

# GO LAN

The UNDOF JOURNAL

**Engineer Specialist Search  
and Clearance (ESSC)**

**'Clearing The Way'**



**JAN - MAR 2018**



# DEAR READERS!

Welcome to the 154th edition of the Golan Journal which covers the period from the 1st January to the 31st March 2018. This edition of the Journal marks the first edition since the arrival of our new Chief of Staff, Colonel Michael Dawson from Defence Forces Ireland. On behalf of all members of UNDOF, I would like to welcome Colonel Dawson to the mission and wish him a safe and successful tour of duty.

2018 is a very significant year for the United Nations (UN) as it celebrates 70 years of peacekeeping (#PK70). In reaching this milestone, the UN aims to highlight the considerable sacrifice and commitment made by thousands of peacekeepers, many of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace. Through initiatives such as the Value of Peacekeeping (VoP), the UN will strive to enhance public knowledge of the work conducted by UN peacekeepers throughout the world. They will highlight individual service and sacrifice but also the contributions of member states to the UN. I would urge readers to keep up to date with these upcoming activities by visiting [un.org](http://un.org). Your attention is drawn to page 27 where we have the UN Peacekeeping Operations Fact-sheet. In this, and subsequent editions of the Golan Journal in 2018, we in UNDOF will do our utmost to support this initiative.

In this edition of the Golan Journal you will see a particular focus on the capabilities that exist within UNDOF and the operational activities in which these capabili-

ties are deployed. Whether this is the deployment of engineer search and clearance assets in support of our positions and observation posts, or

whether it is the Fiji Batt security elements deployed in support of Observer Group Golan (OGG); these operational deployments are all focused on the achievement of our Security Council mandated tasks. You will see further developments in UNDOF's incremental return to Bravo side operations with an article from our Engineer detachment in Camp Faouar as they continue to improve force protection measures within, and surrounding, the camp. This will be complimented by an article from our Force Medical Officer on the newly established Level 1+ Medical Facility in Camp Faouar.



*Cpl Qalo, Comdt Brennan and Maj Bikram*

Finally, as this is my last publication of the Golan Journal as Editor-in-Chief, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Golan Journal during my time as Editor. In particular, I would like to thank my fellow members of the Media Cell who have made this experience a very enjoyable one.

Yours sincerely,  
**Comdt Padraig Brennan**  
**SSO Media & PR**



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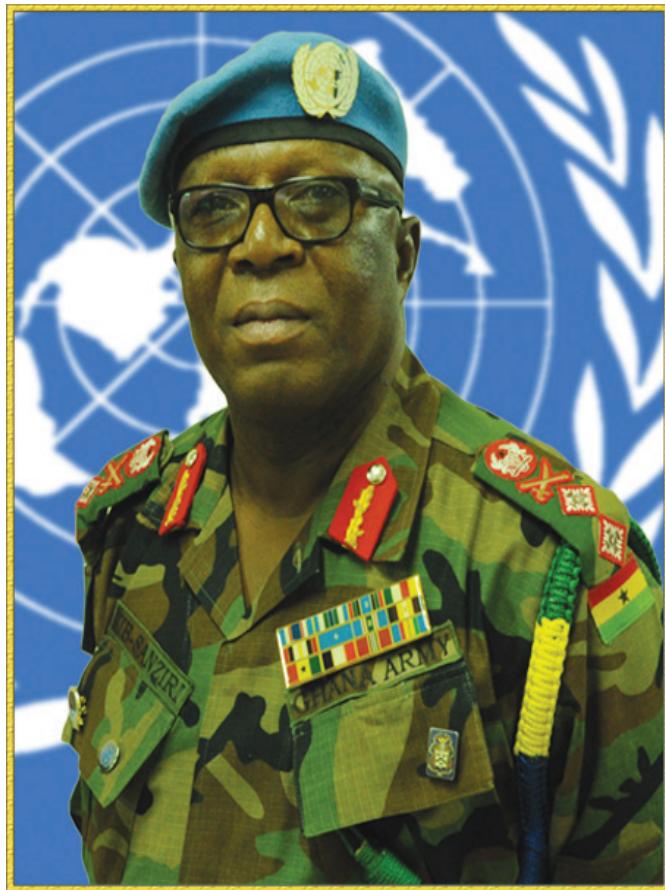
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The Golan Journal is the magazine of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and it is intended to provide information about the Force and events within it which are of interest to its members. The UNDOF Media/ Public Relations Office publishes the Golan Journal quarterly. While articles and photographs are welcomed from all members of the Force, the view and opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the United Nations or the Force Commander.

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In September 2017, the United Nations Secretary General announced the launch of the Value of Peacekeeping initiative to highlight the importance, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and added value of peacekeeping. The primary aim of this initiative is to highlight the commitment and sacrifice peacekeepers have made and continue to make throughout the world and help build support for these endeavours. I wholeheartedly support this initiative and have directed my Media Cell to continue to highlight the important work UNDOF does in the service of peace on the Golan. In this edition of the Golan Journal you will see a particular focus on the operations UNDOF carries out and the capabilities we deploy in order to implement our mandate. This will include a focus on engineer capabilities and mine clearance exercises, along with outlining the ongoing force protection work taking place in Camp Faouar and the roll out of our Level 1+ Medical Facility.

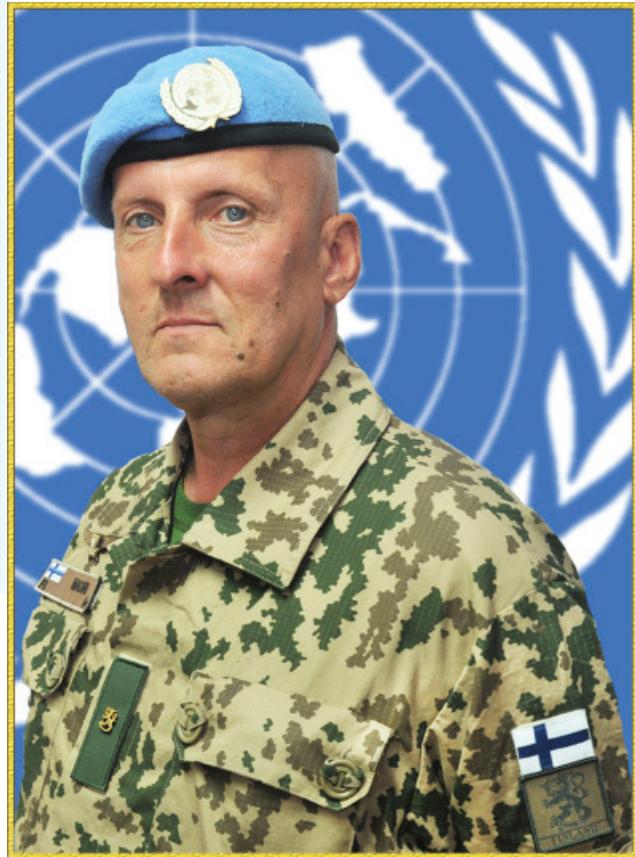
The Value of Peacekeeping initiative was launched in anticipation of the United Nations celebrating its 70th Anniversary of peacekeeping (#PK70) in 2018. It is right and just that at this time we take stock of the United Nations reaching this significant milestone. In May 2018, UNDOF, along with all other peacekeeping missions, will recognize this achievement during the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

We will reflect upon the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, under the flag of the United Nations and highlight this solemn occasion through reflection, but also celebration; celebration of the tremendous pride we take in being known as peacekeepers.

