

# GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



July - September 2008  
No. 116



# Dear Reader!



Once again the summer is past and the winter preparations are now underway. Along with the change of seasons come many changes within UNDOF since the last edition of the Golan Journal. The Force Commander's new operational focus on greater flexibility and mobility is becoming ingrained in the mindset of everyone in UNDOF. This renewed operational focus has really taken hold and is obvious in the attitudes and actions of all UNDOF members.

I would like to welcome Ms. Mary C. Roth, the new CMS, who is back at UNDOF along with many new faces that have arrived within the last three months as well. Who? Have a look at the pages 6, 7 and 8.



Our team: Alexander, Gerry, Yozo and Utz

Also a warm welcome to our newly arrived Press Officers – Capt Damian Zebzda (POLBATT), Capt Tokuhiko Oeda (J-CON) and MSgt Vladimir Radic (HRVCON). I'm sure that we will continue the excellent and close cooperation that we enjoyed with your predecessors.

UNDOF soldiers were taking part in the "14<sup>th</sup> of July Parade" in Paris for the first time – this fascinating account opens the new edition of the Golan Journal. I am sure you will find this article, along with all the others in the following pages, interesting and full of new insights. *Enjoy!*

*Alexander Unterweger*  
With best wishes.

Capt Alexander Unterweger, SOPR

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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 & Welfare 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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## Force Commander's Message

### *Dear Fellow Peacekeepers!*

*With the hot summer days behind us and the beautiful fall days upon us I would first like to congratulate AUSBATT for two extremely well organized social events that took place during these last three months, and express my anticipation for the upcoming events planned by POLBATT and LOGBATT this coming quarter. I am speaking of course of the Edelweiss Run and the AUSBATT March which both combined physical activity and esprit de corps. They also enabled people from all contingents to meet and discover the unique conditions in which AUSBATT has to operate. Fortunately, they were both blessed with perfect weather conditions.*



*We live in changing times more than ever. Mostly due to the continued influx of people coming to establish themselves in our area of responsibility, our mission can no longer remain static. All these local developments create an ever changing situation requiring dynamic operational and tactical responses. Finished are the days where we can sit in our positions and OPs and only do observation and reporting. We need to make our presence felt and minimize the number of violations that go undetected and uncorrected.*

*We also have changes in the socio-political situation. We only have to look at the events of the recent months. We have, for the first time in memory, an interest in curbing the smugglers activities coming from both Lebanon and Israel. These activities have brought an unprecedented Muhabarat operation and continued presence in the AOS. We must therefore remain alert and vigilant to diffuse possible escalation between the host nations as they are operating ever closer to the A-line. Also the Israeli side has a renewed interest to farmer's violations. This situation not only requires flexibility, it also demands diplomacy as some of those farmers have been allowed to harvest their land for many years now.*

*On a positive note, due to the flexibility and adaptability of the battalions, we now see a trend of substantial reduction in shepherd violations. Unfortunately, whenever one challenge seems solved, another arises that requires continued flexibility. Our change of mindset must continue to remain effective.*

*Furthermore, we also have to deal with internal change. Unfortunately for us, we have to live with the consecutive changes of the CMS, the COS and CISS in a very short time period. These are key strategic positions and it will require enormous support and flexibility from everyone in order to complete the transition without affecting UNDOF's operational capacity and upgrade projects. We also had a lot of change on the tactical and operational level with the new rotations of POLBATT and J-CON. Thankfully, those have gone smoothly due to their hard work and we are now back at full operational effectiveness.*

*Finally, as I mentioned in the last issue of the journal, we have the upcoming change in logistic support. We want to reduce duplication, make the system more efficient, introduce more accountability and provide a more logical assignment of responsibilities. This is coming in the very near future as we have now finished our field research with a visit to UNFICYP. Change can be good, but it requires hard work. I count on all of you to help.*

*In the Service of Peace, to EVERYONE in UNDOF, I say ...*

***Thank you, Hvala, Danke, Merci, Dziękuję,  
Arigato, Dhanyavad, Shukran, Toe Dah!***

Major General Wolfgang JILKE  
Force Commander UNDOF

## Chief of Staff Words

Once again it's my great pleasure to review the last few months of operations in UNDOF. I'm extremely impressed and grateful for the efforts of everyone here. Your accomplishments and the high level of cooperation within UNDOF as we took on many new tasks and projects to better fulfill our mandate and mission are remarkable.

On the operational side your vigilance resulted in timely and proper reaction to many new events in the Area of Operation (AOO). This required a renewed emphasis on operational focus and a new mindset. The Force Commander's intention is to put more emphasis on proactively engaging emerging situations in the AOO in addition to monitoring activities in support of the Peace Agreement. While UNDOF performs its monitoring activity at an excellent level, our forces have not always reacted swiftly enough to movements of civilians or to new agriculture/construction projects within the Area of Separation (AOS) which may violate the Agreement or impact UNDOF operations.

UNDOF must not only monitor, observe and protest violations that contribute to increased tensions on tactical/operational level but to act, when appropriate, to prevent events from escalating in the first place. Thus, it was directed that the scope of patrols was to be expanded to take appropriate action to assure that violations are prevented. Of course, these actions must always be conducted within UNDOF's mandate. This means that all patrols will comply with UNDOF's "Use of Weapon" regulations in order to prevent violations and/or contain

violations to prevent escalation. As a result, the Battalions have proactively taken action to deny entry into the AOS, crossing the A-line, expansion of agriculture and construction projects beyond limitations agreed by UNDOF. In addition, Position Commanders were granted the freedom and flexibility to change patrol timings as needed in order to respond appropriately and rapidly to an evolving situation in order to prevent any potential violation.

I can assure you that there is still a significant amount of activity in UNDOF's AOO. Large-scale IDF exercises in the occupied Golan from one side continue and there are increased Syrian civilian activities within the AOS, especially along the A-line, as well as smuggling activity in the northern part of the AOS.

