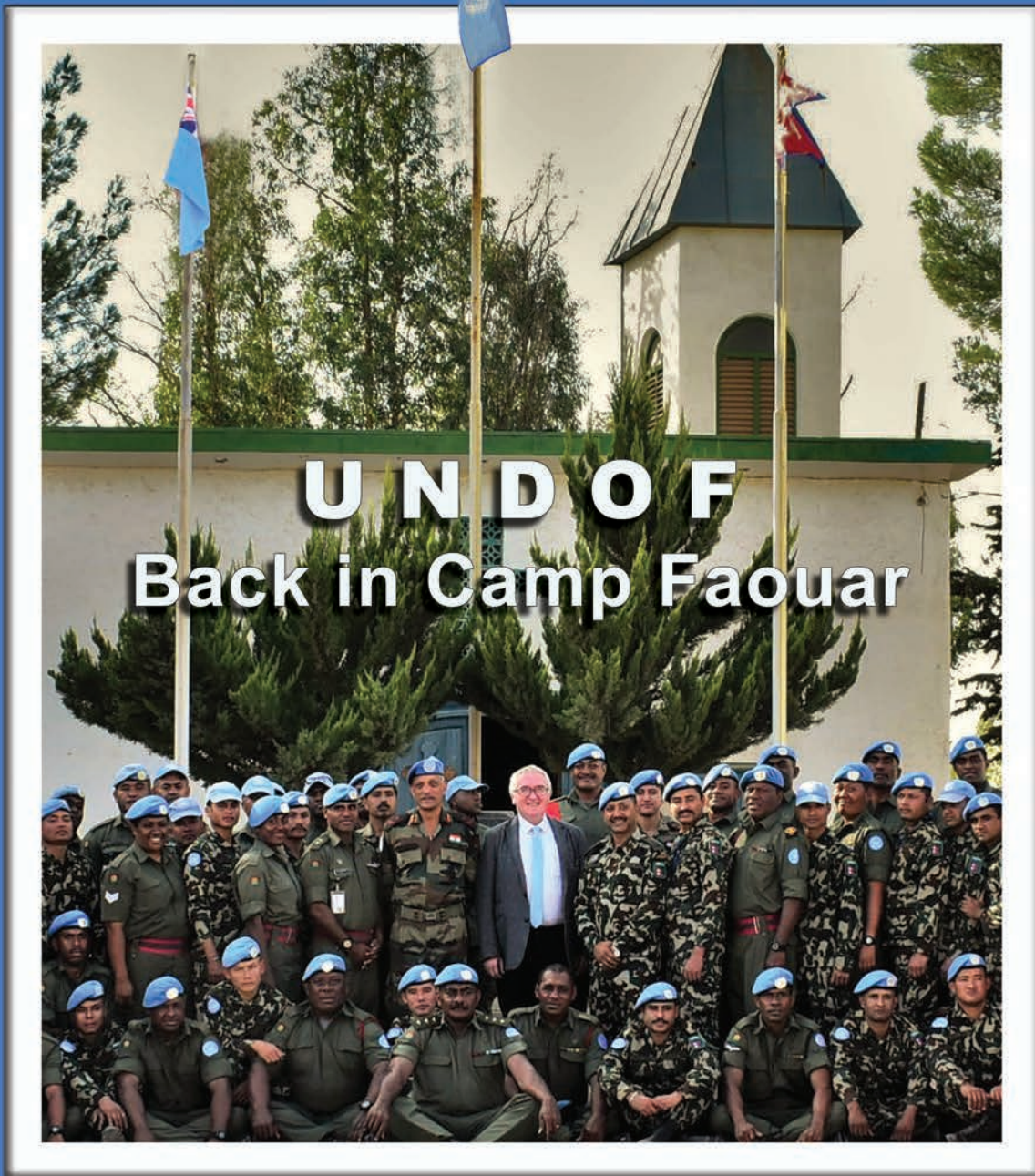


GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



October - December 2016





DEAR READERS!



Welcome to the 149th edition of the Golan Journal which is the final publication of 2016 and covers the period from the 01st of October to the 31st of December 2016. This has been a very busy period for UNDOF with the focus very much on the phased redeployment back to the Bravo side. This edition will heavily feature the Force's return to Camp Faouar led by Fijibatt and marked by a Flag Raising ceremony to signify the importance of the event. We continue to cover the contributions being made by Logbatt personnel and the Nepalese Field Engineer Platoon to enhancing the infrastructure on the Bravo side. This journal covers the change of command of OGG and their contribution to the Mission on the Bravo side.

We also report on UNDOF's medical capability which is featured in the article covering a medical exercise conducted by Nepbatt in close cooperation with OGG-D. Readers are also informed of the In-Theatre training conducted by the FRC as they prepare for all types of challenging scenarios in the Mission. The importance of medical training is highlighted in an article which covers the medical emergency response provided by the Irish troops after an accident occurred on Mt Bental. In this Journal readers are also informed of the many upcoming Regional Events which are important to UNDOF personnel and the Headquarter staff who plan border cross-



UNDOF's Media Cell Maj Bijay, Comdt Toye and Sgt Delana

ings in support of logistic convoys or when planning operational activities or other key events. Again our readers are invited to log into the UNDOF website <http://undof.unmissions.org> which is controlled by the force's media cell. Visitors to our website are reminded that it is planned to migrate material on our webpage onto a new Drupal Platform managed by UN Headquarters in New York at <http://www.un.org/un/peacekeeping/missions/undof/>. This process is likely to be concluded within the first three months of 2017. Finally, as editor of the Golan Journal I would like to pass on festive greetings to all our readers and wish you and your families a very peaceful 2017.

Yours sincerely
Comdt Patrick Toye
SSO Media & PR



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Force Commander/Head of Mission's Message



FC/HOM UNDOF



I am once again delighted to have the opportunity to address my UNDOF colleagues and Golan Journal readers as another year draws to an end. As the Force Commander and Head of Mission it is with pride that I reflect over the Mission's work during the last three months of 2016. It has been a very busy, successful and productive period for the Mission. Before dealing with some of the highlights of the last quarter I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new faces who have arrived to play an important role in UNDOF. I hope your time in the Mission will be rewarding and enjoyable. I also extend a fond farewell and a heartfelt thanks to those who have departed the Mission and wish them a joyful reunion with their families at home.

