

# UNTSO Magazine

UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION



## SUMMER 2015



## Editorial

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### Dear readers,

Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of the UNTSO Magazine.

In this publication, you will find interesting and informative articles regarding activities of UNTSO.

I would like to thank all of the contributors for providing interesting articles. Without your very important contribution this publication would not have been possible.

A special note of thanks to the committee members for the UNTSO Magazine: Ani Koutoujan, Richard Mazula and Capt. Ola Tomter.

Juha-Pekka Salmi  
Lieutenant Colonel

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# Head of Mission and Chief of Staff



Fellow peacekeepers, civilian and military,

Having served as Head of Mission and Chief of Staff UNTSO since July 2013, it is with a sense of great pride tinged with a sense of sadness as my tour of duty is coming to a close that I take this opportunity to address you, in this Summer edition 2015, of the UNTSO magazine.

Notable during the period was an Internal Review conducted by DPKO. The Review of UNTSO was intended as forward-looking and focused on UNTSO's core functions of strengthening regional liaison and observer deployment, the results of the Review yielded welcome observations. Key findings included:

- ◆ UNTSO symbolizes the legitimacy of and commitment to the pursuit of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and its political value remains essential.
- ◆ UNTSO's mandate remains important and allows the Mission to be flexible, effective and relevant in the region.
- ◆ Underscoring the importance of UNTSO's observer deployment functions, the value of the observation in support of UNIFIL and UNDOF mandate implementation is well understood and appreciated.
- ◆ UNTSO's regional liaison mandate, allows the Mission to analyze and address complex political and security issues.
- ◆ UNTSO's regional footprint complements other UN missions in the region and adds strategic-level value to overarching UN goals.

UNTSO enthusiastically welcomed and engaged with the Internal Review, has fully endorsed the key findings and has acted decisively to implement priority recommendations, including through its 2016-17 budget submission.

In Syria, the conflict has become increasingly regional, with the involvement of State and non-State actors. In the Golan, rapid developments in August-September 2014 resulted in the temporary relocation of UNDOF and, therefore, OGG HQ and OGG-D. Following the relocation, OGG was restructured and has adapted the role of UMNOs operating from the A-side. OGG assists UNDOF in maintaining situational awareness (including through Temporary OPs) and in planning for the return to the B-side. A new LoU between UNTSO and UNDOF, reflecting the changed circumstances was signed in May 2015. We continue to carry out our core functions to observe and report despite the ongoing volatile situation on the ground.

Despite occasional flare-ups, most notably January 2015, Southern Lebanon has remained relatively calm. The relationship between OGL and UNIFIL, as detailed in an updated LoU signed in July 2014, has continued to improve and develop. Noteworthy are the involvement of OGL in investigations and the temporary appointment of an OGL officer to the UNIFIL JOC in a liaison officer function.



During these tumultuous years, UNTSO's Liaison Offices, drawing on their long-standing presence and unique access to host nations' high-ranking civilian and military-officials, as well as diplomatic and UN interlocutors, have continued to provide vital situational awareness in order to support UN efforts in the Middle East. Particularly in Damascus and Cairo/Ismailia, the security situation has impacted the operations/activities of the Offices, while highlighting the importance of their functions and the reports generated by all Liaison Offices. LOB and LOATA have likewise been especially useful in providing insights as the Syrian conflict became more regional and the effects felt in neighboring countries.

During my tenure, I was honoured to receive the first peacekeeper from Bhutan in Sep 14 and from Fiji in Oct 14, Fiji has a proud tradition of peacekeeping with UN missions throughout the Middle-East. I welcome further contributions from both countries later this year. We also said "goodbye" to our Italian observers who had contributed to UNTSO for many years until they were withdrawn for domestic reasons on 26 Mar 2015.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all UNTSO personnel for their dedication, professionalism and friendship throughout my term as HoM and CoS UNTSO. The high quality of your work wherever the mission operates, whether at HQ, Liaison Offices or Outstations ensures the continued relevance and credibility of UNTSO.

May I wish my successor well in continuing to implement the UNTSO mandate and I know you will give him the cooperation and support which I was so fortunate to have enjoyed during my tenure with UNTSO.

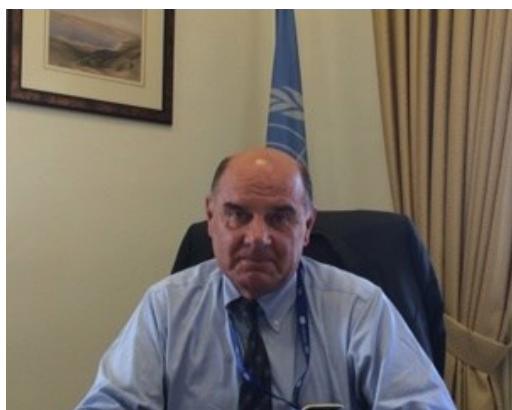
*"Go raibh maith agaibh go leir"*

Michael Finn, Maj Gen  
Head of Mission and Chief of Staff, UNTSO





# Chief Mission Support



Dear colleagues,

In the last issue of UNTSO Magazine, I introduced myself to you as the Chief Mission Support of UNTSO and UNSCO. Time flew by and I feel I need to inform you that I will be leaving the Mission soon. Indeed, after twenty three (23) years in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and twenty two (22) years serving peace and security in the United Nation, it is time for me to look for other opportunities in this life.

With a sad feeling I see that my departure coincide with the departure of the MajGen Michael Finn, whom I almost met in 1993 as UNTSO military observer and with whom I had the honor to serve the last nine (9) months.

I always had a feeling of being part of military and United Nations Peacekeeping fraternity and comradeship and I am very proud I spent my last days with the United Nations being able to share both with all of you.

I believe I did not have a chance to achieve much during my nine months with UNTSO but I am sure you will continue your efforts in successfully completing all ongoing projects.

I would like to thank all of you, especially MajGen Michael Finn for assistance, cooperation and understanding.