As I write these remarks I am very cognisant of the fact that I am about to award UNDOF medals to both the Indian and Irish contingents in the coming weeks. Both these contingents have completed the necessary eligibility requirements to be bestowed with this honour by the Secretary General. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their outstanding service to the mission and wish them, and their families, peace and happiness as they return home.

Finally, as we emerge from the winter period, I would like to express my appreciation and admiration to CO NEPCON and his personnel, for the tremendous work they have completed while faced with extreme weather conditions on Mount Hermon. Your work is a credit to your nation.

**Major General Francis Vib-Sanziri  
UNDOF Force Commander & Head of Mission**



**B**rig. Gen. Mauri Koskela arrived to UNDOF in June 2016. Since joining the Finnish Defence Forces in 1979 and graduating from the Finnish Military Academy in 1983, he has amassed a wide berth of military command experience both at home and overseas.

Brig. Gen. Koskela has held various command appointments including Commandant of the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre with responsibility for the 1500 Finnish Troops stationed overseas. He was the Battalion Commander for the Rapid Deployment Force and deployed to Afghanistan with an element of this group 2001-02. He has served with the UN in Liberia (UNMIL) as Forces Chief of Staff 2013-14, and as Chief Operations Officer with the UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in Macedonia in 1998.

This current tour of duty with UNDOF has not been his first time to serve in the mission; between 1989 and 1991 he was a Deputy Company Commander

and Deputy Chief Operations Officer with UNDOF, mainly based in Quinetra and Camp Ziouani.

As Brig. Gen. Koskela comes towards the end of his two (2) year tour of duty as Deputy Force Commander (DFC) UNDOF, he sat down with the Editor to discuss his time with UNDOF and outline how he sees the UNDOF mission evolving and growing into the future.

**On a personal level Sir, what has been the most rewarding part of your second tour of duty to UNDOF?**

*"I would say the planning and implementation of our phased return to Bravo side operations has been the most rewarding experience. It has had the feel of creating something new that will put the mission in a strong position into the future. This coupled with my role as a facilitator for both parties to the agreement to discuss their views on UNDOF's mission and how we implement their agreement; this interaction has been particularly satisfying as I have tried at all times to be an impartial and honest broker of the UNDOF mandate."* Brig. Gen Koskela added, *"My interaction with key decision makers across the region and with UNHQ in New York, has shown me once again how decisions made at the strategic level can impact upon troops and civilian staff operating on the ground at the tactical level. The importance of strong lines of communication between all stakeholders is vital to ensuring that decisions are made with all the information at hand."*

**From an operational perspective, what has been the most challenging issue for UNDOF during your time as DFC?**

*"The fluctuating nature of the conflict in Syria and the impact this has had on the UNDOF mission has been severely challenging. When I arrived to the mission Anti Government Armed Elements (AGAEs) were on the ascendancy which meant we did not operate on the Bravo side. As the Syrian Government has taken the upper hand*

in the conflict, UNDOF has been able to plan and implement our phased return to Bravo side operations. Our ability to reoccupy Camp Faouar in November 2016, and the deployment of the Nepalese Mechanized Company (NMC) in September 2017, has shown that we have responded to these challenges in a positive way. This coupled with the pressure of budgetary cuts from UNHQ, has meant that we have had to be flexible to respond to change. However, I must add that it is imperative that we stick to our operational plans and ensure that conditions, and not timelines, lead the way.”

### How do you see the mission developing into the near future?

“Before I discuss how I see the mission developing, I would like to mention the extraordinary commitment of the personnel of UNDOF, including our civilian counterparts, whose dedication has been key to UNDOF’s return to the Bravo side”. Brig. Gen. Koskela added, “It is clear to me that UNDOF cannot operate as it did prior to the Syrian conflict. UNDOF must become a more mobile

force with added capabilities in regards to surveillance and observation; it must incorporate modern new technologies into how it conducts its business. This technology will greatly enhance our capabilities and will assist in the deployment of Forward Operating Bases (FOB) in the Area of Operations. This type of approach will streamline our forces and make us more cost efficient in the long term”. He added, “This type of flexibility should be shown across all UN missions and needs to be top led.”

### What is next for you as you return home?

“On my return home I will take up the appointment as President of the Finnish Peacekeepers Association. In this role, I will become involved in veterans affairs and negotiate at the highest level with government officials on behalf of Peacekeepers in regards to their well-being and remuneration.”

On behalf of all in UNDOF, we wish Brig. Gen. Koskela a safe remaining tour of duty, and thank him for his service to the Mission.



DFC Brig. Gen. Mauri Koskela reviews an FRC Handover/ Takeover Ceremony

# Level 1+ Medical Facility Camp Faouar UNDOF

## "The Way Ahead"



*Level 1+ Medical Facility Camp Faouar*

There has been a significant surge in peacekeeping missions in recent years and this has come coupled with different challenges in the provision of human and material resources, and services required for the achievement of mission mandates.

One of the important aspects of mission structure is medical services. As in missions all over the world, the UNDOF mission also has its medical services branch which looks after the medical needs of the troops and civilian staff, and also local civilians in times of need. Efficient, timely, and responsive medical support for the well-being of peacekeepers is vital in the field; need

less to say, provision for good healthcare can be a morale boosting element for all concerned.

The medical services in Camp Faouar was established in August 2013 when Fiji Batt 1 took over from Austria Batt after 39 years of distinguished service with UNDOF. As the situation in Syria deteriorated around that time, taking patients to the Level 2 hospital in Damascus became more difficult. It was felt that additional surgical support was needed in the existing Level 1 hospital in Camp Faouar, thus the idea of a Level 1+ service was conceived. Sadly, in the escalating conflict, the hospital was deconstructed in 2014, when UNDOF forces moved all operations to the Alpha Side.



*Medical Exercise Camp Ziouani March 2018*

Camp Faouar was once again re-occupied when a Company of Fiji Batt, aided by Indian Log Batt, Nepalese Engineers and Nepalese Mechanized Platoon moved into the Camp on the 16th November 2016. As Camp Faouar was being re-established, simultaneous work was also being done to reconstruct the physical structures of the hospital and to refurbish the services to achieve Level 1+ services. This was a daunting task, with most of the work beginning at a basic level as very little of the buildings remained intact.



