

# GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



July - September 2011  
No. 128





# DEAR READER!



It is my honor to present the new edition of GOLAN, The UNDOF Journal. We left behind a demanding quarter which was also the hottest season in our Area of Operation. Despite all challenges and personal hardship UNDOF peacekeepers stood as one in order to meet all requirements in the service of peace on the Golan Heights. With all its efforts the editorial team again can provide a magazine full of insight into the mission of UNDOF. For their efforts I would like to thank the entire editorial team, the unit press officers, and volunteer writers for their contributions.

In this edition it gives me great pleasure to present articles such as the UNDOF Force Commander's invitation to speak at the Austrian General Staff College in Vienna, the opening ceremony of a newly constructed UNDOF position, the importance and challenges of hygiene under field conditions, and stories about events within the different units and contingents and much more.



Our team: Reona, Wolfgang, Günther and Stefan

*Capt Kreiml Günther*

Yours sincerely,  
Capt Kreiml Günther, SOPR

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**Front (Page 1):** Command patrol  
*Photo by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*

**Back (Page 24):** Night patrol  
*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

## Dear Warrior Peacekeepers

*How quickly time has passed in the Golan! It seems like just yesterday that I spoke to you in the last Golan Journal, when summer was upon us. The speed that the weeks and months have flown by is entirely attributable to the high tempo and significant work that all members of UNDOF have conducted in maintaining the peace in the Golan, and of this you should all be justifiably proud. It is also worthy to note that in addition to this work, we have seen the rotation of many personnel who have left UNDOF after a successful tour of duty, and have welcomed their replacements, most notably the Indian and Japanese Contingents. I continue to be impressed with your collective motivation, dedication, professionalism and discipline as Warrior Peacekeepers.*



*To those that have recently left the mission to return to their families and endeavours in their home nations, I wish you the very best for the future. Remember, once you have been a member of UNDOF, you always remain a member of the UNDOF Team and I trust that you will cherish the many memories and friendships made here. To those that have recently arrived and joined the UNDOF Team, I welcome you to your new family in the Golan. Your time here will be most interesting and you will undoubtedly watch history unfold in front of your eyes; I wish you a safe, satisfying and successful tour with UNDOF.*

*Following the events and changes which occurred in the spring of 2011, the challenging times that all nations in the Middle East and we in UNDOF have faced, the tempo of operations and the importance of our mission and mandate has not waned. Having proven ourselves during events such as Nakba and Naksa Days, recent developments in this region remind us even more that we must remain vigilant, and continue to provide the stability in this region that is so crucial. The eyes of the world will remain on this area and on UNDOF and I am certain that all of our Warrior Peacekeepers will continue to acquit themselves well.*

*I must again thank the entire UNDOF Team from the bottom of my heart; I remain inspired by your dedication and hard work, which comes from the national and international civilian staff, the Military Contingents and the Military Observers of the OGG who make up this strong, cohesive Team we call UNDOF. We have collectively improved UNDOF over the past months, have learned lessons from the events of the spring and summer and continue to strive for the betterment of all, from operations to the status of our Camps and Positions. At the same time, you have all managed to contribute to a proud and cheerful atmosphere, played sports, conducted cultural and social events, which make life here enjoyable. Well done, but I remind you that with any operation, there is no end, but a continuous cycle of hard work, learning, developing plans and implementing them to strive for excellence. I know you are all up to the task.*

*In the Service of Peace, to everyone in UNDOF, I say...*

*Thank you, Danke, Dhanyavad, Salamat, Hvala, Arigato!!*

Major General Natalio C. Ecarma III  
Force Commander UNDOF

## Chief of Staff Words

### Fellow Peacekeepers

It is already the third time that I have had the privilege to address you, the UNDOF soldiers and civilian staff – but also our experts from OGG – with some lines in our Golan Journal, the unique voice of the peacekeepers on the Golan Heights.

The summer was not as hot as expected and we now can see the first signs of autumn. Although the temperatures were relatively cool in the last months, the times in the Middle East have been interesting and challenging for all of us – the UNDOF and OGG peacekeepers. It is obvious and has already been proven that due to the recent developments in the region and the international and diplomatic actions taken, UNDOF gained more strategic importance than ever before in keeping the peace along the ceasefire line on the Golan Heights.

As a consequence, we have to keep the pace of our operational tempo and to conduct our missions patiently and cautiously. Every single peacekeeper must always bear the UNDOF mandate and the UN Code of Conduct in mind before he takes certain actions in the field. Any one of us may easily become the so-called “strategic corporal” and potentially have a significant impact on the entire mission.

In order to meet the future operational requirements, UNDOF has and will undergo certain changes and developments. We developed and improved our mobile operations based upon the still valid UNDOF Operational Concept 2007. Thus we updated and released the UNDOF OPORDER and LOGORDER 2011, and the OPLAN 1000. Finally the UNDOF SOP 2011 was released, and we are still working on the LUFF SOP with the A-Side. I would not have been able to accomplish this task without your utmost support and therefore I want to express my appreciation to the UNDOF team leaders. “Thank you very much”

The next step to complete the overall picture should take place in October 2011 with the assessment of the UNDOF operational capacities by a team from UN HQ. This should support our demands to fill possible operational or logistical gaps in the future, and enable us to achieve the milestones of the UNDOF vision “Going Green, Lean and Digital” an initiative developed and lead by our CMS, Mr. Bernard Lee. This will be a demanding and challenging project for the next five years.

