

UNTSO Magazine

UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION



AUTUMN 2014



Editorial

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the Autumn 2014 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 bringing interesting topics which made the publication possible.

A special note of thanks to the Committee members for the UNTSO Magazine: Ani Koutoujan, Richard Mazula and Kidusan Mehari.

Juha-Pekka Salmi
Lieutenant Colonel
Chairman of the Board

Head of Mission and Chief of Staff



Fellow peacekeepers, civilian and military,

I would like to take this opportunity, in the last edition of the UNTSO magazine for 2014, to address all members of the UNTSO mission. As you will be aware, the situation in the countries where UNTSO is deployed continues to become more and more challenging.

In Syria, there have been marked changes in the operational situation within the UNDOF / OGG Area of Operation since late August. The deterioration of the security situation there led to a situation where the safety and security of UNTSO personnel was no longer assured. This consequently led to FC UNDOF's decision to temporarily relocate elements of the UNDOF mission, including OGG and OGG-D, from the Syrian controlled side of the Area of Separation. I am heartened by the manner in which UNMOs of OGG have responded to the evolving situation through the manning and establishment of both new and existing positions, and to the members of Mission Support and Security who have expanded their efforts to support them. Members of OGG from Operations, Mission Support and Security have demonstrated great perseverance, initiative and adaptability in the face of unprecedented challenges.

In Lebanon, sectarian tensions, trans-national terrorism, the refugee influx from Syria and regional influences have created an unstable environment in the country. The future direction of Egypt, and in particular, the security situation in the Sinai remains uncertain. I am also deeply concerned about the upsurge in violence in Jerusalem, as well as elsewhere in Israel and the West Bank, while the overall state of affairs in Gaza remains volatile. Despite these challenges, I am glad to say that UNTSO continues to fulfil its mandate through our outstations in OGG and OGL and the Liaison Offices in Beirut, Ismailia, Damascus and headquarters. I would like to reiterate that the safety and security of UNTSO personnel will remain my top priority.

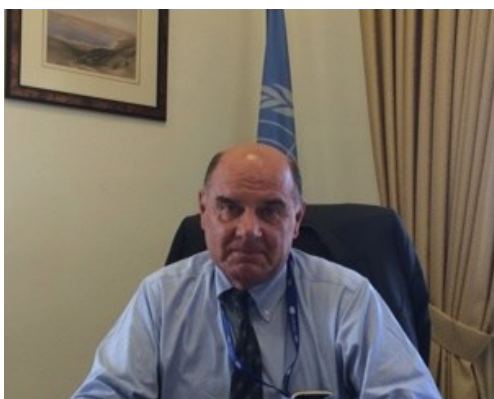
To my fellow military peacekeepers, it is important to remember our responsibilities as professionals and focus on the clear and effective passage of information. There is a lot of conjecture in traditional and social media about what is occurring throughout the Middle East at the moment, and it behoves us to maintain the integrity of our operational reporting and chains of communication.

As we approach the end of 2014, I would like to thank you for your valuable contributions to the continued effective implementation of the UNTSO mandate. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all and your families a Happy Holiday Season and I look forward to serving with each and every one of you in 2015.

Michael Finn
Major General
Head of Mission and Chief of Staff
UNTSO



Chief Mission Support



I arrived to UNTSO HQ on 23 September 2014 from OPCW-UN Joint Mission (JM) in Syria to temporary replace Mr. Abdullah Fadil, who is currently on a temporary assignment with OCHA Humanitarian Monitoring Mechanism.

My overall professional experience is more or less evenly distributed between my military service with Soviet Russian Armed Forces and service in the United Nations.

I retired from the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation after 23 years of active service as the military interpreter, a unit commander, a staff officer in an artillery depot, and a senior staff officer of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. During the same years, I was honored to serve as a UN Military Observer in UNTSO, Damascus (ODD-D), between 1985 and 1987 and in UNTSO HQ as the Chief Plans Officer between 1991 and 1993.

I joined the UN as a civilian international staff member in 1993, serving over 21 years with DPKO/DFS field Missions: UNOSOM-II, UNMIH, UNTAES, UNPSG, MONUA, UNMIBH, MONUC, UNSMIS, OPCW-UN JM and at DPKO/DFS HQ. My last assignment at UNHQ was with Africa II Division of DPKO as the Senior Administrative Officer. Additionally, I was also tasked to serve as the CMS, UNSCO, a medium size Special Political Mission with a very sensitive and complicated mandate.

Readers of this article can appreciate that the offer to come back to UNTSO was very appealing and at the same time very challenging. As they say, 'it is not possible to enter the same river twice', and it is obviously not the same river. UNTSO has changed tremendously since 1993. In a way, it became smaller but the complexity of matters has grown exponentially.

