

GOLAN


The UNDOF Journal



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Dear Reader!



Three months have gone by like the blink of an eye and we are proud to introduce our newest edition of our Golan Journal. We experienced a lot in these last three months, with the rotations from J-CON, POLBATT, IND-CON, with the arrival of our new Chief of Staff, Col Ostrowski and of course with the incoming of our new contingents' Press Officers. Capt Kunihiro Suzuki (J-CON), Capt Slawomir Tadzik (PB), Maj John Bakker (OGG) and Maj Amit Mathur (MP), I would like to welcome them most in terms of their, already shown, dedication to our Golan Journal. Sorry to say, but whenever new personnel is arriving, obviously there is also outgoing

personnel and I would like to express my sincere thanks to Lt Shuhei Kawasaki (J-CON), Capt Pawel Szyller (PB), Maj Sean Gavin (OGG) and Capt Jan Witkowski (MP) for their invaluable contributions to our journal. Luckily at least our editorial team stayed the same and we, and especially myself, experienced a smoother process in creating this edition, however we were also trying to enhance the quality of the Golan Journal, which on the other side slowed us down a bit. But, as already mentioned, we are very proud again about this edition.



Still your editorial team: Scotty, Tommy, Gerry and Fritz

Unfortunately we also witnessed the most significant incident within the last three months – The war between Israel and Hezbollah and the resulting death of four UN Military Observers from UNTSO. We commemorate these four brave men and dedicated a large part of this journal to these fallen comrades.

*Yours sincerely, Capt Stefan Zaiser,
SOPR*

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Photo UNTSO provided by Capt Kevin Mc Donald

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Photo by WO II Gernot Payer

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Force Commander's Message

Dear Fellow Peacekeepers!

It is once again a pleasure for me to address you with a few lines in Your Golan Journal; the voice of UNDOF Peacekeepers! You will all agree that the last issue of the Golan Journal was outstanding!

Well this issue promises to be even better and that is due to the efforts and long hours of many UNDOF soldiers and civilians staffs who make invaluable contributions of articles and photographs. I must congratulate you and ask you to continue to maintain the excellent support that you have given to the editorial team. If you have not yet made a contribution to the Golan Journal, I encourage you to do so in time for the next issue.

As we enter the season of the local holidays of RAMADAN and YOM KIPPUR we find the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer and this can only mean that the summer will soon draw to an end and cooler weather will once again return to the Golan along with winter rains, and for 1st Coy, SNOW! Please, enjoy the changing seasons and exercise care and caution as you are driving in the area.

I can not help but think that time passes very quickly in the Mission, especially when we are busy serving peace. We experienced a long hot summer this year, and I am speaking not only about the weather! We have all been kept very busy during the war in Lebanon. At times we have also been exposed to danger with rockets landing very close to Camp Zouani and both camps experiencing Shelter Alerts, sometimes for several hours each

day. We have also been subjected to restrictions on our travel, liberty and R&R. I assure you that all of this was necessary for your safety and to maintain the Mission of UNDOF. I must congratulate each and every one of you for a job well done! Every member of UNDOF, civilian and military, worked very hard during this difficult time and I thank you as your Commander.

Other important events over the past few months have included many visits by senior members of troop contributing countries, including, Ambassadors, Generals and Defence Attachés from Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Japan and India, with many more visits planned in the coming months. These visits are important as they give us the opportunity to thank your countries for their contribution and to show your nations representatives the outstanding job you are doing and the challenges you are facing so that they can better support you. It is also an opportunity for them to see you in person during important events such as medal parades and change of command ceremonies. We have also been very fortunate in the past few weeks to have been visited by a number of senior personnel from UN HQ in New York. Beginning with Mr. Kofi Anan himself, the Secretary General to the UN, followed by the Assistant Secretary General, Mrs. Jane Holle Lute, and most recently a good friend to UNDOF, the Military Advisor to the department of peacekeeping operations, LtGen Randhir Kumar Mehta and his aide, Christian de Cockborne. All of these visits provide an opportunity for UN HQ to see the good



work you are doing and to learn what you need from them to work even better.

We are getting into that time of year when the various contingents and battalions and companys organize marches, runs and other events. I encourage you to participate in these as they are a good opportunity to see parts of the area of operations you would otherwise never see and in a unique way, and also you will meet new friends.

Finally, I would like to take these last few lines to tell you all, how very proud I am to serve as a peacekeeper with you, soldiers and civilian staff, on the Golan Heights. I truly admire you for your dedication and professionalism in protecting and serving peace in this troubled region, during these troubled times. Keep up the good work!

*Thank you Ďiakujem
Danke Merci Dziękuje
Arigato Dhanyavad
Shukran Doda*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B. N. Sharma".

Lieutenant General B. N. SHARMA
Force Commander UNDOF

Chief of Staff Words

The characteristics of all peace-keeping operations state that the operation must have the consent of the parties of the conflict in question. Going further, it also means that the security of the UN is the responsibility of the Host Nations. However, in the present volatile security environment, UN missions are faced with potential security challenges which are multi-dimensional. Uncertainty about where, when and how they could develop into crises will prevail. Such risks are more likely to materialize from the adverse consequences of instabilities and asymmetric activities than from intentional aggression by one of the warring parties against UN. Therefore a UN mission is not released from responsibility for taking care of its own security.

I would say that the UNDOF mission is not beyond this potential threat, taking into consideration that the overall security situation in the region impacts on this mission as well.

Bearing this in mind, I have considered that it is my responsibility, as the newly appointed Chief of Staff, to very quickly become familiar with the history, projects, problems, security and routine of the UNDOF mission so as to have a background and reference for possible enhancement and/or improvement in the functional areas. This is so that I can perform my duty according to the operational art, which means for me the skillful employment of the designated military units to attain operational objectives through the design, organization, integration and conduct of the mission and to provide adequate security means and measures for UN personnel due

to the changing security environment.

Of course, when taking over the COS position on 15th Sep 2006 all of the above mentioned functional areas were already well suited into the UNDOF mission. However, due to the new requirements, the Force Commander UNDOF has decided to commence the operational planning process to adjust the whole UNDOF organization accordingly.

Now, the changing security environment in the region (vide: the recent conflict in Lebanon, the attempted bomb attack on the US Embassy in Damascus and the receipt of warning information on possible so called "resistant groups" activities within UNDOF AOR) has forced UNDOF to hasten work on the new UNDOF HQ organization, modernization of forces and enhancement of security measures. This situation is the entry point for me as your new COS.

Thus, I consider that my primary task is the quick finalization of introduction into force of the new structure of the UNDOF HQ and to assure security for UNDOF. I realize that there might be difficulties in establishing the new structure to the full planned extent by the time of the next rotations of the Line Battalions due to various National caveats. Nevertheless, my aim by that time is to create a solid transitional organization as soon as possible with a professional guard, at least.