Mr. Sergey Toropov  
Chief Mission Support  
UNTSO/UNSCO



# Deputy Chief of Staff



Dear fellow peacekeepers in UNTSO,

The last six months have been challenging, however the situation on the Golan has calmed down and the security situation has improved. The temporary relocation of our OP's from the Bravo-side to the Alpha-side was successfully completed considering the volatile security situation.

The temporary organization in OGG is working well, however we are all looking forward to the day when we can redeploy to the OP's on Bravo-side and have our former offices in Damascus operational again. In the meantime, we have to be patient and await for the "right setting" in the ongoing Syrian internal conflict.

The safety and security of the UNMO's in the field has always been paramount for UNTSO HQ and we will continue to ensure in cooperation with UNIFIL and UNDOF, that appropriate force protection measures are in place throughout the mission area.

In OGL the situation over the last six months has not been without serious incidents. OGL is participating in investigations together with UNIFIL and the cooperation and enhanced integration with UNIFIL continues to improve. The fact that UNTSO now has a permanent presence in UNIFIL OPS is a clear indication that the move carried out last autumn has been successful.

From a gender balancing perspective it is very good to observe that we now have three female Lieutenant-Colonels, heads of OGL and OGG-T and a female CMPO. It means that 50% of the Outstation/Substation chiefs are female and UNTSO is very conscious of complying with the guidelines of UNSCR 1325 on gender issues.

Our Liaison Offices have also continued to carry out their main tasks, while LOD still has a challenging environment, regrettably no improvement in the short term has been observed in Damascus or in Syria as a whole. LOC continues their liaison function in Cairo and patrolling in the Sinai, despite the ongoing threat from insurgent groups, in order to maintain HoM/COS situational awareness in Egypt. LOB has seen one Irish Naval Commander depart the mission after his one year tenure and a new, very experienced Irish LtCol arrive to take up the challenging post as CLOB.

The preparations for the COS/HOM Diplomatic visits have gone very smoothly during the last six months, in spite of a sometimes challenging environment. You have all shown a great deal of professionalism and flexibility which is important in continuing to carry out our mission.

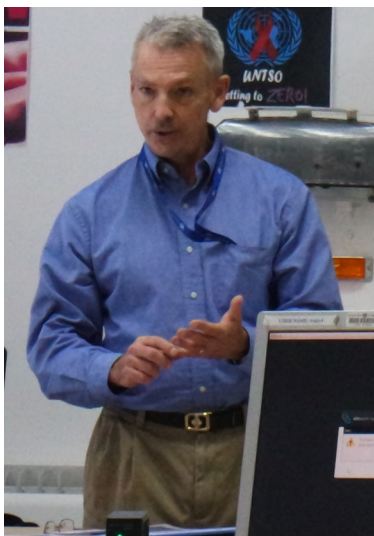
I commend you all for your dedication over the last six months, and I am looking forward to working with you all and will support you in your future endeavours.

Keep in mind that the safety and security of the UNMO's is my highest priority!

Stay safe!

Einar Johnsen  
Colonel  
DCOS UNTSO

# Standards of Conduct, Ethics and Integrity



Many thanks to all who participated in the April sessions on Prohibited Conduct and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse led by our colleague from the Regional Conduct and Discipline Team. The feedback received confirms that the message is always a useful reminder of our responsibility to uphold the standards of conduct expected of us as UN personnel.

As frequently recognized by our Head of Mission, UNTSO personnel - civilian and military - serve with dedication and distinction in often difficult circumstances, in keeping with purposes and principles of the United Nations. He also seldom misses the opportunity to convey the UN's - and his own - expectations regarding standards of conduct, including our role in preserving the integrity, impartiality, credibility and image of the United Nations and our Mission.

We all learn early on in our time with the UN that the starting point for our relationship as UN personnel is the Charter, and the Staff Regulations and Rules that follow from it - or, for the Military, the Undertaking signed when deploying. Emphasized throughout are our commitment to upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, to exercising loyalty and discretion in our functions and to respecting fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person and the equal rights of men and women. All of these elements are similarly highlighted in COS/HOM Directive No. 01/2015.

You will also appreciate that the UN has made - and continues to make - special efforts focused on prohibited conduct, including harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority, as well as sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. As part of those efforts, all civilian staff UN-wide must complete mandatory training related to conduct and discipline (and it is the responsibility of Section Chiefs to assure the compliance of the staff in their section). April's instructor-led sessions were an important part of that mandatory training. Inspira-based online training on Prohibited Conduct is also mandatory for staff and, within UNTSO, has been made mandatory for military personnel, as well. Many completed the online training during our 2013 compliance campaign; for those who have not (and those who might benefit from a refresher), the module can be accessed through Inspira. Upon completion of the training, you should send a copy of your completion certificate to our Training Section.

Parallel efforts regarding ethics are also becoming part of our operating environment. In late 2014, we all participated in a Leadership Dialogue on *Treating each other with Respect and Tolerance*. As noted by the Secretary-General in his introduction to the Dialogue, "Tolerance and respect are basic human values. They are also basic practices that we must cultivate in order to work together harmoniously, serve the world's people more effectively and fulfil the UN's mission." Also mandatory for all staff is a new online ethics training program entitled "*Ethics and Integrity at the United Nations*." The training addresses typical ethical issues faced by staff, and is designed to promote a common understanding of best ethics practices and standards of integrity. It's accessible via Inspira - look for course number is LMS-1796 - and, as before, a copy of your printable completion certificate should be sent to Training.

We should all be proud of the UN and of our contributions to its achievements. Through our own conduct - including through the completion of training opportunities designed to raise awareness and assure compliance - we can contribute to the success of UNTSO and the United Nations.

Tom Markushewski  
Senior Legal Advisor  
UNTSO HQ





## BHUTAN

As part of Bhutan's ongoing UN international peacekeeping engagement, Bhutan is now participating in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, a historic move on behalf of the Government. I left Bhutan in Sep 2014, to deploy with the UN Mission UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation) in Israeli occupied Golan. UNTSO, was set up in May 1948, the first ever peacekeeping operation established by the United Nations. So it was only fitting that I deploy to this mission as I am the first ever Bhutanese peacekeeper.