I sincerely believe that the words "Mission Support" exemplifies the nature and priority of my tasks. The Support Component of any mission could succeed only if its substantive clients, who have a direct responsibility for the execution of the mandated tasks, are fully satisfied with the level of support they receive. One can argue that full satisfaction is a very subjective term, but I promise to dedicate all my efforts and time to ensure that the Mission's Support Component is on the right track towards achieving that goal.

I would also like to thank all civilian, national and international staff, for providing professional support to our military colleagues on a daily basis and sometimes under challenging circumstances, and would encourage them to continue improving in the same manner.

Looking forward to working with all of you.

Mr. Sergey Toropov
Chief Mission Support
UNTSO/UNSCO

Deputy Chief of Staff



Dear all,

During the last six months a lot of activity has been ongoing in our Outstations and Liaison Offices.

Most of the activity has been ongoing on the Golan. The temporary relocation of our OGG-D OPs, OGG HQ in Camp Faouar and OP 52 have impacted our ability to observe what is going on in the Area of Separation. In that respect, OGG did a great job in establishing an interim C2 organization. That organization is currently undergoing an adjustment to the situation on the ground for the longer term. That was the original intent of adjusting the OGG organization in September.

The temporary withdrawal of the OGG-D OP's led to a surplus in the number of UNMOs serving in OGG. We have decreased the number of UNMOs on the Golan and reinforced, on a temporary basis, the number of UNMOs serving in OGL and in UNTSO HQ.

The security aspect has always been of paramount importance to UNTSO HQ. The OP enhancement project was in its final stage when the temporary relocation took effect. However, the five OP's that OGG operate today are in a very good condition security wise. Two of them, OP 54 and 73 that are located east of the Israeli "Technical Fence" are supported by having a team of armed personnel from UNDOF into their positions to give the UNMOs better protection. By deploying armed personnel onto the OP's the UNMOs will be better prepared and safe and secure when carrying out their main mission who is to observe and report.

Winter has arrived and the living conditions are becoming more challenging on the OP's, the driving conditions will deteriorate and we all have to be observant and vigilant of the conditions when driving vehicles on icy and slippery roads.

The year 2014 has been a challenging one for UNTSO; however, we have managed well given the circumstances in the countries we operate. Thanks to you all for a job well done!

Finally I wish you all the best of luck and progress for 2015!

Regards,

Einar Johnsen
Colonel
DCOS UNTSO





OGG~T

(Observer Group Golan Tiberias)

by Capt. O. Tomter

Photos by: Capt. O. Tomter

Days of changes...

As a relatively new UNMO, I must say we have been through some considerable changes over the last few weeks. Since our colleagues from “Delta” joined our side, the rosters and ways of conducting what seemed to be a “normal” working month has gone completely different, and for most of us in a positive way.



We still have our CC1 (chief challenge), CC2 and CC3 to take care of. This is one of those “things” to take into consideration when it comes to the who, when and what kind of experience we now integrate within the teams on Tango, also referred to as team Hermon (North), team Eagle (Middle) and team Wadi (South).

However, taking into consideration, the positive tasks the whole concept is built upon, the service of being an UNMO from Delta or Tango side all seems to merge very nicely into one big team. We focus on doing the job out there by inspecting, observing, patrolling and reporting on the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement.

Finally, the teams are giving up several UNMOs to OGL (Observer Group Lebanon). This adds additional challenges getting all rosters to work in the best way for everybody.

I have no experience of working with OGL, but from meeting the UNMOs that transferred from OGL to OGG-T, it's a really good experience to have, and quite different from OGG-T in, of course, a positive way!

So what could we say; “Solutions cause changes and changes cause solutions for UNMOs on tour!”