As a result, UNDOF has adapted to these operational challenges through 24/7 mobile and static operations, closer integration of UNDOF and OGG operations, expanded spectrum of exercises, including "no-notice" to increase readiness, updated operational doctrine and procedures, and revitalization of force physical protection. In addition, it is planned that additional static operations will receive further augmentation with addi-



tional manpower to decrease reaction times and to ensure effective surveillance of the AOS.

These enhanced UNDOF operations are showing positive results, but at the same time we are encountering resistance from some civilian sectors. Our forces have received threatening letters and more mines have been found on the patrol paths. Thankfully we are receiving excellent support from the Syrian authorities with quick and appropriate responses to any hostile action against UNDOF.

Colonel Andrzej Ostrowski  
Chief of Staff UNDOF

# Visits to UNDOF by Capt Yoza Akiyama, DMPIO



*Mr. Akinori Eto, Vice Minister, Japanese Ministry of Defense, met FC UNDOF and visited A- and B-Side (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Jul 2008)*



*LtGen Bronislaw Kwiatkowski, Commander of the Operational Command, participated in the celebration of Polish Armed Forces Day and Medal Parade of POLBATT at Camp Ziouani (14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008)*



*LtGen Mag. Günter Höfler, Commander of the Austrian Armed Forces, visited AUSBATT (18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2008)*



*Mrs. Lisa Buttenheim, Director Asia and the Pacific Division, Department of Political Affairs, visited Force Commander UNDOF and conducted a line tour in POLBATT area (16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008)*



*Mr. Masashi Nakagome, Director of International Peace Cooperation Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, visited Camp Faouar (19<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008)*

- Mr. Chiken Kakazu, Member of the House of Representatives Japan (1<sup>st</sup> Jul 2008)*
- Mrs. Ulrike Merten, Chairperson of the Defense Committee of the German Federal Parliament (9<sup>th</sup> Jul 2008)*
- Mr. Asahiko Mihara, Member of the House of Representatives Japan (28<sup>th</sup> Jul 2008)*
- Mr. Khouchaba Nissan, Honorary Consul of Republic of Croatia (5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008)*
- H.E. Masaki Kunieda, Japanese Ambassador to Syria (8<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008)*
- Ms. Annika Hilding Norberg, Project Leader of International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations (25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008)*
- Mr. Petros Mastakas, UNICEF Security Officer (26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008)*
- H.E. Yoshinori Katori, Japanese Ambassador to Israel (3<sup>rd</sup> Sep 2008)*
- Col. Bruno Carpaneto, Defense Attaché of Switzerland (20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008)*

## New People in UNDOF



### The new CMS

Ms. Mary C. Roth, an American of Slavic/Polish parentage, is the new Chief of Mission Support at UNDOF. She has previously served at UNDOF for six years from Oct 1996 until Oct 2002 as CFO/Budget and later OIC Administration for six months. Ms. Roth departed on reassignment to UNMEE, Eritrea/Ethiopia Mission in Oct 2002 and was appointed at P5 level as Chief of Administrative Services.

In Aug 2005 she moved to UNMIS, Sudan as Chief of Administrative Services at D1 level and in Jun 2006 to the follow on UNIOSIL Mission in Sierra Leone until Sep 2008 when she traveled “back home” to Syria. Ms. Roth celebrated her 36<sup>th</sup> year of UN service in Jun 2008 with many friends and colleagues in Freetown. She served first with UN HQ from 1972 until 1983 when she came out to the field and never looked back. She took up a Field Service Officer position reaching until FS7 while at UNDOF.

Ms. Roth has served at most of the Middle East Missions including UNIFIL, UNTSO, UNMOGIP, UNIKOM, UNLB, UNDOF and also African Missions MINURCA, UNMEE, UNMIS and UNIOSIL.

She looks forward to retiring in four years with 40 years of UN service.



### The new CPO

Mr. Ard Venema, born on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 1969 in the Netherlands, joined UNDOF in Aug 2008 as the new Chief Procurement Officer. After graduating as an Industrial Engineer in 1993, he served as a Reserve Officer in the Royal Dutch Navy. He then joined KPN, a Dutch telecommunications firm, as a logistical planner. Soon he changed to a position as buyer, which was the start of a long and progressive career in procurement.

Before joining the UN in 2005, Mr. Venema worked for more than ten years in the private sector, fulfilling several consulting and management roles with KPN (the Netherlands), eircom (Ireland), and AT Kearney (Australia).

Starting his UN career with the Procurement Division in New York as a Procurement Officer, he was initially responsible for the sourcing of aircraft and airfield services. After one year he moved to the Procurement Reform Implementation Team, where he was responsible for the development and roll-out of a procurement training program, reaching out to more than 850 UN staff from UNHQ, OAH and all DPKO missions in less than twelve months.

He likes to play golf or go sailing, and has finished two marathons: Sydney in 2001 and New York in 2007.



### The new FPM

Maj Manfred Meyer was born 1968 in Graz, Austria. He joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1994. He joined the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt and graduated to Officer's rank in 1998. Maj Meyer was transferred to one of the oldest former Infantry Regiments of the Austrian Army, the Infantry Regiment in Vienna, as Platoon Commander and Company Commander.

In 2002 Maj Meyer assumed Commanding Officer of a Territorial Infantry Training Coy in Styria. Then he served in UNDOF as Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy/AUSBATT in 2004.

Maj Meyer decided to change to the Military Police branch in 2005 and underwent national and international Military Police training. He was subsequently appointed MP Coy Commander. Presently he serves as the DCO of the Austrian Military Police Battalion in Vienna. In Jun 2008, Maj Meyer took over as the Force Provost Marshal of UNDOF.

He is married and has a nineteen-year-old son and fourteen-year-old daughter.



## The new COO

LtCol Rainer Winter was born on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 1971 in Vienna, Austria. After finishing the Technical High School for Electrical Engineering, he joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1991. LtCol Winter served two years as a Squad Leader in an Infantry Regiment; afterwards he joined the Military Academy and graduated as an Engineer Officer. From 1997 to 2003 he served as a Platoon Leader, Company Commander of a Technical Engineer Company and Staff Officer for Training and Planning in an Engineer Battalion. During that time LtCol Winter participated in several Border Security and Disaster Relief Operations.