This is the first time that the Kingdom of Bhutan has made a physical contribution to a UN Peacekeeping organization which continuously strives for Global peace. Bhutan became a member of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in 1971. This move to gradually participate in UN missions is a historic one and one which makes me so proud to be Bhutanese and a member of the Royal Armed Forces. As I am the first UN peacekeeper from Bhutan, the ultimate satisfaction for me would be to see the Kingdom of Bhutan gradually build its national capacity to contribute and participate effectively in UN peacekeeping missions in the not too distant future. By me being here, Bhutan has shown a willingness to contribute to international peacekeeping, which in turn represents the coming of age and modernization of our country. I want to take this opportunity to thank his Majesty the King and to inform him as being the first UN peacekeeper from the Kingdom of Bhutan, I consider myself to be a privileged member of the Royal Bhutan Army and that I endeavour at all times to carry out my duties professionally and to the highest standards, all the time being aware that I am the sole representative from my country, an honour which I will always hold in the highest regard.

The exposure to different cultures, nationalities and work practices of the various Military Observers has been a fantastic experience for me. I am indeed indebted to my Country for giving me this rare opportunity to learn and experience teachings that I will cherish for the rest of my life, and will be fond memories. My overall contribution to UN peacekeeping may have been a minute one, but it's a step in the right direction, and it's only when one looks at the UNTSO website and sees the troop contributing countries (TCCs), that I am once again reminded of my Country's achievement, when I see Bhutan in the list of TCCs. Our very nature is that of true loyalty and dedicated service, which are attributes of any UN peacekeeper, so Bhutan's future in peacekeeping is something that should develop and grow. The more Missions we deploy to, the more experience we will have to pass on to our colleagues at home.

Bhutan is known as the country of "Gross National Happiness" and under the invaluable vision and leadership of our monarchs we have enjoyed continued peace and tranquillity, which was not always the case, so as a people we fully recognize the need for continued endeavours for global peace. I now want to reiterate my sincere gratitude to the King, Armed Forces and the Royal Government for such a wonderful opportunity which was granted to me to serve with the International community in their continued effort to achieve global peace, and of course making history as the first UN Peacekeeper from the "Land of the Peaceful Dragon". When I return to the Kingdom of Bhutan, my intentions are to pass on and convey all that I have learned and experienced from my time as a line United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) to my colleagues in the Royal Armed Forces. Once again, I thank all who contributed in any way to this life time experience.



Major Jigme Ngawang (Bhutan)  
UNMO  
Team Wadi



# UNTSO HQ JOINT OPERATION CENTRE



## Reporting, analyzing, training and planning

*Extract from Observer Group Golan Daily Observation report:*

***“OP51 began to receive spillover fire in the morning of 01 May and in the process two UNMOs were hit by one (1) airburst round as it hit the shelter entrance wall as UNMOs were running in. UNMOs had minor wounds and were evacuated to Shafed hospital soon after the incident”***

Events like this delicate matter are thankfully not a daily report that we receive in the JOC. In such cases the role of the JOC is to monitor ongoing situations wherever they might occur in the UNTSO mission area. This enables the HOM/COS and his mission leadership team to maintain a high level of situational awareness.

The UNTSO HQ JOC consists today of the Chief JOC, Senior Staff Officer, J3 Operations, J4 Logistics, J5 Plans, Training Officer, Military Information Officer, Military Information Analyst and the J3/J5 Information Analyst. The JOC is also closely supported by two civilian analysts and two translators of the Analysis Team, which is collocated with the JOC.

All UNMOs working in the JOC have previous experience as a line UNMO with exception of the Chief JOC and the Senior Staff Officer who are directly appointed to key leadership positions within the JOC.

The JOC is a very interesting work environment and the team functions in an effective manner; complementing each other's varied roles, thus producing a very good overview of the political and military situation in the UNTSO mission area.

Capt. Ola Tomter (Norwegian Defence)  
JOC - Training Officer



**From impact OP-51 1st of May 2015**

From left Captain David Horton - Canada, Captain Zarik Maros - Slovakia and Captain Perttu Pohjola - Finland



# OGG Cooperation between UNTSO and UNDOF

Israel is among the countries in the world with the most mined areas, which makes this topic extremely relevant. It is estimated that there are more than 2000 mine fields in the Golan with over 260.000 mines. Around many of UNTSO OP's there are mine fields in the immediate proximity.

OGG is supported by UNDOF with MINE AWARENESS training for new UNMO's in the Golan.

A partnership has been established between UNDOF, (48th Inf Gp) and UNTSO OGG. The collaboration has come up after a good process between Irish compatriots from UNDOF and UNTSO OGGT. In May the training took place on OP55 with the new UNMO's during their first line tour. First up was a theory lesson where Lieutenant Jane O'Neill explained the reasons behind the use of mines as well as their structure. Second was practical training where the UNMO's were on their knees, probing for practice mines between the scorpions and other interesting creatures. The new UNMO's learned how much time it requires to get out of a mined area without help from other agencies. The best advice from Lieutenant Jane O'Neill was, "Stay put, without moving your feet, call UNDOF, by radio or mobile and they will come and help you out ". Having worked on your knees for a long period, penetrating the surface with a stick or a knife, calling for assistance was really good advice.



While avoiding some nasty creatures UNMO's escape a minefield using a stick, supervised by the Irish instructors.



Mines passed from hand to hand between the UNMO's.



