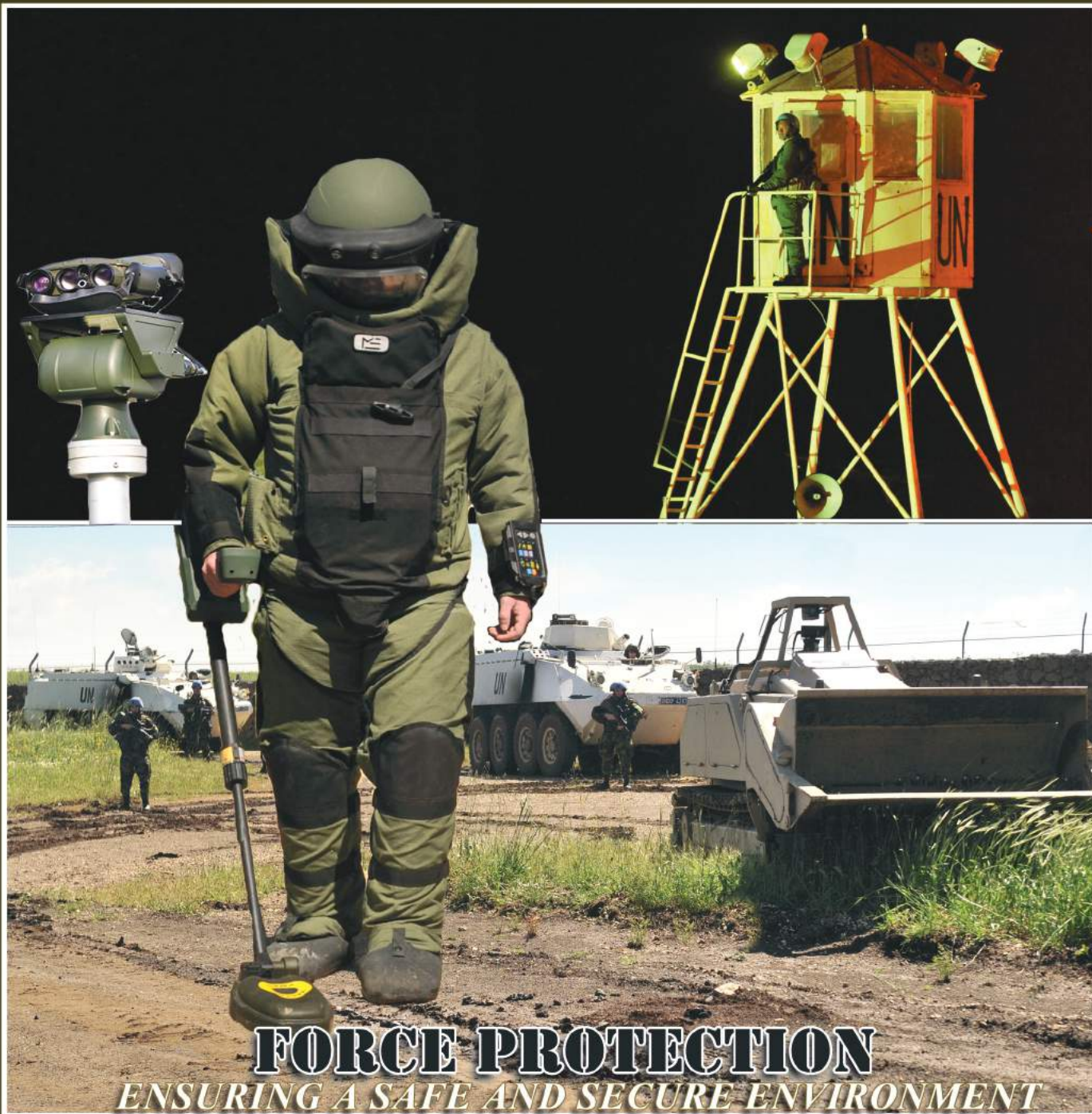


GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



FORCE PROTECTION
ENSURING A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT



JANUARY-MARCH 2016





DEAR READERS!

Welcome to the 146th edition of the GOLAN
The UNDOF Journal.

EDITORIAL



To all avid readers of this journal it is my honour to present the new edition of GOLAN. This edition covers UNDOF's activities during the late Winter/Early Spring Season, and in keeping with our initiative launched in the previous issue, edition 146 will again focused on a particular aspect of modern peacekeeping.

This time around we will focus on Force Protection Measures, and in particular C-IED. In today's Contemporary operating Environment the spectrum of hazards and threats which confront Peacekeepers varies widely. Natural or man-made hazards may well present the most likely threat to Peacekeepers. In common with other aspects of military operations, Force Protection is ultimately a balance between risk and finite resources. The successful weighing and judgement of this balance by commanders, and early consideration of Force Protection issues are key to maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Action (FOM), through which UNDOF can ensure the completion of our duties as per the mandate. C-IED is a key part of Force Protection, and in countering asymmetric threats. In this edition we look at how C-IED training is carried out in UNDOF, and there is a two page Tac Aide containing valuable tips we should all be mindful of.

For myself and SO PR Major Thapa, this will be our last Golan Journal, as we soon depart the mission. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the DFC Brig Gen Anthony Hanlon, and the COS Col Jone Logavatu, who were always available to give us excellent guidance and direction, and who allowed us to develop and expand the Golan Journal. I would



Sgt Ben, Comdt Mick & Maj Jay

also like to thank the CGSO Mr. Jim Phelan, and all the UNDOF personnel from other departments and the TCCs who generously volunteered their time despite their busy schedules to assist us, and who epitomized the UNDOF slogan of "One Mission, One Team, One Goal". I can not leave out our Photographer Sgt Ben Taoi who is an exceptional young NCO, and a credit to his Armed Forces.

Finally I would like to mention that in keeping with the centre page poster initiative launched in edition 143, this edition will also feature a centre page that can be pulled out to act as a wall poster, this time containing an UNDOF TCC comparative Rank Table.

Stay Safe

Comdt Mick Murphy
SSO Media & PR



www.undof.unmissions.org

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Editorial Staff:

Editor in Chief,
SSO Media PR
Comdt Mick Murphy

Deputy Editor SOPR
Maj Jayaram Thapa

Editor and Force Photographer
Sgt Ben Taoi

Editorial Office:

UNDOF HQ
Camp ZIOUANI
E-Mail: undof-ss-media-pr@un.org

Online edition: <http://undof.unmissions.org>

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.

