



UNDOF DIPLOMATS DAY

2020



Welcome Address from Acting Force Commander UNDOF



As the Acting Force Commander, I will like to extend a warm welcome to all our guests attending the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) Bravo Side Diplomat's Day 2020. The purpose of today's event is to share with you the current situation in the Mission's Area of Operations, our plans and projections for the Bravo Side and show you how we continue to implement our mandate as outlined by the Security Council Resolution 350 (1974) on the Golan. As you may be aware, UNDOF was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 350 on 31 May 1974 which called for an immediate ceasefire in the Golan after the 1973 Yom Kippur war. On 31 May 2020, UNDOF has been established 46 years, and during its existence, the Mission has evolved into a very assertive and experienced force. In 2014, as a result of the increased armed conflict within our Area of Responsibility and further threats to the safety and security of personnel at the Bravo Side, UNDOF was

compelled to evacuate nearly all the UN positions, except Mount Hermon and some Observation Posts manned by UNTSO observers in the Area of Separation. UNDOF HQ was consequently re-located at Camp Yafour in Damascus while the rest of the force moved to Camp Ziouani on the Alpha Side. On 14 Nov 16, the force commenced a gradual re-establishment of its presence in Camp Faouar with the deployment of the Fijian Guard Company. This was followed on 25 Sep 17, with the deployment of the Nepalese Mechanized Company. On 8 Feb 18, as the security situation improved, we commenced limited patrolling using the Nepalese Mechanized Company on selected routes in our Area of Responsibility to the North with approval of UNHQ. On the 5th of September 2019 the new Uruguayan Mechanized Infantry Company (UMIC) was deployed in the southern sector of our mission's AOR. We have now expanded our patrols to other areas. We are using patrolling to sensitize the local population of our return to the Bravo Side and to secure some UN positions that were abandoned for refurbishment and subsequent re-occupation. As we continue along our efforts towards the incremental return to the Bravo Side, the support of our Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) and Members of the Security Council is essential. I will like to take this opportunity to thank all our TCCs for their continued contributions to UNDOF. As Acting Force Commander, I invite you to interact with our Mission Leadership and Staff during today's event and join us for lunch as guests of UNDOF.

