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al-janoub

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 UNIFIL magazine

In pursuit of lasting **peace**



Drawing by Jamil Jaber Bazzi of Bint Jbeil Public School



UNIFIL joins the UN family in Lebanon in paying tribute to the impressive life and legacy of former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who passed away at the age of 80 on 18 August 2018. He was an ardent proponent of peace in south Lebanon. Following the end of the 2006 war in south Lebanon, then UN Secretary General Annan visited UNIFIL Headquarters and the Mission's area of operation, where he met with UN peacekeeping troops serving for peace in south Lebanon and called on all parties to respect the cessation of hostilities and maintain calm. He will remain an inspiration for us all.



Message from the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Stefano Del Col

I am happy and honoured to be back in south Lebanon for a third time. I have brought with me a book I received as a gift at the end of my 2008 tour as the Commander of the Italian Battalion in Maarakeh. Inscribed on the book is: ***“Stefano, this is your second home, we will see you back in Lebanon.”***

Having been back here first in 2014 as Sector West Commander in Shamaa and now as Head of Mission and Force Commander, it indeed feels like Lebanon is a second home.

I am aware of the many challenges in implementing UNIFIL's mandate, but have also been struck by the continued support of the Lebanese interlocutors - especially our strategic partner, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) - and the leadership in Beirut.

UNIFIL plays a key role in the efforts of the international community to safeguard peace and security in this area. Working with the parties we have helped to further stability along the Blue Line for over 12-years. Under my leadership, UNIFIL will continue to build on this momentum, and do everything within its power to help ensure a climate of calm that benefits communities.

I will continue to lead UNIFIL along the path towards the implementation of our mandate under Security Council resolution 1701. This and other associated UN

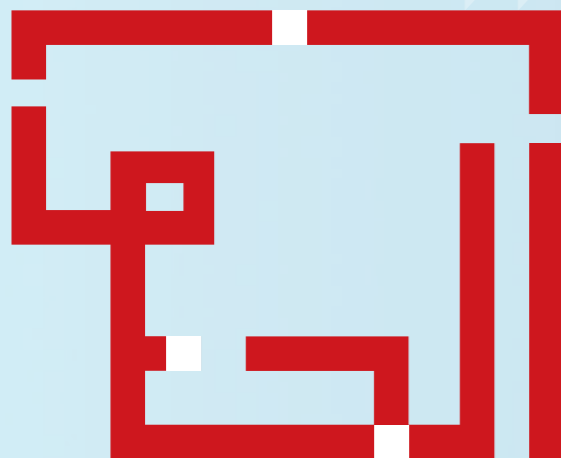
resolutions, most recently 2373 (2017) and 2433 (2018), provide the umbrella that guides UNIFIL's mission, that protects us as peacekeepers and, importantly, that protects south Lebanon from the scourge of war.

We must recognize that UNIFIL is here for a purpose that serves the best interests of the people of south Lebanon. I want peacekeepers to fully respect the concerns and sensitivities of our host population. At the same time, we have a job to do, and I rely on the understanding and support of the communities to ensure that our mission is successfully accomplished.

In leading the implementation of UNIFIL's mission, I will be looking to the leadership of Lebanon, in particular of here in the south, as key and committed partners in this endeavour. Besides the Lebanese Armed Forces who we work closely with, I am looking forward to the same spirit of partnership with other Lebanese security agencies – the General Security and the Internal Security Forces.

I am looking forward to the support of all of you in my role as Head of Mission and Force Commander. I am confident that working alongside both civilian and military agencies, and with the communities themselves, we can secure a more promising future for the people of south Lebanon.

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Maj. Gen. Del Col of Italy at the helm of UNIFIL

At a ceremony attended by high-level dignitaries on 7 August 2018, Major General Stefano Del Col, of Italy, assumed charge as Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL from Major General Michel Beary, of Ireland.

In his farewell speech, Maj. Gen. Beary expressed his hope that he will return at some time in the future to see "the fruits of our labours here, peace and prosperity for the Lebanese people." He continued: "I have watched with admiration as the LAF have steadily improved their capability, demonstrating their capacity to defend the sovereign borders of Lebanon and to conduct operations here in the South with UNIFIL."

The incoming UNIFIL head, Maj. Gen. Del Col, who had served with UNIFIL in 2008 and 2014-2015, said his new



appointment was like coming back home. "I hope that we will serve this mission in peace," he told the invited guests in Arabic before switching back to English. "I will be looking to you, the leadership of Lebanon and in particular here in the south, as key and committed partners

in this endeavour in the spirit of true partnership."

Maj. Gen. Del Col has had a long and distinguished career in the Italian Army. Since 2015 till his new appointment with UNIFIL, he was the Senior Deputy Chief of the Cabinet Office of the Minister of Defence.

UNIFIL and LAF pay tribute to fallen peacekeepers

314 UNIFIL peacekeepers have given their lives in the cause of peace in southern Lebanon since UNIFIL's establishment in 1978.

"These peacekeepers gave their lives to protect the lives of others. We are forever in their debt, and they are always in our hearts."
UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Design: Zeina Ezzeddine/UNIFIL | Sep 2018

Within the span of 102 days, UNIFIL lost two dedicated peacekeepers this year, raising since 1978 the total number of UNIFIL peacekeepers passing while serving for peace in south Lebanon to 314.

Ghana's Corporal Mercy Adade, 36, and Indonesia's Corporal Ajat Wahyudin, 35, passed away on 5 April and 16 July respectively – both due to medical reasons.

Senior UNIFIL and Lebanese

Army officials, and fellow peacekeepers paid tribute to their dedicated service for peace in south Lebanon. In recognition of their service to the cause of international peace and security, both were honoured posthumously with UNIFIL and Lebanese Armed Forces Medals.

Lt. Col. William Nortey, who was the commander of the Ghanaian Battalion at the time of Corporal Adade's death said: "Her loss has left a void in the Ghanaian Battalion and

the Ghana Armed Forces that cannot be filled. Corporal Mercy had been the pride of Ghana and was a role model to follow in a UN Peacekeeping operation."

The commander of Indonesia Battalion Lt. Col. Arfan Johan Wihananto said Corporal Wahyudin was "a devoted soldier, a loyal friend and a wonderful father."

Corporal Adade is survived by a son, while Corporal Wahyudin left behind a wife and two children.

Some 3,500 projects implemented since 2006



In 2006, UNIFIL started implementing Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects to address some of the most pressing needs of the host population and support local authorities while strengthening the links between UNIFIL and local communities.

From fixing a road to providing medical, dental or veterinary assistance to educational courses or capacity-building, these projects are leaving their imprint on the lives of people in southern Lebanon.

