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**FORCE COMMANDER
COMMENCES HER TOUR OF DUTY**



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION AND FORCE COMMANDER



**Major General Anita Asmah
HOM & FC, UNDOF**

It is an immense honour to share my message as Head of Mission and Force Commander for this edition of the Golan Journal. Returning to the Golan Heights as Head of Mission and Force Commander, after previously serving as Deputy Force Commander, is both a professional honour and a personal homecoming. This mission holds a special place in my heart, and I am honoured to lead it forward at this pivotal moment.

Recent events in our geopolitically complex region have tested our resilience and highlighted the importance of UNDOF's mandate. Despite the evolving security landscape and operational constraints, our military and civilian personnel have consistently demonstrated exceptional professionalism, adaptability, and a unity of purpose.

Central to our mission is the effective delivery of the mandate entrusted to us by the United Nations. Our success in this regard rests not only on individual dedication but also on the collective strength that comes from cooperation, coordination, and collaboration amongst ourselves, with the parties to the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, and with all stakeholders we engage. These three pillars are the foundation of our operational effectiveness and peacekeeping efforts in the Golan.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION AND FORCE COMMANDER



I am proud to serve alongside a team that exemplifies the ideals of United Nations peacekeeping. Your commitment to the mandate, professional engagement with the parties, and restraint in the face of operational constraints have contributed to regional stability and earned the trust of those we serve.



As we move ahead, we must remain responsive, focused, and forward-looking. Our priorities remain clear as we work to sustain operational readiness, strengthen liaison with all stakeholders, safeguard the welfare of our



personnel, and enhance our engagement with local communities. Equally important is our ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion.

As the first African woman to serve as UNDOF Force Commander, I am reminded daily that leadership must open doors for others and reflect the strength of unity in diversity.



The Golan Journal is more than a publication; it is our collective voice, honouring our shared history and shaping the legacy we leave for future peacekeepers. I am highly encouraged by the rich contributions to this edition and urge us all to continue to take pride in this publication.

Let us continue to serve with impartiality, compassion, and integrity. Our presence makes a difference. So, together as One Mission, One Team, with One Goal, let us uphold the values of the United Nations and continue to be a source of stability and hope in the Golan Heights.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS

Welcome to the latest edition of the GOLAN – The UNDOF Journal.

Over the past six months, UNDOF has observed a lot of change both on the ground internal to Syria and in the region. One thing is for sure, UNDOF is still here completing its mandate to observe, monitor and report under the banner of One Mission, One Team, One Goal. At times one might get overwhelmed by all the activities surrounding UNDOF, but thanks to all, through dialogue and companionship the mission is being completed.



In particular, and on behalf of everyone here in UNDOF, I want to wish our new Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Anita Asmah every success for her tenure. Major General Asmah is the first African woman to be Head of a United Nations mission. Congratulations. MG Asmah provides us with an insight and vision for her time as Head of Mission and Force Commander.



Additionally, on behalf of everyone here in UNDOF, I want to welcome our first-ever Australian Deputy Force Commander Brigadier General Patrick Lenaghan.



In this edition of the Golan Journal, our theme is "Change". Across UNDOF we have experienced change from our HoM and FC to our new (2nd) Contingent from Kazakhstan. We have welcome messages from both our new head of Mission and Force Commander and our Deputy Force Commander. We have articles from our contingent personnel and OGG.

COMMANDANT DAMIEN KEOGH

EDITOR IN CHIEF

MAJOR SUJAN MAHAT

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DEPUTY FORCE COMMANDER - GOLAN THE UNDOF JOURNAL

Welcome to Edition 162 of Golan the UNDOF Journal and my first as your Deputy Force Commander. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, here on the Golan.

Since the last edition of our Journal, we continue to see an ever-evolving operational landscape. Daily, events unfold across our Area of Responsibility that challenge the adaptability and success of our UNDOF Team. Change provides opportunity though and the transformation of the operational environment is also enabling us to function in new ways. Nevertheless, our core mandate remains: to maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria



through the implementation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement.

This Journal celebrates the actions of all our team members. Professionalism, integrity, and respect for diversity are the values that underpin our behaviours and form the cornerstone of mission achievement. The stories and pictures contained in this journal provide testimony to our collective efforts. With each issue, we aim to strengthen the bonds of cooperation, reinforce our professional and ethical standards, and inform others of UNDOF's accomplishments.



As I circulate the Area of Responsibility and visit our teams, I am struck by the commitment of all Peacekeepers to our Observe, Monitor and Report mission. This focus on our purpose by every member of the UNDOF team, regardless of role, uniform or origin is critical and worth applauding. Recent events serve to remind us of our Force Protection responsibilities. I urge everyone to keep our teammates safe. Complacency will hurt our people; act professionally in everything we do. I am convinced that our efforts are making a difference. I could not be prouder of the UNDOF Team. Keep up the great work!

One Mission. One Team. One Goal.



CHIEF OF STAFF'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

"Two Years of Peacekeeping on the Golan Heights - My Reflections

All too soon, I have come to the end of my watch on the Golan Heights. As I conclude my tenure as Chief of Staff, I leave UNDOF with a deep sense of gratitude to the Mission Leadership and the entire membership of the Mission for the support, cooperation and teamwork extended to me. These two years have been among the most challenging and defining of my professional life in a complex and unpredictable region.



The past two years have been dominated by geopolitical shifts, like the October 7, 2023 war in Gaza, Israel's War with Hezbollah in Lebanon, the 12-Day War between Israel and Iran and most significantly, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria and the incursion of the IDF into the Area of Separation. The events escalated tensions, increased uncertainty and tested UNDOF's resilience, operational agility and largely the essence of peacekeeping in the Region.



Thanks to our collective efforts, professionalism and resilience, UNDOF has and continues to ensure the delivery of its mandate despite the challenging operational environment. Whether it was managing crisis communications, coordinating troop movements under heightened alert, or simply holding the line when the future felt uncertain, I witnessed utmost dedication, unity and cooperation from all our military and civilian staff.

There are still challenges in the region and, more importantly, opportunities for the achievement of lasting peace. We need to seize the opportunities and define history with our efforts. I leave the Mission with fond memories and immense pride in what we have achieved together over the period, and extend my appreciation to all of you. May Peace Remain on the Golan.



THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OP52

During the night of 15 May 2013, a serious security incident occurred involving United Nations military personnel stationed in the Golan Heights. At approximately 0200 hours, a group of around 20 armed individuals breached the perimeter of United Nations Observation Post 52 (OP52), a remote facility in the Area of Separation between Israeli and Syrian-controlled territory. The observation post was at that time being manned by three unarmed military observers from Observer Group Golan (OGG), who were carrying out their mandated duties under the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) mission. A second armed group of approximately 20 individuals—some of whom claimed to be members of the Syrian Arab Armed Forces—subsequently entered the compound. They forcibly removed the three military observers and transported them against their will to the nearby village of Bir Ajam, located deeper within the area of separation.



In response to the developing hostage situation, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) immediately activated its crisis response protocol. A rapid reaction element was deployed from Camp Ziouani, UNDOF's main logistical and operational hub, and moved swiftly to OP52. Following tense negotiations and the application of diplomatic and military pressure, the observers were released unharmed after approximately four hours in captivity. While the peacekeepers were ultimately returned safely to their post, the compound itself had been thoroughly ransacked during the abduction. The armed group looted the facility, destroyed critical communications and surveillance equipment, and caused significant structural damage to both the interior and exterior of the post. The incident underscored the volatile and unpredictable nature of the operational environment in the Golan and raised serious concerns about the security of UN personnel in isolated observation positions.