My second, or rather simultaneous, project is the modernization of the forces including, enhancing the C2 and capability of an effective reaction in case of emergency. Within this project there is a con-



tinuous requirement for close cooperation between UNDOF and OGG.

Apart from the above mentioned projects, there are many supported actions and ventures which influence UNDOF HQ and forces' operation. That is why I have directed the Branch Heads and Battalion COs to report using a new morning briefing layout, to develop an improved personnel reporting system, to re-establish a medical point at Posn 80 and to develop a POLBATT forward command post at Posn 60. More ideas which lead to increased operational capabilities and situational security awareness of UNDOF will follow.

At the end of my address I would like to encourage all of you to be active within your area of responsibility and do not hesitate to come up with your own ideas which can improve the overall performance of our Mission here in UNDOF!

Thank you and the very Best Success to all of you in the Golan!

Col Andrzej Ostrowski, COS

Visits to UNDOF



Visit of Mr. H. Ihara, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Auditor. Fact finding at CF, OP56 and Mt. Hermon. JICA contributes agricultural supports at AOL for Syrian people. To know the UNDOF activities is important. (14th Jul 2006)



Visit of Gen Mag. Roland Ertl, Chief General Staff. Visited CF and 1st Coy/AB to observe situation and encouragement of Austrian soldiers. Gen Ertl was first visitor to UNDOF after Israel-Lebanon conflict. (21st - 22nd Aug 2006)



Visit of Col Ajay Talwar, Defense Attaché to Turkey (right side). Met with FC and observed current situation at Posn 27, then enjoyed Damascus. He is the very first visitor to INDCON on B-side. (25th Aug 2006)



Visit of Col Waldemar Samoranski, Chief of Support Division of the Operational Command. Stayed in CZ and supported POLBATT rotation. Handing over the Blue Beret to CO POLBATT and his men. (31st Aug-14th Sep 2006)



Visit of LtGen Randhir Kumar Mehta, Military Adviser DPKO UNNY. Visited Damascus, LOGBATT in CZ and POLBATT AOR. He discussed with SSAD and Syrian Authorities and fact finding LOGBATT and POLBATT activities. (28th - 30th Sep 2006)

Visit of Col Michal Roszczyna, Polish Defense Attaché to Syria. Attended POLBATT Medal Parade at Posn 60. (17th Aug 2006)

Visit of Col Atsuhiko Ishibashi, Japanese Defense Attaché to Syria. Attended J-CON Medal Parade in CF. (23rd Aug 2006)

Visit of Col. Eiichiro Fukazawa, Japanese Defense Attaché to Israel. Attended CoC J-CON in CZ. (6th Sep 2006)

Visit of Defense Attaché to the French Ambassador LtCol Marc DeBlock to 1st Coy/AB Area. (13th Sep 2006)

Visit of His Excellency Mr. Arun Kumar Singh, Indian Ambassador to Israel and Mrs. Singh. Attended INDCON Medal Parade in CZ. (15th Sep 2006)

New People in UNDOF



The new COS

Col Andrzej Ostrowski was born in Warsaw in 1956. He entered the High Military School of Radio-Engineering in 1975. Then, he was posted to the Recce Regiment. During his career he served in various unit appointments, including commanding the electronic Recce Battalion. In 1992 he joined the UNTAC in Cambodia. In 1994 he was MA to SC in UNPROFOR and Team Leader in UNTAES. From 1996 he worked in various staff appointments at MoD and General Staff in Operations Dep. In 2001 he was appointed to Chief Polish Liaison Team to NATO HQ in Denmark. Soon after, he was promoted to Colonel and appointed as Chief J1 Div in this command.

Meanwhile, he served in the NATO operation in Afghanistan. His last appointment before deployment to UNDOF was Chief Support Branch in the SOF Dep. He graduated from a Polish University, NATO Schools, the College of International and Security Studies in Germany and Joint Special Ops University in USA. He was awarded 'The Cross of Merit' in gold by the President of Poland. He is married to Teresa and has one son.



The new CO J-CON

Maj Yoji Takahashi was born in Kumamoto prefecture (Southern part of Japan), on 12th Mar 1971. He entered the National Defense Academy in 1989.

After completing Officer Candidate School in September 1993, he served as a Forward Observation Officer of the 8th Field Artillery Regiment.

In 2003, Maj Takahashi completed the Command and General Staff Course and he served as a Commanding Officer of the 1st Company of 1st Surface to Ship Missile Regiment. In 2004, he was promoted to his current rank and assigned to the Defense Planning section, G3, 11th Division HQ. On 6th Sep 2006, Maj Takahashi took over as CO J-CON.



The new CO POLBATT

LtCol Tomasz Gral was born in Ilawa - Poland in 1963. He graduated from the Officers' College of the Armoured Forces in Poznań - in 1986.

From 1993 to 1995 he studied at the National Defence Academy (NDA) - Warsaw and was educated to become a Commanding Officer and studied Military Science at the Polish National Defence Academy. Before he studied in the NDA he served as a Tank Plt Leader and Tank Commander, COS and CO of Tank Battalion.

After graduation he was appointed to Chief OPS Branch/13 Mech. Bde in Czarne, then in 1998 in 16 Mech. Bde in Morag. Afterwards he started duty in the same garrison but this time as CO of Tank Battalion. In 2004 he was promoted to Chief of Training in 16 Mech. Bde in Morag.

LtCol Gral is married and has two children, who live in Morag. His hobbies are history and music especially classical and country.



The new FPM

Maj Amit Mathur is a second generation Army Officer who was commissioned into 11 Armoured regiment in June 1996. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla (Pune). He has served in his regiment for six years holding different regimental appointments.

He has served for three years in Counter Insurgency Operations as a General Staff Officer 2 (Intelligence).

Before getting posted to UNDOF he attended the United Nations Military Observers Course at New Delhi and the Indian Military Police Officers Course at Bangalore. Maj Amit Mathur was the DFPM in UNDOF from 23rd Feb 06 till he took over command of the MP PL on 8th Sep 06. His wife Shaily has done Masters in Indian Medieval History and is presently teaching in an Army Nursery School, and he has a three year old son, Arsh.

COS Change of Command at UNDOF



On 15th Sep 2006 Austrian Chief of Staff (COS) Col Andreas Stupka handed over command of the military side of UNDOF to his Polish equivalent Col Andrzej Ostrowski.

The Handover/ Takeover ceremony itself was a well prepared parade and those present were our Force Commander LtGen Bala N. Sharma, Ambassadors and Military Attaches, with civilian staff from UNDOF and of course with soldiers from all contingents.