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Proof Readers:
Capt Cunningham - (IRECON)

HOM & Force Commander's Message



HOM & FC UNDOF



It is a great honor for me to be appointed as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNDOF, a mission with such a long and proud history, and that has served on the Golan for the last 42 long years with distinction. The previous years were undoubtedly some of the most critical chapters in UNDOF's history. The relocation of much of the Force to the Alpha Side, the subsequent establishment of Camp Ziouani as an Operational Headquarters, and the reshaping of the tactics, techniques, and procedures needed to implement the mandate, represented a monumental challenge. Despite all, UNDOF never flinched from the task at hand and prevailed through the continued implementation of its mandate as envisaged in the Disengagement Agreement between Israel and Syria in 1974. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the steadfast dedication, professionalism and commitments of all the troops and staff of UNDOF through those challenging times.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General Anthony Hanlon, and the Chief of Mission Support, Mr. Bernard Lee, for successfully leading UNDOF

in the interim period before my arrival. As the Acting Force Commander and Head of Mission, respectively, you successfully led the first reconnaissance patrols into the northern Areas of Separation and Limitation. You also drove the improvement of the existing infrastructure in our positions and camps to enhance staff morale and performance, and your sterling work and steadfast commitment has in particular seen a vast improvement of force protection measures for UNDOF personnel in Camp Ziouani, in Position 80, in Position 12 and elsewhere in our AO. I must also take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the Observer Group Golan to UNDOF throughout all these years. Your effort and hard work, and synergy with UNDOF, remains a critical element of UNDOF's operations.

Since my arrival on March 13, I have had the privilege to encounter the skilled, experienced, and committed military and civilian personnel that make up the diverse UNDOF family. Thus far I have been overwhelmed with the commitment and determination of each one of you, and have no doubt, that going forward, UNDOF will continue to be successful in our endeavors. I would also like to assure you that your safety and security remains my priority in all UNDOF activities.

UNDOF is unique in the context of its mandate and mission, and there exists an environment of wonderful diversity on the Golan. We enjoy the support and acceptance of both Israel and Syria, and it is essential that we maintain this support. To do so, first and foremost we must continue to be impartial in our actions and behavior at all costs. As United Nations personnel, our behavior must be of the highest standards and in line with the United Nation's rules and regulations. Patience and restraint are the two biggest virtues of peace-keeping, and I exhort you to be courteous with the locals, and to continue to behave in the exemplary manner in which you have done so in the past.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who are returning home, and joining their families after the successful completion of their tour of duty in UNDOF. I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. I also welcome those who have recently joined the mission, and wish you a safe and happy tour. I have no doubts that you will rise to the occasion in order to achieve lasting peace in the region, and continue the high standards set by UNDOF. I sincerely thank you all for the warm welcome and manner in which I was received in to the UNDOF family, and I look forward to working with you all. Remember, no matter what background, culture or nationality we belong to, our motto remains:

One Mission, One Team, One Goal

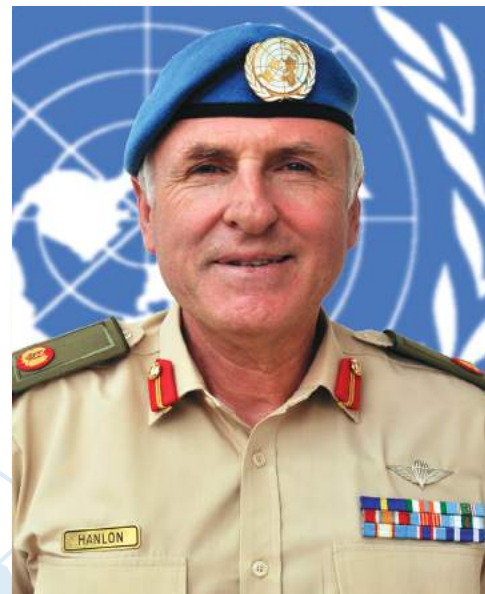
Major-General Jai Shanker Menon
Head of Mission & Force Commander UNDOF



Dear Colleagues,

It is not for me but for others to judge my success or failure in achieving what I undertook to do as Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, but I know, because of the work and determination of the military and civilian components of the Mission, that my successor will begin his tenure with levels of capability at their highest and with a culture made stronger by the commitment of all to work together through the shared values of courage, initiative, respect and cooperation.

I joined the mission on 20 September 2014 and will take very special memories of my time as a member of the UNDOF family. It was a special and privileged opportunity to serve in a mission with such a long and proud history, wonderful diversity and most significantly, uniqueness in the context of its mandate and mission. I thank most sincerely my colleagues past and present, contingent personnel, international staff, staff officers, national Staff on both the Alpha-Side and the Bravo-Side and not forgetting our military observer colleagues in UNTSO, for their outstanding efforts. I always found commitment, energy and drive to propel the Mission in the right direction, I personally enjoyed great courtesy and wonderful hospitality and more than anything else a great feeling of belonging to something valuable and important. We have been through turbulent times this past 20-months, days filled with considerable challenge and uncertainty. When I arrived we were at a low ebb, it has been rewarding to watch UNDOF rise up over this difficult period.



We can all take pride in changes made to the way the UNDOF operates today. We have become much more robust in our plans, processes and procedures. We have come through a series of strategic reviews and have become more transparent and accountable in the way we do things and take decisions. We established a new HQ in Yafour, we reestablished Ziouani as an Operational HQ and we rebuilt the confidence and pride in the UNDOF Mission.

The relocation of much of the Force to the Alpha-Side in September 2014 was a watershed moment for UNDOF, it presented us with the greatest challenge we ever faced, the future looked bleak and we struggled to come to terms with how best to implement the mandate in what was to become a modified manner, however, our presence on the Alpha Side has been characterised by the reshaping of UNDOF through ever new forms of interaction and innovation, so vital for the fulfillment of our tasks. We now are facing another watershed moment in our history as we are engaged now in the advanced planning for the commencement of a return to the Bravo Side. We have recently conducted reconnaissance patrols into the northern Areas of Separation and Limitation including a series of extended halts in Camp Faouar, a place still held dear in the hearts of so many who served and continue to serve in the Mission.

I have always placed high priority on improving the existing infrastructure of our positions and camps to enhance staff morale and performance. The improvement of living and working conditions, and in particular force protection measures, for UNDOF personnel in Camp Ziouani, in UNP 80, in UNP 12 and elsewhere in our AO are the most vivid examples of the marvellous efforts made by our engineering and logistics staffs and through contingents' self-help efforts.