In the months and years that followed, the United Nations reviewed the circumstances surrounding the incident and suspended regular operations at OP52 due to persistent threats to the safety and security of its personnel. By mid-2017, planning began for the eventual reoccupation of the site, but this was contingent on improved conditions, enhanced situational awareness, and a comprehensive review of physical security infrastructure. The reoccupation of OP52 remained on the agenda of UNTSO leadership and was later designated a key priority by the Head of Mission (HoM), who emphasized the strategic significance of re-establishing a presence at this key observation post



THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OP52

Over the past twelve months, the refurbishment and reactivation of OP52 have exemplified a deeply integrated, cross-cutting effort across multiple components of UNTSO and with the vital support of UNDOF. This complex and high-priority initiative demanded close coordination between all military and civilian branches, drawing on the expertise and commitment of diverse stakeholders across both missions.



OGG Tiberias, in collaboration with Mission Support, Engineering, Communications, Supply, and the operationally assigned Team Eagle, led the planning and execution of the extensive renovation works. Under the direct leadership of Comdt Ruairí O'Connor (IRL), Team Eagle functioned as the central coordinating element—ensuring seamless integration between technical specialists in engineering, logistics, communications, and security specialists to bring the observation post back to an operationally viable state. This included the complete overhaul of structural elements such as the observation platform and shelter, as well as the installation of updated power and water systems, reinforced protective measures, and refurbished living accommodations suitable for 24/7 manning. Every effort was made to ensure that OP52 not only met mission requirements but could serve as a safe, secure, and sustainable operational base for future deployments.



After nearly a decade of dormancy, OP52 was officially reoccupied on 21 May 2025, marking a significant milestone in the mission's return to full operational capability in the sector. The successful reoccupation reflects the professionalism, commitment, and determination of all personnel involved, particularly the members of Team Eagle, who worked diligently—often under challenging circumstances—to make the restoration possible. Their achievement stands as a testament to the enduring resilience of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights and its ongoing commitment to fulfilling its mandate, even in the face of complex and high-risk environments."

Article by Comdt Ruairí O'Connor
Team Leader, Team Eagle OGG-T



FIJI'S MINISTER FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS VISITS FIJIAN TROOPS SERVING WITH UNDOF

Fiji's Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs, the Honourable Pio Tikoduadua, conducted his first official visit to Fijian troops serving with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) from 15 to 30 April 2025. This visit marked a significant milestone as he became the first dignitary to visit UNDOF since Major General Anita Asmah assumed the role of Force Commander in February 2025.



Picture above: During the traditional welcoming ceremony, Captain L. Kuruduadua respectfully presents the tabua (whale tooth) to the Honorable Minister as a symbolic gesture of welcome and respect.



Picture above: On behalf of Fiji, the Honorable Pio Tikoduadua presents a gift to the UNDOF CMS, Mr. A. Micelli, as a gesture of appreciation and goodwill.

Picture below: The Honorable Pio Tikoduadua and MPA COL Vananalagi with senior officers and soldiers of the First Battalion, Fiji Infantry Regiment, UNDOF.



Picture above: On behalf of Fiji, Brigadier General Gadai presents a gift to the UNDOF CMS, Mr. A. Micelli, as a gesture of appreciation and goodwill.

Upon his arrival at Camp Ziouani, a Guard of Honor welcomed the Honorable Minister. The Honorable Minister for Defence Pio Tikoduadua received a brief on both operational and administrative matters by FIJIBATT.

During the visit, the Minister held discussions with the Head of Mission at Camp Ziouani and toured several operational positions on the Alpha side. These engagements provided him with firsthand insight into the conditions and challenges faced by Fijian peacekeepers.

The Honorable Minister expressed his deep appreciation for the dedication and perseverance of the men and women of FIJIBATT. He urged them to continue supporting members of other contingents, to uphold the values of the United Nations mission, and to remain loyal to their leadership.

Accompanying the Minister were the Commander Joint Taskforce, Brigadier General Manoa Gadai, and Fiji's Military and Police Advisor to the United Nations in New York, Colonel Siliva Vananalagi.

Article and photos by LT KT Namoce, FIJIBATT MLO

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL, DPO, JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX CONDUCTS STRATEGIC VISITS TO UNDOF

Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Peace Operations Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix conducted two significant visits to UNDOF, in January and June 2025, demonstrating UN headquarters' commitment to the mission during Syria's transitional period.

January Visit: Mr. Lacroix's first visit focused on honoring UNDOF's service and addressing operational challenges following Syria's political transition. The visit began with a wreath-laying



ceremony commemorating fallen peacekeepers, particularly the late Brigadier General Amitabh Jha of India. Accompanied by Acting Military Adviser Major General Cheryl Pearce, he conducted operational briefings at both UNDOF and UNTSO positions and engaged with the Quneitra Governorate Police Chief.



During a town hall meeting with UNDOF personnel, the Under-Secretary-General emphasized the mission's critical role in monitoring ground conditions and maintaining stability along the



disengagement line. The visit concluded with high-level diplomatic engagement with Syria's interim Minister of Defence, Major General Murhaf Abu Qasra.



June Visit: The second visit addressed both operational and institutional challenges. Mr. Lacroix conducted another town hall meeting, discussing the UN's liquidity crisis while commending UNDOF's continued commitment to mandate implementation. He held significant diplomatic meetings with both President Ahmed al-Sharaa and Minister of Defence Murhaf Abu Qasra, focusing on strengthening cooperation and addressing ongoing operational challenges.



UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL DSS VISITS UNDOF

Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security Gilles Michaud conducted an official visit to UNDOF Headquarters at Camp Faouar on 11 January 2025, as part of his broader Syria itinerary to assess evolving security conditions in the Golan Heights.



Upon arrival, Mr. Michaud received arrival honours from Security Officer Leo Fetiza before participating in comprehensive security and operational briefings with the Mission Leadership Team, led by Designated Official Ad Interim Amedeo Micelli. The briefings emphasized the critical need for appointing a dedicated in-house UNDOF Designated Official to enable real-time security updates and facilitate timely decision-making with the Security Management Team.



Following an interactive Q&A session addressing personnel concerns from both UNDOF and UNTSO under the UN Security Management System, Mr. Michaud joined a working lunch hosted by the Kazakhstan Contingent. The visit continued with a field assessment at Observation Post 72, where UNTSO personnel provided briefings on current positions and the strategic landscape.



From the observation post, the USG gained a commanding view of the Area of Separation, observing locations abandoned by former Syrian government and Russian forces during the critical period of 7 December 2024. He received detailed briefings on the positions of UNDOF posts, UNTSO observation points, and IDF locations as visible from the vantage point.



Mr. Michaud concluded the visit by commending Chief Security Officer Sunita Sharma and her team for ensuring a well-organized, secure, and highly informative assessment of UNDOF's security posture during this challenging operational period.



INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN THE SERVICE OF GOLAN: A SAGA OF DEVOTION, COMMITMENT & SACRIFICE

"At the heart of our foreign policy lies a commitment to peacekeeping—rooted in dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation. Guided by the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," the belief that the world is one family, India will continue to contribute meaningfully to the cause of UN peacekeeping."

- Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India

It gives me tremendous pride to have the opportunity to serve with United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) in Golan. I also want to take this occasion to write a brief history of the United Nations, the founding of the UNDOF, and Indian peacekeepers in Golan.

