

UNDOF

peacekeeping moments



the 35th anniversary 1974 - 2009

UNDOF

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

peacekeeping moments



the 35th anniversary
1974 - 2009

Imprint

This photo book, "UNDOF peacekeeping moments", is a product of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and is intended to provide a general photographic record to commemorate the 35 years of existence of the Mission.

It is published by the UNDOF Media and Public Relations Office using photographs selected from the files of the Force Photographer, members of UNDOF and archives material.

The selection aims to record a cross-section of UNDOF activities over the years as a general record and it is not intended to give priority or attention to any particular activity or function of UNDOF. With our best intentions we present this good-will selection on the basis that the photos, notes and comments are not intended to convey the official view or policy of either the United Nations or the UNDOF Force Commander.

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Force Commander's Prologue

UNDOF has enjoyed tremendous success marked by stability and peace in the region. While measures of peace are relative, the absence of significant conflict is a clear indicator that our mission is both successful and necessary - UNDOF has made a difference.

Of course, we can neither rest nor become complacent; our continued success depends on vigilance, operational focus and professional competence in all aspects of our ongoing work here.

Thirty-five years in the service of peace is a remarkable milestone. Thousands of civilian and military members from all over the world have performed hundreds of thousands of hours of selfless and dedicated service. This book is a celebration of those people and their accomplishments in UNDOF.

While life is relatively comfortable today, this has not always been so. Early rotations endured harsh conditions and lived a very austere life. Those of us who have the honour to serve in UNDOF today are standing on the shoulders of those who gone before and made the mission what it is today. This will try to capture the accomplishments of those before us and the legacy will must preserve for the future.

I am extremely proud to be part of the UNDOF family once again and very happy to be present for such an important event. Thank you for taking an interest in our part of the world and our lives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wolfgang Jilke".

*MGen Wolfgang Jilke
Force Commander UNDOF*





JILKE



Chief of Staff's Prologue

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established in 1974 following the agreed disengagement of the Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights with a mandate to supervise the disengagement and maintain the ceasefire in its area of operation. It's a measure of the Force's success that ever since it's raising 35 years back; the Israel-Syria Area of Separation has remained the most stable in the entire region.

UNDOF's continued success is undoubtedly the function of the focused professionalism of its personnel, both military and civilian. However, it is also a reflection of the vision of its leaders through the years that has ensured that the Force evolves with time. This "Album" is an honest attempt at narrating UNDOF's fascinating story through the medium of the "Lens". An additional aim is to archive both; its journey over the past 35 years and its contemporariness.

This compilation would not have been possible but for the untiring zeal of the UNDOF Media and Public Relations Section. They deserve our sincerest gratitude.

Well Done!



*Col Ganesh Singh Bisht
Chief of Staff UNDOF*





COS

Chief of Mission Support's Prologue

As of September 2008, I joined UNDOF as Chief of Mission Support (CMS). Mission Support is similar at all peacekeeping/peacebuilding UN missions around the world and some organization chart may differ from place to place but the basis for provision of support is the same.

The CMS serves as principal adviser to the Force Commander, as head of administrative and logistical support functions and ensures that support is provided in an effective, efficient and timely manner through the various sections. The CMS also exercises budgetary control, as the main certifying officer and chief custodian of the UN's funds and equipment allotted to the mission.

Mission support in general is just that – it provides the necessary and requisite support to the mission members so that the substantive work can be properly carried out in accordance with UNDOF's mandate.

While I believe the details of the various sections under Mission Support will also be delineated in this special commemorative issue, I should just like to enumerate on prime considerations. This includes forecasting the mission's requirements as regards to funding. We plan and prepare the UNDOF cost estimates based on projected needs for the budget period which run from 1st July to 30th June of the following year, for submission to UN HQ, NY and we also report on budget performance for the related periods.

Mission Support also reports through pre-established methods to UN HQ, NY on administrative, logistical and financial matters. This includes through the monthly CMS Report, monthly financial statements and monthly inventory reports to name a few. As CMS, I also have to ensure that delegated mission authorities are exercised in accordance with the UN's rules and regulations and established practices; and I am responsible for the establishment, maintenance and enforcement of adequate internal controls which would later be checked by OIOS auditors thoroughly yearly audits.

As regards personnel related matters in the mission, we provide direction in respect of the



management, policy and procedural matters affecting all aspects of the civilian support of the mission. While UNDOF is reviewing its current organizational structure and working on proposals for improvement of military/civilian integration, I encourage all of you to get to know your military or civilian colleague/counterparts on a more personal basis in order for enhancement of working relations.