The relationship between OGG, OGG-T, OGG-D and UNDOF has evolved so much in my time here and today it is deeply collaborative, respectful and joint in our efforts to deliver mission success. This is also the case with regard to the relationship that UNDOF enjoys with our sister missions in the region, UNTSO, UNIFIL, UNFICYP.



We have deepened our critical relationship and understanding with the Parties to the Agreement. I believe that our standing with the Parties, both Syria and Israel, has never been better and I am confident that this is also the case in relation to how UNDOF is perceived today at United Nations Headquarters.

I must pay tribute, in particular, for the excellent support and cooperation I have received from our Chief of Staff, Colonel Jone Kalouniwai Logavatu, who has been a loyal friend and trusted advisor. Colonel Logavatu has always led by example and steadfast in the promotion of United Nations values and core principles amongst UNDOF personnel. I also wish to acknowledge the exemplary support and guidance I received from my great friend Mr. Bernie Lee, our Chief of Mission Support; his advice and enduring friendship has proven indispensable in the fulfilment of my duties. Bernie has always been there as my sounding board and devil's advocate, he never allowed me to stray too far from the right decision.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our Force Commander and Head of Mission Major General Jai Shanker Menon. Although I will only have spent two months under his leadership before I depart, it is so evident that UNDOF is in the safest hands and will enter a new era rich in achievement under his sage guidance, his courage, his determination, his strategic vision and most importantly his great depth of humanity.

To my family, and especially my wife Mary, whose support and love has been unshakeable, you have made the last two years possible and I am forever in your debt.

And so my friends, in bidding you farewell, please be assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future careers, welfare and happiness.

I offer you all my most sincere appreciation for your unwavering collaboration and warm friendship that I so much treasured throughout my tenure.

Before closing I also want to remember reverently those members of UNDOF who gave the last full measure of devotion in our endeavours to deliver peace on the Golan. They and their families must never be forgotten.

With deep thanks and appreciation.



DFC UNDOF Brig Gen Anthony HANLON transfers Command of UNDOF to Maj Gen Jai Shanker MENON in Khetarpal Hall, Camp Ziouani on the 15th of March 2016

Brigadier-General Anthony Hanlon
Deputy Force Commander UNDOF



Major General Jai Shanker Memnon, VSM was commissioned into Brigade of The Guards, an elite regiment of the Infantry in 1980. The officer stood first in his passing out course and was awarded the prestigious President's Gold Medal and "Sword of Honour". During his 35 years of distinguished service in the Army, the officer has had varied experience in command, staff and instructional tenures within India and abroad.

The General is a graduate of the prestigious Defence Service Staff College and College of Defence Management, India. He has an exceptional record in professional and carrier courses of the Indian Army, standing first in almost all of them.

The officer has rich experience as a leader in command profiles, which includes command of an Infantry Company, Battalion, Brigade, Division and his Regimental Centre. The officer has similar experience in staff having served as a General Staff Officer Grade I in an Armoured Division, Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division and is presently serving as the Additional Director General Equipment Management in the Army Headquarters responsible for the equipping, maintenance and sustenance of the Indian Army. He has served as an instructor in the Commando School and in the Prestigious College of Defence Management, India.

With regards to service in the United Nation and abroad, the officer has served as a Military Observer in ONUMOZ, Mozambique in 1983 and a Deputy Chief of Integrated Support Service in UNIFIL from 2007 to 2009. This tenure as DCISS was a seconded appointment which was double hatted. The officer has also attended an anti-terrorist course in Italy in 1985.

For his distinguished service, the general officer has been awarded the Vishist Seva Medal.

The General is happily married to Mrs Helen Menon and has two daughters Sasha Maria and Mihika Ann who are studying and pursuing medicine and dentistry, respectively.

The officer is an outstanding sportsman, participates in half marathon race and enjoys outdoor life and adventure.



Lt Col Vivek Chaudhary was born on 07 Jul 1978 at Bageshwar (Uttarakhand). He is an alumnus of Officers Training Academy and was commissioned into the "Regiment of Artillery" in 33 Medium Regiment in 2002.

This officer has put in 14 years of service where he had the unique distinction of serving in High Altitude, Desert, Riverine, Jungle and mountainous terrain and carries rich battle field experiences with him. This officer has vast experience in Counter Insurgency & Counter Terrorism Operations also.

As a Gunner he has performed the duties of Gun Position Officer, Observation Post Officer and Battery Commander and prior to his present appointment he was performing the duties of Battery Commander of 116 Medium Battery of 33 Medium Regiment. The Officer is a keen player of Football, Squash and Hockey. Lt Col Vivek Chaudhary is married to Mrs Shraddha Chaudhary and is blessed with a daughter, Indu Chaudhary.

Damascus News

At the Office of the Head of Mission and Force Commander (HOM/FC) in Camp Yafour, Damascus, new temporary headquarters of UNDOF, the outgoing HOM/FC Lieutenant General Purna Chandra Thapa handed over the duties of the Head of Mission and the Force Commander to Chief Mission Support and Deputy Force Commander respectively on 6 February 2015. Pending the arrival of new HOM/FC Major General Jai Shankar Menon, the CMS Mr Bernard Lee will be the Head of Mission ad interim and the DFC will be the Acting Force Commander.

The ceremony was attended by all the international staff and the military staff of UNDOF and UNTSO in Damascus. After signing the handover takeover document, speaking briefly General Thapa recalled his one year tenure with humility and said that he could contribute to what all his predecessors and peacekeepers had contributed to UNDOF in its glorious history. Importantly, he noted that he could serve UNDOF during its most difficult times and together with the able group of mission leadership and fellow peacekeepers from across the globe, he could see the mission's gradual transition from re-configuration to the redeployment phase. He expressed hope with conviction that the redeployment of the UNDOF forces into the Area of Separation will start soon. Both CMS and DFC reciprocated saying that General Thapa inspired mission's transition in a composed manner.



Former FC Lt Gen Thapa signs the HOTO document

Interestingly, General Thapa took over the duties of Head of Mission and Force Commander from the CMS and DFC a year ago.