*FRC/ Fiji Batt Troops conduct medical triage*

Today, with the unrelenting efforts from all concerned, armed as well as civilian staff, we are undergoing a building and rehabilitative process to achieve the required Level 1 + standard. The number of medical personnel has increased to 27 with an Anesthetist, two (2) Surgeons, three (3) Medical Officers, fourteen (14) nursing staff, five (5) medical technicians, a Pharmacist and a Medical Logistian. There continues to be a Medical Officer and four (4) Nurses in Camp Ziouani and another Medical Officer and a Nurse in Position 80; they are periodically rotated.

In the second week of February 2018, essential blood bank equipment was installed in the medical facility in Camp Faouar. The first batch of blood was delivered soon afterwards. Some procurements for the laboratory are ongoing. By the third week of April we will have a fully functioning X-ray service, which will greatly enhance the diagnostic and treatment services in the hospital.

With guidance and support from Operations Branch, the Medical Branch has drawn up a CASEVAC/ MEDEVAC Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) which is currently under review by mission leadership. As part of these advances, the Nepalese Mechanized Company (NMC) and the Camp Faouar Medical team recently carried out a planned CASEVAC contingency operation (CONOPS) from the Camp to Al Razi Hos-

pital Damascus. Al Razi Hospital is UNDOF's Level 2 Medical Facility on the Bravo side.

At present, the hospital in Camp Faouar is catering to the daily medical needs of the troops and civilian staff stationed on the Bravo side. Services like general outpatient care, inpatient care, pharmacy, medical/surgical evaluation and referrals, emergency services, standby medical support, and dental referrals are being catered for. The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Operation Theatre with the necessary capabilities and equipment provide a 24/7 service with on-duty doctors, nurses and other members of the medical team.

Outside the daily routine of providing medical services to UNDOF personnel, the doctors stationed on both the Alpha and Bravo side have put together a training programme for Continued Medical Education (CME). The aim is to keep the medical staff attuned with the operational needs of the mission and ensure our staff play their role. This has been practiced recently during a number of medical based CONOPS exercises that are discussed in greater detail in the article on UNDOF Contingency Operations (page 16-17). CME also aims to keep medical staff updated on the recent trends in the field of medicine. The doctors on duty are ready to give any needful counselling or advice regarding mental and physical health, ensuring that troop well-being is at



*Stretcher bearers in action during CASEVAC Exercise*



*Level 1+ Medical Facility Camp Faouar*

the heart of all the medical services we provide.

The Level 1+ hospital works in close cooperation with the contingent Medical Officers in Hermon Complex, where they provide Level 1 services to NEPCON personnel. We have a close working relationship with the Level 2 facility in Al Razi

Hospital, Damascus. If needs be, patients are taken there for further diagnostic procedures or treatment if it cannot be catered for in Camp Faouar.

You may ask, why do we need all this? The simple answer is so we can be in a position to provide a first class, 24/7, medical service to the soldiers and civilian staff of UNDOF. The incremental return to Bravo side operations has presented a serious challenge to mission support and medical staff to ensure the appropriate facilities and services are in place. I believe both have responded to the challenge and have provided a medical facility and service that will match any UN mission. The medical team, and the medical facility in Camp Faouar is a credit to the mission and sits as a capability that will ultimately assist UNDOF in achieving its mandate.

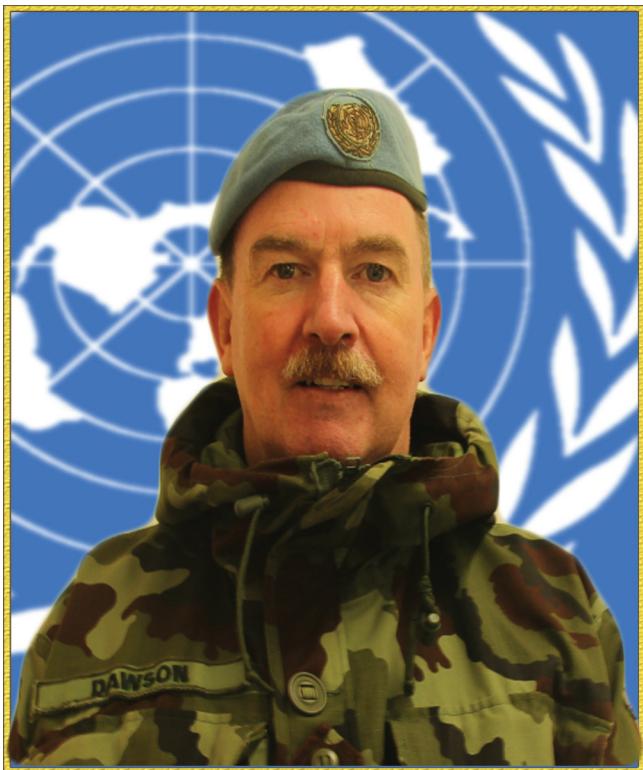
#### Article by:

**Lt Col Dr Nirab Kayastha**  
**Force Medical Officer**  
**UNDOF HQ**



*UNDOF Medical Exercise Camp Ziouani March 2018*

# NEW UNDOF CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL MICHAEL DAWSON



Colonel Michael Dawson joined Defence Forces Ireland in 1980, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on the 4th April 1982. Col Dawson joins UNDOF as Chief of Staff drawing on years of experience both at command and staff level. His most recent appointment in Ireland being that of Director of Infantry and Commandant of the Irish Defence Forces Military College. He has wide ranging experience at home including Officer Commanding 27th Infantry Battalion on the Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland border, Officer in Charge of Defence Forces Public Relations, Director of the Infantry Corps, and Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support).

Col Dawson has served overseas on five (5) occasions. These include appointments as Infantry Platoon Commander UNIFIL, Weapons Platoon Commander UNIFIL, and UN Military Observer with UNTSO, which included an 18 month secondment to UNDOF as MA to the FC. In recent years Col Dawson has served as Operations Staff Officer in ISAF HQ Afghanistan,

and Deputy Chairperson of the EU Military Committee Working Group- EU Military Staff.

Col Dawson has an extensive academic background: following his commissioning from the Cadet School he completed an undergraduate degree in Physical Education and went on to achieve a First Class Honours Masters degree in International Relations from Dublin City University. On the military academic side, Col Dawson is a graduate of the Bundeswehr Command & Staff School, Germany and also holds a Level 10 Certificate in Strategic Leadership from the National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Col Dawson lives in Newbridge, Co. Kildare with his wife Avril. They have two children, Ben and Amy, both in University. Col Dawson has a keen interest in sport and can be engaged in conversation about his favorite teams, Chelsea in soccer and Munster in Rugby.



COS Col Michael Dawson addresses Fiji Batt troops

# FORCE PROTECTION AND ENGINEER WORKS AT CAMP FAOUAR

**F**orce protection is theoretically defined as the:

**“...measures and means to minimize the vulnerability of personnel, facilities, material, operations, and activities, from threats and hazards in order to preserve freedom of movement and operational effectiveness thereby contributing to mission success...” AJP-3.14.**

To satisfy this definition and deliver on its requirements, a broad range of responsibilities need to be incorporated into the force protection mantra, covering everything from security, health, consequence management, CBRN, air defence, and

Today, Camp Faouar is in a very different situation than it was prior to the evacuation in 2014. The force protection requirements of 1974 are no longer applicable to the environment that UNDOF now operates in. The ongoing conflict in Syria and the risks this poses to our personnel, requires appropriate measures that mitigate this risk. A comprehensive approach to force protection and engineer construction is required; not only active force protection measures but also substantial passive measures that afford reasonable levels of protection expected of a force there to observe and support the UN’s 1974 mandate.



