

# GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



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No. 104



## Dear Reader!

In UN missions, soldiers are often confronted with the suffering and hardship of the civilian population. Since the United Nations focus is on very many humanitarian projects and actions it is a pleasure that also the UNDOF soldiers and civilians want to take part personally in humanitarian projects. Every year many thousand US Dollar are raised in UNDOF donations and charities for humanitarian projects on A- and B-side.

In one UNDOF project for example books and writing materials were bought and given to schools of a host nation. Only to mention another



project: walking supplies were distributed by UNDOF to the Italian Hospital in Damascus to help handicapped persons. But there is also the day-to-day help by our medical teams.

If there are injured people coming to the gates of the camp, the medical team provides first aid to the suffering person.

I think it is especially humanitarian help, which improves the standing of the UNDOF troop contributing countries in the host nations in an excellent way. As every UN soldier and civilian UN employee should never forget: we are all a kind of "ambassador" for the UN and also for our home countries.

As I was informed, there will be more interesting humanitarian UNDOF projects in the near future. It is sure that we will be the first to report on it in the Golan Journal.

With best wishes  
Maj Hans Hutter

|                |  |    |
|----------------|--|----|
| MPIO           | Editorial                                | 2  |
| FC UNDOF       | Force Commander's Message                | 3  |
| COS UNDOF      | COS Words                                | 4  |
| New People     | New People in UNDOF                      | 5  |
| Visits         | Visits to UNDOF                          | 6  |
| SLOVCON        | Slovak UN and their Golani neighbors     | 7  |
| AUSBATT        | GOPHER HOLE                              | 8  |
| AUSBATT        | Practise leads to perfection             | 9  |
| POLBATT        | Armed forces day - historical background | 10 |
| MP             | MP PL - Four Nation One Team             | 11 |
| CANCON         | Task Force Golan Curling Club            | 12 |
| CANCON         | The Canadian Camp Monument               | 13 |
| Exercise       | Coy-exercise - 2nd Coy                   | 14 |
| Exercise       | Prepared For The Worst Case              | 15 |
| OGG            | Mount Hermon Training                    | 16 |
| ROD            | Representational Office in Damascus      | 17 |
| Recreation     | Dar Al Assad                             | 18 |
| Civilian Staff | General Services Section                 | 19 |

Front (Page 1): Books and writing materials for pupils  
*Photo by John Mackenzie*

Back (Page 20): Watchtower behind a barbed wire  
*Photo by WO II Roland Maresch*

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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 Military Public Affairs Office publishes the Golan Journal every third month. 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 colleagues and friends,*

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all of you in UNDOF, both military and civilian. I am extremely proud to be the Force Commander and I feel privileged to speak to you all through the medium of the Golan Journal. The UN has only just celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and we at UNDOF are an integral part of the wider UN efforts around the world to ensure peace and stability. This is an achievement of which we can all be proud.

Since the last issue of the Golan Journal the situation in the Middle East has changed once again. We have seen history being made; the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip has been a monumental step and one that hopefully brings greater stability and peace to the region. The civil disturbances and violence in Iraq sadly continues and this is affecting its neighbours, Syria being no exception. Luckily, we at UNDOF have not had any detrimental effect to us and our area of operation remains stable and calm. However, within the environment we operate, the increased tension can undoubtedly affect us – this is particularly true with regard to security issues and travel restrictions. I ask for your vigilance and professionalism in these times. Please continue working with your high standards and understanding.

We now see new accommodation buildings emerging and a renewed Church at Camp Faouar. Our communications and engineering systems are

going from strength to strength. Well done to all those civilian and military personnel involved. These projects mean an improved operational effectiveness and a better quality of life. I would like to thank each individual who directly got involved in the modernization programme.

I would like to wish the outgoing Chief of Staff, Colonel Andreas Safranmüller, the very best for his future. His staff work and military skills have undoubtedly left their mark on UNDOF. I welcome his replacement Col Andreas Stupka and wish him every success in this important role. I also will very shortly be saying 'good-bye' to the CAO, Mr. Jerry Smith. Jerry has been an outstanding CAO. Jerry is not only leaving UNDOF but he is also retiring from the UN. Jerry, thank you for your support both for UNDOF and me. I hope you will have a good retired life.

The International Day of Peace has been celebrated in style in UNDOF. Both Camp Ziouani and Camp Faouar have had trees of peace planted to mark the event. I must say a large "thank you" to the Field Service Union for their great efforts on making such a memorable day work so well. It is very rewarding to see staff members and their families interacting and getting on so well with the military members of UNDOF. Thanks a lot to all of you who made the International Day of Peace such a success.

It will not be long before the Golan becomes colder and wetter. With this in mind, be safe on the roads. Please take care. To those of you that are departing the Mission, UNDOF and UNTSO, have a safe journey, take care and regards to your families. To those of you arriving, welcome to UNDOF, your efforts here are vitally important to the cause of peace.

This magazine keeps all informed of the many activities that UNDOF members undertake, both official and social. This includes the headquarters; the battalions and OGG, international and local staff and off course our friends in the host nations.

