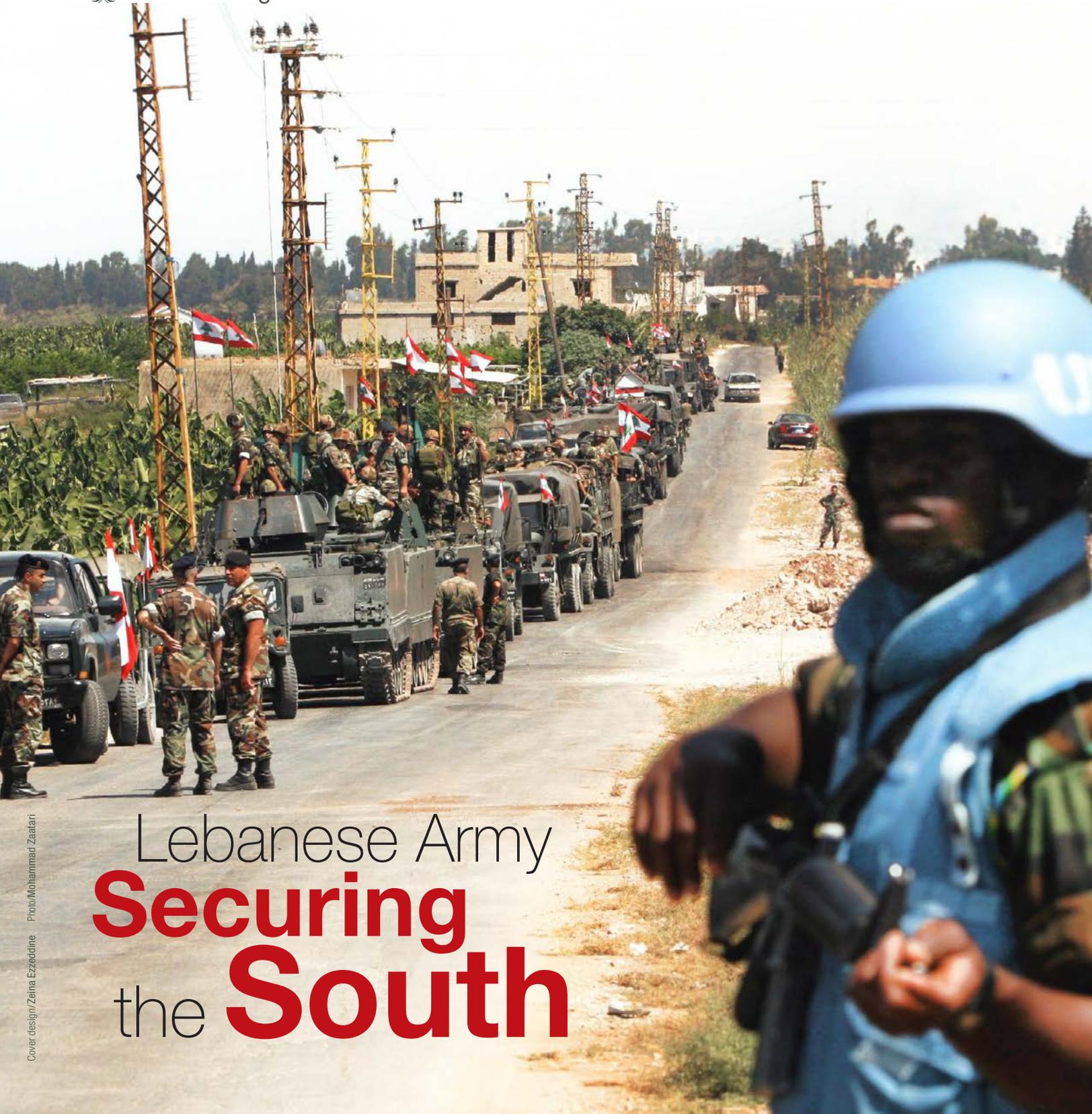


For Free Distribution | Not For Sale

al-janoub

February 2018 - no.21

 UNIFIL magazine



Lebanese Army **Securing** the **South**

“ Investing in the Lebanese Armed Forces is investing in the stability of Lebanon. ”

UN Secretary-General **António Guterres**





A tribute to the Lebanese Army

Message from the Head of Mission and Force Commander, **Major General Michael Beary**

'The Lebanese Army - Securing the South' is the central theme chosen for the first edition of *"Al-Janoub"* in 2018. As UNIFIL approaches 40 years in March this is, perhaps, an appropriate way to start the new year; by looking at the ongoing development of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). It is an opportunity to showcase some of the crucial work that takes place in the Area of Operations (AO), involving UNIFIL and our LAF colleagues and strategic partners operating in close coordination with one another.

Following the cessation of hostilities in 2006 the LAF deployed to the UNIFIL AO, after a 30-year absence. UNIFIL, in accordance with its mandate under UN Security Council Resolution 1701, has supported this deployment and has watched as the LAF have steadily increased their capability and their footprint in the AO. Through the conduct of joint training UNIFIL assists the LAF in achieving full operational capability, so that ultimately the LAF, as the physical manifestation of Government authority in the South, can assume full responsibility for the AO from UNIFIL. It has been particularly pleasing to me to see how the local communities have embraced this deployment, to see how the LAF are becoming part of the fabric of society here, and how they are now seen as a provider of security for the local population.