*Generic Force Protection Engineering Model*

of course engineering; more specifically, fortification or force protection engineering (FPE).

Indeed, FPE is one of the most significant aspects of overall force protection. Effective fortification is the primary passive protective measure that a position or installation can invoke. Regardless of mission, effective FPE enables a force to survive, function, and fulfil its mission successfully. As UNDOF continues its phased return to the Bravo side, and the occupancy levels increase at Camp Faouar, FPE initiatives taking place are of critical importance to the success of the mission.

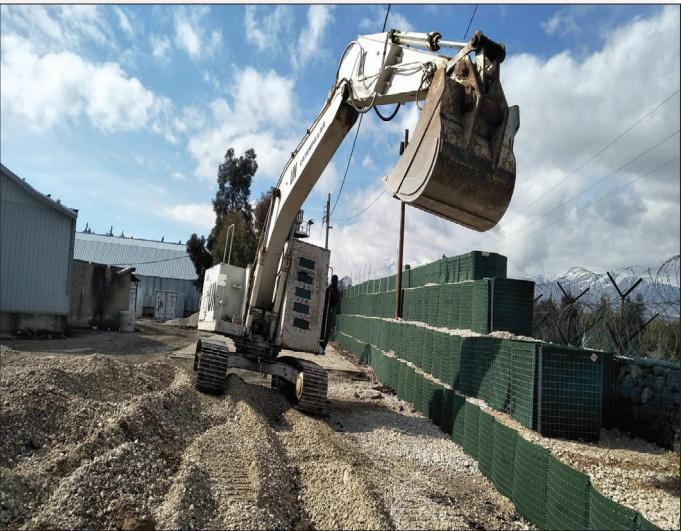
In order to facilitate the return of UNDOF to the Bravo side, it was necessary to reevaluate the current force protection apparatus. New vulnerability assessments were carried out considering the current threat levels and the limitations of the old force protection architecture. Once this was complete, a sequential plan could be established, and a phased approach of key projects initiated. It was important to adhere to one of the most crucial boundary conditions every force protection cell faces, reasonability. The challenge for any force protection effort is to design a “fit for purpose” solution. The drift towards expensive overdesign

is as inadequate a solution as the tendency to skimp on effective protection with cheap substitutes. Finding a balance is the key. A level of protection that is reasonable within the threat environment, but not too much that it unreasonably consumes all the mission's resources.

In UNDOF it is complicated, while the UN are not a protagonist in the war, and thus under no direct threat, it would be careless to assume that they are immune to risk. This is especially relevant considering the contested nature of the conflict within our Area of Operations (AO), where there are many active protagonists who are not signatories to the 1974 agreement. This has created an unpredictable and dynamic operational environment. This is where the Force Protection Officer (FPO), and the force protection cell, embrace a flexible, balanced, and methodical approach, assessing the risk and designing appropriate mitigating measures for the mission leadership to adopt. Once these measures are approved it is up to the



*Capt. Alina Shrestha on site*



*Ongoing force protection work Camp Faouar*

engineering section to design and procure the materials to enable the FPE works to commence.

In the assessments of Camp Faouar, several areas were identified for remedial FPE works. The entire perimeter, the north and south entrances, the defended positions, the observation towers, bunkers and the camp security system were amongst some of the earliest projects identified. In conjunction with engineering, the force protection cell developed solutions, providing new methods to either replace or enhance existing force protection infrastructure. These projects were categorised and formally included in the operational orders as part of the conditions for the execution of the phased reoccupation of Camp Faouar. When one enters Camp Faouar today they are met with an array of concurrent construction sites, many in-field solutions underway at every corner of the camp. It can be easily forgotten that these solutions were once problems, technical challenges yearning for creative designs to be cast as projects and managed from fruition to completion. Amongst this mix of force protection and infrastructural projects are UNDOF's engineering teams.

Spearheading the force protection projects are the Nepalese Engineer Platoon. A skilled Unit of technicians, incorporating combat and maintenance engineers integral to the support function of UNDOF. At the helm of this unit is Major Geeta Gurung, a



*Major Gurung briefs the Force Commander in Camp Faouar*

Combat Engineer Officer trained in military engineering and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). Major Geeta Gurung has led her platoon through some of the most significant challenges UNDOF support has encountered. As part of the early entry force, the Nepalese Engineers were the first to re-

turn to Camp Faouar in November 2016, conducting critical force protection engineering projects in what was still a formidable operational environment. In the middle of a still relatively kinetic AO, Major Geeta Gurung and her team were at the forefront of implementing and constructing the required force protection engineering measures. It is worth considering that Major Geeta Gurung is the first female officer to command in the international field in the history of the Nepalese Army. Another essential member of the team is Captain Alina Shrestha, the Design Officer Nepalese Engineer Platoon. Captain Alina Shrestha is an architect by profession. She has been at the forefront of solution design and force protection implementation, overcoming engineering challenges daily and managing to deliver projects on time, and with limited resources.



*Perimeter wall construction Camp Faouar*

The list of force protection projects delivered at Camp Faouar is significant. All the shelters have been refurbished including their electrification, furnishing, and ablution installation. Over 500m of perimeter wall has been hardened, augmenting or replacing the existing stone gabion wall with new

enclosed gabions, offering increased height, width, and blast protection. New fencing spanning the perimeter has also been upgraded. New defended positions have been constructed, including the proposed roll out of three (3) new purpose designed elevated sangars. CCTV has been installed, as well as perimeter lighting and the refurbishment of the existing observation towers. New entry control points have been designed, allowing for safer more controlled vehicle access to the camp. Further plans exist for compartmentation and tower enhancement.

Of course, force protection engineering is never a once off project. The need for continuous improvement is ubiquitous. Each year the force protection cell, in accordance with Security Branch and the other key stakeholders, will assess the camp's security needs often revising and designing new solutions to mitigate against the current risks. Beyond Camp Faouar, there are plans to rebuild and fortify former UN positions on the Bravo side. This offers a new unique challenge for the force protection cell and

the engineering team. The refortification of these positions is vital to the expansion of the UNDOF footprint beyond Camp Faouar in order to fulfil its requirements according to the mission's mandate.

With the celebration of International Women's Day on the 9th March, it seems especially fitting to pay tribute to the women of UNDOF who are serving with commitment and dedication daily. None more so than by Major Gurung and Capt. Shrestha. In a male dominated field, such as engineering, they are UNDOF's subject matter experts and have made a substantial contribution to the mission's return to Bravo side operations.