Article By: Lt Col Madhab Thapa

Celebrating St.Patricks Day in UNDOF HQ Yafour

This year is no different
Planning for the feast of St. Patrick's in the last minute
One lone Irish man working in UNDOF B-side
Could not let this special day go by

St Patrick Day becomes a worldwide occasion
Where all Irish and wanna-be Irish join the celebration
Usually this involves public parades and loads of fun
With all Irish families planning this day for months

St. Patrick is one lucky guy
Every year there's always a pint
Here we are celebrating in a different way
No shamrock or leprechaun except a home-made cake

Poem and Photos by: Gloria Jacinta Time

Happy St. Paddy's day to everyone from the Bravo clan
Another day is gone and looking forward for the next one
Hope the Irish luck will come your way
That's if you were good to the leprechauns' everyday



UNDOF and UNTSO Staff celebrate St.Patricks Day at UNDOF HQ, Yafour



C-IED AWARENESS UNDOF

The use of IEDs has become widespread to the extent that they have become a global and enduring threat. Countering this threat is known as Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED). IEDs are one of the weapons of choice for an opponent who seeks an asymmetric advantage to avoid fighting against conventional strengths. The adversary exploits the use of IEDs to demonstrate friendly forces failings to deliver security and inhibit freedom of movement. For the local population IEDs can lead to widespread feelings of insecurity with a debilitating effect on the host nation population. IED casualties also affect morale and consequently the cohesion and effectiveness of a force. Therefore, IEDs employed by an adversary as a tactical weapon can have strategic effect.

Reports continue to highlight the increasing global threat posed by IEDs. These devices have caused over 60,000 civilian deaths in the previous five years. IEDs have increasingly had a lethal impact on United Nations peace operations. Where the United Nations has been deployed in asymmetric threat environments, which are currently typified by IED use, concrete steps must be taken to mitigate the threat in order to enhance the safety and security of mission personnel and ensure delivery of mission mandates. UNDOF continues to train to operate in a high IED Threat Environment. It is essential that the mission remains trained and prepared to counter the threat posed by IED's IOT mitigate loss of life and ensure the safety of ALL personnel. In order to achieve these aims UNDOF have conducted CIED Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTP's) courses in November 2015, February 2016 and most recently in early March on the B-side with the Force Commanders Close Protection Unit.



Sgt J Ledua conducts the 5's and 25's during the C-IED Course



Lcpl Suwe places a dummy IED during the IED Emplacement Exercise

The UNDOF C-IED TTP Awareness Course was based on theory and practical which was held in the lecture halls and training spaces of Camp Ziouani and YAFOUR base. Subject areas were introduced in the lecture hall, demonstrated in the field and then finally rehearsed and tested in live scenarios. Paired back to its simplest form the C-IED drills taught prepared troops to be tactically effective, situationally aware and how to react effectively to incidents in High Threat IED environments. The aim of the CIED Tactic's Techniques and Procedures (TTP's) course is to enhance the CIED Awareness of UNDOF forces and subsequently mitigate and reduce these risks posed by IED's. Additionally, this course provides UNDOF personnel with an overview of the IED weapon system and an understanding of IED threats within the operational environment.



The most recent CIED TTP courses were fortunate to have the presence of Irish NCO's Sgt. Bookle, Sgt O' Sullivan and Cpl. Morrissey of the FRC available. Their knowledge and expertise was welcomed by all course students.

The final day of the CIED TTP Awareness course included Exercise SAND BOX where the students were exercised in a reaction to an IED scenario. The students on the course were all run through a series of realistic scenarios which exercised them in their pre-movement drills, medical, reaction to an IED, reporting, command and control. All students performed to a very high standard learning valuable skill for taking forward in their military careers and for enhancing UNDOF force protection.

CIED awareness is a very important tool for the UNDOF forces because we are going beyond the simple reactive mode. It brings a deeper level of intelligence of devices capability thus providing our commanders with a clearer picture of the operational environment. Through this awareness we begin to understand the enemy's tactics, techniques and procedures resulting in better force protection.



Sgt Sudhakara receives his course certificate from the UNDOF COS

Evidence suggests that aggressive, well trained and well led units who are enemy orientated experience fewer IED attacks and have lower casualty rates. However, the opposite appears to be true for units who are 'Device orientated' and view 'technology' as the answer. They generally experience more IED attacks and have higher casualty rates. C-IED is not a specialty problem; it is an all arms responsibility. Therefore UNDOF must continue to educate its force on the risks associated with IED's and in doing so instill confidence in our commanders about the methods of reducing the risks of IED's.



UNDOF Force Commander Close protection Unit (CPU) receives C-IED training at Yafour base

POTENTIAL IED INDICATORS

COLOURS

Enemy may provide clues unwittingly. Detcord visible, colour of IED not covered completely, etc.

Freshly disturbed earth will be darker in colour (look for colour changes on the earth). Concrete doesn't match the surroundings.

MARKINGS

On the side of the road (use of tyres, piled rocks, ribbon, tape, etc to identify IED location or used as aiming reference).

Freshly dug holes or pavement patching along, or, in the roadway (may indicate possible future IED emplacement).

SHAPES

Outlines that are not normal in nature.

New dirt/gravel piles.

Obstacles in the roadway used to channel the convoy.

CHANGES IN TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Lack of vehicle traffic in a normally busy area.

Vehicles following convoy for a long distance and then pulling off the side of the road.

GRAFFITI

Indicating some type of warning to locals (interpreters usually needed).

SIGNS

Markers appearing in locations where they have not previously been seen.

Dead animals along the roadways. Personnel on overpasses.

Signals with lights (turned on/off) as convoy approaches.

People video taping ordinary activities or military movements.

CLASSIFICATION EXPLOSIVE

- **CWIED** - Command Wire Im
 - **RCIED** - Radio Controlled Im
 - **PBIED** - Person Borne Impr
 - **PVBIED** - Person Vehicle Bo
 - **VOIED** - Victim Operated Im
 - **VBIED** - Vehicle Borne Impr
- C-IED Ait

CIED AWA



WHEN IED/UXO IS FOUND

SECURITY Maintain 360 degrees. Scan close in near ground, the far ground and up high and down low.

ALWAYS Scan your immediate surroundings for more IED's.

MOVE Move away. Vary safe distances, but plan for 300m minimum safe distance and adopt 5 C's.

ATTEMPT To confirm suspected IED's using optics while staying back as far as possible.

5 C's

CONFIRM From a safe distance.

CONTACT Inform Higher Comd of situation and ask for required assets (GRF, EOD)

CLEAR Evacuate the area. Clear from the device outwards. Identify a safe route away from the danger area.