Mary C. Roth
Chief Mission Support



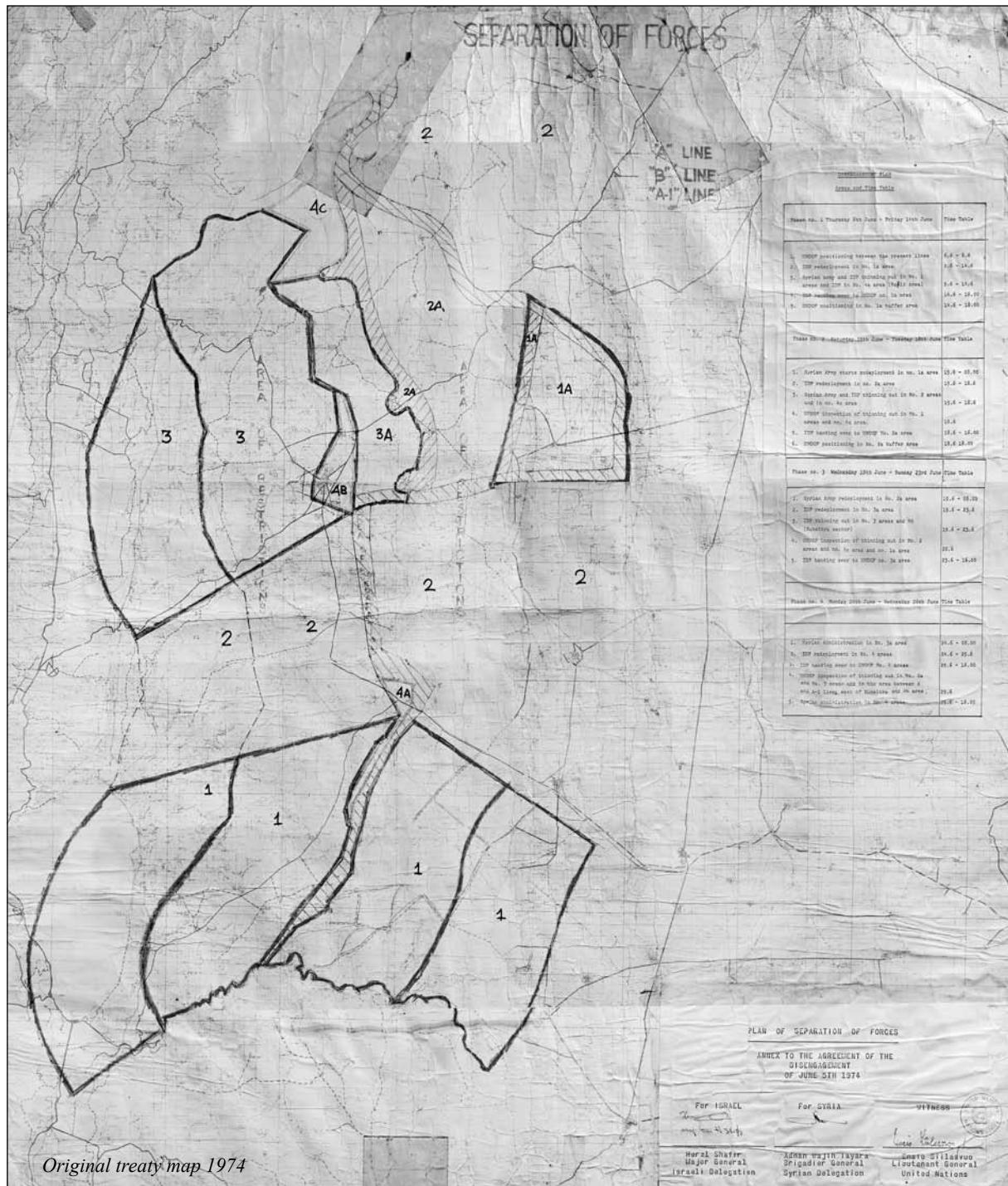
History of UNDOF

On 6th October 1973 war erupted in the Middle East between Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Suez Canal area and the Sinai, and between Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights. On 24th October, as fighting between Egypt and Israel reached a critical stage, the Security Council decided to set up a second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II). The Force was immediately moved into place between the Israeli and Egyptian armies in the Suez Canal area, and its arrival effectively stabilized the situation.

In the Israel-Syria sector tension remained high, and from March 1974 the situation became increasingly unstable. Against this background, the United States undertook a diplomatic initiative, which resulted in the conclusion of an Agreement on Disengagement (S/11302/Add.1, Annexes I and II) between the Israeli and Syrian forces. The Agreement provided for an Area of Separation and for two equal zones of limited forces and armaments on both sides of the area, and called for the establishment of a United Nations observer force to supervise its implementation.

The Agreement was signed on 31st May 1974 and, on the same day, the Security Council adopted resolution 350 (1974) by which it set up the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The Force has since performed its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties. The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained quiet. Both parties cooperate fully with the mission and for a number of years there have been no serious incidents.





History of UNDOF troop contributing countries

1974

In June, the contingents from Austria, Peru, Poland and Canada were deployed from UNEF II in Sinai to Syria. AUSBATT inherited the northern part of the Area of Separation (AOS) including the Mt. Hermon area and PERBATT the southern part. The Polish Logistical Contingent POLLOG and CANLOG were to cover the logistics tasks. Canada also supplied communications detachments to all UNDOF units.



1975

In September, the outgoing Peruvian Contingent handed over their tasks in the southern part of the Area of Separation to the Iranian Contingent.



1979

In March, the FINCOY, a strengthened Company from the Finnish Battalion in UNEF II, was deployed at the Golan and took over the tasks of the outgoing Iranian Battalion. And in August, after the mandate of UNEF II ended, the whole Finish Battalion was sent to the Golan.

1993

In October, the POLLOG completed its mission and returned to Poland but in December a Polish Infantry Battalion took over the mandate tasks from the Finnish Battalion in the southern part of the Area of Separation and also employed in HQ staff positions.



1996

Peacekeepers from Japan took their first step on the Golan Heights and were engaged mainly in logistics operations together with the CANLOG forming LOGBATT, which has been functioning ever since.

1998

Starting in May, peacekeepers from the Slovakian Republic (SLOVCON) were integrated into the Austrian Battalion and in May 1999, the reinforced SLOVCON took over the 3rd Coy in AUSBATT also providing staff personnel to various HQ functions.

2006

The Canadian Forces closed out its Logistics Operation DANACA in March being replaced by an Indian Contingent. Only two Canadian Senior Officers remained with UNDOF HQ. The INDCON is mainly deployed in Camp Ziouani but fulfills also various HQ functions.



2008

In June, the last Slovak Contingent left the Golan and the first contingent from Croatia took over their tasks in the 3rd Coy of AUSBATT and HQ functions.



Activities of UNDOF

In order to carry out its mandate, UNDOF maintains an Area of Separation (AOS), which is approximately 80 kilometers long and varies in width from 10 kilometers in the centre to less than one kilometer in the extreme south. The terrain is hilly and is dominated in the north by Mount Hermon. The highest permanently manned United Nations position is at an altitude of 2,814 metres. The AOS is inhabited and is policed by the Syrian authorities. No military forces other than UNDOF are permitted within it.

UNDOF is entirely deployed within and close to the AOS, with two base camps, about 20 permanently manned positions and 11 observation posts. The Headquarters of UNDOF is located at Camp Faouar and an office is maintained at Damascus. In addition, the Force operates patrols by day and night. The Austrian Battalion, which includes a Croatian Company, is deployed in the northern part of the AOS, while the Polish Battalion is deployed in the southern part. Its base camp is Camp Ziouani. Mine clearance is conducted by both battalions under the operational control of UNDOF Headquarters. The Force is assisted by the military observers of UNTSO's Observer Group Golan.

The Indian and Japanese logistic units, which are based in Camp Ziouani with a detachment in Camp Faouar, perform the second-line general transport tasks, rotation transport, control and management of goods received by the Force and maintenance of heavy equipment. First-line logistic support is internal to the contingents and includes transport of supplies to the positions. From its various positions and through its patrols, the Force supervises the AOS and intervenes whenever any military personnel enters or try to operate therein. This is effected by means of permanently manned positions and observation posts, by foot and mobile patrols operating at irregular intervals by day and night on predetermined routes. On each side of the AOS there is one Area of Limitation (AOL) with three zones, one 0 to 10 kilometers, one 10 to 20 kilometers and one 20 to 25 kilometers wide. UNDOF inspects these areas fortnightly in order to ascertain that the agreed limitations in armaments and forces are being observed.