In the end I want to come back to now and focus on the things which need to be done in the next weeks:

key word - winterization. Winter will approach rapidly and we have to focus on getting our units ready to enable them to keep the pace of operations during miserable weather and climatic conditions. This we can only achieve by working together – HQ UNDOF and the military units, civilian and military branches – and focusing our efforts.

Therefore keep team playing and let’s get it done!

You, the UNDOF and OGG peacekeepers are well aware of the introduction training motto: “Think safe – be safe”. Therefore, we finally may not forget that various incidents occurred in the UNDOF Area of Operations. We have been confronted with hazards, mines, restrictions of movement, exidential firing close and other tense situations. In summary, I can say that you performed as professionals, as I expect you to do.

As an example I want to highlight the outstanding performance of AUSBAT'T, supported by HQ UNDOF, during the mine accident on Mount Hermon. Only strong teamwork enabled us, the UNDOF peacekeepers to save the lives of the Druze victims. This action caught people’s attention well beyond the UNDOF Area of Operation and is clearly a strong sign of our excellent Code of Conduct in the service with the UN.

Therefore I urge all of you as you go about your work, to always keep in mind the importance of what we do and to strive individually to do your very best for peace in the Golan Heights.

“One Mission – One Team – One Goal”



Colonel Martin Dorfer  
Chief of Staff UNDOF





# Visits to UNDOF

by LtCdr Reona Aso, DMPIO



*H.E. Haruhisa Takeuchi, Japanese Ambassador, visited Camp Ziouani and attended the Change of Command of J-CON (1<sup>st</sup> Sep 2011)*



*H.E. Richard J. Moon, UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, visited Camp Faouar and met with FC UNDOF (6<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011)*



*LtGen Othmar Commenda, Chief of Defense Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces, inspected AUSBATT and met with FC UNDOF (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011)*



*LtGen Arturo Ortiz, Commanding General of the Philippine Army, visited Camp Faouar, Camp Ziouani and PHILBATT Positions. He met with FC UNDOF (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011)*



*H.E. Hussein Arnouz, Governor of the Quneitra Province, visited Camp Faouar and met with FC UNDOF (19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011)*

- H.E. Maria Kunz, Austrian Ambassador, visited Camp Faouar and AUSBATT Positions (26<sup>th</sup> Jul 2011)
- BGen Günter Ruderstaller, Austrian Armed Forces, inspected AUSBATT and met with FC UNDOF (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011)
- Journalists from "Bamachane Magazine" interviewed UNDOF FC at Camp Ziouani (16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011)
- MGen Juba Kilpiä, Chief of Staff and Head of Mission UNTSO, visited PHILBATT Positions and met with FC UNDOF (31<sup>st</sup> Aug-1<sup>st</sup> Sep 2011)
- H.E. Ricardo M. Endaya, Philippine Ambassador, visited PHILBATT Position and attended PHILBATT Medal Parade (9<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011)



### The new CO/CANCON

Maj Chris Catry was born on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep 1965 in Simcoe, Ontario and spent his youth in central Canada, before joining the Canadian Forces in September 1984. He has served in two Canadian armoured regiments, The 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars and The Royal Canadian Dragoons, serving across Canada and in Europe and completed virtually every appointment at the Regimental level as a Lt, Capt and Maj. He has also served as Recruiting Detachment CO, at various Brigade and Division HQs as a staff officer in numerous Ops and CIMIC-related appointments, the Directorate of Army Training as SSO Armour and EA to the Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, commanded the Land Force Doctrine and Training System Headquarters and served as the Ops Officer of Canadian Forces Base Kingston, the largest Canadian Army Garrison in Canada. Operationally, he has completed tours in Germany, on Humanitarian Operations within Canada and in Central Africa, and on NATO operations in Kabul. Maj Catry is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Officer Candidate School, the Royal Canadian Armour School, the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College and is a Distinguished Honour Graduate of the U.S. Army Special Warfare Centre in both Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs courses. Maj Catry is married to his wife Pam, and they are the proud parents of three children, Veronica, Benjamin and Samuel. His hobbies are playing and watching ice hockey (of course), golfing, and has been known to partake in scotch tasting and cigar smoking.



### The new CO/LOGBATT

LtCol RS Mangat was born on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1973 at Doraha, India. He graduated from the National Defense Academy and was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery from the Indian Military Academy in 1996. In addition to the various mandatory courses, the officer holds a Masters degree in Weapon System and Technology and is a qualified Instructor in Gunnery. He has also qualified from the prestigious Defense Services Staff College, Wellington and Senior Commanders course from the Army War College. He has served in various terrains ranging from deserts to mountains and has operated in active Counter Insurgency areas. During his service, the officer has served as a Gun Position Officer, Observation Post Officer, Battery Commander and Second in Command. He has been an instructor at the National Defence Academy and has held a staff appointment as Operations Officer in an Infantry Brigade. Prior to his present assignment, he was the Second in Command of his unit. He is married to Khushpreet and they are blessed with their daughter Muskaan and their son Gurkirat. He is a keen sportsman and enjoys listening to music.