The outgoing Chief of Staff thanked in his valedictory all contingents in their respective mother tongue and emphasized once more how pleased he was about the international cooperation.

Col Stupka went on describing the most important milestones of his curator ship, like the SOP 2006, the restructuring of UNDOF HQ and the newly integrated organization of military and civilian staff, as well as the newly created 'Mapping Cell' for establishing our own maps of the mission area. As always his speech ended with 'Viribus Unitis' – 'With Unified Strength', his motto during these past twelve months.

Our Force Commander thanked the departing Chief of Staff for his invaluable contribution to this mis-



Col Stupka, LtGen Sharma, Col Ostrowski at signing HTO-protocol

military and private the FC wished him every success and soldiers' luck. Additionally the FC was looking forward to working with the incoming COS and declared that



Col Stupka, LtGen Sharma, Col Ostrowski taking the salute



sion. LtGen Sharma recognized the COS fulfillment of all tasks, challenges and surprises as exceptional and realized how much this mission benefited from his wisdom and experience. For his future life, both this will be a challenging time for him and all of UNDOF.

Finally he wished the new COS, being Polish NCC (National Contingent Commander) at the same time, all the best of luck during his tour of duty.

In his inaugural the newly arrived Chief of Staff explained what a huge honor and privilege it is to work with the international military and civilian personnel. Col Ostrowski sincerely thanked his predecessor and the CAO for the professional introduction over the last fortnight which assured quick familiarization with his tasks and a smooth take over.

Additionally Col Ostrowski declared to finish open projects and if necessary to make respective adjustments. Thus he sees his time here at UNDOF as a busy one.

The last parade soldiers of all contingents signaled their ultimate good-bye to the outgoing Chief of Staff.

Article by Capt Stefan Zaiser, SOPR

Photos by WOII Gernot Payer, Force Photographer

Temperature 35°C – Winter preparation at Mt. Hermon

With the last snow melted and 35°C in the shade, now it's time to start with winter-preparation at Mount Hermon. All measures have to be finished by the end of October, to be ready if winter starts surprisingly.



Photo by Sgt Günther Haas

Concreting the foundation

All fuel-tanks at all positions were cleaned by a civilian company. This work took a lot of time because the storage of fuel at the 1st

Company contains 200.000 liters. After completing the tank-cleaning the tanks had to be refilled. Therefore the truck had to travel from Camp Faouar (956m above sea level) to Positions 1st Company (2814m above sea level) 15 to 20 times.

One of the conditions to survive the winter in the mountains, is a compact roof, which sustains strong winds with speeds of more than 200 km/h. The AUSBATT Engineer Platoon supported 1st Coy. Additionally they checked all electric wires in all houses.

An important task was the marking of roads of all positions. This work was done by

1st Coy and needed approximately four weeks. In winter-time, the weather conditions are sometimes very bad. Visibility can be less than five meters and snow can be more than ten meters high. In the area of this Company there are fifteen kilometers of patrol tracks. 1814 snow poles had to be set. A backhoe dug the holes. The next step was to set concrete pipes. A third team placed



Photo by MCpl Stefan Probst

Syrian worker is climbing into the tank. Inside, he is cleaning the wall with a broomstick and a wire brush to remove the slag

and fixed the snow-poles into the pipes. It is very important to weld the poles to the pipes, because smugglers and shepherds have taken these items in the past and might take away the snow posts in the future. For better orientation in winter, the snow poles are of yellow color.

All of these tasks are necessary to orientate and to survive in winter under adverse conditions and to enable driving without accidents.

Article by Capt Jürgen MAYER,
OIC 1st Coy/AB



Photo by WO1 Alfred Konrad

Concreting and setting snow posts, 4 soldiers of 1st Coy

“Shelter-Aleeeeeert”

Friday, 4th Aug 2006, 1500LT (Local Time): A heavy explosion in the area of Qunaitra. Company Commander (CoyCdr) and his Deputy were sitting in their office, looking into each other's eyes and asking: “What was that?” They got an answer later.

There was an impact of a Katyusha-rocket, 400m south of Posn 27. The telephone was ringing, shelter-alerts for all Positions along A-Line were ordered by the Duty Officer; Posn 27 and 37 of 2nd Company! The siren was wailing and everybody was running into the shelter. The Position-Leader checked if everybody was present. Everyone who had to

be there was present. The CoyCdr ordered the patrols in the Area of Separation (AOS) immediately to go to the next UN-Position (Posn 25 or Posn 32). At these positions were only shelter-readiness, due to the distance to A-Line. The sentry



Photo by WO1 Rupert Krassnig

Impact of a Katyusha-rocket in Qunaitra

climbed down from his sentry-box, closed the door of the Position and went to the entrance of the shelter. His task was to count the detonations and to secure the entrance. Now waiting - a lot of questions appeared. Who was shooting? Is Posn 27 the target? How long will it take? The most important question: Can the shelter resist an impact of a



Photo by Capt Manfred Kaufmann

Soldiers of 2nd Coy in shelter on Posn 27

Katyusha-rocket? Are we safe? The CoyCdr was buried with operational matters. The Deputy entered the shelter to talk with the soldiers. In the last week he got gummy bears from Austria and distributed them to his comrades. Everybody was in a good mood. After three hours, an announcement via loudspeaker: “Shelter-Alert lifted.”



Photo by WO1 Rupert Krassnig

Pieces of a Katyusha-rocket

On the next day, the soldiers improved the equipment of the shelter, because everybody was sure that they would spend a lot of time sitting and waiting in the shelter. The refrigerator, filled with fruits, soft drinks, cheese and sausages and a

TV from the common-room were brought into the shelter. Now they were ‘fully operational.’

Saturday, 5th August 2006, 0930LT:

Shelter-Alert! Same procedure as the day before. Is everybody in the shelter? Yes, o.k. The Deputy enters the shelter and distributes his sweets, as usual. 1130LT: “Shelter-Alert lifted!” During lunch, 1250LT, the next Shelter-Alert.

Same procedure, only the name of the sentry had changed. 1330LT, “Shelter-Alert lifted.” More alerts during the day. Altogether, three hours and 55 minutes shelter-presence.

Sunday, 6th Aug 2006, seven hours and 45 minutes shelter-alert.

Monday, 7th Aug 2006, four hours and 56 minutes shelter-alert, but today with VIP. Commanding Officer (CO) AUSBATT was on Line Tour when shelter-alert was ordered. The soldiers of the Positions found a new game. They bet on how many shelter-alerts there would be during a day and at which time they would start. There were ‘lucky winners’ and the time passed by quickly. Until the beginning of the cease-fire on 14th Aug 2006, the 2nd Coy spent more than 40 hours in the shelter. The last Shelter-Alert was lifted on Sunday, 13th Aug 2006 at 2340LT.