After passing the selection procedure LtCol Winter joined the Command and General Staff Course at the National Defense Academy from 2003 to 2006 in Vienna. At the same time he studied at the University of Vienna and graduated in both studies as General Staff Officer and Master of Arts in 2006. He also participated in several international exercises and trainings.

Then LtCol Winter was posted in the Austrian Ministry of Defense for two years. There he was a member of the strategic steering board of the "Management Austrian Armed Forces 2010" project with the purpose of transforming the Austrian Armed Forces into a modern military force with proper capabilities to meet future requirements. Since Jun 2008 LtCol Winter is the acting COO at HQ UNDOF.

LtCol Winter is married to Sonja and has an eleven-year-old daughter named Selina.



## The new CO/POLBATT

LtCol Dariusz Adamczyk was born on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1968 in Toruń in the central part of Poland, in a family where serving in the army has been a long tradition. After graduating from the Military High School of Artillery in 1992 he served as a Platoon Commander in the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment in Kołobrzeg. Until 2000 he occupied various positions from Company Leader, Chief of Staff in a squadron, Deputy Squadron Commander to Squadron Commander in this Regiment. In 2000 LtCol Adamczyk was sent to study at the National Defense Academy in Warsaw and graduated in 2002.

Soon afterwards LtCol Adamczyk joined the Land Forces Command; there he was responsible for the training of the artillery troops. In 2006 he served in UNDOF as the POLBATT Senior Operations Officer. After his return to Poland, LtCol Adamczyk took over duties as a Squadron Commander within the 1<sup>st</sup> Masurian Artillery Brigade.

LtCol Adamczyk is married and has a daughter named Karolina. He is interested in computer engineering and cars.



## The new CO/J-CON

Maj Munenori Fujita was born in Ishikawa, Japan, on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1973. Just after graduation from National Defense Academy of Japan in 1996 with the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering, he joined the Officer Candidate Course and was promoted to Second Lieutenant in 1997.

His military career includes Platoon Leader in the 1<sup>st</sup> Coy of the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion from 1997 to 2000, Instructor at the National Defense Academy from 2000 to 2001, Staff Officer in the Operations Section of the 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group from 2001 to 2003, 358<sup>th</sup> Company Commander of 13<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group from 2003 to 2004, Staff Officer in the Operations Section of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Brigade from 2005 to 2007.

Maj Fujita has completed Command and General Staff Course in 2007 and also completed the United Nations Staff Logistic Officer Course in India in 2008. After that he was assigned as the Commander of the 26<sup>th</sup> J-CON on the Golan Heights.

Maj Fujita enjoys all kinds of sports like baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball. He also likes reading books and relaxing at spas.

## Coming Home ...



**W**elcome Home, welcome back to Syria, to Damascus, to UNDOF..., they said.

I had served for six years in the Mission, six years ago as CFO/Budget and later as OIC Administration for six months.

I had been away for six years on an African sojourn to East and West Africa. I was breathless in Eritrea/Ethiopia UNMEE Mission due to the high altitude, learned to drink the traditional three cups of coffee for good luck, had sand in my eyes from the “haboobs” (dust storms) of Sudan at UNMIS. I visited down South in the tropical jungle like surroundings of Juba and out west in the arid lands of Darfur. In Sierra Leone as CMS, I had frequently ridden on a helicopter across the bay to Lungi airport and out on visits to the regional offices with our section chiefs.

Back in the Middle East where I had worked for 20 years, people asked: “How do you find the Mission, the area? Is it much changed?” The city is more populated, has more cars. Shopping malls have sprung up! Rents have doubled. As for the Mission, I am sure it has changed and improved. I look forward to realizing all of these in due course after I have had the opportunity to travel around the region and meet old and new Mission colleagues.

I had forgotten the serenity of the countryside until I recently joined old friends on a recent expedition to the mountains. We enjoyed the usual mezze lunch under the cool, swaying trees where the running spring water ran tinkling in the background. I was home again – back in the Middle East after the intrigues of the large, dark continent.

But no matter where the UN sends me to work, I always meet colleagues I have worked with before – even during the time away in Africa and, of course, have made new friends, have acquired more godchildren. Now even military colleagues are re-introducing themselves to me. We have worked together before. I am happy to be back in UNDOF, the Middle East and look forward to working with all of you for the benefit and betterment of our Mission – UNDOF!

*Ms. Mary C. Roth,  
Chief of Mission Support UNDOF*



## “Zero, this is NINER FOXTROT”

At the beginning of my tour, in Sep 2007, the new sophisticated equipment, the complicated tasks, the Geographic Information System (GIS) and my new comrades in the UNDOF GIS unit scared me a lot. To handle all the equipment properly wasn't so easy – especially for a field soldier like myself. Furthermore, my predecessor was a very experienced one. But my boss, Ms. Ayako Kagawa, repeated again and again that I shouldn't worry and that GIS is not a rocket science. Step by step, together with the help of my boss and colleagues, I managed to become an experienced Mapping Officer.

For me it was an interesting job with a lot of challenges almost every day because we had to fulfill tasks for all UNDOF contingents.

During my duty I had the chance to experience a lot. First of all, I had to create the maps – for example the patrol maps for our troops in the field, topographical maps and special maps like minefield maps and field violation maps. I'm convinced that everyone knows about this activity.

But it's not much known how much time has to be spent to create such maps. Unfortunately, it's not only “please push the button and print a map.” To create a proper map it takes you at least three to four tough hours on the computer.



*The GIS Staff in their office*

Also fieldwork is part of our job. Together with Ms. Kagawa and our friends from the AUSBATT EOD Team we spent weeks outside in the AOR. Working in the open, summer sun with up to 45 degrees Celsius (I lost four kilos!), sometimes in dangerous areas, was very challenging for us. Finally we succeeded and

created maps showing the field violations. They make the daily business for the troops much easier.