United Nations in brief & What is UN Peacekeeping.....

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 with the primary goal of maintaining international peace and security. Since its inception, UN peacekeeping has become a valuable tool to help countries navigate the challenging path from conflict to peace. The UN Peacekeepers, known as Blue Helmets, get their name from the light blue colour of the United Nations flag. In 1947, the UN decided on this colour because blue symbolizes peace, while red is often linked to war. This light blue shade has since become a symbol of the UN. United Nations Peacekeeping was established in 1948 with the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East (UNTSO) following the Arab-Israeli War.

UN Peacekeeping is a key mechanism used by the United Nations to maintain global peace and security. Peacekeeping helps countries torn by conflict create conditions for sustainable peace. Peacekeeping operations are authorized by the UN Security Council and led by the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO). It is guided by three core principles:

- **Consent of the parties.**
- **Impartiality.**
- **Non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.**



India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping.

India has a long and distinguished history of serving in UN peacekeeping, dating back to its participation in the UN operation in Korea in 1953. Since then, India has sent over 290,000 peacekeepers to more than 50 missions worldwide, making it the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts. Today, over 5,000 Indian troops serve in nine of the eleven active missions, often in dangerous and hostile regions, dedicated to upholding global peace and security. In this noble pursuit, nearly 180 Indian peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice—heroes whose bravery and commitment will always be remembered. India's contributions reflect its commitment to global peace and stability, aligning with its foreign policy values of international cooperation and humanitarian service. Continuing with the glorious traditions there are 199 Indian Peacekeepers (including 11 Staff Officers) serving in the Golan currently.

United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) - Peacekeepers of Golan.

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established in 1974 to monitor the ceasefire and disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria following the Yom Kippur War (October War) of 1973. On 6th October 1973, war erupted in the Middle East between Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Suez Canal area and the Sinai, and between Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights. On 24 October, as fighting between Egypt and Israel reached a critical stage, the Security Council decided to set up a second United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II). The Force was immediately moved into place between the Israeli and Egyptian armies in the Suez Canal



INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN THE SERVICE OF GOLAN: A SAGA OF DEVOTION, COMMITMENT & SACRIFICE

area, and its arrival effectively stabilized the situation. In the Israel-Syria sector tension remained high, and from March 1974 the situation became increasingly unstable. Against this background the United States undertook a diplomatic initiative, which resulted in the conclusion of an Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces. The Agreement provided for an area of separation and for two equal zones of limited forces and armaments on both sides of the area and called for the establishment of a United Nations observer force to supervise its implementation. The Agreement was signed on 31 May 1974 and, on the same day, the Security Council adopted resolution 350 (1974) by which it set up the UNDOF.

Indian Peacekeepers in the service of Golan.

The Austrian and Peruvian contingents were the pioneers in serving in the Golan, arriving on June 3, 1973. Subsequently, the first logistical units to reach the mission area were from Canada and Poland. Indian peacekeepers had the chance to showcase their capabilities in the service of Golan starting in October 2006, with the 17th POONA HORSE being the first to offer their services. In 2019, during the period of the 197 Medium Regiment, the Logistic Battalion underwent reorganization into the Logistic Company. Currently, the 10th rotation of troops, comprised from the 299 Medium Regiment, along with other additions and detachments, has been providing services in UNDOF since November 2024, who took over from 96 Medium Regiment. In addition to the Indian Logistic Company, there are 11 Staff Officers from various arms and services delivering mission-critical support across different branches and sections of UNDOF HQ namely Joint Operations Centre, Planning Branch, Logistics and Technical section.



INDCON, LOGCOY & Allied Components

in UNDOF. The workforce of INDCON is composed of specialized platoons made up of Indian Army officers and personnel selected through a rigorous process to provide optimal logistics and operational support for this demanding mission. **The Maintenance Platoon**, which includes the **Workshop Section** and **Engineer Section** from the **Corps of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering** and the **Corps of Engineers** respectively, is responsible for the comprehensive construction and electrical maintenance in UNDOF. Meanwhile, the **Supply Platoon** from the **Army Service Corps** addresses the supply requirements, inventory management, and sustenance services for both the logisticians and the UNDOF camps and headquarters. The team from the **Army Medical Corps** has been proactive in ensuring thorough medical cover. **Signallers** from the **Corps of Signals** enable uninterrupted communication and IT support for UNDOF. The **Heavy Transport Platoon** from the **Army Service Corps** offers transportation services in collaboration with and in support of the



INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN THE SERVICE OF GOLAN: A SAGA OF DEVOTION, COMMITMENT & SACRIFICE

LOGCOY, assisting all UNDOF personnel in line with the Mission Logistic Support Plan. Additionally, the **Surveillance Detachment** from the **Regiment of Artillery** has been providing continuous surveillance coverage for UNDOF around the clock.

FHQ Support Platoon, INDCON plays a pivotal role in ensuring camp security as part of support to UNDOF Headquarters. Their contribution has been significant not only in supporting the mission, but the troops go beyond the mission leadership's expectations to enhance the mission effectiveness. The Force Headquarters Support Platoon is mandated to provide security to Camp Faouar, which includes the security of UN personnel and property against all threats in CF. In addition, **FMPP platoon**, INDCON have been shouldering all Military police responsibilities of UNDOF very diligently.

Indian peacekeepers assigned to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) have consistently shown steadfast dedication to their duties, remarkable commitment, and selfless sacrifice in some of the most difficult conditions globally. Stationed in the unstable Golan Heights region, which divides Syria and Israel, Indian forces have been instrumental in fostering peace and stability in an area plagued by years of conflict. In spite of challenging terrain, severe weather, and ongoing security risks, Indian peacekeepers have adhered to the fundamental principles of the United Nations—impartiality, integrity, and professionalism. Their capacity to maintain neutrality while promoting dialogue and overseeing ceasefire agreements has earned them worldwide respect.

The narrative of dedication, commitment, and sacrifice would be incomplete without acknowledging the contributions of the **Late Brigadier General Amitabh Jha - A Legacy of Leadership and Sacrifice in UN Peacekeeping**. Brigadier General Amitabh Jha, who served as Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations



Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) since April 2023, tragically passed away on December 23, 2024, while fulfilling his duties with UNDOF. He had taken on the role of Acting Force Commander during a particularly tumultuous time following the collapse of the Assad government in Syria, when the mission faced significant challenges. His commitment and sacrifice embodied the highest standards of service, leaving an enduring legacy in the field of international peacekeeping. In a solemn tribute to his unwavering dedication to global peace, Brigadier General Amitabh Jha of India has been posthumously awarded the prestigious **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** by the United Nations. This honour recognizes his ultimate sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights.

In the Golan Heights, Indian peacekeepers stand as silent sentinels of peace—resilient in the face of adversity, steadfast in their mission, and always prepared to serve under the blue flag, even at the cost of their own lives.



ARTICLE BY: -

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SENTINEL ON THE ROOF OF PEACE: NEPCON'S ALL TERRAIN OPERATIONS AT MOUNT HERMON

Introduction

High above the rolling hills of the Golan, where borders blur into the clouds and geopolitical sensitivities persist, stands Mount Hermon at 2,814 meters, the highest permanently manned United Nations position on Earth. Within this harsh yet vital terrain, the Nepali Contingent (NEPCON) of United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) operates at the edge of human endurance and military excellence. Tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between Israel and Syria, NEPCON in Sector North embodies the spirit of the UN: impartiality, resilience and unwavering commitments.