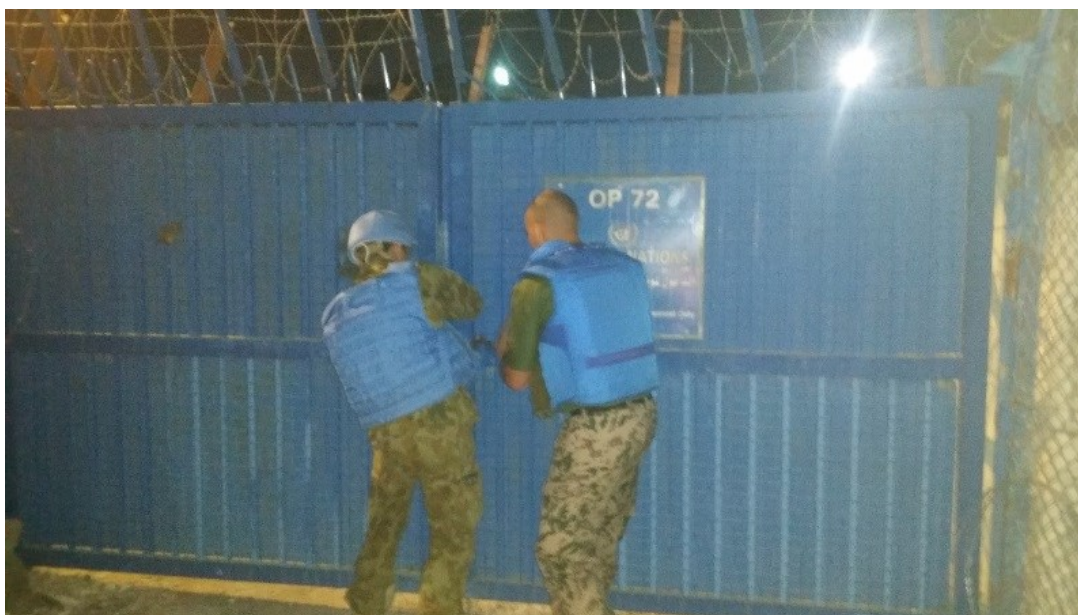
Relocation and Renovation

”Hey MPO. Could you roster one last week at the OP72 for me? I would like to leave a proper farewell to my beloved OP, before I start in my staff position.” Little did I know that in the end we were going to lock the gate from outside and that this was going to be the last OP week for all OGG-D UNMOs for the time being.

The last OP week was very interesting and busy for us. There were a lot of things happening around us and we had many interesting visits to the OP, official and unofficial. Still the daily routine was basically observing and reporting as normal. It was clear that in that tense situation our observations were very valuable for UNDOF. For example, Force Commander UNDOF was briefed on our platform a couple of times during our last days at the OP. The security situation in the OGG-D area of responsibility deteriorated all summer and fall and finally there was nothing more we could but to relocate OGG-D to the Alpha side.



9 September 2014. Last brief to the Force Commander on the hill of Tal Kurum al Khan has just ended.



12 September 2014, 1935LT. Closing the gate of OP72.

Experienced UNMOs all saw what was coming, so we started in good time to prepare ourselves and our OP for the possibility of relocation. Even though we planned and prepared for the possible relocation of the OP, I would still say that in the actual situation we were in a hurry. As the security situation started to meet with the decision points made by our chain of command, we started to get warning orders from Duty Officer Golan to start preparations for the relocation of OP72. First, orders were to be ready to move in six (6) hours. With this order, we actually started to pack equipment according to our priority list in a calm and smooth manner. The sun went down and we thought that most likely we will spend night at the OP and then see what happens in the morning. Packing method changed to a “fast and efficient” when the next orders were to be ready in two (2) hours, and approximately twenty (20) minutes later, we were ordered to move immediately to Camp Faouar. The situation changed fast and our orders were clear. At 1935LT we had all mission essential equipment packed in our cars and three UNMOs with four persons from the Fijian security detachment were ready. It was time to lock the gate and go mobile. This was the first and (at least so far) the last time any of us had driven a car on the B-side after daylight hours. And to be honest, (knowing all the things that had happened before), it was a bit of a different feeling than driving in the daylight.

After a couple of interesting events, we reached Camp Faouar safely without any problems. CF was busy that night, and everybody was outside moving around and accomplishing their tasks. In command of Chief OGG we three UNMOs from OP72 and the staff members of OGG HQ and OGG-D HQ who were at CF had a meeting, made a plan and set orders about what was going to happen in the next 24 hours. UNMOs from OP72 were ordered to go with the first UNDOF convoy and cross to the A-side in the morning as the others would follow on later convoys. On 13th September at 0700hrs, the first convoy started to move from Camp Faouar towards the A-side. All OGG UNMOs crossed to the A-side on the same day, except SSO LOG who came along with the last UNDOF convoy the following Monday.



13 September 2014 0637LT. Last group photo in CF, waiting for the first convoy to depart.



13 September 2014. Convoy on the road.

In the end, I did get to say goodbye to my OP and it sure was a week that I will remember for a long time. Even though it was the end of one era for us (at the moment), it was also the beginning of something new. If we had some challenges there on the B-side, we now had new and different challenges in front of us. The whole substation had relocated and suddenly there were many “homeless” UNMOs on the A-side. Luckily, our A-side friends and colleagues were waiting with arms wide open and we found our new homes quickly. The line UNMOs were implemented to A-side teams, and the staff set up a new interim OGG HQ structure together with OGG-T.

Finding our future? You could easily say that this temporary relocation from the B-side to the A-side is one of the biggest changes in the history of OGG. It is also clear that, when any organization faces this scale of change in a very short period of time, you will face some problems. Big personnel changes in organizations usually cause some fear and uncertainty about the future. Do I still have my job tomorrow? Luckily, we soldiers are quite good at tackling the uncertainty, because we are trained to work in an environment which is as uncertain as you can imagine. For military officers assessing the environment or situation around us and adapting the necessary inputs to our operations is something with which we are very familiar.