Most common mines in the Golan, FAKTABOX - Israeli No.4 (Shoe-box)



Type – A/P Blast  
Activation – Pressure  
Colour(s) – Various, olive green, sandy  
Origin – Israel

FAKTABOX, Israeli No.6 \ TM46

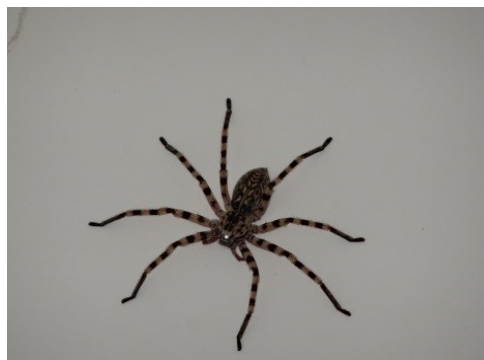
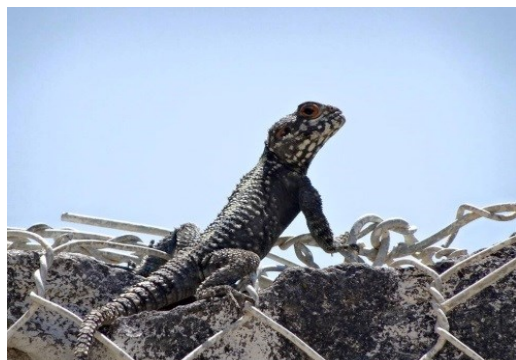


Type – A/T Blast  
Activation – Pressure  
Colour(s) – Various, olive drab, sandy coloured  
Origin – Israel/Former USSR

Nasty creatures from OP54



Photo: K.M.Jensen



# Medical Corner...

## Control your Blood Pressure with Changes in lifestyle

Lifestyle changes can help you control and prevent high blood pressure, even if you're taking blood pressure medication. Here's what you can do:

**Eat healthy foods.** Try the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet, which emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy foods. Get plenty of potassium, which can help prevent and control high blood pressure. Eat less saturated fat and total fat.

**Decrease the salt in your diet.** A lower sodium level 1.5 mg is appropriate for people 51 years of age or older, and individuals of any age who are African-American or who have hypertension, diabetes or chronic kidney disease. Otherwise healthy people can aim for 2.3 mg a day or less. While you can reduce the amount of salt you eat by putting down the saltshaker, you should also pay attention to the amount of salt that's in the processed foods you eat, such as canned soups or frozen dinners.

**Maintain a healthy weight.** If you're overweight, losing even 2.5 Kg can lower your blood pressure.

**Increase physical activity.** Regular physical activity can help lower your blood pressure and keep your weight under control. Strive for at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day.

**Limit alcohol.** Even if you're healthy, alcohol can raise your blood pressure. If you choose to drink alcohol, do so in moderation. For healthy adults, that means up to one drink a day for women of all ages and men older than age 65, and up to two drinks a day for men age 65 and younger.

**Don't smoke.** Tobacco injures blood vessel walls and speeds up the process of hardening of the arteries. If you smoke, ask your doctor to help you quit.

**Manage stress.** Reduce stress as much as possible. Practice healthy coping techniques, such as muscle relaxation and deep breathing. Getting plenty of sleep can help, too.

**Monitor your blood pressure at home.** Home blood pressure monitoring can help you keep closer tabs on your blood pressure, show if medication is working, and even alert you and your doctor to potential complications. If your blood pressure is under control, you may be able to make fewer visits to your doctor if you monitor your blood pressure at home.

## How To Treat Cold and Flu at Home?

**Practice relaxation or slow, deep breathing.** Practice taking deep and slow breaths which will help to relax body and mind. Sneezing, coughing and sore throat are common symptoms for both Cold and Flu. Higher degrees of fever and muscle pains are usually associated with Flu. Flu can be more serious than Cold as it can lead to complications such as ear infections and pneumonia. Flu and Cold both are caused by viruses and usually last for about a week.

Here are some measures we can do at home to treat cold and flu:

1. **Take rest** : Rest will save energy and improve body immunity to fight against infection. Rest also helps to minimize its transmission to other healthy people.
2. **Blow your nose** : Proper blowing of nose regularly releases mucus out of nose and helps to minimize congestion and air passage blockage. Wash hands after each nose blowing.
3. **Gargle** : Gargling can moisten throat and bring some relief. Salt water gargle 4 times a day is recommended in case of sore throat.
4. **Drink hot liquids** : Hot liquids provide relief to nasal congestion and soothe the lining of the nose and throat. It also helps to prevent dehydration.
5. **Apply hot packs around the congested sinuses**: Keeping the sinuses and the nose warm helps to relieve sinus congestion and the nose.
6. **Pain killers** : Pain killers such as Paracetamol (Acetaminophen) or Ibuprofen can relieve pain, aches and fever.

Get a medical help if you have a chronic medical condition ( asthma, diabetes, heart disease) or if you have very high fever, severe headache, breathing difficulties, abdominal or chest pain.

(Source : Mayo Clinic)

Dr. Dhruba Koirala  
UNTSO Medical Officer



# UN Women's Day Celebrations

The 2015 International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in UNTSO on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2015. The theme for this year's IWD was Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity.

The event was very well attended by both men and women. The Head of Mission and Chief of Staff, MAJ. GEN. Michael Finn, read the Secretary-General's speech, that emphasized this year's theme (Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity.)

During the event, UNTSO/UNSCO had the privilege of hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class of Jerusalem American International School (JAIS), who participated in and absorbed the importance of the day. The JAIS poem that was read by Ms. Priyanshita Kanwar (daughter of one of our staff members in CITS Mr. Navdeep Singh) was about a young girl like her, or to say just 7 years older than her. At such a tender age she is already a Noble Peace Prize winner - Malala Yousafzai. On 9 October 2012, a Taliban gunman shot Yousafzai as she rode home on a bus after taking an exam in Swat Valley. The masked gunman shouted "Which one of you is Malala? Speak up, otherwise I will shoot you all", and, on her being identified, shot at her. She was hit with one bullet, which went through her head, neck, and ended in her shoulder. After the shooting, Yousafzai was airlifted to a military hospital in Peshawar, and from there to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, England. She underwent a number of surgeries and rehabilitation and recovered completely. Since March 2013, she has been a pupil at the all-girls' Edgbaston High School in Birmingham. At a very young age she became an activist for female education and won the Noble Peace Prize for her contributions. This opportunity gave our staff the means to impart our important messages to future generations.

A call for improvement of the Status of Women in the UN System has been reaffirmed ever since its unanimous inception into the UN Charter under the [General Assembly Resolution SCR1325](#). Unfortunately, in many parts of the world the same issues that were addressed, continue to require attention and are still of major concern. Women's equal rights in the workplace, improved health, security and wellbeing of women and children and a basic respect and appreciation of women as an equal contributor to the world make up the importance and purpose of the policy of gender equality.