### The new CO/J-CON

Maj Shigehiro Noshita was born on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1975 in Nagoya, Japan. He joined the Japan Defense Force in 1999 after graduating from the National Defense Academy with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff Course in Japan and attended the Specialized English Training in Lackland, Texas, USA, the Combined Logistics Captains career course in Fort Lee, Virginia, USA, and the 9<sup>th</sup> United Nations Staff and Logistics Officers course in New Delhi, India. He began his career as a Platoon Leader in a transportation truck company, followed by Staff Officer Operations of the Central Transportation Management Command. During his career, Maj Noshita gained experience in a mission abroad as a Transportation Officer in Timor-Leste. He commanded the 302<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Truck Company in 2009 - 2010. His latest appointment was Staff Officer G-3 of the 10<sup>th</sup> Division, and he was involved in disaster relief operations in the wake of the Japan earthquake on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 2011. He is married to Sakurako and they have two daughters, Rio and Nao. He enjoys playing golf, climbing mountains and traveling.



## With the Force HQ-Company on night patrol

**The UNDOF mandate demands to supervise and monitor an area of about 4000km<sup>2</sup>. One of the tasks of the Force HQ Company is to conduct day and night patrols in the Area of Separation in order to implement the mandate.**

In recent weeks the company has primarily been supporting the Austrian Battalion in its operational effort on night patrols and the Philippine Battalion on day patrols. MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, the UNDOF Force Commander, joined the FHQ-Coy in a night patrol on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011 to gain his own impressions of activities in the Area of Separation (AOS) during night operations. The patrol team was honored by having the Force Commander accompany them, reinforcing for them the significance of observing the AOS around the clock to uphold the mandate of UNDOF in the Golan Heights.

Equipped with thermal imaging night vision devices for long range observation, the patrol team stopped at vital posts for monitoring visible sectors of the AOS. The peacekeepers scanned every spot of the terrain for unusual or suspicious activities. That night none could be observed. After about one hour of monitoring the squad continued the patrol towards the next observation post. For movement on dirt patrol roads armored personnel carriers such as the SISU, RG-32 and RG-31 NYALA provided necessary protection for the peacekeepers to do their work.

MGen Ecarma used the occasion

to take additional halts and pay visits to some of the UNDOF positions allocated along the patrol track. He checked the security measures taken during night time as force protection is highly prioritized.

Back in Camp Faouar, Capt Bernhard Samim, FHQ-Coy Cdr reported to the Force Commander: "I am proud to say that FHQ-Coy is doing its very best and it will continue to do its part round the clock to ensure that peace in Golan is maintained and the UNDOF mission is accomplished!"

*Article by*

*Capt Bernhard Samim, FHQ-Coy Cdr*

*Photo by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*



*Observation post during night patrol with RG-31 NYALA in vicinity of Posn 16*

# Force Commander gives lecture at the General Staff College in Austria

**MGen, Natalio C. Ecarma III was deeply honored to be invited to visit Vienna, Austria from 30<sup>th</sup> Jun to 4<sup>th</sup> Jul 2011 to give a lecture to the students of the General Staff College at the National Defense Academy.**

The Force Commander was welcomed at the Vienna International Airport by BGen Andreas Mempör, the Austrian Defense Attaché to Damascus and Col Ernst Bacher, the Chief of Protocol. He further experienced the cordial Austrian-style reception during the official dinner at the Sofitel Hotel, hosted by the Acting Chief of Defense Staff, LtGen Othmar Commenda.

## At the General Staff College

On the second day of his visit the FC discussed the general overview of UNDOF, the current situation in

the Area of Separation, and his experiences as both Force Commander and Head of Mission in leading a multinational force. The students were very interested to hear of the challenges he faces in implementing UNDOF's mandate to keep the peace in the Golan region amid the political upheavals in the Middle East. In particular, with a focus on the Nakba Day and Naksa Day incidents in the AOS involving Palestinians. The keen interest and exchange of intellectual ideas among the students greatly impressed the FC. He was very glad to have contributed to

the education of the future leaders of the Austrian Armed Forces.

## City Tour

After the lecture, the FC was treated to a tour of the beautiful city of Vienna, a place of vibrant life and diversity. It was a memorable day for him having visited the city's historical places with BGen Mempör and Col Bacher. For a better appreciation of the sights, the FC even requested to tour the city by foot. To cap the day, a dinner was hosted in the outskirts of Vienna in an Austrian restaurant serving traditional cuisine.



*MGen Ecarma III gives a lecture to the fascinated students of the General Staff College*





*At the annual Austrian Airpower airshow in Zeltweg...*



*...the FC had the chance to see all kinds of military planes*

**Airpower 2011 air show**

On the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, the FC together with LtGen Commenda and his party flew via a S-70 Black Hawk helicopter to Zeltweg, the venue of the Airpower 2011 air show. The FC had a great time watching the show and meeting some officers who were previously posted to UNDOF, such as LtCol Karl Wolf, and LtCol

**Inspiration**

The Force Commander was very impressed with the Austrian Armed Forces, Austrian hospitality, and its government’s commitment to peacekeeping. “All these now become part of my inspiration to

Volkmar Ertl. After the show, the FC was invited for a short media interview which he graciously granted. continue leading a crucial peacekeeping mission,” the Force Commander stressed in his letter of thanks to LtGen Commenda, referring to his memorable visit to Vienna.