UNDOF continues to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with facilities for mail and the passage of persons through the AOS. Within the means available, medical treatment is provided to the local population on request.

In UNDOF's area of responsibility, especially in the AOS, minefields continue to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. In consultation with the Syrian authorities, UNDOF instituted a minefield security and maintenance programme in the AOS to identify and mark all minefields. The Force also supported the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

Another priority for the mission is to address the environmental consequences of the Force's activities and presence in the area of responsibility. The Force is taking steps to ensure that its presence does not contribute to further environmental pollution of the area.



Previous UNDOF Force Commanders



BGen Gonzalo BRINCENO - **PERU**
June 1974 - December 1974



MGen Hannes PHILIPP - **AUSTRIA**
December 1974 - May 1979



MGen Günther GREINDL - **AUSTRIA**
May 1979 - February 1981



MGen Erik KAIRA - **FINLAND**
March 1981 - April 1982



MGen Gustav STAHL - **SWEDEN**
June 1982 - May 1985



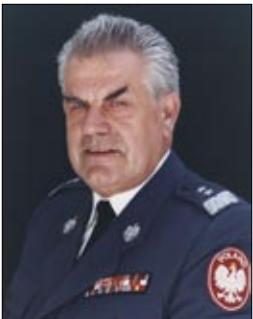
MGen Gustav HAGGLUND - **FINLAND**
June 1985 - May 1986



MGen Gustav WELIN - **SWEDEN**
July 1986 - September 1988



MGen Adolf RADAUER - **AUSTRIA**
September 1988 - September 1991



MGen Roman MISZTAL - **POLAND**
September 1991 - November 1994



MGen J.C. KOSTERS - **NETHERLANDS**
January 1995 - May 1997



MGen David F. STAPLETON - **IRELAND**
May 1997 - August 1998



MGen H. Cameron ROSS - **CANADA**
October 1998 - July 2000



MGen Bo WRANKER - **SWEDEN**
August 2000 - August 2003



MGen Franciszek GAGOR - **POLAND**
August 2003 - January 2004



LtGen Bala Nanda SHARMA - **NEPAL**
January 2004 - January 2007



UNDOF Headquarters



Operations Branch

The Operations Branch is located in Camp Faouar and is under command of the Chief Operations Officer. It operates in the Joint Operations Center (JOC) in close cooperation with the Joint Mission Analysis Cell (JMAC). The JOC/JMAC is the center of gravity where all incoming information is collected and, after assessment by its experts, is forwarded to UNDOF HQ for decision making process. The JOC/JMAC operates 24 hours a day, seven days per week by the Operations Staff. It is equipped with modern infrastructure for all essential Staff- and Liaison Officers from each battalion.

The Mission Training Cell, directly under the command of the Chief Operations Officer, is focused on evaluation of the mission's effectiveness during training and exercises, working through contingency plans based on training needs assessments and providing continuous updates of UNDOF lessons learned collected by all parties. The Training Unit also practices integration with the civilian component of UNDOF by coordinating civilian operational exercises, updating contingency plans and implementing all mandatory trainings.

Since UNDOF was established in 1974, the concept of operations has changed from a static model to a mobile and pro-active concept.

UNDOF peacekeepers closely monitor their respective sectors continuously from their watch towers at the permanently manned positions in the Area of Separation. Key positions located on main roads control movements in order to prevent military personnel and vehicles entering the Area of Separation in accordance with the Mission Mandate.



Temporary observation posts and observer posts reinforce the surveillance system of regular observation posts operated by Observer Group Golan of UNTSO, UNDOF positions and patrols. However the number of positions was reduced to gain manpower for mobile tasks.

In addition UNDOF conducts numerous mobile patrols operating from the permanently manned Positions to ensure a round the clock surveillance. Ready Reaction Groups (RRG) and Ready Reaction Patrols (RRP) can be deployed when suspicious activities require immediate additional observation and action within the UNDOF mandate.

The importance of an effective deployment of rapid reaction forces has increased due to the recent development of the AOS; the busy traffic, sizeable civilian construction projects and rising agricultural activities. This development has led to an increase in violations of the Agreement as more people cross the cease fire line such as farmers, shepherds, and construction workers.

To support the flexibility in mobile operations the Force Headquarters Company, based in Camp Faouar is held as a Force Reserve. This Company is tasked to react on violations of the agreement in the AOS and also used for regular patrols, temporary observation posts and temporary checkpoints.





The JOC/JMAC is occupied 24 hours on seven days per week by the Operations Officers from UNDOF and OGG and one signaller. In times of crises enhanced by additional Staff- and Liaison Officers.

Daily morning briefing in the Joint Operations Center / Joint Mission Analysis Cell giving a situation update over the past 24 hours.





Members of the Operations Branch, May 2009

Mobile Operations

Since UNDOF was established at the Golan Heights the Operational Concept changed from a static system to more and more mobile operations with the aim to verify immediately what was observed by a position, observation post or patrol. Reserves may be deployed to show strength, to reinforce positions, observation posts and outposts, to conduct additional patrols, and to establish additional checkpoints.



UNDOF conducts night patrols to ensure a continuous surveillance in the Area of Separation. Ready Reaction Groups and Ready Reaction Patrols can be immediately deployed at any time, day or night.



UNDOF developed its surveillance technique to a flexible and reactive mobile operation in order to meet the objectives of the mandate



During winter times AUSBATT soldiers conduct ski patrols on Mt. Hermon



Static Operations

In the early stages of UNDOF the Concept of Operations was based on permanently manned positions and observation posts which focused on the few roads entering the AOS.



Temporary observation posts are reinforcing the UNDOF surveillance system of permanently manned observation posts operated by UNDOF and the Observer Group Golan



Equipped with new night vision devices UNDOF increased its observation capabilities at night up to 5 km



*There is a number of watch towers in the Area of Separation permanently or temporarily occupied.
The permanently manned positions are occupied around the clock by UNDOF peacekeepers observing their respective observation sectors.*

Mission Training Cell

The Mission Training Cell, under command of the Chief Operations Officer in the Operations Branch, is responsible for development and supervision of training and development and coordination required for future operations. It identifies training requirements for pre-deployment training and in-mission training and organizes and supervises all training within UNDOF. Further it keeps close contact with the focal points from the subordinate units and civilian Training Officer to gain information and coordinate all training activities.



Fire fighting training with civilian staff in Camp Faouar



Crowd control is a sensitive issue to be handled with professional approach preventing an escalation of the conflict



First aid training during exercises enhances skills and confidence of all UNDOF peacekeepers.