I look forward to you all continuing to provide interesting articles about UNDOF activities, the region and your interests and discoveries.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your support, dedication and loyalty to UNDOF. It is a pleasure for me to work in this unique organisation and be given the opportunity to follow the developments in the Middle East at such a close distance. I trust that every one of you who belongs to UNDOF will continue to contribute to its successes and to the advancement of tolerance and peace in the region.

*Thank you  
Danke  
Arigato*

*Diakujem  
Dziękuję  
Merci*



Lt. General B. N. SHARMA  
Force Commander UNDOF

# Chief of Staff Words

## Comrades of UNDOF!

Arriving as a single rotator in the mission area on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, I had the pleasure to take over as Chief of Staff/UNDOF. First of all I want to thank my predecessor Col A. Safranmüller for his excellent hand-over and preparation, which allowed me to become familiar with my tasks here within UNDOF very quickly.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce the new crew of the COS-office to the readers:



SSO ORG/PLANS  
Maj WÖHRER Helmut



MA/COS  
Capt HOFER Andreas



Admin NCO/driver  
MSgt PÜRSTINGER Erich

As in the function of COS, I have taken over the leadership of the Military Staff of UNDOF. I am completely aware, that this is a very responsible and demanding assignment. For this reason,

it will be a pleasure for me to give all my support and experience in order to bring all on-going tasks of UNDOF to a successful end.

As you may be all aware, UNDOF may be compared to an engine: Only if all gears work together, will the engine work well. Therefore I want to invite you to support me with all your strength. Since, only if we perform as one team, will we reach our common goals and fulfil our obligations. For keeping that always in mind, our future cooperation shall be under the motto:

Viribus unitis!

Author: Col Dr. Andreas STUPKA

# New People in UNDOF



## The New COS

Colonel Dr. Andreas STUPKA was born in St. Pölten, the capital of Lower Austria, in 1963. He joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1982 as a volunteer for officers training. From 1984 till 1987 he attended the Military Academy and was educated to be an anti aircraft artillery officer. He served as a platoon leader, company commander, HQ-company commander and as the commander of an artillery battalion. He received experience in managing an HQ-staff as a teacher and branch head at the Austrian National Defense University and as a special administrator in the Ministry of Defense; he is also the chief editor of the Austrian Military Journal, a scientific periodical journal, existing since 1809. It deals with security policy matters, military science and war history. Col Dr. STUPKA studied philosophy and political science at Vienna University and military science at the Austrian National Defense University; he is a member of the Austrian General Staff Corps. Col Dr. STUPKA is married and father of two girls and one boy. His hobbies include reading, hunting and fishing.

## The New CIS



Lieutenant-Colonel Pelletier enrolled in Canadian Forces in 1986 after graduated from University Laval in Québec with a Bachelor of Art Degree with a specialization in accounting. He was posted to CFB Petawawa in 1987 where he held a variety of finance positions, including Public Accounting Officer, and Non Public Accounting Officer. Lieutenant-Colonel Pelletier was posted to Canadian Forces Bases Gagetown as the base comptroller. In 1999 he attended Canadian Land Forces Staff College. In 2001 he was posted back to Ottawa and served as Career Manager for Army Logistic Officers where he oversaw the development, training and posting of all Army Logisticians from the rank of Lieutenant to Major. Following this assignment, in 2003 he was posted as coordinator for military careers for all military occupations for all ranks. In 2004, Lieutenant-Colonel Pelletier was selected to attend the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College. Following his graduation in 2005 and promotion to his current rank, he was selected and posted as Chief Integrated Support Service in UNDOF HQ. Lieutenant-Colonel Pelletier is married to Francine Landry and has one daughter, Myriam (10).

## The New CO CANCON



Lieutenant-Colonel Mongeon was born in Sherbrooke Quebec. He enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1974 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with an Honours History degree in 1978. LtCol Mongeon was posted to Rwanda as the UNAMIR Headquarter G4 Operations in 1995 and was subsequently posted to Australia to attend the Australian Army Command and Staff College in 1996, where he also obtained a Masters of Defence Studies from Canberra University. LtCol Mongeon was posted to Germany where he served as an exchange officer with 1(UK) Armoured Division as the G1/G4 Operations, deploying with them to Bosnia as the G4 Operations of the Multinational Division Headquarters (South West) in Banja Luka in 1999. Promoted to LtCol in 1999 he returned to Canada in 2000 and was posted to the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff - National Military Support Capability Project, where he served as the Logistics Requirements Officer and later as Project Director for the creation of the Joint Support Group and the Joint Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence Company. LtCol Mongeon is married to Yoko and has two children, Maiko (18) and Antoine Tsutomu (16).

# Visits to UNDOF



*Visit of Maj Gen L.J. Gardiner, COM JFZN, New Zealand meeting with FC, fact finding of OGG activities (12th August)*



*Visit of LtGen Millan Maxim, Slovakia, meeting with FC, fact finding of SLOV-CON's activities (25th August)*



*Visit of LtGen R.K. Mehta, DPKO, fact finding of UNDOF activities (28-30th August)*



*Visit of Ambassadors from Germany, France, Belgium, UK and Czech Rep, got a briefing and visited Hermon Area (17th September)*



*Visit of Lt-Gen Dumais Marc, Deputy Chief of Defense Staff and annual visit to Golan, meeting with FC. (20-22nd September)*

## Further visits to UNDOF

Visit of Japanese Journalist, Yomiuri newspaper visit to CZ (10th July)

Visit of Capt Peerlings, Dutch UNSTO course officer, Netherlands. Visit to UNDOF/UNTSO (10-13th July)

Visit of Col. Ishibashi, new incoming Japanese Defense Attaché. Visit of AOS, briefing on UNDOF operational issues (7-8th August)

U.S Embassy official visit to CF and OP72 (17th September)

# Slovak UN Contingent and their Golani neighbors

It is one of the most important things for UN missions and soldiers to know the traditions and habits of the people living in the Area of Responsibility. That is why the Slovak Contingent wants to provide you with some information about the inhabitants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> coy area.