CORDON Off the area. Direct people out of danger area. Do not allow anyone to enter (except for EOD). Question, search and detain suspects as defined by your existing ROE. Establish cordon of approx 300m as a minimum. Be out of line of sight of device. Be aware of secondary devices.

CONTROL Only allow authorised personnel to enter.

ON OF IMPROVISED IVE DEVICES

Improvised Explosive Device

Improvised Explosive Device

Improvised Explosive Device

Borne Improvised Explosive Device

Improvised Explosive Device

Improvised Explosive Device

AIDE MEMOIRES

WARENESS



C-IED TTPs

Vary Routes and routines; don't let the enemy
"fix" you at a specific location.

Vary intervals, speed, tactics and anything that allows the
ENEMY to predict your movements and target you.

Drive the best line – The centre of the road if necessary.

If on unpaved roads follow in local/ lead vehicle tracks.

Report location waypoints and give regular situational updates.

Exit your vehicle at Vulnerable Points (VPs) e.g. culverts, choke
points, slow down points, scenes of recent attacks, road
works, bends in the road, - any suspicious area – and clear the
routes on foot using your viewing aids to assist you.

If any STOP is made – 5m and 25m checks around
your position must be conducted.

WHEN AN IED EXPLODES

TREAT IT AS AN AMBUSH!

MORE EXPLOSIONS OR DIRECT AND IN-DIRECT ENEMY FIRE MAY FOLLOW.


































































RETURN FIRE IAW THE STATED RULES OF ENGAGEMENT (ROE).

MOVE OUT OF THE KILL ZONE AS DIRECTED BY YOUR COMMANDER.

MOVE TO THE BEST LOCATION TO RECONSOLIDATE AND FURTHER ASSESS THE SITUATION.

KEEP SECURITY... 360 DEGREES AT ALL TIMES!

C-IED AIDE MEMOIRES

<div>  <div>UNDOF COMPARATIVE R</div> </div>									
COUNTRY	Pte	L Cpl	Cpl	M Cpl	Sgt	M Sgt	S Sgt	WO III	WO II
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<div>  <div>FUJI ISLAND</div> </div>	No Rank Insignia								
<div>  <div>INDIA</div> </div>	No Rank Insignia								
<div>  <div>NEPAL</div> </div>	No Rank Insignia								
<div>  <div>BHUTAN</div> </div>	No Rank Insignia								
<div>  <div>IRELAND</div> </div>									
<div>  <div>NETHERLAND</div> </div>									only WO
<div>  <div>CZECH</div> </div>									
<div>  <div>ISRAEL</div> </div>	No Rank Insignia								
<div>  <div>SYRIA</div> </div>	No Rank Insignia								

RANK TABLE : JAN 2016



WO I	2 nd Lt	Lt	Capt	Maj	Lt Col	Col	Brig Gen	Maj Gen	Lt Gen
	NATO	OF 1	OF 2	OF 3	OF 4	OF 5	OF 6	OF 7	OF 8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

Lt Eoin Carroll: The Troop Commander

I was born in Limerick City and lived in Co Tipperary, which is in the Midlands in Ireland. Prior to joining the Irish Defence Forces, I went to the University of Limerick and studied Business Studies with French, specialising in Insurance and Risk Management. During this period I was a member of the Reserve Defence Forces, as a Corporal based in Sarsfield Barracks Limerick with the 14th Battalion and then 32nd Battalion. During my time in College, I spent a year studying in Montpellier in the South of France. After College, I lived in Whistler in Canada and worked as Snowboard Instructor. When I returned to Ireland I joined the Irish Permanent Defence Forces as a member of the 85th Cadet Class. Upon commissioning, I was commissioned as a Cavalry Officer and posted to the 1st Brigade Cavalry Squadron, Collins Barracks Cork. I have served as a Recce Troop Commander, Adjutant and Logistics Officer in the Unit. I have also worked in the Cavalry School and with the Nordic Battle Group as the Medium Recce Troop Commander. During this period I completed a Master's Degree in Emergency Planning and Disaster Management from Dublin College University.

I deployed with the FRC 50th Infantry Group UNDOF as the Recce Troop Commander in charge of seventeen (17) personnel from the Cavalry and Artillery Corps. In this regard, I was in charge of five armoured platforms, Two (2) of these were Cavalry Close Recce Vehicles (CRVs), two (2) were Cavalry variant Light Tactical Armoured Vehicles (LTAVs) and one (1) was an Artillery LTAV variant. The role of the Recce Troop in UNDOF is to provide security, advanced communication suites and effective observation systems to assist with the situational awareness of the FRC and UNDOF, by both Artillery and Cavalry systems. Part of my role in UNDOF has included the deployment of Cavalry and Artillery assets on Temporary Observation Posts in order to assist with information gathering for various UNDOF requirements. In addition, another key role of the Recce Troop in UNDOF was to provide a fifteen (15) minutes notice to move Quick Reaction Force (QRF), capable of responding to any developing situation. In particular, this required providing a rapid response to all UN posts and thorough training with OGG, UNDOF and UNTSO personnel.



Lt Carroll conducts a ground brief to his men

I was also fortunate enough to have been placed in charge of IRECON personnel with one of the infantry platoons in UN Position 80. Having completed the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) Range manager's course in Ireland, I was able to organise and conduct two large AFV ranges in the Area of Responsibility on two (2) different nearby ranges. These ranges included elements of day and night shoots involving Cavalry and Infantry vehicles. They also included the conduct of dismount LFTT by the qualified IRECON Ops officer. Again, these ranges were only successful due to the excellent work rate of all the FRC personnel, in particular the Logistics and Ordnance staff and also the international UN personnel involved.

Due to my role as Recce Commander, I was afforded the opportunity to act as 2 i/c of the Operation Moonraker, a search and clearance operation on the Hermon Complex NorthEast of Hermon South. During the operation the recce element closely worked with various elements of the FRC including the medical section, logistics element, vehicle maintenance section, ordnance section, engineer section, infantry elements and the Headquarters TOC staff.



Quick Reaction Force (QRF) deployment

future.