If Camp Faouar looked like a small and organized chaos when we were leaving, you could say the same about our coming to Camp Ziouani. A lot of personnel, equipment and vehicles were moving around and trying to find their place. At the beginning, things might have seemed to be a bit chaotic. But as we know from the chaos theory, there is an excellent opportunity for great development when we stand (willingly or not willingly) at the edge of chaos. But how can we make it happen? How can we help the development in our organization?

In order to adapt our acts towards our environment we need to understand (or at least realize the limits of our own understanding) the “world” we are living in? What are the main characteristics of our environments behavior? If we think that we saw small chaos, we might accept chaos and systems theories and set that as our baseline for the following evaluation. We can see that the environment in our AOR is very complex. If we look at our environment from a complexity theory point of a view, we can identify some basic principles in this (complex) system called environment:

- It is dynamic and adaptive.
- It consists of many elements and sub-systems which have continuous interactions with each other.
- Interactions are non-linear, which means that small actions can cause big influences and vice versa.
- It is in a continuous state of change and development and therefore cannot be predicted.
- It supports self-organization.

If you can agree with those descriptions, we might try to understand this complexity and our role as a part of it. If you look at the organization from the complexity theory point of view, there are also some basic principles of how organizations should try to react to this complexity in their environments.

First, observation and evaluation of the environment is very important.

Second, it is important to focus on the “big picture”, since we can’t predict or even understand the behavior and influence of all the small elements.

Third, Organizations should encourage innovation, flexibility and ability to change.

So what should we do? Where should this organization go? I’m sure there are many UNMOs (including myself) who have been thinking about these questions. If we think about history, my understanding is that this organization was in a quite stable state between 1974 and 2011. This means that we must be quite good at our main duties and that our best practices are in good shape. After 2011, the environment started to change dramatically. Today, we can state that our environment is very complex and unpredictable. So far this development has reflected upon us so that OGG-D and OGG HQ have now temporarily relocated to the A-side. What does the future holds for us? Nobody knows exactly. How is this organization going to develop? Hard to say. What I do know is that the ability to understand our environment is very important to us all. We need to be flexible and when needed be able to adapt to changes quickly. If we are good with these things we are ready for our future, however it will come. We also must remember that we cannot rely on our past. We know what we are doing and how we conduct our operations. This is a good foundation to build OGG in the environment we are living right now and in the future.

Capt Topi Räsänen

Be'er Sheva Commemoration 2014

On 31 October 2014, HOM/COS UNTSO Maj-Gen Michael Finn and eight Australian UNMOs had the great honour and privilege to attend the commemoration of the 97th anniversary of the Battle of Be'er Sheva, held on a rainy day at the Commonwealth War Graves in Be'er Sheva. The commemoration is an annual event and marks the fall of the Ottoman-controlled city of Be'er Sheva during WWI to British and ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) troops on 31 October 1917. In particular, for the Australian UNMOs serving

with UNTSO, it was an excellent opportunity to pay respects to our Australian ancestors, who played a significant role in the Battle of Be'er Sheva.

The Battle of Be'er Sheva was part of a wider British offensive to seize Gaza. After failing to seize the strategic town in the morning, the Australian light horseman of the 4th and 12th Regiments conducted one of the last ever cavalry charges on horse just before last light. The Turkish defensive plan was to wait for the Australians to dismount in an engagement area; however, the Australian light horseman used the principle of war 'surprise' and conducted a cavalry charge with bayonets and rifles in

lieu of swords or sabres (where they would normally dismount and fight as infantrymen). The light horseman were able to overrun the Turkish defensive line and secure the strategically important and historical wells of Be'er Sheva and open the way for the British forces to outflank the Ottoman forces in Gaza and further into Palestine.

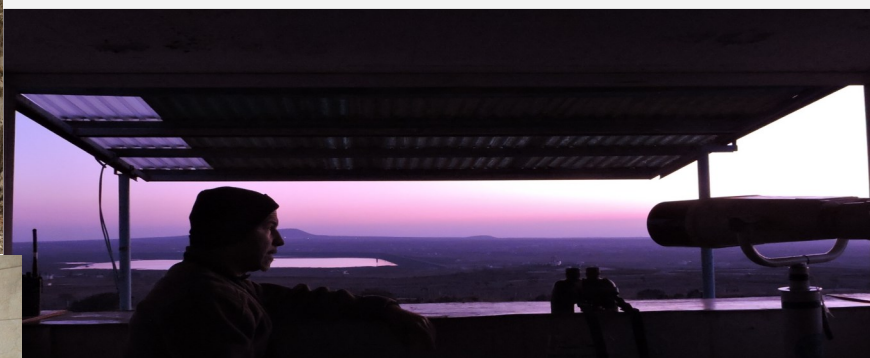
The Australian Embassy and Municipality of Be'er Sheva held Commemorative services at three separate locations: the Commonwealth War Graves; the Turkish Memorial Monument; and the park of the Australian Soldier. His Excellency Mr. Dave Sharma, the Australian Ambassador to Israel, and the Mayor of Be'er Sheva delivered moving speeches to the