An excellent part of my job at the GIS unit was the opportunity to attend in training courses conducted in Beirut. The highlight there was that I could take part in what will become

a part of UN history. I was involved in archiving the original treaty maps in the UNTSO Headquarters in Jerusalem. As a big fan of history, it was a great experience even to touch the original documents – at that moment I could really feel

the history of this region – from the First Middle East war in 1948 until the last war in 1973. Now, after

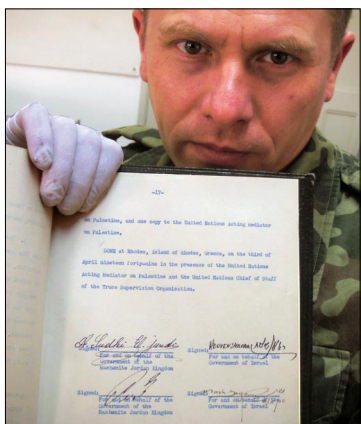


*Fieldwork in the AOR*

18 months of duty, it's time to say good bye to all my comrades from UNDOF. Thank you for your support and I hope that I also could give a small input to your duty.

“Zero, this is NINER FOXTROT, leaving your location to destination Poland.”

Article by Maj Mariusz Reichel,  
Mapping Officer UNDOF  
Photos by WO II Gernot Payer,  
Force Photographer

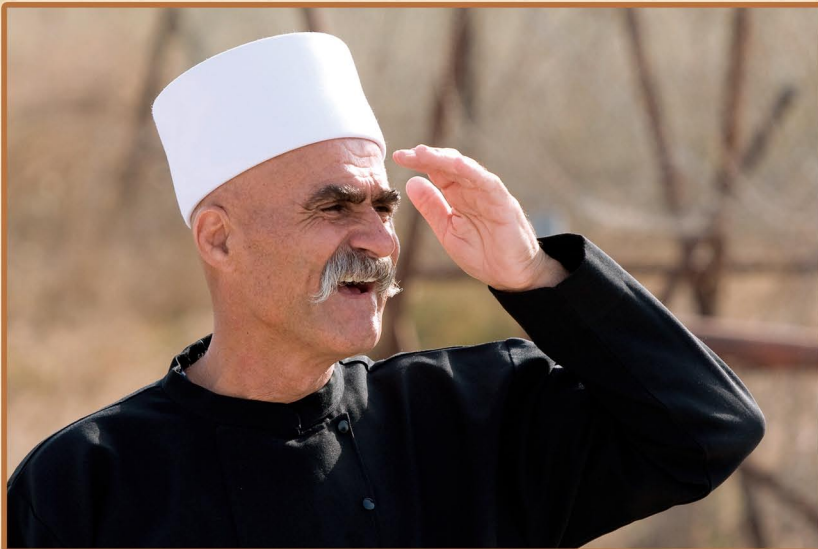


*The original UNTSO treaty map*

# UNDOF Crossing Activities



Students Crossing, 15<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008



Pilgrims Crossing, 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008

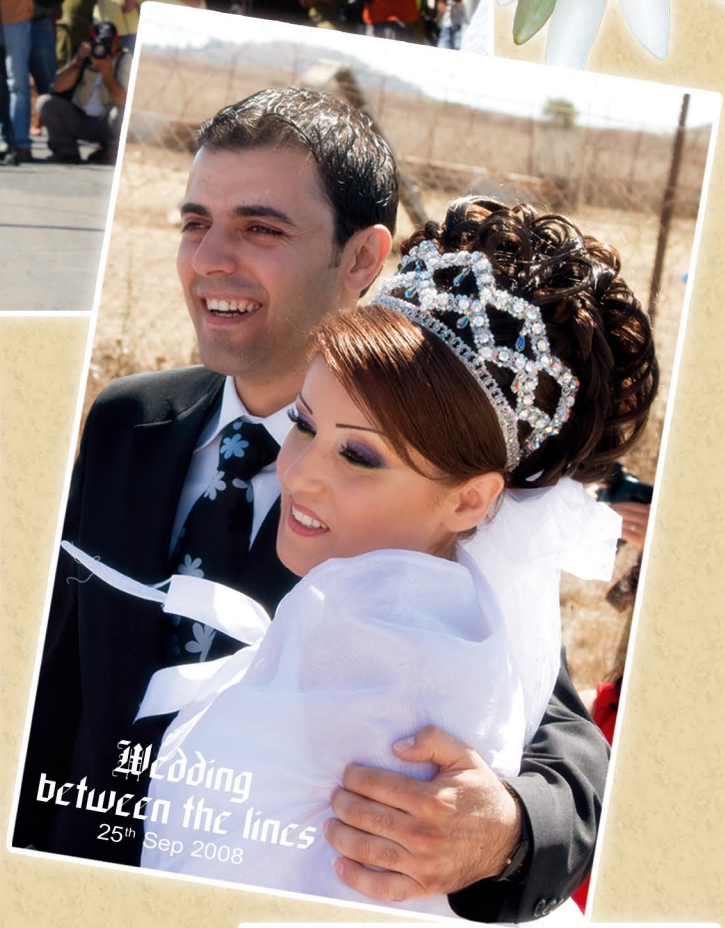
UNDOF supports the humanitarian crossing activities, which are organized and conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

## Crossing from Israel to Syria

- 19<sup>th</sup> Jul: 1 funeral
- 7<sup>th</sup> Aug: 19 students
- 28<sup>th</sup> Aug: 388 pilgrims, 5 mourners
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sep: 104 students
- 24<sup>th</sup> Sep: 109 students
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sep: 26 students, 1 bride

## Crossing from Syria to Israel

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jul: 91 students
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul: 90 students
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jul: 71 students
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sep: 386 pilgrims
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep: 26 students, 2 pilgrims, 5 mourners



## Moments of Pride

**UN Blue Berets presented at French “14<sup>th</sup> of July Parade” for the first time. UN peacekeepers, including 35 soldiers from UNDOF, demonstrated its presence at the Military Parade in Paris, France, on 14<sup>th</sup> Jul in response to the invitation from the Republic of France to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Jul, “Le Quatorze Juillet” in French, is a French National Day established in Jul 1880 in order to commemorate “Prise de la Bastille” and the following French Revolution in 1789. Therefore the 14<sup>th</sup> Jul is also called “Bastille Day”. Nowadays, many events that celebrate the French Revolution and the importance of freedom and democracy are organized on this day each year. In the morning an international military parade is held on the Champs-Élysées reviewed by the French President and other distinguished guests from all over the world.

