

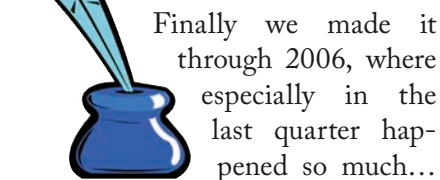
GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



October - December 2006
No. 109

Dear Reader!



Finally we made it through 2006, where especially in the last quarter happened so much... We had a big Charity Program for the Mine Victims of Qunaitra (see page 13), we welcomed seven new people to UNDOF - more than ever. We already knew then, that UNDOF would have a new FC, MGen Wolfgang Jilke, the UN has a new Secretary General (see Back Cover) and we obviously celebrated Christmas and New Year's days. So altogether much to talk/write about and I think we have it all covered. We received many very good and interesting articles from our contingent Press Officers and on this occasion I would like to welcome our newly arrived Press Officers from

AUSBATT, Capt Thomas Güttersberger and from INDCON, Maj Ravinder Talashi. All Press Officers did a really great job, UNDOF really appreciates your input and hard work!

At last, we also made it happen - to take a new picture for the editorial page, this time also with Lynn, our senior proofreader for the Golan Journal. She is doing this on a voluntarily basis for years now and without her this journal wouldn't be the same, Thanks a lot, Lynn!

Finally, I would also like to thank our outgoing Force Commander, LtGen Sharma, who always was

a great fan and supporter of our Golan Journal and never missed an opportunity to help us. Thanks a lot, Sir! UNDOF and the Golan Journal wishes you all the best and will miss you!

*Yours sincerely, Capt Stefan Zaiser,
SOPR*



Tommy, Lynn, Gerry, Scotty and Fritz

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Front (Page 1): LtGen Sharma's very last Medal Parade. Awarding UNDOF Medal to his personal driver in CZ
Photo by WO II Gernot Payer

Back (Page 24): UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
UN Photo by Mark Garten

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The Golan Journal is the magazine of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and it is intended to provide information about the Force and events within it which are of interest to its members. The UNDOF Media Public Relations & Welfare 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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Force Commander's Message

Dear Fellow Peacekeepers!

It is with a mixture of both happiness and sadness that I address you my Soldiers and Civilian staffs in this issue of the Golan Journal for the last time, as your Force Commander.

I am very happy to be returning back to Nepal after being away for three years however I am sad to be leaving Syria and UNDOF after working with all of you in one of the Best Missions in the World. Saying Goodbye is never easy. But, this is the nature of farewells. We are sad to leave while at the same time we are excited at the new prospects and challenges that await us in the future.

I have enjoyed my posting here. It was both interesting and challenging. It was an honor and privilege for me to command the international troops for a noble cause, in a most debated area of the world. For any officer who has worked as a peacekeeper, it is a dream to become a FC. I consider myself to be very lucky. This was my 'dream come true'. Thank you for sharing this dream with me!

During the last three years, I have had the pleasure and privilege to work with you and together, we managed to address some very impor-

tant issues. Whatever has been achieved was achieved through your hard work and commitment. I thank you for trusting and giving your whole hearted loyalty to me. Without your dedication and support, none of this would be possible and UNDOF would not be what UNDOF is today. Thank you all for this support. I ask you to give Colonel Andrzej Ostrowski and Major General Wolfgang Filke, the same outstanding support and effort that you have given to me.

Soldiers, you are the backbone of the mission. You work 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to keep the peace. Biting cold or scorching heat - you are here. And, you are ready to give the ultimate to maintain the peace. I sincerely salute you. It was my privilege and honor to command such motivated soldiers.

International and National Staffs, you are the experts and the authority in your respective fields. Your support to the troops deployed in the field has been praise worthy. I am happy to see you being well integrated with the military staffs in the HQ. Soldiers and Civilians, please continue this worthy effort.

As international diplomatic efforts may be mov-



ing towards finding a permanent solution for Middle East peace, I think UNDOF will be called upon to be a major player in helping this area move towards a lasting peace. You will all have a very important role to play in the weeks and months and years ahead.

May the "New Year" bring peace and prosperity in this region. As we begin the next phase of our career, Bibhu and I will still be with you in spirit.

Thank you to everyone, and God Bless!

Thank you, Dziakujem, Danke, Merci, Dziękuję, Arigato, Dhanyavada, Shukran, Doda!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. N. Sharma".

Lieutenant General B. N. SHARMA
Force Commander UNDOF

Chief of Staff Words

If you expect me, as your COS, to focus on UNDOF HQ and Forces' operational, security and organizational issues in this article you will not be disappointed as it is COS' primary responsibility. Much has happened during my 3-month duty in UNDOF. However, I will mention only the main events due to limited space in the Golan Journal.

Three months ago I wrote to this magazine that my primary task was the quick finalization of introduction into force of the new UNDOF HQ and to ensure the security of UNDOF. Today, I can say that significant progress was made in this respect. Polish STS was already relocated to Camp Faouar and together with Austrian STS contributes to a solid Force Reserve. Both units are familiar with the whole UNDOF AOR as they have started patrolling AUSBATT and POLBATT AOR on a rotational base. Security of Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani was increased by imposing certain measures. Following the new UNDOF HQ structure, modernization of the forces was initiated. The FC UNDOF signed the AUSBATT MANPOWER AND ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW (MOR). The Review Guidance says that the new AUSBATT structure should meet present and future mission requirements. In addition, unity of effort, unity of purpose and synergy within and between functional AUSBATT areas will be important factors guiding the review towards the streamlined and effective command & control (C2), free of duplication and generating economies of scale structure. MORs for POL-

BATT and LOGBATT will follow as well in the near future.

The very important event which was carried out recently, that I would like to mention in this article, was the Command Post Exercise (CPX). As you remember, I conducted UNDOF CPX under the code name "UNDERMINED NEST '06" between 11th – 13th Dec 2006. The CPX outline was against a notional political and situational background on strategic and operational/mission level, however indicating the latest strategic developments in the Region and Mission Area. Planning the CPX my intent was to train a smooth transition of the Force from 'Green' to 'Yellow' Alert and to practice the elements of the Decision Making Process (DMP) by UNDOF HQ and Battalion's staff by OPS parallel planning in developing responsive decisions and orders within the UNDOF Mandate and current Operational Concept.

The purpose of the exercise was also scrutiny of the validity of OPLAN 1000. The CPX was the basis for a full UNDOF LIVEX, as well, to be carried out in Spring 2007. Moreover, it was learned that the CPX allowed UNDOF staff to increase the effective and efficient conduct of staff work and to facilitate coordination and liaison between all elements of the Staff, Command Group and OGG in order to support FC UNDOF as efficiently as possible in performing his mission and achieving his objectives. Significant in this respect was



CO LOGBATT's lessons learned in which he identified the need for close coordination between logistic and operational operations in case of emergency.