At the end of June 2018, some 3,470 such projects have been implemented at the cost of \$45.5 million. A large portion of the funding came from some of UNIFIL's key troop-contributing countries (TCCs), including Italy, Spain and the Republic of Korea.

While UNIFIL allocates approximately \$500,000 annually for such projects, Governments of some TCCs donate approximately an additional \$3 million annually through generous donations.



UNIFIL was born out of crisis in 1978

40 years on it's helping to keep the calm in south Lebanon

By General Emmanuel A. Erskine, UNIFIL's first Force Commander, from March 1978 to February 1981

As a result of the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon on 14-15 March 1978, following the killing of Israelis near the coastal town of Hertzliya four days earlier, a large number of the villages and homes of the south Lebanese were reduced to rubble. In addition, farms were infested with unexploded ordnances and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mostly bombs and landmines, thereby depriving the local Lebanese of their means of livelihood. Water pumps and electric poles had equally been destroyed by the constant shelling of mortars, artillery pieces and airstrikes.

The invasion, code named "Operation Litani," was a blitzkrieg attack, also strategically aimed at driving the armed Palestinian fighters who had orchestrated the attack in Israel, northwards from the Litani River. It was a move to help ensure that the Israeli coastal towns, including Haifa and Nahariya, were outside the range of the Katyusia rockets, which had become a regular danger to the residents.

Following the adoption of the Security Council resolution 425 on 19 March, establishing the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), French engineers were among the very first contingent to arrive to UNIFIL.

I personally met and welcomed them at the Beirut International Airport on 23 March

followed by the Norwegians on 25 March. Ghanaian Engineers joined the mission in August 1979.

The contribution by the Engineers in helping to restore life to normalcy in south Lebanon was highly commendable.

As the First Force Commander, I had the onerous duty of pioneering the reconstruction of south Lebanon and performing the tasks to achieve the four thematic objectives set out in the Security Council Resolution 425, including the strict territorial integrity of Lebanon, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and restoring peace.

The then UN Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim of Austria, appointed me initially

as the Acting Force Commander. That was later confirmed as the Substantive Force Commander - thereby becoming UNIFIL's first head.

One of UNIFIL's singular achievements is the introduction of humanitarian programme as an integral component of its intervention in south Lebanon and this has become part of subsequent peacekeeping missions undertaken by both the UN and other sub-regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

I am very proud of this innovative achievement. UNIFIL, as I have always maintained, has become an integral component of the Middle East peace process.



Separately, Al Janoub's *Andrea Tenenti, Tilak Pokharel and Rania Bdeir* spoke to *General Erskine* by phone to learn more about his personal reflections from the early days of UNIFIL. Here are the excerpts:

UNIFIL's first mandate: Look at the word "interim" in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It was not expected to go beyond its first mandate of six months (when it was established on 19 March 1978). Just before the extension of the mandate, I was invited by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to be at the consultative session of the Security Council. That was when questions were asked and I could assist in answering them. He had invited me to his office on the 38th floor (of the Secretariat Building in New York). I was there having a discussion with him, briefing him on the situation in Lebanon, when he called the French President of the time (Valéry Giscard d'Estaing), virtually appealing to him to support the extension of the mandate for its full second term of six months. After 10-15 minutes of discussion the President agreed to a four-month extension. So the first mandate was extended for four months (until 19 January 1979). The second mandate was extended for five months (until 19 June 1979). Subsequent mandates were all authorized for their full term of six months. The Force was not expected to go beyond six months. It's now 40 years.

Talking to the parties: If you look at the mandate, it talks about contacting the parties to determine the area of operation for UNIFIL, and also to seek their support. On the 21st (of March 1978), I went to Beirut. I went, together with a senior officer from the Secretariat, to meet with (Yasser) Arafat (the leader of the PLO at the time). Even though the Israelis, the Palestinians and Arafat said they were ready to support us, talking about support and really getting that support was not easy. There were a lot of difficulties. The final Israeli withdrawal happened on 14 June 1978.

Situation on the ground: There were restrictions of movement and moving was not all that easy. There were a lot of mines on the ground. Most south Lebanese are farmers but they couldn't till their land, didn't have water and electricity. Our presence was a sort of inducement to return for the displaced Lebanese. They started coming back. There was a lot of sadness. There were no homes to go back to. Medicals, hospitals - all destroyed. Our contingents had water, food and medicines. There was so much work to do, including reconstruction. The locals



Yasser Arafat with UN officials making a press statement, after his acceptance of the Secretary-General's call for a general cease-fire in southern Lebanon

had to depend on us for everything. Mine clearance was another massive undertaking.

The presence of UNIFIL gave them hope of life. There was so much destruction. There was nothing. But we came with everything. It was not meant for them, but how can you eat when others are hungry? This explains the significance of UNIFIL embarking on extensive humanitarian programmes although there was no humanitarian component in our mandate. Later, the Secretary-General and international community agreed to my proposal of including humanitarian elements in the mandate. All of them helped because it was a humanitarian crisis.

UNIFIL casualties: The first casualty was a Swedish peacekeeper in Khardala Bridge. Then, we had Senegalese, French and Irish soldiers - all killed by landmines within 24 hours of their arrivals in the area.

At Tiri crisis: We had a major armed confrontation with the De Facto Forces (DFF) in At Tiri in 1980. We could not allow them (DFF) to control the area. It would have jeopardized the operations of the Irish and the Dutch, who were responsible for the area. DFF also lost men; we also lost men. As revenge, they got hold of two Irish soldiers and murdered them in cold blood. The soldiers were defending the mandate in At Tiri. That was a major crisis. This shocked the world. In the aftermath, the Dublin Summit was convened where we had all the troop contributing countries attending. It was a show of political force, it was a very good morale booster for us. They demonstrated solidarity with UNIFIL.

Helicopter attacked: I had got my helicopter attacked twice. Once, I was flying from Naqoura to Qana. There were gunshot holes in the helicopter. I don't know the details but we managed to land. The other flight attack I

“ There were a lot of mines on the ground. Most south Lebanese are farmers but they couldn't till their land, didn't have water and electricity. Our presence was a sort of inducement to return for the displaced Lebanese. ”

had was while flying from Beirut to Naqoura. When just off Tyre, we had a bang in the helicopter. When we landed in Naqoura, Italians came to open the door but there was no door to open. That's when I got frightened because I was not a good swimmer.

Last words: Let me end up by conveying my very best wishes and congratulations to the Force Commander, his troops, commanders at all levels, civilians staff and the contributing governments for all that they have done to assist UNIFIL, and through UNIFIL to assist the Lebanese people.

Former Irish Peacekeepers share personal anecdotes

The Irish Defence Forces have a long and distinguished history with UNIFIL, with the first Irish peacekeepers joining the mission soon after its establishment in 1978. They served until November 2001. Following the 2006 war, Irish troops again provided support and returned to stay in 2011. Currently, among UNIFIL's 10,500 peacekeepers, about 380 are from Ireland.