While most of the Syrians fled the Israeli occupation in 1967, the Druze remained behind and continue to live in four villages (Ein Kinya, Majelv Shams, Bukata and Mas'ada) within the Golan and the Hermon regions. Most Druze in the Golan are small landowners and toil in agriculture, mainly cultivating apples the dominant crop. They also engage in herding goats, sheep and cows. The Druze religion was established at the beginning of the 11th century but only in the 19th century were they recognized as an independent congregation by the Ottoman regime. The Druze have their own flag, that is a combination of a green triangle at the hoist side, and four horizontal stripes coloured red-yellow-blue-white, as shown in the figure below.

The meanings of the colours are:

- Green - symbolizes the farmer and the life
- Red - symbolizes the heart and love of humanity
- Yellow - symbolizes the sun and the wheat



- Blue - symbolizes the sky and the faith
- White - symbolizes the purity and the air

Today, in community of their own, there live about 8000 people, from a vast 400000 in Syria, in the area of Jabal ad-Duruz - Druze Mounatians. Muftar Jamdat Mandi Tawil lives by his own account in Hadar one of the villages located under the eastern part of mount Hermon. The name Hadar comes from the Arabic word for "ground", which is an adaptation from the Latin word for "the knee". Regardless of living under difficult conditions the population continues grow in this area, as well as the plantations, gardens and vast vineyards. Despite the uneven ground, extravagance of stones and hilly terrain, people like to live there even though there exist far better conditions in other parts of Syria, save the desert. The high possibility of landing a job in or around Damascus, keeps the communities continuously progressing. Furthermore, other arguments for the developments in the area come from the soldiers and employees of UNDOF, who use local services, contract companies for large jobs and purchase many commodities from local shops.

To be sure there are lot of educational instutution. Hadar alone has four primary schools which are divided to two for pupils from 6 until 10 years of age and two for pupils from 10 until 15 years og age. In the village of Jabata there is a secondary school where students learn to

become tailors. Next secondary school is in Khan Arnabea for locksmith and cabinetmaking apprietanceship of steel and wooden furniture. There is a real possibility for young people to get an university education in Damascus. Usualy vacation is spent by many with the whole family on the Mediterinien Beaches. Usualy Fridays are spent having a picnic with the family.

Work on the fields and plantations is extremely difficult. However people use tractors and in very hard terrain donkeys. Farmers sell their fruits to trade companies that own big stores and retail business in Damascus and Tartus. Amongst the most popular fruits from the area are figs.

The regional kitchen, has the same general characteristics of the Arabic kitchen. Arabic Countries in general, including this particular region are famous for the bitter black coffee that has a prominent place and is a sign of generosity.

It is prepared and served to the guests with well-known rituals. Some region dishes are the (Sheshbarak), i.e. Dough stuffed with meat boiled in yogurt, (Kibbeh). The folklore handicrafts (manufactures) are characterized by their ornaments and lovely colors. There is a great number of such tools and articles, such as pottery, straw and folklore dresses. Hence there is a rich tradition of the Druze population and anyone is encouraged to have a closer look at it.

*Author: Capt Ing. Oliver Murani*

## GOPHER HOLE – Practise Leads To Perfection

The battalion exercise "GOPHER HOLE" takes place twice a year, two months after each rotation. It marks the end of the "In Mission Training". The aim of the exercise is to ascertain the training level of the AUSBATT companies. Rather than assessing the individual performance of soldiers, units and positions, the examination focuses on the operation and cooperation of stationary and mobile elements. Their functioning is crucial for the fulfilment of the UN-mandate. The "GOPHER HOLE" of the June 2005 rotation took place from 23 to 25 August. The setting largely matched the real conditions in the mission area. The exercise was led by the COO/AUSBATT, supported by officers and several NCOs of the Battalion staff. This way the companies could participate in the exercise and they could be assessed accordingly. The first day began at 0800 with alert level "GREEN", which marked the start of the exercise for AUSBATT. The main scenarios were crowd control at an Observation Post (OP) of the Observer Group GOLAN (OGG), as well as in front of Camp Faouar, preventing unauthorized access to the Area of Separation, emergency medical treatment of a snakebite, and the cooperation of a Position's fire fighters with the AUSBATT Fire Fighting Brigade.