As part of the Missions outreach programme UNDOF recently hosted a diplomat's day on both the Alpha side and the Bravo side in December. These events were of enormous success and I was struck by the keen interest shown by influential diplomats in UNDOF's message which was particularly evident during the interactive dialogue session. Their interest in UNDOF operations and future plans is further testimony to the relevance placed on the Mission by the diplomatic community and further justifies the Force's efforts in the pursuit of its mandate defined by Security Council Resolution 350 (1974). The main highlight during this quarter has been the movement of additional elements of the Force back to the Bravo side with UNDOF's presence embedded firmly once more in Camp Faouar.

The redeployment of such a large portion of our troops to Camp Faouar is the product of many months of painstaking planning, thorough preparations, unwavering commitment and engaged leadership. Returning to Camp Faouar is an initial step by UNDOF to modify the force to face the current situation. While many in the Mission Headquarters have played a very significant role in this episode of UNDOF's history it must be acknowledged that all in the Force both Military and Civilian have made a very valuable contribution to this success story. Our UN partners in OGG have also played a significant role in this achievement with the operational deployment of Military Observers to the Bravo side who perform a very important role in supporting UNDOF. I would like to express my appreciation to all those who played a part in the re-occupation of



Camp Faouar and acknowledge your devotion during what has been a very busy period for the Mission. However, we are not yet finished as the programme for the development of Camp Faouar continues. A lot has already been accomplished. The improvement and progress visible in the Camp is further evidence of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Force. This progress demonstrates that all UNDOF's human assets which includes staff from all contingents and their civilian colleagues share in a common purpose. The development of Camp Faouar could not be achieved without the collective effort, work ethic and positive group spirit which exemplifies UNDOF's One Mission, One Team, One Goal.

Finally, I would like to conclude by wishing all our UNDOF staff, officers, troops, friends, colleagues and fellow UN partners a very happy festive season and wish you, your families and loved ones a very peaceful and successful year in 2017.

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

DFC's Words



Another interesting year in the UNDOF calendar has been concluded and we are starting a new and even more interesting year in 2017. Looking back to the end of 2016 I want to congratulate you all. Your achievements during the last few months will stay in the history of UNDOF. The foundation for UNDOF's new future has been laid and we need to continue the joint effort to be able to fulfill our mandate in the Golan Heights. There are many challenges still ahead and this gives us another opportunity to show the meaning of: "One Mission, One Team, One Goal".

As the New Year starts, we are also bidding farewell to our colleagues who are leaving the mission and I want to use this opportunity to thank you for your contribution and friendship and I do hope that you can safely return to your home and families with good memories from the time spent in UNDOF. The biggest change in UNDOF is the departure of our Chief Of Staff, Col Jone Logavatu from the Headquarters after two years contribution to the Mission. I want to personally thank Col Logavatu and his MA, Maj Pio Varawa for their professional support and especially their friendship which I have been

able to enjoy over the last six months. Thank You and all the best for your bright career ahead. It has been a great pleasure to work with you and I will always cherish the memories of this period I shared with you. Looking forward I have the pleasure to welcome the new Chief Of Staff, Col Chok Bahadur Dhakal to the Mission. I am looking forward to working with you and I can promise, that you will have an interesting tour in UNDOF. We will have many challenges in front of us, but I believe, that with the good cooperation within UNDOF and with our UNTSO colleagues we will find the solution to all of them.

We are in the middle of the winter period and I would like to remind you all once again of the challenges the unpredictable weather presents us while conducting our daily duties. With proper training and preparations we can avoid unnecessary risks. We must continue to assess all the tasks, so that we can conduct our duties without risking the safety and security of ourselves and our units. The safety and security of every individual is paramount when planning, preparing and conducting our operational tasks. We should also bear in mind that every individual action will also impact on the safety and security of other colleagues in the Mission. This includes our interaction with the society of our host communities. Our continued professional behaviour is vital to the image of the mission. We must also continue to interact in a very courteous and alert manner with society keeping important information within the mission. In modern days the social media plays a big role in daily life and it is an easy way to stay in contact with our friends and loved ones while being apart from them. We should always assess what is suitable for public social media and refrain from publications and posts which can be misunderstood or can damage the mission. However, I still want to encourage you to be open in your daily communications with your personal contacts. You are the face and voice to UNDOF.

To conclude I want to wish you all an interesting, happy and prosperous year 2017, where ever you are; with us in the Mission or back home with your loved ones.

"Safety First" & "Look good, Do good"
Brigadier-General Mauri Tapani Koskela

New Faces



Nicoleta Verestiuc joined UNDOF in December 2016 to take up the appointment of Deputy Chief Mission Support (DCMS). She was born in Romania and has served for 16 years in the United Nations as an International Civil Servant. Nicoleta

has a wide variety of experience working in areas that include Administration, Logistics, Human Resources, Procurement, Best Practices, Finance and

Budget. Throughout her career in the United Nations, Nicoleta has divided her time equally between field missions and the Headquarters, analyzing issues from strategic, as well as operational perspectives. She has served in seven (7) UN field missions which include UNTAET, MONUC, MINUSTAH and UNMIS.

She has also been deployed to The Hague as the UN Representative to OPCW representing all UN Departments, Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Prior to taking up an appointment in UNDOF, Ms. Verestiuc served in the UNHQ in New York as the Planning Officer in the Logistics Support Division, where she gained experience working on supporting many peace operations around the globe including UNDOF.

Nicoleta completed her Masters Degree in Business Administration with the Cambridge International College and is blessed with a seven years old daughter.



Lt Col Isoa Loanakadavu joined UNDOF on the 26th of November 2016 to take up the appointment of CMPO in UNDOF HQ. He was born in 1965 and is from the village of Muani, Kadavu in Fiji. He attended Ratu Kadavulevu School

before enlisting in the Republic of Fiji Military Forces as a soldier in 1988 and worked his way up to the rank of Sergeant in 1991. In 1992, he was selected for an Officer Cadetship and was commissioned in 1993. Lt Col Loanakadavu served in all levels of command both at home and abroad.

Prior to joining UNDOF he was the Commanding Officer of the Logistic Support Battalion with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. Lt Col Loanakadavu has completed various military

courses which include the Basic All Arms Instructors Course, Logistic Intermediate Course in Australia, Movement Officers Course in Australia, Junior Staff Officers Course, Infantry Captains Course, Grade 3 Staff and Tactics Course, Infantry Major Course, Grade 2 Staff and Tactics Course, United Nations Observer Course in Malaysia, United Nations Staff and Logistic Course in India, United Nations Train the Trainers Course in China.