It was stated by the UN Assistant Secretary-General Lakshmi Puri: That without a just peace there is no peace at all, and without gender justice there is no peace at all.

The ladies finalized the day by going out for lunch.



Ms. Gertrude Mwendah  
Gender Focal Point



# Events and





# Activities





# Liaison Office to Cairo LOC

## Greetings from Ismailia

### **Mission**

The LOC mission is to represent UNTSO and sustain a visible presence in Egypt with an emphasis on the Sinai, through liaison and patrolling, effectively integrate military and civilian organizational components, maintain good relations with Egyptian, International and UN Organizations in Egypt, operate impartially in appearance and in fact, and give primary consideration to security and safety of personnel.

### **General**

Liaison Office to Cairo is under the operational authority of the Head of Mission/ Chief of Staff, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). LOC was established on 26 September 2008 as a result of a mission change from an Observer Group to a Liaison Office and operates in Egypt at the express invitation of the Egyptian Government. Observer Group Egypt (OGE) was established on 1 April 1980 as a successor to Observer Group Sinai (OGS) following the signing of the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel.



*UN – Compound Ismailia*

### **Area of Operations**

The Area of Operations is the Sinai Peninsula, Ismailia and Cairo.

### **History, Facts and Figures**

#### **The Egypt-Israel Sector**

Relations between Egypt and Israel were complex to administer and the Egypt-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission, EIMAC, functioned with difficulty. After the 1956 war a new UN mission, the UN Emergency Force (UNEF), was deployed along the Egypt-Israel cease-fire line in the Sinai. UNTSO observers helped establish and then participated in UNEF I operations. In May 1967, UNEF was withdrawn at the request of the Egyptian Government.

#### **1967 to 1973**

The Egypt-Israel sector saw UNTSO play a role in helping to bring the June 1967 war to an end. When the ceasefire went into effect, the Israeli Forces had reached the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. In July 1967 after an agreement by both parties, UNTSO observation posts were established on both sides of the Suez Canal. The main task of the observers was to observe and report on breaches of the cease fire, including firings, overflights, and movements forward which, in this case, meant the movement of boats and craft in the Canal. Cease-fire observation along the Suez Canal was stopped soon after the outbreak of the Yom Kippur, October war in 1973.

#### **Observer Group Egypt (OGE)**

OGE was established in April 1980 as a successor to Observer Group Sinai (OGS). OGS originated from the Ismailia Control Center (ICC) and Kantara Control Center (KCC), which were formed after the 1967 war. After the Peace Agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1979 the mission of OGS was reduced. OGE had its base at Ismailia, and has since been renamed to the UNTSO Liaison Office to Cairo LOC.





*LOC Civilian and Military Staff together with HoM / COS on the occasion of the CLOC Change of Command in October 2014*

## **LOC - Staffing**

The authorized strength consists of three United Nations Military Experts on Mission, one Administrative Officer and three Civilian National Recruited Staff.

- a. Lt Col Olivier Werlen: Chief Liaison Officer Cairo (CLOC). Direct representative of the COS UNTSO in Egypt with a mission to maintain a liaison office with the Egyptian Government on behalf of the COS; conduct liaison meetings and sustain a visible UNTSO presence in Egypt with an emphasis on the Sinai and Cairo.
- b. Maj John-Ivar Christensen: Deputy Chief Liaison Officer Cairo (DCLOC).
- c. Maj Esben Petersen: Operations Officer Liaison Officer Cairo (OOLOC).
- d. Mr Soren Karlsson: Administrative Officer (AO).
- e. Ms Ereni Mohareb: Administrative Clerk.
- f. Mr Wessam Adly: Maintenance worker.

In addition more people are working at or around the compound: Egyptian Police (24/7, posted outside of the compound) and Al-Ahlia Company providing labour such as Security (24/7, inside the compound), a Gardener, Cleaners and a Supervisor. In addition, Mr Mohammed does the “pay as you eat” catering and provides the team with nutritious and tasty lunches. He is called in when needed and assists us.



*LOC patrol destination Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. Catherine, the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai*

## **Worth knowing about the AOO – Sinai Area**

The Sinai, a triangular peninsula, divided into two Egyptian governorates of North Sinai and [South Sinai](#), 59'570 sq km, 370 km long and 240 km wide, sparsely populated by 597,000 (Jan. 2013) mainly Bedouins, extends north into a broad isthmus linking Africa and Asia. The Sinai is bounded by the Gulf of Suez and the Suez Canal (W), the Gulf of Aqaba and the Negev Desert of Israel (E), the Mediterranean Sea (N), and the Red Sea (S). Overall. It is a barren plateau region, sandy in the N, rising to granite ridges where S. Mount Catherine (Arabic *Jabal Katri-nah*, 2,640 m) is the highest peak. Limestone quarrying and oil drilling are the main economic activities; nomadic herding is practiced and the area inhabited chiefly by nomads. The peninsula is the site of Jabal Musa (Arabic *Mount of Moses*) or Mount Sinai, 2,290 m. The scene is said to be the place where Moses received the Ten Commandments. On Jabal Musa is the famed Greek Orthodox monastery of St. Catherine, founded c.AD 250; in 1844 the Codex Sinaiticus, one of the oldest manuscripts of the New Testament, was found there. In ancient times Sinai was ruled by the Arabs of Petra; however, for most of its history it was under the Egyptian Pharaohs.

Sinai was the scene of fierce fighting in the Arab-Israeli Wars (1956, 1967, 1973). Israel occupied, then withdrew from the peninsula in 1956. In 1967, Israel again drove the Egyptians from Sinai, establishing a defense line along the Suez Canal and capturing strategic outposts overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba. In the 1973 war, the Egyptian army crossed the Suez Canal and recaptured territory in the Sinai; still, Israel retained control over a large part of it. Under the Camp David accords (1978) and Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty (1979), Israel returned virtually the whole of Sinai back to Egypt; the process was completed in 1982. The remaining border area of Taba, was negotiated and relinquished by Israel in the early 1990s.



