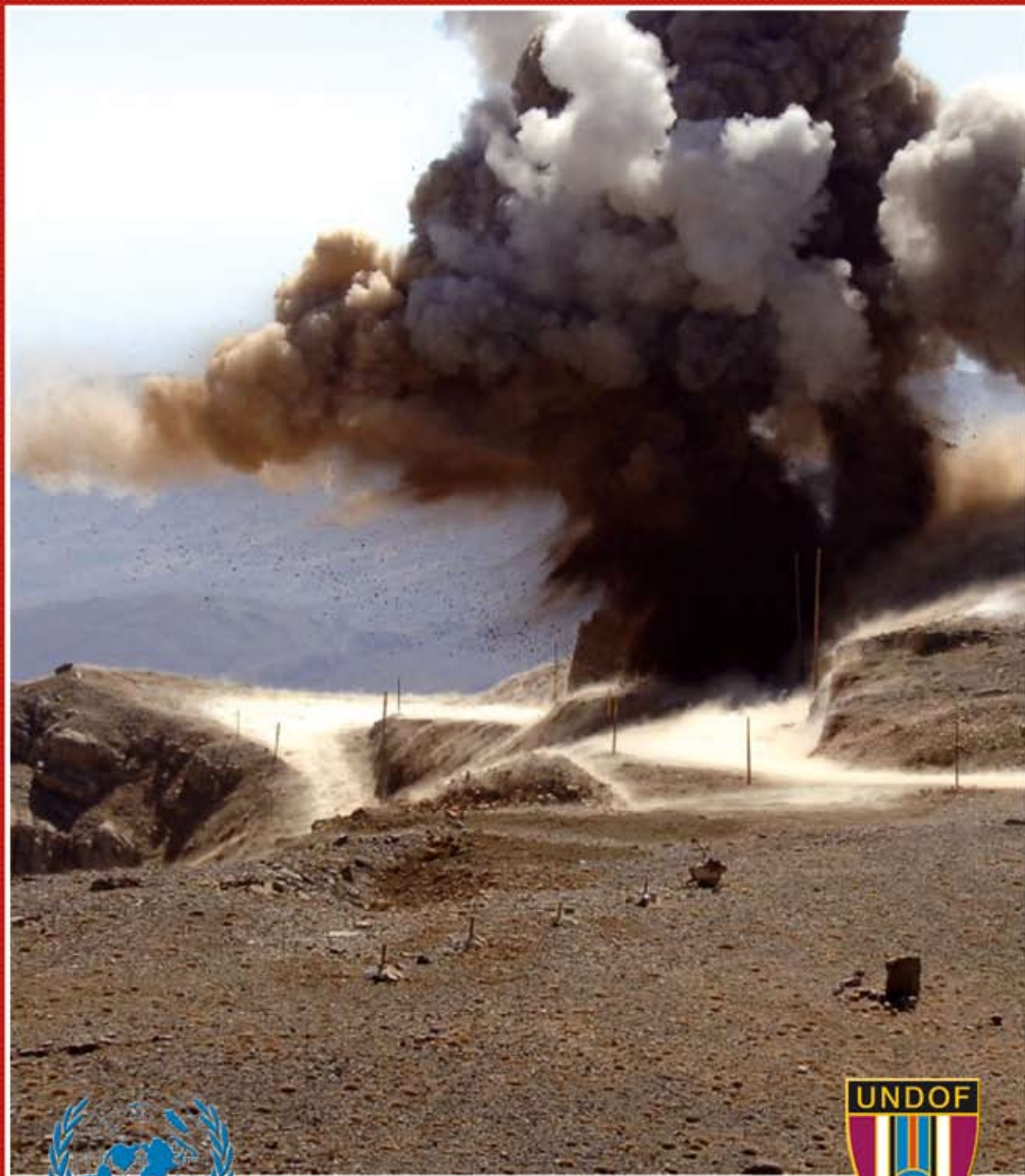


# GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



July - September 2007  
No. 112



# Dear Reader!



First of all, let me welcome our newly arrived Press Officers: Maj Siddhartha Rathore (DFPM), Capt Sylwester Wlaszczyk (PB), Capt V Kranthi Kumar (LB), Lt 1 Takahiro Shibukawa (J-CON) and Capt Gregor Zeleznik (OGG). As always, a big round of applause for all Press Officers and your great articles. Unfortunately, when so many new people arrive, also some others go back home and in this case we have to say Good-Bye to all of the leaving Press Officers. Thanks a million for all your hard work and support.

Apart from that there has been also a lot of action, like the Charity Activities (see pages 12, 13), lots of 'New People to UNDOF' (see pages 6, 7), Medal parade and 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in

INDCON, (see pages 14, 15), Change of Command and Medal Parade in POLBATT (see pages 20, 21), SLOVCONS Tennis Trophy at Camp Faouar (see pages 16, 17), change of Command at the J-CON (page 18), a very interesting article about the Mapping section of UNDOF (see pages 22 and 23), and last, but definitely not least, we have the personal messages of UNDOF 1, the Force Commander MGen Wolfgang Jilke, of UNDOF 2, the COS Col Andrzej Ostrovski and UNDOF 3, some words about integration by CAO, Mr. Patrik J. Devaney.

For 'Army' it is time to say Good-Bye to our readers, since Arnold Felfer will most likely get a new job in December after a ½ -year tour of duty. This is now



*This Edition's Editorial Team  
Hermann, Arnold, Stefan, Ichiro*

our 2<sup>nd</sup> Golan Journal together and I know already now, that I am going to miss Army with his good sense of humor and positive thinking. Thanks to everyone for all your support to us and the Golan Journal!