The Strategic Significance of Mount Hermon

Mount Hermon serves as a vital geopolitical outpost one of the few locations with visibility deep into

both Syrian and Israeli territories, making it crucial to UNDOF's mandate (UNDOF, 2024). Despite harsh winters with sub -20°C temperatures and 120 km/h winds (Sector North Meteorological Logs, 2024), NEPCON has maintained year-round surveillance, logistics and communication, reinforcing security and mission credibility in the most volatile part of the Area of Separation.



Operational Excellence in Sector North

From rope-up patrols through 3-meter-deep snow to vehicle recovery on black ice roads, NEPCON has upheld operational effectiveness across all terrain, weather, gender and situations achieving zero mission failure in 2024-2025 (Unit Evaluation Reports, 2025). Each lifeline in these high-altitude patrols symbolizes UNDOF's motto 'One Mission, One Team, One Goal', a reminder that success on the toughest paths comes from unity, connection, and shared commitment.

NEPCON's approach incorporates:

- All Terrain Readiness.** NEPCON ensures mobility through specialized driving, rock craft, snowcraft and winter survival training, enabling uninterrupted operations even during adverse weather.
- All Gender Integration.** Female personnel serve in both operational and logistic roles, advancing inclusive peacekeeping under UNSCR 1325. Nepali Army is firmly committed to achieving the UN's gender parity goals.
- All Weather Operations.** Patrols continue in extreme cold, fog and snow. Despite operational variances last year, NEPCON maintained high altitude winter patrols without casualties.
- All Situation Operation.** Embracing a Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity (VUCA) informed mindset, NEPCON stays mission ready amid terrain, security, or humanitarian challenges bolstering UNDOF's peacekeeping mandate with resilience and adaptability.



SENTINEL ON THE ROOF OF PEACE: NEPCON'S ALL TERRAIN OPERATIONS AT MOUNT HERMON

Contribution to UNDOF Mandate and Peacebuilding

Beyond tactical excellence, NEPCON plays a pivotal role in sustaining peace and confidence-building in a fragile post-conflict landscape. The efforts include:

- Executing of the mandated tasks,
- Maintaining 24/7 surveillance and reporting from five different key positions,
- Supporting Freedom of Movement (FOM) and Freedom of Actions (FOA) for UN personnel across Sector North,
- Liaising & coordinating with local communities to minimize civilian military friction and
- Repair and Maintenance of the resources to ensure the continuous operational capability.



These duties are executed while strictly adhering to the principles of impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate which are foundational to UN peacekeeping operations.

Environmental Stewardship & Security Support

NEPCON promotes sustainability by managing waste and judicious use of energy at high-altitude posts. It also contributes to civilian and UN safety by assisting in locating & the disposal of UXOs near UNPs and within the Area of Operation. Between April-June 2025, NEPCON located seven UXOs and escorted five disposal missions in the Sector North of UNDOF.



The Human Element & Community Engagement

NEPCON's strength lies in both professionalism and resilience. Despite isolation, low oxygen and harsh conditions at Mount Hermon, morale remains high, through cultural activities, mental health support and rituals. In addition, NEPCON actively plans and supports CIMIC initiatives that reinforce UNDOFs mandated efforts through Key Leader Engagements, civic action programs and a range of community outreach activities within its Area of Operations.



Conclusion

Amidst Mount Hermon's silence, NEPCON stands as a symbol of dedication, diversity, resilience and resolve. From snowy ridge lines to geopolitical fault lines, it proves that even the harshest conditions cannot deter the pursuit of peace. Guided by the Buddha's wisdom "Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace" (Dhammapada, verse 100) NEPCON's story is not just of endurance, but of meaningful impact, honouring the contribution and commitment of the Nepali Army under the UN flag.

-Maj Madhu Sudan Basnet, NEPCON XIII

THE ROLE OF THE URUGUAYAN MECHANIZED INFANTRY COMPANY (UMIC) IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

A Focus on Medical Assistance, Patrols, and Relations with the Local Population

Introduction

Since its integration into the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mission in the Golan Heights, Uruguayan Mechanized Infantry Company (UMIC) has played a pivotal role in maintaining stability and peace in a region shaped by years of conflict. Focusing not only on its military responsibilities but also on fostering positive relationships with the local population, this company has excelled in areas such as providing medical assistance to civilians, patrolling nearby towns, and establishing bonds of trust and mutual respect.

The deployment of this unit to the southern area of the UNDOF reflects Uruguay's commitment to global peace, as well as the dedication of the other mission members. This article explores UMIC's contributions in various domains, highlighting the challenges and achievements that have defined its tenure.



Medical Assistance to the Local Population

A Vital Humanitarian Impact

One of the most notable aspects of UMIC's work has been its commitment in providing medical assistance to the local population. In a region where access to medical services is often limited due to political tensions and logistical constraints, UMIC's presence has been a lifeline for many nearby communities.

UMIC's medical personnel have offered direct assistance in critical situations, from treating injuries to addressing chronic illnesses. In many instances, these interventions have not only saved lives but also significantly improved the quality of life for those who have been treated.



Patrolling Nearby Communities

Ensuring Safety and Confidence

UMIC's patrols in communities in the southern area of responsibility have been crucial in maintaining security and stability in the region. These patrols, conducted both by day and night, aim to monitor the current situation, foster security in the area, and verify compliance with ceasefire agreements.

Equipped with mechanized vehicles and highly trained personnel, the patrols serve not only as a military function but also act as a visible reminder of international commitment to peace. Continuous interactions with local residents during these operations have fostered mutual trust, transforming the patrols into a bridge between UN forces and the civilian population.



THE ROLE OF THE URUGUAYAN MECHANIZED INFANTRY COMPANY (UMIC) IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

Community Engagement

During extended-range patrols, UMIC has reached communities where there had been no prior UN presence. These interactions have provided a new means to understand the current situation of the local population through dialogue with community leaders. These engagements lay the foundation for relationships built on respect and collaboration.



Fostering Positive Relationships with the Local Population

A Focus on Cultural Understanding

From the beginning of its deployment, UMIC has emphasized developing positive relationships with the local population. Recognizing the importance of cultural understanding, soldiers received training on the customs, languages, and sensitivities of the region before their deployment.

This preparation enabled UMIC personnel to interact respectfully and effectively, which has been crucial in gaining the trust of local communities. Uruguayan soldiers are seen not just as military forces but as neighbors and allies in the pursuit of peace.



Participation in Community Activities

UMIC has engaged in various community activities, including Quick Impact Projects. These initiatives have included repairing roads and constructing basic facilities such as a school and a local clinic. This level of commitment has strengthened ties between the soldiers and the communities, fostering an environment of cooperation and mutual respect.

Expressions of Gratitude

Testimonials from local residents reflect the positive impact of these relationships. Many have expressed gratitude for UMIC's support, praising not only its professionalism but also its human warmth. This positive perception has been a key factor in the mission's overall success.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Despite its many achievements, UMIC has faced significant challenges during its time. From logistical issues to overcoming cultural barriers, these obstacles have tested the resilience and ingenuity of UMIC personnel. However, each challenge has been an opportunity to learn and improve, strengthening UMIC's ability to fulfill its mission.

Conclusion

The role of UMIC in the Golan Heights is a testament to Uruguay's commitment to global peace and human welfare. Through its focus on medical assistance, patrols, and community relations, this unit has demonstrated that military work can go hand in hand with significant humanitarian impact.

