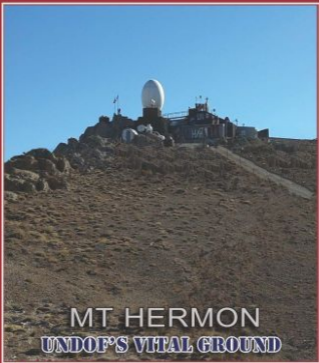


GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



MT HERMON
UNDOF'S VITAL GROUND



July-September 2015



DEAR READERS!

Welcome to the 144th edition of the GOLAN - The UNDOF Journal.

To all avid readers of this journal it is my honour to present the new edition of GOLAN. This edition covers UNDOF's activities during the Summer Season, and in a new departure for the GOLAN, edition 144 will also mark the first of a series of special editions on our Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs). The first TCC to be featured is Nepal. Through the use of several specific Nepal themed articles we hope to showcase to you the distinguished peacekeeping history of Nepal, the vital importance of NEPCON and it's Key Ground holding positions on Mount Hermon, and the rich culture of this beautiful country nestled deep in the heart of Asia.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our newest member of staff in Media Section Sgt Peni Taoi who will be the new UNDOF photographer, and also the new FIJIAN and INDIAN Contingent personnel who arrived in Theatre last August. This Summer we were also honoured to welcome the first members of our two newest TCCs, Bhutan and the Czech Republic, and inside you will find articles on both. May



Sgt Ben, Comdr Mick and Sgt Jay

you all have a safe and prosperous tour of duty.

Finally I would like to mention that in keeping with the centre page poster initiative launched in edition 143, this edition will also feature a centre page that can be pulled out to act as a wall poster, this time themed on Nepal.

Stay Safe

Yours Sincerely,

Comdr Mick Murphy
SSO Media & PR



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HOM & Force Commander's Message



This September, one year has passed since UNDOF's temporary relocation from Camp Faouar to Alpha side under the deteriorating security situation in Area of Separation (AOS). We lived to the Headquarters' expectation in the absence of established crossing and adequate deployment. During this period we have seen some serious developments; UNDOF temporary HQ came under increased threat to indirect fires, northern AOS including Mount Hermon became more active, and most critically the cross ceasefire line activities in August created one of the most dangerous situation. Our will and resolve to return to the AOS could not materialize. Against all odds, UNDOF stands firm and continues reconfiguring to adapt with the circumstance.

Conditions developing at the higher politico-strategic level presents light at the end of the tunnel. In consultation with the United Nations Headquarters, we have decided, staying steady, to implement the mandate from the current deployment. In our endeavor to implement the mandate better with assured safety and security of UN personnel and properties, redevelopment efforts in Position 12/12A as part of the overall strengthening of Mount Hermon Positions, and in Position 80 are nearing completion. The temporary headquarters in Sheraton Damascus is in the process of relocation to a relatively safer location. We have now a brand new administrative office in the UNDOF operational base. We are further reconfiguring the force under a forward-looking planning process for better mandate implementation with organic capabilities enabled to return to AOS, situation permitting. Positioning of NEPCON's headquarters in Mount Hermon was a welcomed step by both the parties. With our limitations and constraints, I must commend the operation and liaison branch, and Observer Group Golan for their meticulous handling of the crises situation.

Indian and Pijian Contingent rotated in August after dispensing their distinguished UN service to the peace in Golan. I would like to congratulate all the outgoing contingent members for making their country proud and wish them a happy reunion with their families back home, while I enthusiastically welcome the new team in the mission area. I must congratulate all the contingent members, and staff - civilian and military for their utmost professionalism, and patience in discharging their duties, without which effective operation is difficult to achieve.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the relentless efforts made by UNDOF staff across all sections and branches in facilitating the crossing on both the sides. For want of a permanent crossing for more than a year now, we have lost our most essential independence in operations and logistical supply. I must thank our colleagues in UNIFIL for their effective facilitation in crossing so as to secure the continued support from the Lebanese authority. I am also overwhelmed now for the attention accorded by the mission as a whole and individually to the sensitivities of the Government of Lebanon and Syria. As United Nations' peacekeepers, by principle, it is our individual responsibility to respect the law of the land.

As we transition to normalcy, together we are writing history in UNDOF's glory. I must applaud with greatest content for achieving ONE TEAM-ONE MISSION-ONE GOAL efficiently. We have now another winter approaching, and I am confident that together we prepare for the winter.

May peace prevail in Golan!!!

Major General Purna Chandra Thapa
Head of Mission & Force Commander UNDOF

DFC's Words

Dear Colleagues,

These heavy fighting all across the ACS and the AOL-Brao has been a feature of our life here on the occupied Golan during this hot summer period. The situation remains unstable and dangerous. During these unpredictable times our determined and motivated soldiers have been steadfast in their duty across all of our deployed positions and in the Observation Posts where our Fijian Detachments provide close-in security and armed protection for our OGG colleagues. The collaborative efforts of UNDOF peacekeepers and our OGG colleagues contribute enormously to our execution of the Mandate, despite all of the challenges and danger that they face on a constant basis. Well done ladies and gentlemen, your great work is recognised and deeply appreciated.

There have been further significant improvements in our real life support and force protection levels at all our locations. I am so impressed by the major works completed in Camp Zouani, particularly our force protection efforts and the major improvements to accommodation and the shooting range. This work was hugely supported by the Contingents and I know that Mission Support have been fulsome in their praise for the collaborative team effort. We are making fantastic improvements in UNP-80 and will soon have a model post. The major project to develop a new operating base on Mount Hermon is being realised, again we applaud the wonderful planning and execution by our Mission Support colleagues ably supported by NepCon, FijiBatt and the Heavy Plant Platoon and the FRC in progressing this vital infrastructure. When we look back at the situation on the ground, the uncertainty and the challenging conditions we were experiencing 12-months ago we can be proud of our collective efforts. There has been a dramatic turnaround in our operating environment, our working and living conditions and in all of the locations where our proud UNDOF family is deployed, on both the Alpha and the Brao side.

This quarter also highlighted a very important issue for all UN Missions and for us in particular in UNDOF. The Secretary General issued a report on the special measures that are required to be taken in respect of Sexual exploitation and abuse. Any misbehavior of this nature by UN Staff, national staff workers and peacekeepers represents a catastrophic failure of protection. It brings harm to the very people that the UN, NGOs and international organisations are mandated to protect and jeopardises the reputation of these organisations. It also violates universally recognised international legal norms and standards. UNDOF has brought the hugely significant importance of awareness and understanding of the issues associated with sexual exploitation and abuse to the forefront through our recent initiatives. I would like to pay tribute to our SEA Focal Point on the excellent work completed and you will see an example of that work in this issue of the Golan Journal; the UNDOF Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Brochure.

We had a number of high-level visits in the period, most notably the Honorable Mr. Timoci Loni Natuna the Minister for Defence from the Republic of Fiji who was accompanied by the Head of the RFMF and the Police Commissioner; we also welcomed ASG Mr. Anthony Barbary from DFS in UNHQ. The Mission also marked the Medal Parades of India, Fiji, Ireland and Nepal; India, Fiji and the Netherlands have conducted rotations and Ireland and Nepal will conduct their rotations very shortly. We say farewell to those who have left and thank them for their selfless service on behalf of the Mission and their hard work in support of the restoration of peace on the Golan. It was also a quarter when we welcomed new colleagues from the Czech Republic; we wish Lt Col Polak, Maj Fiest and Sr Le Radek a professionally rewarding experience with UNDOF.