He has also completed the Command and Staff Course with a Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from the Defence University of Malaysia. Lt Col Loanakadavu served abroad in UN missions which include Platoon Commander with the Multinational Force and Observers in 1994, Maintenance and Transport Officer in UNIFIL in 1999, Battalion Adjutant with the Multinational Force and Observers in 2000, Patrol Commander with Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville in 2001, Senior Staff Officer Logistic with Joint Logistic in UNMISSET, Timor Leste in 2004, Operations Officer and Battalion Second in Command with UNAMI, Iraq in 2009 and as the Commanding Officer for the Fiji Infantry Battalion with UNDOF in 2014.

Lt Col Loanakadavu is married to Miriama Loanakadavu and is blessed with three boys.





New Faces



lege where he lectured on, among other subjects, leadership and management. An Infantry Officer by trade, Lt Col Kiely has over 29 years of service in the Irish Defence Forces with experience in many appointments at Battalion, Brigade and Defence Forces Headquarters level. Prior to his deployment with UNTSO he completed six previous overseas tours of duty including South Lebanon

(1996 and 1999), Honduras (2001), Afghanistan (2007) and Chad (2009). His most recent mission abroad was in Syria in 2014 during a very challenging period in UNDOF's history where, as DCO and Mech Coy Comdr of the FRC, he received a Force Commander's Commendation for planning and leading a successful operation to rescue 32 Filipino UN personnel prior to the temporary withdrawal of UNDOF from the Bravo Side. Lt Col Kiely holds graduate and post graduate university qualifications from a number of Irish educational institutions. These include a Diploma in Military Studies, an Honours Degree in Physics, a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management, a Masters Degree in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies and, most recently, a level 9 Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education. Lt Col Kiely is married to Amanda. They have three young daughters, Emma (4), Rachael (3) and Niamh (1). An avid follower of many sports, his hobbies also include running, golf and reading history and poetry.



include the Technical Officers Basic Course (TOBC) and Company Commanders Staff Course (CCSC). Lt Col

Arju has completed the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in Bangladesh and completed the specialisation on Obstetrics and Gynecology Course in Nepal. She was the executive member of Nepal Society of Obstetrician and Gynecology (NESOG). She has completed many other courses specific to the field of medicine and surgery which include research methodology, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Surgical Skill, Trauma Life Support Course and Comprehensive Abortion Care. Lt Col Arju has served overseas in the military mission in Congo as a Senior Medical Officer. She is married to Ravi Pratap Singh and has a son called Sarvesh and a daughter named Sauravi. She enjoys an active life which includes endurance running and has participated in marathon events.



of the Faculty of Military Sciences of the Netherlands Defense Academy. The faculty offers academic education to prospective officers of Navy, Army, Airforce and

Military Police. Lt Col Burgerhout started his military career in 2000 after working for 12 years as a Business Unit Manager for the BENELUX based agent of a former Finish steelworks. Lt Col Burgerhout has served as an Infantry officer a range of challenging appointments at home and abroad. He has served overseas with NATO/EU in Bosnia-Herzegovina. As a subject matter expert for NATO's C2 Center of Excellence, he participated in a research team for NATO's Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre in Afghanistan. Lt Col Burgerhout holds an Executive Masters' Degree in Security and Defense from the National Defense College. His hobbies, among other things include; playing squash, traveling, cooking, enjoying a good glass of wine and being in the company of good friends.

OGG Change of Command

On the 14th of October 2016 Lt Col Robert Kiely (Defence Forces Ireland) took over as the Chief Observer Group Golan (COGG) from Lt Col Roy Olsen (Norwegian Armed Forces) in a ceremony in Camp Ziouani which was supervised by Deputy Chief of Staff UNTSO Col Eamon Caulfield (Defence Forces Ireland).



Lt Col Kiely takes over command from Lt Col Olsen in the presence of Deputy Chief of Staff UNTSO



General salute to Col Eamon Caulfield Deputy Chief of Staff UNTSO



Presentation from DCOS UNTSO to Lt Col Olsen



Presentation of medals by DCOS UNTSO to UNMOS on parade



OBSERVER
GROUP GOLAN



OGG-D Team Mountain *Supporting UNDOF on the Bravo Side*

The 10th of October 2016 marked another significant milestone in the history of UNTSO's Observer Group Golan (OGG) when Observer Group Golan – Damascus (OGG-D) resumed operational activities on the Bravo side, centered on the Mt. Hermon Complex. After arriving on the Bravo

and NEPCON has proved to be a key factor as Team Mountain focus on task accomplishment. This positive cooperation symbolises UNDOF's 'One Mission, One Team, One Goal' ethos and supports team training and contingency rehearsal. This spirit of mutual support helps OGG-D to implement emer-



OGG UNMOs Ground briefing to DFC UNDOF

gency procedures in realistic scenarios, where team members and NEPCON successfully achieve common goals. Team Mountain are continuing to evolve and adapt which is an important feature as it plans ahead to meet the challenges presented by the harsh Golan winter on Mt. Hermon.

side at the end of September the team were exposed to the initial phases of preparation. All members of Team Mountain (United Nations Military Observers (UNMO's) and Team Leader) completed an intense period of Mission Specific Training followed by many reconnaissance and familiarization patrols. Thereafter the team took possession of the newly established OGG-D Patrol Base in the Mt. Hermon complex from where it commenced daily operations.

Team Mountain are co-located with NEPCON in their Patrol Base which provides local security for the UNMO's. The UNMO's conduct vehicle and foot patrols into the AOR and deploy to temporary observation positions in key locations.

All operations are closely coordinated with UNDOF's NEPCON who provide the UNMOs with a Close Protection Team. The professional cooperation between OGG-D

The success of this deployment is testament to the integrated approach to operations so common in all UNTSO activities. The contribution made by UNTSO HQ, OGG HQ, OGG-T and OGL to the planning, manning and creation of Team Mountain will ensure that OGG-D will continue to play a positive role in assisting UNDOF to fulfil its mandate in the future.