*Yours sincerely,  
Capt Hermann Altmanninger, SOPR*

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Front (Page 1): Mine blasting at 1<sup>st</sup> Coy AUSBATT "Felsenkopf"  
*Photo by Sgt Thomas Hatzl, AB-Photographer*

Back (Page 24): "Children's Dream" Steam Train Ride to Bosra  
*Photo by WO II Armin Hermann*

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## Force Commander's Message

UNDOF - 1

FC UNDOF

*Dear Fellow Peacekeepers, to begin, I wish to welcome all those who have recently arrived in the Golan Heights!*

*Being a multinational force, it is critical that you get to know not only the personnel within your national contingent, but also your fellow peacekeepers from other nations. I encourage you to find solutions to overcome our linguistic and sometimes cultural differences. Not only do our operations encompass different national contingents, but they also include personnel from other UN missions, specifically United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). In the coming months, it is the intention of both COS UNTSO and me to better integrate the personnel and activities of Operational Group Golan (OGG) into our operations. The creation and development of a Joint Operations Centre will go a long way to improving our communications and operational efficiency, in order to meet the challenges of our changing environment.*

*And yes, things are changing. When I consider what it was like when I first arrived here in 1974, I am astonished. Back then, the only things that obstructed our view over the plains and foothills were patches of trees, piles of volcanic rock, a few brave farmers and shepherds with their flocks, and our lonely UN positions and observation points. In such wide-open terrain, our lines of red and white barrels*

*clearly marked the Area of Separation, and with few roads, it was relatively simple to monitor what was going on. Not so today! While the massive influx of population and infrastructure development in the Areas of Separation and Limitation represent an optimistic vote of confidence in continued peace by both sides, it has made the task of enforcing our Mandate much more difficult. While we are forced to use old-fashioned patrolling to maintain our surveillance, the militaries on both sides have pursued technological advancements in mobility, communications and weaponry that have made our task not only more difficult, but more dangerous as well. Events in the past year have heightened tensions to remarkable levels, with serious moves by both sides to improve and enhance their military installations and positions. Events may soon reach a climax, possibly negative.*

*To meet these challenges, UNDOF must change and adapt as well. Despite over 30 years of success, to ignore these signals and simply accept our comfortable status quo would foolishly risk not only the validity of our mission, but the very lives of our personnel as well. For this reason, UNDOF is making changes. To better ensure the safety and security of our personnel, we are making force protection improvements to our Camps and Positions, and are acquiring armoured ambulances. To improve our*



*operational capabilities, we are pursuing the acquisition of advanced night vision equipment and more armoured patrol vehicles. And to ensure our operational effectiveness and continued relevancy, UNDOF is mounting more patrols, especially at night, to safeguard that neither side is tempted to exploit what has been a weakness in our operations.*

*To those who are home-ward-bound, having completed their rotation, I express my sincere appreciation for their hard work and efforts made towards our common goals. To those of us who remain, we can only succeed as a team! Keep up the good work!*

*Thank you, Dziakujem,  
Danke, Merci, Dziękuję,  
Arigato, Dhanyavad,  
Shukran, Doda!*

Major General Wolfgang JILKE  
Force Commander UNDOF

## Chief of Staff Words



In my last article I focused most of my discussion on the Force Management System. In this article I want to continue with this subject and provide you with an update on what I consider one of the most important UNDOF projects which we are currently undertaking.

Financial planning is always a very important part in the management of any successful organization. The planning process for UNDOF Budget 2008/2009 continues to progress smoothly. We are planning for an increase of 20% in the UNDOF budget for 08/09 in comparison to the current budget. This will allow us to enhance UNDOF operational capabilities in mobile and night operations, increase safety and security of UNDOF personnel

and execution. Accordingly, we have to amend UNDOF operational, administrative and logistics support orders and plans. Subsequent to this review unit level orders will be developed and issued under authority of the UNDOF military component commanders.

The UNDOF mandate states that UNDOF will use its best efforts to maintain the cease-fire between B-Side and A-Side and to supervise the Agreement and Protocol with regard to the Area of Separation (AOS) and the Area of Limitation (AOL). Thus, to fulfill the UNDOF mandate it is not only mandatory but prudent that we improve and enhance UNDOFs' operational capabilities in view of the changing security situation in

and mitigate possible threat by incorporating certain security measures in our operations.

In support of these new capabilities DPKO has recently approved a new Military-Strategic Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for UNDOF. This is a very important document as it provides guidance to the Force Commander for the mandate to implement this new CONOPS. It should be noted that the overall and current security situation will influence the CONOPS, its planning assumptions

## UNDOF - 2

the Area of Operation (AOO). As a direct result, our operational projects are aimed at improving conditions to fulfill our mandate to the highest possible standard. The following UNDOF projects will build a solid foundation in support of the new UNDOF CONOPS: \*marking/re-barreling of A and B-Line, \*improvement of the existing and construction of new patrol paths, \*improvement of the current Operational Centre, \*upgrading current positions and observation posts, \*tactical communication improvement and \*new operational maps. These are only a few projects which will have a direct impact on UNDOF operations. There are, however, numerous other projects in all functional areas, with most being logistical in nature, which are vital in support of the UNDOF mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all civilian team members of UNDOF, headed by Patrick J. Devaney, CAO, for their excellent support in contributing to the success of the UNDOF mission. Without a team approach towards accomplishing all our objectives UNDOF would not be and could not continue being as successful as it has been in terms of support of peace in this region of the world.

**Keep up the good work!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "U. Ostrowski", is written over a faint, circular emblem or seal.

Colonel Andrzej Ostrowski  
Chief of Staff UNDOF

It is now more than twelve months since Integration was first implemented at UNDOF. Integration means civilian and military personnel working together in the same organization to provide administration and logistical support in a timely, efficient and effective manner.

There have been many benefits so far as a result of integration such as:

>> Administration division has a better understanding of the needs of military personnel and so quality and timeliness of services have improved. There is however still much to be done but with time and dedication of all concerned the level of services will continue to improve.

>> Teamwork has improved. Civilian and military personnel work together to solve common problems. Social integration can be observed at say Happy Hours on Fridays and weekend events where CISS – engineering, supply, transport - who are military personnel spend much time with civilians watching sports events such as Cricket and Rugby. Social integration may appear insignificant but is most important in encouraging team spirit and this improves our effectiveness and efficiency.

>> The performance of some of the military personnel who have worked closely with civilians in the integrated structure have been outstanding. Their professionalism and dedication to getting the job done have made a very big impression on their civilian colleagues.

They had the moral courage to address issues that were not always popular and the determination to

see that solutions were found and implemented.

>> Better use of human resources, the abilities of all civilian and military personnel are recognized and are utilized to optimum effect for the mission. The capacity of military personnel in peacekeeping missions worldwide is very much underutilized and integration addresses this problem.

However there are still many challenges with integration at UNDOF such as:

- Lack of consultation with civilian section and unit chiefs and new Arrivals of military personnel in the integrated structure.

A manager should have an input as to who works in his or her section or unit since he/she will be accountable for the results. The manager can only achieve the results by working closely with his staff – civilian and military. This serious challenge must be addressed by civilian and military leadership in consultation with UNHQ.