Article by Capt Manfred Kaufmann,
2iC 2nd Coy/AB

Four UNMOs (UN Military Observers) killed in action

34 days of war in Israel and South-Lebanon killed 1191 Lebanese citizens, 162 Israeli natives, 47 international residents, being present in either country at the time, two civilian UNIFIL members and four UNTSO Military Observers.¹

¹ Source: http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libanonkrieg_2006



OP Khiyam before the attack...



...OP Khiyam after the attack

United Nations Photo (<http://www.un.org/av/photo/>)

As we all know, the Middle East is a volatile area, but we had more or less peace for many years now and everyone felt safe enough to bring family and friends here to travel around. But this peace was over very quickly this year in July when the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah escalated and suddenly we had war right next to us. This war was triggered due to two Israeli soldiers being kidnapped days earlier by Hezbollah. On the 12th Jul 2006 the issued Israeli ultimatum – to give back the

kidnapped soldiers – ended. From that day on, IDF (Israeli Defense Force) blocked the Lebanese sea-traffic and air-struck targets all over

Lebanon. Hezbollah hit targets in Northern Israel. Later on the IDF sent ground troops into the southern part of Lebanon, as well. Every-

body worldwide during this conflict had to hold their breath and from the United Nations point of view especially UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon), UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) and UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force), since these Missions were closest to the conflict.



Commemorative Service in Jerusalem, provided by Capt Kevin Mc Donald

UNTSO HQ-Jerusalem, 'Government House' on 30th Jul 2006



Photo by WO II Gernot Payer

Tel Aviv, Ben-Gurion Airport on 8th Aug 2006. Last Farewell to Maj Hans-Peter Lang from Mission Area

Even though we had some tough weeks with travel restrictions and shelter alerts (see article on page 9), UNDOF was lucky, as no one was killed or even injured. UNIFIL lost two civilian members in one of the Israeli air bombardments of the area of Hosh in Tyre². UNTSO, however, with their dispatched Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) was even



Map No. 4144 Rev. 16E, UNITED NATIONS

less fortunate and on 25th Jul 2006 four unarmed military observers at the OP (Observation Post) near

² Source: UNIFIL Press Release from 26th Jul 2006, Naqoura

Khiyam (see map) were instantly killed in action, when an IDF bomb directly hit this very OP. UNDOF commemorates these fallen Austrian, Canadian, Chinese, and Finnish comrades with the following pages.

On 30th Jul 2006 a very sorrowful commemorate service was conducted in Jerusalem (UNTSO HQ) and members from all three Missions said a final good-bye to these fine, brave soldiers, who so tragically died while in the service of peace. These moments remind us of what really matters in life and that we all have so much for which to be thankful.

After the deceased bodies were finally clearly identified, Israel invited representatives of the fallen comrades' countries to escort them back to their respective home countries. For the Austrian Military Observer this happened on 8th Aug

2006 in Tel Aviv at Ben-Gurion Airport. An UNDOF delegation, indeed only Austrians, witnessed when the coffin was handed over from UNTSO personnel to Austrian soldiers, who carried the deceased into a military airplane that flew back home to Vienna. This procedure must have been very similar for the other three nations as well. It was a very depressed atmosphere, since apparently not everyone seemed to have experienced this kind of situation before.

Finally UN-Resolution 1701 ended this war with a cease-fire agreement on 12th Aug 2006 and the United Nations are bringing in some 15,000 troops from all over the world to establish a 'Buffer Zone' between Israel and Lebanon and to hopefully secure peace once and for all.

Article by Capt Stefan Zaiser, SOPR



In Memoriam to our fallen Comrades of UNTSO



Major Hans-Peter Lang

Hans-Peter Lang was born in Gussing, Austria in September 1962, and joined the Austrian Army in 1981 to become an infantry officer. Hans Peter arrived in UNTSO in August 2005 and was a member of Team Sierra since that time.



He proved to be a very efficient and capable officer. He had previously served in a number of United Nations and European Union missions and he applied the knowledge and experience gained from these missions to the benefit of his Team.

Hans Peter was a valued and respected member of Team Sierra and this was recognized when he was appointed Team Leader in February 2006.

Hans Peter was a good and trusted friend and a beloved father of his son Georg Maximilian, with whom he maintained daily contact. In June, he gave his son the opportunity to visit Tyre and together they shared the experience and beauty of Lebanon.

Hans Peter is survived by his family and by eleven year old Georg Maximilian. He will always be remembered by his family and his friends for his dedication and commitment to the service of peace.

by Major Robert Mandl



Major Paeta Hess von Kruedener

Paeta was known by everybody as 'Wolf'. He was born in Ontario, Canada in 1962 and joined the Canadian Regular Armed Forces in 1986. He was an Infantry Officer with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Wolf arrived in UNTSO in October 2005 and had been a member of Team Sierra for 10 months.



Wolf liked very much what he was doing. He attended the US Army Special Forces Course at the JFK Special Warfare Centre and School in the States while serving in Ft Bragg NC. Wolf also participated in previous UN Missions in Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of Congo and he did a tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Wolf was considered by his colleagues as a typical Special Forces soldier, always looking for action, yet he was prepared to share a joke when needed. After a tour on the Patrol Base, he really liked to relax. Among his favorite activities was snorkeling the ruins around Tyre which he shared with his son during his last visit, or visiting the different cities in Lebanon.

He is survived by his wife Cynthia, daughter Kirsten and son Jonah. Wolf will be remembered by his family, his friends and his colleagues from around the world for his dedication and commitment in the service of peace.

by Major Serge Boissoneault



In the quietness of this time, we remember those who have served as peacekeepers, we remember all who have been engaged in preserving freedom and peace, their bravery and dedication, their patriotism and humour, their resourcefulness and hope. Lord, we remember them; we honour them; we are grateful.

by Major Daniel Bennett



Major Du Zhaoyu



Du was born in ShanDong province, China in 1972. He joined the Chinese Liberation Army as an Infantry Officer. He was a very experienced officer, and prior to arriving in the Middle East, Du spent 3½ years as the Assistant Military Attaché in India. He arrived in UNTSO in December 2005 and was a member of Team Sierra for seven months.

Du was always eager to learn and improve his skills on the Patrol Base. He was always ready to pass that information on to others, even if it would be inconvenient for himself.

He was known affectionately to his comrades as a genuine friend and an eternal optimist. As a friend, he was always grateful to everyone around him for sharing life experiences with him. Du enjoyed reading, hoping to expand his knowledge and understanding of the local Lebanese culture. Du had a diary that he would put things into every day, so that he hopes one day his son would understand what he had been doing.