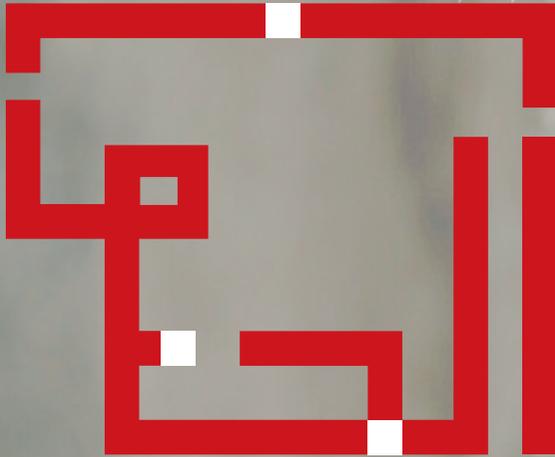
This issue will explore the joint history of the LAF and UNIFIL, working together in pursuit of the goals in UNSCR 1701. Readers will get to hear the views of the South Litani Sector (SLS) Commander, Brigadier General Robert Al Alam, with whom I enjoy a cordial and professional

working relationship. We will look back through the eyes of the Lebanese Army on their work together with UNIFIL peacekeepers from 40 different countries. We will get some insight into what the LAF deployment means to members of the community here in this part of south Lebanon and finally we will see how UNIFIL's support to the LAF aids the Government of Lebanon and the extension of state authority in the South, which in turn promotes stability throughout Lebanon as a whole.

Since I assumed my role of Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL I have been continually impressed with the professional military approach adopted by the LAF. From the critical operations they have conducted in the north and east of Lebanon, in securing their sovereign borders, to the patrolling and counter rocket launching operations they conduct on a daily basis in the south with UNIFIL, the LAF have demonstrated their military capability. It is my wish to see them continue to develop this capability, and to increase their numbers in SLS so that ultimately UNIFIL can hand over responsibility for the AO to the sovereign armed forces of the State of Lebanon, allowing UNIFIL to close the chapter on its presence here for the last 39 years.

I thank the editorial staff for their work on this edition and I look forward to continuing to engage with you all in the coming months. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our readers and all of our peacekeepers here in UNIFIL a peaceful and happy new year.

Contents



'Al-Janoub' is published by **UNIFIL Office of Strategic Communications and Public Information**

Publisher Imran Riza	Mohammad Zaatar Pasqual Gorriz Marcos UNIFIL FCR PIO
Editor-in-Chiefs Malene Kamp Jensen Andrea Tenenti	UNIFIL Sector East PIO UNIFIL Sector West PIO
Senior Editor (English) Tilak Pokharel	Infographic Zeina Ezzeddine
Editor (Arabic) Joumana Sayegh	Photo Editor Zeina Ezzeddine
Production/Design Zeina Ezzeddine	Contributors Dany Fouad Ghafary Ewa Turyk-Mazurek Ghifar Charafeddine Hiba Monzer LAF's South Litani Sector Commander
Editorial Assistant Adib Al Moussa	Maj. Leandro Giordano Rania Bdeir Tilak Pokharel
Photographers Aoibheann O'Sullivan LAF Directorate of Orientation Ghifar Charafeddine	

Al-Janoub contact

Tel. +961 1 926 441 | **Email** pokharelt@un.org
+961 1 926 442 | **Fax** +961 1 827 016

Except where identified by the copyright symbol ©, articles in "*Al-Janoub*" may be reprinted without permission on condition that two copies of the publication containing the reprint are sent to the Editor-in-Chief of "*Al-Janoub*".

The logo 'Al-Janoub' is a calligraphic representation of the word "*Al-Janoub*" in Arabic.

Colour correction and printing: Raidy | www.raidy.com

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNIFIL concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city area or of its authorities, or concerning delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the policies or positions of UNIFIL, nor does the citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

Editorial: A tribute to the Lebanese Army [3]

Message from the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Michael Beary

Chronicle [5]

South Litani Sector securing the south [6/7]

LAF will assume UNIFIL tasks [8/9]

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam

Centre spread: [10/11]

Looking back on 73 years

LAF's role in south Lebanon [12/13]

Did you know? [14]

Italy

Training together [15]

What is the Blue Line? [16]

VOX POPULI [17]

The Voices from the South

BREAKING GROUND [18]

UNIFIL & LAF partner around civil military cooperation

UNIFIL's first female contingent commander concludes Lebanon tour



UN Photo/Sector West PIO

UNIFIL's first female contingent commander, Maj. Nina Raduha of Slovenia, completed her seven-month long tour of duty with the UN Mission on 2 December 2017. In her remarks at the transfer of authority ceremony, Maj. Raduha said she and her unit was proud to have contributed to furthering peace in South Lebanon.

"Success did not come by itself. Good skills, determination and vision were needed," she said. "For all of this, it was necessary to have excellent and dedicated soldiers, experienced NCOs (non-commissioned officers) who know their business, and officers with a vision. I had them all. We were a team in

which each individual played an important role."