Local civilian projects

The number of inhabitants increased within the last 35 years from 5,000 to 100,000. The required development of the area entails increased civilian works in the UNDOF Area of Responsibility. This works comprise agricultural projects, building new settlements, road networks and related infrastructure. To prevent related violations UNDOF has to monitor all these activities and react accordingly.



Continuous improvement of the local infrastructure is observed for the last few years

Construction of settlement close to the technical fence demands highest attention of UNDOF patrols and operations



Due to increased agricultural activities the grass fields are decreasing and local shepherds are forced to move closer and closer to the technical fence causing more deployment of UNDOF troops



Liaison Protocol and Information Branch

The Liaison Protocol and Information Branch is a diverse branch engaged whenever host authorities are involved. The main task is liaison with the host nations and over the years the branch has fostered positive relations with both parties through sometimes difficult and challenging periods.

The Information Analysis Section was added in 2005 and is responsible for the information and security up-dates of the force on a daily basis. It originated from the former Press & Information Section and the OpsInfo Section and is developing to become part of the Joint Mission Analysis Cell (JMAC) with its essential role in providing sound and timely advice to the Force Commander.

The Crossing Management and Administration Section (CMA) handles all coordination matters in connection with the host nations ensuring that UNDOF's movements of personnel and goods run smoothly and trouble-free.

Due to this wide scope of tasks the Liaison Protocol and Information Branch enjoys the full support of all other UNDOF branches and sections and is hence able to fulfill its mission and contribute to the successful work of UNDOF.





Members of the Liaison Protocol and Information Branch, May 2009

Military Personnel / Media and Public Relations Branch

The Chief Military Personnel Officer (CMPO) is the senior advisor to the Force Commander on military personnel matters. He is responsible for human resource functions, welfare, media and public relations.

The Personnel Section is composed of the Personnel Office and the Central Registry Unit. The mixed military and civilian team provides comprehensive personnel administration and services to all contingent military members, including management of military leave, mail delivery, duty rosters, updating of contingent nominal rolls, and a variety of personnel services and reporting functions.

The Media and Public Relations Section is the Show Window for all UNDOF activities. It is responsible for planning, coordinating and conducting visits to UNDOF of high ranking officials and dignitaries from various nations. It interacts with the electronic and print media on the activities of UNDOF. The Section is publishing the “Golan Journal”- the UNDOF magazine, which gives a brief insight on the multifaceted tasks of UNDOF on quarterly basis to the staff members and general public. In addition, it also maintains a photo archive to keep record of UNDOF images since its inception at the Golan Heights.



The Media and Public Relations Section





Printing of the Golan Journal



Central Registry - document management



New ID cards for all UNDOF members



Members of the Military Personnel Branch, February 2009

Medical Branch

In every mission medical service is a crucial element in the support functions. It is crucial because availability of sufficient medical treatment does not leave space for a compromise. We could witness steady improvements of medical support through steady implementation of best practices, gained from 35 years of experience.

Today we tempt to state that, given the surrounding conditions, standard of medical support to UNDOF rates at international level. This also demonstrates good cooperation of all players within the mission, its lead, branches, sections and units. The new Medical Center at Camp Faouar is a strong and evident statement that the medical branch is ready to tackle whatever may come. Medical staff have always taken pride in contributing their best possible medical performance, and will even continue to reach out for the better.





The modern sick room



The medical treatment area



Members of the Medical Center, May 2009



Medical team supporting the EOD work



The emergency ambulance in Mt. Hermon area, 1982





Medical treatment in the new Medical Center

Since 2008 the Medical Center operates an APC-ambulance completely equipped with emergency devices



Mission Support within UNDOF

Geographical Information Services Office

The GIS office was established in May 2006 under the framework of Digital Mapping Project with the assistance of the Cartographic Section of the UN HQ. The unit is involved in preparing operational maps, fieldwork and verification support for UNDOF and UNTSO-OGG operations, developing GPS capabilities through joint GPS training to UNDOF and UNTSO-OGG military personnel. Strategic mapping is increasingly used as a tool by the Force Commander for strategic negotiations with the respective parties. Inter-mission cooperation with other GIS units from UNIFIL and UNTSO is also nurtured through joint staff training and technical support on preservation of historical maps of the Middle East. The unit is currently building a geo-infrastructure envisioning the use of dynamic web mapping to support the Joint Operations Centre and Joint Mission Analysis Cell.



GPS training in UNDOF area of responsibility





GIS-Staff, March 2009

Budget Office

The Budget Office at UNDOF is located within the office of the Chief of Mission Support and is staffed by a Budget Officer and Budget Assistant.

UNDOF's approved budget for 2008/2009 is up to \$47.8 million, the budget unit plays a very important role in monitoring and approving on a daily basis all requisitions, as well as to ensure that all requirements raised are in accordance to the procurement plan. Any changes results in an coordinated effort with the Cost Centre Managers requesting them to provide appropriate justification, any deviations from the plans are reported, recorded, and documented to be used in preparing the performance.

Budget office provides budgetary and planning support to the Chief of Mission Support on a regular basis and also co-ordinates the formulation of the budget



within the mission, between the Cost Centre Managers and the Head of the Mission and Chief of Mission Support. It also liaises with counterparts at Headquarters to ensure that their inputs and recommendation are taken into consideration.

At the end of the financial period the Budget Office prepares the financial performance on the approved budget; this includes providing details on expenditure patters, plans implemented and any deviations justified appropriately.



Finance Office

The Finance Office is responsible for the administration of the mission's accounts under authority delegated by the Controller. This office is made up of the following five units: Accounts, Cash, Vendors, Payroll, International Staff and Military Claims Unit and the newly created Invoice Processing.

The main goal of the section is to provide efficient financial services to UNDOF in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations and to ensure that internal financial controls are in place and functioning.



Staff of the Finance Office, September 2008



Integrated Services Structure Branch

The Integrated Services Structure (ISS) Branch is the provider for UNDOF and is responsible for the entire logistics of the mission. It is a vital link in the UNDOF operations as it “forms the core for the planning of operations” at UNDOF. Any operational plan to succeed depends on a sound logistic plan to support it.

To effectively carry out its intended task the ISS Branch comprises of four main sections that are the Transport, General Services, Information Technology, and Engineering Sections. The head of the ISS Branch is the Chief Integrated Support Services (CISS). The responsibility of the ISS Branch varies from the supply of rations and entire supplies of the mission to the construction of new positions and maintenance of the existing ones. Further tasks are to undertake repairs of high technology equipment, maintenance of the IT environment for enhanced and efficient interoperability and intra and inter communication of the mission.