“Al-Janoub,” with the help of UNIFIL veteran and former senior political officer John Molloy, heard from some of the Irish peacekeepers who served with UNIFIL in the Mission's early years. They visited the area in 2018. **Here are their personal stories and reflections.**



Commandant George Kerton and members of the Lebanese General Security in Tibnin in 1995.

Retired Col. George Kerton

Served in 1979-1980 and again in 1995

My lasting memory is of standing at the hospital bed of a dying peacekeeper. On 7 April, 1980, Private Stephen Griffin, 21, was shot in the head during an attack in At Tiri. I brought the Irish Battalion padre to the hospital. We were shocked when the neurosurgeon told us that the wound was fatal. Pte. Griffin was brain dead. Some days later Pte. Griffin's brother and sister gave permission to close the life support system and he died on 16 April 1980. He was the first Irish peacekeeper to die as a result of hostile action. During our recent visit to Tibnin, we remembered our deceased peacekeepers and the suffering of their families and comrades.



Col. Lucey (left) with Force Commander Major General Stanislaw Franciszek Wozniak in 1996.

Retired Col. M Lucey

Last served with UNIFIL in 1995-1996

In April 1996 we experienced the two-week long Israeli “Grapes of Wrath” operation. This

devastated the infrastructure of south Lebanon, displaced the population and resulted in the killing of local civilians seeking shelter in a UN position in Qana. Twenty-two years later, we visited the area only to see a stark contrast to the former troubled times. The UNIFIL area of operation is stable with an air of normalcy, prosperity and activity amongst the civilian population. The roads are well surfaced and there is a tremendous amount of building going on. UNIFIL is much larger and there is a strong presence and involvement of the Lebanese Army. There is also a feeling of confidence.

Retired Commandant John Murphy

Served in 1981

On 13 February 1981, I was the Sergeant in charge of Post 6-20, affectionately known to Irish troops as “The Black Hole.” Shortly after dark, an armoured column of militia attempted an incursion into the Irish Battalion area, under the cover of heavy machine gun fire from their positions south of the UNIFIL line. After a few hours of unsuccessful attempts, they withdrew. Shortly afterward, a 105 mm Artillery HE Phosphorus Round was fired at a militia position called “Brown Mound,” and landed within 75 metres of the Irish post. Fortunately, there were no injuries. The incident remained forever in my memory. In April 2018 (37 years later), I visited the At-Tiri (UN position 2-45). While observing the various landmarks, which were pointed out to us, I asked an officer “What is that round-shaped hill with a UN flag flying and manned by Irish troops?” His answer brought me straight back to that frightful night of 1981, when he calmly replied, “That is the Brown Mound, Sir”.



Maj. Joe Ahern (right) at the entrance to Camp Shamrock, Tibnin, in 1987.

Retired Lt. Col. Joe Ahern

Served in 1980-1981, 1987 and 1994-1995

The overriding impression I have from my recent visit to the UNIFIL area of operation in April, 2018, is the stability and normalisation, which now appears to be in place. The success that has been achieved is a great tribute to all those people from many nations who have served in UNIFIL and to the perseverance and courage of the south Lebanese people. I'm proud to have played a small part in this noble endeavour.



Capt Cathal O'Neill (third from the right wearing a jumper) in Sarajevo in April 1993.

Retired Lt. Cathal O'Neill

Served in 1980-1981

In October 1980, Lebanon was in the midst of a civil war, complicated as ever by external influences, which made keeping peace in the

south both difficult and dangerous. At that time, we lived within the communities in the towns and villages, creating our headquarters and posts in the houses, derelict petrol stations and unused schools. We lived close to and amongst the people. We could empathize with their fear and pain. We kept them awake at night with our ceaseless, noisy patrolling, hoping they might understand. I think we kept them safe. I worked with so many great soldiers, friends to this day. During a standoff with the Palestine Liberation Organization in Jawayya and later in Al Quantarah, we lost three Nigerian soldiers. Just before we returned to Ireland we sadly lost two young comrades, both murdered by unknowns. When we returned home, we all brought a little bit of Lebanon home in our hearts... it is still in there today!



Lt Col G. Hegarty Irish Battalion Commander in 2001.

Brig. Gen. (retd) Gerard Hegarty

Commander of the last full Irish Battalion in 2001

In memory of the 47 Irish soldiers who died in the service of peace in south Lebanon, I felt that we could not leave the mission without honouring these brave men in an appropriate manner. We decided that we would erect a monument with the names of all our fallen comrades inscribed. I spoke to the Mukhtar of Tibnin and he brought me to various sites before we decided on the perfect location beside the Christian church at the top of the village. From here, you could see virtually all the Irish UNIFIL area of responsibility. The granite memorial was unveiled by the Irish Minister for Defence of the time, Michael Smith, just before we left Lebanon. The relatives of our dead comrades were invited and many attended. While our piper played a lament and the sun set in the West, a guard of honour reversed arms and the names of all who died were read out. It was a sad but proud occasion. To this day, the people of Tibnin look after the memorial in recognition of the close ties and friendships they developed with Irish soldiers over the past forty years.

My last duty in Lebanon in Nov. 2001 was to go down to UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura to meet with the Force Commander and say goodbye. As his goodbye words, Maj. Gen. Lalit Mohan Tewari told me that my mission in Lebanon was accomplished. Outside, my driver was waiting in the car. As I opened the door to get in, I noticed a rather large Ghanaian staff officer beating at the bushes under the Force Commander's office with a cane. He shouted at me to come over and help him kill a big black mamba snake. “My friend,” I said “I'm afraid you're on your own: I've just been told by the General that my mission here is over.” I have two things in common with Indiana Jones: an interest in archaeology and a highly developed fear of snakes. We drove away as quickly as the speed limit in the camp permitted.



John O'Mahony placing a rief for the fallen

Remembering the fallen

On 19 March 2018, UNIFIL marked its 40th establishment day with a ceremony in the Mission Headquarters in Naqoura. Part of the ceremony was an emotional tribute to the fallen peacekeepers by John O'Mahony, a veteran Irish Peacekeeper who lost two of his colleagues during an attack on their convoy in At Tiri on 18 April 1980. O'Mahony himself was injured with multiple gunshots.

Below is his tribute:

“37 years and 11 months have passed since the harrowing event of 18 April 1980 in At Tiri in which two of my friends and brave UNIFIL soldiers, Privates Derek Smallhorne and Thomas Barrett, were killed. It happened just days before our unit's scheduled return to Ireland following the completion of the tour of duty. Not a single day goes by without thinking about the horror of At Tiri. It changed my life forever.