Finally, I take the opportunity to remember our dearly departed colleague Sgt Benick Rasolo of the Fijian Contingent who sadly passed away on the 3rd of July 2015. We pause just for a moment to reflect on his tremendous contribution to peacekeeping here in UNDOF and through his past service in other UN Missions. We recall the ultimate sacrifice he has made and pray that his family find the strength to carry at this tragic time in their lives.

Depest thanks to our Contingents, our Headquarters Staff, our International Staff and our National Staff members for your commitment, motivation and determination in difficult and challenging circumstances. We also say deep thanks to all our colleagues in Damascus who are working tirelessly on behalf of all of us in a demanding and dangerous environment.

Go rāhā maith agāhā agas beir beannacht; thank you and stay strong



Brigadier-General Anthony Hanton
Deputy Force Commander UNDOF

New Faces in UNDOF



Lieutenant Colonel Paolo LUVENI (PNS) was deployed to UNDOF on 24 August 2015 as Chief Military Personnel Officer. Lt Col LUVENI is a graduate of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, UK (1995), and was commissioned into the Fiji Infantry Corps in 1992.

Lt Col LUVENI is a graduate of Bond University, Australia, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB), majoring in International Trade Law, and Corporate & Commercial Law. He is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Courts of Fiji and Australia. Lt Col LUVENI is also an alumnus of the University of the South Pacific, and has a Master's in Business Administration (MBA), a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management.

Lt Col LUVENI has attended and successfully completed an extensive range of military education courses. In July 2014, he successfully completed the Defense and Strategic Studies Course (War College) at the College of Defense Studies, National Defense University of China where he graduated with a Masters in Military Science, majoring in National Security.

Prior to his deployment, Lt Col LUVENI was the Director Coordination at the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Headquarters (RFMF). In this capacity, Lt Col LUVENI was the Military Adviser to the Commander, and responsible for foreign liaison, CMA (Civil Military Affairs), and the HQ Media and PR Cell. In addition to this appointment, Lt Colonel LUVENI was also the Acting Director of the Force Development and Strategic Command Directorate, and Commanding Officer of Headquarters RFMF. Lt Col LUVENI's previous UN experience has included a stint in Iraq with UNAMI in 2004 as Operations Officer. His interests include languages and linguistics, and marine science and biology. His hobbies are rugby and basically everything associated with the sea and scenes of Fiji's idyllic island lifestyle. This includes scuba diving, fishing, and surfing. Lt Col Luvani is a bachelor and is 39 years old.



Lt Col Ravindra Kumar Gureng, Shauya Chakra, Sena Medal was born on 05 Jul 1956, in a family of war veterans where his grandfather and father participated in World War-I and World War-II respectively. In world war – I his grandfather was awarded the military cross. This officer takes immense pride and inspiration from his family and continued the tradition of the family by joining the Indian Army as a third generation soldier. The officer is a graduate of the prestigious Indian Military Academy and was commissioned into the "Regiment of Artillery" in 2000 in one of the oldest regiments. Lt. 7 Field Regiment.

This officer has put in 15 years of service where he had the unique distinction of serving in High Altitude, Desert, Riverine, jungle and mountainous terrain and carries rich battle field experiences with him. This officer has vast experience in Counter Insurgency & Counter Terrorism Operations also. Lt Col R.K Gureng, SC,SM commanded a Battery in Counter Insurgency & Counter Terrorism Operations, where he distinguished himself during the tenure and was awarded with two gallantry awards i.e. Shauya Chakra (third highest gallantry award) and Sena Medal (the fourth highest gallantry award) by the President of India for displaying bravery beyond the call of duty and exemplary leadership. Prior to his present appointment, the officer performed staff duties in a brigade as Adjutant General Quarter Master, Operation Logistics. The officer is an avid sportsman and has led the sports team in various sub-national sports meets. The officer is a keen player of Hockey, Basketball, Volleyball and Football. Lt Col Ravindra Kumar Gureng, Shauya Chakra, Sena Medal is married to Mrs Kiran and is blessed with a son, Hrishabh.



Lieutenant Colonel Secemai K. TUIKORO was born on January 1964 in Lawaiki, Nakasoleka Kadavu, the furthest remote island to the South of the Fiji Group. He was enlisted into the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) in 1986 as an Officer Cadet before being commissioned in December of the same year as a full-fledged Army Officer.

In the last 29 years of his officer career he has fulfilled several command, management and administrative roles in the RFMF including Officer Commanding in Third Fiji Infantry Regiment for five years before he assumed the appointment of the Commanding Officer (CO) from 2004-2006. He has also served as Staff Officer and Chief Staff Officer (CSO) Service Support at Land Force Command, and CSO Peace Support Operations, Director Force Development and Director Coordination at Strategic Headquarters and CO Logistic Support Unit and Director Logistic prior to his present posting. As regards to his peacekeeping experience, Lt Col Tuikoro has held command appointments in RFMF units serving under UNHCR for 5 years, MFO for 1 year, UNIKOM for 1 year, UNTAET for 7 months where he was the CO and served in UNAMI as Contingent Commander for 1 year.

Lt Col Tuikoro has successfully completed several military courses and seminars abroad. In addition to RFMF officers promotional courses including Staff College and other Peacekeeping Operation related courses in Malaysia, Peace Support Operation course in Sri Lanka, UK, NZ and India, and Defense College in Beijing (PRC). He holds a Post graduate Diploma in Military and Strategic Studies from the Malay University and College of Defense Studies at the National Defense University in Peoples Republic of China. Apart from military studies, he holds a Post Graduate Diploma for Middle Managers from University of South Pacific under the MBA program ongoing.

He devoted his other times on being a School Academic Board Member from 2009-2010 and also prior to his present posting. He is married with 4 children and is a keen sportsman.

Regional Force Commanders' Conference (RFCC)

The next Regional Force Commanders' Conference (RFCC) will take place in Camp Ziouani (CZ) from the 19th to the 21st of October 2015. The conference will be attended by the Force Commanders of UNDOF, UNIFIL, UNFICYP and COS UNTSO. In addition the mission support staff, political affairs officer, security and operation officers will also be in attendance. It offers the opportunity for the FCs of the respective Middle Eastern UN Missions to conduct joint regional analysis and information-sharing, and develop a road map for the UN in it's Middle Eastern Theatre of Operations.



UNDOF FC: Maj Gen Purna Chandra Thapa

Majore General Purna Chandra Thapa of Nepal was appointed by the United Nations Secretary General as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) effective 8 February 2015.