In a region marked by complexity and conflict, UMIC has been a beacon of hope and stability, building bridges between the United Nations' international forces and the local population.



-1st Lt. Yoselin Pedragosa, UMIC

KAZAKH EOD TEAM SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES OPERATIONAL DEMINING TASKS



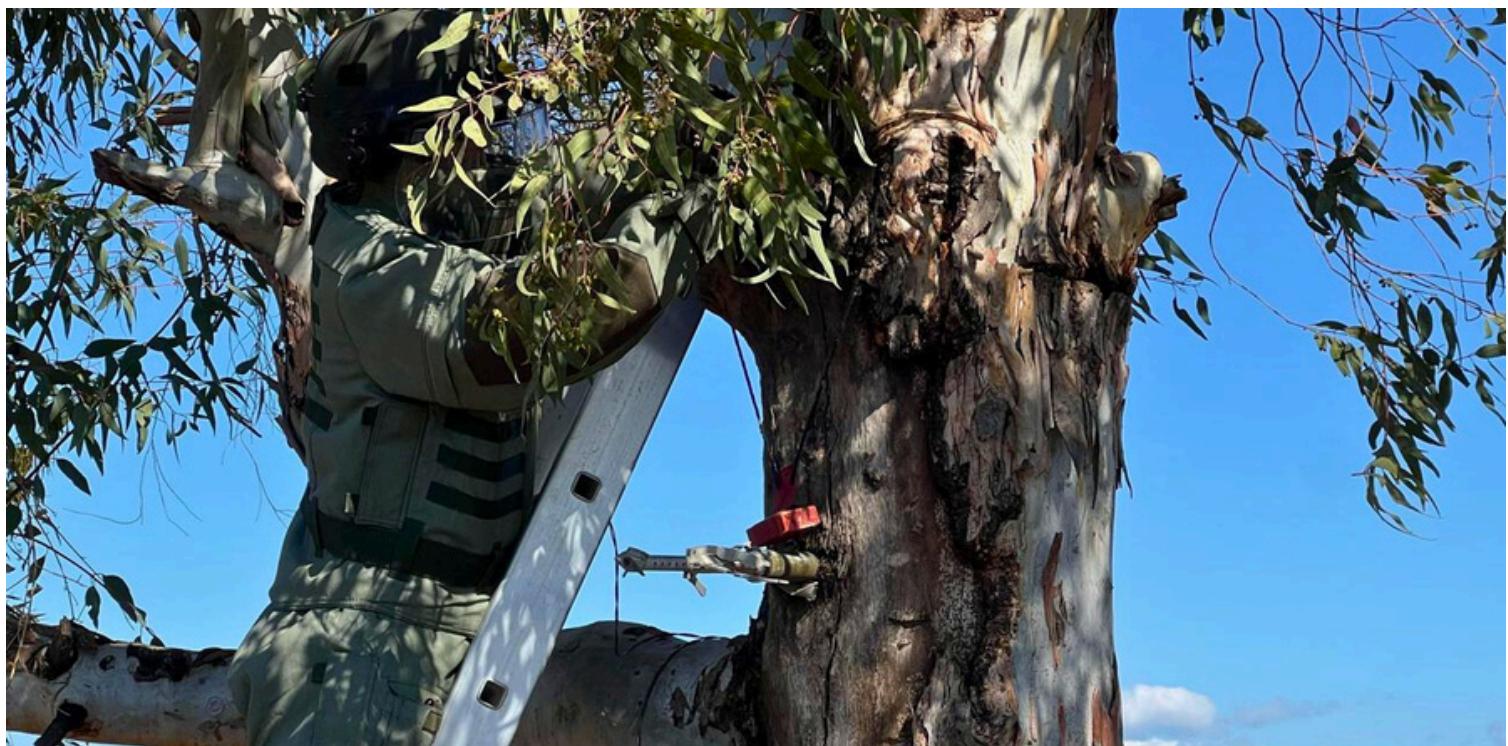
In June 2025, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the Kazakh contingent conducted three operational deployments as part of its mandated duties. During these missions, the unit conducted safe identification and destruction of explosive ordnance, including Shahed-136 type unmanned aerial vehicles.

These personnel demonstrated a high level of professionalism and technical competence throughout all operations. It is noteworthy that no damage to civilian infrastructure occurred during any of the disposal operations.

All tasks were carried out in full compliance with safety protocols, underscoring the team's strong operational discipline, advanced training, and commitment to UN peacekeeping standards.

The efforts of the EOD team significantly contributed to the protection of the local population from explosive hazards and to the broader goal of ensuring a safe and secure environment in the mission area.

It is also worth pointing out that UNDOF surpassed a major milestone in June, when it rendered safe over 500 UXOs/ remnants of war in 2025.



THE URUGUAYAN MECHANIZED INFANTRY COMPANY (UMIC) IN UNDOF: A FOCUS ON THE EOD AND CIED TEAM'S WORK

Recognition and Marking of Explosive Devices in the Golan Heights

Uruguay's participation in peacekeeping missions has been consistent and significant over the decades. Among these notable operations, the Uruguayan Mechanized Infantry Company (UMIC), deployed within the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights, has stood out for its contributions to security and stabilization in a highly sensitive conflict zone. In particular, the specialized Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (CIED) teams have become a cornerstone for ensuring the safety of troops and the local population by identifying and marking explosive devices discovered in the area of operations or reported by the community during patrols.



Introduction to UNDOF and Uruguay's Mission

UNDOF was established in 1974 by the United Nations to oversee the implementation of the disengagement agreement between Syria and Israel following the Yom Kippur War. The area of operations, known as the Zone of Separation, represents a strategic territory fraught with political and military tensions. With its exceptional preparedness and professionalism, UMIC has been assigned to conduct patrols and maintain security in this region.

Uruguay's unwavering commitment to international peace is exemplified by its deployment in UNDOF, reflecting the ability of its personnel to adapt to complex challenges. Uruguay's presence in the area extends beyond protecting the Zone of Separation, encompassing the management of specific threats such as explosive devices, which pose a persistent danger to multinational forces and local residents.

The Role of the EOD and CIED Team

The specialized Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (CIED) teams are a critical unit within UMIC. Its primary mission is to identify, assess, and mark explosive threats in the area of operations. This work requires not only extensive technical expertise but also a deep understanding of the environment and the ability to perform under pressure in adverse conditions.

Recognition Methodology

Recognizing explosive devices is a meticulous process that begins with information gathered by patrols and or local residents. The population plays a vital role, often being the first to detect anomalies or potential devices in roads, agricultural fields, and abandoned buildings.



Upon receiving such information, the EOD team conducts a preliminary assessment, which includes:

- Determining the exact geographic location of the suspected device.
- Initial visual identification using binoculars and cameras when feasible.
- Assessing the threat level, considering factors such as proximity to frequented routes or populated areas.

Marking and Securing the Area

When the presence of an explosive device is confirmed, the EOD team prioritizes securing the area to prevent any incidents. This includes the placement of clear and visible markers to alert troops and civilians to the danger. Tools employed include:

THE URUGUAYAN MECHANIZED INFANTRY COMPANY (UMIC) IN UNDOF: A FOCUS ON THE EOD AND CIED TEAM'S WORK

- Safety cones and marking tape.
- Bilingual signs in Arabic and English.
- GPS equipment to record precise coordinates.