“The selfless sacrifices of the likes of Smallhorne and Barrett have also helped change the lives of the people living here forever – but in a positive way.

“Ove the weekend I had the opportunity to return to At Tiri and the area around UNP 2-45 just about 30 kilometres east of where we are now.

“I was pleased to see new shops and businesses having opened up, children going to school, farmers in their field - normal life.

“It was a reminder that the resilience of the communities here and the sacrifices that UN Peacekeepers have made throughout the years has helped further stability and prosperity.

“Events such as the one in At Tiri and other painful reminders that communities here know all too well are the ones that bind us together – and inspires our collective efforts in working towards a permanent peace in south Lebanon.

“Thousands of lives – both of Lebanese, UN peacekeepers and their families – have been affected in that pursuit.

“Seeing south Lebanon today, I know that the service and sacrifice of thousands of UNIFIL men and women – especially the 312 UNIFIL Peacekeepers who paid the ultimate price – have not gone in vain.

“It is in their honour – and in the honour of the communities here - that UNIFIL continues to do its part in preventing conflict and pursuing a sustainable peace.

“I join you all here to pay my highest respect and tribute to all the men and women who have paid the ultimate price while working for peace in south Lebanon.”

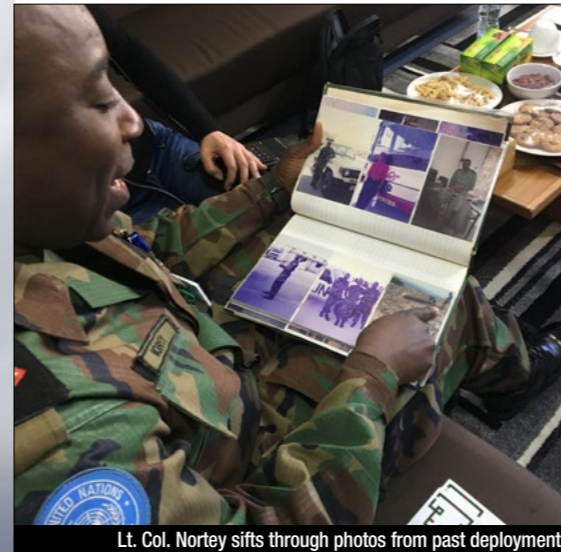


Aerial damage to the village of Shaqra in April 1996.

Six tours in south Lebanon

Lt. Col. Nortey of Ghana talks about his service with UNIFIL since 1996

During his 25 years of service with the Ghana Armed Forces, Lt. Col. William Nortey has dedicated almost five years defending UNIFIL's mandate - all during the most defining times in the life of the Mission and south Lebanon.



Lt. Col. Nortey sifts through photos from past deployments



UNIFIL peacekeepers conduct search and rescue operation in the aftermath of the 1996 Qana massacre.

During his first deployment as a 23-year-old Second Lieutenant in March 1996, the UNIFIL area of Ghanaian responsibility was on the frontlines. "Armed attacks were daily occurrences; (armed) exchanges were on a daily basis," he said recently, before wrapping up his sixth tour to UNIFIL as the commander of the Ghana Battalion (GHANBATT). "Within a few hours of arriving here, we were already in the shelter drill." The most gruesome of events during his first tour, he recalled, was the massacre in Qana, where Israeli shelling of a UNIFIL compound left 120 Lebanese civilians dead and some 500 wounded. Four of the injured were UN peacekeepers. Lt. Col. Nortey recalled that GHANBATT soldiers were called in to assist with the search and rescue operation.

He completed two subsequent tours in 1997, just to return to south Lebanon three years later. He was then a witness to the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from occupied areas and the establishment of the Line of Withdrawal or the "Blue Line."

He recalls the year 2000 as significant in the history of both UNIFIL and south Lebanese communities. "I saw the immediate aftermath (of the Israeli withdrawal). That's when things started changing," he said. "That era was characterized by the removal of all the checkpoints, a lot of movements, a lot of activities. Tourists started to come in."

The next time he came back to Lebanon was in 2006 as a company commander - just ahead of a new war breaking out. He recalls that prior to the outbreak of the war, there were discussions about drawing down the two remaining battalions - of Ghana and India.

"Priorities had shifted from preventing armed elements from coming into the enclave where it was occupied to a focus on the

Blue Line," he told Al Janoub. "On 12 July, we were planning for our medal day which was the following week. That was when we heard about an attack across the border. There was a declaration of war the next morning and we lived through it for all the 34 days. We tried to assist civilians trapped in the conflict. All in all, we significantly did our best in spite of the big challenges."

He also lives with many - and at times harrowing - anecdotes of his experience working as a UNIFIL peacekeeper at different times of south Lebanon's chequered history. Often times he had to make split-second decisions on life-or-death scenarios. They include treating a seriously wounded elderly man brought to the doorstep of the UNIFIL camp by someone whose very presence could potentially mean immediate shelling. He also remembers attending to a pregnant woman in the middle of firing, and getting sick from measles in 1996, where he had to be quarantined for three weeks in Lebanon. Then there was the close call in 2006:

"We were asked to help somebody in the village of Qalawayya. As we moved out there was an artillery attack. We were in an armoured vehicle so we could not hear a lot of the outside noise. But others could see where we were headed and there was heavy pounding of artillery. They were calling us on the radio to stop or come back. But we could not hear because we were moving too fast. Then we saw artillery just landing. Eventually, we had to pull off. I haven't seen how fast an APC (armoured personnel carrier) can go in reverse mode like that in my life. If we had moved 50 metres we could have artillery landing on our APC."

Lt. Col. Nortey can go on and on with his stories.



Two girls walk past ruins in the village of Bint Jbeil, which was heavily bombed during the 2006 war.

Of his six tours with UNIFIL, two were during peace times - in 2013-14 and 2017-18.

He says the changes have been remarkable. "I believe there will be a time when UNIFIL will not be required but for now UNIFIL is very, very relevant. Where we have reached today is a significant milestone. We should be proud as a force," he says with a sense of satisfaction.

Lt. Col. Nortey is not tired. He is confident that if GHANBATT stays with UNIFIL "I am definitely coming back again." The reason, he says is, "it's the love for this country, it's the people, the food, the culture - irrespective of dangers sometimes."

Tilak Pokharel - Strategic Communication



UNIFIL exhibition marks 40th anniversary

Marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of UNIFIL, the peacekeeping mission organized a multimedia exhibition in the southern Lebanese coastal city of Tyre from 19 to 23 March, 2018. The dates are significant because the first day of the exhibition marked the official establishment of UNIFIL in 1978 and the last day marked the arrival of the first UNIFIL peacekeepers on the ground.