On the way to the top

Cultural Exchange in UNDOF

Indcon's shared celebration of Diwali

On the 29th of October Indcon marked the festival of Diwali in Camp Ziouani with cultural Song, cultural dance, a cracker show, food stalls and a raffle draw to showcase the “Unity of Diversity” in India. This event served as an opportunity to share India’s culture with other nationalities in UNDOF. Guests who attended from Force HQ as well as those from other contingents sampled the rituals which marked this important event. Diwali is also known as Deepavali and the “festival of lights” which is an ancient Hindu festival celebrated in autumn every year. The festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over evil and hope over despair. The festival preparations and rituals typically extend over a five day period, but the main festival night of Diwali coincides with the darkest, new moon night of the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika. In the Gregorian calendar, Diwali night falls between mid-October and mid-November. Every year on the dark nights of Diwali the sound of firecrack-

ers announce the celebration of the favorite festival of Indians. Houses are decorated, sweets are distributed by everyone and thousands of lamps are lit to create a world of fantasy. Of all the festivals celebrated in India, Diwali is by far the most glamorous and important. It is enthusiastically enjoyed by people of every religion, which symbolizes the “Unity in Diversity” in India.



Festival of Lights

Indcon's Medal Parade

Indcon celebrated its medal parade in Camp Ziouani on the 30th of December 2016 with FC/HoM Maj Gen Jai Shanker Menon in attendance.



FC/HoM presenting the UNDOF medal to CO Logbatt



Colour Party marching off parade

Article by Major Digvijay Singh



Casevac Exercise in Mount Hermon Complex

Training until you cannot get it wrong

On Saturday morning, the 12th of November 2016 a Casualty Evacuation Exercise was conducted between OOG-D observers and Nepcon deployed in the Mt Hermon complex. The exercise scenario centered on the response to an injury sustained by an UNMO at a Temporary OP. The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate response times, reaction, drills, SOP's and contingencies to a situation which culminated in a casualty evacuation drill. On initiation of the exercise the Rapid Response Group (RRG)



Casevac to level 1

and Medical team were activated simultaneously. Operational and situational briefings were issued to formulate and activate contingency plans that coordinated concurrent activity among those challenged with providing the required response at the right location on a timely manner. Within 15 minutes RRG and medical team reached the



Casualty arrives at level 1



Casualty assessment at level 1

casualty. An over watch was established by the security team before the medical team quickly set about assessing the casualty's Airway, Breathing and Circulation. Pressure dressings were applied on top of the primary dressing for bleeding control and a Combat Tourniquet was applied. Limbs were slightly elevated and the Cervical Spine and Lower limbs immobilized with



Exercise troops being assessed

Cervical Collar and Splint respectively. Burn dressings were applied over the burn wounds and the administration of the required medical support continued which included setting up an intravenous (i/v) line and administering fluids to the casualty while also giving injections (Inj) of Morphine for pain relief and Ceftriaxone for infection prevention. The casualty's vital signs (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, including



Blood Pressure etc) were continuously monitored and assessed as the casualty was placed on a spinal stretcher, strapped in and then evacuated to Level 1 hospital in a Nepcon Position in Hermon Complex using a Light armored-Ambulance. While on route to the Level 1 the casualty was reassessed, reassured regularly and kept pain free while the tourniquet was released and tightened at regular intervals. Throughout this exercise a situation update was sent to Hermon Base position

the casualty was taken directly to surgical room and kept on monitors. There afterwards, normal care procedures continued with the casualty kept mildly sedated with Diazepam while the wound is examined thoroughly. While UNDOF have a Level 1 capability in the mission located in the Hermon Complex casualties can undergo evacuation to a Level 2 or a Level 3 care facility if required in the case of more serious situations. Mistakes cannot be made in providing medi-



Overwatch provided by Nepcon troops

and from there to Force Medical Officer (FMO) and Force HQ. On arrival at the Level 1 hospital

cal support therefore UNDOF's Medical Team continues to train until we cannot get it wrong.



Evacuation of casualty by exercise troops under continuous assessment
Article by Maj Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, Consultant Physician, SMO, Nepcon-V.



Nepcon's In Theatre Training

Robust training for harsh conditions

Over the last several weeks the troops in Nepcon have been undergoing robust training in preparation for the harsh conditions in the peaks of the northern part of the Golan Heights.

dominant terrain within the Mountain Range and stands at an altitude of 2,814 m. It is the highest point permanently manned by the United Nations and is of strategic importance for the



Nepcon trainers and trainees at Mount Hemon.

The objective of this training was to ensure that troops, equipment and infrastructure within the Nepcon positions remain effective throughout the winter. Nepcon currently occupies five UNDOF positions on Mt Hermon in the Golan Heights. These positions are located in complex and challenging terrain where the altitude ranges from 1740 meters to 2814 meters. Mt Hermon is covered with snow from November to March. It is the most northern part of UNDOF's AOS and is located on the Lebanese-Syria border. UNDOF's Position called Hermon Hotel is located on the

UNDOF mission. UNDOF Peacekeepers from Nepal must serve and remain effective in tough demanding conditions within the Northern sector of the Golan Heights. Hence troop selection for this overseas mission is vitally important. The



Method of Rappeling to descend from rock or cliff

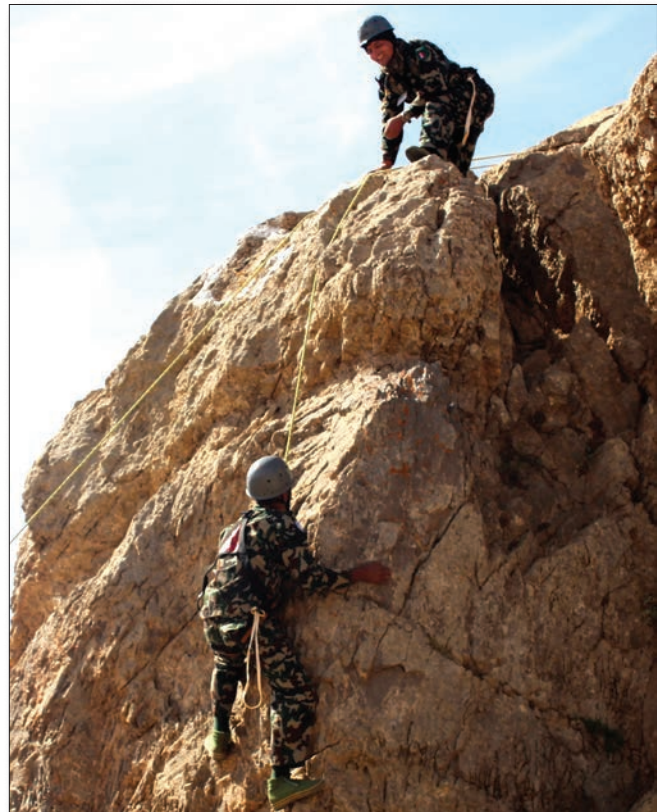


Best method for River and obstacle crossing on Mountains

Nepalese army only select the troops who are qualified in Mountain warfare for service with UNDOF. After the selection process the contingent troops receive induction training or mission mandate orientation training in BPOTC (Birendra Peace Operating Training Center). After deploying to the mission area Nepcon organizes Mission specific training for their troops to ensure that drills and skills are sharp and the peace