I plan on building on the experience and knowledge gained from my deployment to UNDOF with the 50th Inf Gp, where it was a privilege for me to work with my multi-national colleagues from all the contributing nations. Looking forward, I hope to return to 1 Brigade Cavalry Squadron in Collins Barracks Cork if possible and develop upon my military experience in a variety of different appointments into the



Temporary OP



Recce Security Element

Article and Photos By: Lt Eoin Carroll



NEPCON



WINTER EXPERIENCE OF NEPCON-IV 2015/2016

With immense aspiration, dedication, devotion and determination to accomplish the mission mandate, NEPCON-IV arrived on the mission area on 3rd Nov 2016. It was an astonishing moment to see and feel the newfangled location of Mount Hermon which is analogous to the terrain of Nepal above four thousand meters. As we are familiar with these types of terrains in our home country, we developed a strong boldness to work as a part of the dynamic team of the mission where we could make significant contributions. Apart from this, we have been selected for this mission through our meritorious endeavors on alpine and mountain warfare training and have also gone through the survival as well as the sustainable training in mountains of Nepal. After our arrival too, we have conducted joint exercises including lectures and demonstrations including four mountain rescue guides to get well prepared for the winter.

On the last week of November, the weather condition deteriorated and the wind speed crossed 120 km per hour. The temperature dropped down below -15 degree Celsius with poor visibility and the shower of snow began. Day by day, the weather condition became adverse and inclement. Due to intense snowfall, all roads

were blocked. The ration supply was temporarily halted and the day to day maintenance was also postponed. Due to the adverse weather and all those conditions, we were confined to stay inside the base for several days. As the winter commenced, we conducted refresher trainings on rock climbing, ski and skidoos driving as well as medical evacuation procedure. Our advance team had been to Austria for induction training earlier, so they made a way out to drive the pistenbully. We tried our best to develop the track through it by breaking the trail of the snow. As a matter of fact, the mountain

rescue team also utilized their best mountain skills and our members were also expert on those skills, as a result; supply of ration was gradually preceded. The daily routine was followed and the skidoos and ski were best utilized for the patrol within the area of responsibility. The rescue guides played a vital role to bring the situation to normalcy and it was an immense task performed by them. It was the direct outcome of the joint venture of the Mission, NEPCON and mountain rescue guides as well.



A glimpse of Hermon Base after continuous snowfall for one week



NEPCON IV members conducting ski patrol



NEPCON members delivering ration on man pack basis when the axis of maintenance was completely closed



Nepcon soldiers conducting skidoo patrol



Cows tail rappelling as part of a refresher training conducted by Nepcon IV



Opening the axis of maintenance from HB to P12 around PR C 211

By the end of January, the same situation roused and the lightning stroked the generator of Hermon Hotel and was not functional for days. Troops were compelled to use their composite ration. Finally, we were able to support Hermon Hotel after two days with the help of the Mission HQ and Mission support team. On 14 March 2016, the thunder and lightning again damaged the transmitting inverter and the battery breaker at Hermon Hotel as a result; we were out of communication for two days. Consequently, one technical member from ICTS, two generator mechanics and a transport officer arrived at Position 12 for the maintenance. They developed a sense of fear and were in dilemma whether to go to Hermon Hotel for the maintenance on that inclement weather. But then, we consolidated and convinced them regarding their security and the importance regarding maintenance. We used our renowned mountain skills as well as techniques and took them to Hermon Hotel and solved the problem. During the entire winter, we developed strong feelings of “One mission, one team and one goal.”

These experiences and challenges will be shared to the incoming NEPCON-V with proper guidance. The induction training was very fruitful during the tour of duty and is recommended to NEPCON V as well. Apart from this, the Mountain rescue guides are also as much important as the presence of military in Mount Hermon. So, it will be a great achievement for the mission if it is continued.

Due to the immense coordination, help and support from the Mission and proper guidance from Head of Mission and Force Commander, Chief Mission Support, Deputy Force Commander, Senior Mission Members as well as other Staffs, we were able to work for the betterment of the mission on that adverse and inclement weather condition. We all know that we can't challenge the weather as it is not on our hands. So we sore to accomplish the mission mandate with upmost importance despite the terrain, weather and other eventualities in the days to come. Although the winter has not been terminated yet, we will consider all these facts and will be handling the situation with much care.



Being Resilient, Combat ready and Mission Oriented for the Fiji Battalion Mobile Reserve

The Battalion Mobile Reserve (BMR) had been established as a Fiji Battalion Quick Reaction Force, under the command of the Fiji Batt Commanding Officer (CO) with its fundamental tasking's and responsibilities with respect to the UNDOF mission mandate.

The ground of operation varies from low undulating terrain to high snowy mountains of Mount Hermon. Movement and operations are mainly carried out to the three occupied positions from the Alpha side. SAAF continues to maintain its offensive operation within the AOS and continues to try and retake the control of the strongholds which were lost to the AGAEs at the end of last year.

This team bravely went through the winter seasons from December to early March drizzling the cold humid conditions. During the snow season, BMR Platoon Commander WO1 Cabenalevu said that they encountered Black Ice forming on the road causing vehicles to slip off the road easily. The fluid and unpredictable situations would be the key determinants at all times to these mighty men trying to get their way through despite the weather conditions. CPL Koroi said, in an interview that driving on undulating steep mountains is always a daily grave experience; he said with the availability of good vehicles and transportation, operations will always proceed uneventfully.

The transition from Fiji Army soldiers to UN peacekeepers is a vow to prove ourselves worthy for the call of duty, upholding the UNDOF mission to fearlessly facing the challenges with faith in our God who has already won the battle for us.

Articles by: WO2 Illisapeci Nabose Photo by: Capt Vakabua & WO2 Illi Nabose



The Fiji Battalion Mobile Reserve troops after the standby for FRC

OP 80 FB Troops - Activities and Challenges

UN Position 80 is currently occupied by both Fijians and Irish Troops. The DFC had identified previously few extra works that was required to put the FB troops in comfortable and supporting conditions.

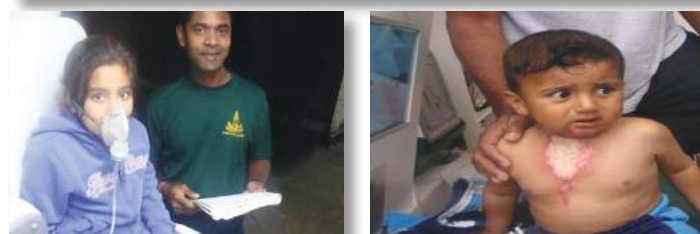
The routine challenged living up to the expectations of the mission Leadership and all sections from Engineers to the Medical Center has proved its mettle in every way. Among the deployment to OP 80 are the FB Medical Level 1+ team to deliver the level 1+ care whenever necessary. The Team Leader of the Fiji Medical Level 1+ Dr Vakabua a General surgeon shared his deployment experience as remarkable and a challenge effort to provide the best available & quality level of care to all troops of the 2 contingents. We also treat local farmers of the nearby villages that need our assistance.