Marking serves not only as a functional purpose but also a psychological one, providing reassurance to deployed forces and local communities that the threat is being professionally managed.



Patrols and Interaction with the Local Population

UMIC's ground patrols are an essential aspect of the mission. These operations ensure a constant presence in the region and facilitate the collection of valuable information about the environment. During these patrols, EOD and CIED teams often accompany troops to enable a swift response to any discovery of explosive devices.

Engagement with the local population is another critical element. Residents of the area, who are familiar with the terrain and potential threats, frequently collaborate by providing information on suspicious objects. This connection between UMIC and the community fosters trust and cooperation, which are vital for the mission's success.

These efforts primarily aim to create a safe environment for the civilian population, particularly the younger demographic (children), who are most at risk of accidents involving unexploded ordnance (UXOs) due to their lack of awareness.

Technical Procedures of the EOD Team

The technical work of the EOD team is guided by international protocols and strict adherence to safety regulations. Key tasks include:

- Identifying the type of explosive device, ranging from landmines to improvised devices.
- Utilizing specialized equipment such as metal detectors, robots, and ballistic protective suits.
- Evaluating the immediate environment to

determine the potential impact of a detonation.

Challenges and Achievements

The work of the EOD and CIED team is not without challenges. The terrain, with its mix of open fields and ruined structures, complicates access and heightens risks. Additionally, adverse weather conditions, including extreme heat in summer and torrential rains in winter, can hinder operations.

Despite these obstacles, UMICs EOD and CIED teams, in collaboration with personnel from Kazakhstan, have achieved significant progress in identifying and marking explosive threats. Their joint efforts have been recognized by UNDOF authorities and local residents, who value the dedication and professionalism of UN personnel.



Impact on the Peacekeeping Mission

The work of the EOD and CIED teams has a direct impact on the success of UNDOFs mission, by ensuring the safety of troops and civilians, they contribute to regional stability and create an environment conducive to dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Conclusion

UMIC's participation in UNDOF, particularly the work of the EOD and CIED teams, is a remarkable example of Uruguay's commitment to international peace. Their dedication to identifying and marking explosive devices in the Golan Heights reflects not only their technical capability but also their humanity and spirit of cooperation.

This work, carried out with excellence and professionalism, strengthens the security of a region under constant tension and reaffirms Uruguay's role as a model of commitment in peacekeeping operations.

FIJIAN ENGINEERS AT WORK

"First In, Last Out" - Living the Motto in Sector West

Camp Ziouani - The FIJIBATT engineers, known for their professionalism and dedication, continue to uphold the global engineering motto "First in, Last out"—but with a unique twist. In the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mission, these skilled tradesmen must also adapt to the role of warrior peacekeepers. The deployment under the blue helmet has been a challenging yet deeply fulfilling experience—one that every FIJIBATT engineer will carry with pride for the rest of his life.



With the security situation shifting in Sector West, FIJIBATT specialists swiftly answered the call to renovate Observation Post 52 (OP 52) which commenced on 27 August 2024. This project was carried out alongside their already demanding SUR tasking and routine Battalion engineering duties within Camp Ziouani and FIJIBATT outposts. Despite the workload, the team gave their utmost support to OGG/UNTSO efforts at OP 52, showcasing once again their unwavering commitment to mission success.

The FIJIBATT engineering team is composed of trained professionals in plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning, welding and carpentry. Their ability to respond quickly to tasks, and to ensure all assignments are completed and recorded, reflects their high standard of discipline and efficiency. From construction and repairs to essential facility



upgrades, these tasks are vital to the sustainment of UNDOF operations in the Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Innovation and resourcefulness have become a daily hallmark of engineers' service. Whether improving infrastructure or responding to urgent repairs, their work has directly contributed to mission readiness and operational effectiveness. Over the past few months, the efforts of FIJIBATT engineers have left a lasting impact. Their hard work, resilience, and professionalism have not gone unnoticed. On 16 April 2025, the FB Specialist team concluded their deployment, having successfully completed all renovation taskings allocated to them.

Throughout the project, the FIJIBATT team provided vital support in the form of specialists, medics, and security personnel, contributing significantly to the mission's success. OP 52 was officially reopened on 21 May 2025.

To all FIJIBATT specialists — Job well done!

Article by LT KT Namoce, FIJIBATT MLO



EMERGENCY SURGERY: ITS ROLE IN UNDOF

United Nations has recognized emergency surgical need as a vital element of global health requirement. It is also regarded as a critical component of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) & believed to enhance emergency surgical care to achieve the necessary goals. An example of a fulfilling these goals is reflected in the form of surgical care provided to the communities during peacekeeping missions, implementing initiatives like, "Safe surgery saves life" campaign, to improve surgery safety worldwide.



In UNDOF, this responsibility lies with the Level 1 + Hospital located in Camp Faouar. The hospital was handed over to Nepali Medical contingents on 23 July 2019. Among the hospital's primary responsibilities, such as CASEVAC/MEDEVAC, emergency and damage control surgeries are also among the prioritized tasks. Other tasks include coordination and facilitation of referrals for all other medical units in UNDOF to higher level centres i.e. Level Two or Level Three hospitals allocated by United Nations as per their need.

Providing surgical care in austere conditions presents significant challenges, particularly as UNDOF operates within a complex and dynamic conflict environment. Despite this situation, the hospital is prepared to receive casualties, stabilize them in terms of life and limb, and improving their conditions as far as possible. It also performs damage control surgeries, post-operative with an intensive care unit. The Level 1 plus hospital has the holding capacity to keep patients for a short time prior to their transfer if



required to a higher centre as per their needs.

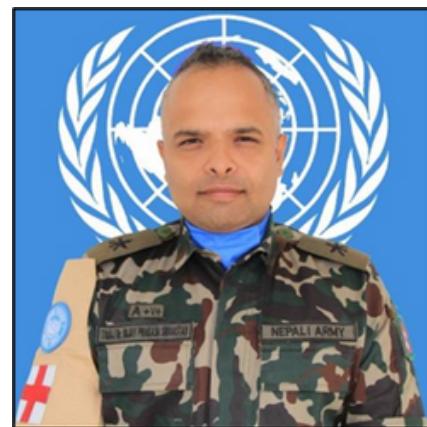
Since November 2023, the Level One + Hospital has performed more than 28 surgeries including intermediate and minor procedures, followed by referrals to higher centres. Further, it has also received the award for 'Excellence in Military Training' for the months of March and April 2025, for delivering theoretical and practical medical training to improve casualty management procedures.



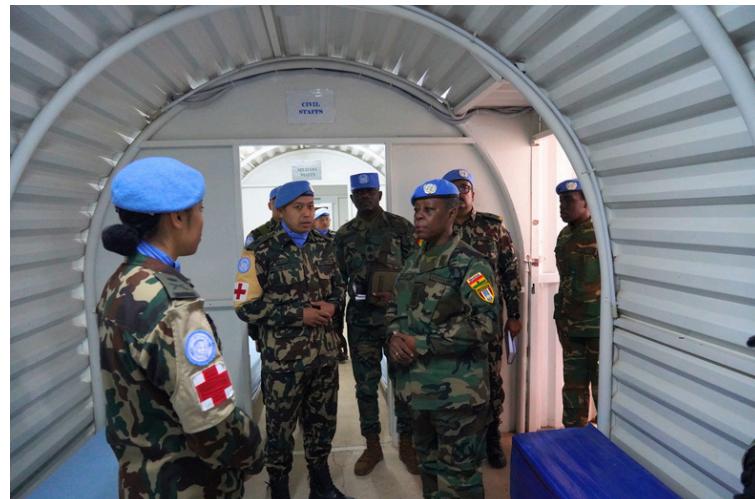
EMERGENCY SURGERY: ITS ROLE IN UNDOF

Additionally, in order to enhance surgical care for patients, training has been conducted on advanced trauma life support along with surgical management teachings including chest, abdominal head and limb injuries.