Her deployment to UNIFIL was her first experience with a UN peacekeeping operation.

In his praise for Maj. Raduha's unit, UNIFIL's Sector West Commander Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Sganga said she led her unit with enthusiasm, professionalism and competence. "As UNIFIL's first female Contingent Commander, Maj. Raduha acted as a role model because of her leadership, skilfulness and motivation," he said.

As one of 41 troop-contributing countries of UNIFIL, Slovenia currently has 15 peacekeepers with the Mission. Of the Mission's 10,500 peacekeepers, some 4.6 per cent are women.

UNIFIL provides some \$3 million in community support from troop contributing countries



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

UNIFIL's Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects address some of the most pressing needs of the host population and support local authorities while strengthening the links between UNIFIL and local communities. Be it fixing a road, providing medical, dental or veterinary assistance, educational courses or capacity-building, these projects are leaving their imprint on the lives of people in southern Lebanon.

Since 1 January to 7 December 2017, more than 220 such projects were completed within UNIFIL's area of operation in South Lebanon at the total cost of about \$3 million.

Most of the funding for these projects are from troop contributing countries, in addition to other activities provided by UNIFIL to the communities, including language courses and martial arts.

The funding from these countries is in addition to some \$500,000 a year from the UN for Quick Impact Projects in the south.

EU Ambassadors visit UNIFIL HQ and Blue Line



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

A European Union delegation, comprising 15 Ambassadors and senior officials, visited the UNIFIL Headquarters and the Blue Line.

UNIFIL officials briefed the delegation on the Mission's work in its area of operation, including

the increased collaboration with a newly reinforced Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in furthering the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 2373. UNIFIL officials also thanked them for their support for the work of UN peacekeepers in helping

to maintain stability in the south of Lebanon.

The delegation included EU Delegation Ambassador to Lebanon, Christina Lassen, and Ambassadors and senior officials of Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden to their missions in Lebanon.

Fifteen out of the EU's 28 Member States contribute a significant number of the around 10,500 peacekeepers to UNIFIL.

UNIFIL and Lebanese Army conduct live firing exercise



UN Photo/CPD PIO

In September 2017 and February 2018, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) conducted joint live fire exercises combining armoured assets, machine gun and small arms in

an area just south of UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura. The LAF, supported by UNIFIL's Force Commander Reserve Force, Sector West and Sector East, took part in the exercise named "Steel Storm".

Live fire exercises are conducted regularly between the LAF and UNIFIL peacekeepers. They are directed at honing the skills and expertise of the military units, maintaining their efficiency and mutual knowledge as well

as strengthening the existing coordination mechanism between LAF and UNIFIL. The joint exercise is a good opportunity for both UNIFIL and LAF to further strengthen the cooperation and mutual knowledge and demonstrate the capability to conduct joint missions.

Limiting any potential disturbance to the local population was an utmost priority during the planning for the exercises.

South Litani Sector securing the south

By LAF's South Litani Sector Commander

“The South Litani Sector is the most secure part of Lebanon.”

These are a few words that describe the current situation in this beloved spot of our homeland. So what are the reasons that transformed the “chaotic” south Lebanon into an area of stability? Is it the “international umbrella” or the presence of an army that has a well-established and clear combat doctrine? Is it the army stationed on the edge of the so-called Blue Line to defend every inch of our homeland or the people who are holding on to their land and who support their army? All of the aforementioned points are true. The relationship between the army, the citizens and UNIFIL, which was affirmed in more than one occasion with blood and sweat, is the one that made the South Litani Sector a shield for our homeland and a haven of peace and stability.

UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos



UN Photo/Mark Garten

A historical overview of UNIFIL's arrival in Lebanon

* On 17 March 1978, after the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon, the Government of Lebanon submitted a request for the convening of the UN Security Council. The Council convened on the same day, and the first reference to the possibility of sending international forces to southern Lebanon came in a statement made by Ambassador Ghassan Tuani, Lebanon's representative to the Security Council at that time. On 19 March 1978, the UN Security Council adopted resolutions 425 and 426.

Under UN Security Council resolution 425 (1978), the UN Security Council decided to immediately establish the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to be composed of elements of the UN Member States. It entrusted the UN Secretary-General with the task of drafting a report on the implementation of resolution 425. The third paragraph of this resolution defined the tasks of UNIFIL as below:

- Confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces.
- Restore international peace and security.
- Assist the Government of Lebanon in securing the return of its effective authority to the region.

* Following the Israeli strikes on Lebanon in July 2006, and pursuant to UN Security Council



resolution 1701 of 11 August 2006, the UN Security Council welcomed the decision of the Lebanese Government on 7 August to deploy 15,000 Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) troops in southern Lebanon. It also decided to increase the number of its troops to a maximum of 15,000 soldiers. According to Security Council resolution 1701, UNIFIL, in addition to its original mandate under resolutions 425 and 426, is responsible for monitoring the cessation of hostilities, accompanying and

supporting the LAF troops as they deploy throughout the south, and assisting them to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons.

* Pursuant to Lebanese Council of Ministers' decision on 16 August 2006, the LAF was deployed to the south of Litani, Arqoub and the districts of Hasbaya and Marjayoun along the Blue Line, with the participation of UNIFIL.