Captain Vakabua acknowledged the support of the Officer-In-Charge of 2nd Company of the FIJI BATT Major Rokowailoa and the OC FRC for the support rendered towards his Level 1+ Medical Team.

The visit of the DFC & Force Medical Officer with much deliberation to set up an Operating Theatre and to expedite these works in light of protective mode. The team set up the Medical Bunker at the COMCEN side with limited space to maneuver cases but they manage to emancipate an emergency to facilitate retrieval. In addition, expressed that upon completion of this medical Bunker it could transform

this medical facility to a comfortable and conducive place for treatment and procedures for patients to an increased no. of troops.

Now into the 8th month of operations in the Golan, FIJI-BATT 3 has adapted not only to the fluid operational circumstances but also to the cold snowy winter in the Golan, a drastic change from the tropical conditions of our homeland. FIJI is proud to be a part of UNDOF and is adamant that the Republic of Fiji Military Forces will remain on the Golan until such a time when the pursuit of PEACE is achieved.



Fiji Batt troops at Posn80 conducting Combat Life Support Training and assessing children of Elisha Village

INDCON LOGBATT

INDCON

Director General of Staff Visit

Lieutenant General J S Sandhu, AVSM, VSM, Director General of Staff Duties, Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence visited UNDOF on January 15, 2016. He was accompanied by Shri Rudrendra Tandon, the Joint Secretary (UNP), Ministry of External Affairs. They interacted with the Force Commander, the Indian Officers and the Section Chiefs of the mission and discussed the fluid situation developing in the region and its impact on the mission and specially on the role of Indian contingent.



Republic Day

INDCON LOGBATT celebrated the 67th Republic day in Camp Ziouani on 26 January 2016. On this occasion, Lt Col RK Gurung, SC, SM Commanding Officer, INDCON LOGBATT hoisted the National Flag and read out excerpts from the President of India's message to the attendees. The ceremony was attended by the whole contingent along with the Indian Staff officers from UNDOF HQ. LOGBATT personell also participated in the flag hoisting ceremony at the Indian Ambassador's Residence in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Handing/Taking Over

19TH Rotation of INDCON LOGBATT (33 Med Regt) arrived on 19 Feb 2016, under the able Command of Lt Col Vivek Chaudhary. Lt Col Vivek Chaudhary took over the Command of INDCON LOGBATT 19TH Rotation, 33 Med Regt at Golan Heights, Israel on 19 Feb 2016 from Lt Col Ravindra Kumar Gurung, SC, SM, CO 18th Rotation. Brig Gen Anthony Hanlon Acting Force Commander, UNDOF presided over the HAND OVER TAKE OVER parade which was conducted in Khetrapal Hall.



Force Commanders Visit

Major General Jai Shanker Menon, VSM, the new Head of Mission & Force Commander visited INDCON LOGBATT on March 18, 2016. The Force Commander was briefed in detail regarding the organization and tasks of the battalion by Lt Col Vivek Chaudhary, CO, LOGBATT. The Force Commander visited all the sections of the LOGBATT i.e. Engineers, Medical, Maintenance, Signals and Supplies and during the interaction he exhorted all personnel to strive for excellence in their respective fields, swiftly adapt to the new work environment and keep up the good work.

Article by: Capt Maheshchandra A, Capt Ajay Pathania Photo by: Cpl Anish Skaria



Mr Christopher Knight

With Christopher Knight, the knight who arrived in a white UN vehicle to support UNDOF as Deputy to the CMS.

Which places around the world have you been visiting as a UN staff member?

I joined the UN in February 2001 and had the opportunity to serve in East Timor (UNTAET and UNMISSET).

I was also privileged to work 3 months on TOD in Ivory Coast for the Mission's start-up in 2003. I then joined Liberia (UNMIL) in 2004, and was recruited in 2009 for Lebanon (UNIFIL). In December last year I was privileged to work in Syria (UNDOF) for a period of 3 months.

Home leave is taken

My home leave is taken in South Africa, and my family resides in Thailand. I spend most of my holidays in Thailand.

The best joke you have ever heard

Question: Why do the Irish like to do scuba diving? Answer: Because deep down, they are intelligent! (This one for Denis!)

A person you wish to have coffee with

Nelson Mandela. I believe he was a great person, and would love to be able to ask him about his life.

If you were an animal, which animal would you like to be?

A dog. Loyal and friendly!

3 things you would have taken to an isolated island

1. My wife for her company.
2. A knife to be able to provide



for us.

3. A fishing rod and tackle to provide food.

When was the last time you have been crying?

In October 2014 when my father passed away.

Your first childhood memory

Happy family. I am the second child and had a brother that was one year older than I am, plus a loving father and mother.

Your favorite music album and favorite movie

Simon and Garfunkel's best songs. Movie would most probably be Avatar. The way it was made and the story line.

The first thing you look at when you are looking at a person.

Look at the face and eyes. That will tell you if a person is genuine interested in talking with you, and if they are sincere.

A person who had the strongest impact on you

My mother. She taught us to believe in ourselves and to always try and be nice to other people.

Your wasted talent

Singing. I used to sing in competitions when I was in school, did well, but never continued with it.

While the world might have lost a great singer and instead of having an article in the Rolling Stones Magazine Chris got a page in UNDOF Journal.

Article & Photo by: Neta Norman Sivan

UNDOF MILITARY POLICE Training & Activities



Regional Conduct Discipline Training (RCDT) Train the Trainers (ToT)

UNDOF Military Police members Capt Aoife Herbert and WO II Jim Lutu attended the RCDT training day in UNIFIL's Training Centre, Naquora. The briefings were delivered by the UNIFIL Force Conduct and Discipline Officer Lt Col D Mensah-Gorman (Ghana) and UNIFIL's Force Conduct and Discipline Liaison Officer Maj Gasper Zakayo Kaaya (Tanzania). The aim was to train trainers of Contingent members on UN and mission specific standards of conduct, understanding the relevant standards of conduct, what constitutes misconduct, how to report/address misconduct, the disciplinary responses to misconduct, and sexual exploitation and abuse. Participants are now qualified to train personnel of their units, ensuring training is conducted within one month of deployment to UNDOF.