In recent years France has invited many foreign military participants to the parade, such as in 2000, when soldiers from the British Army and Marines participated and included a demonstration flight by the Red Arrows of the British Air Force. Last year officers and soldiers from all EU member countries were invited.

This year, 145 UN peacekeepers from 23 countries had the chance to attend this parade of international renown, including 98 members of UNIFIL, twelve of UNFICYP and 35 members of UNDOF. The UNDOF delegation consisted of

ten AUSBATT, ten POLBATT, six INDCON, five HRVCON and four J-CON soldiers. The delegation departed from Damascus Airport for Evreux Air Force Base on 7<sup>th</sup> Jul. Commanded by Col B. Commins, UNIFIL Chief Liaison Officer, the 145 UN peacekeepers were engaged in intensive training during the week before 14<sup>th</sup> Jul. What had to be done first, as you can imagine easily, was resolving differences in drill of each participating countries. This may have been somewhat difficult for soldiers from some countries, but we could manage the diversity in UN peacekeeping missions.





*Champs-Elysees under the Blue Flag*

Together with the other participants, the Blue Berets had many rehearsals on the Champs-Élysées in the every early morning, between five and seven, because of the heavy traffic at daytime. After the morning rehearsal on Champs-Élysées, we all went back to Satory Training Area in Versailles, where we continued the intensive training. The parade training was not the only part offered by France; we also had the opportunity to enjoy wonderful and historical sites of Paris such as the Versailles Palace, the Eiffel Tower and the Seine River.

Celebrated by a clear blue sky, the parade on 14<sup>th</sup> Jul began with the inspection by the French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Following that, all participating UN Blue Berets, including the 35 UNDOF soldiers, proudly marched on the Champs-Élysées heading all marching units consisting of 4377 soldiers, 241 horses and 312 vehicles. Nearly 100 military aircraft and helicopters overflew the marching troops as well. In front of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, UN

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Syrian President Bashar Assad and the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who both participated in the Mediterranean Sea Summit the day before, were a few of the dignitaries present, while

thousand of citizens lined the street to watch the parade pass by.

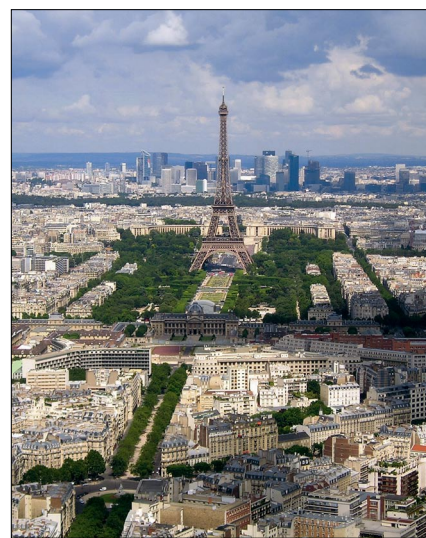
This event will have lasting meaning for all participants representing the UN and the Troop Contributing Countries (TCC).

The parade demonstrated the presence of UN peacekeepers in the arena of international resolution conflict as well as the contribution by each TCC. It also showed the presence and importance of UNDOF in the Middle East peace process, as this was highlighted by the attendance of both President Assad and Prime Minister Olmert, who had just resumed indirect peace talks.

On a personal level, all the participants had the opportunity to meet with colleagues of other peacekeeping missions.

Finally, all UN peacekeepers could take pride in the importance of their mission and their daily responsibility, when wearing the blue beret.

*Article by Maj Kentaro Yushita,  
CO/J-CON*



*Paris from a bird's eye view*



*UNDOF Soldiers presenting at the Military Parade*

# The Medical Aspect of UNDOF

The UNDOF Medical Branch not only cares about your medical treatment but is also responsible for hygiene and preventive measures. Three medical centers with their medical professionals take care of all military and civilian members of UNDOF. In case of emergency they also provide medical assistance to the civilian population of their respective host nation. Additionally, all coys are manned with highly trained medical assistants. Still there are even more contributors to this functioning medical system, than sometimes meet your eyes.

Judging by the 600 to 800 treatments performed by the medical centers each month, there is a good chance that some of the Camp members have visited them at some stage.

Have you ever spotted some mysterious early bird scooping water from a fire-fighters' pool into a little bottle? Have you ever passed by a building with an ugly smell? Have you ever witnessed anybody with a gas flame who tried to melt a tap, only to fill up water in vials? Or have you ever observed anybody straying though the camp with blood-filled tubes? You have undoubtedly guessed it by now – that's the team working in the laboratory. Their daily business is to deal with water, blood and stool samples.

Not forget someone who chases after our cats and dogs, and unexpectedly appears in kitchens and positions, rummages around in fridges and asks for odd temperature records. You are right! The Force Hygiene Officer (FHO) always strives to prevent us from debilitating diseases.

The Warrant Officer Medical Logistics (WO MED LOGS), who, armed with stacks of paper is constantly searching for facts and figures, also belongs to the Medical Branch. Still there is somebody missing. The Force Medical Officer (FMO), he's the head of the Medical Branch. That's me; but that's another story!

Article by LtCol Wolfram Heidinger, FMO UNDOF  
 Photos by WO II Gernot Payer,  
 Force Photographer



Medical check-up at the AUSBATT Medical Center



Working in the Laboratory



Veterinarian surgery of the FC's dog "Oscar"

# The Nerve Centre of UNDOF

When I arrived on the Golan Heights last November, my new office – the HQ Duty Officers’ office in Camp Faouar, didn’t meet with my expectations. This disorganized shabby shelter occupied by three soldiers should be my future working environment?! This should be the “nerve center” of UNDOF?!

After a few days of getting familiar with my duty and tasks I heard the term “JOC/JMAC” (Joint Operations Center/Joint Mission Analysis Center) for the first time.



*Working in the Joint Operations Center*

JOC/JMAC? Similar to NATO missions, here on the Golan Heights?