On day two of the exercise the conditions changed. The

alert level was consequently raised from "YELLOW" to "RED", and all according actions taken. The scenarios included a mountain rescue operation together with the Medical and EOD teams, a shelter alert, mounting of temporary check points, evacuation of a Position due to NBC-threat with subsequent decontamination and first aid and rescue after a car accident. Each day, once the exercise was suspended, concluded with an after action review called "Hot Wash Up", in order to collect the still "fresh" observations. The after action review following the third day revealed an impressive performance of all



*AUSBATT is lining up...*

AUSBATT companies. Even more importantly, there was no real accident during the entire exercise. Exercising is not about exercising as such. It means setting and solving tasks, gaining positive as well as negative experiences and learning from them. The main lessons learnt during this "GOPHER HOLE" were: The alert levels and their corresponding actions have become very used to the companies.



*Bitten by a poisonous snake*



## AUSTRIAN GOPHER HOLE

The reporting system within AUSBATT (Position, coy, duty-office, COO) largely works with regard to time and content (Who, Where, What, When, How). The cooperation between AUSBATT and OGG Ops, which includes the levels OP, Duty-Office HQ, Duty-Office AUSBATT, COO/AUSBATT and the company concerned, was coordinated in a quick and unbureaucratic way. The first aid and rescue cooperation between the AUSBATT medical team, the affected company and the Japanese rescue team, after a car accident, was carried out within a realistic and acceptable time-frame. The HQ-Coys preparatory NBC-training was a significant advantage in the decontamination of 12 soldiers of a Position that had been contaminated after a plane crash. The decontamination line was mounted quickly, so that the affected soldiers were decontaminated after two hours, once the



*Vehicle decontamination*

Position had been handed over to the Battalion reserve under NBC - conditions. The most difficult scenario proved to be the

there in winter and with poor visibility.

The consequences of this scenario are firstly a clear estimate of the situation and of the command situation when deploying mountain patrols, secondly, disciplined reporting of all mountain echelons, and thirdly, the permanent deployment of a medical doctor at Mount HERMON. It is up to the Force to initiate preparatory measures and to reach agreements with SYRIA, ISRAEL and LEBANON that facilitate Heli-MEDEVACs. Some room for improvement was found when it came to Austrian soldiers using

rescue operation of a collapsed soldier at Mount HERMON. The rules of UNDOF do foresee a so-called "GOLDEN HOUR", which means that within this time, a medical doctor has to be with the injured soldier. This requirement could not be met due to the lengthy journey from Camp Faouar to Mount HERMON, and due to the fact that the victim lay in a mine field, which required the EOD-team. Bearing in mind that weather conditions were perfect that day, it would have been even more difficult to get

appropriate measures in crowd control. Awareness needs to be built that the "Host Nation" would contribute substantially to calm down impending escalations, which is a situation that is naturally difficult to simulate. All in all the exercise proved to be a clear success. All parties involved - exercise command, participating companies and other parts of UNDOF - cooperated flawlessly. True to the motto "practice makes perfect", AUSBATT's Ops-Branch now intends to build upon the "GOPHER HOLE", to consolidate the Battalion's training level and the quality level that has been achieved in all areas.



*Rescue operation at Mount HERMON*

*Author: Maj Georg Rosenzopf*

## Armed forces day – Historical Background

It is a very essential matter for UN soldiers to celebrate and to remember important days in the history of the home country. That is why, the Polish Army Day (August 15) commemorates the Battle of Warsaw which took place from 13 to 25 August 1920. This battle was an outcome of the Polish offensive in Ukraine which turned out to be a failure. The idea had been to help establish an independent state of Ukraine (ruled by Semen Petlura) which would be politically and militarily linked with Poland.

On August 13, 1920 two hundred thousand Bolshevick soldiers commanded by Marshal Michail Tuchatchevski attacked 120000 Polish troops under the general command of Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, the Polish national hero-to-be. The Soviet regiments moved very quickly and in a few days reached the outskirts of Warsaw. A two-year old Polish independence was fatally threatened. Marshal Tuchatchevski planned to attack Warsaw on August 13. Thanks

to the military knowledge of Marshal Pilsudski the whole Polish army was relocated and the main battle near RADZYMIN on August 14 and 15 turned out to be a great Polish victory. The battle was very bloody and the Soviet army was forced to withdraw. The losses on both sides were the following: the Poles lost about 50000 men (killed and wounded). The Russians left about 80000 dead and wounded. The material losses were uncountable which was a disaster for a very young reinstated Polish statehood.

By and large the Warsaw Battle had an enormous impact on the history of Europe. A British diplomat of that time, Earl Edgar D'Abernon, described that battle as "the eighteenth decisive battle in the history of the world". If the Soviets had won that battle they would have marched to the west and initiated the communistic revolution in many west European countries. Its



*Marshall Joseph Pilsudski*

role for Poles and Poland was very vital. The defeat would have meant the loss of almost new-born independence (after 123 years of partitions). This victory secured peace on the eastern border for the next 20 years until the invasion by Germany in 1939.

Due to time coincidence (on August 15 there is a big Catholic feast day devoted to Mary, Mother of Christ) the Warsaw Battle is also called "a miracle by the Vistula river". Summing up, Marshal Pilsudski's dream of an independent and allied Ukraine may come true these days.



to *Central and Eastern Europe in December 1919*

*Author: Capt Robert Rzaca*

# UNDOF MP PL – Four Nations One Team

## Focus on Polish MP's

The Military Police is responsible for providing safety and discipline in Polish Army. Even in the year 1812 it was said that the Military Police is a keeper of safety and discipline in the Army. From the beginning, the Military Police has always been part of the Army but since April 1990, according to the order issued by Ministry of Defence, MP was created as a separated unit outside of the Army structure.