- The skills and experience of military personnel must match the requirements of the job. Technical skills and experience plus the personality of the individual must be evaluated to ensure that the tasks will be completed in an effective and efficient manner.

- The Rotation period for military personnel working in the integrated structure must be for a period of at least 12 months to



ensure continuity in order to maximize effectiveness.

- The Chain of Command should be observed at all times. Military personnel who have civilian supervisors should always regard the civilian as his/her immediate supervisor. Likewise, where military personnel are supervising civilian staff the civilian staff must always regard the military supervisor as his/her immediate supervisor. Supervisor, whether civilian or military, must have input into the performance appraisals of their respective subordinates.

We must all, civilian and military become more action driven as actions give results. Writing a memo or sending an email is not a result in itself but a means to a result. We sometimes tend to focus too much in memos and emails. Very often face to face interaction is far more effective in resolving issues.

Integration has been an interesting project and there is still much more to be done. First indications are that it can work successfully and that there are many benefits. We must remain determined, vigilant, open to new ideas and results oriented for it to succeed in the future.

*Mr. Patrick J. Devaney, CAO*

## New People in UNDOF



### The new COO

LtCol Miroslaw Borowski came to the Golan Heights on 9<sup>th</sup> Jul 2007 as the new Chief Operations Officer (COO) of HQ UNDOF. He was born in Znin, central part of Poland on the 9<sup>th</sup> Apr 1965. He graduated The Land Forces Officers College in Wroclaw (Poland) in 1990 as an Engineer Officer and six years later he began his mission duty in UNIFIL as an EOD PltLdr in the Polish Engineer Coy. In 2000 he served in UNIFIL again, and on 8<sup>th</sup> October, after kidnapping of three IDF soldiers in Sheeba Area the recovery team including demolition team (under his command) from Polish Engr Coy, Indian personnel and military observers from OGL was mounted a recovery operation. At summer of the same year, after Israelis withdrawal from buffer zone in South Lebanon, he commanded an Engineer Group of the Verification Team at the Lebanese

border, supporting of marking the Blue Line. During his career he served in various engineering unit appointments, including COS of Mineclearing Battalion. He also attended various international courses like: Engineer Officer Staff Course in Euro NATO Training Engineer Centre, Munich (Germany) and the Joint Command & General Staff Course (Post Graduated Studies) in Baltic Defence College, Tartu (Estonia). He completed the Chief Of Staff Course in Poland and the Battalion Commander Course in ENTEC (Germany). Three years ago he graduated at the University of Szczecin (Poland), as a MA in Political Sciences with specialization in National Security of IFPS. As a classified Staff Officer and Chief Operations Section of 5<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment in Szczecin, he participated in lots of number multinational exercises, for example: CRYSTAL EAGLE 03 - Germany, PEACE SHIELD 03 - Ukraine, MAJESTIC RAGE 03 - England, ARCADE FUSION 03, ARCADE GUARD 02 - Germany, READY SAPPER 02 - Denmark, RAGING LION 02 - England, GSO 06 - Sweden. LtCol Borowski is married to Agata and they have one son Jakub. His family lives near the Baltic Sea in Szczecin (Poland). His hobbies are including traveling, and relaxing with good music.



### The new CO POLBATT

LtCol Jerzy Sulima was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1962. After graduated from high school he joined Officers' College in 1982. After leaving the College he was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1986 he was assigned to service as platoon commander. His first place of duty just after graduation from the college from 1986 to 1989 was an infantry platoon leader in 55<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry Regiment from Braniewo. From 1989 to 1994 he was company commander and commander of training company in 55<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry Regiment from Braniewo, 100<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry Regiment from Elbląg and 27<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry Regiment from Braniewo. In 1994 he became operational officer and chief of staff and deputy commander within the 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Cavalry Brigade from

Braniewo. In February 1995 he was promoted to major and he was appointed as a battalion commander. From 1997 to 1999 he graduated from Ministry of Defense University in Warsaw and got the command of the training battalion in 20<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade in Bartoszyce. After that he became chief operational officer in the brigade. Promoted to LtCol by The Polish Land Forces in 2006 he was appointed as commander of a battalion within 20<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade from Bartoszyce. He further attended and graduated from: Operational High Defense Course, Advanced Tactical Course, postgraduate study for officers, course for battalion commanders and division commanders, command course for company commander. He participated in a lot of Polish Army exercises and multinational exercises for example: "Strong Resolve" or "Donośna Surma". He also speaks Russian. Additionally he graduated from University Warmińsko – Mazurski as Bachelor of Art in Psychology. LtCol Sulima is happily married with Alina and they have two sons, Wojciech 19 and Jakub 16. He likes sports in general, in particular volley-ball. He further is interested in hunting, tourism and informatics.

## New People in UNDOF



### The new CISS

LtCol Neil John, was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1970. He was commissioned on 13<sup>th</sup> Jun 1992 from the Indian Military Academy Dehradun. He joined 69<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment and has served in all terrains, beautiful, rugged and scanty. He was a troop leader in the first three

years and performed as Reconnaissance troop leader for four years and won laurels for his unit. He commanded a tank squadron during “OP VIJAY” and “OP PARAKARAM”, the two major operations in his time. LtCol John has done all the essential professional courses including the prestigious Defence Services Staff College with excellent graduations. He further was instructor at School of Armoured Warfare a prestigious institute of the Indian Cavalry. The officer has last been the General Staff Officer, Operations in a formation deployed in the Western sector. He is a sportsman and represented the command level in football and Hockey and plays all games. LtCol John is highly versatile, loves music and movies, is a great writer and is passionate about cooking. LtCol John is a winner of the gallantry award, he was awarded the ‘Sena Medal’ for gallantry in operations conducted against terrorists in the Northern State of India. He loves India, Indian-Cuisine, Music, People and Cul-

ture. LtCol John is married to Enid and they have two daughters, Nicole who is 5 and a half years and Michelle who is 2 years and three months old.

