

**UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
(UNIFIL)**

Naqoura,
2 October 2006

PRESS RELEASE

LAF Deploys in the South including along the Blue Line

This morning the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) started deploying along the Blue Line after the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew from South Lebanon, except from the general area of Ghajar north of the Blue Line which is still under IDF control. The LAF deployment continued throughout the day.

After conducting extensive patrolling on 1-2 October, UNIFIL troops from the Ghanaian, French, Spanish and Indian battalions confirmed that there were no IDF troops present in these areas.

Today, UNIFIL Acting Force Commander **Brig.-General J.P. Nehra** met with **General M. Sleiman**, Commander of LAF, at UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura. The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation between UNIFIL and LAF in light of the IDF withdrawal and LAF deployment throughout South Lebanon. The situation around Ghajar was also discussed.

“I have informed General Sleiman that we are in the process of finalizing a plan for Ghajar which we hope will be acceptable to all concerned,” said **Brig.-General J.P. Nehra**, *“As has been already stressed by the UNIFIL Force Commander, we expect the IDF to leave the Ghajar area this week.”*