assembled crowd and HOM/COS UNTSO along with Australian UNMOs laid wreaths as a mark of respect. The highlight for the Australian UNMOs was to attend a historical battlefield tour after the official proceedings

to walk and see the actual ground on which the light horseman fought. All in all, the day was well worth the short drive and was an opportunity we will not forget.



Events and



Activities



Liaison Office Damascus (LOD)

Sunny Kingdom of Solitary Diplomats

Liaison Office Damascus (LOD) maintains UNTSO's presence in Damascus, Syria. At the moment, LOD is de facto the only UNTSO representative in Syria, as OGG-D is temporarily relocated to A-side. However LOD has always been a vital part of UNTSO's diplomatic presence in Syria.

How is life in Damascus during the internal conflict? To be honest, life is pretty constrained. Mortars and rockets are a daily blight, although the city center is considered as a "Secure Zone". Movement is only allowed by armored vehicle, with the exception of accompanied short distances on foot in the central areas of the city. To avoid kidnapping, UNDSS ordered curfew takes effect after 2200 hrs.

The international staff is accommodated in the Sheraton Hotel, a hotel well-suited for anyone into early 1980's interior design. Due to the current security situation, UNMOs are not allowed to rent apartments. That is a pity, because in order to build a relationship with locals it would be helpful to live among ordinary Syrian citizens. Additionally, most of the international community live in another hotel 10-20 minutes' drive from ours, hence the Damascene diplomatic life takes place there.

The City itself is as charming as it used to be before the current crises. Boulevards and streets are partly like in Paris, Umayyad Mosque and Old City are fascinating examples of Islamic architecture, people are extremely friendly and of course the food is very good, in the Middle Eastern way. Damascus is also a very good example of a relatively modern and secular city with a strong cultural Islamic influence, but also with a Christian twist.

My predecessor said that this is one of the best jobs in mission. He was not wrong at all. Despite the sometimes solitary nature, due to the current lack of UNTSO colleagues, the appointment as LO Damascus is very interesting, especially the possibility to be present here in the middle of an international crisis. It has been very captivating to share knowledge and listen to the ideas of other people in the UN family and diplomatic community about the crisis.

The diplomatic portion of the job requires good interpersonal skills as well as professional level of English language. Basic knowledge of Syrian history and culture is essential. If you feel you are that kind of person with, in addition, good city driving skills, you are welcome to apply to be new Deputy Chief Liaison Office Damascus. I am flying home in April.

Capt Juhana Souniemi
DCLOD



Observer Group Lebanon (OGL)

Liaison Assistant's passion for running



30 JULY 2014 NAQOURA Majid Monzer from Ebel Al Saqi is a local Liaison Assistant who works with Team Sierra. He is a reliable and hardworking asset for the Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) and Team Sierra, which operates in the eastern sector of the OGL Area of Operation. Besides paroling the *Line of Withdrawal* with Team Sierra, commonly known as the *Blue Line*, Majid has been passionately pursuing his new hobby; running. (Photo: Majid, on the left, proudly poses in front of the a Lebanese Flag after winning a medal).

He first participated in a race organized by the municipality of *Ebel es Saqi* in August 2013. He won his first medal in his first ever race in the ‘over 50s category’. This running experience gave him the motivation “to do some more”. It was from that moment onwards that Majid decided to face a new challenge and become a successful runner. More competitions followed, including a race organized by the UNIFIL Spanish

Contingent in the village of *Marjayoun*, where he again triumphed and took home a medal for third place in his category. After riding from one wave of success to another, he decided to tackle the next big hurdle and participated in the *Beirut* Marathon in the 10kms category. The ambitious Liaison Assistant finished the race after an hour and a few minutes. He felt a little disappointed for not being able to run under an hour, Majid recalled. However, he was still honoured with a medal for fifth place. In 2014 Majid attended the joint Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL race in the coastal town *Naqoura*, in which he again achieved a remarkable result and went on to the podium to receive his bronze medal.

All of his running activities, nonetheless, are not just confined to the physical challenge, he revealed. It is also a form of meditation. Running helps him forget all the trouble and worries around him. He runs ten to fifteen kilometres every day and it helps him “to forget about the politics and the problems; it is a good way to relax and get away from problems”.