Based on a guideline by UN DPKO every UN Mission has to establish a JOC and a JMAC. The aims of these are to enhance the quality and speed of operational processes in a mission.

All branches of UNDOF took a massive effort to create this facility, which was built up on the existing infrastructure. Within three months, parts of the Operations Branch were moved to the attached shelter. The rest of the rooms were emptied. Gabion boxes were placed

to protect the JOC/JMAC against infantry fire and artillery splinters at least from three sides. New furniture, updated maps, and IT equipment were installed. After some dusty, noisy and struggling weeks the work was done!

Since June, the Operations Branch is now ready to face the situational challenges with appropriate measures. The JOC/JMAC is permanently manned by an UNDOF Operations Officer, an OGG Duty Officer and a Signals NCO. This team sorts out and analyzes incoming information and takes first measures, reports and keeps the FC and COS updated on a regular basis. In addition to that, the JOC/JMAC is supported by Operations Warrant Officers, Mission Analysis and Planning Officers of both UNDOF and OGG during routine working hours. If there is an operational need, additional personnel are called in from the Headquarters and the three Battalions. The Force Security

Advisor, the Force Medical Officer, a representative of the Logistics Branch and Liaison Officers to the Battalions also provide their expertise and inputs to UNDOF’s assets of operations in order to provide the FC and COS with a detailed picture of the operational situation on demand.



The effectiveness of the JOC/JMAC was already employed several times not only during exercises but also in real incidents. Two excellent examples were the coordination of UNDOF activities during a police raid against smugglers in the village of Hadar and the coordination of the handover/takeover of arrested civilians.

Despite some resistance during the planning and development stage the installation of the JOC/JMAC proved to be a big and positive step for UNDOF’s and OGG’s operational performance.

Article by Capt Thomas Pittracher, OpsO UNDOF  
Photos by WO II Gernot Payer, Force Photographer



*The Joint Operations Center Staff*

# Gopher Hole II/2008 - a New Operational Mind

**From 09<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008 AUSBATT Gopher Hole exercise took place. This exercise was different to all exercises conducted before. The overall aim of this exercise was to train the new concept of operations.**

The idea of this exercise was to create a high tension scenario at the battalion level. This, and not to train tasks at the position level, was the clear intent of CO AUSBATT, LtCol Hans-Peter Hohlweg. Rather every incident in the exercise should be recognized as a challenge that

the progression of the situation new elements created by the AUSBATT HQ-Coy had to reinforce the line-coys. The medical team also trained to triage a significant mass of injured people. And due to a lack of its own transport capabilities the movement of fire fighting troops to the hot spot was needed.

On the second day of the exercise the main focus changed to the operational capacities. The security measurements in Camp Faouar were increased with two additional armored vehicles "M113" and extra ship containers to fortify the Camp gates.

On the third day of the exercise, convoys of joint military and police forces of each of the conflict parties entered the AOS at almost the same time at four different locations. Under the command of LtCol Hohlweg the AUSBATT Reserve succeeded in stopping the convoy of the entered military and police forces in the Jabatta area. After successful negotiations the convoy was escorted out of the AOS.

*"This exercise was a test of the new operational mind of AUSBATT and finally we assessed that we are ready to fulfil any demanding tasks in UNDOF,"* DCO AUSBATT Maj Miroslav Vagner concluded.

*Article by Maj Georg Schiller, COO/AB  
Photos by MSgt Martin Austerhuber,  
Photographer/AB*



*The AUSBATT Fire Brigade in action*

could be managed only in a combined effort of the AUSBATT Staff together with the coys. Under these circumstances a flexible operational concept was needed.

*"The whole exercise scenario consisted of incidents comparable to such occurred within the last three months in reality. A very high level of time pressure and a simultaneous occurrence should bring the commanding level also under time pressure and the capacities of the battalion to its limits,"* explained Maj Georg Schiller, COO AUSBATT.

On the first day a shooting incident and a huge demonstration forced the line-coys to provide clear situation updates straight from the hot spots to the battalion. Due to





## UNDOF Olympic Games

**This summer the Olympic Games in Beijing, China, took place. But far away from China on the Golan Heights the UNDOF Olympic Games were held. The disciplines conducted were tennis, soccer and kart race. Organized by AUSBATT, members of all UNDOF contingents participated in this event.**

The Games started with the tennis tournament on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug at the tennis courts in Camp Faouar with ten multi-national players participating. The tournament lasted three days and consists of a starting round, a lucky losers round, the semi-finals and the final. The Austrian MCpl Mario Ambros need five won matches to become the Number One of the "Faouar Tennis Masters."



*MCpl Ambros, the UNDOF tennis star*

The AUSBATT Soccer Cup took place on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug and 30<sup>th</sup> Aug at the Camp Faouar soccer court. Eleven teams with seven players were joining the great sports event. Players from India, Japan, Syria, Poland, Croatia and Austria were fighting for the championship. The matches were monitored and led by two professional referees. All matches had a duration of 14 minutes except the final lasting 20 minutes. After a two groups league system the best three teams played for the championship. The

Croatian team "CRO Caffee" won the grand final after a tough but fair competition.

The third discipline of the UNDOF Olympic Games took place on the circuit of Zaman Al Khair close to the Damascus International Airport. On 7<sup>th</sup> Sep, when

formula one drives were struggling on the Spa Francorchamps in Belgium, twelve Austrian and Croa-



*"Formula UNDOF" in Damascus*

tians drivers cut curves to become the champion of formula UNDOF. With the go-karts it was possible to reach a maximum speed of 70 kmph. After a hard and exhausting fight WO Florian Fliesser from 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy AUSBATT became the Champion of "Formula UNDOF."

The UNDOF Olympic Games received excellent feedback which made the organizational team very proud.

This event showed and underlined the good mood, fairness and well trained physical conditions of the participating soldiers. Therefore we are looking forward to the next year when UNDOF members hopefully will fight again for these titles; and so strengthen the peaceful spirit of UNDOF.