In addition, to the internal taskings in Poland, the Military Police participate in a lot of missions abroad: NATO, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Lebanon and Syria.

The first Polish Military Policemen came to the Golan Heights in the year 1978, as patrolmen of the MP post in Damascus and were followed by the first Polish FPM in 1995.



*The Military Police Platoon*

There are currently 10 Polish MP serving at the three detachments and a Polish officer rotates as FPM every second year. There are six patrolmen in ALPHA and BRAVO detachments, one Det Commander and two Military Policemen at CHARLIE detachment and one Polish investigator with the MP PL HQ.

The tasks performed by the Polish Military Police in mission areas are the same as in Poland and are the following: traffic control, securing the traffic accident scenes and conducting the investigations.

Seven new MPs will join the MP PL upon their arrival at the end of the month. Serving in UN missions is for some of us as a family tradition. For example, WO III Plonka Marek, who is a brother of WO II Plonka Pawel, ALPHA detachment, was serving in UNDOF at CHARLIE detachment and now serving in UNIFIL Lebanon.

The rotation of Polish MPs is twice a year; March and September, so new Polish MPs will come soon to UNDOF to get new experience in peace keeping missions. MPs, who are preparing to fly home, are very glad of serving in UNDOF best they are also very happy to return again home.



*Polish soldiers of the Military Police Platoon*

*Author: Capt Renee Point*

## Task Force Golan Curling Club

Among the noteworthy clubs supported by the members of LOGBATT in Task Force Golan is that of the Curling Club. No, it is not a group of avid curlers missing the Canadian winter; rather, it is a group of caring individuals who have devoted some of their valuable time and talent to raising money for worthy local causes. The aim of this club is to raise both awareness and contributions among our camp contingents in order to help the most needy in our host countries. For the past number of years LOGBATT has sponsored many local fundraisers such as camp auctions, pizza nights, bingos and talent nights, all to raise money for charity and at the same time enlivening the spirits and fun within the camp. Many members of the Canadian, Japanese and Polish Contingents have enthusiastically supported these events over the years. What is

more, they have shown that peacekeepers are deeply concerned and involved in the well being of the local communities and their most needy people. Cash donations have exceeded 10000 USD per year in total.

Two of the recipients of this financial support have been the Children's Cancer Clinic in the Afula Hospital in Israel and the Orphanage of Saint Paul in Damascus. On 3 August 05, a group of 16 Curling Club members descended upon the Afula Cancer Clinic where they were warmly received and given a tour of the modern facilities. A welcome lunch and warm hospitality was much appreciated by all. A photo session and the presentation of the monetary gift were arranged. Members were also shown the children's playground facility that had been built several years



*MCpl Jeannie Dalton, presents a donation to Sister Michelle of the Children's Orphanage*

ago with the volunteer help of Camp Ziouani members.

On 18 August 04, a similar trip was arranged by the Curling Club to Saint Paul's Church and Orphanage in Damascus, where again all were treated with warm hospitality along with tea and sweets. After a tour of the orphanage, which houses 42 children from ages 3 to 18, a similar photo session and presentation of contributions was made.

Having the opportunity to see first hand where and how the money is used, gives new appreciation to the importance for sharing in some small way the improvement of the lives of the most needy and vulnerable of our host countries. With each new rotation among our camp contingents, new ideas and opportunities are presented to our members in helping to make a difference and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Leading in that challenge is the Curling Club. BRAVO, WELL DONE!



*MCpl Jeannie Dalton accepts a Plaque from the director of the Children's Cancer Clinic acknowledging the donation made by Task Force Golan Curling Club*

*Author: Padre Brian Wentzell*

# The Canadian Camp Monument

It was a solemn yet poignant undertaking when members of Camp Ziouani's Logistics Battalion (LOGBATT) Construction Engineering Platoon, of Canada's Task Force Golan, delicately extracted the Camp's monument in preparation for its 26 km trek to Camp Faouar, Syria on 20 July 2005. The monument is actually a cairn, initially built as a memorial to Private Perry Porter, of Woodstock, New Brunswick, a Lineman who was tragically killed on 6 November 1980 in an accident caused by a snap in a guide wire from a 60 foot Trylone tower. Roger Ladouceur, a member of the crew who was working on the tower when Pte Porter was killed, returned to the Golan Heights in 1984 as a Line Construction Foreman and was instrumental in the cairn's construction. Over the years the cairn has been refurbished several times, and now bears the names of all fallen Ca-

nadian soldiers on UN peace-keeping operations in this part of the world.

Made of concrete and rough stones found in this region, the cairn was transported with the assistance of the Japanese Contingent of LOGBATT, and completed its sojourn when it was placed in a prominent resting spot near Club 17, the all-ranks mess used by Canadians posted to UNDOF HQ in Camp Faouar. As a memorial, all Canadian soldiers salute the cairn as a mark of respect and reverence, whenever it is passed.

The decision to move the cairn stems from Canada's decision, after 31 years, to reduce its troop



*Successful move to Camp Faouar*

contribution to UNDOF. Albeit in a reduced capacity, Canada remains committed to its support of the UNDOF mission and continues to be a staunch supporter of the UN and its peace-keeping efforts for longterm peace and stability in the Golan Heights and the Middle East.