*LtGen Commenda thanks FC MGen Ecarma for the visit*

Article by  
Maj Rommel Bogňalbal, ADC to FC  
Photo by BMLVS

## Hygiene on Mission - On hygiene mission

**In the UNDOF mission there is one person assigned to fight an enemy that is not easy to spot. The dangers may lurk everywhere and still cannot be seen or perceived until one is attacked. The talk is of bacteria and viruses.**



*FHO Maj Fürschuss checks proper food handling*

**T**he Force Hygiene Officer (FHO) is one of three members of the Force Medical Office and his primary challenge is preventive medicine. He is concerned with preven-

tion of illness and epidemics caused by microorganisms spread among UNDOF personnel. His main focus is hygiene and sanitation. The FHO is responsible to frequently check the situation in kitchens, food storage areas, the deep well use water, drinking water, shower and comfort rooms as well as waste water disposed of in the sewage plant.

To ensure a healthy working environment for all peacekeepers, the FHO conducts quarterly hygiene inspections according to the medical standard operating procedure

SOP 2010 in all UNDOF facilities. Of particular importance is that food is handled without breaking the cold chain and that the kitchen area is well cleaned. He also takes care to ensure proper training of new kitchen staff and induces a bimonthly health check for them to minimize the danger of contagion.

### *Did you know?*

*In order to maintain the cold chain, food needs to be kept permanently at a certain temperature.*

- + 4-6°C for meat, milk and eggs*
- + 8°C for open drinks*
- 18°C for frozen foods*



*Fruits require a separate place*



But why do we care so much about a high standard of hygiene? Because these invisible little fellows like salmonella, bacteria and viruses can cause severe diarrhea and fever, and hence their easy transmissibility via door handles or simple handshakes may incapacitate whole units.

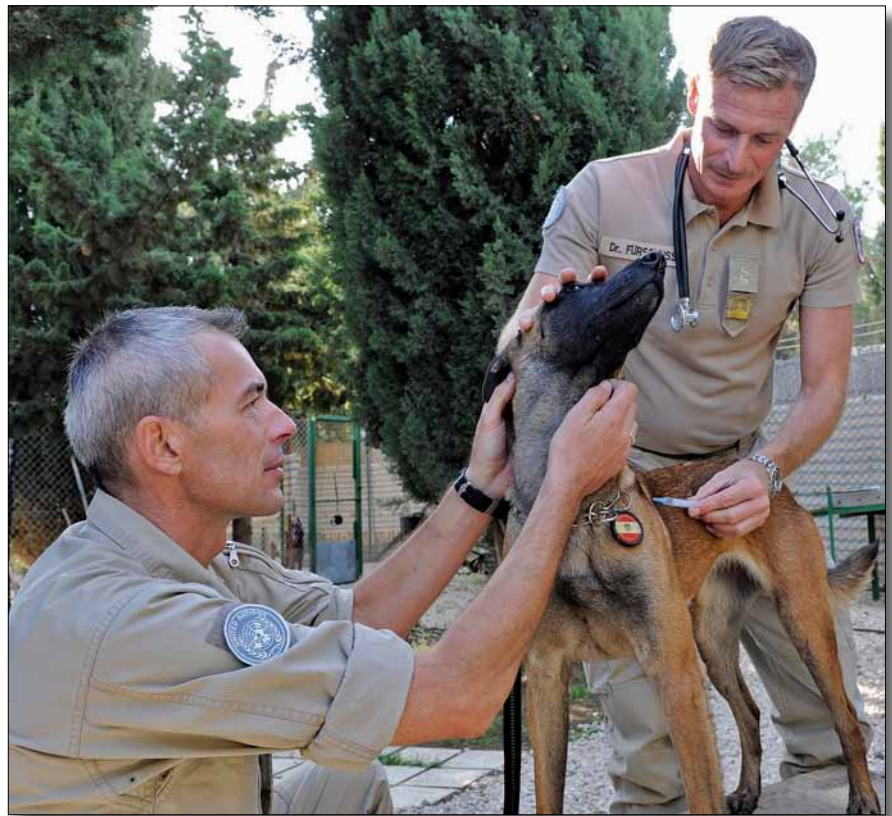


*Temperature control in storage room*



*Instructions given on food storage*

Danger may also arise from stray dogs and cats that may be attracted by kitchen waste. Therefore UNDOF allows for every position to keep one domestic dog and for every platoon to keep one domestic cat, to keep stray animals away from UNDOF premises. These pets need to be reg-



*Treatment of a MP sniffer dog*

ularly health checked, vaccinated and marked with a collar.

The FHO does everything in his power to keep peacekeepers healthy and operational but he requires also the compliance with hygiene standards of all UNDOF members to be successful. In the opinion of Maj Frederic Fürschuss, there are some simple things everyone can do to avoid illness. It starts with personal hygiene by taking a daily shower



*Cooks carry high responsibility*

and washing your hands before eating, and ends with not touching stray cats. Even if they look so sweet they may bite or claw you and infect you.



*Bacterial culture taken with and without hand disinfection*

*Personal hygiene tips*

- Daily shower and grooming*
- Frequently wash your clothes*
- Dispose of your waste properly*
- Change shoes when using the gym*
- Wash your hands after using the CR*
- Use disinfection liquid before eating*
- Don't touch stray animals*

Article by

Capt Günther Kreiml, SOPR

Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien

# UNDOF inaugurates its 21<sup>st</sup>

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2011 UNDOF set yet another mile-the Golan by providing the latest peacekeeping**



*The new UNDOF Posn 86*

The 65 x 110 meter abode situated at the southern tip of the Area of Separation (AOS) just a valley apart from Posn 80A and about 90 minutes travel from UNDOF HQ in Camp Faouar is appointed the name “UN Position 86” with amenities designed to protect its occupants in the service of peace. Posn 86 was conceptualized about a year ago and provides a twelve-room accommodation building, over-head water tanks, a water filtration system, two generator sets, a communication facility with self-supporting tower, an emergency shelter, two light vehicles, freezer storage and refrigerators, operational equipment and scores of quartermaster items.