keeper is ready to respond to all scenarios. From the 18th of October to the 4th of November Nepcon conducted mountain warfare refresher in-theatre training. This training was planned in two phases with instructor refresher training being completed in phase 1 and refresher training for 114 troops carried out in phase two. Special class and practical instruction was delivered which focused on patrolling, rock craft, rescue technique systems and medical evacuation. The Rock craft training included mountain terminology, knots, holds, belay and mountain theoretical knowledge while the rescue technique training featured free climbing, fix rope climbing, rope up climbing, repelling and other systems. Although the soldiers of Nepal have experience serving in severe winter conditions and high altitudes, the in-theatre training is vital to ensure that skills remain sharp, teamwork and group cohesion is developed and a disciplined approach to operations is maintained. This training has additional benefits that reinforces mental, physically and emotionally wellbeing and helps prepare the soldier to respond to many challenges in an effective manner.



Nepcon troops rock climbing during Mountain Refresher training



Nepcon V, Mountain Warfare Refresher Training

Article by Captain Dharmendra Singh, Training Officer, Nepcon V



UNDOF RETURN'S TO CAMP FAOUAR

Deploying to face the current situation

At 0920hrs on the 14th of November Fijibatt supported by personnel from Logbatt and the Nepalese Engineer Platoon moved in to occupy Camp Faouar on the Bravo side. This first phase of the occupation of Camp Faouar was the result of months of planning, briefings, meetings, preparation and coordination with various sections in UNDOF. In September 2014, due to the evolving Syrian conflict, UNDOF was required to move from Camp Faouar and implement its mandate from its base on the Alpha side. Since 2014 as the situation developed in the AO UNDOF has always been firmly focused in re-deploying back to the Bravo side once the situation presented itself. The sizeable detachment of troops from the 1st Battalion, Fiji Infantry Regiment which moved into Camp Faouar was commanded by Major Viliame Finemateaki, commonly referred to as Major Will. These troops departed Camp Ziouani on the 11th of November, bound for the Bravo Side, via Lebanon and included male and female Infantry Soldiers, a medical team, logistic support staff and Command team. The troops made a 40-hour administrative halt in UNIFIL Headquarters, Naqoura, Lebanon, prior to continuing on their move to the Bravo Side. This halt was utilized by the troops for additional training focusing on convoy and area



FC/HoM meets Maj Finemateaki at Camp Faouar



Flag raising ceremony on UNDOF's return to Camp Faouar on the 14th of November 2016

occupation drills. Another halt on the move was made at Yafour Hotel, in Al Sabourah, Damascus on Sunday evening, the 13th of November, where the final Tactical Convoy Orders, and Area Defence Orders were delivered. At 0730hrs on the following morning, the detachment made their final tactical road move to Camp Faouar using APCs, LAVs, and mobility support assets. At 0910hrs on the morning of the 14th of November, Camp Faouar was declared re-occupied and secured. An initial radio check was conducted with UNDOF JOC in Camp Ziouani, prior to the implementation of Camp occupation routine. Pre-determined defensive positions were manned, clearance patrols and the EOD team were dispatched and operations were quickly initiated. The Commanding Officer of Fiji Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Daunivakasala Ravunakana, the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Aminiasi Lepolo, and the Fiji Battalion chaplain, Rev'd



UN Convoy heading towards Camp Faouar



Sgt Ritaimusu hoisting the UN flag in Camp Faouar

Captain Savenaca Nakeke also accompanied the main body of troops as they executed the first phase of the Mission's return to the Bravo side. Later in the afternoon at 1345hrs a flag raising ceremony to mark the occasion was conducted in the presence of the Force Commander and Head of Mission, Major General Jai Shanker Menon. The Syrian Senior Arab Delegate, General Younis, Chief of Mission Support, Mr. Bernard Lee, the Commanding Officer of Fijibatt, the Nepalese detachments in Camp Faouar and other notable figures in UNDOF Headquarters also attended this significant ceremonial event.



FIJIBATT





The Force Commander and Head of Mission addressed the troops on parade, thanking all the staff and personnel involved in such a huge achievement which is a milestone in the history of UNDOF. Maj Gen Menon reminded the troops of the importance of being vigilant in their tasks, and re-emphasized the significance of the mission's role in the region. On completion of the flag raising ceremony the contingent leadership, SSAD representation and international UNDOF staff departed for Damascus, entrusting the security of Camp Faouar to its new occupants. As time progresses so too does Camp development. The Fijian troops supported by UNDOF Hq staff, Logbatt and the Nepalese Engineer Platoon continue to enhance the infrastructure and facilities in the Camp to ensure that UNDOF are ready to continue its phased re-deployment back to the Bravo side.



CO Fijibatt with troops shortly after occupying Camp Faouar



Fijian troops march onto the square for the flag raising ceremony in Camp Faouar

Article by Major Viliame Finemateaki Photos by Major Ieli Kakraufon

Progress in Camp Faouar

Defend, Protect & Sustain

Engineer personnel from Logbatt supported by the Nepalese Field Engineer Platoon have maintained steady progress in improving infrastructure in Camp Faouar. Additional force protection infrastructure has been added and various construction work completed over the last few months to support Infantry troops perform their security tasks. Numerous observation posts and defensive positions within the Camp have been created to augment the improvements carried out along the external perimeter providing additional security and protection features to the Position on the Bravo side. The Engineers from both Logbatt and the Nepalese Field Engineer Platoon



Nepalese engineers mixing concrete for defensive positions

have been working steady on installing several new shelters within the Post and upgrading existing infrastructure with new flooring and windows. Additional access and regress features have been added within several areas in the Camp to support rapid deployment aiding response timings to defensive contingencies. While the focus is aimed towards



Installing a ladder to a defensive position



Engineers laying pipe works to sustain water supply

enhancing security and protection, the Engineers are also focused on upgrading the quality and quantity of the accommodation in Camp Faouar which supports the comfort and welfare of troops as the winter in the Golan Heights begins to bite. The Logbatt personnel in Camp Faouar have also been active in establishing 2nd line maintenance support to the transport fleet on the Bravo side and have streamlined the delivery of Camp Services including rations, fuel and the supply of general stores. Logbatt personnel, sup-



Improving the force protection infrastructure in Camp Faouar

ported by their Nepalese Engineer colleagues continue to play an important role in developing and maintaining the communications infrastructure within the Camp. The personnel in Logbatt and the Nepalese Engineer Platoon continue their focus towards Camp development as the winter in the Golan Heights begins to harden. All in UNDOF are gratefully of their contribution towards enabling the Mission in securing, defending, protecting and sustaining the Force's presence in Camp Faouar.