**Article by:**

**Comdt Emmet Keeley, Force Protection Officer**

**&**

**Major Geeta Gurung, Project Manager,  
Nepalese Engineer Platoon**



*Major Geeta Gurung (front center) and the Nepalese Engineer Platoon*

**"Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world."**

**UN Secretary-General, António Guterres**

*The following extracts were taken from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres opening address to the UN's Observance of International Women's Day in the General Assembly 8th March 2018.*

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

This year, International Women's Day comes on the heels of unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. Sexual harassment, violence and discrimination against women has captured headlines and public discourse, propelled by a rising determination for change.

International Women's Day 2018 is an opportunity to transform this momentum into action, to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential. The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, is "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives".

Echoing the priority theme of the upcoming 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, International Women's Day will also draw attention to the rights and activism of rural women, who make up over a quarter of the world population, and are being left behind in every measure of development. Through marches of solidarity, viral social media campaigns, cultural efforts and powerful grassroots organizing, people across the world are galvanizing for a future that is gender equal. Rural and urban activists continue to mobilize, disrupt the status quo, and influence a broad range of policy, legislative and social reforms, from founding projects to end violence at the workplace to providing access to services for ethnic, immigrant and minority women, working every day to leave no one behind.



UNDOF Civilian and Military female staff celebrate International Women's Day 2018 Camp Ziouani



The Charter of the United Nations, signed in 1945, was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men. Since then, the UN has helped create a historic legacy of internationally-agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals to advance the status of women worldwide. Over the years, the UN and its technical agencies have promoted the participation of women as equal partners with men in achieving sustainable development, peace, security, and full respect for human rights.

The empowerment of women continues to be a central feature of the UN's efforts to address social, economic and political challenges. We at the United Nations stand with women around the world as they fight to overcome the injustices they face – whether they are rural women dealing with wage discrimination, urban women organizing for change, women refugees at risk of exploitation and abuse, or women who experience intersecting forms of discrimination: widows, indigenous women, women with disabilities and women who do not conform to gender norms.

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Every year on the 8th March is one special day  
 A day for all women worldwide to celebrate  
 The day that women roles in society are being recognized  
 The day that women are finally given their equal rights

In this modern world there are many different cultures  
 Some or few, women in their eyes don't matter  
 With the mentality that they are only caregiver, housekeepers and cooks  
 Or only to bare children and serve food

This mentality should be forgotten and throw out in the ocean  
 Where it sinks in the deep and never to be awoken  
 Women and men are important alike  
 Keeping in mind, without women in the world, there is no life

So today, I salute and congratulate all women in the world  
 Young and old, friends or foe  
 The importance of women to cherish, respect and love  
 To celebrate their persistence's keeping the world evolve

This woman writer is reaching a milestone birthdate this month  
 The achievements and successes are to be credited to the one above  
 My prayers and wishes for the international women's day this year  
 To please God protect and guide all women who are living in fear  
 Give them comfort through their struggles and sufferings  
 Especially vulnerable women in war-torn countries.

Happy International Women's Day  
**Poem written by:**  
**Gloria. J. Time-Cusack**  
**UNDOF Security**



## UNDOF Contingency Operations

United Nations peacekeeping helps countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. The UNDOF mandate was born from a conflict situation and for over 40 years UNDOF has steadfastly pursued this mandate to help maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria. This is done by following three basic principles of peacekeeping; consent of the parties, impartiality, and the non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. In practical terms, this means deploying a highly motivated, appropriately equipped, and adequately trained force that can respond to the various situations and challenges they may face. One of the means by which UNDOF prepares for the challenges it faces on the Golan Heights is through Contingency Operations (CONOPS). CONOPS are scenario based training exercises that practice UNDOF personnel in situations they may face on a daily basis in the mission. CONOPS exercises test their response times, the functionality of their equipment, and communications with higher headquarters. Such exercises include bunker drills, scheme of defence, evacuation of observation posts and positions, withdrawal routes, and firefighting drills.

Since 2013, all the CONOPS listed above have played out in real time. The relevance and importance of these CONOPS was especially shown in August 2014 when UNDOF personnel took incoming fire from non-state actors operating on the Bravo side. The deployment of the Force Reserve Company (FRC) assisted in safely evacuating personnel from the UNDOF position unharmed.

## Bravo Side Operations

UNDOF continues to conduct CONOPS exercises on a regular basis and the return to Bravo side operations in November 2016, and the deployment of the Nepalese Mechanized Company (NMC) in September 2017, has hastened the need to expand the frequency of CONOPS exercises on the Bravo side. On order of the Chief Operations Officer (COO), through the Joint Operations Centre (JOC), NMC troops have practiced scheme of defence and bunker drills in Camp Faouar. With



*UNDOF CONOPS Mount Hermon*

recent UNHQ approval to commence limited patrolling in Area of Responsibility (AOR) North, the NMC has practiced a number of CONOPS with a particular focus on MEDEVAC/ CASEVAC exercises. These CONOPS exercises are practiced not only at a local level with the Role 1+ medical facility in Camp Faouar, but also with the Role 2 Al Razi Hospital in Damascus.

## MEDEVAC/ CASEVAC

MEDEVAC is defined as the transfer of a patient from one medical team location to another. CASEVAC is defined as the evacuation of a casualty from the point of incident to a medical facility. The purpose of CONOPS in regards to MEDEVAC/ CASEVAC is to provide standard tactical procedures for the planning and conduct of MEDEVAC/ CASEVAC within the UNDOF mission AO, inclusive of all ALPHA side and BRAVO side locations. CONOPS practices all UNDOF personnel, including medical staff and emergency first responders, in these procedures and is intended to facilitate the provision of appropriate lifesaving medical care to UNDOF personnel within the critical 'Golden Hour' following a serious medical incident. The 'Golden Hour' refers to the first hour after the

occurrence of a traumatic injury, considered the most critical for successful emergency treatment.

The rationale behind this specific CONOPS exercise is the preservation of life. The Force Medical Officer (FMO) has directed that swift action must be taken in order to get a patient to the point of appropriate medical care within the 'Golden Hour'. Fast and accurate reporting in conjunction with smooth lines of liaison and the readiness of key manoeuvre assets to achieve the required notice to move times are all required in affecting an efficient MEDEVAC/ CASEVAC.

## Medical Exercises

On the 8th March 2018, the FMO conducted a medical emergency contingency operation for UNDOF personnel based on the Alpha side. This exercise was conducted in Camp Ziouani and incorporated members of the Force Reserve Company (Ireland), Logbatt (India) and Fiji Batt. The exercise scenario was built around a number of casualties in various locations with different medical category conditions and emergencies. The aim of the exercise was to practice medical staff, emergency first aid responders, and contingent troops on triage, application of treatment, and MEDE-

VAC/ CASEVAC drills. These exercises illustrate the capabilities of UNDOF medical staff, and highlight the interaction needed with emergency first responders during CONOPS exercises.