Majid, of course, is also a proud member of the OGL and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization UNTSO family. “I put on my UNTSO shirt for every race”, he stated. On several occasions local people have come up to him and asked him about UNTSO. He then proudly clarifies the duties and the mission of UNTSO and OGL to the interested Lebanese. This sort of positive publicity, coming from a very committed Liaison Assistant, is a constructive way to show the world that the UNTSO peacekeeping mission is not just about patrolling, but also about making people aware about the mission. Without a doubt, Majid and UNTSO are heading in the right direction; to the next podium that is.



OP Khiam Memorial and the Medal Parade

NAQOURA-31 JUL 2014- Another year has passed and the Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) commemorated the human sacrifices that a peacekeeping mission brings. This remembrance comes in a year that had already tragically seen the loss of two Military Observers (UNMOs) serving in Lebanon in the service of peace.

On Friday 25 July 2014, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and its military and civilian staff honoured their fallen colleagues that died eight years ago in the Southern Lebanese village of Khiam. Four UNMOs from Finland, Canada, China and Austria had unfortunately been caught up in the middle of



the last Lebanon war in 2006, when the *Observer Post Khiam* was hit and destroyed by an air strike. Their names are now etched in OGL memorial, whilst both the Lebanese and UN colours enhance the memorial on either side. Political and military representatives from all of the thirteen states of fallen OGL Observers were present to honour their respective sacrifices. The newly appointed UNIFIL Force Commander and Head of Mission Major-General Luciano Portolano was among the distinguished guests.



The ceremony started with the traditional OGL

medal parade, where eligible Observers received their medals for their service. Military Observers are eligible to receive a medal after serving three months in the mission. On this occasion the Observers had the honour of personally receiving the medal from the highest ranking officer in the mission, UNTSO Chief of Staff, Major General Michael Finn. Following the medal parade, Major General Finn addressed the audience. The Chief of Staff delivered a moving and inspiring speech and hailed the work done by the Observers. His words were followed by a speech delivered by the Chief of Observer Group Lebanon (COGL) Lieutenant-Colonel Carel Gerritsen from the Netherlands. He addressed the audience by emphasizing that peacekeeping is a noble cause, but also reminded the audience that it comes with sacrifices. Despite the human



losses being able to bring peace in a joint multinational effort is also a matter of pride: “It is also a moment to be proud of being part of a multinational effort to bring peace.”



Following the speeches and words from the chaplain, all States’ representatives were asked to lay their wreaths on the memorial. Each representative was escorted by an officer from the respective country. The ceremony was then concluded by the anthems of Lebanon and the United Nations.

Being committed to peace sometimes comes with a high price. However, the high regard for human life that each of the Military Observers has, gives them the necessary motivation to continue and thrive in this mission. UNTSO has been performing its duties since 1948 and, despite the sacrifices made, the mission is still successfully contributing to peace in the region.



Liaison Office Beirut (LOB)

Why not ?

As exciting as it is, Lebanon nevertheless is surprising. Accordingly, the first shock right outside of the airport on arrival in Beirut is the traffic! For non-residents, fighting one's way on these lawless roads to reach the city centre is a feat in itself. Running a red light? Why not ...it's expected..... Parking in the middle of the road? Why not ...it's also expected!



The driving test at Induction Training might not cover all eventualities when it comes to Beirut traffic!

LOB team

After recovering from this « jungle », we need to get through the security of the ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) building downtown, which accommodates LOB. Sniffing dogs make sure everything is right with our vehicles before we get to our office with air-conditioning (vital in summer time!). It is here in the downtown area, adjacent to the Grand Serail and the Parliament, that the four members that make up the team get involved with LOB business. The four come from different nations with diverse backgrounds who have their idiosyncrasies which include:

- A Lebanese, Imad Abdel Salam, who is addicted to his plethora of mobile phones and can't help himself when he smells the apple flavor wafting from a closeby shisha!
- A Kenyan lady, Jacinta Mukui, our Administrative Officer, who has a penchant for collecting old copies of L'Orient, Le Jour and The Daily Star!
- A French Major, Deputy Chief LOB, G rald Brouillet, who cultivates his many muscles, courtesy of 'Gymbo' and also has a predilection for nice clothes to accentuate those biceps!
- An Irish Chief LOB, Cdr. Martin McGrath, who dreams of the sea and who could not live anywhere else except the Corniche, where he feels most at home!

This diversity has proven to be more of a help than a hindrance!

Building relationships

Our work entails being the eyes and ears of the organization, particularly in relation to political, diplomatic and security issues and developments in Beirut and Lebanon generally. While the media provide information, having feet on the ground, close to the events, bring an objective viewpoint and impartial assessment. To supplement this, the social dimension to the job becomes important to the mission in Beirut. In this regard, the interaction with members of MAAL (Member of the Attache Association of Lebanon) provides a broad perspective and a more objective analysis. MAAL also facilitates meetings with military, diplomatic and other interested parties. Information gleaned, provided and shared can give value to our reports.