The LAF began deploying in the areas where Israeli forces were withdrawing. In addition, UNIFIL peacekeepers were deployed at a record speed compared with any such complex peacekeeping operation. It included units from France, Italy and Spain. They all arrived in the area of operation on 15 September 2006, joining the existing units on the ground from Ghana and India. Later several countries sent military units to participate in this mission.

Joint activities between LAF and UNIFIL



UN Photo/Pasquale G. Marcos

“The achievement we have made together in the south constitutes a leading international model in dealing with conflict areas and bringing peace and stability to these areas.”

Operational activities, most notably:

- Vehicle patrols, on-foot patrols, patrols along the Blue Line, fixed and circumstantial checkpoints, observation points, engineering works (demining, dismantling of explosive charges, disabling of suspicious objects and unexploded ordnances), escorting convoys inside and outside the Sector, patrols to prevent the launching of rockets and the demarcation of the Blue Line.

- The joint operational activities form around 30 per cent of the overall activities carried out by the LAF in the Sector South of the Litani River.

Training, cultural and sports activities:

- Various training courses (combat in populated areas, engineering, close combat, first aid, etc.)
- Language courses.

- Operational exercises (Steel Storm, evacuation exercises, etc.).
- Sports Games - Racing - Olympic Games.

It is worthy to note that the trained groups belong to the Sector South of the Litani and other units. In 2016, there were 72 training courses, and the number of trainees was 821. In 2017, there were 89 training courses, and the number of trainees was 1,061.

Gifts donated from UNIFIL to LAF

UNIFIL's battalions provide various donations to the LAF to assist the units deployed in the Sector South of the Litani and outside it to carry out their tasks with professionalism. These gifts include:

- Rehabilitation of military buildings, installation of lighting poles and solar energy systems, generators, lighting towers, military and civilian vehicles, microwave communications

networks, crisis management hall and lecture hall in the Sector South of the Litani, prefab structures, computer assets and hardware.

In conclusion “the achievement we have made together in the south constitutes a leading international model in dealing with conflict areas and bringing peace and stability to these areas.”



UN Photo/Pasquale G. Marcos



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

LAF will assume UNIFIL tasks

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam



UN Photo/Abraham O'Sullivan

In a unanimous vote on 30 August 2017, UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2373 calling for an “accelerated” and “durable” deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in southern Lebanon and the country’s territorial waters as well as an increased coordination between the LAF and UNIFIL. In September, the LAF deployed its Fifth Intervention Regiment to the 1,060-square kilometre UNIFIL area of operation to work together with its already existing Fifth and Seventh Brigades and UN peacekeepers.

“*Al-Janoub*” recently caught up with the Commander of the LAF’s South Litani Sector, which has the responsibility for the entire UNIFIL area of operation, to talk about the increased cooperation between LAF soldiers and UNIFIL peacekeepers in furthering the 11 years of peace and stability in the south. Following are the excerpts of the interview with *Brigadier General Robert Al-Alam*.

As announced recently, LAF is going to strengthen its presence in south Lebanon, in UNIFIL’s area of operation. Can you please provide more details?

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam: After the conclusion of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” military operation, where LAF extended its control and defeated the terrorists in the outskirts of Ras Baalbek and al-Qaa, the LAF Commander gave orders to deploy a new regiment in the area south of the Litani. Accordingly, on 22 September 2017, the regiment arrived in the area. This means that now we have two brigades in the south of the Litani: the Seventh Brigade and the Fifth Brigade. We also have a new regiment, which is the Fifth Intervention Regiment that has deployed between the two brigades, namely in the Central Sector.

Why is it important for LAF to have more troops in the south? How is it related to the resolutions 1701 and 2373?

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam: The deployment of any force in a certain place enhances the place where the army is deployed. In the South Litani Sector, when a new regiment came, this enhanced the defensive situation along the borders and also it strengthens stability in the area south of the Litani, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1701 and 2373.

During his visit to Naqoura, Lebanese Defence Minister Yaacoub Sarraf spoke about expansion of coordinated activities between LAF and UNIFIL. Can you tell us what sort of activities are

being coordinated by two forces and how? Why is it important? And how will it evolve in the future?

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam: Cooperation and coordination with UNIFIL is not new as LAF has been cooperating and coordinating with UNIFIL since its arrival (context: in 2006, LAF was deployed to the UNIFIL area of operation for the first time in three decades). There are various coordination activities including joint patrols, on foot or by vehicles, observation posts day and night, and training exercises. For example, in 2016, we recorded 75 various types of trainings, from driving vehicles, to shooting skills, to fixing weapons, and whatever comes to your mind. All of this is done with the United Nations. This indicates





the close cooperation between the two of us (LAF and UNIFIL), and all of this serves resolution 1701. It also further increases the professionalism of the LAF.

How do you assess UNIFIL's role in increasing the capacities of LAF?

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam: Since UNIFIL arrived here it has always supported the LAF. It offered a lot of assistance from vehicles to computers to the assistance for villages and the people. For example, it has provided generators, rehabilitated playgrounds, organized different language courses, and it has provided various assistance to the people and the Lebanese Army.