Article by: Major Sandesh Karki, Nep Fd Engr Pl and by Major Digvijay Singh, Logbatt Photos: Supplied



ENGINEER
WORKS



Fire Safety Week

Awareness, Prevention & Response

On the 21st of November Logbatt initiated its Fire Safety Week in Camp Ziouani. The objective of this training was to ensure that all personnel



Training on fire safety at Camp Ziouani by Logbatt

developed and enhanced their fire safety awareness, hone reactions, further develop responses and help coordinate the functions of other assets in the Mission. Greater fire safety awareness is of particular importance during the winter period when electric and gas heaters are continuously used to maintain room temperature during the harsh Golan winter. The fire safety week helped to refresh personnel in identifying fire hazards that potentially pose a risk to

life. This awareness helps to prevent a fire incident. Preventing injury or loss by fire is the responsibility of all personnel working in UN establishments. To assist in saving lives and property, a number of duty personnel are tasked to provide emergency response if required. During the week troops and staff were put through their paces in developing effective reaction to a fire emergency. The fire crew in Logbatt plays an important role in the primary response for all emergencies. However, emergency responses in Logbatt is a multi-agency effort as emergencies come in many forms that may require many personnel from different Units or Cells to act as emergency responders. This training week helped to coordinate the functions of many personnel within the Force which helped further enhance the emergency firefighting response system with other various agencies in the mission. Throughout the week personnel were informed of the basics which included checking on the serviceability and maintenance of equipment. They were also exercised in the use of the various emergency equipment available in UNDOF. The week culminated in a rescue exercise and a firefighting capability display which was followed by the award of the fire training certificate to those who met the required proficiency standards.



Training on fire fighting at Camp Ziouani by Logbatt

The FRC's In-Theatre Training *Training to produce the best outcome*

The fluid nature of the situation in the Golan Heights requires UNDOF to maintain a Force Reserve Company (FRC) that is highly responsive and deployable within minutes to implement any of the Force's many contingencies. The 54th Infantry Group arrived in the Golan Heights in late September 2016 to take up the role of FRC. As a critical force enabler for the Mission the Unit has been undergoing intensive training as it constantly strives for perfection in drills to ensure that the Force's contingencies can be implemented effectively and efficiently. This progressive programme of training will help to ensure that the force is always prepared to meet unexpected challenges in UNDOF's area of operations.

The FRC are highly equipped with modern military equipment and are deployable using MOWAG APC's and CRV's while they also possess a MOWAG Armoured Ambulance that helps provide a medical evacuation capability. Troops in the FRC are drawn from infantry, cavalry, artillery, CIS, and medical Units which provides a highly skilled team with the capability and versatility to respond to all situations. The in-theatre training programme also involves the QRF (Quick Reaction Force provided by the FRC) conducting rehearsals with other elements and Nationalities within UNDOF.

This approach helps foster strong professional bonds built on knowledge and understanding that support reasonable expectations and help enhance interoperability between contingents. These rehearsals focus on many different scenarios including medical emergencies, compromised positions and extractions. The initial focus for the QRF was to become familiar with routes



The all arms search team clears the way for a patrol



FRC dismount practises his searching skills

to and from all UN locations in the AOR of the 54th Infantry Group. As rehearsals of the contingency plans improved, more of an emphasis was placed on a rapid but safe deployment to all UN locations during numerous scenarios by day and night. The implementation of realistic, kinetic and non-kinetic scenarios challenge the soldiers within the QRF to complete their individual skills and drills effectively whilst also challenging the commanders on the ground to perform to the highest of standards. The inclusion of the UN Observers within this training is essential for the success of these contingency plans adding realism and cross learning between elements and contingents within the mission. When not undertaking operations the FRC will continue its focus on the in-theatre training to produce the best outcomes.

Engineer Patrol Search Training

Freedom of Movement is critical to a UN mission. In UNDOF's Area of Operations there are locations that may be contaminated with mines, IEDs and ERW (Explosive Remnants of War). Training for the Patrol Search teams have continued after their deployment to UNDOF. The role of the Patrol Search Teams is to confirm the absence of these threats from patrol routes ensuring the freedom of movement for the Irish Force Reserve Company. If something suspicious is found or suspected the troops can call on the Engineer Specialist Search and Clearance (ESSC) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams to locate and make safe the device. All troops in the FRC are given training and instruction during their Pre-deployment training in the School of Military Engineering. Personnel were taught how to use their two most valuable assets, the Vallon metal detector and their own ground sign awareness. The soldiers conducted their validation exercise in early October prior to their UNDOF deployment. During this exercise troops were subjected to realistic scenarios under the watchful eye of trained instructors. These scenarios test personnel on their ability to detect mines, IEDs and ERW. The validation exercise helped assess the skill level of troops and determine their suitability for deployment to UNDOF. This acts as a quality control mechanism within the Irish Defence Forces prior to overseas service ensuring each member is an important asset in the FRC. However the approach to skill development in the FRC is: 'that if you do not use it - you loose it'.

Therefore the value of In-Theatre training under local environmental conditions cannot be overestimated. It helps develop greater understanding between contingents and nationalities enhancing interoperability. This In-Theatre Training helps create a better understanding of the challenges presented by the different terrain, weather and the tactics and techniques used by armed elements in the Mission Area. An enhanced understanding and boosted knowledge helps develop



Enhancing operational capability

the soldier's resilience, knowledge and ensures that the soldiers personal administration and equipment support effective Engineer Patrol Search drills.