Taking the opportunity, I would like to thank the COO and the OPS Branch for their great contribution to the CPX and all UNDOF HQ and Battalion's staff members who took part in the CPX for their demonstrated dedication and contribution which allowed us to successfully achieve the exercise's planning goals and aims.

Finally, let me remind you that the HQ Staff and Forces are organized to support FC UNDOF in performing his mission, roles and responsibilities and in discharging his authority, in support of the objectives issued by UNNY. The CPX proved that you have good operational planning skills and you are fully dedicated to fulfill this requirement.

Keep up the good work.

Colonel Andrzej Ostrowski
Chief of Staff UNDOF

Visits to UNDOF by Capt Tsutomu Nemoto, DMPIO



Visit of H.E. Ms. Agnieszka Magdziak- Miszewska, Ambassador of Poland to Israel. Ambassador visited CZ and met with COS, CO POLBATT and Polish soldiers and confirmed the history of POLBATT in traditional hall of Polish Military Contingent on Golan Heights. (12th Oct 2006)



Visit of H.E. Mr. Frantisek Kasicky, Slovak Minister of Defense. Minister visited CF and met with the FC and BGen Abdul A. Darwish, Senior Syria Arab Delegation. He send words of encouragement to each soldier. (21st Oct 2006)



Visit of LtGen Günter Höfler, Commander Joint Operations Armed Forces Command. Met with FC and encouraged Austrian soldiers. Visited AUSBATT AOR. (6th - 8th Nov 2006)



Visit of Mr. Günther Platter, Austria Minister of Defense. The Minister talked with the FC in ROD, visited CF and dined with AUSBATT members at AIK. (15th -17th Nov 2006)



Visit of H.E. Mr. Takahide Kimura, Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Defense. Vice Minister visited CF and CZ and talked with the FC. His words of encouragement became a great Christmas gift for J-CON soldiers. (25th -26th Dec 2006)

Visit of students of the elementary Liaison Course, IDF. Understood UNDOF mandate and familiarized with UNDOF activities. POLBATT RRG demonstrated their operation for students in CZ. (9th Oct 2006)

Visit of LtGen Masatoshi Onishi, Commanding General of 11th Division, Japan Ground Self Defense Force. Visited CF and CZ and inspected J-CON soldiers. Observed SCORPION March. (17th -20th Nov 2006)

Visit of H.E. Mr. Masaki Kunieda, Japanese Ambassador to Syria. Visited CF and met with the FC. Familiarized with UNDOF AOR and visited Qunaitra, Family Shouting Place and Mt. Hermon. (29th Nov 2006)

Visit of H.E. Mr. Yoshinori Katori, Japanese Ambassador to Israel. Visited CZ and was fact finding about UNDOF&J-CON activities. Also observed UNTSO activities at OP53. (7th Dec 2006)

New People in UNDOF



The new CCITS

The new Chief, Communications & Information Technology, Mr. Roy Joblin is a native of New Zealand.

He began his United Nations career with UNIFIL in 1993 as a Communications Officer in Lebanon. In 1995, he relocated to Iraq and worked with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) as their Chief of Communications. In 1999, he was reassigned to the UN Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy (UNLB) as the Chief of CITS. This was followed by a one year assignment to UNHQ in New York working as a DPKO-CITS desk officer for numerous field missions during 2000/2001. In 2001, Mr. Joblin was a member of the DPKO planning and technical survey team for DPKO operations in Afghanistan and undertook a two year assignment with UNAMA in Kabul in 2002 and 2003 as Chief of CITS. He returned to UNHQ in New York in 2004 and then took up an appointment with UNFICYP in Cyprus.

He joins us in UNDOF from Cyprus with his wife Daphne (also an UNDOF staff member with the General Services Section) and their two daughters Lily (aged 3) and Sophie (aged 1). Their son Scott is at school in New Zealand and is looking forward to visiting soon.



The new LA-FC

The mission now has its first Legal Adviser (LA) to FC with the arrival of Carl Richards in early November 2006. Mr. Richards is Australian and prior to joining the UN in 2001 he practiced law as barrister and solicitor in his private legal practice and later specialized as a criminal defence lawyer in Australia. His first UN posting was to UNMIK, Kosovo in 2001 as legal officer. He was then reassigned to the legal office in East Timor in 2003 to serve as Deputy LA and in June 2005 he was appointed LA to the Timor mission, a position he retained until his move to UNDOF. Mr. Richards is married to UNDOF Claims Officer, Olga Rábade. He enjoys the equally challenging experiences of driving in Damascus and learning Spanish.



The new CGSO

The new Chief General Services Officer, Osbourne Cunningham being FSO (Field Service Officer) took up his new appointment in UNDOF on 1st Dec 2005. A native of Jamaica, Mr. Cunningham started his United Nations career on 13th Feb 1989 in the UNIFIL Communications Center after serving 18 years with Cable and Wireless Ltd.

He was transferred to Kuwait in April 1992 to help in the startup of the new mission, UNIKOM and later moved to Baghdad where he served in the mission there until October 1998 when he returned to UNIFIL. Mr. Cunningham also served in the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2003.

He was appointed OIC General Services Section in UNIFIL 2004 until July 2006 when he was appointed as the Senior Administrative Officer a position he maintained until his appointment to UNDOF.

Mr. Cunningham is married and enjoys reading and cricket.



The new CO/AB

LtCol Robert Glanner was born in Baden – Austria. He joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1983. After graduating to Officer's rank at the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt he was transferred to the Austrian Artillery School in Baden. His appointments there were Platoon Commander, Battery Commander, Logistic Officer and Chief Training Officer.

Since 2004 he was appointed to Management 2010, MOD, as a Desk Officer. He attended the Battalion and Regiment Commanders' Course at the National Defence Academy and graduated as Master of Security and Defence Management (MSD) in 2006. LtCol Glanner served two times with AUSBATT/UNDOF, as CLO in 1996/97 and COO in 2002/2003. He is married to Susanne and father of his daughter Theresa and son Alexander.

His hobbies are hunting and dog training. On 20th Nov 2006 he took over command of AUSBATT.



The new CISS

LtCol Tarun JK Ohri came to the Golan Heights on 26th Sep 2006 as the new Chief of Integrated Support Services of HQ UNDOF. He is a third generation officer in the Indian Army and the recipient of the Presidents Gold Medal at NDA

(National Defense Academy) for standing first in the overall order of merit. He was Academy Cadet Captain of the passing out course and had the honour to command the Passing out Parade. He got commissioned in 9 HORSE on 14th Dec 1991.

Has held various appointments at the regimental level and has been Aide – de – Camp (ADC) to GOC Infantry Division. He has commanded a tank squadron in strike formation and served at the highest battlefield on earth that is Siachen Glacier. He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC). Instructor in tank armament, intelligence operations, tactics at junior command and qualified in parachute jumping.