Brig. Gen.: In 2010, UNIFIL and LAF initiated the Strategic Dialogue process, the mechanism by which UNIFIL seeks donor support to ensure LAF capability development in south Lebanon. What has been its impact on the ground?

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam: The Strategic Dialogue process was intended to lead to the final phase, which aims to see the LAF gradually replacing UNIFIL in the south of the Litani [area]. This phase is composed of several stages, and each stage has a specific duration. This is to help and develop the capabilities of the LAF in order to replace UNIFIL in the coming years. It will take certain tasks from UNIFIL and will implement them without the participation of UNIFIL.

LAF is working to form a new "Model Brigade" in the UNIFIL area of operation. Its concept was

worked out within the Strategic Dialogue. Can you tell us what has been the progress so far?

Brig. Gen. Al-Alam: The model brigade or model regiment or model unit will perform tasks similar to the tasks performed by UNIFIL. It means we will create a certain unit and we will allocate soldiers and weapons for it similar to the United Nations, and then deploy it. We can deploy it along the Blue Line to perform duties similar to the ones performed by UNIFIL. We can create it so that it is able to perform tasks of preserving stability within the South Litani Sector, where UNIFIL has been carrying out patrols. This means that we will give the tasks the UN peacekeepers are performing in accordance with resolution 1701 to this model brigade or model regiment, and then if this project is successful, we will create a second and a third brigade and in this way we will be serving the Strategic Dialogue process.

The south Litani sector is the calmest sector I have served in. It is a very calm sector that enjoys tranquillity. It also has a distinguished feature, which is the relationship with UNIFIL. You can always find new things, and new activities. Local residents in South Litani Sector love the LAF and respect it. We, as LAF, want to strengthen the relationship with local residents so that they become aware that LAF is here to protect and help them and not to establish a military zone.

Rania Bdeir
Strategic Communications and Public Information Office

“ The south Litani sector is the calmest sector I have served in. It also has a distinguished feature, which is the relationship with UNIFIL. ”

Photos from the Lebanese Army archives



Looking back on **73** years

With 73 years of history, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) continue to serve the nation with its motto “Honour, Sacrifice, Loyalty.” In south Lebanon, especially in UNIFIL’s 1,060 km² area of operation, the LAF has been the invincible strategic partner of UN peacekeepers since they deployed in 2006 throughout southern Lebanon - for the first time in three decades. The LAF soldiers working alongside UNIFIL peacekeepers in the area, for nearly 12 years, have given a strong sense of security to some 450,000 residents. The unique LAF-UNIFIL partnership has been the cornerstone of the unprecedented nearly 12 years of overall stability and calm in south Lebanon.



Tilak Pokharel

Strategic Communications and Public Information Office



UN Photo/Pascual G. Marcos

LAF's role in south Lebanon

Since the Lebanese Army soldiers set foot again in 2006 - after 35 long years - in UNIFIL's area of operation in south Lebanon, it has been the beacon of hope for the people. The recent deployment of additional troops paves the way for more coordinated activities with UNIFIL peacekeepers in keeping an unprecedented 11 years of stability in the area.

A statement from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) on 22 September 2017 came as pleasant news to UNIFIL. Among other things, the statement read, "Army units completed their deployment in the South Litani Sector as part of a decision taken by the Army Command to boost army deployment at the southern border to defend it... and in order to keep its security and stability in close coordination with the UNIFIL to implement Security Council resolution 1701."

The deployment of additional LAF troops to the UNIFIL area of operations (AO) highlighted the first concrete step taken by the government of Lebanon to implement the UN Security Council resolution 2373, adopted unanimously on 30 August 2017, which - among others - called for an accelerated LAF deployment to the UNIFIL AO.

Soon after the LAF announcement on the completion of the deployment of the Fifth Intervention Regiment to work with UNIFIL and the already existing two LAF brigades, immediate steps were taken to increase the collaboration. In his comments following the announcement, UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Michael Beary called it a "welcomed development," adding that it allows UNIFIL and LAF to increase coordinated activities.

"It is an important step in the right direction," he said, speaking at a regular tripartite meeting with senior officials from the LAF and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), on 8 November 2017. "The key to the long term stability and security of the South is an enhanced LAF presence. We look forward to this effort continuing, through the deployment of more troops."

The newly arrived troops started immediately to work with other LAF units already stationed between the Litani River and the Blue Line, to help maintain a climate of calm.

Following the complex challenges faced by the army during the last few years, LAF was forced to reduce its presence in south and transfer resources to other areas of the country to safeguard Lebanon's security and stability, particularly against terrorism.

Commander of LAF's South Litani Sector, Brigadier General Robert al-Alam, said the LAF reinforcement not only enhances the "stability in the area south of the Litani," it also paves the way for a gradual takeover of responsibilities from UNIFIL. The eventual transfer of responsibilities is envisaged by the Strategic Dialogue Process, the mechanism by which





UN Photo/Pascal G. Mercos



UN Photo/Pascal G. Mercos

UNIFIL seeks donor support to ensure LAF's capability development in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese army is the strategic partner of UNIFIL. This partnership, founded on mutual cooperation and trust, has contributed to stabilizing the situation on the ground.

This deployment is seen by UNIFIL as a further strengthening of collaboration between its peacekeepers and its strategic partner - from joint patrolling to responding to incidents and violations faster and more effectively, especially around the Blue Line.