He brings with him an extensive command experience and knowledge of Peacekeeping obtained through national and international service. Prior to this appointment, Major General Thapa was Master General of Ordnance in Nepalese Army Headquarters since 2013. Between 2012 and 2013, he was General Officer Commanding Infantry Division and Adjutant General in the Nepalese Army Headquarters. He also served as Director of Army Welfare Planning from 2009 to 2012 and Military Secretary of the Chief of the Army Staff from 2007 to 2008. He has commanded an infantry brigade from 2006 to 2007 with distinction. As regards to his peacekeeping experience, he has served in UNIFIL, Lebanon twice in 1986 and 1989, and in UNPROFOR, former Yugoslavia in 1994-1995. Notably, he was entrusted to lead the team of the Government of Nepal as Vice President in Joint Monitoring and Coordination Committee (JMCC) in United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in 2009.

Major General Thapa holds a degree of Masters of Philosophy in Defense and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras, India. He is also a graduate of National Defense College, New Delhi, India and Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA. He is married to Deepa and blessed with a daughter and a son.



UNIFIL FC: Maj Gen Luciano Portolano

Major General Luciano Portolano of Italy was appointed Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on 16 June 2014.

Major General Portolano has had a long and distinguished military career since joining the Italian army in September 1981. Most recently, since September 2012, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Joint Operations in the Italian Armed Forces. Previously, he was the Commander of Italy's "Sasari" Mechanized Brigade prior to serving as the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Regional Command West in Afghanistan.

He also has extensive experience with multinational operations and out of area operational deployments. In his functions with ISAF, he worked closely with the international community, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. He also served as Commander in Iraq, Kosovo, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He served as a Military Observer with the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission and the United Nations Iran Iraq Observation Group between 1990 and 1992. He was also Military Attaché at the Italian Embassy in the United Kingdom.

Major General Portolano holds a Bachelor of Arts in strategic sciences, a master's degree in integrated management system and human resources development and management, and a master's degree in strategic sciences. Major General Portolano was born in Agrigento, Italy, in 1960. He is married and has two children.



UNTSO COS: Maj Gen Arthur David Gawn

Major General Arthur David Gawn of New Zealand was appointed as Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) on 21 July 2015.

Major General Gawn brings to the position extensive command experience and knowledge of peacekeeping attained through service at the national and international levels. He Major General Gawn is currently the Chief of Army of New Zealand, a position he has held since 2013. He also held a number of senior positions, including Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Deputy Chief of Army, Land Component Commander and Commander Third Land Force Group. His peacekeeping experience includes command of Kiwi Company NZFOR in the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia in 1994 and the Third New Zealand Battalion Group in the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor in 2000.

Major General Gawn holds a master's degree in strategic studies from Deakin University in Melbourne, having also attended the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies in Canberra, Australia. He is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the School of Advanced Warfighting at Quantico, in Virginia. Born in 1958, Major General Gawn is married and has three children.



UNFICYP FC: Maj Gen Kristin Lund

Major General Kristin Lund of Norway was appointed as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 12 May 2014.

Major General Lund has had a distinguished career, with more than 34 years of military command and staff experience at the national and international levels. As a Brigadier General, she served as Deputy Commander of the Norwegian Army Forces Command from 2007 to 2009. In 2009, she became the first Norwegian female officer promoted to the rank of Major General, and was appointed Chief of Staff of the Norwegian Home Guard. In 2014, she was appointed to the Norwegian Defence Staff as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Veteran Affairs.

Her previous experience with the United Nations includes service with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia. Major General Lund has extensive experience in multinational operations, including deployment to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's SFOR in the Balkans and ISAF Headquarters in Afghanistan.

Major General Lund graduated from the Norwegian Defence Command and Staff College, the Norwegian Defence University College and the United States Army War College, where she earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree. Born in 1958, she is the first woman ever to command a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

NEPCON STANDS GUARD ON STRATEGIC MT HERMON

During both the World Wars and the Arab Israeli Wars, Golan Heights was a key battle front in the region. The military significance of Golan Heights is attributable to its dominating height, geopolitical location, as well as for serving as a traversing pass between Europe and the Middle East. An agreement signed in the aftermath of Arab Israel War 1973 between Israel and Syria on 31 May 1974 gave birth to United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). Since the mission establishment, Austrian Battalion gloriously implemented mission mandate in the most rugged northern terrain including Mount Hermon for almost four decades. Following the pre-induction training, the troops detached from NEPBATT, the 51st Battalion in UNIFIL was directly inducted to Mount Hermon on 18 July 2013. Coincidentally, the Nepalese peacekeepers from the land of Mount Everest are now proudly manning the highest UN positions on Earth.

Internationally recognized as Syrian territory, the part of Golan Heights has been occupied and administered since 1967. Effective with the agreement, UNDOF controls an area of separation (AOS), and supervises two equal zones of limited forces and armaments on the either side known as area of limitation (AOL). Compared to other UN missions, UNDOF is unique in terms of its mandate, and relatively smaller area of operation – the AOS. However, its significance in the wider Middle East Peace Process is huge.

The northernmost elevation of AOS located in the tri-junction of Lebanon, Syria and Israeli occupied Golan is called Mount Hermon. The Mount Hermon range is snow-clad during winter, mostly from November to March. Hermon Hotel at an altitude of 2,814 meters is the highest point of Mount Hermon and the home to the highest permanently manned United Nations position. Tactically, Mount Hermon is a dominant terrain from the military stand point. Military force occupying summit and heights of Mount Hermon will have a distinct and overwhelming advantage over the other. Apart from its military value, the importance of Mount Hermon as the source of water is the most critical in the region. For these obvious reasons, it remains a contested terrain between Israel and Syria, and therefore changed hands on different occasions. The Mount Hermon range, according to great military thinker Sun Tzu's six kinds of terrain, falls under the category 'precipitous heights' which states:

"If you are beforehand with your adversary, you should occupy the raised and sunny spots, and there wait for him to come up".



Hermon Base, Summer



Hermon Base, Winter

Development of Syrian domestic conflict into UNDOF area of operation and at this backdrop, the withdrawal of the Austrian Contingent in 2013 was a challenging time for UNDOF. As the UN positions and observation posts were vacated, mandate implementation became difficult. However, the arrival of peacekeepers from Fiji and Nepal brought about a silver-lining. The Fijian contingent contributed the biggest number of troops in UNDOF. Both the contingents adapted to the challenges effortlessly. The arrival of the Irish Contingent brought a whole new capability to the mission, further enabling the Force for mandate implementation. The Indian logistics battalion amply supported the missions' operation. The security situation in Syria has not improved any better, however the mission has stabilized significantly ever since and adapted to the circumstance.

Initially Nepalese Peacekeepers toiled hard before they could firmly adapt to the challenging conditions of the Hermon complex. At the time, the then Head of Mission and Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Iqbal Singh Singha, was quoted as saying:

"NEPCON had responded expeditiously to our needs by contributing a Company plus strength, on taking over the arduous task of occupying the Hermon position. Only selected TCCs have the skills and adaptability to operate under such conditions of high altitude during the winter months".