He is an above average sportsman and plays all games (football, hockey, tennis, squash, athletics, golf, swimming and water polo). Presently he maintains a handicap of six in golf. Before joining us here at UNDOF he was serving as GSO 1 Operations which is equivalent to COO of an infantry brigade. LtCol Ohri is married to Tina and they have two children, Tushar (son) and Trisha (daughter)



The new CO/LB

Born on 31st Dec 1964, LtCol Jasprit Singh Bakshi has been serving the Indian Armoured Corps for the past 20 years. His experience includes Operational Planning, Personal Management, Logistics and Administration, which encompass Public

Relations and Training – a diversified scope from executive to directive levels in widely varied kaleidoscopic environment which comprises deserts, high altitude and counter insurgency operations.

He earned his Masters Degree in Defence Studies at Defence Services Staff College and has recently acquired a Masters Degree in Marketing Management from a renowned Indian University.

He has held four prestigious Command, General staff and Instructional appointments. He was Armament Instructor in the Armoured Corps Centre and School, was posted as Instructor in the Officers' Training Academy and as Staff Officer in the Operations Branch of an Armoured Division and later as Instructor in the School of Armoured Warfare.

He has gained versatile experience in holding independent command of manpower as well as heavy equipment oriented organization and establishment and has played a pivotal role in optimizing efforts towards the actualization of organizational goals. He has been trained at Combined Arms Tactical Trainer CATT, WARMINSTER, UK and was designing Computer Wargames for the Indian Army before joining us at the Golan Heights as CO LOGBATT.

Suitably married to Mrs Rosie Bakshi, they have two children Mannat their 13 year old daughter and Amitoj their 10 year old son. His family is residing in a previous duty station.



The new COGG

LtCol Jon Veel was born in Oslo on 22nd Dec 1958.

He joined the Air Force after college and officers' school in 1977. He graduated with BA degrees in physiology and psychology at the University of Oslo before further military education and AF War College in 1994. He was promoted to LtCol in August 2002. LtCol Veel was the last four years posted as a Battalion Commander for the Norwegian Air Force Expeditionary Force Protection Battalion. That Battalion had in that period conducted operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Kirgizstan and Lithuania. LtCol Veel started his first UN mission as an Operations Officer and PT Officer, Norwegian Battalion, in UNIFIL 11 and 12 (1983/84). He served as an UNMO and as an MIO in OGL in 1999/2000.

UN courses for Commanding Officers (UNCOC), UN Staff Officers' course (UNSOC), UN Observer course (UNMOC) and UN CIMIC course had all been attended in the period from 1999 to 2006.

LtCol Veel is married to Elin and they have six children. Elin and the two youngest children are living in Damascus until LtCol Veel's end of tour as COGG in November 2007.

National Day and Medal Parade

On 26th Oct 2006 the ceremonies for the Austrian National Day and the Medal Parade took place when there was the brightest sunshine. More than 100 Austrian and Slovakian soldiers were awarded the UNDOF-Medal for their commitments to UNDOF.

Maj Frank-Michael Gutzelnig was paradecommander and reported to the FC LtGen Bala N. Sharma. LtCol Christian Friedhuber, CO/AB hosted many Guests of Honor as Ambassadors or their representatives from the EU, from Slovakia, Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine and



Final march of soldiers alongside Guests of Honor

Austria. Furthermore the presence of Military Attachés from Great Britain, France, Italy, Slovakia, Poland and Czech Republic as well as the Commanders of the other contingents recognized the significance of the Austrian Slovakian Battalion in Syria. After the welcoming speeches of LtCol Friedhuber and Maj Juray Farkas, DCO AB and NCC SLOVCON, as well as the blessing of the UNDOF-Medals through Padre Alfred Weinlich; LtGen Sharma, Austrian Ambassador H.E. Dr. Karl Schramek, Slovakian Ambassador H.E. Oldrich Hlavacek and COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski handed over the medals to the soldiers. After the *'Radetzky-March'* FC LtGen Sharma addressed the soldiers and emphasized the pro-

fessionalism of the Austrian contingent since 1974 and especially the commitment they are willing to give during the toughest winters on



The 'UNDOF-Tart'

Mount Hermon. He was also very pleased with the Slovakian Contingent and good teamwork of both nations within AUSBATT. Finally he thanked LtCol Friedhuber for his dedication and professional

leadership as well as for his support to UNDOF HQ.

After asking for further commands Maj Gutzelnig marched out ahead of all contingents alongside the Guests of Honor.

Later on that day our National Day with all sorts of Austrian goods, food and sweets was celebrated in the so called *'Rubb*

Hall', which was nicely prepared by the HQ-Coy/AB under the leadership of Maj Oswald Spendier. Most of the earned money from selling soft drinks and other beverages was donated to *'Licht ins Dunkel 2006'* – An Austrian Christmas Charity Event.

Finally, the climax of the day was a gig performed by the Austrian Band *'Rioters'* in the *'Rubb Hall'*, lasting for over two hours. At midnight this exciting party came to an end, since the following day was a working day and AUSBATT fulfilled their duties accord-

ing their motto – ***'One Mission, One Team, One Message'***

*Article by Maj Walter Stieglecker,
OpsInfo/AB*

Photos by Sgt Thomas Aigner

AUSBATT - Change of Command



LtCol Friedhuber LtCol Glanner

LtCol Christian Friedhuber handed over command of the Austrian/Slovakian Battalion to his successor LtCol Robert Glanner on 20th Nov 2006. The presence of FC LtGen Bala N. Sharma, SSAD BGen Abdul A. Darwish, COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski, UNDOF Branch Heads and all other Commanding Officers showed the significance of the outgoing CO. The participation of many Ambassadors and Military Attachés showed LtCol Friedhuber's social connection to the Mission Area.

In his valedictory LtCol Friedhuber thanked especially his soldiers and emphasized the professionalism with which they fulfilled their duties throughout the conflict between Israel and Lebanon. He further mentioned that through their actions they guaranteed peace in Syria and outstandingly represented the Republic of Austria.

After taking over the flag of the Austrian/Slovakian Battalion from LtGen Sharma's hands and after signing the HTO-Protocol the new CO, LtCol Glanner addressed in his inaugural the present soldiers and guests of honor. To lead and command a bat-



FC LtGen Sharma, new CO LtCol Glanner, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Schramek, outgoing CO LtCol Friedhuber f.l.t.r.

talion, especially abroad, makes him very proud. He already was twice here before and during his three week handover phase he realized the high level of motivation, the professionalism and the proactiveness of now 'his soldiers'. He also thanked the Austrian Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Karl Schramek and the

Austrian Military Attaché for their cordial reception.