Over the course of the five days, hundreds of school and college students, officials, Lebanese Armed Force personnel, fellow UNIFIL peacekeepers and local residents paid visits to the exhibition inside the historic Beit al Madina or "the House of the City", standing tall for about seven centuries next to the Phoenician ruins.

On display were 62 photographs, hundreds of drawings by school children, mine awareness stalls and infographics - depicting both good and bad times spent together with UNIFIL peacekeepers and the people of south Lebanon.

Some of the images were also used in an exhibition at the UN Headquarters in New York, marking the UN Peacekeeping's 70th

anniversary, from 1 to 28 June, 2018.

UNIFIL Force Commander at the time, Major General Michael Beary, said the collection of photos reflected on the painful past the people of south Lebanon endured together with thousands of UNIFIL peacekeepers.

"The collection of photos also tells the story of the people of south Lebanon in their pursuit of a more promising future," he said. "I hope that the images of destruction and chaos will only be limited to history books and to the walls as a reminder for succeeding generations so that they understand the costly consequences of a conflict."

Tilak Pokharel - Strategic Communication

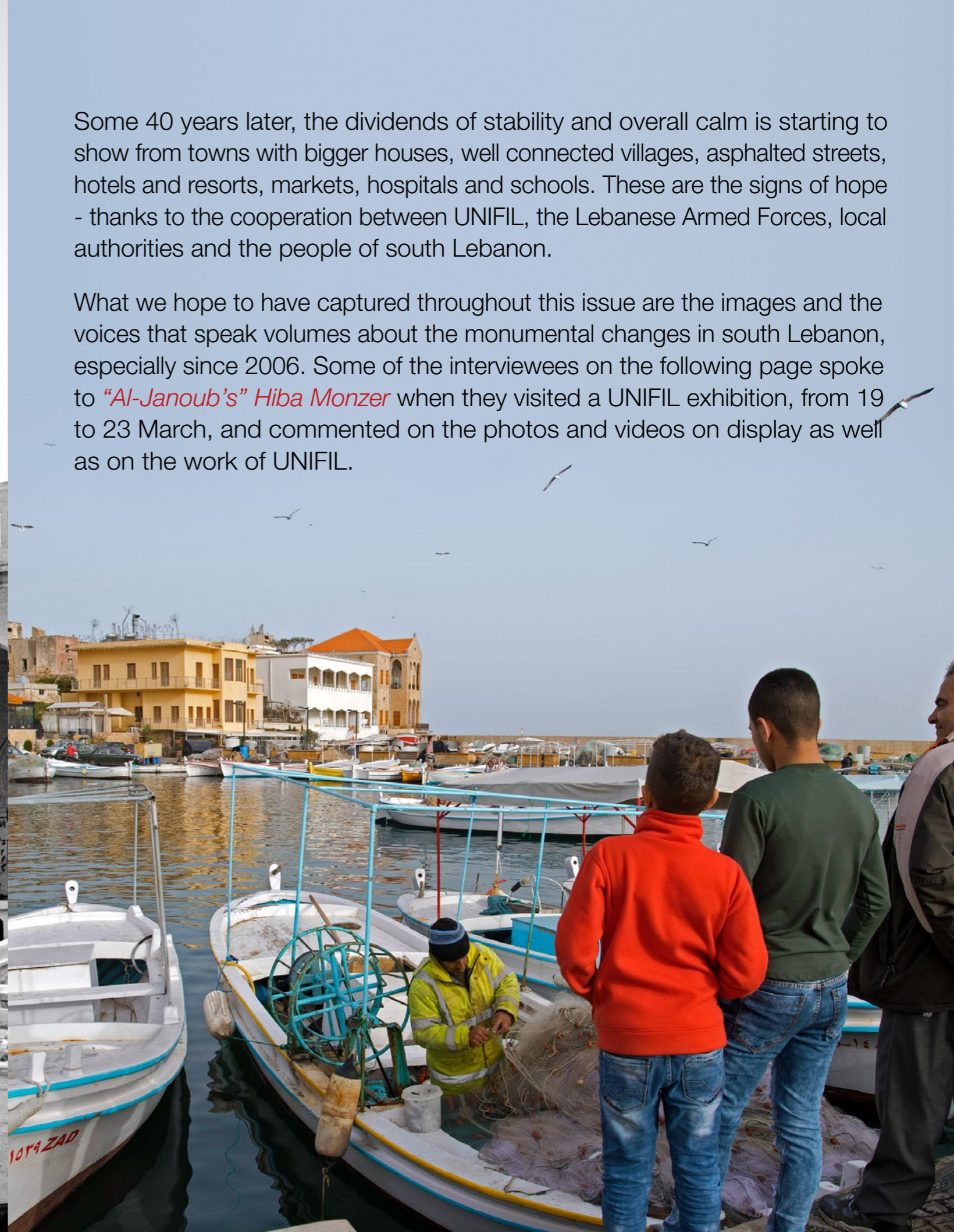


Stories of south Lebanon in pictures

The communities of south Lebanon have endured decades of armed conflict, civil war and occupation. Each period of stability this region has achieved has been hard won by the communities living here. Since 1978, UNIFIL has been in southern Lebanon too, living alongside and working with the residents of the towns and villages south of the Litani River. **The story of UNIFIL is woven into the story of this beautiful region.**

Some 40 years later, the dividends of stability and overall calm is starting to show from towns with bigger houses, well connected villages, asphalted streets, hotels and resorts, markets, hospitals and schools. These are the signs of hope - thanks to the cooperation between UNIFIL, the Lebanese Armed Forces, local authorities and the people of south Lebanon.

What we hope to have captured throughout this issue are the images and the voices that speak volumes about the monumental changes in south Lebanon, especially since 2006. Some of the interviewees on the following page spoke to *"Al-Janoub's"* Hiba Monzer when they visited a UNIFIL exhibition, from 19 to 23 March, and commented on the photos and videos on display as well as on the work of UNIFIL.



Nathalie Nicolas,
Student from Klayaa School



"I drew a hand and a cedar tree expressing peace. I loved the video and the photos displayed at the exhibition, as all the images show moments of team work, cooperation, and joint planning between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army."

Kawthar Amra,
Student at Klayaa Public School



"UNIFIL makes us feel secure and protects us against several risks. They helped many people in several fields, whether these people were farmers, elderly or sick."

Rama Sabra,
Student from Al-Jaafariyyi School



"I especially liked the picture of UNIFIL peacekeepers installing barrels along the Blue Line. Everybody is working hand-in-hand. I especially liked two photos: one that shows UN peacekeepers working and cooperating together, while another photo shows the flag of my country Lebanon."

Fatima Zein,
Abbassiyeh



"Many things have changed since the deployment of UNIFIL 40 years ago. Small centres became bigger. Narrow streets were broadened and asphalted. UNIFIL taught women how to prepare and sell 'mouneh' including Jam, chocolate, dried fruits, in addition to starting small business based on handcrafts. UNIFIL opened the doors of its bases to assist locals living in south Lebanon."