Resolution 2373 which extended UNIFIL's mandate for another year and commended the positive role of UNIFIL, welcomed the expansion of coordinated activities between UNIFIL and the LAF, and called for further enhancement of this cooperation.

The adoption of resolution 1701 (which forms the core of UNIFIL's mandate) and the end of the 2006 war paved the way for the deployment of LAF troops to UNIFIL's AO for the first time in 35 years. One of the key aspects of resolution 1701 is that the UN Mission supports the operations of the LAF in south Lebanon.

In south Lebanon, LAF soldiers are primarily responsible for ensuring security, protecting civilian population and maintaining stability. Since the beginning of 2008, UNIFIL and LAF further intensified their cooperation and moved beyond coordinating their operational activities to carrying out a small

percentage of their activities together on a daily basis. While some 12 per cent of all UNIFIL patrols are carried out jointly with LAF, every patrol UNIFIL carries out is done in close coordination with LAF and any unusual or suspicious activity observed by UNIFIL peacekeepers is reported to LAF. The LAF is fully informed about all UNIFIL activities.

UNIFIL leadership had repeatedly emphasized the importance of close cooperation between UNIFIL and LAF as a key element in maintaining calm in the south and to respond effectively to incidents and violations in a timely manner.

The LAF have primary responsibility for security and law and order in the south of Lebanon. On its part, UNIFIL, with its significant capability, is patrolling the area of operations, monitoring the cessation of the hostilities, and assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces.

In south of Lebanon, like other regions of Lebanon, LAF's goal is to be the safety net that ensures security to the Lebanese population and prove, once again, that the symbol of honour, sacrifice and loyalty is the hope that never disappoints.

Today, more and more joint activities are being carried out, and every patrol UNIFIL conducts is done in close coordination with LAF, while any unusual or suspicious activities observed by UNIFIL peacekeepers are reported to LAF.

Dany Fouad Ghafary
Strategic Communications and Public Information Office

“ The key to the long term stability and security of the South is an enhanced LAF presence. We look forward to this effort continuing, through the deployment of more troops. ”

UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Michael Beary



Did you know? Italy

A boot shaped European peninsula popping out to the Mediterranean Sea, Italy is bestowed with a range of spectacular natural and historic heritages. From fashion to food and rocky mountains to beautiful beaches, Italy is a must-go to destination for millions of tourists every year. There to welcome them are many of the 61 million people who call Italy home.

The 18th century literary heavyweight, Samuel Johnson, once said: "A man who has not been in Italy, is always conscious of an inferiority, from his not having seen what it is expected a man should see."

It is still true today. According to one estimate, over 20 million tourists visited Rome, the capital of Italy, in 2016 alone. Many others are attracted to cities such as Venice, Florence, Milan and Naples, which boast a vast collection of art, culture and literature from prehistoric periods. With its long and important history, Italy has been the birthplace of world famous artists, scientists, explorers and writers.

Today, Italy is a main political and economic actor in Europe as well as in the wider world. It was a key player in the making of the European Union and a catalyst in the European economic

and political unification. Its military, the Italian Armed Forces or IAF, has made an important contribution to global peace and security. According to the ranking of the Business Insider (2015), IAF is the world's eighth strongest military with about 320,000 active personnel.

Italy has deep and historic relations with Lebanon, with both countries bound by the same Mediterranean heritage and its millennia-old civilizations. Over time, the ties have been kept by deep cultural exchanges. Today, Italy is one of the most important commercial partners of Lebanon and Italy remains a top pick by Lebanese tourists. According to an estimate, more than 24,000 Lebanese visited Italy in 2016 alone.

Italy's involvement with UNIFIL goes back to the Mission's early days. UNIFIL's Italian Air or ITALAIR – which was established in 1979, just one year after UNIFIL itself was established – is one of the oldest units of the Mission.

With almost four decades of continuous service and more than 40,000 flight hours, this unit has been witness to much of UNIFIL and south Lebanon's history.

"Lebanon is a truly important place for Italy," said Gen. Claudio Graziano, a former UNIFIL Force Commander while

on a recent visit with the Italian forces in his new role as Chief of the Italian Defence.

"With the work of our soldiers we have contributed with the Lebanese Armed Forces to maintain peace and the cessation of hostilities," he said, stressing a mutual relationship of trust and respect with the communities.

With the help of six AB-212 helicopters, ITALAIR crews are ready to take off in less than 30 minutes to perform different types of missions including evacuations, daily reconnaissance and observation flights throughout UNIFIL area of operations and along the Blue Line.

Following the reinforcement of UNIFIL at the end of the 2006 war, UNIFIL has seen three Force Commanders from Italy lead the Mission: Gen. Claudio Graziano (2007-2010), Gen. Paolo Serra (2012-2014) and Gen. Luciano Portolano (2014-2016).

With more than 1,100 troops currently in UNIFIL, Italy is the second largest contributor. Italian Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Sganga leads UNIFIL's Sector West command. There are also at least 20 Italian military staff officers serving in the Mission headquarters.

