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**UNIFIL, INSTRUMENT FOR PEACE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

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UNIFIL, INSTRUMENT FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Abstract:

The situation and data provided in this article correspond to the time period January 2010 - January 2102. At that time the author of this article served as Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL. From then until now there have been some changes in the situation in the region and in particular in the AOR of UNIFIL: The Syrian conflict and direct involvement of Hezbollah in it, one of the main contributing countries has reduced its number of troops and the European Union has declared the militia Hezbollah as a terrorist group. All this can complicate compliance and operational activities related to the population because the mission UNIFIL deployed in an area where the population is predominantly Shiite and therefore akin to that party.

Nevertheless, UNIFIL's mandate has not changed and therefore its mission and objectives have not been any changes so that everything stated in this article, including the findings, is valid today, having produced advances in those and being able to ensure that, now more than ever, their presence is absolutely necessary to play an important role for the stability and security in the area.

Keywords:

UNIFIL, Hezbollah, Middle East, Resolution 1701.

***NOTE:** Only the authors are responsible for the ideas contained in the *Documents of Opinion* and they do not have to necessarily reflect the opinion of the IEEE or the Ministry of Defence.

UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon), was born in March 1978, as a result of UN Security Council's (UNSC) resolutions 425 and 426, which established a mandate of three fundamental missions: Confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Southern Lebanon, restore international peace and security, and help the Lebanese government in exercising its authority in the area. These missions remain valid today.

Subsequently, resolution 1559 of September 2004 reaffirms the strict respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon, all under the exclusive authority of the government, appealing for the withdrawal of international forces that are still in the country, and what is more, it calls for the disbanding and disarmament of all militias, both Lebanese and foreign. These missions also remain valid today.

UNSC's resolution 1701 of August 2006, after the war between Hezbollah and Israel in the summer of that year, requests support by Israeli and Lebanese governments and their commitment to reach a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution to the conflict, based, among others, on the following principles: that both parties respect the Blue Line (which is not an international border but a line for withdrawal of Israeli armed forces or line of separation of forces), and establish security agreements between the parties in order to avoid the comeback of hostilities, including the establishment of a free-of-armed-personnel, media and weapons area, other than those of the Lebanese government and of UNIFIL.

Res. 1701, moreover, asks the Lebanese government, on the one hand, to disarm all armed groups in Lebanon (according to resolution 1559) and, on the other hand, UNIFIL to prevent, deter and, if it occurs, mitigate and normalise any hostile action, along with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), from their area of responsibility, as well as helping them to exercise control of security in that area.

This last resolution, whose mandate is annually renewed in August, is the frame in which the current UNIFIL, Lebanon, Israel, and the international community are committed to the goal of reaching stability in the zone as a prelude to a PERMANENT CEASE FIRE.

Thus, the essence of the mission and the final result expected is moving from a cease of hostilities to a PERMANENT CEASEFIRE that leads to a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon, which would materialise on the ground through a process of delineation of borders, that is, moving from the current line of separation of forces (Blue Line) to an international borders that separates Israel from Lebanon.

According to the mandate, there are two fundamental missions to be accomplished by UNIFIL: Prevent hostilities to reappear and establish the necessary conditions to deliver to the LAF the tasks related to security. The first implies preventing and, if there is a hostile action, reducing the tension and mitigating the effects in order to come back to calm; and the second involves not only the technical aspect but also the political, taking into account