The vast majority of Canadians are currently situated in Camp Ziouani, where none will remain following Canada's draw down. A Canadian contribution consisting of approximately 40 personnel will continue to provide essential communications, movement control and MP services to UNDOF in Camp Faouar. Further, Canada will continue to fill certain UNDOF HQ staff positions. The presence of the cairn in Camp Faouar will be a perpetual reminder not only of our fallen Canadian peacekeepers, but also of the dangers that our soldiers endure in the service of peace.



*Delicate manoever during disassembly in Camp Ziouani*

*Author: Lt(N) Steve Hamilton*

## Coy-exercise - 2nd Coy AUSBATT

The rotation - phase has been finalized and the training of all coy - elements increased more and more until it came to its peak of performance - the Coy exercise of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy/AUSBATT!

The exercise of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy had been carried out by the DepCoyCdr and started with the same lead-in scenario as in reality: Tensions between both conflict parties, WESTLAND and EASTLAND, also involving the party in the north and deployment of UNDOF in the AOS to super-

vised. It was the task to report all violations against the Geneva agreement of the year 1974.

The first incident involved our pastor at posn 32, who didn't have much to do with tactical matters in a foreign mission area so long, made a very good performance: B-side civilians had stolen weapons out of the storage room. An incident, which has been real a view years ago.

In the meantime the tensions between both conflict parties had increased more and more and AUSBATT decided to take-in alert-level "green".

After some other little incidents with B-side soldiers, who wanted to reinforce their old positions inside/and in the vicinity of the AOS in the morning, suitable to the global situation in the mission area, the generator

house at posn 37 caught fire. After futile attempts by posn 37 to extinguish the fire, in combination with the fire brigade of posn 27 and CF, they finally were able to keep the fire under control and to extinguish it.



*Be aware of mines!*

In the late evening hours, the biggest exercise incident of the day happened. Soldiers of position 37 came across during their night patrol, when an UNTSO vehicle was involved in an accident. The driver and a little Syrian child had been seriously injured. The members of the night patrol had given first aid in a perfect way to the two wounded persons. This incident entailed a chain of ac-

tivities, causing the deployment of all elements from CF, which are necessary in case of such a serious accident, e.g. medical team, Military Police, and so on.

After finishing to make them transportable and recording the statements of the Military Police, the first day of the exercise came to an end.

Early in the morning, position 27 had to conduct a sector patrol, where a temporary check point (TCP) had to be established at the important outpost 32A. The TCP caused a big challenges, when the members of the sector patrol were threatened by

B-side civilians because of the accident in the evening before. One of our soldiers was pushed into the unchecked area, where he stepped on an AP-mine and lost his leg. The crossing procedure at the A/-B-gate for the requested EOD-team/POLBATT, in addition to the large approach route caused such a big time frame, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy had to lament one dead Austrian soldier.



*UN soldiers give protection to UN installation*

## Prepared For The Worst Case

It stands to reason, that AUSBATT increased the alert status, because of this exercise incident, up to yellow. At the same time, the situation deteriorated more and more, when the aggressive civilians gathered together and began a demonstration in front of OP-72/OGG.

The emergency call by the OGG officer, who incurred a head wound from a stone, caused the deployment of all Rag's and Rap's of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy, lead by Maj Hofer, to disperse the demonstrators in front of the gate of the OP. The demonstrators were quite hard to restrain, but "at the risk of their lives", the soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy pushed the demonstrators aside so that the medical treatment by the medical NCO was possible.

Normally, after such a highlight, an exercise should come to an end, but in this exercise,



the participants had bad luck. At the same time, where the tensions between the conflict parties reached their peak and the company got the order for taking in alert level red, an air - transporter of the IDF with radioactive content crashed near the little village of

*There is no way in for demonstrators*

MAJDAL SHAMS. Needless to mention, what wind direction we had at this moment: NBC level 3 for position 37 and NBC level 2 for all the other positions, including the deployment of the NBC survivor squad for checking the area.

Approximately 1,5 hours later, although there was no radioactive contamination, Maj Hofer got the order to prepare code "ORANGE". That means preparing the evacuation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy!

The company had done a very good job at all, so it wasn't necessary to overstress the soldiers with preparing their clothes for a possible evacuation. The exercise of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy came to an end at the peak of the possible incidents and there wasn't more to say than "congratulation to the performance of all participants within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy"- operational readiness is a fact!



*Professional first aid given to exercise actors*

*Author: Capt Michael Krug*

## Mount Hermon Training - UNDOF/OGG

Over the past five months on the Golan, UNDOF has sponsored regular familiarisation training for elements of UNTSO (OGG/OGL) from UN Position 12 to Hermon Base, Hotel and South Patrol bases.

This presents all participating UNMOs with an opportunity to geographically contextualize their OPs and tasks in relation to other UN elements throughout the AO. Additionally, UNMOs benefit from the experience by gaining an insight into the challenges that elements of AUSBATT face throughout the winter months in a place as extreme as Mount Hermon.