NEPCON Foot Patrol Mount Hermon



Force Reserve Company on 15 minutes Notice to Move (NTM)

United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) have been continuously deployed as part of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) within Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt since June 1948. Their role is to monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, prevent incidents from escalating, and support other UN missions in the region. Following the wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973, the functions of observers changed in light of the situational developments in the region. These days, UNMOs are attached under operational control to the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights as Observer Group Golan (OGG), and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as Observer Group Lebanon, with UNTSO maintaining liaison offices in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jerusalem. This article will highlight the training, operations and routine activities conducted by UNMOs within OGG-T (Tiberias) in support of UNDOF.

UNMOs are unarmed military officers trained to observe and report violations of the agreements on ceasefire and disengagement relevant to their area of operations. They are experienced offic-

ers, normally in the rank of Captain or Major, although we currently have UNMOs in the rank of Commander. Within the Golan Heights, UNMOs observe the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement, pending a final peace settlement, by inspecting, observing, patrolling and reporting activities that are or can lead to a violation of the agreement.

On arrival to the mission area, each new intake of UNMOs undertakes a week long induction program at UNTSO HQ in Jerusalem. This program covers routine administration within UNTSO including driver testing, first aid, and a range of briefs on cultural awareness, safety and security, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), as well as current situational and operational updates from the outstations at OGL and OGG. Following this, UNMOs are dispatched to their respective outstations for further induction training. Within OGG-T, UNMOs cover the OGG-T and UNDOF missions Area of Operations (AO); they learn organizations and capabilities, host nation equipment recognition, and conduct further medical and driver training. UNMOs undergo rigorous continuation training on arrival to their team and are formally assessed to ensure they understand the mission,



*UNMO overlooking the Area of Separation on TOP 4*

the terrain in detail, how the mandate is applied, and the current situation involving all stakeholders.

UNMOs fulfil their mission requirements by conducting static operations, mobile operations, inspections and, when requested, investigations. UNMOs are the eyes and ears of the UN within the region and provide ongoing situational awareness to both UNDOF and UNTSO HQ, and inform their respective planning and decision making.

Static operations primarily involve manning and performing 24 hour observation on the Area of Separation (AOS) from a series of permanent Observation Posts (OP), with each team being responsible for one or two OPs and some Temporary OPs. These are well established positions that provide excellent fields of view over the AOS, and a comfortable standard of living for the UNMOs. Duties are shared between the team on the OP, including observing, reporting, administration, and cooking. Due to the ongoing Syrian conflict, OPs, 54 and 73 are bolstered by a Fijian security detachment from UNDOF.

Temporary Observation Posts (TOPs) are also conducted within the AO to fill gaps in the observation provided by the permanent OPs, as well as answering specific information requirements,



*Observation Post 73 Golan Heights*

and providing broader situational awareness within the AOS and Area of Limitation (AOL).

Mobile operations are conducted within the AOL primarily as car patrols, however area familiarisation is also conducted for new UNMOs. Car patrols provide situational awareness and answer information requirements on activity within the AOL. UNMOs conduct regular inspections on host nation military positions and equipment within the AOL in order to ensure that the conditions of the 1974 Agreement are being complied with. These are enabled through IDF Liaison Officers from the Golan Israel Liaison Office (GILO).

Employment as an UNMO is a unique experience that provides exposure to a broad range of operational activities and scenarios. The responsibility to assist in the observing of the 1974 Agreement is not insignificant and is highly rewarding and enriched by the camaraderie and support within OGG and UNDOF.



*Observation Post platform OP 55*

**Article by:**  
**Captain Tom Lewis (Australia)**  
**Observer Group Golan - Tiberias**

# USG Visit to UNDOF

On the 25th February 2018, the Under Secretary for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix visited UNDOF as part of his tour of UN Missions in the Middle East. Mr. Lacroix met with Force Commander/ Head of Mission UNDOF Major General Francis Vib Sanziri and visited Camp Faouar, where he reviewed the ongoing construction and force protection works taking place in the camp. Mr. Lacroix was given a tour of the new Role 1+ Medical Facility in the camp and was treated to a MEDEVAC and equipment demonstration by the Nepalese Mechanized Company (NMC).



USG Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix outside the Role 1+ Medical Facility Camp Faouar (bottom), USG accompanied by FC/ HoM and COS tours Camp Faouar (top right), USG accompanied by OC NMC enters Nepalese Dining Centre (top left)

# FRC Medal Parade



CEREMONIAL



On the 15th March 2018, FC/ HoM UNDOF Major General Francis Vib- Sanziri presided over the Medal Parade Ceremony for the UNDOF Force Reserve Company (FRC). The FRC is made of members from the Irish 56th Infantry Group under the command of Lt Col Dermot Hanifin. The parade was attended by a number of guests including the Irish Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe. Also in attendance was Maj Gen Kieran Brennan, D COS (Ops), Defence Forces Ireland, and the Irish Ambassador to Israel, Her Excellency, Ms. Alison Kelly. The FC/ HoM thanked the Irish personnel for their commitment to UNDOF and presented them with the UNDOF medal in recognition of their service.



FC/ HoM Maj Gen Francis Vib- Sanziri meets Minister Paul Kehoe and the visiting Irish delegation (top right), FC/ HoM reviews the parade with OC FRC Lt Col Dermot Hanifin (left), FC/ HoM presents a medal to BQ Stynes (right), FRC on parade (bottom)

# ENGINEER SPECIALIST SEARCH & CLEARANCE (ESSC) "CLEARING THE WAY"

The Engineer Specialist Search and Clearance (ESSC) team conducted a mine and route clearance operation in Observation Post 54 on the 8th March 2018. The ESSC team forms part of the Force Reserve Company (FRC) and provides UNDOF with the ability to locate specific targets or items, using information assessments, systematic procedures, and appropriate detection techniques. The team of ten (10) can operate offensively by gathering information or deprive an adversary of resources, facilities etc., or defensively through searches aimed at protecting UN positions or observation posts. The vast majority of the ESSC team tasks in UNDOF are defensive, and utilised as another method of force protection for UNDOF personnel and Observer Group Golan (OGG).

Since 2013, an ESSC team has been provided by the Irish Defence Forces to UNDOF. The Irish Defence Forces have developed engineer and specialist search and clearance capabilities since the beginning of the 1970s to counter the threat posed by subversive groups in Ireland. Continuously under review, the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) have been honed whilst the equipment available to



*ESSC Team member*

searchers has improved greatly. Increased levels of protection are available for the individual searcher with protective suits such as the SRS5 mine clearance suit and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) 9 Bomb suit. More detection equipment like ground penetrating radar (GPR) and Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) are utilised to mitigate against threats, such as remote controlled devices or no metal content improvised explosive devices (IED).