The Melting Pot that is Beirut !

After initial meetings, visits and written material having been digested, Beirut and Lebanon unveil themselves as a complex society made up of eighteen (18) recognised religions and sects living in relative harmony despite the many crises - social, economic and political in the country. After first interactions with the young sports person in the Gym or the recently qualified architect, the findings are clear: Despite the undoubted pride people have in being Lebanese, the worry is that the pride and loyalty to the sect at times can be primary. However, all that being said, and given the turmoil surrounding her international borders, Lebanon and her people are proving to be resilient and steadfast in preserving their way of life. The LOB teams following this one will undoubtedly share the excitement we have experienced as they find this out for themselves.



Change of Appointment

Lt Col Gorgen LARSSON from Sweden assumed the position of Chief Joint Operation Center of UNTSO HQ on 11 SEP 2014. He assumed the position from Lt Col Vernon BENNETT from New Zealand.



Lt Col Juha-Pekka SALMI from Finland assumed the position of the Senior Staff Officer of UNTSO HQ on 18 SEP 2014. He assumed the position from Lt Col Even SANDLAND from Norway.



Lt Col Per NIKOLAJSSEN from Denmark assumed the position of the Chief Liaison Office to Amman and Tel-Aviv of UNTSO HQ on 18 SEP 2014. He assumed the position from Lt Col Michel MARKIEWICZ from France.



Lt Col Olivier WERLEN from Switzerland assumed the position of the Chief Liaison Office to Cairo on 21 SEP 2014. He assumed the position from Lt Col Ronald FITZGERALD from Canada.



Change of Command

Lt Col Jarmo SINKKONEN from Finland assumed command of Observer Group Golan (OGG) on 27 OCT 2014. He assumed command from Lt Col Erich GROGG from Switzerland.



Lt Col Toomas BOLTOVSKY from Estonia assumed command of Observer Group Golan - Damascus (OGG-D) on 27 OCT 2014. He assumed command from Lt Col Jarmo SINKKONEN from Finland.



Induction Training



June 2014

Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
HARREWIJN, Jan	Maj	Dutch	OGG
CORCORAN, Ronan	Comdt	Irish	OGG
SIAHAJIA, Frans	Lt (N)	Dutch	OGG-T
MARGUS, Kaido	Maj	Estonian	OGG-T
TOURELL, Brett	Flt Lt	New Zealander	OGG-T
SILC, Zmago	Maj	Slovene	OGG-T
NEUGEBAUER, Gernot	Maj	Austrian	OGL
JIN, Peng	Maj	Chinese	OGL
NAN, Yixu	Maj	Chinese	OGL
VAN DE ROTTEN, Peter	Capt	Dutch	OGL
KAVCIC, Matjaz	Capt	Slovene	OGL
MADSEN, Martin	Maj	Danish	UNTSO HQ
PETROVIC, Dalibor	Civ		UNTSO HQ
SCHILLER, Abigail	Civ		OGG-T



July 2014

Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
HORTON, David	Capt	Canadian	OGG-T
ANDRESEN, Erik	Maj	Canadian	OGG-T
GRARUP, John	Maj	Danish	OGG-T
HAUGLAND, Jan Berge	Lt Cdr	Norwegian	OGG-T
SÄVENSJÖ, Marcus	Maj	Swedish	OGG-T
JÖNSSON, Andreas	Capt	Swedish	OGG-T
RODGERS, Sepp	Capt	Canadian	OGL
SCHMOLL, Heinrich	Capt	Canadian	OGL
FAGERHOLT, Bob	Maj	Danish	OGL
SOINI, Jukka Rikhard	Maj	Finnish	OGL
MCDONALD, Kevin John	Comdt	Irish	OGL
MJOENES, Birger	Maj	Norwegian	OGL
KARLSEN, Rune	Capt	Norwegian	OGL
WETTSTEIN, Marc	Maj	Swiss	OGL
DUMALAG, Guillerma	Civ		UNTSO HQ

Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
BROUILLET, Gerald	Maj	French	LOB
ANTTILA, Olli-Pekka	Capt	Finnish	OGG
BRADLEY, Ross Alan	Maj	Canadian	OGG-T
MACLEOD, Dustin	Capt	Canadian	OGG-T
TIEBOUT, Petri	Capt	Dutch	OGG-T
PERHOVAARA, Jaakko	Capt	Finnish	OGG-T
OLLILA, Mika	Capt	Finnish	OGG-T
PRISCO, Dario	Capt	Italian	OGG-T
AMRHEIN, Jens	Maj	Swiss	OGG-T
CLARK, Charles	Maj	Canadian	OGL
VIVALLO NAVARRETE, Christian Roberto	Maj	Chilean	OGL
KOJUS, Toomas	Maj	Estonian	OGL
STENMAN, Johan	Capt	Finnish	OGL
NURMI, Mikko	Capt	Finnish	OGL
ZUERCHER, Daniel	Capt	Swiss	OGL
LARSSON, Gorgen	Lt Col	Swedish	UNTSO HQ
KELKIL, Yared	Civ		UNTSO HQ