He is survived by his wife Li Lingling and son Du Yiheng. Du will be remembered by his family, his friends and his comrades from around the world for his dedication and commitment in the service of peace.

by Commander Quanliang Guo



Lieutenant (N) Jarno Mäkinen



Jarno was born in 1976 in Turku, Finland. He joined Finnish Defence Forces in 1996, and especially enjoyed his time as the company commander in the Coastal Company of the Finnish Navy. Jarno arrived in UNTSO in November 2005 and had been a member of Team Sierra for eight months.

Jarno was known by his friends as 'Big Mac'. He was a respected team member who undertook his duties as an UNMO in a cheerful yet determined manner. His leadership skills and willingness to assist his fellow UNMOs saw him being selected as the Deputy Team Leader of Team Sierra in May 2005.

Jarno was a positive individual who was prepared to give everything a go no matter what. This he did with a smile on his face all the time. Jarno was the best on his cadet course in Naval Academy when he graduated in 2001, which is typical of the way he worked. But when there was time for relaxing, he certainly did that too. His favorite sport was football, which is a piece of art, as Jarno used to say.

He is survived by his fiancée Miia. Jarno will be remembered by his family and his friends from around the world for his dedication and commitment in the service of peace.

by Captain Jarno Linnell

THE FIRST EVER INDCON MEDAL PARADE CEREMONY

UN peacekeeping history echoes with India's participation, as over a period of more than fifty years over fifty thousand Indian soldiers have served in thirty-six UN missions across four continents. Today India is the second largest troop contributing country to the UN and has troops deployed in seven different UN missions.

The Indian Army draws its inspiration from the high moral ethics of our long surviving civilization wherein it is considered a righteous duty to take up arms in support of the good forces. The Bhagwad Gita, a holy religious scripture of India, states:

*“Further having regards for thine own duty,
Thou shouldst not falter,
There exists no greater good for a warrior,
Then a battle enjoined by duty”*

15th Sep 2006 was a big day for INDCON as it was the first ever medal ceremony for Indian troops at UNDOF. In the words of a wise man the thing a military man likes best, after new weapons, is new medals. A sense of exuberance and accomplishment descended over



Indian Ambassador handing over UN-Medal

Camp Ziouani as the first rotation of the Indian contingent on the Golan Heights, prepared itself to receive the UNDOF medal. The contingent which took over the duties of LOGBATT from the Canadian contingent on 24th Mar 2006 had amidst it soldiers who had spent



CO LOGBATT LtCol Ajay Singh reporting to our FC

seven to nine month in the mission.

It doesn't seem that long since when the same team lead by LtCol Ajay Singh, arrived to the Golan, with the exuberance and the determination of pioneers. This contingent had traveled thousands of miles from their home land, most of them for the first time to a foreign land to discharge duties in very different and sometimes difficult circumstances. It had the task of taking over the responsibility of the Logistic battalion in UNDOF from the Canadian contingent and setting up the mission for India. The Medal ceremony marked the successful completion of the mandate of the first rotation of the Indian contingent. It was a proud event for the 189 soldiers who through their professionalism had overcome the initial hurdles and set up a system in place.

The Medal ceremony was attended by UNDOF military and civilian staff from both A and B sides as well as the Ambassador of India to Israel, Shri Arun Kumar Singh. The ceremony was presided over by the Force Commander, LtGen Bala N. Sharma. Also invited were civil-

ian Indian guests who graced this historic occasion with their presence. The parade comprised of 189 Officers and soldiers who became eligible to don the UNDOF medal for the first time. Right on schedule, the Indian contingent marched onto the parade square

to the beats of Sher-E-Jawan, a popular Indian quick march. CO LOGBATT, LtCol Singh took command of the parade and welcomed the Force Commander onto the parade square with a General Salute. LtGen Sharma and the Ambassador of India to Israel presented the Medals to the Contingent members accompanied by the slow march tune of “Channa Bilawri” a tune adapted from a popular folk song of the Kumaon Hills in India. This was followed by the address of LtCol Singh who complimented the Indian Contingent on a successful tenure. The Force Commander then addressed the parade and congratulated the contingent for completing the mission successfully. He also complimented the parade for its immaculate turnout and sharp drill movements. The Ambassador then summed up with a mention of India's active participation in UN missions and the commendable job that the contingent had carried out on the Golan.

*Article by Maj Mridul Sharma,
MaintO/LB
Photos by LCpl Rajiv Kumar,
2iCMovCon*

INDCON ROTATION

It was a warm summer afternoon on the 26th Sep 2006 when the Main 1 of the Second INDCON Rotation landed at Ben Gurion Airport to replace the outgoing Main 1 of the first ever Indian rotation here at UNDOF.



Early Morning - CO LB LtCol Ajay Singh saying Good Bye to the outgoing personnel

The tarmac served as an ideal location for both the incoming and outgoing personnel to exchange a few niceties and notes about the mission and the stay in this wonderful mission.

Personnel of the outgoing Roto, appeared predominantly happy to be going home, but at the same time a little sad because they were leaving UNDOF, their home away from home for the past six to eight months. 92 personnel were leaving Israel for India on that day and as departure drew nearer, most would admit to having a heavy heart.

The total strength of the incoming Main 1 was seven Officers and 95 NCMs, under LtCol Jasprit Singh Bakshi, the incoming CO LOGBATT. They had spent the last 3 months in New Delhi doing their pre-induction training. They

also had happiness written large on their faces as they looked forward to the new experiences in store for them over the next six months. They were happy to begin their stint at UNDOF, albeit with a three hour delay as the flight which was supposed to be landing at 0940 hrs finally landed at 1230 hrs.

After loading and unloading of the luggage of the outgoing and incoming personnel respectively, everyone exchanged their final goodbyes and the flight for India took off at 1350 hrs. The immigration process was over in due course of time and everyone was looking forward to reaching CZ.

The move started from Ben Gurion Airport at 1430 hrs and after a long and tiring drive through Israel finally reached the gates of CZ at 1830 hrs. All the way the old hands kept on describing places of interest to their new comrades.

The remaining personnel of INDCON first rotation as well as J-Con were lined up at the gate to receive their new comrades from India. The faces of the incoming personnel were a canvas of emotions displaying happiness and perhaps a little uncertainty because of the mystery which had been built up by the media during the recent war.

The transition from Indian Army soldiers to UN peacekeepers would take a few days. After completing induction training all incoming personnel would have to start their active duty in their respective areas of responsibility and prove



OpsO Capt Suresh Abrol welcoming the new personnel

themselves worthy of having been selected from a 1.3 million strong army for this mission. We wish them luck.