Engineers patrol search training

Medical Approach to Maintaining Effectivity

The FRC's medical approach to maintaining effectivity on an overseas mission comprise two diametrically opposite areas. The main focus is the lifesaving interventions that first responders use to initially treat military casualties. Since arriving in the Golan Heights training sessions have focused on the primary survey, and initial management of cata-



Military first responder treats a casualty

strophic bleeding, airway compromise, spinal precautions, breathing difficulty and circulatory problems. Inter-contingent mass casualty exercises challenges troops to put these skills into practice. In-theatre training also



A scene from the exercise scenario

includes lectures on hand hygiene, climatic illness and first aid for snake and scorpion bites. The impact of this training on the overall health of the group shouldn't be underestimated, as an outbreak of flu or food poisoning is just as detrimental to the FRC's operational effectivity. The other end of the spectrum is the preventative medical and general health-care practices that safeguard the health and wellbeing of all personnel. The preventative practices commenced long before deployment and include medical screening, dental screening and vaccinations.

FRC Possessing the Skills to Respond

On the 23rd of October an 8 year old girl got into severe difficulty when she was visiting Mount Bental with her family. She suffered a partially severed finger when her hand became caught in an old military installation which is widely visited by tourists. Irish troops serving with the FRC in Camp Ziouani just a few Kilometres away happened on the scene and immediately rendered emergency first aid. Under the leadership of Cpl Cox the Irish troops quickly applied their medical training to deliver the necessary first aid and then located the severed part of the girls' finger so that it could be preserved and surgically reattached later. Immediately after the girl was rushed to hospital, her family expressed gratitude and appreciation for the support of Cpl Cox's team who utilised their medical first aid skills which have been developed at an early stage of their Military Service. All troops in the Irish Defence Forces undergo a

Military First Responder Course shortly after their recruit training or induction phase into the Irish Defence Forces. Many soldiers undergo refresher training prior to serving overseas, an approach which helps to ensure that Irish Troops are versatile and possess the skills to respond to many situations.



Cpl Darragh Cox, Cpl Keith Grady, Father Paul Murphy and Cpl Jerry Hynes



Team Building in UNDOF

UNDOF continued its team building initiatives in the mission when it held an Inter-contingent sports competition on the 27th and 28th of October. This event also served to honor the United Nations Staff Day ini-

tiative that marks the tireless work, commitment and sacrifices displayed by civilian and uniformed personnel not only in UNDOF but in other UN Missions in the pursuit of global peace and security. The tournament

was organised by UNDOF's Welfare Officer Captain Viliame Turagaiviu and included events such as Tug of War, Badminton, Soccer, Cricket, Basketball and Volleyball with the honors listed on the left;

Event	Winners	Runner Up
Tug of War	<u>Fijibatt</u>	UNDOF HQ
Sack Race	<u>Fijibatt</u>	<u>Logbatt</u>
Badminton Single	UNDOF HQ	<u>Logbatt</u>
Badminton Double	<u>Logbatt</u>	UNDOF HQ
Soccer	FRC	<u>Logbatt</u>
Cricket	<u>Logbatt</u>	UNDOF HQ
Basketball	<u>Logbatt</u>	UNDOF HQ
Volleyball	<u>Fijibatt</u>	<u>Logbatt</u>



Team Building in UNDOF



TEAM BUILDING



UNDOF Diplomats Day

The Mission's Outreach

As part of the mission's outreach programme UNDOF conducted its Diplomats Day on the Alpha and Bravo sides in December 2016. Many Ambassadors, Diplomats and Dignitaries in the region attended both events which proved a great success. The purpose of these events was to communicate the current situation in the Golan Heights and how UNDOF continues to implement its Mandate outlined in Security Council resolution 350 (1974). In particular guests were

informed of the measures that UNDOF is taking to meet new challenges presented by the situation and how the Force is currently developing while all in attendance were briefed on the Missions plans to evolve in the future. Those in attendance received a comprehensive Mission brief followed by a period of formal interactive dialogue with the Mission Leadership which revealed a keen interest among the guests of the situation in UNDOF's Area of Operations.



Mission Leadership hosts UNDOF Diplomats Day in December 2016 Article by Commandant Patrick Toye SSO Media & PR

Upcoming Regional Events

01 January 2017 - New Year in Syria

Syria and Lebanon mark the New Year with a public holiday while it is regarded as a National Holiday in Jordan.



06 January 2017 - Armenian Orthodox Christmas Day in Lebanon

Armenian Christmas is a culmination of celebrations of events related to the birth and baptism of Christ. In Lebanon, Christmas is celebrated twice; first on the 25th of December and then as a holiday on the 6th of January for the Armenian Lebanese community who celebrate Christmas on the same date as Epiphany. The reason for the different date is that until the fourth century, Christ's birth was celebrated by the Christian church on the 6th of January. As Christianity expanded into Western Europe, the people there had been celebrating a Roman holiday ('Solis Invicti') on the 25th of December. Rather than compete with an already popular holiday, the church simply decided to move Christmas Day to the 25th of December and celebrate the 6th of January as the Feast of the Epiphany. Undoubtedly, Solis Invicti itself was a holiday created to overwrite previous Pagan winter solstice celebrations. In Armenia however, there was no such solstice tradition and Armenian Christians didn't feel bound to move their Christmas from the 6th of January. A ceremony called "Blessing of Water" is conducted in the Armenian Church to commemorate Christ's Baptism. In some parts of the world, the 6th of January is sometimes referred to as 'Old Christmas' or 'Little Christmas', recalling the old date that the Armenian Christians still observe.



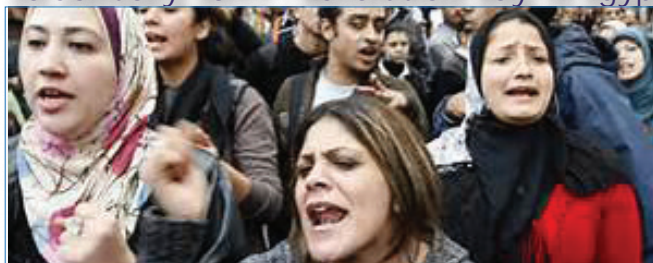
07 January 2017 - Coptic Christmas Day in Egypt

In 1582 Pope Gregory XII as head of the Catholic Church decided to change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. Other countries not under the Catholic rule retained the old calendar which had Jesus's birth on the 7th of January. Therefore Coptic Christmas Day in Egypt celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ on the 7th of January according to the Orthodox Church. Since it is a national holiday most citizens in Egypt get the day off to enjoy in with family and friends.