The inauguration was officiated by the Force Commander MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III and witnessed by many UNDOF key personnel. Posn 86 is now assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company of PHILBATT with Capt Edward Balisong as the first platoon leader along with sixteen of his peacekeepers. The program went through with activities of the Filipino way of showing gratitude; like the ribbon cutting to acknowledge that a facility is opened for the first time; the unveiling of a marker, again for the first time showing the basic information about the facility scripted on a metal plate fixed

on a platform; turn-over of a symbolic key to demonstrate that PHILBATT is now the official occupant of the position; the blessing as an entreat of consent from above; tree planting to green the camp, and an info brief about the facts of the project.

And so it goes, it appears that the first order of the day which should also hold true to whoever resides in it is for the “86ers” to make sure those ten pines and four olive trees planted during the inauguration shall bring forth fruit - a metaphor of their success in the AOR.

Activities at the tail end of the AOS will never be the same in the operational front. The new position, now more than ever, means that monitoring and control of possible violations are intensified by way of closing the gap between positions.

However viewed, Posn 86 is a work in progress, a product of hard labor and patience amidst security concerns courtesy of, to name a few, UNDOF Engineers, Supply, Signals, Transportation, and not the least of which the PHILBATT Warrior Peacekeepers whose assistance was truly felt in the final phase of completion.

*Article by Maj Armando Diango, CLO PHILBATT  
Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebien*



# Position in the Golan Heights

stone in its mandate of keeping the peace in facility - the best of its kind ever constructed.



*FC turns over a symbolic key to CO PHILBATT*



*Mr. Buckley and FC MGen Ecarma cut the ribbon*



*The FC congratulates project manager Maj Zaller*



*The chaplain consecrates the new position*



*Following a tradition the FC plants a tree*



*Philippine soldiers enjoy culinary specialties*



# Always on the ball - AUSBATT EOD-Team

**For more than 18 years Austrian specialists for explosive ordnance disposal have been deployed on international missions abroad, and in 1994 the first Austrian Explosive Ordnance Device (EOD) Team arrived in UNDOF on the Golan Heights.**

According to records found in mine maps there are still about one million anti-tank and anti-personnel mines spread along the ceasefire line, the so called A-line marking the western border of the UNDOF Area of Separation (AOS). Although reliable records are almost nonexistent, a similar number of mines are estimated to be found along the Forward Position Line, the so called B-line, which marks the eastern border of the AOS. Additionally other explosive remnants of war, such as unexploded shells of cluster bombs, tank shells, and mortar shells can be found

all over the AOS and pose a threat to both patrolling peacekeepers and the local population alike.



*Anti personnel mine*

The duty of an EOD Team is to keep the existing patrol tracks cleared of any ordnance, especially after the winter thaw since the shifting ice can move mines onto the tracks. Additionally, previously unchecked areas have to be cleared when new patrol tracks are established. When mines are discovered that would endanger troops or civilians, the EOD Team conducts controlled blasts to render the area safe. Since June 2011 the

AUSBATT EOD-Team led by WO I Ulrich Sattler disposed of approximately 20 mines and various other ordinances.



The specialists also provide monthly mine awareness training to units of UNDOF and OGG because only knowledge and awareness can prevent mine accidents. It is essential that all UNDOF peacekeepers be aware of this mostly invisible danger. To ensure safe movement of patrol teams, all patrol tracks are marked with red painted stones and every soldier is trained to know it is highly dangerous to leave the marked paths. The civilian population is equally at risk, as local shepherds are often found grazing their flocks in areas known to be mined. This situation also poses a threat to passing UNDOF patrol teams in the event that a mine is inadvertently triggered. Despite all precaution and warnings, an accident in a mined area can happen at any time. When it does, the EOD experts are then called upon to rescue the victims with their specialized equipment.



*WO I Sattler and WO I Nagler with antitank mines in the AOS*

*Article by WO I Ulrich Sattler, Cdr EOD/AB  
Photos by UNDOF*



## Medical assistance at Mount Hermon

**In the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2011, nine Lebanese pilgrims were about to visit a pilgrimage site in the vicinity of UNDOF Posn Hermon Hotel at an altitude of 2814m. But one momentous step led to a catastrophe.**

With a big bang an old anti-personnel mine went off and left one pilgrim injured badly on his left leg and another one with secondary injuries all over his body through splinters. With the help of their colleagues they made it to Posn Hermon Hotel where the base commander, MSgt Hannes Kraller-Bergmann, immediately requested emergency medical assistance.

### Emergency treatment on Mt. Hermon

The CO AUSBATT, LtCol Andreas Schiffbänker, and the surgeon Dr. Werner Steinberger immediately rushed to the base. The two patients were treated, stabilized, and made

ready for transport. Significant preparatory treatment was previously initiated by the base team itself, where the Austrian peacekeepers and the doctor-in-training, LCpl Daniel Rampitsch, quickly initiated first aid.