*Article by Major Jayesh Pawar, CSO
Photos by Cpl Balbir Singh*

Changes in POLBATT

On the Golan Heights service has begun by 26th rotation of Polish Military Contingent.

On 1st Sep 2006 took place the welcoming of our new “missionaries”. On this solemn occasion Col Waldemar Samoranski welcomed new personnel and wished all the best in their service under the UN flag, for the duration of their duty. Then ‘nowki’ had to eat traditional Golan cookie, to start their tour of duty with UNDOF. After consumption of the cake, which in name only reminds one of the delicacy but in reality causes “the row of irreversible changes in organism”, they received applause from the previous rotation, and next joined the arrangement equipped with blue

berets and badges – the UN symbols.

On 13th Sep 2006 POLBATT celebrated a Change of Command in Camp Ziouani. The outgoing CO LtCol Zbigniew Paduch handed over his command to the incoming CO LtCol Tomasz Gral. Amongst many distinguished guests were the FC LtGen Bala N.

Sharma, Polish Vice Consul Zbigniew Rydzak, COS Col Andreas Stupka, Contingent Officers from UNDOF HQ, Military Attachés, representatives of the Polish Community Association “The Piast” and friends of POLBATT. After the official ceremony our honourable



The signing ceremony at the parade square

guests planted an olive tree. Later all guests and POLBATT soldiers were invited to a very tasty lunch with traditional Polish dishes and to spend some fine time in the pleasant atmosphere.

*Article and Photo by
Capt Slawomir Tadzik*

MEDAL PARADE POLBATT - The Solemnity in two different places.

The 17th Aug 2006 in the Polish Military Contingent POLBATT was the most important day during the whole active duty time for Polish soldiers on the Golan Heights. On this day they celebrated the Day of the Polish Army followed by the receiving of UNDOF medals. In ‘peacekeepers’ jargon it was a ‘Medal Parade’.

Because of safety reasons the ceremony took place in campaign positions, while the Polish battalion headquarter was stationed in Camp Ziouani. The invited guests were: Force Commander LtGen Bala N. Sharma, Chief of Staff Col Andreas Stupka, Charge D’Affaires RP



Happy faces during the ceremony

Embassy in Damascus Mrs. Justyna Porazinska, Defense Attaché Col Michal Roszczyzna and many others.

LtGen Sharma was grateful to Polish soldiers because of their hard

and faithful - maybe not much appreciated by everyone – and fully professional active duty under the ‘Blue Flag’. This speech meant a great deal to the soldiers in ‘Blue Helmets’, especially during this hard time when the situation in the Middle East was not yet over.

CO POLBATT LtCol Zbigniew Paduch expressed his gratitude and distinguished some of the best soldiers to thank

personally. He wished everyone good results in service, professional satisfaction and a happy outcome of their mission.

*Article and Photo by
Maj Paweł Szyller*

POLISH WOMEN IN THE ARMY

The women dressed in uniform with rifle on hand, fighting on the battlefield or standing on guard of peace - such an image, until quite recently was observed only in cinemas in Poland.



Chief of Laboratory Capt Grazyna Goryszewska and Medical Assistant Elzbieta Wojciechowska

However, not long ago the situation was changed. Our membership in NATO and European Union set new direction for changes in women's military service in the Polish Army. At present, the policy on women's military service in Poland is directed at adoption to the NATO standards and requirements of the European law, among others, the directives of the European Union preventing sexual discrimination. Regulations of the Law on Military Service of Professional Soldiers (pragmatic law) that was enacted on 1st Jul 2004 have changed the perspective of women's professional service. These regulations create a possibility of access of women's service to every post in the military.

Until 1999 women were admitted to service on the basis of "special" procedures. These women possessed "civilian" experience, but they did not have experience typical for soldiers trained during military studies. Recruitment of women to military schools and academies began in 1999. The first graduates

took up their military posts in 2001 (Warrant Officers' schools) and in 2003 (Officers' Military Colleges).

Though women and men have the same right to employment in all kinds of posts in the Polish Army, the majority of women serve in the Medical Corp and we can

notice an increase of their presence in other services: General Military, Telecommunication, Intelligence, Legal Service and Logistic.



New rotation of Polish nurses is finished

Relatively numerous is the group of women graduating from military colleges who took over posts of Platoon Leaders.

Women function very well in commanding posts – they are good specialists as Platoon Leaders, they are ambitious, they possess high motivation in service, and they cope well with solving problems. They have good supervisory skills and are well accepted by subordinates. They have so called 'soft skills': abilities to establish social contacts, creating

ties, finding compromises, organising teamwork including every single participant, - all very important skills for military service and management. The number of women participating in peacekeeping operations conducted by the Polish military contingents has remained the same level for many years. This number does not exceed 20 women a year. Women are not only supporting EUFOR, KFOR and UN peacekeeping operations, but also are present in the Polish stabilization contingent in Iraq.

Right now there are seven

Polish women working in UNDOF – five in POLBATT and two in HQ Laboratory. There are not many, but it's difficult to miss them. They work on different positions and fulfill different duties. Motives of their work in the mission are also different. For some this is a financial consideration, for others more personal or ideological. According to the general opinion all of

them they execute their duties just the same or better than men.

Women are asked if being a woman makes functioning in the army easier or more difficult and they answer that sometimes this fact is very beneficial. There are disadvantages too - sometimes men's politeness can be irritating, so at present, the main task for men in uniform is to find a compromise between being a soldier and a gentleman.

Article and Photos by Capt Slawomir Tadzik



Shooting exercise? Monthly!

In accordance to Slovak Directives for Training and Combat preparation of Units, the Slovak contingent is obliged to perform the regular shooting exercise for all members of the contingent every 3 months.



Demonstration of Weapon handling

Each soldier in the army as well as in the mission area is responsible for excellent marksmanship skills, weapon handling and maintenance of his personal weapon. Their duties in weapon's handling are regularly checked by Commanding Officers, both in maintenance within units as well as their skills at the shooting range.

In the Golan, members of HQ, battalion and company HQ are equipped with pistols, members of the units with submachine and machine guns. The Company Commander, his Deputy, Platoon Leader and Position Leaders have to be able to operate each type of weapon in their responsibility. Deputy Officer in command Lt II Radoslav Sajda and Quartermaster NCO SSgt Igor Peti are responsible for the organisation of this shooting exercise and its support. In general, Lt Sajda is at the same time the Training Officer for the company.

Officer in Command Capt Zdenko Targos and his strict supervision is a guarantee for a safe and smooth course of this exercise.