The familiarization tour includes a patrol along the top of Mount Hermon, as well as platform briefs from Hermon South and Hotel. There are also briefings on the location of Syrian and IDF positions, as well as the location of Hizbollah positions across the Lebanese/Syrian border and other areas of interest.

Additionally, UNMOs are taken on an APC patrol south of Hermon South, which includes briefings on the areas in and around the Sheeba farms.

To top things off, a fantastic lunch is provided at Hermon Base, as well as the chance to ask questions of the AUSBATT members and further enhance the excellent relationship that exists between OGG and UNDOF.



*AUSBATT 1 Coy - Hermon Base*

As winter approaches and the snow starts to fall, UNMOs will look to the top of Mount Hermon and be able to more fully appreciate the efforts of the AUSBATT elements performing their duties in a diligent and professional manner.

Many thanks to COO AUSBATT and the Coy Comd of the Mount Hermon AUSBATT Coy for their hospitality and generosity throughout 2005.

*Author: Capt Ian Langford &  
Maj Valdemar Bardram*



*AUSBATT 1 Coy - Hermon Hotel during wintertime*



## UNDOF - Representational Office in Damascus

In 1992 when the United Nations decided to move the UNDOF Headquarters from the City of Damascus to Camp Faouar, it was still necessary to maintain a Representational Office in Damascus as movement to the new location was and remains very time consuming and public access is restricted. The area of the already existing UNDOF Transport Workshop at the southwestern outskirts, close to the Mezzeh highway that leads to Camp Faouar, was therefore chosen to house this UNDOF Branch office.

For many years the offices in ROD (Representational Office Damascus) had been used as a focal point for meetings and conferences and also accommodated office space for the UNDOF Force Commander, the UNDOF Chief Administrative Officer, the Liaison Officer B-side and the SCUNASAR (Security Coordinator for the United Nations Agencies in Syria). However, somehow, the building was allowed to deteriorate and there seemed to be no plans in the immediate future to include it in the mission's modernization program.

On 19 August 2003 everything changed. That day will remain in our memories as the day of the terrible and lethal attack on the UN office in Baghdad. As a result, all UN installations worldwide seemed vulnerable and senior U.N. staff understood the need for increased security to protect their staff and facilities.

The appointment of FSO Gerhard Beiszkammer as OIC SCUNASAR came at the same time that the Designated Official together with the Security Management Team came to a decision to release funds to ensure that ROD conformed to a global higher security standard for UN premises and personnel.

In accordance with the recommendations received from the Security Coordination Office in New York and as one of the initial measures, it was decided to install a 24/7 radio room coverage in Damascus and UNDOF and the Force Commander agreed to provide the required office space.

FSO believed, from previous mission experience that a proper working environment enhances performance of staff and also enables them to fulfill their tasks with a much higher standard of performance. He therefore took advantage of this opportunity to push for a number of improvements to ROD.

With the assistance of the UNDOF CAO and upon reaching an agreement regarding shared costs with other UN

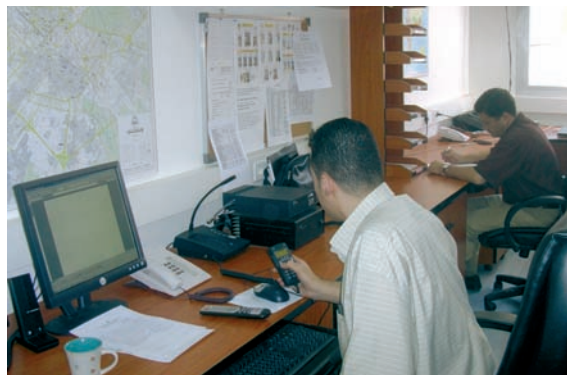
Agencies in Syria, the project began early this year.

Now, only a few months later, the building's appearance has undergone a transformation with a new and simple but elegant façade befitting a U.N. "receiving" office. Use of available space within the building has been maximized with a view to effectively accommodating each office required for operations. In addition to offices for the UNDOF FC/DO, CAO and LO-B side and a conference room that is also frequently used by UNDOF and UNTSO personnel, the Security Coordinator has sufficient office space and proper equipment to run security operations. In the beginning of May 2005, the 24/7-radio room went "on the air". Five radio operators were employed and trained to carry out their main tasks, such as radio communication with UN offices in the country, tracking traffic of UN vehicles and monitoring the security situation within SAR as well as neighboring countries.

Effective 01 August 2005, Mr. Mohammed Sarker took over

his assignment from the former FSO as Field Security Advisor to the Designated Official (FSA-DO). We wish him and his team all the best and great success in their operations.

Authors: Chinkie Ani & Gerhard Beiszkammer



The 24/7-radio room went "on the air"

## Dar Al Assad

### *The Damascene Center for Culture and Arts*

Located just off the central roundabout in Damascus, (some of us better know it as the so-called "Russian Roulette") an impressive marble building complex catches your eye.

At a cost of \$30 million this building combines Western architectural features with Arabesque designs and has been designed by a number of British experts. The 35,000 square-meter opera house is based on international opera houses of the 19th century, especially London's Royal Opera House. It includes a drama hall that accommodates 750 people, a multi-functional hall for an audience of 350 and the main opera hall itself, with a capacity of 1500.