*LOC Change of Appointment Ceremony of Liaison Office to Cairo from Lieutenant Colonel Jim FITZGERALD (CAN) to Lieutenant Colonel Olivier WERLEN (SWI), under supervision of Presiding Officer Major General Michael FINN (IRL), HoM/COS*

### **Conduct of the military tasks**

UNTSO-LOC has dual purposes, it is a liaison office as well as a base for patrol activities into the Sinai peninsula.

LOC liaison tasks will be conducted in the following manner:

- a. Liaison meetings in Cairo and Ismailia with the Liaison Agency with International Organization (LAWIO) on a regular basis.
- b. Liaison meetings on a regular basis with LAWIO Taba, Sharm El Sheikh and Rafah (if approved).
- c. Liaison meetings with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on a quarterly basis.
- d. Liaison meetings with Embassies of Armistice parties, TCCs P5 countries and the Embassies of the AOO on a quarterly basis.
- e. Liaison meetings with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and attendance at the Security Management Team Meetings for Egypt on a monthly basis.
- f. Liaison meetings with all Cairo based UN Agencies on a regular basis.

LOC conducts patrols in the Sinai Peninsula in SOUTHERN and WESTERN areas (ZONE A and B) as committed to in the DPKO's letter of 4 April 2008 to the Government of Egypt by maintaining a regular pattern of patrols at a minimum acceptable level as called for in the Strategic Framework of Peacekeeping Operations 2012 – 2014 (UN General Assembly Document A/65/6). The stated purpose of UNTSO patrols is to assure the visibility of UNTSO peacekeepers in the SINAI Peninsula, observe and report on issues of patrol safety only, such as road and communication conditions and maintain liaison and good relationship to LAWIO offices.



*Maj John-Ivar Christensen (NOR) monitoring the sandy Western area of Sinai during Car Patrol*

Major John-Ivar Christensen  
Deputy Chief Liaison Office to Cairo



PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

*The Office of the Military Adviser*

Reference n. UCM/ 374 /501

New York, 05 March 2015

**Subject: UNFICYP/MINURSO/UNTSO/UNMOGIP - Recall of Italian Component from selected mission.**

*The Office of Military Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations and has the honor to refer about the decision made by the Italian Government, due to budgetary reasons, in order to call back the Italian Military Observers and Staff from the named United Nations Missions.*

*The Office of Military Adviser informs that the Italian Government has directed the recall of the Italian Military participation from UNFICYP, MINURSO, UNTSO and UNMOGIP.*

*The twenty Officers, NCO and Carabinieri serving in the above mentioned missions, shall complete their duty by 31 March 2015.*

*This note verbal complements the information that the Italian UNMO have already provided to their respective UN chains of command (reference message n. M\_D SCOI 006076 dated 20/02/2015).*

*The Office of Military Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations the assurances of its highest consideration.*

THE MILITARY ADVISER  
*Lt. Gen. Paolo SERRA*





# New Country ~ New Mission and New Challenge

## “Bula”

Fiji is renowned for its commitment and participation in UN peacekeeping since 1978. With a population of less than 900,000, this small island nation in the Pacific has contributed troops and observers from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces to Lebanon, the Golan, Sinai, Iraq, East Timor, Sudan and Kuwait.

In 2014, Fiji added another achievement to its contribution to global peace by participating in UNTSO - regarded as the oldest UN mission or otherwise referred to as “mother of all mission”.

As the first Officer from Fiji to be accorded this honour, it has been a never-ending challenge and experience having to clear the pathway for my fellow countrymen to follow. In addition, the personal achievement of being a pioneer in continuing the tradition of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces in peacekeeping has been overwhelming. It is with gratitude that I acknowledge the Commander of The Fiji Military Forces in personally entrusting this task, as the first RFMF Officer in UNTSO.

Fiji has been duly privileged to be acknowledged and accorded this honour; to be part of one the greatest UN missions that ever existed in the region. More importantly, as a newest country to be included with the rest of the nations that has worked tirelessly in fulfilling UNTSO’S mandate in the region.

My experience in peacekeeping and observer missions started in 1995 in the Sinai and continued to East Timor and Lebanon. The interactions with the officers from other nations were always an experience. This deployment with UNTSO, especially in OGL proved to be unique and memorable experience of my career. The last nine months have always been challenging given the vast diversity of nations, cultures and personalities that I had to adapt to. Yet a strong bond of friendship was forged along the way that continued to develop the camaraderie and esprit de corp that created that solidarity within the team. More importantly I continue to witness this friendship throughout all the teams in OGL.

I would like to acknowledge the support from UNTSO HQ on my initial deployment likewise OGL for my professional development in the AOR.

Wish everyone well in your deployments and safe journey back home to your families and loved ones.

“VINAKA VAKALEVU”

THANK YOU





# Historical Foot Patrol with Team Victor

The history of foot patrolling within team VICTOR runs back to the early days of UNTSO in 1949. UN-MO's conduct foot patrols on a daily basis to Blue Barrels and temporary OP's but a complete foot patrol of all the barrels in Team VICTOR's AOR has developed into a long standing tradition. Every member of the team is morally obliged to walk the Blue Line within their deployment; you are not a real 'VICTORIAN' if you don't walk the line and tag your name on the 'walk of fame' board. The walk is a mixture of asphalt roads, dirt tracks and 'no-roads' and ends up being approximately 21 kilometers long. The walkers are guided by a patrol vehicle with the Liaison Assistant and Observer for security and logistic supply.

Four team members of team VICTOR conducted the 20 kilometer walk on 16 March 2015. Weather conditions were perfect, a pleasant temperature and cool breeze. Start was at B44 and Finish at BP29.

The hardy Victorians were two Australians, Lt Cdr Dan Allan, Maj Cliff De Laine, one Italian Capt Marco Specchia and one Dutchman Capt Marcel Doree. The team took three and half hours to complete the foot patrol hitting every blue line point in between.