He lives by the MOTTO:

“PROUD TO BE INDIAN AND BLESSED TO BE BORN AN INDIAN”



### The new FPM

Capt Grzegorz Janiszewski was born in Gniezno on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1975. The new Force Provost Marshal (FPM) graduated from the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan in 1999 with a Masters’ Degree of Law with honors in Penal Law. In 2000 he completed a course in the Reserve Officers School in Wroclaw. Commissioned in May next year, practiced as platoon leader for one year. In 2002 he was appointed to the Military Police as an investigating officer. His military education includes amongst other courses Military Police Officers Course and Criminal Intelligence Course. In 2004 he attended post graduated studies of European Law. He is married and has one daughter.



### The new CO J-CON

Maj Yoshibumi Ogura was born on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1972, in Tokyo. He lives now in Kanazawa prefecture, which is a North-eastern Part of Japan with his wife and two daughters.

In 1997, he earned his Master’s degree of Science of Biochemistry at Japans Saitama University. After graduating Postgraduate school, Maj Ogura began his military carrier.

Following his graduation from Ground Self Defence Force Officer Candidate School in 1998, he was assigned to 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment as a platoon leader. In 2003, Maj Ogura entered Command and General Staff Course and upon completion in 2005, he was assigned as a company commander, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Maj Ogura completed the Staff Officer Course in the Norwegian Army in 2007, and was then assigned as Commander of 24<sup>th</sup> J-CON in Golan Heights.

His hobbies include reading and running.

## News from OGG

### Time of changes for the Observer Group Golan (OGG)



*OGG Staff as of September 2007*

*From left to right: LtCol Jon S. Veel, Maj Ben Toyne, Comdt Rossa Mulcahy, Capt Gregor Zeleznik, Capt Chris Wilthuis, Maj Ojvind Bjorkman  
Not on the picture: Capt Cedric Ruckli, Capt Kit Taylor and Capt Mark Agius*

As the title itself says, was this period from July to September, time of changes for OGG. During this period of time, half of the OGG Staff has changed. Three of our comrades left the mission area, first Capt Dallum Odbjorn (Norway) who was our Military Information Officer (MIO) in July and then in September our Deputy Chief OGG (DCOGG), Comdt Rossa Mulcahy (Ireland) left, after working in United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) for two years. He stayed almost 18 months in Observer Group Leba-

non (OGL) as Line United Nations Military Observer (UNMO), team leader and later as DCOGL. The last fellow, to whom we had to say goodbye, was our PlansO, Capt Vesa Lakso (Finland).

New, fresh "forces" replaced leaving UNMOs. New DCOGG is now Maj Ojvind Bjorkman (Finland), new PlansO is Capt Cedric Ruckli (Switzerland) and new MIO is Capt Gregor Zeleznik (Slovenia).

Additionally OGG was reinforced in September with two Officers, Capt Kit Taylor (New Zealand) working as Tasking Officer

Bravo (TO - B) and Capt Mark Agius (Australia) working as Tasking Officer (TO - A). They both came to OGG as part of the OGG restructuring trial period, which started on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep and will be evaluated by 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007.

But this is already another story and will have to wait for next edition of GOLAN Journal.

*Article by Capt Gregor Zeleznik,  
OGG MIO  
Photo by Maj Ojvind Bjorkman,  
DCOGG*



# Visitors to UNDOF

by Capt Eiichiro Shinoda, DMPIO



*Visit of a mission evaluation team led by General (Retd.) Maurice Baril, evaluating the UNDOF activities (24<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007)*



*Visit of H.E. Mr. Masaki Kunieda, ambassador of Japan to Syria. Participated in AUSBATT March with soldiers of J-CON and finished the whole tour. (28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007)*



*Guests for the Change of Command of POLBATT (from the right: Col Ireneusz Drazyk with his wife, Mr Janusz Polowniak, Col Waldemar Samoranski, LtCol Krzysztof Nolbert, 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 07)*



*H.E. Mr. Mr Arun Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Israel, presenting UN service medal to INDCON personnel (15<sup>th</sup> August 2007)*

## Other visitors to UNDOF

*LtGen K.D.S. Shekhawat, Director General Mechanized Force, India (20<sup>th</sup> Jul 2007)*

*LtGen Susheel Gupta, Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Information Systems and Technology, India (26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Jul 2007)*

*H.E. Mr. Andreas Michaelis, the director for Near and Middle East Affairs in German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007)*

*MGen Claudio Graziano, FC UNFIL and MGen Ian Gordon, COS UNTSO. Visited the UNDOF to attend the Regional Commander's Conference (21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2007)*

*Ambassadors of Pakistan, Brazil and South Africa to the Syria and some embassy staff (28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007)*

*H.E. Mr. Tomas Ulicny, ambassador of Czech Republic to Syria and his family (21<sup>st</sup> Sep 2007)*

*BGen Anton Waldner, Austrian Armed Forces Inspectionteam (24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007)*

*Dutch parliament members. Obtained information about the UNDOF mission and circumstances (13<sup>th</sup> Jul 2007)*

*Col Lubomir Tarabcek, military attache of Slovak Republic to Syria with his family, factfinding for 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy of AUSBATT activities (5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007)*

# The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD-Team)

With the rotation VI/07 the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD-Team) of the AUSBATT was newly assigned in almost every position.

Due to the replacements an update was necessary in the beginning phase. In order to ensure a seamless operation of the ongoing projects instructions were carried out by the commanders on sites inside the Area of Separation (AOS), where the new team members were tested as well. Since everyone was at least once involved in the mission, the actual tasks could be taken on shortly afterwards.

At first certain terms are to be specified for better understanding due to various meanings.

>> EODT = Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team

>> UXO = Unexploded Ordnance

This term is used for all sorts of ammunition used at a battlefield, which had no effect or operated to a deficient extend.

>> IEDD = Improved Explosive Device Disposal

This term has gained in importance throughout the world wide missions, denoting self fabricated explosive devices, which are designed for assaults with a terrorist

background.

The tasks, which arise for the AUSBATT-EOD Team, are to be seen partly as specific to the mission area and as normal standard procedures.

One of the main tasks is certainly the checking of patrol roads and patrol ways. This exigent operation claims 100 percent concentration from the searcher. The metal detector releases different altitudes of sound depending on the amount



*Duty-box with detonators and high explosives*

of the concealed metal. Therefore all disturbing ambient noises are to be inhibited and prevented. Since in normal conditions (moderate temperature, level terrain, moderate wind etc.) the concentration decreases after approximately 30 minutes, the searcher is replaced. Goal of this task is to localise and remove all objects of metallic origin. It must exclusively be carried out in "normal" ground conditions and is to be aborted instantly in case of adverse circumstances such as snow, rain, storm and



*Sgt Robert Keuschnig, WO1 Manfred Mitter and MSgt Josef Pobatschnig proving the fitting of the bomb-blast-safety-suit*

high temperature.