It is also worth mentioning that the High Institute for Arts and Music including a Ballet school is located in close vicinity to the Opera House. This is the premier academy for the

study of music in Syria. Students develop high musical competencies in areas such as performance, composition, and production.

Although Dar Al Assad opened in May 2004, the Opera House is not a new initiative. The late President Hafez Al-Assad laid the cornerstone for the building almost three decades ago. The construction was started in the 1990s but unfortunately a fire in 2000 caused by an electrical shortage completely destroyed the building. Four years later, the Opera House was finally completed and President Bashar Al Assad inaugurated the new building on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

The intention of the initiators of the project was to bring international artists and musical performances to Syria, just as Beit el-Dein and the Baal-beck Festivals do in Lebanon and to open the minds of the public for such events and enrich the Damascene cultural life.

Now after more than one year you can say that Dar Al



*The elegant lobby*

Assad Center has well achieved its goals. It has hosted nationally and internationally renowned artists and orchestras such as the Syrian National Orchestra, the Manfred Leuchter Jazz Band (Germany), the Flamenco Dancing Group (Tatiana Garrido, Spain), solo pianist Reiko Awazu (Japan) and I Solisti Veneti, to mention a few. Some 180000 visitors have attended the events so far. Embassies and International Cultural Institutes support many of the Dar Al Assad events. UNDOF has received on various occasions invitation cards from the Dar Al Assad Public Relations Office, the German Goethe Cultural Institute and the Japanese Embassy.

Our soldiers have very well received the events that they attended. A big thanks goes to the generous donors. We hope to continue the good cooperation in the future and to further contribute to attract the interests of UNDOF staff for arts and culture in Damascus.

*Author: Maj Siegfried Perr*



*Main entrance of Dar Al Assad*

## UNDOF - General Services Section

The role of General Services Section (GSS) within UNDOF is to assist in the provision of first class logistical and administrative support to the Mission. This is achieved through the efforts of our able and enthusiastic staff in the following Units; Claims, Property Control & Inventory (PCIU), Shipping/Receiving & Inspection, SO-Supply, Supply & Asset Management, and the Administrative Officer in Camp Ziouani (AO-CZ) led by Chief of Section -CGS, James Donnellan (Ireland).

CGS is ably assisted by Fayez Taraf who is responsible for the general administration of the Section; Managing service contracts, processing utility services; and Private Vehicle Registration, Outgoing Shipments along with a myriad of other tasks. GSS is comprised of an accomplished, dedicated and mobile group of Civilian and Military staff with a common goal of getting things done and on time. We are diverse in our backgrounds, qualities and qualifications, but we are united in our ability and willingness to provide the best general service to UNDOF.

John Mackenzie & Thana Habash in the Claims Unit, are responsible to ensure that all property write-offs are adequately substantiated and correctly processed. In addition, all accidental damages cases are scrutinized to establish the circumstances and ensure that all cases involving local Syrian third parties are promptly reported and necessary steps are taken with regards to

insurance provisions. The unit is also responsible for providing translation service, Boards of Inquiry and a variety of related tasking. Claims Unit work closely with PCIU and all asset managers of Self Accounting Unit, to maintain the integrity of the mission inventory records.

PCIU/COE Staff are responsible for controlling UNDOF inventory of assets and reporting same to NYHQ, its staff are regularly seen visiting all Camps, Positions and sites within UNDOF mission area, physically inspecting and verifying of all United Nations owned property deployed within the mission. As for Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) brought into UNDOF by each Contingent, which is inspected and checked monthly by PCIU team led by James Butler. The team includes; Alexis Abdulhak, Hazar Al-Khateeb, Georgette Melki and new arrival, Stella Srour.

Staff from the Shipping - Receiving & Inspection Unit Mirvat Doummar, Shipping Assistant, coordinates clearance and delivery of all incoming commercial shipments, while Nabih Saed & Farid Shaya inspect items delivered either to the R&I warehouse and/or directly to the stores of the self accounting units. Aida Bichara-McNally, the Shipping/R&I Officer, manages the operations of this double-hatted and complex Unit. In Camp Ziouani Receiving & Inspection functions are handled by Logbatt military staff with the assistance of Ms Merav

Simana, newly recruited R&I-Shipping Assistant. One cannot ignore the contribution of the AO and Ms Lynn Elvaiah, Procurement Assistant, which together contribute to the success of Shipping and R&I operation on A-side.

The Administrative Officer Gerhard Beiskammer, in Camp Ziouani, is responsible for of functions in that location, and also serves as coordinator between the administration in UNDOF-HQ at Camp Faouar and the Log base in Camp Ziouani.

The support provided by the Supply & Asset Management Unit and Alfred Loutfi and his Supply & Maintenance team, is indispensable and includes off-loading of goods delivered to UNDOF HQ, as well as maintenance of offices and grounds in Camp Faouar. When it comes to managing General Service Assets, Samer Sabbah is a busy person accounting for this material.

SO SUP staff consists of a Canadian Captain Nicole McDuff, an Austrian Master Warrant Officer Harry Gumpoldsberger and a Canadian Sergeant Cindy Marche. They are responsible for planning the acquisition of supply goods, consumables as well as a number of services such as Tailoring & Barbering in support of UNDOF. A very busy service, that strives to ensure that the Right Item is received for the Right Customer and at the Right Time.

*Author: James Donnellan*