Mahmoud Balhas,
Director of Siddiqin Public School



"UNIFIL peacekeepers have been south Lebanon's ambassadors to the world, spreading the good image of the peace-loving people. UNIFIL helps to reveal the true image of the people of south Lebanon. They are our messengers to tell the reality. We see that all the drawings made by the children, in the exhibition, expressed peace which is essential value of peacekeeping."

How much do you know about UNIFIL?

UNIFIL peacekeepers have been in south Lebanon since 1978. Together with the people of the area, they have weathered adversities and collectively helped further peace. Of late, they have been working hand-in-hand together with the Lebanese Armed Forces, to keep the 12 years of unprecedented calm and stability. *Here we have some questions to see how much you know UNIFIL and its work.*

1. Some of the early troop contributing countries in 1978 still have troops with UNIFIL today (despite some countries not having troops for a certain period of time in-between). **Which of the following set of countries is correct?**

- a) Fiji, France, Ireland, Nepal, Norway, Senegal
- b) Fiji, France, Ireland, Nepal, Nigeria
- c) Finland, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy
- d) India, Spain, Fiji, Spain, Norway, Sierra Leone

2. UNIFIL has around 10,500 peacekeepers from 41 countries, carrying out more than 14,000 operational activities per month, by day and night, in the area of operations. **How many positions does UNIFIL have across the area of operation?**

- a) 55
- b) 10
- c) 80
- d) 125

3. On 25 May 2000, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Lebanon. In the absence of an agreed border, the UN identified a Line of Withdrawal to confirm the full Israeli withdrawal. The Line, which is not an international border but a demarcation line, is now known commonly as the Blue Line. **What is the length of this Line?**

- a) 50 kilometres
- b) 200 kilometres
- c) 120 kilometres
- d) 70 kilometres

4. UNIFIL-chaired Tripartite meetings with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have been held regularly since the end of the 2006 war. They have become an essential conflict management and confidence building mechanism between the parties. UN Security Council resolution 1701 was adopted on 11 August 2006. This followed the cessation of hostilities coming into effect on 14 August 2006. **When was the first tripartite meeting held?**

- a) 11 June 2000
- b) 12 October 1978
- c) 13 January 2010
- d) 14 August 2006

5. UNIFIL is the first and only UN Peacekeeping mission to have a significant naval operation in support of the Lebanese Navy. **Its Maritime Task Force (MTF) was established in _____ at the request of the Government of Lebanon.**

- a) August 2000
- b) June 1978
- c) October 2006
- d) November 1996

6. Since 1978, 18 senior military officers from 11 countries have commanded the UNIFIL force. The first UNIFIL Force Commander was Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Alexander Erskine. **Which country was he from?**

- a) Italy
- b) France
- c) Ireland
- d) Ghana

7. UNIFIL area of operations extends from the Blue Line in the south to the Litani River in the north and is divided into two sectors: East and West. **What is its geographical area?**

- a) 800 km²
- b) 1,060 km²
- c) 500 km²
- d) 2,000 km²

8. **Which authority of the United Nations decides the mandate of UNIFIL?**

- a) Security Council
- b) General Assembly
- c) Secretary-General
- d) Head of Mission and Force Commander

Answers are on **page number 26**. But some of the answers can be found in other articles of this magazine.

Community interaction to promote peace and understanding



UNIFIL attaches great importance to maintaining a level of understanding and respect between its peacekeepers and the host communities. There are several facets to this relationship: informing the people of south Lebanon about UNIFIL's mandate and activities; providing or facilitating limited assistance to the extent possible; respecting and sharing in the local culture, customs and concerns; participating in community events and ensuring minimum disturbance to normal daily life from UNIFIL's operations while still delivering on its mandate. To this end, interactions with the communities are regularly conducted at every level.



The Military Community Outreach Unit - or MCOU - is the peacekeeping mission's military arm, with peacekeepers from Indonesia and Italy, that carries out interactions with the population daily. The past year saw a spike in such interactions, especially in schools and universities.

For instance, during the 2017-2018 school year, UNIFIL's community outreach peacekeepers visited 20 Primary schools, seven secondary schools and seven universities, overall reaching some 2,000 students. In addition, MCOU has set up six stalls in public squares and streets in order to inform the population about the crucial work UNIFIL does in coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces while also providing answers to queries from the public.

One of the main events was organized in Beit al Madina in Tyre from 19 to 23 March 2018, marking the 40th anniversary of UNIFIL's establishment. More than 450 young students, in addition to other visitors, went to see the exhibition. Children

also took a moment to draw images of what they see as UNIFIL's contribution in furthering peace in south Lebanon. Some of them wrote: *"Peace is my life," "Peace means to me friendship," "UNIFIL is the flower of Lebanon."*

Some of these interactions were reinforced by the presence of the UN Mine Action Service and the Lebanese Mine Action Centre, briefing visitors about the dangers of explosive remnants of war, unexploded ordnances and landmines.

At the start of the 2018 summer, MCOU outreach teams participated in local festivals and other events, allowing pedestrians a chance to interact with the peacekeepers and also leave video messages around the theme of what peace means to them. **Here are a sample of messages:**

"In my opinion, peace means security, calm environment, business, both social and political securities at all levels. We extend our gratitude to UNIFIL. We express our sadness on those who died in Lebanon

for the cause of peace. Peacekeepers have contributed in promoting peace in south of Lebanon and helped many families."

"Peace means everything to us. It is to live in calm and stable environment. It should be extended to all over Lebanon."

"Peace means everything for the world. Without peace there is no meaning of life. We extend our gratitude to UNIFIL for maintaining peace."

"Our duty as human beings to live in peace, regardless of religions, to help those in need and forgive others, we should not make differences between genders."

"UNIFIL is a peacekeeping force. We love it as it loves us. We help each other. UNIFIL brings us benefits as we also do in return."

"UNIFIL maintains peace. We all love you. Your support to and work alongside the Lebanese Armed Forces and other security agencies are critical for stability."

Lt. Col. Andrea Fazio - MCOU Commander





New Lebanese Army Centre to better serve communities

UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) have both welcomed the opening of LAF's new regional centre for civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) in Marjayoun as a new chapter in the cooperation between the two forces in south Lebanon.

In their remarks after opening the Spain-funded and UNIFIL-supported regional centre in the UNIFIL area of operation on 18 May 2018, UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander at the time Major General Michael Beary and senior LAF officials said the centre will play a key role in better serving the residents.