Major Leandro Giordano

Strategic Communications and Public Information Office



Training together



UN Photo/Pascal G. Marcos

Close cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) is key to the implementation of UN resolution 1701, which forms the core of the UN Mission's mandate. The resolution mandated UNIFIL, among other things, to accompany and support LAF as they deployed throughout south Lebanon. Both forces work shoulder-to-shoulder with the shared goal of maintaining the existing calm and ensuring a safe and secure environment in south Lebanon.

In the crux of UNIFIL's close cooperation with its strategic partner, the LAF, lies a series of joint trainings between the two forces. It has led to the consolidation of two-way channels of exchange of knowledge and expertise, while building better and unified codes for communication and coordination between the two.

Such joint activities include training together on fire safety, live firing, combat rescue, explosive ordnances, attack dogs, crowd and riot control, maritime operations, military decision making process, combat medical aid, urban combat and vehicle maintenance.

The enhanced cooperation and joint activities between the two forces have become all the more important now – especially given the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 2373 (2017) calling for increased support of and coordination with the LAF in south Lebanon.

Speaking about one of such joint trainings held at the main base of UNIFIL's Force Commander's Reserve (FCR), chief of training there Major Frederique said, "This training is to upgrade the level of the LAF in order to reach the full operational capabilities."

Former commander of the LAF troops operating in UNIFIL's area of operations (AO), Brig. Gen. George Shreim, described these trainings as "regular, systematic, hands on,

versatile, and in the words of their participants, mutually beneficial."

Maj. Frederique echoes Brig. Gen. Shreim's activity description of being of mutual benefit. She says a recent training with the LAF's Fifth Intervention Regiment, deployed to the UNIFIL AO in Sept. 2017, was of "great interest and excitement."

One example, she adds, was that during the training both the French peacekeepers and LAF soldiers noticed that they each have certain techniques of forming a group for forceful building searches.

"We provide our training and they provide their real-life experience," commented Major Frederique.

UNIFIL peacekeepers conduct training activities with the LAF at the headquarters as well as in the field. In 2016, the two forces conducted 72 training courses, benefitting 821 LAF soldiers. In 2017, that number increased to 89 training courses benefitting 1,061 LAF soldiers. One such course is on "Military Decision Making Process" in UNIFIL's Sector East area. The training is mainly about the steps to follow while making decisions at tactical and operational levels. In addition, the training helps the commander and other personnel in examining the battlefield situation and developing estimates and plans.

Such joint activities are not limited to the land only. UNIFIL peacekeepers with its Maritime Task Force (MTF) and Lebanese Navy soldiers conducted about 700 maritime training activities in 2016 and 2017.

The Commander of UNIFIL MTF, Rear Admiral Sergio Fernando de Amaral Chaves Jr contextualized the importance of the joint training saying: "One of the pillars of MTF's mission is to help the Lebanese Navy with training so that one day they can assume all the duties in terms of taking care of the security aspects of their territorial waters."

UNIFIL MTF's onshore and offshore training has led to the establishment of a LAF Navy pool of instructors who, in turn, provide training to LAF Navy units on six core courses.

UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Michael Beary has said that such joint activities have not only kept the Lebanese territorial waters safe, but they also make an important contribution to the implementation of resolution 1701. "These joint activities form a significant deterrent against the illegal entry of weapons or related materials into Lebanon," he said.

Hiba Monzer

Strategic Communications and Public Information Office

What is the Blue Line?

1 On **25 May 2000** Israel unilaterally withdrew from Lebanon in compliance with **United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (1978)**.

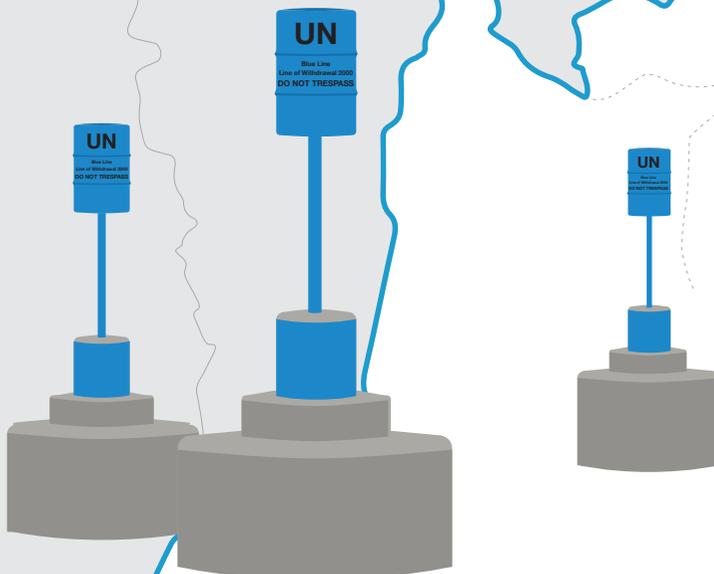
2 In **the absence** of an **agreed border**, the UN identified a **120 km Line of Withdrawal** to confirm the Israeli withdrawal.

3 This **Line of Withdrawal** is more commonly known as the **Blue Line**.

4 **The Blue Line is NOT a border** between Lebanon and Israel nor is it **intended to be one**. It is without any prejudice to future border agreements between the states.

5 In **2007 both parties agreed** to a **UNIFIL proposal** to **visibly mark** the **Line of Withdrawal (Blue Line)** on the ground.