The challenges in the ISS Branch are real time and current, and despite the numerous challenges it has been constantly strived to achieve excellence and optimize effectiveness and greater efficiency in not only ensuring operational readiness of all the logistic elements but also maintain highest standards of user satisfaction.

The section has achieved a singular harmony in integrated functioning of the civil and the military staff and has achieved tremendous success. Thus under the able guidance of the CISS, the ISS Branch is carrying out a yeoman service to the mission in pursuit of excellence and achieve its motto: ***Sky is the limit***.





Staff of the Integrated Services Structure Branch, April 2009

General Services Section

The General Services Section (GSS) has many areas of responsibility and the work carried out by GSS staff affects everyone working in UNDOF. This is the section that manages property, food, fuel, registry and camp services and has a hand in everything from the food eaten in the international kitchens to the furniture used in the offices and accommodations.

The section is comprised of five units, the Property Control & Inventory Contingent owned Equipment and Disposal Unit, the Property Survey Board and Claims Unit, the Receiving and Inspection Unit, the Registry and Archives Unit and the Supply Unit which also encompasses the Food, Fuel and Camp Services Units.

The Receiving and Inspection Unit, Property Control & Inventory Contingent owned Equipment and Disposal Unit and the Property Survey Board and Claims Unit are responsible for overseeing the entire lifecycle of UNDOF property from its acquisition and entry to the mission's inventory to its appropriate usage and subsequent write off and disposal.

The Supply Unit is responsible for issuance of all office supplies, stationery, accommodation equipment and furniture and the Food and Fuel Units take care of the essentials to keep both UNDOF staff and vehicles running. Camp Services includes all cleaning and gardening services and also covers the barber and tailor. The Registry and Archiving Unit takes care of all mail and diplomatic pouch services.

While each Unit in General Services has a specialized area, all of the Units work together cohesively under the leadership of the Chief General Services and his deputy the Senior Staff Officer for Logistics to ensure that the day to day operations of UNDOF run smoothly.





Stationary warehouse



The new supply warehouse



At the fuel station in Camp Faouar



Staff of the General Services Section, February 2009

Communications and Information Technology Section

The Communications Information Technology Section (CITS) comprises of eleven international, twelve national and six military staff to provide proper communications to the mission. CITS ensures smooth functioning of e-mail services, internet services, computer based office work environment and the telephone services at several locations throughout the mission. CITS also ensures radio communication and video conferencing services.

Apart from this the section has also taken up best practices from the past to enhance and optimize its effectiveness by exploring new projects and on time accomplishment of projects. One common goal reached is the integrated approach, where civilian and military staff work together hand in glove.



Alignment of the microwave link





Dome at Position Hermon South



Installing microwave links in the dome



Communication device in winter season



Staff of the Communications and Information Technology Section, May 2008

Transport Section

The Transport Section comprises of twenty-four national staff, four internationals and four military personnel; a fleet consisting of 389 vehicles including fourteen SISU armored personnel carriers (APC), four M113 and three RG32M vehicles at a value of approximately \$14 millions. The Section also runs five vehicle workshops to support the repair & maintenance of this vast fleet. Thus the Transport Section is a vital link in the UNDOF operations as it “makes things move” at UNDOF.

In spite of the numerous challenges the Transport Section has been constantly striving to achieve excellence and optimize effectiveness and greater efficiency in not only operating techniques but also maintenance, so as to ensure maximum availability of vehicles in the mission. The section has achieved a singular harmony in integrated functioning of the civil and the military staff and has succeeded in keeping the non-availability percentage of vehicles as low as 2-3 %, much below then the general average of 6-7 %. This has been made possible by the perseverance and the dedication of the personnel of the section under the able leadership of the Chief Transport Officer (CTO) to achieve our motto: “Excellence in all spheres”!



SISU



M113



RG32M





Staff of the Transport Section, August 2008

Procurement Section

The main objective of the Procurement Section is to support UNDOF in obtaining goods and services for all its requirements. Although some products can be ordered under HQ contracts (e.g. vehicles and IT equipment), many other requirements are being sourced locally: fuel, food, construction works, spare parts, maintenance, cleaning services, etc. The Procurement Section conducts the procurement process in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations. This includes: identification of potential suppliers, preparation and submission of tender documents (RFQ/RFP/ITB), evaluation of offers, and contracting the selected vendors.

The following general principles are given due consideration when exercising the procurement function:

- **Best value for money**
- **Fairness, integrity and transparency**
- **Effective international competition**
- **Interest of the UN**

The Procurement Section has two units: the Purchasing Unit which deals with short term requirements, and the Contracts Unit which deals with long term requirements and local contracts. The Procurement Section has currently 15 posts, including one staff member in Camp Ziouani, who deals with vendors on the A-Side.





Staff of the Procurement Section in Camp Faouar, September 2008



Staff member of the Procurement Section in Camp Ziouani, October 2008

Engineering Section

The Engineering Section comprises of 32 persons including three international staff, ten military staff and 19 local staff members. The Engineering Section provides construction services and infrastructure maintenance for all UNDOF positions as well as power generation, power distribution and fire services. The Engineering Section also provides material and technical support to the battalion's construction engineering units. The services provided by the Engineering Section have been essential for the mission's operation as without power and facilities no branch or section in the mission is able to operate effectively.

The Engineering Section has dealt with numerous challenges over the history of UNDOF. These range from the initial set up of the main camps and positions at the start of the mission to the continuous upgrades and improvements as well as the Headquarters transfer from Damascus to Camp Faouar in 1994. Furthermore the recent modernization program from 2002 to 2005 was realized when a number of positions were closed and the infrastructure at other positions was expanded and upgraded. The quality of life for staff and soldiers has been improved drastically by the work of the Engineering Section over the years with new quarters, kitchens, shelters, a vast increase in the availability of air conditioning and the establishment of water wells on most of the positions. The stability of the power generation and distribution systems has been outstanding with primary and backup generators ensuring operations are not effected by problems on the local power grid.

The achievements of the Engineering Section have been made possible by an efficient and integrated way how the military and civilian staff work together. As we like to say in the Engineering Section: "The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes us a little bit longer."





Build-up of a watch tower



Carpenter at work



The plumber in the spare part store



Staff of the Engineering Section, March 2009



The Golan Heights - View from Outpost 22D



AUSBATT comprising AUCON and HRVCON



Immediate after the adoption of UNSCR 350, the UN Secretary-General asked the Austrian representative to the UN for a transfer of troops from UNEF II from Egypt to Syria, which was approved by the Austrian Government on 4th June 1974. The Austrian UNEF II Contingent was still in Egypt at the time, monitoring the buffer zone east of the Suez Canal. As soon as the area was handed over to troops from Senegal and Ghana, the battalion together with a contingent from Peru was redeployed to Syria in the operation "CONCORD".