*ESSC Team validates alternative escape route from OP 54*

The ESSC team has at its disposal a wide array of tools. Personnel and search equipment are transported in a MAN HX-60 armoured search truck, which provides a high level of protection to crew searchers operating from within. Also at the ESSC team's disposal is the DOKING MV4. This is a tracked, remote controlled mine flail. Its small size makes it ideal for clearing tight terrain such as orchards or pathways, areas which would be inaccessible to larger vehicles. It is designed to clear all types of anti-personnel mines and can withstand anti-tank blasts. Handheld equipment is available that can detect command wires, low metal content devices, and conventional mines.



*ESSC Team route clearance operation OP 54*

The ESSC team is on 30 minutes notice to move. Planned operations are normally the most common type of operation. Amongst the regular tasks received is the annual validation of the alternative escape route from each of the OGG observation posts. This secondary route enables occupants to withdraw in the event that the post is untenable. If the main gate is inaccessible then personnel can withdraw safety through a marked lane to an extraction point. Each lane is physically searched annually to confirm that it is free from explosive remnants of war, mines or any other unexploded ordnance. Any of these could have shifted onto the escape lane due to melting snow, mudslides, overhead fire or deliberate placement. All of the personnel within the team have completed a comprehensive search and clearance course with Defence Forces Ireland.

There is a wide variety of skill sets within the ESSC Team which is crucial when conducting a detailed search of a building. All personnel have served overseas previously in similar appointments and also draw on experience from searches conducted in Ireland. Several have served in UNDOF prior to this trip. In addition to the ESSC team, a number of personnel from the infantry platoons are trained as All

Arms patrol searchers by the ESSC. They are validated in theatre by the ESSC team and provide each infantry platoon with the ability to conduct limited search of points where no specific IED threat exists.

Previous operations conducted by the ESSC Team include clearance of mines from land adjacent to UN positions at the base of Mount Hermon, route clearances of extremis routes, assisting in clearing anti-tank mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), and searching posts that had been unoccupied by UN personnel. The ESSC Team also provides mine refresher training to members of OGG when requested. The availability of an ESSC team to UNDOF HQ is a significant asset for the Force Commander to have at his disposal. Within the UNDOF mandate, the ESSC team is vital for ensuring mobility of peacekeepers throughout the UNDOF AOR. The ESSC team, with the assistance of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) section can mitigate against threats posed to UNDOF personnel.

**Article by:**

**Capt. Shane Walsh**  
**Engineer Officer**  
**UNDOF FRC**

# NEW FACES



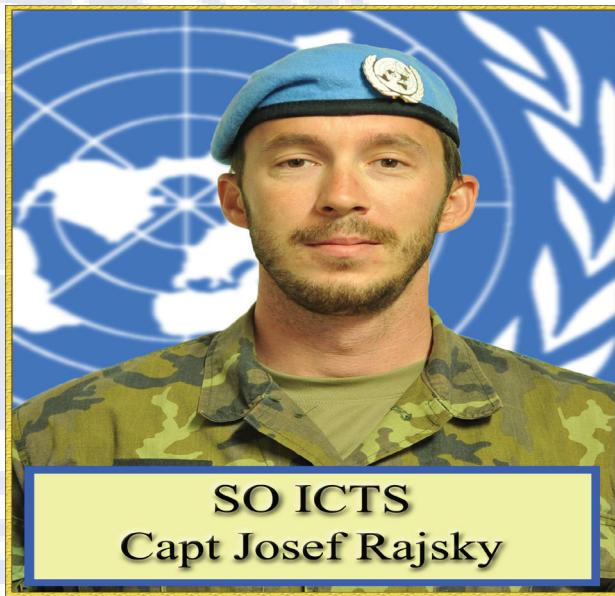
**SSO Planning**  
**Comdt Brian Connolly**



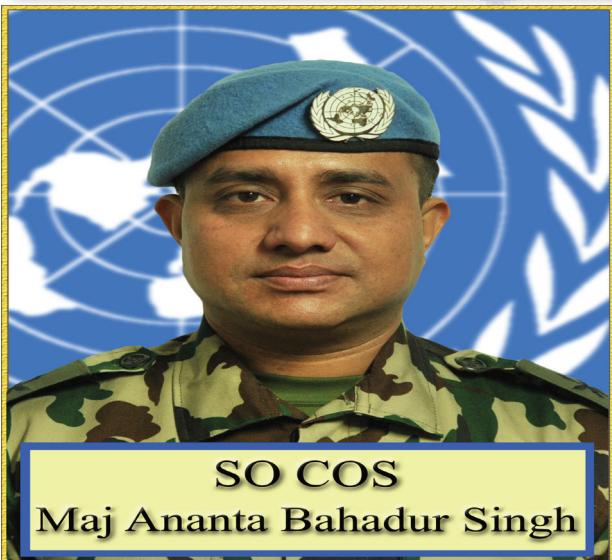
**LO Alpha**  
**Major Rene Schell**



**MA COS**  
**Comdt Ruaidhri Kedney**



**SO ICTS**  
**Capt Josef Rajsky**



**SO COS**  
**Maj Ananta Bahadur Singh**



**LAB Chief**  
**Maj Dr. Sabita Bhatta**



# DEPLOYMENT MAP



**UNDOF Components**

- UNDOK HQ (Damascus)** (X)
- FIJI** (II)
- INDIA** (LOG -)
- NEPAL** (NEPAL -)
- NEPAL** (NEPAL +)
- INDIA** (LOG +)
- IRELAND** (FRC)
- MP** (MP)