"An accessible, functioning LAF CIMIC Regional Centre in the south will be of great support in our shared mission of building a lasting peace and stability for the people of the south," said Major General Beary. "Today marks the achievement of UNIFIL's initial objective of enhancing our CIMIC partnership with LAF." He hailed the opening as a "new chapter" in the LAF's CIMIC efforts in south Lebanon.

Major General George Chraim, representing the LAF Commander General Joseph Aoun, said the new centre – which is the third in the country – will make a positive impact in the areas of education, health, environment and humanitarian assistance.

"We are gathering here today to open a new season of civil-military cooperation, which includes many tangible achievements and contributions making positive impact in

the society and national development," said Major General Chraim.

Chief of Staff of the Spanish Joint Command Major General Francisco Draco Carbo said the LAF CIMIC regional centre was "another proof" of the Spanish and UNIFIL's commitment to Lebanese society. He said it was undertaken with the common goal of boosting Lebanese institutions.

UNIFIL's engagement with LAF on CIMIC dates back to 2008-2009, when the Mission launched an initiative to enhance the partnership with LAF in the area of civil-military cooperation and community outreach. Since then, a close dialogue with the CIMIC Directorate of LAF has been maintained and UNIFIL has provided technical advice and various training courses when requested.

UNIFIL has its CIMIC units right across the Mission's 1,060 square kilometre area of operation, carrying out small-scale projects directly benefiting local communities. Since 2006, UNIFIL and its troop-contributing countries have implemented about 3,500 projects with the total cost of about USD 45.5 million.

Tilak Pokharel - Strategic Communication



“The new centre - which is the third in the country - will make a positive impact in the areas of education, health, environment and humanitarian assistance.”

Major General George Chraim, representing the LAF Commander General Joseph Aoun



Did you know? Tanzania

Situated in Eastern Africa, United Republic of Tanzania is surrounded by Great lakes of Tanganyika, Victoria and Nyasa. It borders Kenya and Uganda to the north; Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west; Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique to the south and the Indian Ocean to the east. Tanzania's modern day history goes back to 1964 when Tanganyika and Zanzibar Islands united to form one country "Tanzania." Since then, it has maintained a strong bond among its diverse people - a unique example of union made up of independent governments both in Africa and the world at large - for more than 50 years.

Tanzania is best known for a range of tourist attractions: national parks such as Serengeti which ranks fourth largest in the world and third in Africa, Ngorongoro - the Eden of Africa where wild animals live peacefully alongside humans, the beautiful island of Zanzibar with historical sites and beautiful beaches, and the famous Mount Kilimanjaro – to mention just a few that have captivated tourists from around the world.

Tanzania is often referred to as the "Land of Peace" for the tolerance, affability and peaceful nature of its 56 million people. The metaphor also relates to the philosophy of its first President Mwalimu (the teacher) Julius Kambarage Nyerere, who believed in freedom and peace for not only his country but for other neighbouring states and the world at large. This philosophy continues to be embraced by all successive leaders.

Despite being surrounded by countries with

political instabilities and active conflicts, Tanzania continues to remain the land of peace and a beacon of hope. The country is home to more than 315,000 refugees, according to the UNHCR (2017). Mwalimu Julius Kambarage once famously said: "You can't say you are free while your neighbours are not." True to his words, Tanzania has warmly welcomed and provided shelters to those fleeing wars and persecution.

Tanzania's contribution to the UN Peacekeeping is significant. With nearly 2,700 military and police personnel currently serving in six peacekeeping missions, it is the ninth largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping operations. It first participated in a UN peace operation in Liberia in 1995. Currently, UNIFIL has 159 Tanzanian troops.

Tanzania sent its first troops to UNIFIL in February 2007. Over the years, the number has grown from 77 to today's 159, including

four staff officers. Since their deployment, the Tanzanian peacekeepers have worked closely with fellow peacekeepers from other countries, civilian staff and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in furthering peace in south Lebanon. Their primary responsibility in UNIFIL has been to serve as military police. Throughout their deployment in UNIFIL and especially when they are out in the streets policing UN vehicles, Tanzanians are known to be friendly with everyone, especially with their popular greeting of "JAMBO," which is often used by members of the host communities while addressing Tanzanians.

Tanzanian Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Hamis Shaban Suleiman says: "The Tanzanian Contingent will always give its maximum and make tireless efforts in collaboration with other peace loving UNIFIL members and the LAF in fulfilling UNIFIL's mandate."

Capt. EK Methuselaha - Military Public Information Officer

UNIFIL introduces 36-hour patrols

UNIFIL peacekeepers have started a series of operational activities lasting 36 hours straight as one more step in strengthening the UN mission's visibility and coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF).

Launched in mid-June, 2018, by UNIFIL's Spanish Contingent, each 36-hour patrol includes a number of activities including foot, vehicle and Blue Line Patrols as well as firing exercises. Members of the LAF participate in certain sections of the patrol, but not the entire 36-hour stretch.

Little over a month later, seven such patrols had been organized – two by the Italian Contingent and one each by the French, Ghanaian, Irish/Finnish, Nepalese and Spanish contingents.

UNIFIL's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Col. Amable Sarto, says the new initiative is "one more step forward in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2373," by further

increasing the presence and visibility of UNIFIL and LAF patrols as well as coordination between the two forces.

Adopted on 30 August 2017, Resolution 2373 renewed UNIFIL's mandate by one year and also called for an "accelerated" and "durable" deployment of the LAF in south Lebanon, as well as increased support of and coordination with LAF. It also called for enhanced reporting on all violations of Resolution 1701, which forms the core of UNIFIL's current mandate.

In July, "Al-Janoub" joined one of such patrols by the Nepalese Battalion (NEPBATT), which covered a 96 square kilometre area of responsibility in Sector East, including a 15 km stretch of the Blue Line. The

patrol carried out 10 operational activities during the 36 hours, including four with the LAF. NEPBATT's Chief Operations Officer Maj. Diwakar Rayamajhi said the patrol further strengthened the collaboration with the LAF to help keep communities safe and prevent hostile activities from taking place.

Patrol Commander Captain Deepak Bahadur Thapa said it was "a new experience" for him. Highlighting the significance of the new initiative, he said having the same set of UN Peacekeepers' eyes cover the same track in one patrolling cycle can better help detect any changes on the ground.

Tilak Pokharel - Strategic Communication

Serving for Peace in south Lebanon

Period of calm is conducive for political push
for a permanent ceasefire

When I arrived in south Lebanon in the summer of 2016, my fourth time with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since the first deployment as a young platoon commander in 1982, it was with a sense of familiarity of the towns, villages and communities where I had served: Sultaniyah, Dayr Ntar, Tibnine and Naqoura.