The contingent started its move to the new mission area prior to receiving official permission from the Austrian Government, which arrived just shortly before the contingent reached its intermediate destination in the area of Rabah, located at the northern edge of the Sinai desert. It took the 179 troops and 53 vehicles only four days to drive the 680 km stretch to the Golan Heights, half of it through desert terrain without a single incident, which was quite remarkable. The 1st Company monitored the Mt. Hermon from its newly taken positions, while the 2nd Company controlled movements on the route from Damascus to Quneitra and the 3rd Company was deployed in the area between. Poland detached a supply company and an engineer company from UNEF II to UNDOF and Canada came in with combat service support.

Just when "Operation Disengagement" ended, a tragic accident overshadowed the mission. On 25th June 1974, in the mountainous area, four patrol members on a motorized patrol hit a mine and were killed. They were the first Austrian fatalities suffered in a UN mission.



Austria has provided troops to the UN since 1960. In June 1975 PERBATT was pulled out and replaced by the Iranian Battalion IRANBATT in August. Until the arrival of the Iranians, the Austrians had to provide a fourth company with the code name "Bedouin" manning the twelve PERBATT positions. IRANBATT took over the sector of the main route between Khan Arnabeh and Quneitra stretching south to the Jordanian border. When parts of IRANBATT were attached to UNIFIL and deployed to southern Lebanon in 1978, their six remaining positions were also taken over by the Austrians. At the end of March 1979 the Iranians pulled out completely from the region, coincidental at the same time with a revolution in Iran. As a consequence, the fourth company was deployed for the operation "Fast Switch", taking over again the southern sector of the AOS until the arrival of a Finnish contingent forming FINBATT on 17th September 1979. FINBATT withdrew from the Golan in 1993 and was replaced by POLBATT.

In May 1998 a Slovak rifle platoon took over positions from AUSBATT 3rd Company as well as four posts in UNDOF and AUSBATT Headquarters. In May 1999 the contingent augmented to 93 troops. Handing the only AUSBATT Position on the A-Side over to POLBATT was another change to the long history of Austrian presence here. This initiative was already taken up during the eighties for a first time, but failed. After months of negotiation the keys of Position 22 were handed over to POLBATT in March 2003. The Position was again reverted back to AUSBATT in March 2009.



After ten years serving side by side with the Austrians the Slovak Contingent left UNDOF on 6th June 2008 and the Croatian Contingent came in to fill their place. During 35 years of UNDOF more than ten thousand Austrian soldiers provided their service for peace on the Golan with still more to come.



AUSBATT

1st Coy



Position Hermon Base



Position Hermon Hotel



Position Hermon South



Position 12





AUSBATT

2nd Coy



Position 27



Position 25



Position 32



Position 22



Position 37





HRVCON

3rd Coy of AUSBATT



Position 10



Position 30



Position 31



Position 16



Position 17



Temporary Observation Post 32A



Pictures of AUSBATT



Camp Faouar (northern side), 2009



Camp Faouar (eastern side), 2009



Camp Faouar, 1974



Marching in for the AUSBATT Medal Parade, May 2009





Annual commemorative ceremony at the location where a motorized patrol hit a mine in 1974



The Director of the Asia & Middle East Division from DPKO New York visiting UNDOF



Temporary observation post



Scarce signage of mine fields





AUSBATT EOD-Team exercising



Road condition on Mt. Hermon in winter time



Observation tower after heavy snow fall

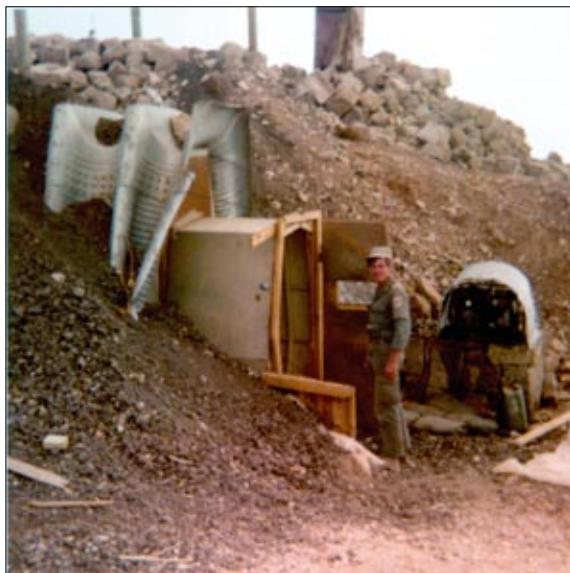


Radome on Position Hermon Hotel



VIP winter patrol on Mt. Hermon





Duty on Mt. Hermon in the early stages of UNDOF

POLBATT



The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) deployed on the Golan Heights was the second UN peacekeeping mission in which the Poles participated with a logistic unit from June 1974 till December 1993.

At that time the Polish soldiers from POLLOG cooperated with the Canadians, the Austrians and the Finns. POLLOG accomplished its mission on the 1st October 1993 and returned to Poland. On the 9th December 1993 Polish soldiers took over operational responsibilities from the Finnish Battalion, and formed a Polish operational battalion in the Area of Separation (AOS).

Two light infantry companies, called Falcon and Scorpion, operate inside the AOS, whereas command and support are located in Camp Ziouani. The main tasks of the battalion is to maintain continuous surveillance, patrol the AOS, monitor entry and deny unauthorized access, mark the A- and B-Line and to erect signs, fences and other means short of force to control accidental violations.

The Area of Responsibility (AOR) extends 50 km from north to south and varies between 200 m to 9 km in width with various lay of the land and altitudes from -46 m below sea level to 1000 m, harsh weather conditions and beautiful but dangerous fauna and flora. The battalion engaged in various humanitarian activities like medical assistance provided to the local population and engineering support or repair of basic infrastructure. Wheeled APCs type SISU serve as the generic equipment for advanced operations. For routine patrolling and service support operations, POLBATT is equipped with 4x4 jeeps, special trucks, ambulances and buses.