As per one of the specific indicators related to availability of surgical care, endorsed under Sustainable Development Goal 5, "Waiting time for elective surgery", UN emphasizes the importance of strengthening emergency & essential surgical care in aspects of safe surgical practices to reduce the burden of death & disabilities. Keeping this in mind, along with, and following United Nations field mission policy, Level 1 + hospital has its commitments to provide professional surgical care with diligence & dedication. This will be provided alongside other medical care facilities with their quality health with specialized & professional personnel, ensuring the well-being of members of United Nations peace keeping operations in UNDOF, Syria.



Major Dr. Bijay Prakash Srivastav
General & Laparoscopic Surgeon
DCO, Level 1 plus Hospital, UNDOF



ORAL HEALTH: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

I was introduced to dentistry in the year 2015. After a decade, on average I believe I have seen approx 10 mouths per day which would roughly make it that I have seen 40,000 mouths thus far. The geographic differences, the low literacy rate and the lack of awareness among people in Nepal did give me a preconceived idea about the standard of oral hygiene in the Nepali population. I was used to seeing people with missing teeth, gum disease and cavities. It was the norm for me. A healthy mouth was not that common, but when encountered, it would genuinely make me happy. Travelling to rural parts of Nepal for oral health awareness and working for the under served of the community, did bring a sense of humility and made me feel responsible to assist with enhancing change for the better towards oral health.

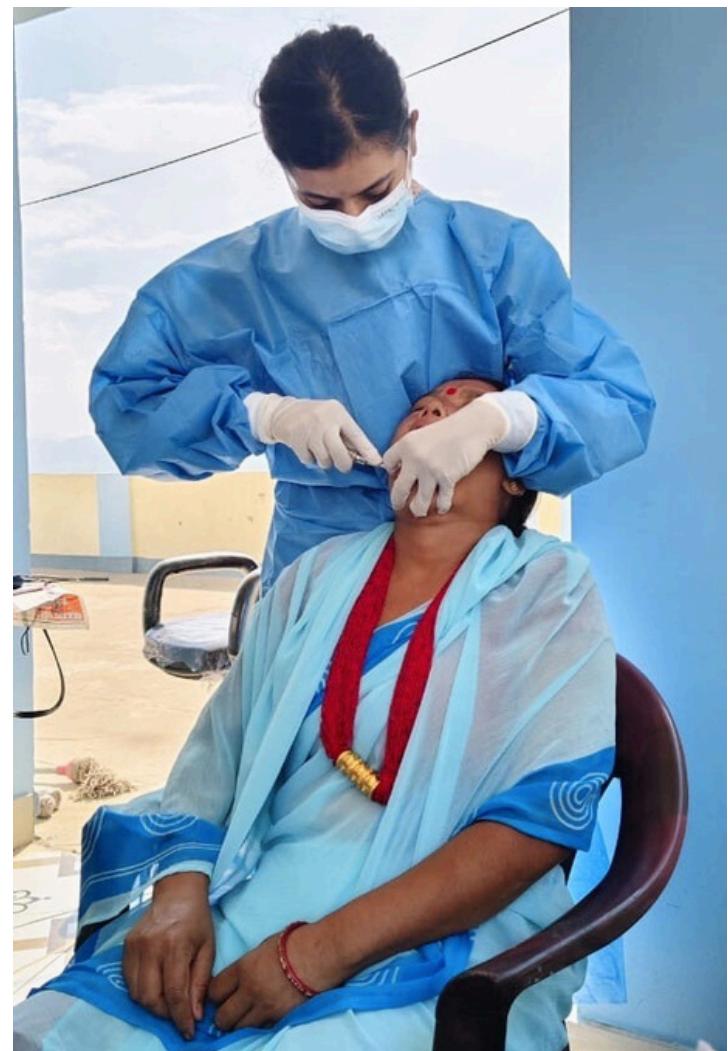


Having deployed to Camp Faouar in 2025 and after serving for a few months in the Level 1+ hospital, seeing patients from all over the world, I have now come to a common ground that oral health is a global problem. It's not the geographic differences or the literacy rate that affect people's mouths. Here, people are educated, well informed and aware but still have problems with their oral health. Moreover, my observation over the past few months in UNDOF has shown a significant increase in the number of cases and brought into light the following facts. However, the facts/ views are totally personal and do not reflect the disease incidence and prevalence per se.

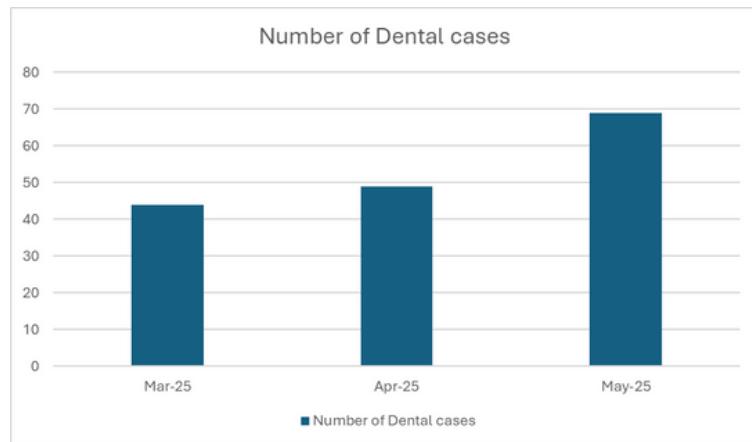
- I can't deny the fact that dentistry is expensive, but the cost only comes with neglect. Seeking professional help at an early stage of disease helps minimize pain, severity of the disease and the cost of treatment. The dental service in Level 1+ hospital has been a focal point for preventive

services. UN personnel, troops and staff can access dental care facilities while they are away from their home in case of emergencies, for treatment of incipient disease and for preventive procedures. All the extensive and aesthetic treatments can be done back in their home country after their rotation. Hence the significant increase in number of cases does owe to the free and quality service offered by the hospital.

- The time needed to form a tooth cavity from an incipient lesion is approx. 6 ± 18 months. The patient referral in coming to fill the cavity here today is not the result of an overnight phenomenon. The lesion, does quickly accelerate to a cavity due to a sugary diet, fruit juices, lack of fibrous food, and consumption of acidic drinks. Consuming sugary or acidic foods promotes plaque buildup, ultimately increasing the bacterial load and causing disease.



ORAL HEALTH: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE



- The effect of stress on gingival health cannot be neglected. Stress leads to hormonal disruption, changes in composition of saliva, suppression of immune response leading to an increase in bacterial susceptibility to cause disease. Staying away from family in a conflict afflicted zone acts as a stressor to the majority of the population accelerating disease, eventually leading them to seek professional help.
- Stress often leads to behavioural changes. Neglect in oral hygiene, increased smoking or alcohol consumption are all the risk factors associated with gingival disease.