*Major General Michael Beary,
UNIFIL Force Commander from
July 2016 to August 2018*



But the return was also a throwback to some painful memories to a time often marked by violence and unspeakable loss for so many – UN Peacekeepers included. There is of course no comparison between the Lebanon of my earlier memories and that of today. The contrast is palpable: entrepreneurs running new businesses that dot the streets of Tyre, young children safely playing in the school yards of Tibnin, men and women going to work every day in Bint Jbeil, and older residents of Naqoura enjoying evening chai with their neighbours as the sun sets over the Mediterranean sea. These scenes were largely unthinkable then.

But change has not come easily. The relative calm witnessed today has involved decades of tireless efforts by thousands of men and women serving under the UN flag - together with the people and the authorities of Lebanon. It would not have been possible without the efforts of the international community – and perhaps more importantly - the commitment of the parties involved in the conflict.

In fact, despite regional tensions, the past two years have actually been the quietest period in south Lebanon's modern history.

The adoption of resolution 1701 by the UN Security Council in 2006 ended the last active conflict. This resolution, which forms the core of UNIFIL's mandate and was further enhanced and strengthened through the adoption of resolution 2373 in 2017, has envisaged a long journey to a permanent ceasefire between the parties.

I believe we have set out on that journey – albeit slowly and still with a long way to go. But today, around 10,500 UN peacekeepers from 42 countries continue to monitor and patrol the area for unlawful weapons and other unauthorized activities, clear large swathes of fertile land of deadly mines, provide training and support to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces, stand ready to protect civilians, and create a reality on the ground conducive to exploring permanent peace.

In addition, the Mission's Maritime Task Force, the first and only naval operation in UN peacekeeping, continues to work with the Lebanese Navy in keeping the country's territorial waters safe.

We have also put in place a confidence-building mechanism at the military level. This UNIFIL-led tripartite forum and liaison mechanism, which can coordinate daily with both parties, have yielded results in the form of keeping the calm while allowing the communities on both sides of the Blue Line to prosper.

Yet there is always the cloud of uncertainty hovering over south Lebanese towns, villages and wadis. This is as a result of the parties still not having been able to agree on a permanent solution to this long-running conflict in a complex corner of the Middle East. This is the same region that is riveted by deadly conflicts resulting in the single biggest humanitarian catastrophe of the day, and the source of millions of refugees.

UNIFIL's area of operation is so sensitive

that even a small flicker of miscalculated or accidental action has the potential to grow to a full-blown war. We have witnessed that in the past. That's why it is so critical to find a permanent solution so that the communities on both sides of the Blue Line can live a normal life without the fear of a looming war.

With both sides committed to using UNIFIL's liaison and coordination mechanism, conditions on the ground, on both sides of the Blue Line, remain stable and the 12 years of relative calm has spurred economic activities - to the benefit of the communities.

The dividends of peace are clearly visible on the ground. Take the town of Tyre for example. Every week there are new structures or businesses popping up. Even the Tyre of summer 2016 and that of 2018 are two different towns. This is the living example of how fast a community can grow. This is also because some of the millions of Lebanese expatriates find it safe enough to come home on holiday and enjoy the scenic Tyre coastline.

Building on this significant achievement in Lebanon's history, the parties should now explore avenues to work for a permanent ceasefire. It is important for the leaders on both sides to take advantage of the window of opportunity to work towards a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution to the conflict as envisaged in UN Resolution 1701.

A peacekeeping operation is a measure to allow diplomatic efforts to reach a political solution; it cannot be the substitute for a political solution.

Blue helmet returns to south Lebanon after 40 years



The helmet on display during the Tyre exhibition (left) and during the New York exhibition. François-Xavier in 1978

The 19th of March 2018 marked 40 years since the establishment of UNIFIL. The very first French UNIFIL peacekeeper to set foot in Lebanon was a young French military photographer, François-Xavier Roch, who placed his boots on Lebanese ground in Beirut airport along with his French contingent.

The Warrant Officer had to get out of the plane before his chief, Colonel Jean-Germain Salvan, in order to turn around and photograph the officers and soldiers emerging from the plane.

Although there were already some peacekeepers from the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in the UNIFIL area of operation, the first UNIFIL contingent to arrive was the French. Others then promptly followed, including Canadian, Irish and Norwegian.

Just ahead of the 40th anniversary of the UNIFIL's establishment, the helmet worn that day by Capt. Roch, who is 71 today and lives in France, was sent to UNIFIL in Naqoura.

As a symbol of the efforts by UNIFIL and the

UN to bring, and then keep, peace in south Lebanon, the helmet was presented to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, during his visit to Lebanon, on 27 February 2018.

The helmet was put on display during a UNIFIL exhibition in Tyre, south Lebanon, from 19 to 23 March. The helmet was also an attraction during an exhibition in the UN Headquarters in New York, marking the UN Peacekeeping's 70th anniversary, from 1 to 28 June 2018.

The legacy of this helmet continues to inspire the 10,500 peacekeepers from 41 countries, who currently work with UNIFIL, in furthering peace in south Lebanon.

Tilak Pokharel - Strategic Communication

“ The helmet was presented to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, during his visit to Lebanon - Naqoura, 27 Feb. 2018. ”

Check your answers here

- 1- [b] Fiji, France, Ireland, Nepal, Nigeria
- 2- [a] 55
- 3- [c] 120 kilometres
- 4- [d] 14 August 2006
- 5- [c] October 2006
- 6- [d] Ghana
- 7- [b] 1,060 square kilometres
- 8- [a] Security Council

National Recruitment in UNIFIL

As of 1 January 2017, UNIFIL National positions have been advertised electronically on the United Nations Careers Portal <http://careers.un.org>

When applying to a job opening, be sure to submit your application well before the deadline stated in the job opening.

All applications shall be in the Personal History Profile (PHP) format. You may create your PHP using the inspira web-based tool - <https://inspira.un.org>. Also, ensure that relevant supporting documents are attached in Inspira.

Once you apply to a job opening, your application will go through an automated pre-screening process. The process checks the information you entered in your application against the eligibility criteria established for that job opening.

Only candidates who meet the set criteria of the job opening will be shortlisted and contacted by the Human Resources Management Section to undergo an assessment and/or a competency-based interview.

Preference will be given to equally qualified women candidates.

UNIFIL does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing, training or any other fees).

For more information please visit our website:
<http://unifil.unmissions.org/jobs>

From joint police training to medical visits, this is a new TV/Web series highlighting UNIFIL's collaboration with Lebanese security forces and civic organizations to support local communities and maintain peace. Twice a month on NBN, OTV, New TV and YouTube.

Every two weeks a new 10-minute radio episode is aired in Arabic on: Al-Risala, Sawt El-Mada, Voice of Lebanon, Voice of People and Radio Delta.

Check unifil.unmissions.org to watch and read a weekly multimedia report on one of over 400 UNIFIL activities that happen every single day in south Lebanon.



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