Hermon Hotel, Summer



Hermon Hotel, Winter

The experience as shared by the Nepalese contingent members speaks volume of the criticalities associated with Mount Hermon during winters. Pte Tara Bahadur Thapa, based in Hermon Hotel last winter explained that the position was buried under heavy snow and every aperture were blocked for the flow of air. The attempt to open the passage for the occupants and air became herculean when the snow piled up every next hour. Until it was finally opened in 12 days, some of the troops had already started bleeding from their nose due to insufficient oxygen. Captain Durga Singh describes his winter experience at UN position Hermon Base, who was then the second in command at the Hermon complex:

"On 23 November 2014 - after receiving of an order from HQ NEPCON to clear the way to Position 12, we immediately rushed to the garage for the Piston Bulley. We were blocked to find snow as high as 7 meters, and failed to open the door even for a single inch. It took us almost 5 hours to open the garage using the mountaineers' best tools. I can only imagine now the catastrophe, had there been an emergency medical evacuation. Life is at stake in Mount Hermon under snow in any mechanical failure. The gusty swirling winds would not allow even the best trained mountaineers any movement in Mount Hermon. Mount Hermon during winter season is a different story altogether - both for operations and logistics."



Hermon South, Summer



Hermon South, Winter

Just as explained by Captain Singh, a simple task becomes extremely challenging in Mount Hermon especially during the winter and it is not easy to survive there with blizzards of up to 150 km per hour and temperatures falling down to minus 25 degrees because of the snowfall. There are relatively few logistical issues in the Hermon complex during summer. However, it is difficult to contemplate winter survival measures so as to facilitate resupply, movement of the troops, maintenance of vehicles and MEDEVAC. These climatic circumstances besides isolation, generate great psychological stresses and strains on the soldiers serving up there, and therefore every individual soldiers who serve there should be psychologically hardened to fight the hardships and operate.



Position 12, Summer



Position 12, Winter

Due to the strategic importance to the parties to the agreement and life threatening winters, Mount Hermon deployment remains critical in UNDOF's mandate implementation, hence accorded priority. To that end the mission intends to accommodate additional troops in the new UN position 12A, establish Level I hospital, arrange task-based induction training for the tradesmen, and introduce mountain rescue guides amongst others. These initiatives in Mount Hermon ensure self-sustainment thereby enabling independence in its operation to the troops, it also offers much needed motivation for the troops in the Hermon complex. The Austrian peacekeepers proved it for almost 39 years, and the Nepalese are proving then after in Mount Hermon, the well-noted peacekeeping remarks of former UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld that "Peacekeeping is not a job for soldiers, but only soldiers can do it". The globally known peacekeepers from Nepal proudly guard the strategic Mount Hermon.

*Article By: Maj Arjun Thapa
Photo By: T/Sgt Kiship*

NEPAL Country Fact File

Nepal is a landlocked country, located between two of the largest countries in the world, India at the South, East and West and China at the North. It is 147,181 square kilometers in size and has a population of 28,624,411 people. In Nepal there are 125 ethnic groups who speak 42 different languages, each with their own different specific culture and history, making Nepal one of the most diverse countries in the World. People who live in the mountain areas are different from those who live in the Hills or the Terai (flat plain that runs along the South of Nepal). Each of the 125 ethnic groups has their own lifestyle, dress, food, religion and beliefs.

Of the 125 different ethnic groups, there are nine main groups which constitute about 66.38% of the total population of Nepal. These are broken down as follows; Chetree 16.59% Bahun 12.18%, Magar 7.13%, Tharu 6.56%, Tamang 5.81%, Newar 4.99%, Kami 4.75%, Muslim 4.39% and Yadav 3.98%. According to the last census (conducted in 2011), in terms of religion, 81.3% of the Nepalese population are Hindu, 9.0% Buddhist, 4.4% Muslim, 3.0% Kirant, 1.42% Christian and 0.9% follow other religions. Nepalese people worship many gods and goddesses earning the country the name "Land of the Gods".



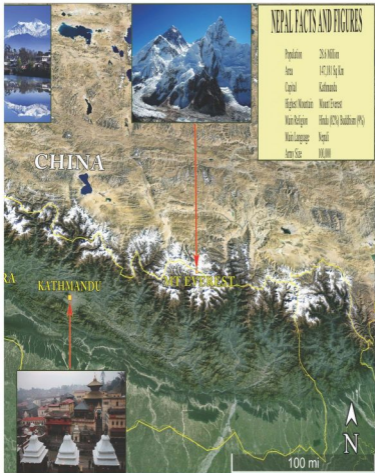
Bhaktapur Durbar Square

For Hindu the main holiest temple is Pashupatinath temple which is located on the banks of the Bagmati River in Kathmandu. It is dedicated to a manifestation of Shiva called Pashupati. It attracts thousands of pilgrims each year and has become well known far beyond the Kathmandu Valley. For Buddhists, the greatest pilgrimage site is Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, in the Terai plains of Nepal. More than 400,000 Buddhists and non-Buddhists visit Lumbini every year. It is an UNESCO World Heritage Site (Culture) and holds immense archeological and religious importance.

Yet despite being small of stature, Nepal is rich in geography, cultural heritage and bio-diversity. Many tourists visit Nepal every year for its natural and un-spoilt beauty. The main attractions for tourists are firstly the Mountains. The mountainous north has eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, including the highest point on earth, Mount Everest (called Sagarmatha in Nepali), which stands at 8848 meters tall. Every year thousands of people visit Nepal on Mountaineering expeditions.

The second highest attraction are the Rivers; Nepal is the second richest country in terms of water resources in the World. There are a multitude of large perennial rivers in Nepal. Indeed most of the territorial areas are zoned according to these large rivers running down from the vast Himalayan Mountain Range sitting astride Nepal's Northern border with Tibet, the autonomous region of People's Republic of China. These rivers provide another exciting attraction for tourists to go white water rafting in the monstrous rapids of the Trisuli, Gandaki, and Bhotekoshi rivers.





The third major tourist attraction in Nepal are the un-spoilt roaming forests. In addition to being known as "The land of the Gods", Nepal is also sometimes called "The Land of Forests". These forests are full of a vast myriad of wild flora and fauna, some which cannot be seen anywhere else on Earth. There are all together 850 species of birds in Nepal. Amazingly, half of these birds can be seen in and around the Kathmandu valley alone. Rare species of bird, such as the red-headed trogon, are found only in Nepal. There are many varieties of beautiful flowers in Nepal, including the national flower, the Rhododendron, which when it blooms in spring transforms the jungle into a paradise.



Tiger Hunting in Chitwan National Park

However for many tourists, Nepal's greatest attraction is its people. Nepal has a famous tradition as a friendly and hospitable country, and from the remote mountain villages to the medieval hill-towns and the ancient cities of the Kathmandu Valley, the people of Nepal are always welcoming. Indeed among the many who go to climb it's vast mountains, their tales of the Nepalese people's friendliness, warmth and decency are legendary, something which is not lost.



Red Headed Trogon



Swayambhunath in Kathmandu Valley

Article By: Maj Dr. Shiva Kumar & Candy Mackinlay

SEA BROCHURE



Your best behavior is
your best defense!!!

**SUMMARY- CORE
PRINCIPLES OF CODE
OF CONDUCT**

PROHIBITED:

Exchange of money,
employment, goods, assistance
or services for sex;

No sexual relations with minors
under the age of 18.

DUTIES:

1. To report allegations of
S.E.A.
2. Foster environment of
prevention of S.E.A.



*Service within the UN is a privilege,
not a right!! As long as you work for
the UN, you need to adhere to the UN
standard of conduct.*

UNDOF takes the issue of S.E.A very
seriously and will take vigorous
measures and actions to tackle any S.E.A
issue within its institution.