Current and relevant UN regulations did not allow for further treatment in Camp Faouar, which meant the group had to be persuaded to allow for the wounded to be brought to a local hospital in a village below the mountain.

### Austrian competence in the mission

The evacuation proved to be very difficult due to the night road conditions. The evacuation procedures

had to be stopped several times to take life-sustaining measures. Eventually the rescue operation was successfully completed and the lives of the injured pilgrims were saved due to the experience and competence of the Austrian peacekeepers. The Force Commander, MGen Natalio Ecarma III, thanked all rescue team members after the incident and commended them for their relentless efforts in the interest of the patients.

Article by

Lt I Ekkehart Gröppel, WelfareO/AB

Photos by LtCol Andreas Schiffbänker,

CO AUSBATT



*Dr. Werner Steinberger and LCpl Dr. Daniel Rampitsch provide emergency treatment*

## PHILBATT hosted three marches in its assigned Area of Separation (AOS)

**Filipino Warrior Peacekeepers of UNDOF culminate three separate international foot patrols in an ambience of Fiesta celebrations, a Filipino heritage that depicts hospitality and friendship.**

These Filipino sponsored inter-contingent marches were called the Tamaraw March, conducted 16<sup>th</sup> Jul 2011, the Alamid March, 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011, and the recently concluded Wadi March on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011. These are UNDOF's traditional large scale foot patrols with participation of all contingents of UNDOF deployed inside the AOS in the Golan Heights Region. The aim was to bring the men and women of UNDOF to the vision of "One Mission, One Team, and One Goal" towards the implementation of its core mandate, the maintenance and keen observance of agreements and demarcation lines in the AOS. Significant of these activities was the unique showcase of Filipino fiesta heritage which was a joyous occasion of food, good music, and friendship.

The preparation of the marches was well organized. Command Posts were replete with hanging fiesta style "banderitas" which have been uniquely and tediously made from colored papers. A Filipino peacekeeper band welcomed all participants musically at the finish point while hot food was made ready for the hungry marchers. There were also stop points along the patrol paths that catered food and refreshments to provide badly

needed energy on the challenging tracks. More than these, a sponge of cold water to douse the heat and sun block were well appreciated. The added bonus was the warm hospitality of the Filipino members in every stop-point. The smile and tender loving care accorded to every arriving participant spells a difference to the activity. After every stop, everyone seemed to be revived and renewed with new strength to continue the journey.

Inspirational and humorous markings along the patrol path constantly exhorted the participants to continue, and to overcome the rigors of the march. The proverbs and

tales as the participants traversed the rolling, rugged and steep path. A camouflaged sniper photographer, who was hidden behind the rocks, caught many marchers in unguarded moments. Static and mobile medical teams worked round the clock ensuring the proper medical care where needed. These teams addressed minor incidents of dehydration, muscle cramps and sun burns.

The three marches were successfully culminated with zero accidents amidst very challenging terrain and weather conditions. At the end of it all, participants went home with warm memories of the Filipino cultural experience.



*One participant was transported uphill the wadi by donkey after a heatstroke*

sayings are quotations from Austria, Croatia, India, Japan and the Philippines. A static and a mobile team of photographers were taking pic-

Article by  
Capt Celeste Frank L. Sayson, PIO/PhB  
Photos by Cpl Alejandro Narrido



# Camp Ziouani Day - A celebration of unity amid diversity of South East Asian cultures

**Unity amid diversity is the strength that brings the United Nations to greater heights. The 4<sup>th</sup> Philippine Contingent to Golan Heights (4<sup>th</sup> PCGH) and the Logistics Battalion composed of Indian and Japanese contingents of UNDOF, residing in Camp Ziouani lived up to this spirit as they celebrated the first ever Camp Ziouani Day on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011.**

The activity was a unique showcase of culture and tradition from the three participating nations; Philippines, Japan and India. It was a conglomeration of unique talents and skills from all contingents living in the camp. The cultural dances and presentations which are unique to these nations were equally presented by the peacekeepers of Camp Ziouani. One can hardly distinguish a Filipino dancer from an Indian Dancer in a Bhangra Dance from Punjab State in India. Likewise, Indian dancers looked like Filipinos in a Tinikling Dance, a Filipino dance inspired from an indigenous bird called the Tikling when it hops over bamboo poles. Japanese singers sang to the accompaniment of a Filipino

band playing unique Japanese rock songs. Filipino, Indian and Japanese soldiers worked together as one big family in preparing the set.



... perform traditional folk dances

Visitors from UNDOF headquarters and other nations under UNDOF like Croatia and Austria, members of the Observer Group Golan and liaison officers from A-Side witnessed

the event. The Force Commander MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III was the guest of the activity. He said in his short talk, "I am very impressed of this unique initiative". He then called the three contingent commanders in front with him; LtCol Cornelio H. Valencia Jr. of the 4<sup>th</sup> PCGH, LtCol Nishit Ranjan of the Indian Contingent and Maj Keitaro Shido of the Japanese Contingent. MGen Ecarma further stated, "This is what UN is all about, the presentations we witnessed today speak of the UN's true spirit. This is unity amidst diversity." He exalted the participants and recognized them after their various presentations.