*"CRO Caffee" - the Croatian winning team of the Soccer Cup*

*Article by Capt Martin Malinowski, OpsInfo/AB  
Photos by MSgt Martin Austerhuber, Photographer/AB*

## Czolem Zolnierze - Welcome Soldiers!

**On 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008 on the parade square in Camp Ziouani, the Polish Change of Command ceremony took place in the presence of Force Commander UNDOF MGen Wolfgang Jilke.**

This morning a nervous atmosphere prevailed in the Polish Camp in connection with such an important event as the Change of Command. This is because the 29<sup>th</sup> Rotation Polish Military Contingent had already finished its mandatory tasks formally and practically and the 30<sup>th</sup> Rotation was taking over full responsibility for operational tasks. In spite of anxiousness, each soldier who participated in preparing the ceremony had known what he should do and it was certain that everything was properly organized.

The celebration was honored with the presence of many distinguished guests: Mr. Pawel Lesiak, Deputy of the Polish Ambassador in Tel Aviv and Col Mariusz Jurek, Head of Polish Delegation from Operational Command. Also the Commanding Officers of other Military Contingents, soldiers – peacekeepers and numerous arrived civilian staff participated at the Change of Command ceremony.

15 minutes before 11 a.m. the POLBATT troops took their places on the parade square. It was a sign

that FC UNDOF MGen Wolfgang Jilke would soon appear in Camp Ziouani. A Change of Command ceremony can take place only with the FC's presence as he signed the appropriate certificate between outgoing CO LtCol Krzysztof Malankiewicz and incoming CO LtCol Dariusz Adamczyk.

After outgoing CO's report to FC, MGen Jilke greeted all soldiers in Polish: "Czolem zolnierze!" Soldiers, who arrived to the Golan Heights the first time, were very surprised and delighted about that. Handing over the POLBATT's standard to the new CO was the culminating point of solemnity. After that the COs and the FC signed the handover/takeover protocols. Together they planted an olive tree as a symbol of peace.

For soldiers from the 30<sup>th</sup> Rotation the next six months will be a



*Signing the Handover/Takeover protocols*

time of strenuous work in order to continue maintaining peace in the region, which has been successfully carried out for almost 35 years.

Half-yearly duty under the "Blue Flag" of the United Nations is a very short period in a mission's life. In the life of each soldier it's a time of fulfilling new tasks and gaining a lot of experience, which is quite different than the daily military life in homeland.

*Article and Photos by  
Capt Damian Zebzda, PressO/PB*



*Honor Coy during the Military Parade*



*Planting an olive tree for peace*

## A Glance at the Indian Contingent

**The Indian Contingent celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with full spirit. Prior to that they have had a busy schedule in successfully conducting “Exercise Iron Fist.” This can be seen by a total role reversal in both events, one with utmost professionalism and one with great joy and pride.**

**I**t was a very busy time in the Logistic Battalion’s working schedule. In addition to normal logistic activities, they also organized “Ex Iron Fist” from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Aug. In this exercise, along with the J-CON’s active contribution, the officers and soldiers all took a keen interest and made it a successful event. By performing the requisite actions as per the directions given by the higher HQ in case of emergencies, the INDCON have shown their commitment and professional knowledge in the field of operational exigencies.

After a hectic exercise schedule the nation’s Independence Day was celebrated, in which the jubilation and sense of pride can be seen on each and every soldier of the Indian

Contingent. The event started with the DCO unfurling and saluting the national flag in Camp Ziouani. All the officers together with the Commanding Officer LtCol G. S. Sidhu were invited to the Indian Embassy in Tel-Aviv. There the Ambassador unfurled the national flag and delivered a message from the Indian President.

Afterwards a buffet lunch was organized in honor of the INDCON soldiers in UNDOF.



*Colorful dance from local Indians*

The next significant event in line was the medal parade on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug, where the Force Commander MGen Wolfgang Jilke, Chief of Staff Col Andrzej Ostrowski and CISS LtCol Neil John presented the proud soldiers of the Indian Contingent with the UN Medal on completing 90 days in UNDOF.

The medal parade was followed by spicy Indian culinary delights served in the International Kitchen in Camp Ziouani.



*CO LOGBATT presented with the UN Medal*

*Article by Capt Vishal Vikram Singh,  
SMO/LOGBATT  
Photos by Maj Soumya Ranjan Sahu,  
Adj/LOGBATT  
and Pte Hemant Kumar Singh*

# At the Highest Level of Competence

The CO J-CON Maj Kentaro Yushita handed over the command of J-CON to his successor Maj Munenori Fujita.

J-CON



*Shaking hands - MGen Jilke, Maj Yushita, Maj Fujita*

On 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep 2008, J-CON held their Change of Command Ceremony in Camp Ziouani. The outgoing 25<sup>th</sup> CO, Maj Kentaro Yushita, handed over command of J-CON to the incoming 26<sup>th</sup> CO, Maj Munenori Fujita. In honor of this ceremony, the Japanese Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mr. Yoshinori Katori, Force Commander MGen Wolfgang Jilke, Col Takaharu Shimazu, the Japanese Military Attaché to Israel, UNDOF Branch Heads, contingent COs, and many special guests arrived to celebrate this great and solemn event.

Maj Yushita and Maj Fujita both signed the handover/takeover protocol. Maj Yushita sincerely expressed his gratitude for the partnership, very close cooperation and excel-

lent hospitality of UNDOF. Then he praised the outgoing members of the 25<sup>th</sup> J-CON for completing their mission safely and encouraged the new members to perform their mission to the best of their ability.

The CO of the incoming 26<sup>th</sup> Contingent, Maj Fujita, expressed his appreciation to Maj Yushita and his soldiers for completing their mission successfully and their important and highly considered contribution to the UNDOF mission.

Maj Yushita stated that the 26<sup>th</sup> Rotation will succeed what their predecessors have built up in these 13 years since the first Japanese Rotation was sent to this mission. He also declared that they - as military professionals - will perform at the highest level of competence



*Address by the new CO J-CON*

in order to contribute to UNDOF operations.

Following the official part of the ceremony, the reception was held at the Japanese Club "A-Line" in a pleasant atmosphere.