S.E.A. IIT:

- Chief Security Officer
- MP
- Medical Officer

S.E.A. IT:

- Behemhar Bhadri (LEGAD)
- Chief Human Resource Officer
- FPM
- Admin Assistant

CAMP 2200405
SOLAR BUILDING
PO BOX 60001100

**SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION
AND ABUSE
(S.E.A)**



United Nations Disengagement
Observer Force

Postal Point: SO WOLF
Box 5001

What is S.E.A?

• Sexual Abuse-

The ST/SGR/2003/13 defines
"sexual abuse" as the actual or
threatened physical intrusion of a
sexual nature, whether by force or
under unequal or coercive
conditions. An e.g., is rape or
attempted rape.

• Sexual Exploitation-
ST/SGR/2003/13 defines the term
"sexual exploitation" as any actual
or attempted abuse of a position
of vulnerability, differential power,
or trust, for sexual purposes
including, but not limited to,
profiting monetarily, socially or
politically from the sexual
exploitation of another. E.g.,
*paying your maid to have sex with
you knowing she is in desperate
need of money to send her
children to school.*



**Specific Standards Of Conduct for
S.E.A (Excerpts of all UNDOF
personnel)**

Under UNDOF General SOP 2011, all
UNDOF pers are to familiarise themselves
with the provisions of Secretary General's
Bulletin ST/SGR/2003/13: Special Measures
for the Protection from S.E.A, which
summarily stipulates the following:

- UNDOF pers **shall not** engage in sexual,
physical or psychological abuse or
exploitation, especially of women and
children.

- In particular, sexual activity with children
(persons under the age of 18 years) is
prohibited.

- No exchange of money, employment,
goods, assistance or services for sex.

- Sexual relations with a member of the
host population is strongly discouraged
although not prohibited, however, if an
allegation is made against you, the
relationship maybe investigated to
determine if an offense has been
committed.

Reporting S.E.A

**All personnel have a duty to report
any allegations of misconduct that
they become aware of, which
includes any suspicion of S.E.A.
(UNDOF SOP GEN Para 40)**

If you are a victim, a witness or have
knowledge of an alleged S.E.A case,
report immediately to immediate
superior/ supervisor or S.E.A focal point,
or any senior officer you feel comfortable
speaking to about the issue or to the
Military Police.

Investigations will be initiated by contingents
after reporting of the allegation to RCIT or
S.E.A Task Force.

Investigations by contingents will be assisted
by the S.E.A Immediate Response Team
(IRT).

Consequence of S.E.A

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has a
negative impact the local population. It
undermines the confidence and respect
of the host population in the UN.

It also violates victims' human rights, poses
a serious risk of HIV/ AIDS and other health
risks and ultimately threatens the security of
UN pers.

Brochure By: Capt. Nino Tabis (SO WOLF/ML,SEA Focal Person)

The Nepalese Army (NA) in UN Peacekeeping Mission

Nepal a tiny Himalayan state became a member of United Nations (UN) in 1955, since her inception in the UN, Nepal has vowed to abide by the principle of UN and fulfill the endeavor of UN to achieve its' purpose. As stated in the preamble of UN Charter "..... *To save the succeeding generation from the scourge of war.....*" NA set out it's foot in the peacekeeping mission for the first time in 1958 by sending five Military Observer in United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL).



The history sketched by five Military Observer has now scaled up to the significant level. Nepal has participated in 41 UN Peacekeeping Missions under the umbrella of the UN, till date NA has contributed 107,205 troops in various missions. As of the 9th August 2015, NA is serving in 15 different peacekeeping missions contributing 4361 soldiers and stand in sixth position with its head held high.



Parano Goeakh Battalion was the first contingent to set out the maiden voyage for NA in peacekeeping operations; this battalion was deployed in UNEF II (Sinai, Egypt) in 1974. After that many NA contingents in succession participated in the various UN peacekeeping mission.

NA has not only provided troops on the ground, NA has significant number of shares in contributing the leadership of the mission as the Head of the Mission (HoM) and Force Commander (FC) in war torn countries as well. Under the leadership of these commanders, peacekeepers from different countries had already performed their task assiduously in various missions.



Maj Gen Krishna Narayn Thapa (Retired) Lt Gen, Force Commander UN Trup - Rwanda Observation Mission, 01 April 1991 - 13 Dec 1995, with: Crown Prince and Prince-Heir of Rwanda.



Deputy Military Advisor to Secretary General Maj Gen Chitra Bahadur Gurung (Retired) Lt Gen, with: UN Secretary General HE Kofi Annan (13 Nov 2004 - 15 Dec 2002).



Maj Gen Pawan Jung Thapa (Retired) Lt Gen, Force Commander UNMOGIL (21 May 2006 - 27 June 2010) with: UN Chinese contingents.



Maj Gen Vikram Puri Lt Gen, Force Commander UNMOGIL (10 Dec 2007) with: UN Chinese contingents.



Maj Gen Bala Hunda Sharma (Retired) Lt Gen, Force Commander of UNDOF mission (7 Jan 2004 - 17 Jan 2007), second from right (top row), with General H. Kofi Annan, 2005.

Currently UNDOF mission is operating under the leadership of HoM/ FC Maj Gen Purna Chandra Thapa, his vision of deploying bulk of troops in the Area of Separation (AOS) again has been instrumental to the very existence of the UNDOF mission.

NA has always provided its unwavering support to the UN in the time of dire need. Being the ardent supporter of peace and stability, NA has always bestowed its resources available to UN at any time in order to fulfill the void created by critical situation in the mission areas. Of late, the deployment of Nepalese troops from UNIFIL to Golan Height, in Syria gave a sap to the survivability to UNDOF mission and the deployment of subsequent NA contingent has now been the only hope in the Herman Complex which is providing life support to the UNDOF mission as a whole.



Modern day peace operation is becoming more complex and multidimensional, with these changing dynamics in peace operation Nepalese contingent by its sheer dedication, devotion and professionalism has been conducting and assisting in Humanitarian Assistance in various missions in order to win the hearts and mind of the people which has been applauded and appreciated by the UN, host nations and local populace as well.



"The bravery of one Nepalese soldier is very fresh in my mind. In June 2005, Maj Kabindra Jung Thapa was helping to escort a human rights team to a dangerous part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They were investigating mass rape-one of the worst atrocities of the war there. When the team was leaving, hundreds of armed militia men surrounded the helicopters and started firing. Major Thapa made sure that every person got on safely, he was shot and killed. Maj Thapa died protecting his comrades. He died protecting the cause of peace and human rights. He died protecting the United Nations."

HE Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General



Ever since the boots were on the ground, NA has always accepted challenges brought by the critical situation with zeal and enthusiasm. NA has been participating and operating in an unfavorable condition in most UN peacekeeping missions across the globe, the onus encouraged by morale and moral value to fulfill the task inscribed in their respective mandates has rendered 61 personnel to sacrifice their lives and another 59 disabled in their line of duty to date.