All operations of the EOD/IEDD Team must be escorted and supported by a medical team.

In the course old anti-tank-mine locks in the area of the road to the former position 33 and the patrol way in direction OP 73 had to be cleared due to security reasons. American M15 and M6 anti-tank-mines installed by the IDF in the 70's were removed and displaced to the explosives destroying site "Wasserloch" where they get blast in small amounts. Undoubtedly the ammunition blasting ranks among the highlights of the EOD tasks.

Complications, which can occur in the course of such blasts, derive from the proximate circumstances of the blasting site. Due to a highly dense structuring of the terrain, it is necessary to position a surrounding close-meshed barrier with security posts in order to keep sheep flocks outside of the range of dispersion.

The tactical and operative mobility counts to the main functions of the EOD-Team. As an example the regular participation in Command



*Sgt Robert Keuschnig during mine-checking*

Patrols can be mentioned.

Further the evacuation of injured out of mine fields is one of the most important tasks. During the last years the EOD-Team marched out several times to such dangerous missions. Nevertheless I as team-leader see the absolute necessity in the accomplishment of such missions - every soldier should know, that in case of an accident in a mine contaminated terrain he or she can count on immediate, professional help in form of the EOD-Team. The exact rules of procedure are recapitulated during all preliminary preparations in Austria as well as in the mission area and head not be exemplified further.

Nevertheless the sensitisation of all soldiers in the mission area for the ever existing danger of mines and UXO's pose an important task and responsibility for the team. All soldiers of the AUSBATT, members of the OGG (Observer Group Golan) as well as soldiers of the

J-CON are trained by the Austrian Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personnel.

However it was assessed during

the last mission related exercises, that new equipment and depending to the situation, different supporting groups (e.g.: fire brigade) are an absolute necessity in order to further professionalize the procedures.

For completing the list of tasks it is to be mentioned, that in case of found ammunition parts the EOD-Team of the AUSBATT seeks to immediately

and adequately dispose the possible source of danger in the proximate surrounding of a patrol way. This contributes to the secure task fulfilment of all companies inside the AOS. Further mentioning is drawn to the fact that the EOD Team is a ready reaction group around the clock for emergency missions.

Due to changes in international threats, especially in the field of terrorism, certain precaution measures

have to be taken in this mission area as well. The course was already set in the very beginning phases by various steps. An essential point of the Gopher Hole Exercise

was to demonstrate the possibility of such threats as well as the countermeasures for such scenarios to the members of the Headquarters Company (HQ-Coy). Such expedient constellations of tasks will be a fix part of all further exercises.

In order to master such challenges in the mission area, members of the EOD-Team must attend courses and continuing seminars on a regular

basis. For being dispatched to the mission area as a specialist in ammunition disposal blasting it is obligate to complete 3 constitutive courses with the Training-cell for ammunition-techniques at "Grossmittel". The stages take from 2 to 6 months and are tested during a final assessment week with practical, theoretical and tactical contents.

Finally it is to be said that until now all assignments were accomplished to a complete satisfaction, thanks to the professional work of all team members. In spite of the high expectations on the equipment the team was always operable with the help of the first platoon as well as the transport platoon of the HQ-Coy. Even if all factors harmonise the work of the EOD-Team can never be seen as routine. On this note I thank as outgoing EOD-Teamleader all comrades, who made my work here that successful.

*Article and Photo by WO1 Josef Scherz  
Photo by Sgt Thomas Hatzl,  
AB-Photographer  
Translated by Cpl Zi-Su KIM*



*Six antitank mines before blasting*



*Blasting of the hanging Rock "Felsenkopf" in the AOR of the 1st Coy*

## Not only the Sun smiles!

UN-Soldiers donate EUR 3,000.- to an Austrian kid suffering from cancer.



*Thomas Strauß, Wolfgang Weickinger, Werner Strauß, Julia Strauß, Gerlinde mit Alexander Strauß, Aigner Thomas*

On 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007 a small delegation from 'Schweija-Hut' and 'Radio Gecko' visited little Julia in St. Martin/Sulmtal. The reason was the handing-over of the money to the young girl, who masters her life even with this devastating diagnosis Cancer

Julia and her parents thanked Sgt Thomas Aigner and Cpl Wolfgang Weickinger, who were handing-over the donation, with a little BBQ and Coffee & Cake. On this very day not only the sun was smiling, but also Julia's heart.

The money was collected at sev-

eral events on the Golan Heights.

It was in March 2007 when at the Schweija-Hut meeting SSgt Franz Steyrer and Sgt Siegfried Mayer came up with the idea to donate Schweija-Hut's surplus for charity. It was also decided to start a fund-raising campaign and to collect money at different parties and events.

About two months later, while smoking a water-pipe, the two decided, instead of the original idea, to start a mutual fund-raising-campaign of Radio Gecko and Schweija-Hut. During this 'bright'

moment, the idea came up, to donate the money to a grandchild of a fellow NCO, who is also serving a mission in UNDOF right now. The twelve-year-old, named Julia, was sickened by cancer and her family urgently needed money, since her father had to change his job, resulting in a huge income loss, in order to look after the other three children, while her mother spent almost a year in hospital with Julia's surgeries and therapies.

Also the 'Jägermeisterclub' happened to hear of Julia's very bad luck and the members decided to par-

ticipate in this very campaign and CO/AB LtCol Robert Glanner was persuaded very quickly as well and declared to support this project. Julia's grandfather was informed about the planned donation to his granddaughter the next day and was instantly overwhelmed.

The delivery was planned as follows – Before his rotation flight Sgt Aigner was given the collected EUR 3,000.- in order to hand it over with Cpl Weickinger (Radio Gecko), during his home-leave on 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007, to Julia's family. Needless to say, also the Grandfather took home-leave during this period and informed his family only one day prior on the 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007 from this fund-raising



*Julia Strauß*

& donation-campaign. One can imagine how huge the surprise and joy was!

But Austrians wouldn't be called 'World's best donators', if this campaign was over with August 2007. AUSBATT's solicitousness is so immense that donations are coming in quite frequently and it is expected, that by the end of the year, Julias' family will receive a similar amount of money.