The fusion of culture and unique interaction between and among Camp Ziouani's residents began with the initial concept. The Camp Ziouani officers and soldiers from the three contingents regularly met to plan out the activity, enhancing working relationships along the way. They also learned of each other's cultures during their day and night practices. Everyone gained friends, a friendship that was honed inside Camp Ziouani – their home.



Mixed Philippine and Indian dance groups...

Article by  
Capt Celeste Frank I. Sayson, PIO/PHB  
Photo by Cpl Erwin Tadeo

# UNDOF welcomes new Indian and Japanese Contingents in the Golan Heights

**An unprecedented event in the history of UNDOF was marked on 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 2011, when the Indian and Japanese Contingents carried out a joint Transfer of Command Authority parade in perfect coordination at Camp Ziouani.**

This unique parade displayed the high level of integration, cooperation and coordination the contingents enjoy as they carry out their

his admiration and appreciation for the UNDOF mission and took advantage of this unique opportunity to thank the UN as well as the many

The Force Commander in his address lauded the troops of the outgoing rotation for their prodigious display of military professionalism, discipline and conduct. He also conveyed his gratitude for their strenuous work in carrying out the mandate of UNDOF in the native languages of the troops to the surprise and delight of all. The outgoing CO, LtCol Nishit Ranjan expressed his appreciation to all personnel of the force for making his team's tenure successful and cherished. He handed over the command baton to Maj Amjad Khan, DCO LOGBAT'T of the incoming rotation and wished him the best of luck. Maj Khan also expressed hope that they would carry out their duties with dedication and perseverance, living up to the traditions of 17 Parachute Field Regiment and the Indian Army.

The outgoing J-CON CO, Maj Shido, handed over command to



*The troops marching in*

operational tasks. The various drills and procedures which are unique to each country came in unison to display a stupendous military parade conducted in complete synchronization - a delight for the viewers.

The parade was reviewed by MGen Natalio C. Ecarma III, and was commanded by the Maj L. L. Hoakip, DCO LOGBAT'T of the outgoing rotation. The guest list comprised of military and civilian staff members of UNDOF, government officials and prominent representatives of the local population. This event had special significance for the outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mr. Haruhisa Takeuchi, marking his last visit to Camp Ziouani before his return home to Japan. He expressed

international rescue teams and delegations from around the world who rushed to assist Japan in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami.



*FC inspecting the troops*





*Signing ceremony with incoming and outgoing CO J-CON*



*FC hands over the flag to Maj Noshita*



*Handover of the command baton to Maj Khan*

his successor, Maj Noshita. Before handing over the command flag, Maj Shido expressed gratitude for the close cooperation and hospitality he enjoyed from UNDOF and our hosting nations. The incoming CO Maj Noshita was honored to accept command and made a commitment to continue to live up to the excellent reputation of the preceding contingent. The event finally culminated with lunch in the international kitchen of Camp Ziouani.

The XI<sup>th</sup> Indian rotation core group is comprised of 17 Parachute Field Regiment which is one of the elite regiments of the Indian Army. The four specialist Logistics Platoons of engineers, signals, supply and maintenance and various other detachments of medical, postal, military police and finance have also

been replaced by equally capable personnel. This joint military parade rekindled the sanguine thoughts for everyone that indeed the organizational, operational, cultural and normative differences are narrow-

ing down and bringing us closer to UNDOF's motto of "One Mission, One Team, One Goal".

*Article by Maj Himmat Singh, MAINTO/LB  
Photo by LOGBATT*



*Pass in review of the troops*



# Alpine training for the Croatian Contingent

**In order to reach and provide first aid to accident victims in difficult terrain, alpine training for combat life savers was conducted with Austrian alpine instructors on Mt. Hermon.**

The Croatian 3<sup>rd</sup> Company as part of the Austrian Battalion is deployed in the hilly areas of Mount Hermon, where steep and rocky paths must be patrolled. Some of the isolated paths along the track are only accessible by foot, taking up to an hour to reach. The scenario of the alpine training was to practice rescuing an injured peacekeeper that had received multiple injuries to the head and extremities. The combat life savers tasks were to reach the location of the accident, provide first aid at the abyss, and to move the injured to a safe spot for evacuation by vehicle.



*Essential is to use the correct technique*



*The frightening precipice...*



*...demands to overcome fear*

During the exercise, the experienced Austrian alpine guides taught their Croatian comrades how to correctly use the climbing harnesses, ropes and karabiners. It is essential to apply utmost skill and diligence when using this equipment,



*Led by Coy Cdr Capt Stanic...*

as well as choosing the appropriate spot for rappelling. Any mistake or false assessment of the situation may lead to further injuries of the victim, and may also endanger the rescue team. The biggest challenge they faced was to safely lift the victim up to the evacuation spot while he was

strapped onto a stretcher.

For most of the Croatian combat life savers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy this was their first time working under such difficult conditions in the cliffs of Mt. Hermon. However, everyone was up to the challenge, happy to gain such unique and exceptional skills: not only to overcome the technical challenges of the exercise, but also to cope with the personal fear of being exposed to an unusual and



*...the Croatian peacekeepers retrieve...*



*...and rescue the victim*

dangerous situation. The rescue team was proven courageous, successfully completing all required tasks while overcoming their fears. With the necessary skills achieved, the exercise was a resounding success for all.