POLBATT

1st Coy



Position 60



Position 62



Position 68



POLBATT 2nd Coy



Position 80



Position 80A



Position 69



Position 85



Position 85A



Observation tower of Position 80

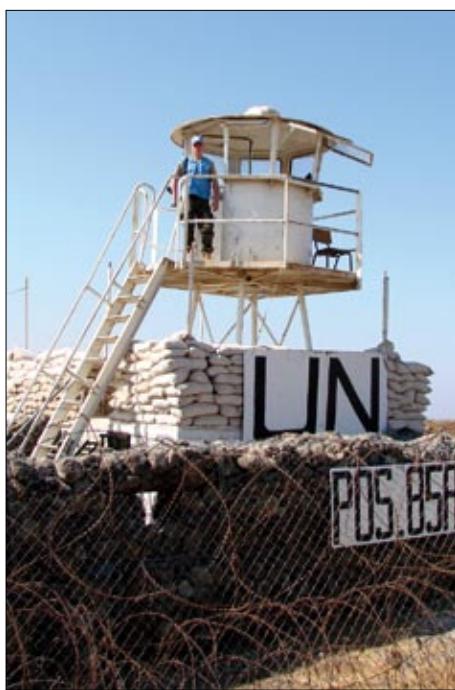




Observation tower of Position 69



Observation tower of Position 85



Observation tower of Position 85A



Observation tower of Position 82A



The traditional Golan cake



Planting of an olive tree - a symbol of peace



Soldiers of POLBATT on Parade Square in Camp Ziouani



Change of Command in POLBATT





Medical evacuation at the "Water Gate"



Polish guard



Fire fighting in POLBATT

Prado's dance on Wadi roads





Old ammunition is ready for blasting



Wadi in POLBATT's AOR



Goodbye in Camp Ziouani



Polish EOD Team preparing for patrol path checking



Finish of the Wadi March



Night patrol just started

LOGBATT comprising INDCON and J-CON

Indian Contingent



“An army marches on its stomach,” said Napoleon. No force can be sustained without robust logistic support. The Logistic Battalion (LOGBATT) is the logistic backbone of UNDOF. LOGBATT has broadly two tasks, first line and second line tasks. First line tasks are in support of Camp Ziouani, while second line tasks are in support of UNDOF and the line battalions i.e. Camp Faouar, AUSBATT and POLBATT.

LOGBATT was originally manned by the Canadians (CANCON) till the Indians (INCON) took over in January 2006. The INCON consists of a core group from the 17 (Poona) Horse, support platoons from Supply, Signals, Maintenance, Medical and Engineers and a Financial Officer.

The 17 (Poona) Horse (17 H) is an armoured regiment raised as a horsed cavalry regiment in 1817. The regiment has the highest number of battle honours among the commonwealth nations. It is the most highly decorated regiment of the Indian Army, with two Paramvir Chakras (the highest gallantry award in India), four Victoria Crosses and 16 decorations of various grades besides 22 Mentions in Despatches. The regiment has rightly been awarded the title of “Bravest of the Brave”.

Operations ensures operational readiness and training of LOGBATT. It is also a point of contact to UNDOF HQ and other battalions. It looks after recovery and crossing of equipment, personnel and vehicles and deployment of the Rapid Reaction Group.

The Camp Services platoon looks after the welfare and morale of the troops. It consists of Food Services, Welfare Section, Contingent Store, Transport, Camp Quarter Master Stores, Cleaning Services and Movement Control.



The Construction Engineer Platoon is responsible for construction and maintenance of all structures, air conditioning, refrigeration units, gas appliances, furnaces and boilers. It provides support and distribution of electricity and water besides fire training and response to UNDOF.

Without Signals, the general commands only his desk. In addition to communications, Signals today shoulders the responsibilities of Electronic Warfare and Information Technology. The Signals Platoon LOGBATT occupies the Zero Bunker 24/7 at Camp Ziouani. It looks after radio, line, microwave and optical fiber communications and IT.

The Supply Platoon is responsible for the proper receipt, inspection, accounting, security, warehousing and issue of all supply assets. With minimal manpower, it handles about 45 tons of supplies a month.

The Maintenance Platoon supports the two line battalions and provides general maintenance support to UNDOF equipment within capabilities. It also conducts technical inspections of equipment held by UNDOF and advises the CO LOGBATT on maintenance matters.

The Medical Inspection Room (MIR) in LOGBATT provides medical cover on a 24/7 basis. It liaises with civilian hospitals for treating serious cases.



Camp Ziouani





Bidding farewell to brothers in arms



Bhangra - an Indian folk dance





INDCON group photo, September 2008



Bidding farewell to J-CON



Regimental saluting the Indian flag on their Independence Day





A Warrant Officer repairs a radio set



IT savvy, the man behind the scene



Operating the switchboard





MOVCON gets things moving



The healing touch



The Operations Warrant Officer



Engineers working at Oscar V



Engineers welding an iron frame



Supply Platoon loading goods



Construction site at Position 85



A signaller runs cables

Engineers assemble the watch tower on Outpost Oscar V





Amusing games after work is done



In God we trust



A hard task done well

Japanese Contingent



In January 1996, Japan dispatched a contingent of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force to UNDOF. Their primary mission was to provide Secondary Support for staff and transportation for UNDOF.

In addition, Japan dispatched two Staff Officers to UNDOF Headquarters at Camp Faouar in Syria. They are engaged in planning and conducting support of UNDOF's public relations and logistic operations. The Staff Officers are cooperating closely with Staff Officers from other countries.

The 43 peace keepers from Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Force of Japan, are stationed at Camp Ziouani and Camp Faouar. They provide Secondary Transportation, Maintenance of Roads and Camp Supply Support for UNDOF activities mainly.

Over twelve years have passed and more than 1,200 Japanese soldiers and officers have contributed to the peace keeping efforts on the Golan Heights, distanced a far 9,000 km from Japan.

The Japanese Contingents continue to carry out their mission smoothly, as the situation in the Golan Heights remains mostly calm without any major violations of the cease-fire agreement. The Japanese personnel, fully aware of the importance of their operations, are carrying out their mission and representing Japan in a professional and efficient manner.





The Japanese Contingent during Handover/Takeover Ceremony



Attending troop



The members of the transport section of the 25th rotation



Water transport from Zabadani to Camp Faouar



Transport of food to camps and positions



Transport of gas cylinders from Damascus to Faouar





Level the ground with a grader



Clear the road of snow at Mt. Hermon



Unload gravel for road construction



Pavement construction



Accomplishment of the AUSBATT march



J-CON patrol on coyote march



Dancing to Nebuta chants



Making all effort





Kyudo bow demonstration on J-CON Day



Kanji writing in Camp Ziouani



Writing foreigner names in Japanese Kanji



CANCON - the Canadian Contingent



Canada's contribution to UNDOF goes back to the very beginning in 1973. The Canadian Contingent originally comprised more than 200 personnel, including teams of United Nations Military Observers to supervise the cease-fire and establish a buffer zone between the two countries, and a support unit that provided the entire mission with logistics support during Operation DANACA. By March 2006, when Canada reduced its contribution, some 12,000 soldiers, sailors and air personnel had served on the Golan Heights. The legacy of the Canadians can still be seen in many monuments and buildings across UNDOF.