With number of patients increasing each day, the following simple yet strategic steps will help reduce the bacterial load, halt the disease process and keep oral health at an optimum level:

- Brushing twice a day with a fluoridated toothpaste helps prevent cavities, promotes fresh breath and removes plaque. Brushing however works only on 60% of tooth surface. 40% including the proximal contact areas requires flossing to occur in order to complete plaque removal.
- Diet modification with the addition of fibrous food, chewing sugar free gums helps stimulate salivary flow, aids in gingival massage which improves overall gum health. Limiting sugar and acidic drinks, avoiding frequent in-between meal snacking and binge eating is another way to prevent cavities.



- The addition of Mouthwashes, water picks and mouth sprays are an added aid that can be used along with brushing and flossing. However, they cannot be used to replace the necessary requirements to brush and floss twice daily.
- The proper method of brushing your teeth is extremely important which tends to be easily forgotten and or neglected. Patients do come with cavities (cervical abrasions) caused due to an improper brushing technique. Hence, using the correct method to brush brush your teeth helps to enhance not just oral health but overall health of the patient.

ORAL HEALTH: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE



- Lastly, but something very important - accessible dental care, screening every 6 months for disease progression and seeking professional help for symptoms as basic as sensitivity, bleeding gums will help prevent the early loss of teeth due to bone and or gum diseases. So please access your dental surgery every six months for a CHECK UP.

To conclude, my motive to work as a change maker in the arena of oral health that had started in the rural communities of Nepal has now taken shape, grown full-fledged and chased me across the Nepalese border. My sole purpose here in Camp Faouar is to educate the troops, teach oral hygiene practices, screen for early disease and treat cases needing immediate attention because oral health is a mirror to one's overall health. Oral care may not always get enough attention when it comes to our overall health, although by now, we have enough evidence that shows deep connections. A healthy lifestyle that focuses on nutrient dense real food, efficient movement, restorative sleep, and daily stress management should always be considered as gatekeepers for ideal wellness, and the first step in optimal digestion, which begins in our mouth!

Lieutenant Dr Luna Sharma
Dental Surgeon
Level 1+ hospital



A MULTIFACETED SOLDIER LIGHTING THE WAY IN UNDOF

At the centre of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mission in Syria, female uniformed personnel like T/Corporal Ashma Khada of the Nepalese Army demonstrates a resilient and dedicated personality that is required by personnel in a high-risk scenario. Serving with the Nepalese Mechanized Company (UNP 60), T/Cpl. Khada is more than just a skilled generator mechanic; she is a woman who brings positive energy and shows resourcefulness in her peace keeping role.



A Technical Expert with a Soldier's Spirit

As the generator mechanic for UNP 60, T/Corporal Ashma Khada's role is important in ensuring the smooth functioning of mission's activities. Her technical skills ensure that essential power systems operate smoothly, which is critical to maintaining the unit's operational readiness. Like every other peacekeeper, Ashma's role is not limited to maintenance; she performs her duties at a sentry position, participates in OMR patrols with her male counterparts, that requires a self-hardened courage which can only be attained with discipline and focus. Her ability to switch between technical tasks and front line responsibilities reflects a life of peacekeeper with dedication.



Discipline Beyond Duty: Fitness and Creativity

T/Corporal Ashma Khada's strong physical and mental state defines who she is - a disciplined peacekeeper who follows her routines and can inspire others to fall in line. On the flipside, Ashma shows a liking to knitting when she has time to herself. The high pace of peacekeeper activities conducive with a hobby reflecting patience has blended T/Cpl. Khada to becoming a complete peacekeeper with strength and with a creative spirit.



A Role Model for All

T/Corporal Ashma Khada has earned deep respect within UNP 60. Her professionalism towards her role captures a true image of what everyday peacekeeper looks like. Moreover, her words reflect her personality, "Every role we take, no matter how small, contributes to the mission's success. I am proud to serve with UNDOF." As UNDOF continues its vital mission in Syria, peacekeepers like Ashma remind us that this work is about more than just duty. It is about passion, positive attitude and self-discipline, of a human character. Her journey shows what a woman with dedication in uniform and a Nepalese peacekeeper can achieve on the global stage.

By Capt Sita Kunwar
Duty Officer
UNP 60

QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS (QIPS)

The United Nations conducts peacekeeping operations in different parts of the world. All operations are aimed at bringing peace and stability to respective regions by carrying out military operations. Besides military activities the United Nations realized that they're should be and do more in order to sustain peace and earn the trust of the local population. Therefore, civil activity also has been integrated into military operations giving a vast spectrum of opportunities to achieve mandated tasks.



United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was created in 1974 as part of their duties engaged in implementing Quick impact projects (QIP) in their area of operation. QIPs are targeted at the most vulnerable populations and or in sensitive places, setting better conditions and providing critical infrastructure for people.

In 2025 UNDOF was able to accomplish six QIPs in area of responsibility, which was highly indorsed by local community. UNDOF renovated four schools in places such as Jabata Al Khashab, Al Hanut, Saida and Ain Frekha. Due to the scarcity of electricity which also affects the water distribution in the area UNDOF installed five transformers. In addition, considering that Jabata Al Khashab is in a remote area, yet with the high number of population UNDOF renovated a medical point. These QIPs are relevant for the region, therefore UNDOF will continue to implement critical projects to create better conditions for local commune.



FIJIBATT & OGG-T CONDUCT SUCCESSFUL CASEVAC EXERCISE AT OP 55

In a demonstration of readiness and coordination, a joint Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) Exercise was conducted the morning of Friday, 21 February 2025, involving FIJIBATT and OGG-T UN Military Observers (UNMOs) at Observation Post 55 (OP 55).

The simulation centred on an injury to an OGG-T personnel, triggering a rapid response drill. Initiated by the UNDOF Joint Operation Centre, the exercise tested real-time reaction protocols and cross-unit coordination in a high-stakes environment.



Upon activation, FIJIBATT Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and medical team deployed simultaneously from its Tactical Operational Centre (TOC). Operational briefings ensured contingency plans were quickly formulated. Within 45 minutes, teams reached OP 55 and secured the site. A security over watch was established as the forward medical team performed a DRABC assessment on the simulated casualty.

A 4-liner report was immediately sent to the FB TOC, and the evacuation procedures were swiftly enacted. The casualty was transported to the FIJIBATT Medical Facility (Bunker 7), Camp Ziouani. Enroute communications with UNDOF HQ Medical Cell were established to coordinate follow-on medical support. The casualty was reassessed and reassured at regular intervals to ensure stabilization en route. Upon arrival, the FIJIBATT Medical Officer completed a full assessment and stabilized the casualty for potential MEDEVAC to a Level 2 facility on the A-side.



The exercise was observed by Camp Faouar's medical team and INDCON's Medical Officer, who provided valuable oversight and recommendations to further enhance future response capabilities.

The joint exercise showed effective interoperability between FIJIBATT and OGG-T personnel, high-level preparedness and efficient execution of SOPs, strong inter-agency communication and contingency coordination. The exercise concluded with a recognition from FIJIBATT TOC, UNDOF HQ Medical Cell, and the Liaison Branch (A-side) of the need for timely medevac planning and continued joint readiness. These drills continue to play a vital role in maintaining mission readiness, ensuring that all personnel—from field observers to medical teams—are prepared to act decisively under pressure. Well done to all involved!



Article by LT KT Namoce, FIJIBATT MLO
Photos by FIJIBATT MLO

PHOTOS FROM RECENT UNDOF MEDAL PARADES



PHOTOS FROM RECENT UNDOF EVENTS



