic accident on TV or even while driving your car on the road, you are absolutely confident that this will never happen to you! Speeds above the limit with your car? You can handle it, on the road you are immortal!

But then, without indication, you coincidentally look into your rear view mirror and out of a sudden you notice a Military Police car pursuing you. You reduce your speed and start to drive like someone doing the driving test. Tension fills the space in your vehicle. You know what I am talking about. But did you ever wonder why people are generally more attentive once a police car is in vicinity?



*A Military Policeman conducts a vehicle routine check.*

In ancient times the “*Polis*” and hundreds of years later, “*Policey*” basically stood for a good and loyal administration in each municipality’s history. Motto and message of modern Police forces are still similar to times long gone: “*To protect and to serve*”. Henceforth the UNDOF Military Police acts and responds to any needs of all units and their members. Traffic Enforcements, Crime Scene Investigations and even minor cases, such as rescuing a little cat from the tree the UNDOF Military Police is as important in this mission as everyone else. But surely they do not stop you because of a personal satisfaction - it is for you and your passenger’s safety.

Let us return to the above scenario. The MP vehicle makes you stop your vehicle. You think what possible wrong you could have done? The MP approaches you and introduces himself: “*Good afternoon, Sir/Madam. I am from the UNMP. I stopped your vehicle to inform you, that there was an accident earlier this morning which caused to road ahead to be blocked. Please take the bypass via .....*”

A sigh of relief - you realize, that you didn’t do anything wrong. However, you appreciate the information. More often than not the UNMP would stop you only to give such information, though you may also be stopped for disobeying traffic regulations.

The 31 MP men from four nations conduct their duties even during hours while you are sleeping and/or partying. Whatever the nature of the incident is - the UNMP takes care of it! All MPs strive to do their job in a firm, fair and friendly manner and certainly without prejudice, so there is nothing to be afraid. Yes, indeed resistance is futile, but only for those who commit a crime!

*Article by SSgt Gernot Tauchmann, Investigator, MP PI  
Photo by WO1 Wolfgang Grebien*