The ceremony ended with the last parade along the honors-stand and a reception in the Austrian Officers Mess.

*Article by Maj Walter Stieglecker,
OpsInfo/AB*

Photos by Sgt Thomas Aigner



Flagbearers marching alongside mustered soldiers



Santa Claus from Golan Heights in Damascus

During December lots of people from different parts of the world, living or working in Syria, try to remember and maintain traditional customs. One of the most well-known customs is connected with 'Mikulas' (similar to Santa Claus), who comes with the devil and the angel and brings some gifts for 'good children'. It is really great entertainment for children from Slovakia and also the Czech Republic, for which they are waiting for almost all the year.

The party was organized on 9th Dec 2006 at the Czech embassy in Damascus. The Czech embassy and SLOVCON have had a great cooperation and friendship with each other for a long time. Some members of SLOVCON were given an invitation to take part in this party and were asked to prepare special masks - the devil and the angel. In fact, SLOVCON is not capable of solving some operational tasks only, but they prepared very nice experiences not only for the children, but also for their parents. OiC of 3rd Coy Capt Zdenko Targos acted as a devil and one of the 3rd Coy women, LCpl Ivana Sijkova acted as an angel. Some small children were crying and others were smiling, because the masks looked so real. But now all children believe in a real devil and angel living in the Golan Heights. After that there was a small party where we made new friendships and strengthened the old ones.

We spent a very nice time together and we are looking forward to the next cooperation with our Czech friends.

*Article by Capt Zdenko Targos,
OiC 3rd Coy/AB
In cooperation with
Lt I Marian Simon, DO/AB
Photos by Pte Jaroslav Hudacky*



Santa Claus and happy children



Angel, Santa Claus and the devil (LCpl Ivana Sijkova, „Santa Claus“, Capt Zdenko Targos)

MOD of Slovak Republic at UNDOF on 21st Oct 2006

There was an election of a new government in June 2006. The most important change for us was a change of Ministry of Defence of Slovak republic (MOD SR)

The new MOD SR Mr. Frantisek Kasicky started to gather knowledge about responsibility and conditions of lives of Slovak Forces members, who fulfil tasks in international missions. The highest representatives of Slovak Armed Forces joined him in this familiarization.

Firstly, MOD SR had visited Camp Faouar. There was a big invitation ceremony, where some members of AUCON were awarded Slovak medals due to their great cooperation and support for SLOVCON. These members were awarded: CO AUSBATT LtCol Christian Friedhuber MD, COO AUSBATT Maj Frank-Michael Gutzelnig and CLO AUSBATT Maj Kurt Hutter. An official meeting with the FC followed this ceremony. They discussed the quality of fulfilling tasks of SLOVCON and the ques-



Invitation ceremony - f.l.t.r.: Ambassador of SR H.E. Mr. Oldrich Hlavacek, MOD SR Mr. Frantisek Kasicky, COGS MGen Lubomir Bulik, FC LtGen Bala N. Sharma, COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski

tion of the new FC. After a briefing about basic rules and tasks of SLOVCON in the mission area, the delegation moved into the AOR of 3rd Coy. MOD SR visited Posn 16 and 30 and of course HQ Posn 10. He was familiarized with the area, soldiers' lives and their tasks.

There was a very exciting duel between commanders with MOD and soldiers of SLOVCON. MOD

SR shot the winning goal in the last moment of the match. But after the picture taking and short farewell, he had to continue in his journey, because he had been expected in Damascus airport.

I would like to thank for the great cooperation with all parts that were involved in the organization of this visit, mainly SuppO/AB Lt I Marek Ciri and OiC of 3rd Coy Capt Zdenko Targos and also our Austrian col-

leagues.

Special thanks for members of MP, who had to really hard work to guide a convoy of MOD SR (especially in the overcrowded routes in Damascus). *Thank you!!!*

Article by Maj Juraj Farkas, CO/SLOVCON, DCO/AB

In cooperation with

Lt I Marian Simon, DO/AB

Photo by Sgt Thomas Aigner

Congratulations!



In the 2005 Golan Journal (Ed. 102) was reported already the wedding of Iga and Patrik Kremer. They married in January 2005, after having met and fallen in love here on the

Golan Heights in 2004. Now they have become proud parents, as having given birth to their first son Daniel.

He was born on 16th November 2006, weighing 3810 grams and being 50cm tall.

Just married!



In 2004 also Marta Magruk, Polish UNDOF Laboratory Assistant, and Martin Kusenda, Slovakian MP-Platoon member met and fell in love here in Camp Faouar.

Marta, Iga, Patrik and Martin all know each other, since Marta and Iga worked together in the Laboratory here in UNDOF. Last May 2006 Marta and Martin said their final 'Yes, I do' and married in Wlodawa, Marta's Hometown.

FC Change of Command at UNDOF

On 12th Jan 2007 our Force Commander LtGen Bala N. Sharma handed over the command of UNDOF after his three-year 'Tour of Duty' to Chief of Staff Col Andrzej Ostrowski, who is now assuming command as 'Officer in Charge (OIC)' of UNDOF.

The ceremony itself, commanded by LtCol Dariusz Karwinski, was well prepared and took place in Camp Faouar. Numerous guests, such as members of the military and diplomatic community, COS UNTSO MGen Gordon, MGen Wolfgang Jilke incoming FC of UNDOF, FC UNIFIL BGen Nehra, SSAD BGen Abdul A.

Darwish, CAO Patrick J. Devaney, Contingent Commanders and soldiers of all TCCs all being present showed the significance of our outgoing Force Commander.

Right before the 'Change of



LtGen Sharma handing over UNDOF-Flag to Col Ostrowski

for the partnership, close cooperation with the diplomatic corps, for the FC's excellent service for UNDOF and for the good relations he kept with the Syrian civilian and military authorities.

Col Ostrowski addressed the distinguished guests in his inaugural by accepting this additional and great responsibility as an appreciation by UNNY of his three months duty here at UNDOF. Col Ostrowski promised to do his best to fulfill this temporary assignment and thanked the outgoing FC for his most honorable and professional manner with which he exercised command over UNDOF. Finally the 'OIC' also highlighted some of LtGen Sharma's accomplishments over the last three years, such as the transition of LOGBATT from CANCON to INDCON, the improvement of medical evacuation procedures and the maintaining of security by providing 'good office' with both Israel and Syria during the recent conflict in Lebanon.

LtGen Sharma finally addressed

the audience in his valedictory with both happiness due to his returning to Nepal and sadness due to his leaving Syria and UNDOF. His posting here was an honor and privilege and for him a 'dream come true'. The outgoing FC thanked all Ambassadors for being his reservoir of psychic energy, the Military Attachés for their always useful comments and

advice, BGen Darwish for the road construction to Mount Hermon, CAO Mr. Devaney for his timely advice, COS Col Ostrowski for his excellent work and all contingents as being the backbone of the mis-



OIC and FC signing the HTO-Protocol

Command Signing Ceremony', Col Ostrowski was awarded the UNDOF medal.