6 **The Blue Line Barrels (markers)** act as a **reference** and also **directly contribute** to the **safety & security** of the **people** by **preventing inadvertent crossing**.



The Voices from the South

What does more Lebanese Army personnel in south Lebanon mean to you?

Following the deployment in late Sep. 2017 of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)'s Fifth Intervention Regiment to UNIFIL's area of operation between the Litani River and the Blue Line, **Al-Janoub's** Ghifar Charafeddine and Tilak Pokharel recently asked people of south Lebanon - from Tyre in the west to Ibl al-Saqi in the east - what the increased LAF presence in their communities meant to them.

Here are excerpts.

Hisham Hjazeyeh,
Minimarket owner, Tyre



It grows the feeling of safety, stability and tranquility for the people, who will have more trust in the State. I feel very proud of my army, this is my nation's army. In any other subject the Lebanese may disagree with one another, but when it comes to the army, it may be the only subject that unites all Lebanese from across the country.

Olina Ismail Tokko,
Nurse, Tebnine



I feel safer with more LAF soldiers here. I always offer flowers to the soldiers on the Army Day (1 August). LAF needs more attention and support in order to be able to fulfill its duties and defend the south. LAF is the best for this job. If LAF is given the opportunity to do its job effectively, like in Aarsal, it can do it effectively here too.

Akaber Monzer,
Electronics shop owner, Ibl al-Saqi



As the daughter of a LAF veteran, I consider LAF as part of my family. Their main responsibility is to maintain security and stability throughout the country. With more LAF soldiers in the south, we feel more stability. That means more business for me. We need even more of them, working together with UNIFIL. Even seeing the LAF uniform gives us the impression of stability. All the people in the south are happy about the deployment of more of our soldiers.

Mostafa Ossaili,
Gold shop owner, Shahabiah



LAF are a part of our family - brothers, sons for us. In a way, all Lebanese are LAF - for security and stability. Cooperation between LAF and UNIFIL has an added value to our security. It's all complimentary. LAF protect our land, family and communities, and we protect them. More of them coming here means it's like a family reunion. Soldiers are more important than my house.

Linda Jawad,
Home accessories shop owner,



When I see the LAF I feel that I belong to this country. They are strong in terms of their abilities because of their dedication. But they need everybody's support, in terms of weaponry. I feel proud to see my army here. It makes me feel more hopeful for a better future.

Hussein Haidar,
Pharmacist, Toura



The increase in the number of Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers in the south gives people a sense of security. The Lebanese Armed Forces presence ensures more stability. It also ensures economic stability. More LAF troops also results in the return of the (displaced) people to their villages and towns and more investment there.

Sheikh Jawad Ghoban,
Bakery shop owner, Ibl al-Saqi



We have been seeing more Government presence, making us feel safer. The presence of more Lebanese Armed Forces troops, who are very respected, is very appreciated here. The presence of LAF soldiers gives us a sense of peace. It is also the sign of the presence of the state and the Government.

BREAKING GROUND

UNIFIL and LAF partner around civil military cooperation



In response to a request from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), UNIFIL is working with the Spanish contingent and Municipality of Marjayoun to establish LAF's civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) South regional centre in Marjayoun, which is scheduled to complete in the first half of 2018.

UNIFIL is providing monetary support to LAF in establishing the centre within the Mission's area of operation. Having a functioning LAF CIMIC regional centre in south Lebanon will support the missions of both UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army by enhancing their strategic partnership within the area of civil military cooperation. It will also benefit the population in the south by helping to assess and address their needs, and the capabilities of the local government and civilian organizations.

Ground has already been broken in setting up the new structure.

UNIFIL has its CIMIC units right across the Mission's area of operation – from headquarters in Naqoura to battalions – carrying out small-scale projects directly benefiting local communities. Each year, UNIFIL and various troop-contributing countries spend about \$3.5 million in such projects – from addressing education, the environment, health and sports. UNIFIL for the first time, in 2016, involved its strategic partner, the LAF, in implementing CIMIC projects in the communities.

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.

During the visit by a LAF CIMIC chief to UNIFIL Headquarters on 1 March 2017, UNIFIL Force Commander Maj. Gen. Michael Beary assured Bri. Gen. Elie Abi Rached that UNIFIL would extend support "within our means and capabilities" to LAF CIMIC's plan to establish a regional CIMIC centre in south Lebanon.

"I personally believe that having an accessible, functioning and mobile LAF CIMIC in the south will be of great importance in maintaining the safe and stable environment," the UNIFIL head told Bri. Gen. Rached. "I also hope that our partnership in CIMIC will be of great benefit for UNIFIL civil interaction on the ground."

Ewa Turyk-Mazurek
Civil Affairs Office

UNIFIL Notice

UNIFIL is committed to ensuring that its personnel act in accordance with the highest standards of conduct and behaviour. If you observe any behaviour that might fall short of these high standards, please let us know by contacting the Regional Conduct and Discipline Section by **e-mail** unifil-cdu@un.org or on **01-926 215/6/7/8/9**

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>

UNIFIL: We Work With You

From joint 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 450 UNIFIL activities that happen every single day in south Lebanon.