*Article by  
Lt I Ivan Salopek Deputy OIC 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy/AB  
Photos by Sgt Markus Weiss*



# Facility Reduction Program in Camp Ziouani

**On 26<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011, J-CON Detachment started to work on the Facility Reduction Program in Camp Ziouani. This program was initiated by the Engineering Section, and its goal is to clear the empty, decaying and hazardous facilities in the UNDOF camp on A-Side.**

The large scale project aims to tear down decrepit and unsafe buildings and structures and will

ing the old buildings by means of an excavator, then removing debris by buckets and finally leveling the rubble with a dozer.

them from the surroundings, and reach the beehive and honey combs. He managed to collect some of the wild honey without being stung and was hailed as the hero of the day by members of J-CON who were delighted at the chance to taste fresh honey.



*WO II Watanabe is happy about the sweet discovery*

One day construction machine operators were surprised to discover a honey trap in the cavity of a wall. SSgt Daibo was operating the excavator to tear down a building, when he came upon this massive

The demolitions of two buildings have been completed and the operators have moved on to the next one. With plenty of work ahead, J-CON Detachment members are pleased to be a part of this program, making Camp Ziouani more comfortable and appealing for those who work and live here.

*Article by Lt I Daisuke Tone, PO/J-CON  
Photo by Capt Masanao Ishihara,  
Det Leader/J-CON and  
Sgt Hitoshi Matsuda, Sig/J-CON*

last into 2012. It is divided in two main phases in which overall about 35 objects in Camp Ziouani will be demolished. These objects are mainly former accommodations, storages, and shelters that are not usable anymore for several years now.

beehive. WO II Watanabe made a heroic attempt to face the bees, drive

At a later stage this program will also address the layout of existing buildings. At present, each contingent's offices, shops, warehouses and accommodations are separately located and in many cases spread out. With proper allocation management and adequate assignments of facilities to contingents and units, an optimized workflow will increase efficiency. Ever since the kick off, operators of J-CON's Detachment Section, have been hard at work, destroy-



*With great skill the operator tears down heavy concrete walls safely*

# Military Dogs - Life is a Game

**The UNDOF MP Platoon is currently supported by some of the finest military dogs who have been provided to UNDOF for detecting explosives and narcotics within vehicles, luggage and accommodations.**

With the constantly changing environment and the ever increasing tensions in the area of operations sniffer dog tasks have assumed much more importance over the times, as safety and security of the peacekeepers and of UN facilities and installations is of prime importance for one and all.

Although the basic tasks haven't changed much over the years there have been massive improvements and developments in the field of dog training and education in the last decade. As part of this training the playing and hunting instincts of a dog are used as the primary means of motivation to achieve feats while pressure and putting under stress is always kept secondary.



*Sniffer dog "Drive"*

An essential aspect of all kinds of military training is the fact that it needs to begin early when the mind and body both have immense potential to pick up new things and so is the case with the dogs, which means that military training begins for them as soon as they are puppies - a few months old. They are exposed to different situations and during this phase playing with their personal trainer is promoted, so that after a few months, the dogs are willing to cooperate with their handler. Of course the possibility of being



*Suborder training*



*Drive in action during search training*

rewarded with a toy or a snack acts like an additional bait but nevertheless the actual incentive is the fun which the dog has with the other end of the leash.

It goes without saying that discipline and adequate time are pretty much necessary to convert an ordinary dog into a military dog, the training usually culminating with a difficult examination both for the trainee and the handler.

*Article by Maj Varun Chhabra, FPM  
Photos by WO I Wolfgang Grebner*



# New military training implemented for OGG

**Within Observer Group Golan, we have adopted a new training model and integrated realistic activities into our preparation for the past five months.**



*Evacuation exercise to OP72*

It goes without saying that this has had a significant and positive effect on the competence and confidence of the United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) to tackle not only everyday challenges but also the random incidents that have required a heightened response. The first training challenge that seeks to expose the new UNMOs to the fight or flight response occurs in their third week within the Outstation.

It occurs during the “Chief’s Challenge 2” exercise and in a nutshell involves the UNMO being involved in a medically-related incident that occurs while out on the road during a vehicle patrol. The scenario is made as realistic as possible

including role players that provide the visual cues for the injury such as simulated wounds or snake bites. The scenario is played all the way to handing over to a medical response team and includes the follow-up paperwork back in the Observation



*UNDOF COS Col Martin Dorfer visits OP73*

Post. These training activities have produced highly confident and competent UNMO.

The training for the UNMOs

does not just stop here. There are on-going training scenarios that are executed by the Training Officer which replicate a range of possible scenarios that the UNMOs may be exposed to during their daily routine such as falling injuries from the OP platform, snake bite injuries and vehicle accident trauma. These allow the Outstation Duty Officers to be exposed to the fight or flight response as well as the UNMOs that are working within the Golan AOR. These scenarios are conducted in the same manner as those mentioned in the Chief’s Challenge 2 above and again have had a very positive learning effect for those directly involved as well as the rest of the Outstation through After-Action Reviews that are compiled and released by the Training Officer.

New junior UNMOs are being trained by others more senior, who have already gone through it, and thereby pass on their learning outcomes and advice. This has continued to set up a positively reinforcing cycle that has seen the organisational job competence and confidence reach a very high standard. The implementation of this training model and method of execution has proven to be very effective at developing UNMO officers.

*Article by Maj Mark Samuels, PlansO OGG*

*Photos by WOI Wolfgang Grebien*

*Force Photographer*