After LtGen Sharma and Col Ostrowski both signed the Handover/Takeover protocol, the Polish Ambassador H.E. Jacek Chodorowicz addressed the audience and emphasized what an extremely good Commander the outgoing FC was, always being aware of the problems of the mission as well as problems of his soldiers. Finally, H.E. Mr. Chodorowicz expressed his thanks



Polish Ambassador addressing the audience

sion and for giving their ultimate to maintain the peace and for their complete loyalty to him. Further on, our outgoing FC congratulated the incoming FC, MGen Jilke on being chosen as such. He ended his speech with "Thank you to everyone, and God Bless! Let there be Peace!"

The ceremony ended with a final salute taken by LtGen Sharma and a reception in the AIK.

*Article by Capt Stefan Zaiser, SOPR
Photos by WOII Gernot Payer*

Mine Victims of Qunaitra

Where there are wars, there are also always mine victims. Once a war is over, hence the slaughtering of people, there is still an eminent threat from mines. Even on the Golan Heights, 33 years (!) after the cease-fire agreement, mine danger still exists.



Poster for the Fundraising Campaign within UNDOF

Even though children in schools are being made aware of this mine hazard, there are ten to fifteen mine accidents a year. Mostly children are affected by these mine accidents, but they are not the only ones. Currently there are 360 registered mine victims in the Dis-

trict of Qunaitra and as already mentioned most of which are kids and juveniles. Our FC LtGen Bala N. Sharma started an initiative in cooperation with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegation (SSAD) and representatives of the mine victims in September 2006 for founding a

mutual committee. This committee should collect money through Charity Events and donations for necessary surgery and for purchasing artificial limbs. We are proud to say that this worked out just fine. Mrs. Bibhu Sharma, our FC's wife and ambitious as always, was very successful with two Charity Bazaars she organized in September and December 2006 in Hotel Le Méridien. She collected goods from each UNDOF contingent and auctioned them at these Bazaars. Apart from that Media/Public Relations and Welfare Section started a fundraising campaign within UNDOF and altogether \$4,088.- was collected. This money goes directly to above mentioned mine victims.



In the name of all parties involved, especially the mine victims, we would like to sincerely and cordially thank all UNDOF personnel, both military and civilian, for the shown cooperativeness. With your contribution, you significantly increase the quality of life of these victims. With the plea of showing just as much heart for these unfortunate people, we wish you all a happy and successful New Year.

*Article by Maj Friedrich Steininger,
SSO M/PR&Welfare*

Photos by WOII Gernot Payer

Basantar Day - Indian Night in Syria

Having decided to treat the UNDOF community to a crisp winter evening filled with sounds, images, food and atmosphere that was typically Indian; the Indian contingent hosted 'Indian Nite' at ISMAC House, Damascus on 15th Dec 2006 to commemorate the Poona Horse Battle Honors.

The choice of venue was significant since no such function had been organized in Damascus by the Indian contingent; and the OGG contributed in a large way to the arranging this event by permitting utilization of Ismac House for the same.



Guests trying a foot on Bhangra

Even as the Indian Nite got underway, it was evident that the event had been looked forward to by not only UNDOF personnel but also by their families and friends – a clear indication of this was the fact that the organizers ran out of the printed entry and raffle (lucky draw) tickets. Fresh 'tickets' had to be prepared hurriedly on the spot but it was ensured that everyone who wanted to enjoy on the occasion got entry.

The FC, CAO and COS UNDOF were the senior attendees and apart from UNDOF members, members of UNTSO & OGG were also present to enjoy the evening. The program started with a video screening of the vibrant images and sounds of a film titled 'India Incredible'. The same captivated the attention of everyone, especially the children present.

A festive treat of Indian cuisine has been laid out for the guests, which turned out to be perhaps the most popular part of the evening. After feasting on the exciting variety of Indian dishes, the guests partici-

pated in another eagerly anticipated event – the lucky draw of the raffle tickets that they had purchased earlier. After all there were so many interesting & expensive prizes for



Party in progress

the taking – gift hampers, cosmetics, DVD players and coupons for lunch/dinner/stay at prominent hotels on B-Side. This last gift was possible due to the interest taken by such hotels, restaurants in this social event. The lucky draw generated a lot of excitement – grown

ups and children alike were seen eagerly holding their raffle tickets, hoping that lady luck would smile on them. The lucky ticket numbers were drawn by several prominent UNDOF members and by sheer coincidence; the winners were spread over all categories of guests, which resulted in maximum satisfaction of all those present.

The grand finale to the Indian Nite was the extremely colorful and enthusiastic performance of a traditional North Indian dance called 'Bhangra' by a troupe of Sikh soldiers of INDCON, whose state dance it is. The vibrant beats and vocals of the dance created such a lively atmosphere that the guests couldn't help but get drawn into let-

ting their hair down with the troupe. A lot of dancing followed and all those doing it just didn't seem to want to stop, wishing that the evening would go on and on.

Sadly all good things must come to an end and

so it was that the very first Indian Nite held at Ismac House, Damascus ended into the late hours of the night, leaving a lot of people happy, satisfied and eagerly looking forward to the next such event.

*Article by LtCol Jasprit S. Bakshi, CO/LB
Photos by Sgt Sukhwinder Singh*

Celebration of Diwali Festival in Camp Ziouani

Diwali is a major festival celebrated in India in autumn every year. According to Indian mythology, the day on which Diwali is celebrated is the day on which Lord Rama returned to his kingdom of Ayodhya in North India after spending 14 years in exile and after slaying the demon king Ravana who ruled over the island of Lanka. Thus Diwali symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness and of happiness over sorrow.

In India Diwali is celebrated with the lighting of traditional lamps and candles, people clean and decorate their homes, wear new clothes and hold joint family prayers in the evening. This is followed by bursting of fire crackers, partaking of sweets and feasting by the whole community. Businesses give bonuses to their employees and in the country side, the farmers save throughout the year to purchase new clothes, household articles for their family and homes. Diwali is a closed holiday in India and is in fact the start of a new year as per the Hindu calendar. On an almost perfect, bright and pleasant autumn day on 21st Oct 2006, the Indian contingent celebrated Diwali in Camp Ziouani - the very first time this had been done in the Golan Heights. The



Celebrations with Bhangra

available resources were utilized to hold a Diwali Mela (fete) in which the various attractions were games stalls that had a wide variety of popular Indian music, games involving skill and luck, food stalls catering Indian cuisine preparations, live performances of Indian dances and fancy dress by Indian contingent personnel in traditional costumes, various races involving skill, speed and coordination and a lucky draw raffle with many interesting prizes

in the end. The intent behind organizing this event was to give the guests a good feeling about the way Diwali is celebrated in India; the event was attended by almost 300 people which included Indian contingent personnel, UN civilian and military staff from UNDOF HQ, UNTSO and OGG, local civilian workers of Camp Ziouani and their families and members of the Indian community in Israel. The Indian contingent has been greatly encouraged by the warm response that this event received and promises many more similar occasions in the future to celebrate other important Indian festivals and bring the UNDOF community closer together on these occasions.