The majority of SLOVCON is well prepared and trained in marksmanship and they achieve excellent results. Two of the best within the contingent are Cpl Michal Stasek and MSgt Ladislav Macai with approximately 95% of success from SMG and Pistol.

Regularly, there are members of AUCON invited to participate in the shooting exercise for familiarisation with Slovak guns and for closer cooperation within AUSBATT. How did they like it? They seem to enjoy it, especially MG, and they had achieved quite good results.

*Article and Photo by
Lt I Marek CIRI, SupO/AB*

*In cooperation with
CaptMD Ivana Lakotova dSMO/AB*

3rd COY EAGLE DAY

There is a very special occasion taking place once every half year in 3rd Coy. This half year it was held on 5th Sep 2006. The event, so called 'Eagle' ceremony, is considered to be the official promotion of Slovak soldiers to the full membership in SLOVCON and the UNDOF family. Why Eagle? An eagle is in Slovakia considered a symbol of smartness, accuracy and promptness as well as majesty and magnitude. It is a long tradition that Slovak soldiers use the eagle on their badges and emblems.

The Coy Commander prepared a great celebration for members of 3rd Coy. He invited also members and representatives of AUSBATT and other contingents within UNDOF.

First CO SLOVCON, Maj Juraj

Farkas read the two orders from the Minister of Defense of Slovak Republic. The first one was about the Slovak national holiday that we celebrate on 29th August each year – the day of Slovak national uprising, the event from World War II. The second order was about awards of medals from the Defense Minister "For service in the peacekeeping missions". The official part of the ceremony was accomplished in the parade square at Posn 10. After awards of medals "Eagle" ceremony took place. All 3rd Coy moved next to the pool, where an unofficial part was prepared.

In a little bit of a different way on how to promote soldiers. They were not awarded by ranks but by "Eagle signs". Each soldier from 3rd

Coy is prepared to become a 'real Eagle' after a three-month duty in this mission. Nobody is Gecko any more; they became Eagles.

So this is the procedure: Eagle emblem is thrown into the pool. Each soldier should pick it up from the water and afterwards DCO is prepared to promote him to the Eagle staff member by sword and ceremonially to takeover the Eagle emblem. At the end, everybody was wet; CO AUSBATT LtCol Christian Friedhuber was included, despite the fact that he wasn't promoted.

Congratulation Eagles!!!

*Article by Lt I Marian Simon, DO/AB
In cooperation with*

CaptMD Ivana Lakotova dSMO/AB

What to do during free time???

After arrival to the UNDOF mission area and first familiarization with the duty tasks and present situation, we started to think about what to do with our spare time.

In fact, if an officer is posted at the position with shift duty there is not so much spare time in this mission then. But better than thinking about family or being homesick is to do something interesting and constructive.

The majority of us are interested in sports. We used to visit the gym, play soccer (table version included) or tennis, we enjoy running. But no sport is fun forever.

So, what to do then? It was really a big problem until I met the most experienced Slovak officer in the mission Capt Libor Nyeki. He works here as Senior Duty Officer (SDO) OPS UNDOF. This is the second mission of Capt Nyeki on the Golan Heights; he has been serving here for two and a half years altogether. He is experi-

enced in both duty and leisure. This “traveller” is able to organize a one day trip in a minute. His geographical as well as historical knowledge about the mission area and the Mid-

east is really huge and amazing. So while travelling with him one doesn’t need a guide at all. Would you like to see Damascus, the oldest inhabited city in the world? He will give you a supreme introduction to many parts of Damascus, of course. Would you like to see the beauty of Sea of Galilee? No problem!

ture trips to the Nature Reserve Yehudiya. This reserve is definitely a splendid place, where one can find beautiful canyons with wonderful nature, several amazing waterfalls, along the stream a dozen pools, some of which you can swim across. Sometimes you felt that we were in a jungle. After several hours of walking, climbing and swimming we felt pretty tired at the end of the trip, but satisfied and full of experiences.



Water fall in Nature Reserve Yehudiya

Next great idea of Capt Nyeki was a trip to Bosra. Syrians are really proud of this historical place and they should be. With

each single stone history speaks to you. There is the biggest undamaged amphitheatre I have ever seen. I spent at least 3 hours before we proceeded to the historical part of the “Old Bosra town”.

And this is still not all. Capt Nyeki mentioned several times that he knew this area as well as his mother country – Slovakia. So if you don’t know what to do don’t hesitate to ask him. It will be a pleasure for you to listen to his advice on how to organize your trip in proper a way or it will be pleasure for him to join you. I am looking forward to the next trip for exploration of the beauties of this area too.

*Article by Lt I Marian Simon, DO/AB
In cooperation with
CaptMD Ivana Lakotova dSMO/AB
Photos by LCpl Adrian Varga*



Great Theatre in old Bosra

For me personally and my comrades from AUSBATT we are so grateful to have him. He showed us the tourist centre in Tiberius; we took several adven-

Change of Command



Maj Takahashi, LtGen Sharma, Maj Ueno - After the signing ceremony

On 6th Sep 2006, J-CON held their Change of Command ceremony at Camp Ziouani. Maj Kazushi Ueno, 21st CO J-CON handed over command to Maj Yoji Takahashi, 22nd CO J-CON.

In honor of this ceremony, Force Commander LtGen Bala N. Sharma, Col Eiichiro Fukazawa, the Japanese Military Attaché to Israel as the representative of Japanese Defense Agency, COS Col Andreas

Stupka, CAO Mr. Patrick J. Devaney and many special guests arrived to celebrate this important event. The outgoing and incoming CO and distinguished guests presented their addresses.

LtGen Bala N. Sharma expressed special thanks to Maj Ueno for the excellent job that he and his men provided, and appreciation for his support to the UNDOF mission. LtGen Sharma also gave an encouraging welcome to the new CO J-CON. Following the official part of the ceremony, all honorable guests, J-CON officers and soldiers were invited to a very nice Japanese style lunch.

The CoC reception was held at the A-Line Mess in a pleasant atmosphere and all guests enjoyed themselves.

Article by Capt Kunihiro Suzuki

Photo by WOIII Yuichi Ise

'J-CON Day' on 'The Day of Star' – Festival



'Seoi-Nage'
one technique in Judo

On 7th of July, known as 'The Day of Star' Festival in Japan, we conducted the 'J-CON Day' in Camp Ziouani.



'The Day of Star' - Festival is one of the most beautifully celebrated legends in Japan. Legend has it, that only on this day, Vega and Altair, the legendary lovers can meet each other.

We introduced various kinds of Japanese cultures on the 'J-CON Day'. For example, in the Japanese Garden, we had a Japanese tea ceremony. And we showed the art of

calligraphy at the A-Line Mess. Many guests came and enjoyed the Japanese cultures, as well as Japanese foods.