After having participated in many successive UN Peacekeeping Mission, by showing the best demeanor of its professionalism, committing itself for the noble cause of establishing peace and stability around the world, NA now has been portrait as one of the most trust worthy blue helmet. This legacy of providing troops to retain peace and stability and for the peace, stability around the world and Humanitarian Assistance would remain continued in future also.



Following are the list of UN Peacekeeping Mission in chronological order in which NA participated and have been participating with the utmost standard of its professionalism.

NA Participation in UN Peacekeeping missions

S.No.	Mission	Country	Contingent
1	UNFIL	Lebanon	830
2	UNDG-II, Ekiyak	Iraq	77
3	UNISEA	Sudan	-
4	MINDUC (Abach Ba)	Congo	830
	Engineers Coy		175
5	UNGIL	Liberia	15
6	MINDUSTHAJ Lt Inf	Haiti	-
7	INDMISS	South Sudan	1548
8	UNAMID (PR Coy)	Sudan	175
	Sector Reserve Coy		175
9	UNOCI	Ivory Coast	-
10	UNTSO	Israel	-
11	MINDURSO	Minerco	-
12	UNDOF	Syria	149
13	MINDURMA	Mal	140
14	MINDUSCA	Central African Republic	56
15	UNBOM	Senegal	-
Total			4238

Current status of NA Participation in UN Peacekeeping missions

S.No.	Mission	Troop
1	UNFIL Lebanon (Military Observer)	173
2	UNPOL India/Pakistan (Military Observer)	188
3	UNF II Sea, Middle East (Peacekeeping Troop)	173
4	UNFII Lebanon (Peacekeeping Troop)	173
5	UNDOCAF/UE OSCAF/UEII (Military Observer)	188
6	UNMCT Tajikistan	188
7	UNOCI/UNOCI/UE (Para Contingent)	193
8	UNMIL Haiti (Peacekeeping Troop)	193
9	UNTSO land, Middle East (Staff Officer and Military Observer)	193
10	UNMIL Liberia (Peacekeeping Troop)	193
11	UNPKC/UNPKC/Force Topicality (Peacekeeping)	193
12	UNMIG (Inf Peacekeeping Troop)	193
13	UNTAG East Timor (Military Observer)	193
14	UNPROF Westbank (Military Observer)	193
15	UNMIL Liberia (Military Observer)	193
16	UNMOP Periodic (Military Observer)	193
17	UNMIG Sierra (Military Observer)	193
18	UNMIL/UNMIL/Sea Land (Peacekeeping Troop)	193
19	MINDUC DR Congo (Peacekeeping Troop)	193
20	UNAMID/UNAMID/UNMIL sea Force (Peacekeeping troop)	193
21	UNPKC Congo (Para Contingent)	193
22	UNMIL Mozambique (Military Observer)	200
23	MINDIL Ivory Coast (Military Observer)	200
24	UNOCI Ivory Coast (Military Observer)	200
25	UNMIL Liberia/Periodic (Peacekeeping)	200
26	UNOCI land/Para Force Contingent & Staff Officer	200
27	MINDUSTHAJ East (Peacekeeping Troop)	200
28	MINDUC Periodic (Peacekeeping Troop)	200
29	UNMIL Suba Force Contingent & Peacekeeping Troop)	200
30	UNFII Lebanon (Peacekeeping Troop)	200
31	UNMIG Congo (Military Observer)	207
32	MINDUCAC Chad (Military Observer & Peacekeeping Troop)	208
33	UNMIL Suba (Military Observer & Peacekeeping Troop)	208
34	UNMIL land (Staff Officer & Peacekeeping Troop)	208
35	UNMIL Force Land (Military Observer)	208
36	MINDUC Mozambique (Military Observer)	208
37	UNMIL South Sudan (Military Observer/Peacekeeping Troop)	211
38	UNMIL Syria (Staff Officer)	212
39	UNMIL Suba (Military Observer & Staff Officer)	212
40	MINDURMA Mal (Peacekeeping Troop)	213
41	MINDUCAC Central African Republic (Military Observer & Staff Officer)	214

Article By: Major Navraj Thapa, CTO

Fiji Battalion Change of Command

On Thursday 27 August 2015, the official handover of command marking the Change of Command for the First Fiji Infantry Regiment serving under UNDOF took place in Camp Zouani. The handover programme after the Relief In Place has settled in the mission theatre, culminated in the official signing of the Certificate of Handover between the outgoing Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Loanakadavu and his replacement Lieutenant Colonel Tuikoro in the presence of the Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General Anthony Hanlon who witnessed the signing of the Command Handover Certificate. The outstanding performance in leadership of the battalion by Lieutenant Colonel Loanakadavu was emphasized by the DFC and he returned home to Fiji Islands bearing his best wishes and congratulation on a job well done. The new commander for the conduct of the battalion was warmly welcomed to his new command post and is keenly looking forward to the challenges of his term ahead.

This was followed by the ceremony of handover of the Regiment colors to the new Commanding Officer in the Camp Zouani Chapel, an event which was solemnised in the dedication and thanksgiving church service officiated by both outgoing and incoming contingent Padres where the Senior National Officer Colonel J. Kalouniwa officiated the change of command in accordance with Republic of Fiji Military Forces protocol who passed the First Fiji Infantry Regiment colors to the incoming commander and entrusted to him the reigns of the Battalion in the ceremony.

The traditional ceremony of the handover of command followed on in the usual Fijian tradition and ceremony. Fijian tradition and ceremony is a living way of life intact for millennia, and an aspect of this being continued in our home land and observed by Fijian troops serving abroad in many theatres of peacekeeping missions is the kava and tabua presentations. The presentation of kava and tabua or whales tooth to the incoming Commanding Officer is the central and ancient part of Fijian ceremony signifying the respect and honour due for chiefly position and authority being vested upon him. Kava and tabua or whales tooth are valued gifts in ceremonial presentations.

The tabua is a whale's tooth, which is symbolic of 'the essence of life' and is held as a spiritual guardian to whom it is bestowed. Since inception of the First Fiji Infantry Regiment under UNDOF in the Golan Heights, the then Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Siiveni Tukaituraga Qilibo first presented it to his successor Lieutenant Colonel Loanakadavu in July 2014 and it is now presented to the new Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Tuikoro. This tradition is deemed important for the morale of the battalion operating in UNDOF and as an integral part of the traditional outfit in cultural representation to continue in future.

Article By: Major S.T. Quliba Photo By: Sgt Ben Jace



Fiji Battalion J Officers

HIDDEN KINGDOM: BHUTAN

Bhutan, “**The Land of Peaceful Thunder Dragon**” is a small, landlocked Buddhist nation nestled on the southern slopes of the Eastern Himalayas wedged between China and India. Also it is dubbed as “**The last Shangri-La**”. Bhutan is famous for its unique vibrant culture, pristine and breathtaking landscapes and friendly people. Starting at 200 meters in the southern foothills the mountainous terrain rises steeply to more than 7500 meters in the north. This great geographical diversity coupled with equally diverse climatic conditions is home to a flourishing ecosystem, thus making Bhutan one of the top ten-biodiversity hotspots in the world. With more than 72.5% of its land under forest cover, Bhutan is a leader in environmental conservation. To ensure the perpetuation of this precious and finite resource, our constitution mandates 60% forest cover for all times. Therefore, Bhutan is one of the few countries in the world that is carbon negative.