**"Warmly and cordially thanks to all contributors from Julia, the initiators and organizers!"**

*Article by MSgt Andreas Rous,  
PC-Operator/AUSBATT*

*Translated by*

*Capt Stefan Zaiser*

*Photos by Cpl Wolfgang Weickinger  
and Mrs Gertrude Pölzl*

## MEDICAL CAMP (WHITE SATURDAY) Organized by INDCON on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007

A medical camp (White Saturday) was organised on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007 near Posn 62.

As we reported in the Golan Journal Edition 111 organized the Polish Medical Team innovated by the Polish Military Contingent Commander LtCol Jaroslav Gro-madzinski a 'White Sunday' on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr 2007. Now Maj Pawan Shukla LOGBATT/SMO performed another 'White Saturday' at the INDCON medical camp where he examined and treated 28 patients from the local people.

**"Thank you very much indeed!"**

*Article and photo  
by Capt V Kranthi Kumar/CEO*



*INDCON SMO, Maj Pawan Shukla treating local patients as part of  
White Saturday medical camp*

## Medal Parade and 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of INDCON

On 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007, the Indian Contingent (INDCON) of 189 personnel of the third rotation received the coveted UN service medal for the uninterrupted logistics support provided to UNDOF. This mandate of providing logistics support is a difficult and challenging task considering the terrain of the mission on which the personnel of the contingent have worked day and night. In that spirit, the most auspicious day was chosen on which the medals were awarded. It was the 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India.



The contingent geared up to make the day an event and not just a mere ceremony. The troops started practising their drills well in advance and worked equally hard to make the parade ground look fit for the event. Each and every personnel took their respective tasks of preparing the list of guests, sending invitations, arranging for transportation, coordinating the late crossing, decorating the venue for the reception,

*National Senior, Lt Col Shailja Os Karki and CO LOGBATT, Lt Col Manish Rai at the reception with guests*

preparing the menu, etc..., very seriously.

It was an honour for the contingent that the Force Commander United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (FC UNDOF), MGen Wolfgang Jilke and his Excellency, the Indian Ambassador to Israel, Mr Arun Kumar accepted the invitation for awarding the medals to the troops.

The final day came and the venue

was all set. The parade was timed for the evening. The guests from far and near started arriving at the venue. The most important thing to note in the event was the overwhelming response given by our local friends to the invitation. The audience, it was realised was sizeable and it showed the kind of support given to the contingent in UNDOF for carrying out its mandate.

While all the guests were seated,



*His Excellency, the Indian Ambassador to Israel, Mr Arun Kumar bestowing accompanied by NCC LtCol Shailja Os. Karki, FMO, the UN service medal to LOGBATT personnel*

effort to address them in their language. The speech is still remembered till date.

The parade then marched out and the guests were ushered to the International kitchen where a reception was organised for them. The kitchen was decorated with over a thousand tricolour flowers, a tricolour canopy extending from one end to the other end of the hall just above the grand buffet and panels showing various aspects about India. All the panels were bordered with beautiful paintings by Maj Pratima Pinto depicting the tribal art form of Warli. The paintings of simple hues, showing simple aspects of human life were made to depict the contemporary themes of the Indian society.

The party continued with the

the contingent was marched in under the command of Maj PK Tiwari. The Regimental Standard of the Poona Horse was marched in. The parade presented arms to the colours. The parade now awaited the arrival of the chief guests, MGen Gilke and H.E. Mr Arun Kumar. On their arrival, the parade presented arms to the dignitaries. The Commanding Officer of the Logistic Battalion CO/LB, Lt Col Manish Rai addressed the troops followed by the National Contingent Commander (NCC) of the INDCON in UNDOF, LtCol Shailja Karki. The FC UNDOF and the Indian Ambassador to Israel awarded the medals to the troops. The Ambassador in his speech shortly after the presentation of the medals praised the INDCON for its sincerity in keeping the mandate for which they had come and praised one and all for their immaculate drill and excellent turn out. The biggest surprise and yet the most unforgettable one was given by the FC MGen Gilke who



*Tribune of honour with FC MGen Wolfgang Gilke and CO LtCol Manish Rai listening to the address of H.E. Mr Arun Kumar Indian Ambassador to Israel*

acknowledged the efforts of the INDCON in a very well prepared speech in Hindi. The troops later appreciated the due thought given to them by the soldiers' general, as he is known, to have made such an

motto "Jai Hind", what means praise or hail to India!

*Article by Capt Abhimanyu Varma,  
CEO/LB*

*Photos by Pte M Rehaman*



## Tennis Trophy in Camp Faouar

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 took the SLOVCON tennis tournament in Camp Faouar place, which was under leadership of CO SLOVCON, where teams from INDCON, AUSBATT, POLBATT and SLOVCON took part. The rules of the tournament were based on the Davis Cup system. In generally it means that the tournament has started with single games and then doubles, when they were finished the next single games started.



*MCpl Helmut Schwarzl, Ambulance driver, Maj Siddartha S. Rathore DFPM and WO1 Udo Kaidisch, OPS NCO in action*

*"Tennis is a game, which we can play in every age of our live and this is a reason why this game is that wide spread out and in favour of many people all over the world!" by CO SLOVCON.*



*Welcome and introduction to the Daviscup rules  
by Maj Vladimir Grislo*



*International friendship lived through the spirit of sport*

SLOVCON has decided to organize a tennis tournament. The main goal was to built up good relationship between contingents within UNDOF. As well as making the

Slovakian contingent (SLOVCON) more visible. The Participants want to show that they have intentions in this sport, the spirit to continue to become more excellent, to grow

together through fair combatts and to get familiar to the comrades from other troop contributing countries.

Between the tournament participants has been CO SLOVCON





*Hard return, Cpl Marian Robun,  
Driver FHQ Coy*

BATT LtCol Robert Glanner, who came to support AUSBATT's team. In conclusion, every tournament knows its winner, in the final match have met the SLOVCON team No2 with the AUSBATT team and the winner was SLOVCON team No2.



*Capt Andrzej Kotowicz, SOMT*



*Smash, LCpl Miroslav Chomic,  
Driver FHQ Coy*

Maj Vladimir Grislo and CO IND-CON LtCol Manish R. Rai. COs of contingents have met together face to face in match for third or fourth place. At the end of the game the winning team was team No 2 from SLOVCON. One could see how

fet. Where also took, after tournament evaluation, place the handing over of prizes and honouring of the winner. In the evening all participants were invited for a barbecue reception and „Apres Tennis Party“ at Posn 10.