Lt Col Mensah-Gorman (front row centre), Maj Kaaya and RCDT ToT participants



Briefing by Maj Kaaya

International Women's Day Celebration

UNDOF Military Police Detachment members Capt Aoife Herbert and SSgt Losalini Tiko Tabuaniviti joined their UNDOF colleagues to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday 11 March 2016 in Camp Ziouani. Within the Military Police Detachment of seventeen personnel, they hold the appointment of SO Operations and WO Operations respectively. Capt Herbert has almost thirteen years' service, with two previous overseas deployments; UNMIL (Liberia) and the Nordic Battle Group 11 (Sweden). SSgt Tabuaniviti has nine years' service and is a very experienced Military Police NCO with four previous overseas tours of duty; one to Egypt (Sinai) and three to UNAMI (Iraq).



SSgt Tabuaniviti and Capt Herbert



UNDOF International Women's Day 2016

Article & Photo by: Capt Aoife Herbert



FORCE MEDICAL

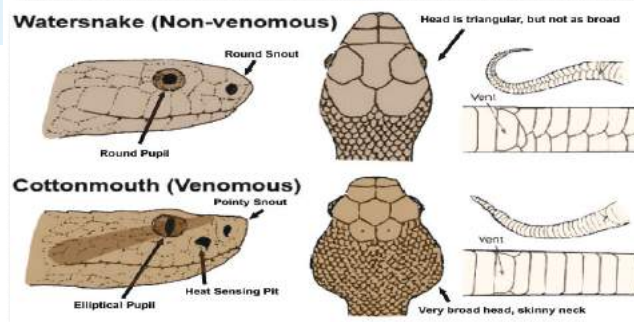
Snakebite

Snakebite is a global health problem associated with high morbidity and mortality. Our camps are prone for snake and scorpions.

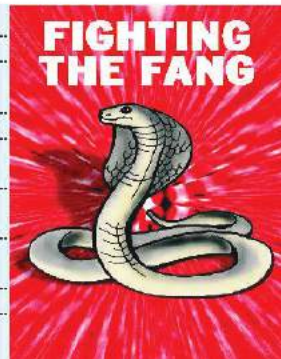
Precautions

1. Avoid tall grass and bush
2. Resist sticking a hand or foot into a crevasse or hole
3. Wear heavy boots and long pants
4. Be cautious when swimming, wading or fishing in lakes or rivers, especially after heavy rains.

- Poisonous: round head, slit eye
- Nonpoisonous: Narrow/Pointed head, Round Eye



- Do not panic
- Reassure the victim
- Immobilise the affected limb with a cardboard splint and sticking tape
- Seek medical attention immediately
- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it
- Do not apply a tight bandage around the wound
- Do not cut the wound with a knife/blade
- Do not suck out the venom
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water



Remedy for Cough Cold (Flu):

As the changing season and various temperature during day and night one may suffer flu in Mission.

- Drink Plenty of Hot Liquids: Wash out viral toxins through Urine
- Steam Bath
- Blow Your Nose than taking in
- Gargle With Warm Salt Water
- Salt-Water Rinse (1 teaspoon of this mixture to 8 ounces of lukewarm boiled or distilled water)
- Stay Warm and Rested
- Put Hot Packs on Your Sinuses
- Try an Extra Pillow Under Your Head

- Avoid Heart burn (Antacids, Don't sleep just after food, Pillow up)

Preventive Medicine

Abscesses

Collection of pus that has built up within the tissue of the body. Standard treatment for most skin or soft tissue abscesses is cutting it open and drainage. Antibiotics in addition to standard incision and drainage is felt necessary.



Five day old Abscess

Common tips for Personnel hygiene

Though this is a common topic since our pre-school .

- Brush your Teeth & tongue (floss dental gaps if possible)
- Wash your face/ feet
- Wash hair and comb
- Shower regularly
- Keep a cool hand (Wash your hands with soap and water)
- Clean foot wear/wear comfortable ones (avoid corns)
- Deodorant-Arm pit & crotch
- Change your sheets once a week
- Hanging clothes in the sun to dry- kill germs and parasites
- Clip your fingernails and toe nails regularly
- Clean the surfaces in your home regularly
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Don't share razors, towels, or makeup with other people
- If you are a woman change your tampon/pad regularly
- Avoid food with much fat, sugar or salt
- Check blood sugar and Blood Pressure regularly
- Sleep and nap minimum 6 hours
- Positive thinking, Meditation, humor
- Include properly cooked meat, fresh vegetables & fruits in your regular meal

Article by: Lt Col Dr. Narendra Banskota (FMO)

OGG and OGG-D HQ move to new offices in Camp Zioauni

On the 27th of August 2014, Syrian Anti Government Armed Elements (AGAE) captured the Bravo-gate next to Al Qunaytirah and also managed to take hostage 45 Fijian UNDOF personnel from UNDOF position 27. In the aftermath of these events, it was decided to temporarily relocate OGG HQ and OGG-D HQ from UNDOF's Camp Faouar on the B-Side to UNDOF's Camp Ziouani on the A-side, which is still the current state and triggered an increased need for office space at OGG's and OGG-D's availability.

Fortunately, a limited amount of space was available immediately in Fall 2014 in Camp Ziouani thanks to the fact that in early summer 2013, three offices had been built (cf. Picture 1) by OGG's OP Development crew to provide OGG personnel with waiting room / work space in case of extended waiting periods at the A-/B-crossing. Nevertheless, these offices were neither planned nor built to accommodate in the long-term, all the members of OGG HQ and OGG-D HQ.

Therefore, the search for a more permanent office solution remained on the to-do-list and, fortunately, found a very good solution when UNDOF HQ moved from its original to a newly constructed building in Fall 2015.

The freed office space in UNDOF's former HQ was occupied by OGG HQ and OGG-D HQ in January 2016 (cf. Picture 2), which now enjoy improved working conditions. Among the advantages are the proximity to the UNDOF JOC, which facilitates cooperation and thus everyday staff work, a conference room (cf. Picture 3) that allows for briefings and VTC's as well as a suitable accommodation for the OGG Duty Officer, who also works in the UNDOF JOC.

Moving a staff during ongoing daily operations is not a trivial thing and several military and civilian personnel were involved in the mentioned move. OGG HQ and OGG-D HQ members are grateful for the support of UNDOF logistics as well as for the help of UNTSO civilian employees in the ICT and supply branches that allowed for a smooth and efficient move from the old to the new place.





“International Women’s Day - UNDOF”