*Article by Capt Tokuhiko Oeda,  
Adj/PressO/J-CON  
Photos by SSgt Takao Watanabe,  
Signal Sgt/J-CON*

# J-CONDAY - Promote Mutual Respect

**On 8<sup>th</sup> Aug J-CON held the “J-CONDAY”, a Japanese celebration event. This event has been celebrated since J-CON first played a role as a member of UNDOF. Among others J-CON performed Budo, Japanese culture and Japanese food.**



*Performing Nebuta Dance*

**I**t was a sunny day on which COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski, the Ambassador of Japan in Syria H. E. Mr. Masaki Kunieda and the Military Attaché in Syria Col Kazuyoshi Suehiro, among other guests and friends were invited to this event. Many soldiers and civilians from several countries participated in this event, too.

The theme of this rotation’s J-CON DAY was “Touch Japan” - to let everyone become familiar with J-CON and experience Japan.

After the opening ceremony, a Budo exhibition was performed: Judo, Kendo, Jukendo, Iaido and Karate. Nowadays especially Judo and Karate are well-known and very famous around the world. The audience was impressed by the “throwing bodies” of Judo and the smashed boards of Karate. In addition to that, a main part of the program this time was Nebuta, a Japanese

festival dance. Most of the 25<sup>th</sup> J-CON is from the Aomori prefecture located in the northern part of Japan and Nebuta is their regional traditional dance.

In the Japanese food corner, Sushi and Yakitori was served by J-CON cooks. Sushi is well-known as the most famous food of Japan, and many people formed a long queue to get it. So it was no surprise that all the prepared food was snapped up. At the culture corner the visitors gained an insight in Kakigoori, Origami, Shodo and

Wahuku. Kakigoori is a Japanese summer sweet - shaved ice with several kinds of syrup. J-CON members taught Origami, a folded paper art which shape is similar to a bird called “common crane.” Shodo is



*Serving Japanese food*

the traditional way of writing Kanji handed down from the ancient China. The visitors were very keen on getting their name written in Kanji.

On this occasion J-CON members made it possible to enhance the relationships within the nations and promote mutual respect for each others culture, history and tradition.

For those of you who missed this special event: *don't worry, the next J-CONDAY will take place soon!*

*Article by Capt Yusuke Yamamoto,*

*Adj/PressO/J-CON*

*Photos by SSgt Kenichi Osanai, Signal Sgt/J-CON*



*Judo exhibition*

# Change of Command MP Platoon

On 29<sup>th</sup> Jul 2008, the outgoing Force Provost Marshal (FPM) Maj Siddartha Rathore handed over the command of the MP Platoon to his successor Maj Manfred Meyer.

In his valedictory speech, Maj Rathore thanked his soldiers and emphasized the professionalism with which they fulfilled their duties. He also thanked the HQ Staff, Branch Heads, his

legue to work with the international Military Police Platoon, consisting of Austrian, Croatian, Indian and Polish Military Policemen. Maj Meyer accentuated the importance



*Handover/Takeover of the MP Banner*



*Signing Ceremony*

The FC MGen Wolfgang Jilke, COS Col Andrzej Ostrowski, CMS Mr. Patrick Devaney, the CO AUS-BATT LtCol Hans-Peter Hohlweg, UNDOF Branch Heads and all other COs were present to honor this ceremony. Maj Meyer took over Command of the UNDOF Military Police Platoon consisting of 29 personnel. In his valedictory

own Staff and all the civilian personnel of UNDOF for their assistance, support and patience throughout his command. Finally he wished the new FPM all the best of luck during his tour of duty. The new FPM Maj Meyer thanked his predecessor for his good advice and useful information during his time as Deputy Force Provost Marshal. He explained that it was a great honor and privi-

of Police work, especially the work of Military Policemen abroad. He assured that he and his team will do their best for fulfilling the MP tasks of UNDOF. Following the official part of the ceremony, all honorable guests were invited to a reception at the MP 'C-Detachment.'

*Article by Maj Manfred Meyer, FPM  
Photos by WO II Gernot Payer,  
Force Photographer*



*MP Platoon with all honorable Guests*

## The Eyes of the Night - Always watching

**It's late, very late. Marcus and Mark are getting ready to doing their job, while most of the Golan is sleeping.**

**A**t OP56 Capt Marcus Osterberg is doing the final preparation. It's almost midnight. The next four hours will be spent in a patrol car, together with his team-colleague from Ireland, Commandant Mark Staunton.

*"We are going to patrol a pre-planned route, and along the route we will stop to observe with night vision goggles, usually close to main access roads in and out of the area of responsibility,"* the Finnish Captain says.

The reason for conducting a night patrol is to observe any movement of military personnel and equipment by Syrian and Israeli forces during the hours of darkness. Together with UNDOF, Observer Group Golan (OGG) provides better coverage by working also at night.

As UNDOF and OGG operate

in the same area of operation, it is essential to establish close operational and support links to enhance



overall unity of effort and coordinate day and night operations.

Night patrols will better fulfill

the given mandate and reduce possible tensions. Using the best efforts to maintain the cease-fire, and see that it is scrupulously observed by the parties.

*"My intent is, through the night operations, to maintain the cease-fire, and to prevent any escalation of tensions between both parties,"* stated in the task order by MGen Wolfgang Jilke, Force Commander UNDOF.

Since the Observer Group in Damascus (OGG-D) and Tiberias (OGG-T) is under operational control of the Force Commander, the two outstations now regularly conducts night patrols. Commandant Mark Prendergast as operations officer is responsible to plan and coordinate these patrols on the behalf of Chief OGG-D.

He states, *"Our job is to monitor the routes in and out of the area of responsibility to assess the extent of military or para-military activity during the hours of darkness with particular emphasis on movement of equipment before or after scheduled inspections."*

As a result of these night patrols OGG-D and OGG-T is able to provide the Force Commander with a clear picture of the type, size and nature of military activity in the area in order to increase his situational awareness and increase compliance with the 1974 Agreement.



*Most of the time Marcus and Mark, together with about 45 observer colleagues, patrolling, observing and reporting during daytime. Since May this year they have also been working at night.*

*Article and Photos by  
Maj Hanne Olafsen,  
Deputy Team Leader Sultan/OGG*