*Satisfied through tough and serious but fair fights looking forward together to the “Apres Tennis Party!” at SLOVCON POS 10*

the players enjoyed their efforts and gained satisfaction from the game, not only the commanding officers but also every player who took part in the tournament. Between the fans we could see for example CO AUS-

Congratulations!!!

During the tournament there were prepared, for the players as well as for the audience, refreshments and tasty snacks at their disposal at the close by organized buf-

*Article by MSgt Stefan Kovalak,  
Medical NCO 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy/AB and  
Lt/II Peter Tvaruska, 2iC 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy/AB  
Photos by Maj Vladimir Grislo,  
CO SLOVCON and DCO AUSBATT  
and WOII Arnold Felfer,  
Force Photographer*

# J-CON Change of Command

The J-CON Change of Command ceremony was held in CZ on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007.



*COC of J-CON (5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007): 24<sup>th</sup> J-CON UNIT PLATE has been handed over at 1400 hrs on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007*

Under a beautiful September sky, the outgoing Commanding Officer (CO), Maj Ryuji Toyota, handed over command of J-CON to his successor, Maj Yoshibumi Ogura. UNDOF Chief of Staff (COS) Col Andrzej Ostrowski, Japanese Military Attaché to Israel, Col Takaharu Shimazu, Branch Heads and Contingent Commanders were present to honor this ceremony.

Maj Toyota and Maj Ogura both signed the Handover/Takeover protocol. Maj Toyota expressed his gratitude for the partnership, close



*COC of J-CON (5<sup>th</sup> Sep 07) : Shaking hands firmly with Maj Ogura, Col Ostrowski and Maj Toyota at Siging ceremony*

cooperation and excellent hospitality of UNDOF. He commended the outgoing members of 23<sup>rd</sup> J-CON for a job well done and mission completed safely. Maj Ogura declared

that the 24<sup>th</sup> J-CON will overcome any problems with “Bushido” (the Samurai spirit) and promised his men that they will return home safely.

Following the official part of the ceremony, all honorable guests were invited to a reception at the A-Line Mess. Japanese authentic foods were served including sushi, which was a favorite among participants.

*Article by LtI Takahiro Shibukawa,  
ADS/J-CON  
Photos by Sgt Kenji Inoue*

# News from Military Police Platoon UNDOF

“ONE MISSION, ONE TEAM, ONE MESSAGE”

>> The environment during the summer of 2007 in the Military Police Platoon (MP-Plt) remained extremely active and buzzing with action in the last quarter. The MP-Plt responded to this call with extreme zeal and enthusiasm and performed all the duties assigned in an exemplary and professional manner.

>> On 29<sup>th</sup> Jul 2007, MP-Plt, hosted a change of Command ceremony at parade square, Camp Faouar graced by the Force Commander (FC), MGen Wolfgang Jilke. The baton of the Force Provost Marshal (FPM) was handed over to Capt Grzegorz Janiszewski, by the out going FPM Capt Reinprecht Ronald. There were a plethora of involvement of the MP-Plt, ranging from daily checks, investigation of traffic violations and breaches, exercises, escorts etc. It would be

criminal to exclude the accolades and appreciation received by the MP-Plt during their performance in various escorts provided, especially during the UNIFIL FC's visit in August 2007 and DPKO-Team led by General Maurice Baril on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007. Maj Siddartha Singh Rathore arrived from India and settled down smoothly as the DFPM during this period.



*Men at work! At business we are dead serious!*

>> The polish and the Indian MP's settled down comfortably in the last quarter. Ironically, the Indians will be rotated in Oct 2007. We bid them adieu and wish all the good luck to them and their families.

>> The MP-Plt is a key asset to UNDOF and in true essence an United Nations Team. The MP-Soldiers from four different nations not only display tremendous solidarity and integrity in the professional front but are happily residing under one single roof. May God the almighty continuous its benevolence and the MP-Plts' progress for strength to strength.

*Article and Photo by  
Maj Siddartha S Rathore,  
DFPM*

*Photo by WOII Arnold Felfer,  
Force Photographer*



*The MP-Platoon*

## Change of Command in POLBATT

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007 took place a Change of Command ceremony within the POLBATT 27<sup>th</sup> rotation has just finished its mission on Golan Heights and 28<sup>th</sup> took over its responsibilities. After accomplishing the process of taking over mandatory tasks the official Change of Command took place.

Honorable guests came to Camp Ziouani favoring our celebration with their presence. There were the consul of the Polish Republic in Tel Aviv Mr Janusz Połowniak, the Attaché of Defense in Israel – Col Ireneusz Drążyk with his wife and his deputy – Maj Michał Pawlak.

The Celebration began with the report to acting FC, COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski and hosting the Polish national flag. Then the outgoing CO LtCol Jarosław Gromadziński summarized the whole activities of the battalion and gratefully thanked the absent FC MGen Wolfgang Jilke for his support in day-to-day duty, the nice working climate, patience and fatherly treat-

ment of Polish soldiers. He asked COS to pass his words to MGen Wolfgang Jilke, "...whenever you will serve in future - I will always go under your command all over the world!" CO thanked sincerely also his dear friends: Contingent Commanders, Heads of HQ Branches and all military and civilian personnel of UNDOF for their assistance, support and patience signifying that in many situations, "... we were able to find together common solutions

for the problems and made the life of POLBATTs' soldiers easier". He appreciated very much an excellent support and cooperation with diplomats from the Polish Embassy in Tel-Aviv, who served us with good advice and help during our stay here and that we always could count on them.

At the end of his speech, out-

started with the ceremony of handing over the POLBATT's standard to the new CO and signing documents. Next the new CO LtCol Jerzy Sulima thanked his predecessor for his good advices and useful information given during changing command program and assured that he will do his best for fulfilling the tasks of UNDOF with dignity by Polish soldiers.



*The CO POLBATT handing over the standard*

going CO LtCol Gromadziński said that the Polish soldiers with their efforts and commitment fully deserved words of appreciation. But the most important matter is the fact that due to engagement of Polish and other soldiers from UNDOF the peace process in the region is still successfully continued and his subordinates can fly home safely and with the feeling of well fulfilled obligations.

The main part of celebration

the unveiling of remembrance monument was conducted.