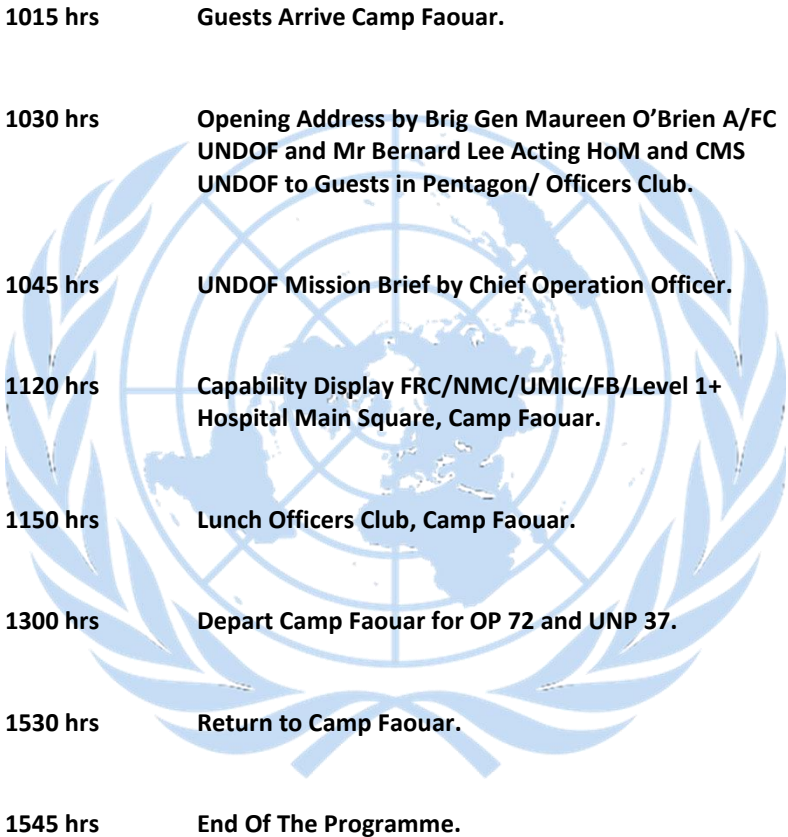
Brig Gen Maureen O'Brien

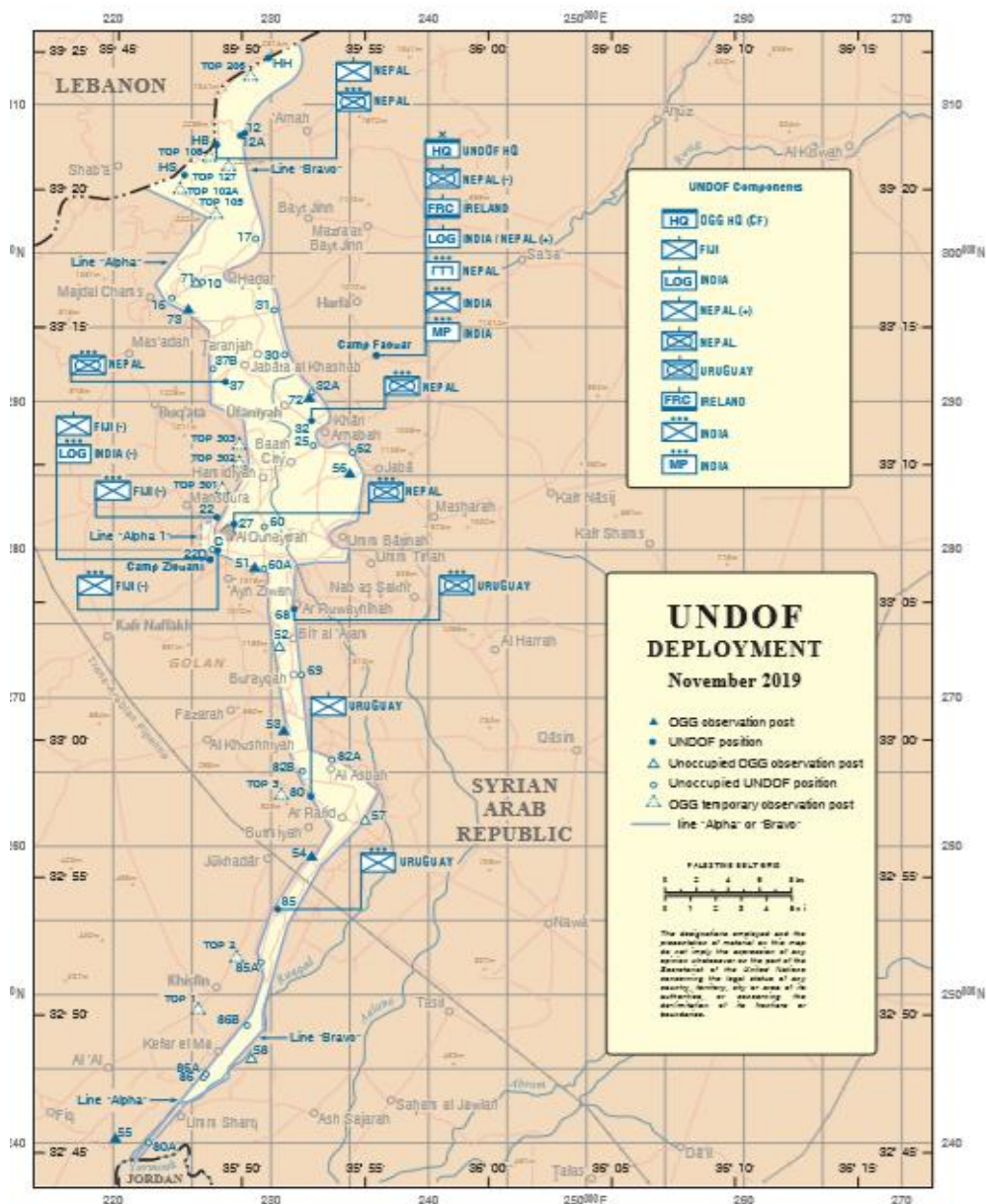
Acting Force Commander, UNDOF.

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Program

04 February 2020

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- 1015 hrs** **Guests Arrive Camp Faouar.**
- 1030 hrs** **Opening Address by Brig Gen Maureen O'Brien A/FC UNDOF and Mr Bernard Lee Acting HoM and CMS UNDOF to Guests in Pentagon/ Officers Club.**
- 1045 hrs** **UNDOF Mission Brief by Chief Operation Officer.**
- 1120 hrs** **Capability Display FRC/NMC/UMIC/FB/Level 1+ Hospital Main Square, Camp Faouar.**
- 1150 hrs** **Lunch Officers Club, Camp Faouar.**
- 1300 hrs** **Depart Camp Faouar for OP 72 and UNP 37.**
- 1530 hrs** **Return to Camp Faouar.**
- 1545 hrs** **End Of The Programme.**



UNDOF Background and Beginnings

On 6 October 1973, war erupted in the Middle East between Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Suez Canal area and the Sinai, and between Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights. On 24 October, as fighting between Egypt and

Israel reached a critical stage, the Security Council decided to set up a second United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II). The Force was immediately moved into place between the Israeli and Egyptian armies in the Suez

Resolution 350 (1974)

of 31 May 1974

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General contained in documents S/11302 and Add.1, and having heard his statement made at the 1773rd meeting of the Security Council,

1. *Welcomes* the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, negotiated in implementation of Secretary Council resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;
2. *Takes note* of Secretary General's report and the annexes thereto and his statement;
3. *Decides* to set up immediately under its authority a United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and requests the Secretary General to take the necessary steps to this effect in accordance with his above- mentioned report and the annexes thereto; the Force shall be established for an initial period of six months, subject to renewal by further resolution of the Security Council;
4. *Requests* the Secretary General to keep the Security Council fully informed of further developments.

Adopted at the 1774th meeting

By 13 votes to none.

UNDOF Background and Beginnings

Canal area, and its arrival effectively stabilized the situation. However, no new peacekeeping operation at that time was established on the Syrian front. In the Israel-Syria sector tension remained high, and from March 1974 the situation became increasingly unstable. Against the background, the United States undertook a diplomatic initiative, which resulted in the conclusion of an

Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces {S/11302/Add.1, annexes I and II}. The Agreement provided for an area of separation and for two equal zones of limited forces and armaments on the both sides of the area, and called for the establishment of a United Nations observer force to supervise its implementation. On 3 June 1974, the Secretary



UNDOF Background and Beginnings

General appointed an interim commander of UNDOF who arrived in Damascus on the same day and immediately established a provisional headquarters in the premises of the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission. The interim Commander took command over the 90 UNTSO observers detailed to UNDOF. Later the same day, advance parties of the Austrian and Peruvian contingents arrived in the mission area. They were joined on the following days by the remainder of the two

contingents and the Canadian and Polish logistic elements. Some logistic support was provided by UNEF II.

By 16 June 1974, the strength of UNDOF was brought to 1,218 all ranks, near its authorized level of 1,250. The Force has since performed its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties. The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained quiet. Both parties cooperate fully with the mission and for a number of years there have been no serious incidents.