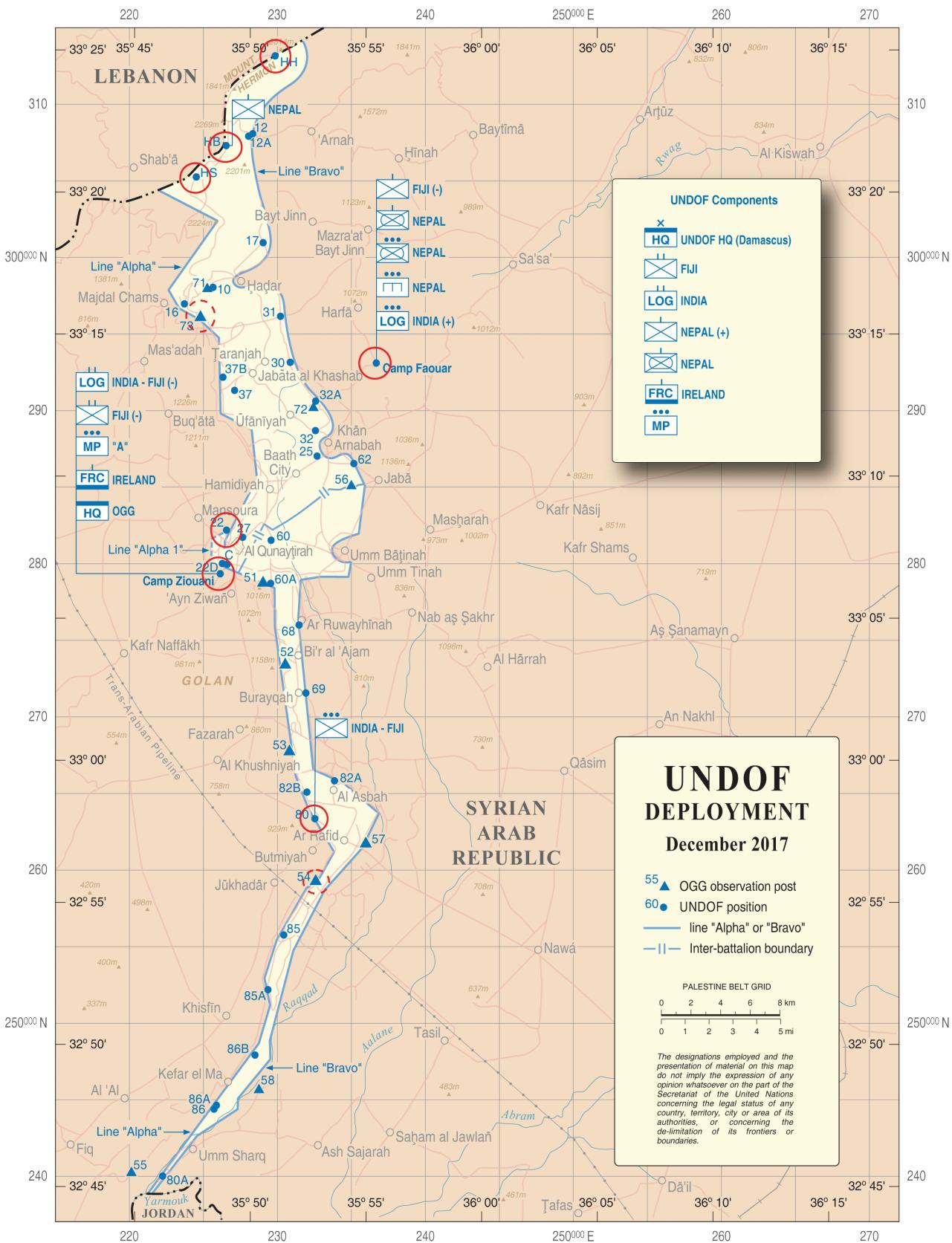
## UNDOF DEPLOYMENT

December 2017

- 55 ▲ OGG observation post
- 60 ● UNDOF position
- line "Alpha" or "Bravo"
- II Inter-battalion boundary

PALESTINE BELT GRID

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



# Upcoming Regional Events

## 01 April 2018- Easter Sunday

Easter, also called Pascha, or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent (or Great Lent), a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.



## 08 April 2018- Orthodox Easter Sunday in Syria

Many Orthodox churches base their Easter date on the Julian calendar, which often differs from the Gregorian calendar that is used by many western countries. Therefore the Orthodox Easter period often occurs later than the Easter period that falls around the time of the March equinox.

## 17 April 2018- Syria Independence Day

Evacuation Day is Syria's national day commemorating the evacuation of the last French soldier and Syria's proclamation of full independence and the end of the French mandate of Syria on 17 April 1946.



## 07 April 2018- Pesach VII (Last day of Passover) in Israel

Passover, also known as Pesach or Pesah, or the Feast of Unleavened Bread, is an eight day Jewish holiday (seven days in Israel) that remembers the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. The last day of Passover marks the end of the Jewish holiday.

## 19 April 2018- Independence Day in Israel

Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israeli Independence Day, commemorates the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948. Israel's Independence Day is celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel, when members of the "provisional government" read and signed a Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv. The original date corresponded to 14th May, 1948. In 2018, it begins at sundown on 18th April.



United Nations  
Peacekeeping

# Peacekeeping Operations Fact Sheet

Peacekeeping operations since 1948  
Current peacekeeping operations

71  
15

## PERSONNEL

### Uniformed personnel

(77,011 troops, 11,034 police, 1,402 military observers, and 1,919 staff officers)

91,366

### Countries contributing uniformed personnel

125  
4,609

### International civilian personnel (as of 31 May 2017)

9,106

### UN Volunteers

1,463

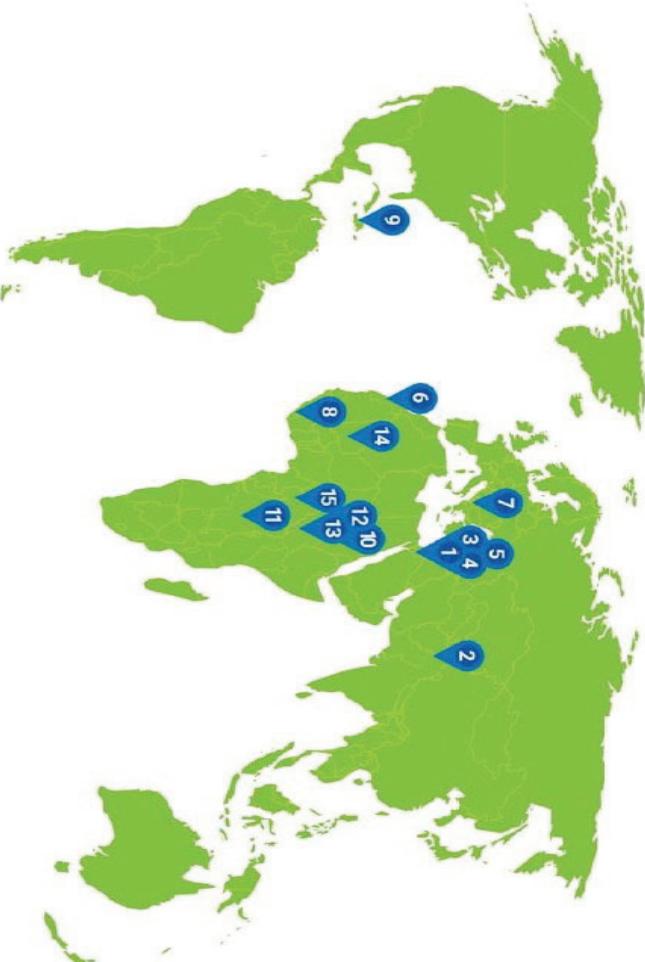
### Total number of personnel serving in

### 16 peacekeeping operations

106,544

### Total number of fatalities in all

3,654



## FINANCIAL ASPECTS (US\$)

About 6.80 billion

Approved budgets for the period  
from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

- ① UNTSO Middle East
- ② UNMOGIP India and Pakistan
- ③ UNFICYP Cyprus
- ④ UNDOF Syria
- ⑤ UNIFIL Lebanon
- ⑥ MINURSO Western Sahara
- ⑦ UNMIR Kosovo
- ⑧ UNMIL Liberia
- ⑨ MINUSTAH Haiti
- ⑩ UNAMID Darfur
- ⑪ MONUSCO Dem. Rep. of the Congo
- ⑫ UNISFA Abyei
- ⑬ UNMISS South Sudan
- ⑭ MINUSMA Mali
- ⑮ MINUSCA Central African Republic

\*includes fatalities for all UN peacekeeping operations, as well as political and peacebuilding missions.