And in such a way the mission of 27<sup>th</sup> Rotation of POLBATT has been accomplished at last, and soldiers may return to their homeland proud and happy with a convenience that effects of their work will help the 28<sup>th</sup> rotation and their successors.

*Article and Photo by  
Capt Andrzej Czekaj,  
PressO/POLBATT*

## MEDAL PARADE IN POLBATT



*The FC bestowing the medals to the coy-commanders*

On 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007 in POLBATT's base in Camp Ziouani a traditional Medal Parade took place. Favored by the presence of representatives of Polish Embassy in Tel Aviv, Attaché of Defense, Col Ireneusz Drażyk and Consul, Mr. Janusz Połowniak, representative of Poland in Palestine – Mr. Piotr Puchta with his wife and also Contingent Commanders (CO) and members of UNDOF HQ's and people from Polonium Society „PIAST” in Israel. Of course we did not have to suffer from an absence of our friends from India, Austria, Japan and Slovakia and pretty representatives of the IDF.

As usual the ceremony began with a report to UNDOF FC, MGen Wolfgang Jilke and hosting of Polish flag. Then, the CO of POLBATT, LtCol Jarosław Gromadziński presented in his speech the history of establishing the Polish Armed Forces Day and historic importance of “the Miracle on Vistula River”. He although mentioned the value of this one of

18<sup>th</sup> famous battles in the world for Polish soldiers. He also did not forget about bitter information from last days about the death of our friend from ISAF mission in Afghanistan, who was shot dead during routine patrol and other peacekeepers who sacrificed their lives for defense of innocents and for fight for freedom and peace all over the world. We commemorated them with a minute of silence.

After that, the Attaché of Defense thanked soldiers of 27<sup>th</sup> rotation for efficient and professional realization of mandatory tasks under the blue flag of UN and venerable representing of Polish Armed Forces in Israel. Considering, that the end of our mission is very close, on behalf of Polish

guage for their commitment and engagement in fulfilling mandatory tasks, hoping that given orders would hang on their chests with great proud and feeling of well done job on the Golan Heights.

After his speech there was a ceremony of decorating soldiers with UNDOF Medals and troops march accompanied by vehicles parade, which ended the celebration. The UNDOF Medal given to Polish soldiers has a UN logo on avers, and colors of its ribbon have their own symbolic. The shade of Burgundy symbolizes the purple haze at sunset and of the native thistle and the flora on the Golan. White indicates the snow on Mt Hermon. Black acts for the volcanic rocks and stones on the Golan Heights. The Blue band with the Red line is representa-



*Presenting the banner to the honorary guests marching by the tribune*

Ambassador H.E. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska he thanked also for our great cooperation and contribution to improvement of multi-lateral relationships in the region.

Finally MGen Jilke spent his address, signifying the Polish share to UN peacekeeping missions and thanked the soldiers in Polish lan-

guage of the UN Zone including the Area of Limitation (AOL blue) and the Area of Separation (AOS red) respectively.

*Article an Photos by  
Capt Andrzej Czekaj,  
PressO/POLBATT*

# Mapping in UNDOF!

## Geographic Information System (GIS) unit of UNDOF



*Fieldwork, Saladin South, May 2007*

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been working with the same operational maps, Approximate Map Reference (AMR) for the last 32 years. As there have been many changes in the infrastructure, due to development of new roads and villages on the Golan Heights over this

period, the necessity for new map-products was rising year by year. It was in the beginning of 2005, that the Force Commander (FC) of UNDOF, LtGen Bala N. Sharma, agreed with the Cartographic Section in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO), New York, to develop a digital database

out of purchased Satellite (SAT) imagery. UNDOF assisted that task with the collection of over 150 Ground Control Points during winter 2005/06 and finally the database has been delivered and installed by Mr Lorant Czarán (member of the Cartographic Section) in April 2006.

During summer 2006 twelve basic map sheets, based on the Universal Transversal Mercator System (UTM) – World Geodetic System (WGS 84), covering the Area of Separation (AOS) and the Area of Limitation (AOL) of UNDOF, have been developed by Javier NEME-LOZANO (a member of GIS United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), on loan in UNDOF for three and a half months). He was assisted during this period by the newly-assigned GIS Administrative Assistant, Miss Stella Srour. Beginning of September 2006 the GIS unit of UNDOF started the issue of the new maps. By middle of September 2006 the database has been handed over to the GIS Military Officer, Maj Helmut Wöhler. Staffing, finally, was completed in January 2007, when Miss Ayako Kagawa joined the unit, assigned as Chief GIS UNDOF.

Already in September 2006, the incoming Chief of Staff (COS), Col Andrzej Ostrowski, informed the GIS unit that the basic map sheets would not meet the needs of UNDOF. As a first step the GIS unit developed not only a briefing map, containing the whole Area of Responsibility (AOR) of UNDOF, but as well some other products, like

Company (Coy) maps, the AOS UNDOF, AUSBATT, POLBATT, Golan East and Golan West.

With the decision of the Observation Group Golan (OGG) in March 2007 to seize the reporting in AMR and to do all future reporting in UTM, the need for further new map products arose. In accordance with this need, the UNDOF GIS unit developed a Joint Area Familiarisation Training (JAFT) map catalogue, Observation Post (OP) maps and Inspection maps during summer 2007. On top of that, Patrol maps for AUSBATT and POLBATT have been developed and issued by the GIS unit during the same period.

Further, the GIS unit of UNDOF has been involved throughout the year with different training activities, like Induction training, Global Positioning System

(GPS) training both to UNDOF and OGG and the development of GPS focal points.

Additionally, fieldwork was carried out by the GIS unit of UNDOF on various occasions, like the tracking of the new road in

“Saladin North”, tracking of the new road and assigning locations for barrels like Oscar V to VIII in “Saladin South” and assigning locations for barrels to represent the



*GPS training - Camp Faouar, spring 2007*



*Maj Mariusz Reichl, Maj Helmut Wöhler, Stella Srour, Ayako Kagawa*

A-Line between Posn 16 and OP 73.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the posting of the GIS Military officer is currently handed over to Maj Mariusz REICHEL from POLBATT, as it was agreed with the last update of the HQ-structure that it would be a shared position between AUSBATT and POLBATT.

*Article by Maj Helmut Wöhler,  
GIS Military Officer  
Photos by GIS unit UNDOF*