*Article by LtCol Jasprit S. Bakshi, CO/LB
Photo by Sgt Sukhwinder Singh*

INDCON TOCA Ceremony

*Article by LtCol Jasprit S. Bakshi, CO/LB
Photo by Sgt Sukhwinder Singh*



UNDOF's 'First Lady' with CO LOGBATT

The Indian contingent in Camp Ziouani organized a Parade on 19th Oct 2006 to commemorate the Take Over of Command Authority (TOCA) between the incoming Commanding Officer LtCol Jasprit Singh Bakshi and the outgoing CO LtCol Ajay Singh, both from

the Poona Horse Regiment of the Armoured Corps.

The Force Commander LtGen Bala Nanda Sharma presided over the ceremony which was attended by the Defence Attache of India to Israel, senior civilian and military staff of UNDOF and UNTSO, UN international employees, representatives from the Israeli Defence Force and local civilian employees of Camp Ziouani.

The Force Commander expressed his praise and thanks to the outgoing rotation personnel for the good work performed by them in providing efficient logistics support to

the UNDOF mission and wished the incoming rotation personnel the very best in the performance of their duties during their tenure in UNDOF.

The parade was followed by a grand reception in the Camp Ziouani International Kitchen, the arrangements for which were appreciated by all those who were present. All in all, the occasion was appreciated by all the invitees present and the Indian contingent is very grateful to them for taking time out to be present for this occasion and contributing towards its successful conduct.

National Holiday in Polish Contingent

The Day of Independence is an extraordinary event. For Polish – especially for soldiers, outside borders of their homeland.



Appeal of Heroes of War for Polish Independence

On the 10th Nov 2006 POLBATT's soldiers celebrated this most important national holiday at the main position of the 1st Coy.

The hosts of the ceremony were: Senior National Officer COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski and CO POLBATT LtCol Tamasz Gral.

The Solemnity was visited by many distinguished guests, such as FC LtGen Bala N. Sharma, Polish Ambassador in Damascus, H.E. Jacek Chodorowicz, Polish Military Attache, Col Michal Roszczyna, representatives of Foreign Embassies, Contingent officers from UNDOF HQ and many Poles living in Syria.

Part of the agenda of celebrating the 88th anniversary of the recapture of independence, were addresses of the Polish Ambassador, the Polish Senior National Officers and the Force Commander.

A significant part of the Day of

Independence was the Holy Mass in intention of homeland and Appeal of Heroes of War for Polish Independence.

After the official part of ceremony, all invited guests had an opportunity to watch presentations

of Polish history and exhibition of weapons and equipment. Moreover, all guests tasted traditional Polish dishes in a friendly atmosphere.

*Article and Photos by
Capt Slawomir Tadzik, PressO/PB*



Holy Mass at Camp Ziouani

Cardinal Dziwisz's Meeting with Polish Soldiers

From 14th to 17th Nov 2006 Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz – former secretary of Holy Father John Paul II, stayed in Israel.



Col Ostrowski presenting the souvenir of the occasion to Cardinal Dziwisz

On 16th Nov 2006 he celebrated a Holy Mass at Lake of Galilee in Saint Peter's Sanctuary in Tabga, near POLBATT's Area of Responsibility.

After the Holy Mass, Cardinal Dziwisz blessed the mosaic which commemorated the pilgrimage of John Paul II to this Sanctuary in 2000. Members of the Polish Embassy,

H.E. Agnieszka Magdziak – Miszevska and Polish Military Attache, Col Ireneusz Drazyk participated in this solemn event. Moreover, also in attendance were:

COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski, CO/PB LtCol Tomasz Gral with accompany of Honour Guard and many Polish soldiers.

After the ceremony, the Cardinal met with them and the Polish Commanding Group who presented him with a souvenir befitting the occasion from 26th rotation of the Polish Military Contingent.

*Article and Photo by
Capt Sławomir Tadzik, PressO/PB*

Autumn's Marches on the Golan Heights

Like every year, during November, the Polish Military Contingent organizes marches for all soldiers of UNDOF.

On 4th Nov 2006 the Coyote March took place and was organized by 1st Coy. Apart from that, on the 18th Nov 2006 the Scorpion March was carried out by 2nd Coy.

There participated representatives of all UNDOF contingents in both marches. Moreover, among invited guests were the Polish Military Attache, Col Michal Roszczyzna and a group of Polish students from Damascus. COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski began the marches.

During the Scorpion March, the CO of the 11th Division of Japan Self Defence Forces, LtGen Masatosi Onishi was visiting 2nd Coy's Posn. Distinguished guests were acquainted with POLBATT's tasks and Area of Responsibility by the



Faces of tired but happy participants

CO/PB LtCol Tomasz Gral. There were no winners and no losers in marches organized by the Polish Military Contingent. The main idea was to fight with one's own weakness' during the difficult and long hike. Besides, the idea was to con-

solidate friendship among soldiers of all countries who are participants of the peacekeeping mission on Golan Heights.

*Article and Photo by
Capt Sławomir Tadzik, PressO/PB*

Welcome to the 'A-Line' Mess

Presently the Japanese Contingent is managing the 'A-Line' Mess in Camp Ziouani. We took over from the Canadian LOGBATT in June 2006. Since then we have prepared and decorated the Mess with Japanese art and crafts, added a Karaoke Projector System etc. The mess hall for UNDOF members was opened in October 2006.

We continually exhibit Kakeziku (the scroll picture on which Japanese natural landscape is drawn), Kabuto (the helmet of Samurai), Origami (Japanese paper craft art) and so on. In addition, we display Japanese traditional clothes (Kimono) and wigs (Chonmage). At the 'A-Line' Mess you can try to put them on! We recommend bringing a camera when you visit.

We also serve drinks at low prices. For example, you can drink vodka and rum freely at all times.



Grand Opening Party of 'A-Line' Mess

And on Japanese holidays and what not, you may drink all the Japanese Sake you can for only \$1! This is because we don't manage 'A-Line'

Mess for profit purposes. Our goal is that you should have the opportunity to get to know the members of J-CON and learn more about Japanese customs and traditions. And we'd like to get to know you as well.

The 'A-Line' Mess is open Every Friday from 19:30 to 22:30 hrs.

So, let's have a drink and get to know each other!