Since 2006, Canada contributes two senior officers to this mission: one as Military Assistant to the Force Commander and the other as Senior Staff Officer Personnel at UNDOF Headquarters.



A former Canadian Contingent of LOGBATT



Parade in Camp Ziouani



The last lowering of the flag marking the end of Op DANACA





Maj. Gregg Penner
SSG, Para-UNDOF HQ
الإمدادات العسكرية للأمم المتحدة

Cpl. G. Cormier
Cormier

Force HQ-COY

Since 2007 the Force Headquarters Company is operating in UNDOF on a 24/7 basis as the flexible ready reaction reserve for the UNDOF, supporting the line battalions as required and has achieved a considerable high operational standard due to comprehensive training.



RG32M patrols on the Quneitra road





Short briefing during a patrol

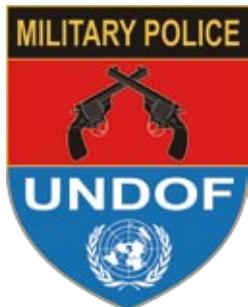
Starting in 2008 the current SISU Armored Personnel Carriers is stepwise replaced by modern RG32M which have better off road capabilities and mine protection



Force HQ-Coy, November 2008



Military Police Platoon (MP)



The UNDOF MP Platoon comprises three detachments with their headquarters at Camp Faouar, consisting of 29 professional military police men from Austria, Croatia, India, and Poland.

Its mission is to support the UNDOF impartially irrespective of specific contingents or nationalities within UNDOF, thus preserving the mission's best interests.

Within its capacities the MP enforces crossing procedures, traffic regulations of both UNDOF and host nations, conducts vehicle and VIP escorts, enforces discipline, patrols out of bound areas, liaises with civil authorities on crime incidents, investigates incidents involving UN personnel and equipment and also supports and assists with traffic accidents.

The main tasks are as follows:

- Enforcement of UNDOF crossing procedures
- Enforcement of traffic regulations of UNDOF and host nations
- Vehicle and VIP escorts
- Enforcement of discipline
- Patrolling of out of bound areas
- Liaison with civilian authorities on crime problems
- Investigations for every incident/accident involving UN personnel and/or UN property
- Support and assistance at traffic accident scenes

The UNDOF Military Police is an intervening instrument of the UNDOF Force, in order to prevent, to enforce, to support, and to investigate in incidents whenever necessary.





MP duty at C-Detachment



Traffic accident scene



Traffic accident measurements

UNTSO - Observer Group Golan (OGG)



United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) is made up of 173 United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) from 23 countries, who are operating in a mission area which includes five countries: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel. UNTSO was established in 1948, and is an unarmed observer force with a continuous mandate linked to the achievement of a final peace settlement in the Middle East. It is the UN's oldest peacekeeping mission.

Chief Observer Group Golan is the Commanding Officer for OGG HQ in Camp Faouar and the two outstations in Tiberias and Damascus. OGG is deployed under operational control of the Force Commander UNDOF.

As UNDOF and OGG operate in the same Area of Responsibility (AOR), it is essential to establish close operational and support links to enhance overall unity of effort and coordinate day and night operations - together with UNDOF, Observer Group Golan (OGG) provides better coverage by monitoring the AOR day and night. As a result, OGG is able to provide the Force Commander with a clear picture of the type, size and nature of military activity in the area in order to increase his situational awareness and ensure compliance with the 1974 Agreement.

OGG is carrying out fortnightly inspections inside the Area of Limitation (AOL) to verify, that both sides adhere to the limitations on troop levels and military equipment within the 10, 20 and 25 km zones as prescribed by the 1974 Disengagement Agreement. An Observation Post (OP) team consisting of two UNMOs who rotate every seven days, and the six OPs at the A-Side and five OPs at the B-Side, are all tasked to observe, inspect, patrol and report violations or activities that could lead to a violation of the Agreement. That means that the total number of 76 military observers are UNTSO's eyes and ears on the ground reporting all activities in the AOS and AOL.





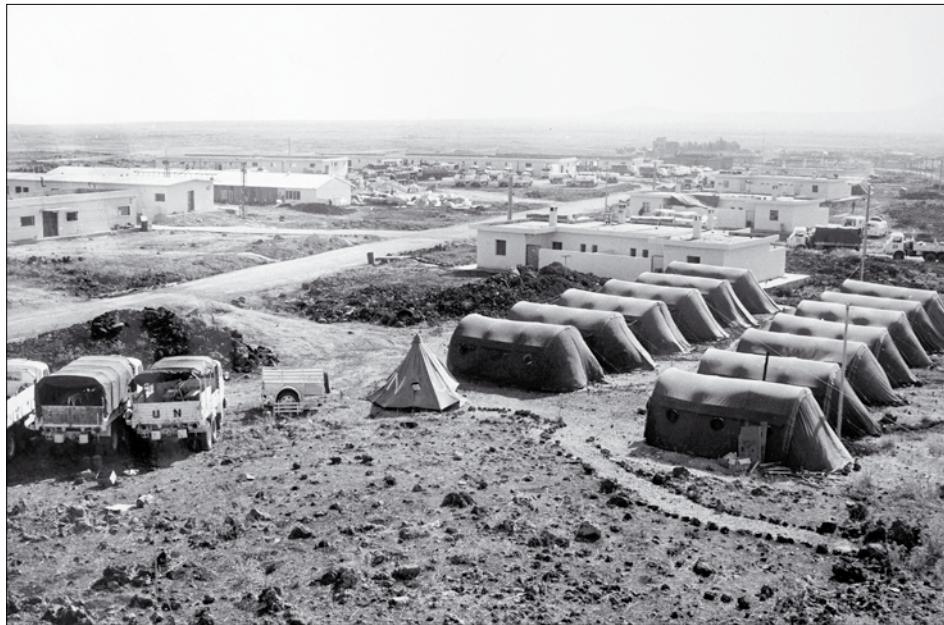
OGG Team in Camp Faouar, May 2009

Pictures from the beginning





The first convoy coming from the Sinai



Camp Faouar in its first days



Position 10, 1974



Daily life in Camp Faouar, 1974



*UN Secretary-General
Dr. Kurt Waldheim
visited AUSBATT, 1974*





Inspecting the troops, 1980



AUSBATT Rotation, 1980



Cherry harvest in Durbol



Damascus in the 80's



In the Service of Peace!