Upcoming Regional Events

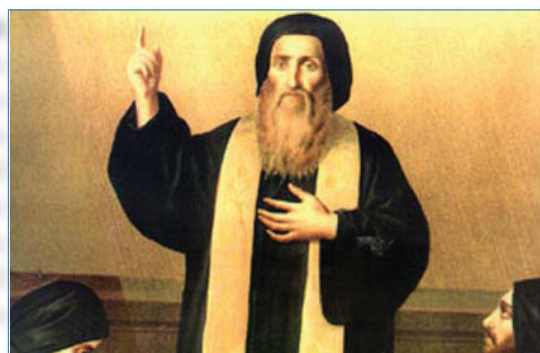
25 January 2017 - Revolution Day in Egypt



Egypt celebrates two (2) revolution days each year both of which are marked by National Holidays. Revolution Day on the 25th Jan in Egypt marks the Egyptian Revolution which started on the 25th of January 2011. This popular uprising was against high unemployment and low wages. Protestors held demonstrations all around the country and on the 11th of February President Mubarak resigned.

09 February 2017 - Saint Maroun's Day in Lebanon

The 9th of February is St. Maroun's Day in Lebanon and is celebrated by a public holiday in the country. Saint Maroun (also Maro or Maron) was a priest and Syrian hermit and is the patron saint of Lebanon. He died in 410 AD. His life and miracles attracted many followers that became known as the Maronite movement. Maronites make up 22% of the Lebanese population while there are approximately 11,000 living in Israel (mainly in Northern Israel) and up to 51,000 Maronites in Syria mainly in the archdioceses of Aleppo, Damascus and Latakia.



14 February 2017 - Rafik Hariri Memorial Day in Lebanon



On the 14th of February the Lebanese observe Rafik Hariri Memorial Day which is a Public Holiday in Lebanon. This day of remembrance is dedicated to the former Prime Minister of Lebanon who was born on the 1st of November 1944 and was assassinated on the 14th of February 2005. In the 1970s, he started a construction business and became a multi-billionaire. In the early 1980s he began his political career in Lebanon making a significant contribution to the 1989 Taif Agreement that ended the Lebanese civil war. Hariri served as the Lebanese prime minister from 1992 to 1998 and again from 2000 to 2004. As Prime Minister he played an important role in the country's recovery from the war. He resigned from office during the political crisis caused by the extension of the presidential term. On the 14th of February 2005 Rafic Hariri was killed in a terrorist attack when explosives were detonated as his motorcade drove through Beirut. 22 people also died in the bombing.

08 March 2017 - Revolution Day in Syria

Syria Revolution Day is a national celebration of the military coup that occurred on the 8th of March 1963. Syria gained independence from French rule in April 1946. However, Syria's independence, was marred with political instability with various military coups against the ruling government. The Syrian Revolution occurred on the 8th of March 1963 when armies of National Council of the Revolutionary Command (NCRC) launched a coup to overthrow the government of Syria. The successful coup made by the Baath party (Arab Socialist Resurrection Party) is marked as one of Syria's most important public holidays which is celebrated annually every 8th of March. The Syrian government celebrates the anniversary of Revolution Day by holding parades and delivering speeches, while government offices are closed and citizens spend time with family.



Upcoming Regional Events

12 March 2017 - Purim (Tel Aviv) in Israel

Purim is a Jewish observance on the 14th day of the month of Adar in the Jewish calendar, which is in February or March in the Gregorian calendar. It commemorates a time when Jewish people were saved from death in the Persian Empire around the fourth century BCE. The Book of Esther, or the Megilla, is a book of the Old Testament that tells the story of Esther, a Jewish Queen of Persia who was married to the king of Persia. Around the year 357 BCE, the prime minister of Persia, Haman, and his wife plotted to kill all Jewish people in the Persian Empire.

Esther heard of this plan and warned the king, risking her own safety. Haman and his sons were executed and the Jews were ordered to defend themselves against those who threatened them. This resulted in bloody battles, in which many people were killed. Purim celebrates the end of these battles. Purim is a Public Holiday in Israel and is celebrated by many Jews. It is commemorated by listening to a public reading, often in a synagogue of the Book of Esther, sending a gift of food to at least one friend, giving charity to the poor and eating a festive meal.



13 March 2017 - Shushan Purim (Jerusalem) in Israel

Shushan Purim is the same as Purim but it relates to the celebration in Jerusalem and the walled cities. It is regarded as a National holiday in Israel. Purim in the Hebrew calendar falls on the 14th day of Adar every year but the date is different each year for the Gregorian calendar. Celebrations are very similar as Purim however some areas will celebrate with carnivals that involve costumes and festive games.



Date	Weekday	Event Name	Type
14 April 2017	Friday	Orthodox Good Friday in Lebanon	Public Holiday
16 April 2017	Sunday	Orthodox Easter Day in Syria	Public Holiday
16 April 2017	Sunday	Easter Sunday in Lebanon	Public Holiday
16 April 2017	Sunday	Coptic Easter Sunday in Egypt	National Holiday
17 April 2017	Monday	Independence Day in Syria	Public Holiday
17 April 2017	Monday	Pesach VI (last day of Passover) in Israel	National Holiday
17 April 2017	Monday	Easter Monday in Lebanon	Public Holiday
17 April 2017	Monday	Spring Festival in Egypt	National Holiday
25 April 2017	Tuesday	Sinai Liberation Day in Egypt	National Holiday
01 May 2017	Monday	May Day in Syria	Public Holiday
01 May 2017	Monday	Workers Day in Lebanon	Public Holiday
01 May 2017	Monday	Labor Day in Egypt	National Holiday
02 May 2017	Tuesday	Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence day) in Israel	National Holiday
06 May 2017	Friday	Martyrs' Day in Syria	Public Holiday
24 May 2017	Wednesday	Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) in Israel	National Holiday
31 May 2017	Wednesday	Shavuot (Pentecost) in Israel	National Holiday
26 June 2017	Monday	Eid al-Fitr in Syria	Public Holiday
26-28 June 2017	Monday-Wednesday	Eid al-Fitr & Ramadan Day 2 & Ramadan Day 3 in Egypt	3 National Holidays
30 June 2017	Friday	June 30 Revolution in Egypt	National Holiday

Article By: Commandant Patrick Toye SSO Media & PR Photo: Supplied