Article by Capt Hiroaki Tsuda,
MTO J-CON

Photo by SSgt Osamu Suda

Do you know 'Fuji House'?

Fuji House is the Japanese bar located near 'Pentagon' in Camp Faouar. This bar was previously owned by the Canadian Contingent and passed on to J-CON. 'Fuji' is the name of a mountain. It's the highest, most famous and beautiful mountain in Japan.



Karaoke-Time in 'Fuji House'

'Fuji House' is the place where we have the opportunity to communicate with foreigners. There are many visitors from HQ, AUSBATT, POLBATT, etc. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sake is the most popular drink in 'Fuji House', especially *Hot Sake* in the winter season. *Sake* has played a central role in Japanese life and culture for the past 2000 years, and the knowledge and techniques involved in *Sake* brewing have spread to every corner of the nation. In fact, *Sake* is such an integral part of the Japanese diet that having some knowledge of it can add to one's understanding of Japanese history, culture, and society.

Sake breweries are located throughout Japan, from Hokkaido

to Okinawa. There are about 2000 brewers nationwide, and each makes several different kinds for people to enjoy unique tastes from each area and brewer.

'Fuji House' gives you a chance to learn about Japanese culture while enjoying *Sake*.

You are welcome every Wednesday and Friday, and let's say 'Kanpai' (cheers)!

We are confident that you will enjoy yourselves in 'Fuji House' - see you there.

Article by Maj Toshio Kawano,
Detachment Commander J-CON

Photo by SSgt Osamu Suda

Military Police B-Detachment

After three months of my tour in UNDOF, I was asked to introduce you to my MP Detachment, our task and this is very important to me. I will also give you some valuable explanations regarding traffic in Syria. That way, you will be able to drive safer and avoid hazardous situations or other types of accidents as shown in the picture.

Every one of us would like to return home as healthy as we arrived. Therefore, keep in mind the following few points concerning Syrian traffic: Stones deposited on the road can indicate a missing sewage cover, a broken down vehicle, a broken road, road works or even a mine, found by a local, brought next to the road for disposal by UN EOD. So, whenever you see stones on the road, do not ignore them!

Syrian drivers love to flash their headlights. During daytime, they usually do that to tell you, "I am going, and you should wait" or they simply want to remind you to switch on your headlights, however, it is an UNDOF Regulation to drive with headlights switched on at all times. During nighttime, drivers will also flash their lights at you; this is nothing personal as they are just trying to increase their visibility. Especially at night be very careful. You can find a donkey sleeping in the middle of the road, as the asphalt is warm from the sun.

You can as well see people walking alongside the road. These are very hard to see, especially when a vehicle is oncoming and blinding you. Also be aware that not every local vehicle is equipped with lights!

And, at this time of the year, be



Photos provided by MP-Platoon

Dealing with an accident in Israel by WO I Sakoparnik, MWO, WO II Reiter, MP B-Detachment and WO II Olejnik, Investigator of A-Detachment

extremely careful when driving on a wet road! Dirt has been accumulating for many months, and together



WO III Singh, B-Det Cmdr, marking an accident scene

with rain, it converts to a soap-like slippery surface! The limited visibility can further raise the possibility of an accident, especially at night! Be very careful! Always remember - You have time!!

You can reach the B-Det Duty

MP calling the Syrian mobile phone number 094-476452, on a 24/7 basis. If you need to call our office located in Camp Faouar, contact extension 5134. However, you can also contact us through any of the Duty Officers. Or come to see us in our office at building number 153 in Camp Faouar, opposite the Pentagon.

Our daily routine duty consists of mobile and foot patrols, speed and vehicle checks, dog checks and escorts. The dayshift starts at 07:00 hrs and ends at 17:00 hrs, after that, nightshift starts at 17:00 hrs and ends at 07:00 hrs. If there are not two MPs on shift, a second is on standby, on a 20 minute notice to leave. And we have three patrol vehicles available at all times.

Now, I wish everyone a safe journey on all roads of UNDOF.

All the Best!

Article by Yashwant Singh, WO III, MP B-Det Cmdr

Legendary Christian Bishop visits Parts of the Middle East

On the evening of 5th Dec 2006, people in the streets of Damascus were looking surprised as they witnessed a very European tradition. Deputy Chief OGG, Dutch Maj John Bakker had organized a party to welcome St. Nicolaas (aka Sinterklaas, Sankt Nicolaus, Nikolo, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinterklaas>) at his apartment.



St. Nicolaas and Black Peter surprising the children with presents

Children of several Damascus based UNTSO families were present to enjoy the visit of the 'Holy Bishop' and his assistant 'Black Peter' and were looking forward as to what presents they would get. After some time (for some children an unbearably long time) the two guests arrived. They were welcomed by traditional songs (in Dutch however) and every child was invited to come to St. Nicolaas (same accent as UNDOF FSA Willem Steijlen) to receive a present.

Meanwhile Black Peter (who had a strong resemblance to OGG-D AOP Swedish Maj Joergen Peters) was distributing candy. After all the children had received their presents, St. Nicolaas and Black Peter had to leave as "there were other children who were expecting the Saints visit". The UNTSO families greatly

enjoyed this evening especially the children who could not believe that Sinterklaas came all the way to Damascus.

In fact Damascus was not the only place he visited in this region. On the 2nd Dec 2006 he visited the UNTSO families in Tiberias. Climbing down from the roof of the MAC House (children and grown-ups were surprised how lean he was despite his old age) he was welcomed by the different families living in Tiberias.

Here too the same sequence of events took place like in Damascus. Unfortunately Chief OGG-D LtCol Jan W. Mezger could not be present to welcome the Saint but he showed up later after St. Nicolaas had left, to hear the exciting stories from the children.

*Article and Photos by
Maj John Bakker, Deputy Chief OGG*



St. Nicolaas and Black Peter discussing 'plan of action'

Our Schweija Hut – Yet again a construction site!!!

The rareness of the favorite honky-tonk 'Schweija Hut', is not only its unique atmosphere, which is met day in – day out, but also the fact, that it was the first welfare-facility at UNDOF, welcoming all contingents and all ranks.



The fine, good-looking and hard-working construction team!

Since for some time now, also women enrich UNDOF personnel, the Schweija Hut-Crew decided that it is soon enough to renovate the restrooms. By now people of both sexes are able to use those facilities. Along the way, also the interior bar was refurbished.

Such an act isn't always cheap, but very time-intensive and would not have been possible without the great help of the AUSBATT engineers under the command of Capt Hans-Peter Steiner (CEO/AB). Of course, also the honky-tonk crew rolled up their sleeves and altogether 12 people were assisting Capt Steiner, who certainly must be mentioned here: Sgt Thomas Aigner, Sgt Siegfried Mayer, MCpl Andreas Durchlaufer, MCpl Michael Ginner, MCpl Fritz Langstadlinger, Cpl Mario Haller, Cpl Christian Heugner, Cpl Pierre Kummer, Cpl Andreas Reisinger,

Cpl Markus Tüchler, Cpl Wolfgang Weickinger, LCpl Ralph Schutti.
BR AVO!!!