After centuries of internal strife, on 17th December 1907, Bhutan was unified under the leadership of Sir Ugyen Wangchuck, who was unanimously chosen as the first hereditary king of Bhutan. Since then, Bhutan has and continues to enjoy enduring peace, stability and economic growth under the reign of our successive Monarchs. In the culmination of a series of far reaching political changes initiated as part of good governance by His Majesty the 4th King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Bhutan peacefully transitioned into Democratic Constitutional Monarchy on 18 July 2008. The main goal of this transformation was to create a modern democratic nation that would meet the highest standards in upholding the full range of rights of people. The executive authority is vested in the Prime Minister and his cabinet elected for a term of five years. The current Head of Government is Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay. It must be noted here that the entire nation was averse to this transition. The people were happy under the Monarchy and saw no reason to adopt this sudden change. This was a global milestone because never in the history of the world has the Monarchy willingly relinquished their powers.

Bhutan's development goal is guided by the philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), a concept conceived by His Majesty the 4th King in 1972 at the tender age of 17 years, when the rest of the world was myopically pursuing economic growth. GNH is premised on the belief that if happiness is the ultimate desire of every individual, then it is the responsibility of the state to create conducive conditions that enable citizens to realize their desire. This His Majesty the 5th King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who is also affectionately referred to as “**The People's King**” has eloquently defined as “**development with values**”.

Bhutan's economy is predominantly agricultural. The major contributing factor to Bhutan's economy is hydro-power followed by tourism. Bhutan's vibrant culture coupled with its pristine environment is a dream destination for the discerning traveler.



Map of Bhutan



People of Bhutan.



Mask Dance.

Article By: *Madhava Subramanian* (DPPM)
Photo Courtesy: *UNEP*

BHUTAN: UNPKO ENGAGEMENT

As a long standing and responsible member of the United Nations, Bhutan attaches high importance to the principles and purposes enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Bhutan has always worked constructively with other member states to realize the noble objectives of the United Nations since its membership in 1971. Among others, Bhutan remains fully committed to the cause of international peace and security, which is one of the key mandate and objectives of the United Nations.

In this context, notwithstanding its limitations and constraints, Bhutan joined the fraternity of nations participating in UN peacekeeping operations in September 2014 by making a modest contribution of peacekeepers to a few peacekeeping missions around the world. The assignment of a Military Officer at the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) mission in the Middle East and two Staff Officers at the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) marked the first and historic participation of Bhutanese Armed Force officers as a "Blue Beret" under the UN flag.

Subsequently, this was followed by deployments to MINUSMA (Central African Republic), UNMIL (Liberia), UNMISS (South Sudan), MINUSMA (Mali), UNAMID (Darfur), and UNDOF (Syria). Deployment of additional peacekeepers to UNISFA (Abyei), MINUSTAH (Haiti), and MINURSO (Western Sahara) is also currently underway.

Bhutan's peacekeeping engagement is being pursued in an incremental manner commensurate with its own capacity. As Bhutan acquires greater experience and wherewithal, it hopes to broaden and deepen its engagement and contribution to UN peacekeeping operations. Peace and security is a shared concern and responsibility, and Bhutan remains committed to work with all stakeholders in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.



Gangtry Village.



Takin (Bhoveerus textorius) National animal of Bhutan.



Paro Taktsang Monastery.



*View of Capital City Thimphu.
Article By: Col Ngawang Agnir(UNTSO)
Photo Courtesy: TCB*

BHUTAN PEACEKEEPERS IN UNDOF & UNTSO



Major Sonam Tshering: I am extremely happy to be selected as a UN peacekeeper to the UNDOF in Golan Heights as the Deputy Force Provost Marshal (DFPM) and to be the first Bhutanese military officer to serve in one of the oldest and the most strategic UN mission-UNDOF.

It was during my school days that I learned the history of the Biblical sites and the Golan Heights. And it was on 12 June 2015 that I was mesmerized to be ushered by Warrant Officer (WO) K.S. Rao and MP patrolman through that history in the scenic beauty of Golan Heights to the house of Military Police in the Camp Ziouani. I was also overwhelmed by the warm welcome accorded to me by the Force Provost Marshal (FPM) Major Anirudh Singh and other mates. Subsequently, I was granted the opportunity to call on the UNDOF leadership including

the Head of Mission (HoM) & Force Commander (FC) Major Gen Purna Chand Thapa, who warmly welcomed me and Bhutan in particular as the newest TCC to UNDOF. On behalf of His Majesty the King and Armed Forces of Bhutan, I conveyed warm regards and best wishes for the success of UNDOF. As the DFPM, I have the opportunity to work with professional Military Police (MP) of five different nationalities which is challenging as well as a great professional and social learning experience. The past three months in UNDOF has been an enriching and a rewarding experience with which I hope to contribute in my small way to global peace and security.



Major Ngawang Jigmie: In Sep 2014, I joined UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation), a historic peacekeeping mission in Israeli occupied Golan. I was extremely happy and honoured to be the first ever peacekeeper from the Kingdom of Bhutan to UNTSO.

My nature of duty encompasses the Mobile and Static Operations on the Golan in challenging security conditions. CC1 (Chief Challenge), CC2 and CC3 tests were to be taken care before anything else for any United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) to become the so called "Expert in Mission." It was tedious for about a month trying to pass the above tests and perform the line UNMO's task. The exposure to different cultures, nationalities and work practices of the various Military Observers has been a fantastic experience for me. I am indeed indebted to my Country for giving me this rare opportunity to learn and experience teachings

that I will cherish for the rest of my life. My overall contributions to UN peacekeeping may have been a minute one, but it is a step in the right direction. It is only when one looks at the UNTSO website and sees the troop contributing countries (TCCs), that I am once again reminded of my Country's achievement. I reiterate my sincere gratitude to the King, Armed Forces and the Royal Government of Bhutan for such a wonderful opportunity granted to me to serve with the international community in their continued effort to achieve global peace. Being able to make history as the first UN peacekeeper from the 'Land of Peaceful ThunderDragon', I thank all who contributed to this lifetime experience.

FORCE RESERVE COMPANY UNDOF



The first half of our tour of duty saw the Force Reserve Company (FRC) deployed on a number of challenging operations including the evacuation of injured United Nations Military Observers from nearby observation posts and the search and clearance of heavily mined areas throughout the UNDOF area of operations. The second half has been no less eventful. On the 06 August, the FRC were deployed to the Z6 barrel high up in the Mt. Hermon Range to conduct the MEDEVAC of three NEP BATT personnel who were injured in a serious road traffic accident. This is a treacherous area and the danger is compounded when operating at night. The casualties were safely evacuated from the scene and transported to Zefat hospital for further treatment.

The following day the FRC deployed to the Mt. Hermon range yet again, but this time to OP 12 to conduct a search and clearance operation. The area had to be cleared in order to allow construction works of the new OP 12A to begin. A significant challenge for this operation was the logistics and transport element. Movement to the area in question would require a 325 kilometre journey from Camp Ziouani via Israel and Lebanon. Detailed planning and orders were required in order to mitigate any potential issues such as vehicle breakdown and in order to ensure the operation was executed without delay. A number of assets were deployed including armoured security, reconnaissance, medics, engineer specialist search team, explosive ordnance disposal and a logistics/transport support element. The operation took five days to complete, including a 650 kilometre round trip via Israel, Lebanon and the outskirts of Damascus in Syria with halts in Naqoura and Beirut in Lebanon and the Maasaa border crossing into Syria. The mission was successfully executed and the area is now clear for future engineer construction works and expansion.