We will have the next 'J-CON Day' at Camp Faouar in January. We hope you will come and enjoy the event.

And in the future, we wish for the day when we will be able to invite the guests from both sides to enjoy all events on either side of the border.

Article by Capt Megumi Ohata

Photo by SSgt Hiromichi Sato

Joint UNDOF - OGG Exercise Prepares Participants for Real World Issues.

On 14th Sep 2006 members of OGG (Observer Group Golan) together with members of UNDOF conducted a joint exer-

were showing too much interest in the women of the village. The second scenario included a man and his wife with their baby who appeared

women. All participants of the exercise, led by COO AUSBATT Maj Frank-Michael Gutzelnig, were very satisfied after the exercise as



UNDOF's Special Task Service facing an 'angry mob'.



Maj Levesque (CAN) dealing with a sick child at the gate of his 'OP'

cise called 'Last Chance' at Camp Faouar.

The aim of the exercise was two fold: **1.** to train UNMO's in procedures to request assistance in case of situations and emergencies when they are on their Observation Post (OP) and familiarize them with communication procedures with Duty Officer UNDOF and **2.** to train UNDOF how to react to a support request by OGG.

Three scenarios were planned and executed: one in which some protesters appeared at the gate demanding that the UN should leave as the protesters thought that UN members

at the gate of the 'OP', requesting help for their sick child. In the final scenario the UNMO had to deal with an angry mob armed with

they enjoyed participating and felt they learned a great deal.

How very real the scenarios were, was proven later when on 22nd



UNDOF's Special Task Service in action.

sticks and glass bottles demanding the UNMO to come out of the OP as they accused the UNMO of sexual harassment to one of the village

Sep 2006 a father with his severely injured 18 month old child appeared at the gate of OP 57 (Team Oasis) and requested medical assistance. Capt Mirella Kuosa (FIN) acted professionally by bringing the child and father to the nearest medical facility (Posn 80) and after initial medical assistance to the Khan Arnabe Hospital.

*Article by Maj John Bakker
Photos by Capt Arie Kabbedijk*

Duty on MP C-Det

This time it is my honour to present to you and tell you about the Military Police Charlie Detachment (MP C-Det). Most UNDOF Personnel meet us on a daily basis, so it is time to introduce our Detachment and inform you about what we expect from you and what you can expect from us when crossing from A to B-Side and vice versa.



'Charly Family'

I am WOII Tomasz Zygmunt, of Polish Nationality and Detachment Commander MP C-Det.

I come from Szczecin, arrived at the theatre on 31st Aug 2006 and I am here for a tour of six months. This is my 2nd tour after one with KFOR.

My 2iC is WOII Tharry Potho, Austrian, and so far he has been on several missions in the Balkans and is at the moment on his 4th tour with UNDOF.

The four other MPs serving at C-Det are WOIII Piotr Wisniewski from Przemysl, WOIII Robert Szymanski from Poznan (both of Polish Nationality), MSgt Marcel Fodor, Slovakian Nationality and Sgt Yashvir Singh from New Delhi, India, who just recently arrived

replacing our LCpl Gurbakshish Singh who just returned home after a seven month tour with UNDOF.

What we expect from you:

Follow the Crossing Procedures as written in the UNDOF SOP. We want you to stop your UN Vehicle in the respective area, switch off the engine, exit your vehicle and produce your UN ID to the Duty MP.

He then will conduct a search on your vehicle and when done will allow you to proceed. Always keep in mind the limits concerning alcohol and cigarettes!

We really appreciate cooperative behaviour from your side.

What you can expect from us:

As we work at C-Gate on an almost daily basis, (MPs need days off too, sometimes) we are very well informed about the Crossing Procedures and have a good relationship with both A and B Gates. You can expect us to assist you in every crossing matter and we will give you information about Crossing Procedures,

Crossing Lists or gate opening hours if needed via phone on extension 6282. Be aware that starting from 1st Oct 2006, A-Gate closes at 1600 hrs LT every Friday! Apart from the daily routine crossings, weddings and Student Crossings take place at C-Gate as well.

The International Red Cross Committee and Officers from OGG supervise these special occasions. Last but not least I would like to mention the support from the AUSBATT Dog Handlers with their Search Dogs - one for explosives, and the other for narcotics, who assist MP C-Det on a regular basis. We really appreciate their searches at our gate.

Article by WOII Tomasz Zygmunt
Photo by LCpl G. S. Sandhu

The New Medical Center at Camp Faouar - Part 1 of 4

The story of how it came into being: Based upon a comprehensive hygiene and situation report which was drafted by SMO Dr. Wolfram Heidinger, a project application was submitted to UNNY HQ in October 2004.

In March 2005 the approval for developing the New Medical Center was given to UNDOF. Due to the size of the mission the applicable guideline for this project was determined and called: 'Medical Facility Level 1'. So designing the layout started and had to address many requirements and functions, which were going to effect daily medical work.

Projects had to be developed into three directions, where finally the main topics of customer needs, the area of legality in terms of construction-regulations and standards, and on top of it the financial aspect had to be covered. Engineers and Medics were drawn around the table for many conferences to factor all medical specifications. Eventually a final layout was established in January 2006.

At this stage one name needs to be mentioned particularly: Sgt Gerd Fleps who spent so many dedicated hours on drafts & drawings to achieve the project's final design. Some points to emphasize:



Maj Zaller, Foreman Ali Mousayn, Sgt Oswald

- All in-patient rooms as well as offices for medical personnel are located towards South and West gaining natural light.
- Subordinated facilities such as storages, pharmacy and laundry, will be found towards North.
- Easy access to sanitary installations for disabled people.
- Two rooms for contagious in-patients.

After the bidding process and its evaluation, engineers are picking up currently the challenge of construction. Guided by Capt Pavan K. Gajula, CEO, and finally led by the FCEO, Sgt Philipp Oswald, successor of Sgt Fleps, became the assigned project supervisor. Sgt Oswald attended a 'Higher Technical College for Construction', which lasted five years and due to his education has performed very capably so far.

Many thanks also to other promoters of this project like Col Carl Hussey (CISS 2004-05), Mr. Gerald Smith (CAO 2004-05) and Mr. Ian Murray, CCEO.

Talking about the timeframe - the structure should be finished by December 2006 and the medical utilization ought to start by April 2007. Finally UNDOF medical personnel can render really improved services for both, UN personnel and Syrian residents, in the future.

To be continued...

Article by Maj Roman Zaller, FCEO



Photo by WO II Gernot Payer

Busy little bees all around



Photo by Sgt Philipp Oswald

Concreting the Foundation

Omanad Mosque