The modification itself took more than a month (25th Sep – 27th Oct 2006) and members of the construction crew were working exclusively outside duty-hours and on weekends. These many hours, days and weeks have paid off, indeed and the final outcome can't be matched easily. The result isn't only affectionate, but also the hygienic standard was improved significantly.

By the way, all money for the renovation were provided from donations or money from the Schweija Hut itself – about \$1,500 altogether!

Grand Re-opening was
on 28th Oct 2006.

The new Schweija Hut crew Sgt Siegfried Mayer (Cdr), Cpl Wolfgang Weickinger (DepCdr), Sgt Thomas Aigner, MCpl Robert Keuschnig, MCpl Karl Müller, Cpl Andreas Reisinger, Cpl Peter Auer and Maj Roman Zaller (Honors President) not only thank the construction team, but also say goodbye to the outgoing honky-tonk crew: Cpl Markus Tüchler (Cdr), MCpl Daniel Egger, Cpl Gerhard Blüminger and Maj Manfred Urregg (Honors President).

UNDOF's favorite honky-tonk opens:

Mon-Thu 20:00-24:00

Fri-Sat 20:00-02:00

All guests are welcomed, who know their 'limit'!

*Article by Cpl Wolfgang Weickinger,
and Capt Stefan Zaiser
Photos by Sgt Siegfried Mayer,
and WOII Gernot Payer*



MCpl Langstadlinger and Cpl Reisinger at their very best!

Digital Mapping Project Breaks New Ground

“For many years UNDOF, UNIFIL and UNTSO have recognized the requirement for integrated and common digital map coverage of the combined Areas of Operations. On a daily basis the three Missions work alongside each other, often in the same geographical areas, but in the past they have operated with different maps and reference systems.”¹



Cartography Section - Maj Helmut Wöhler and GIS Admin Clerk Stella Srour

“Starting last year, with the assistance of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) Cartography Section, the advent of new technology”¹, the purchase of Satellite imagery for its AOR and the necessary soft/hardware, UNDOF took the lead by initiating its own Cartography Cell. After the delivery and installation of the GEO database in April 2006 and some training by staff from the Cartography Section NY and MONUC, the GIS cell UNDOF started to operate on its own by September 2006. Currently the cell is operated by a GIS Military Officer and a Civilian Administrative Assistant. Staffing will be completed in early 2007 with the employment of a GIS Civilian Chief.

Following the events in Lebanon in July and August 2006, it is understood that UNIFIL came in line with the creation of a similar, but larger GIS unit, using the same software as UNDOF. UNDOF assisted this startup by providing its Vector data to UNIFIL.

With this step the Missions have made significant progress towards an integrated and commonly available digital mapping and map referencing system for their operational use.

“The Digital Mapping Project which commenced in May 2004 has provided, what Force Commander UNDOF, Lieutenant General Bala Nanda Sharma describes as a ‘unique opportunity to enhance collective situational awareness, operational conduct and cooperation

between the three Missions’. Conferences held this year have been aimed at developing standardized naming conventions for positions in the Areas of Operation and confirming important mapping details such as the locations of minefields and cleared areas.

In March 2006 the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, Major General Clive Lilley, met with the Director of the Lebanese Armed Forces Geographic Affairs, Brigadier General Maroun Khraish, to seek assistance with the Digital Mapping Project.

The Lebanese Armed Forces, Department of Geographic Affairs have supported the United Nations and provided vital imagery of Southern Lebanon to the DPKO Cartography Section, via UNTSO, to assist the Digital Mapping Project.”¹

On 27th Sep 2006, Major General Clive Lilley, on behalf of UNIFIL and UNTSO thanked the Director of the Lebanese Armed Forces Geographic Affairs and his team for the outstanding support that they have provided to the United Nations.

“The success of the Digital Mapping Project will enable UNDOF, UNIFIL and UNTSO to operate more effectively in their respective Areas of Operations and will improve the cooperation, and security and safety of the men and women of the Missions in the future.”¹

¹Source: UNTSO 2006

*Article by Maj Helmut Wöhler,
GIS Military Officer
Photo by WO II Gernot Payer*

The New Medical Center at Camp Faouar - Part 2 of 4

The introductory article to the Medical Center Story, in Golan Journal 108, described the initiation of the project while the current article will tell you more about the phases of construction.



Skeleton structure with ceiling and truss

Once the final floor plan has been signed off by representatives of the Engineering and Medical Section in January 2006 the project underwent its technical development phase. The drafts-woman, Miss Haifa'a Al-Rabie, spent countless hours drafting all



J-Con Heavy Equipment levelling the area around the new Medical Center

technical plans & systems while simultaneously recording the scope of work. Meanwhile vendors were calculating their bids prior to submission to UNDOF Procurement. Finally on 13th Jul 2007 the ground braking took place.

The vendor, Mr. Gammal &

Company, was sworn in to perform up to its highest capability. Further on the company had to cooperate with Sgt Oswald Phillip who became project supervisor for the successful implementation of this well reputed project.

Comprehensive excavation work was conducted for the foundation of the structure comprising roughly 1600 m³ of digging and transporting soil. Construction of the sub-structure, the bottom slab and pillars was to follow in the next stage. The entirety of reinforced concrete work consisted of approximately 340 m³ of casting concrete into its formwork. During this process a revolutionary technique would be applied. Prefabricated 'Ready Mix Concrete' was delivered to the site by drum mixer trucks and brought into place by using a truck mounted conveyor system. This method ensures a high level of concrete quality and provided a sound and safe structure for its future occupants. Once

the structure was topped with the ceiling and the bare brickwork was completed the layout became obvious and the building a reality. The next step was called 'Hot Phase'. It was the phase of installing all utility systems which required special attention from the very beginning. Worth to be mentioned is the novelty of concealed wiring due to hygienic reasons in a medical facility. In summary the interior work progressed well.

Concurrently the external works of the medical center improved as well. J-CON DetCdr Maj Toshio Kawano and his heavy equipment operators focused hard on the final appearance of the site. At present the Electrical Unit of UNDOF and the IT Section are already wiring the building.



The new Medical Center in its final outside appearance

Meanwhile the project is being introduced to the UNDOF Supply Section for the provision of new furniture. New medical equipment is being procured by the Austrian MOD and should arrive in the mission by the end of March 2007.

To be continued...

*Article by Maj Roman Zaller, FCEO
Photos by Maj Roman Zaller, FCEO
and Sgt Phillip Oswald, TAA*



**Portrait of the new United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
in the General Assembly Hall, at UN Headquarters in New York**