# Anzac Day—Observer Group Lebanon

ANZAC Day falls on 25 April every year and always holds a special place for serving personnel but it takes on a new meaning whilst deployed and for the members of Observer Group Lebanon, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) this year was no exception. Hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Lebanon, His Excellency Glenn Miles, the group was greeted by the immaculately manicured grounds of the Commonwealth War Graves in downtown Beirut.

With the path lit up by hundreds of tea lights the grounds of the cemetery provided a sombre but beautiful backdrop to a moving service attended by over 100 people. The ceremony took on a true ANZAC spirit with the Chief - Observer Group Lebanon LTCOL Ruth Putze, New Zealand Army providing a moving speech of the role Australians and New Zealanders played during the Gallipoli campaign.

Commander Australian Contingent, MAJ Cliff DeLaine read 'In Flanders Fields' and with the Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon reading Ataturk's tribute to the ANZAC's the ceremony had an emotional connection to all those that served in Gallipoli 100 years ago.

With the last post ringing out in the early dawn the Australian and New Zealand officers of Observer Group Lebanon remembered the events of 100 years earlier that established the ANZAC legend.





# Change of Appointment



**15 April 2015 New Chief MPO Lt. Col. Audrey Prins from the Netherlands (left), DCOS Col. Einar Johnsen from Norway and outgoing CMPO Lt. Col. Mark Neich from Australia**



**27 April 2015 (from left) Capt. Christian Mateus from France, outgoing Chief LOB Cdr. Martin McGrath from Ireland, DCOS Col. Einar Johnsen from Norway and New Chief LOB Lt. Col. Sean Gavin from Ireland**



# Change of Command



**22 April 2015 New Chief OGGD Lt. Col. Alexandre Zermatten (left) DCOS Col. Einar Johnsen and the new Chief OGG Lt. Col. Toomas Boltowsky (right)**



**22 May 2015 New Chief OGGT, Lt. Col. Deborah Warren Smith from Australia, here with UNTSO COS Major General Michael Finn**



# Induction Training



Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
LIU, Bin	Maj	China	OGL
DYSON, Rebecca	Capt	Australia	OGL
KIISKINEN, Ville	Capt	Finland	OGG-T
POHJOLA, Perttu	Capt	Finland	OGG-T
NEF Matthias	Capt	Switzerland	OGL
BLESS, Jean-Baptiste	Capt	Switzerland	OGG-T
O'GRADY, John	Comdt	Ireland	OGL
HOPKINS, Melissa	Capt	Australia	OGG-T
COUSINS, Edouard	Capt	Australia	OGG-T
JOHNS, Christopher	Capt	Australia	OGG-T
TEWES, James	Capt	Australia	OGL
REITSMA, Damian	Sqn Ldr	Australia	OGG-T
DE LAINE, Clifford	Capt	Australia	OGL
LINGARD, Christopher	Capt	Australia	OGG-T



Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
PUTZE, Ruth	Lt Col	New Zealand	OGL
CACADOR MATEUS, Christian	Capt	France	LOB
GOZATEGUI, Francisco	Capt	Chile	OGG-T
DELL'AGLIO, Fabrizio	Capt	Italy	OGG-T
WEBER, Nicolas	Capt	Switzerland	OGG-T
Ms. YONG, Ling Ling	Civilian	Malaysian	HQ
Mr. DIXIT, Sudhir Kumar	Civilian	Indian	OGG-T
Mr. DAWOOD, Hela	Civilian	Israeli	OGG-T



Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
WHITE, Lucy	Capt	New Zealand	OGL
ALLAN, Daniel	Lt Cdr	Australia	OGL
LAVIN, David	Comdt	Ireland	OGG-T
VAISANEN, Mika	Capt	Finland	OGG-T
LUTHANDER, Hans	Capt	Sweden	OGG-T



Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
AGUILAR, Fernando	Maj	Argentina	OGG-T
ARCE, Fernando	Capt	Argentina	OGG-T
MCKENNARIEY, Lucas	Maj	Australia	OGG-T
WAHLEN, Christian	Capt	Canada	OGG-T
JENSEN, Kenneth	Maj	Denmark	OGG-T
HAMALAINEN, Niko	Capt	Finland	OGG-T
BURKE, Andrew	Comdt	Ireland	OGL
URBANCL, Tomaz	Maj	Slovenia	OGL
WEBER, Dominik	Capt	Switzerland	OGG-T
SILVESTRE, Mauricio	Maj	Argentina	OGL





Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
PRINS, Audrey	Lt Col	Netherlands	UNTSO HQ
ZERMATTEN, Alexandre	Lt Col	Switzerland	OGG-D
GAVIN, Sean	Lt Col	Ireland	LOB
AALBERTS, Bartholomeus	Maj	Netherlands	OGL
GIGELLEITNER, Helmut	Maj	Austria	OGG-T
COMANNE, Xavier	Maj	Belgium	OGG-T
DELEU, Stijn	Capt	Belgium	OGL
MEILVANG, Soren	Capt	Denmark	OGL
HARJULA, Vesa	Capt	Finland	OGG-T
LEHTINEN, Miia	Capt	Finland	OGL
TOLKKI, Timo	Capt	Finland	OGL
O'DONOGHUE, Niall	Comdt	Ireland	OGL
MCGREGOR, Shane	Flt Lt	New Zealand	OGL
JOHNSEN, Kenneth	Capt	Norway	OGG-T
ZARIK, Maros	Capt	Slovakia	OGG-T
PEIER, Johann	Capt	Switzerland	OGL
AMEERAH, Mousa	Civilian	Local	UNTSO HQ
ABU-LEIL, Issa	Civilian	Local	UNTSO HQ
JILDEH, Issa	Civilian	Local	UNTSO HQ
SAYYAM, Mo'ath	Civilian	Local	UNTSO HQ



Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
WARREN-SMITH, Deborah	Lt Col	Australia	OGG-T
BARTELS, Georg	Maj	Austria	OGG-T
SOGAARD, Mikael	Maj	Denmark	OGG-T
STRONKHORST, Wouter	Maj	Netherlands	OGG-T
BROUWER, Marion	Lt Cdr	Netherlands	OGG-T
MATEPARAE, Jeremy	Capt	New Zealand	OGG-T
HAGEN, Rune	Maj	Norway	OGG-T
SKARET, Audun	Capt	Norway	OGG-T
KOOLS, Harrie	Capt	Netherlands	OGL
CROSSWELL, David	Flt Lt	New Zealand	OGL
FOSSLI, Jan-Ove	Maj	Norway	OGL



NAME	Rank	NATION	STATION
BREVADT, Steen	Maj	Denmark	OGG-T
RINGMA, Johan	Lt (N)	Netherlands	OGG-T
LAUL, Vallo	Maj	Estonia	OGG-T
GHIMIRE, Surya	Maj	Nepal	OGG-T
KC, Subash	Maj	Nepal	OGG-T
PEOPLES, Gerard	Capt	New Zealand	OGG-T
ZURMUHLE, Adrian	Capt	Switzerland	OGL
HANSEN, Jannik	Capt	Denmark	OGL
ZWIRS, Cornelis	Maj	Netherlands	OGL
HOLMAN, Jan	Lt (N)	Netherlands	OGL
KHATRI, Sanjaya	Maj	Nepal	OGL
STROUD, Timothy	Lt (N)	Australia	OGL
WENINGER, Michael	Maj	Austria	OGL
SALAH, Saad	Civilian	Jordan	UNTSO HQ

**On the departure of Major General Michael Finn \***  
**Head of Mission and Chief of Staff**  
**United Nations Truce Supervision Organization**  
**01 July 2013 ~ 31 July 2015**

Sir, on occasions like this it's often said "it seems like only yesterday ..."

But I'm not sure that works tonight. After all, for 6 weeks you teased us from Beirut before finally appearing here in HQ.

And we've had the unexpected pleasure of an extra month with you, here at the end of your assignment.

So maybe, we should say, instead, "It's hard to believe 25 months have passed so quickly."



Of course, the adventure began even before you arrived, with your phantom LPs and non-visa.

And it has continued apace since you finally landed.

Two days after you arrived, President Morsi was removed from power. And not long thereafter we began to see the precipitous decline in security in the Sinai that exists today.

The situation in the Golan was already in its long descent, until the temporary relocation from the B-side last September that's looking ever more long term. With current projections, those still in the Mission might yet be looking forward to the "right conditions for return" to the B-side ... when your successor departs.

In the North, the events this January, and the tragic death of our SpanBatt colleague, had everyone fearing a reprise of 2006.

And one year ago today, we were at Day 16 of the 50-day Gaza War, days away from the deadliest day when some 130 Palestinians would die in Rafah alone. While we watched in horror the events in and around Gaza on BBC or al Jazeera, seemingly a world away, Jerusalem convulsed with kidnappings and killings, and counter-kidnappings and killings.

We had the Internal Review. A huge investment within the Mission and, while its full impact may not yet be entirely clear, it is a prominent part of your legacy and will surely guide the Mission for years to come.

Through it all, Government House still stands, many of the cracks in the walls and ceilings that were here when you arrived have been repaired, and many new ones in new places have appeared since. But UNTSO, as a mission, is a better place by far for you having led it.

Sir, your leadership, your openness, your integrity, your humor and, in the Southern US we'd say, your grace has made the Mission better than it was when you arrived. And we are thankful.

Of course, we're also thankful that, through it all, we've enjoyed the company of your lovely Helen. Her smile and ease has, for so many of the families, been a true joy.

Sir, people who have known me best through 32 years of professional life - in private practice, in the corporate world, and in 20+ years wandering the world with the UN - have heard me say, "I can count the truly excellent bosses I've had on one hand, and have fingers left over."

Sir, after these 25 months, I can readily say, "I have one less spare finger."

And I know I speak for all present when I say, "Thank you. Sincerely."

I am also sure that you will not soon be forgotten - for all the right reasons.

Now, I understand that, as you head off into retirement, *Peil Ghaelach*, golf, tending the homestead, and enjoying your family after so many deployments, you may want to forget at least a few things about UNTSO.

In an effort to prevent you from completely forgetting us, from your MLT and Front Office, and on behalf of all of UNTSO, military and civilian, we'd like to present to you this modest memento.

Sir.

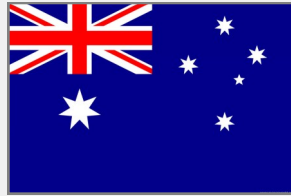
\* text from a presentation by Tom Markushewski  
at General Finn's farewell reception, 23 July 2015







ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRIA



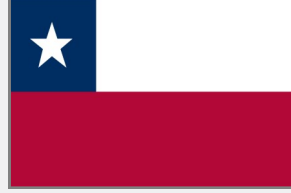
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BHUTAN



CANADA



CHILE



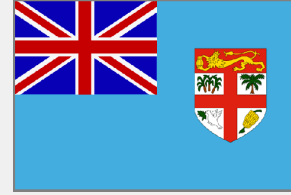
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DENMARK



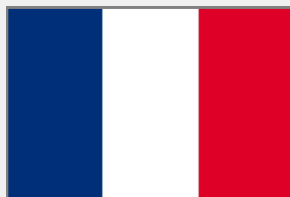
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FIJI



FINLAND



FRANCE



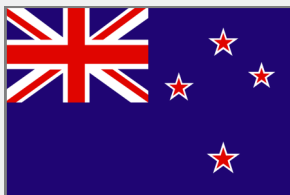
IRELAND



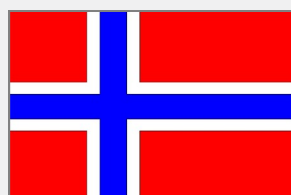
NEPAL



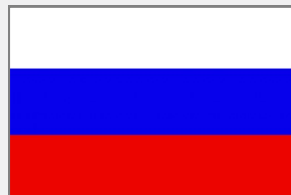
NETHERLANDS



NEW ZEALAND



NORWAY



RUSSIA



SERBIA



SLOVAKIA



SLOVENIA



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



UNITED STATES