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Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
JIGMIE, Ngawang	Maj	Bhutan	OGG-T
WOLLER, Jens	Maj	Danish	OGG-T
KNIJNENBURG, Johnny Gerardus	Maj	Dutch	OGG-T
OLSEN, Kyle	Capt	New Zealander	OGG-T
TOMTER, Ola	Capt	Norwegian	OGG-T
NYLUND, Mats Erik	Maj	Swedish	OGG-T
BERNHARD, Siegfried	Maj	Austrian	OGL
GLITTENBERG, Peter	Maj	Austrian	OGL
PETERSEN, Esben Vosegaard	Maj	Danish	OGL
DOREE, Marcel	Capt	Dutch	OGL
KOYKKA, Ilari	Capt	Finnish	OGL
HOGAN, John	Capt	Irish	OGL
LILLEJORD, Trond-Are	Capt	Norwegian	OGL
PUGACH, Dmitry	Maj	Russian	OGL
VUJCIC, Sasa	Maj	Serbian	OGL
MOSES, David	Maj	American	UNTSO HQ
NIKOLAISEN, Per	Lt Col	Danish	UNTSO HQ
SALMI, Juha-Pekka	Lt Col	Finnish	UNTSO HQ
MIHAI, Adrian	Civ		UNTSO HQ

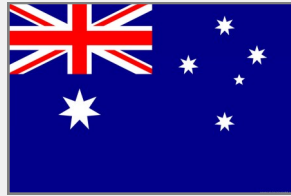
Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
WERLEN, Olivier	Lt Col	Swiss	LOC
STENBERG, Anders	Cdr	Norwegian	LOD
BOLTOVSKY, Toomas	Lt Col	Estonian	OGG
PROVIS, Manuel	Maj	Chilean	OGG-T
VALENTIA, Giacomo	Maj	Italian	OGG-T
SMITH, Bert	Sqn Ldr	New Zealander	OGG-T
WALLIN, Per-Erik	Maj	Swedish	OGG-T
KAUVU, Romet	Maj	Estonian	OGL
ROKOURA, Aseri	Maj	Fiji	OGL
TWOMEY, Conor	Capt	Irish	OGL
PEDERSEN, Stig Bjarte	Lt Cdr	Norwegian	OGL
STAHL, Anders	Maj	Swedish	OGL



Last, First Name	Rank	Nationality	Station
KENNY, Raymond	Comdt	Irish	OGG-T
THESTRUP, Anders	Maj	Danish	OGL
VAN INGEN, Pieter Bas	Capt	Dutch	OGL
LAUKKANEN, Ari-Pekka	Maj	Finnish	OGL
KARLSSON, Peter	Capt	Finnish	OGL
SAETEN, Roy	Lt Cdr	Norwegian	OGL
LAFARGE, Fabien	Capt	Swiss	OGL
FROHARDT, Scott	Maj	American	UNTSO HQ



ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRIA



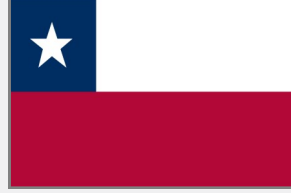
BELGIUM



BHUTAN



CANADA



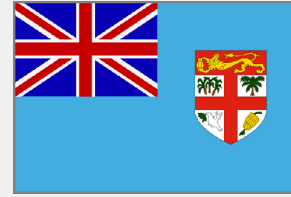
CHILE



CHINA



ESTONIA



FIJI



FINLAND



DENMARK



FRANCE



IRELAND



ITALY



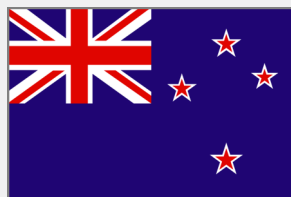
MALAWI



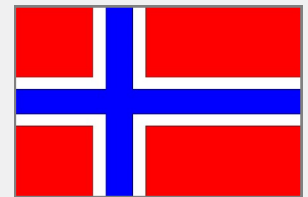
NEPAL



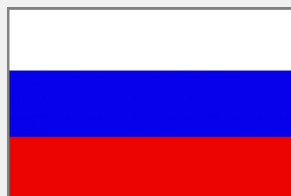
NETHERLANDS



NEW ZEALAND



NORWAY



RUSSIA



SERBIA



SLOVAKIA



SLOVENIA



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



UNITED STATES