Shortly after arriving back from the OP 12 operation the FRC were tasked with the disposal of three anti-tank mines in close proximity of UNP 80. The mines were unearthed by locals and abandoned along the roadway between the entrance to the post and the technical fence. After clearing a safe path to the mines, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team removed them to a safe area for disposal. On inspecting the area of detonation an anti-personnel shoe box mine was discovered and subsequently disposed of. This was an important lesson for all members of UNDOF to ensure that you do not move off the hard surface and be aware that not all mine fields are properly marked.

Finally, the FRC's capabilities were greatly enhanced during the reporting period with the deployment of three Light Terrain Armoured Vehicles (LTAV's). This includes two Cavalry variants armed with a 0.5 HMG remote weapons system and one Artillery Surveillance & Target Acquisition variant. The LTAV Surveillance and Target Acquisition variant, has greatly added to our ability to collect information and improve the FRC's situational awareness. To date it has been deployed throughout the UNDOF AO in positions overlooking the ongoing civil war, gathering information, improving situational awareness and ultimately providing force protection.

Article By: Capt Carroll



FRC Operation to UNP 12

Rabies: A Lethal Zoonotic Disease

General: Rabies is a deadly viral zoonotic infection that is mainly spread by the bite of infected animals. The brain-attacking virus kills more than 50,000 people each year, mostly in Africa and Asia. Rabies is particularly important for UNDOF as the disease is endemic in Golan Heights. There are recorded five incidences of rabies in animals in the region in recent times.

Transmission: Animals that are infected with rabies-rabid animals-can spread the disease through their saliva or through brain tissue. The route of infection is usually, but not always, by a bite. Dogs, cats, wolves, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats are the animals most likely to have and transmit rabies. Transmission between humans is extremely rare. The rabies is caused by Lyssavirus genus of the Rhabdoviridae family.

Symptoms: Rabies virus is a neurotropic virus which affects the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system) of mammals, including humans. The time from exposure to the virus until symptoms appear usually is 2 to 3 months. In rare cases, it may be shorter or much longer. Rabies in humans begins with symptoms such as fever, cough, or sore throat. Later, symptoms become more serious and can include restlessness, hypersalivation, hallucinations, hydrophobia and seizures. The final stage is coma and death. Signs of rabies in animals may include drooling, foaming at the mouth, or paralysis. A pet with rabies also may behave differently than usual, such as acting shy when the pet usually is friendly. A wild animal with rabies may have no fear of humans.



Treatment: It is very important to get medical care before symptoms begin. If symptoms appear, it's too late for a cure, and the infection will probably lead to death. After an animal bite, clean the wound well with soap and water, and seek professional medical help. If there is any risk of rabies, you will be given a series of a preventive vaccine. This is generally given in 5 doses over 28 days. The post exposure treatment for rabies should be started as soon as possible after the bite. If feasible the animal responsible for the bite should be safely captured and watched for signs of rabies for at least 10 days. People at high risk for exposure to rabies, such as veterinarians may get pre exposure anti-rabies vaccines to help protect them before they are exposed to the virus.

Prevention Tips

- ☒ Enjoy wildlife from a distance and never touch a wild animal, even if it is dead or injured.
- ☒ Do not approach a stray animal- report it to your local animal control agency.
- ☒ Have your pets vaccinated as per schedule.
- ☒ Do not allow your pets to come in contact with wild animals.
- ☒ Keep garbage cans covered with tight lids.
- ☒ Do not feed stray cats, since cats contract rabies six times more often than dogs.
- ☒ If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, immediately wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes and get medical help at once.
- ☒ If bitten by any animal, take a careful, deliberate and safe look at the animal as identification of the animal will help in subsequent treatment.

Article By: Lt Col Sandeep Kumar, Force Hygiene Officer

JOC Training

"As we TRAIN, So shall we Fight."



PTE Shyam Kumar Chaudary from NEPCON was the strongest man from all team so the nuts were a piece of cake for him. "I have to do it as fast and smoothly", was his first idea. The hard and intensive training during previous months gave him enough experiences to solve this challenge.



During the Competition FIJIBATT Team was under the leadership of Capt NAVUNISINU. They were fully concentrated before all parts of the competition but their first task was a mine field. All team members, from the left PTE RAVULO, PTE LOGANIMOCE, CPL VAKATIKOTAMATA and SGT DALE on the ball are very experienced in their infantry skills. Due to it all team blitzed through the mine crossing station with no penalties.



"Yes, so long sausage promised me my and of course to you too our commander after this if we win." It was difficult to believe him as he is famous as big joker but Irish guys were stronger and also very motivated to be the best.

Arrival Of 33Fd Regt (18th Rotation of INDCON)

18th Rotation of INDCON LOGBATT (33 FD Regt) arrived on 04 Aug 2015, under the able Command of Lt Col Ravindra Kumar Gurung, Shaurya Chakra, Sena Medal (Gallantry).



Lt Col Ravindra Kumar Gurung, SC, SM took over the Command of INDCON LOGBATT 18th Rotation, 33 Fd Regt at Golan Heights, Israel on 10 Aug 2015 from Lt Col RS Sakarwar, CO, 17th Rotation. The HANDOVER TAKEOVER PARADE parade took place in Khetrapal Hall and was presided over by DFC, UNDOF Brig Gen Anthony Hanlon.



The 69th Independence day was celebrated on 15 Aug 2015. Lt Col R K Gurung, SC, SM National Senior of India in UNDOF marked the occasion by hoisting Indian National Flag.



A Lecture on Snake Bite in Israel was organised by LOGBATT and speaker was Maj Owais M Siddiqui, SMO INDCON. A total of 187 troops of INDCON, FIJIBATT, NEPCON & IRECON attended the lecture which was quite informative & relevant.

CZECH CONTINGENT



In the beginning of July 2015 three new Czech officers have joined United Nation Disengagement Observer Force Mission for the first time in its history. It is a great honor for us and for our country to serve in Golan mission. Upon our arrival into the Mission Area we were greeted by an UNDOF team of dedicated professionals. We are grateful for these excellent working conditions. Lt Col Pavel POLAN was posted as the new Chief of Mission Training Cell, Maj Roman FÜRST is new Senior Staff Officer Training and as the new IT Officer is posted last one - 1st Lt Radek ZLAMAL.

The Czech Republic has a long tradition in peacekeeping and the other missions. The first peacekeepers were deployed to Korea after the Korean War in 1953. The Czech officers have served in many countries in the world. Nowadays the Czech military personnel are staying in par example Congo, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Mali, Sinai Peninsula and of course Golan Highs. More over a number of Czech former militaries are serving in various UN missions over the world.

National Staff Activities



HR Section In Action



Finance Section In Action



Mr James Pbelan alongside the National staffs

NEPCON PEACEKEEPERS STAND VIGILANT ON MOUNT HERMON