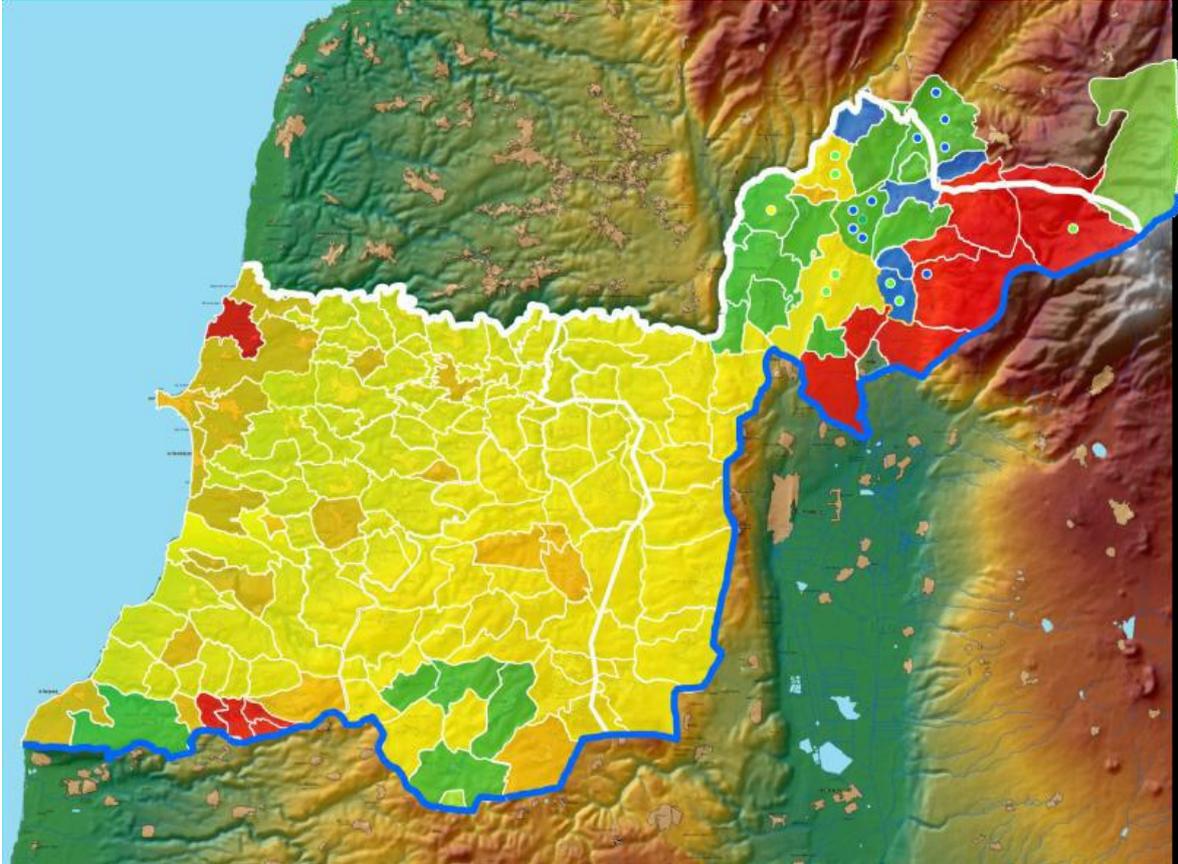
that the Lebanese government has already demonstrated that the strategic defence of the country is based on the formula "Army, Nation and RESISTANCE".

Then, what is the main challenge of this endeavour? It clearly is building trust, especially between the parties, which represents great difficulties, taking the history of direct confrontations since 1978 into account (excluding the establishment of the State of Israel), but more than that, the presence of Hezbollah as a core of Resistance is a problem that must be managed carefully. On the other hand, the challenge of building trust to UNIFIL has to do with all of the parties,, as there still are misinterpretations on behalf of the ones respecting the role of the mission; firstly, Israel must be convinced that Hezbollah is not nullifying UNIFIL's work, and secondly, the population must not see UNIFIL as a spy from Israel; both ideas (deliberate or accidental) still persist in some (rather few) circles in the surrounding of the Resistance.

Another fact that makes it difficult to implement resolution 1701 is that, whereas the actors of the war in 2006 were Hezbollah and Israel, the signatories of the cease of hostilities agreement were the two governments and that, both the Lebanese government and the international community have not been able to disarm Hezbollah, which according to the Defence Policy of Lebanon, it is considered as Resistance, as it maintains its military arsenal aside of the Lebanese state.

It can be seen that the mission is not easy to accomplish, or rather, we could define it as complex, taking into account that it is developed in a conflictive region with two countries in war (only with a cease of hostilities at the moment), with more than 12 000 soldiers from 36 different countries, and more than 1 000 UN officials and with a naval force of 9 war ships,,,,, all of it possibly makes that the most important peace-keeping mission is developed in the world within the UN.

Taking into account that Lebanon has an area of similar extension to the region of Asturias, where the mission is developed in a relatively small area in the south of the country, covering an area of 1026 km², between the Litani River and the so-called Blue Line (BL), in which, besides UNIFIL, three brigades and two battalions of the LAF are deployed (6 000 troops approximately), so that it can be considered that the territory is fairly saturated; this last data is important considering that most of the population is Shiite, with some Christian, Sunnis and Druze groups, but that all of them are RESISTANCE, as before 2006, there was no army deployed by UNIFIL in the area and that, therefore, their territory has been defended, which demonstrates that they have weapons. This fact has not been denounced by Israel but, except the discovery of certain rockets, ammunition, and explosives, the arsenals and the amount of weapons that Hezbollah owns has not been able to prove in the UNIFIL's area of responsibility, although we cannot really say that they don't exist, as UNIFIL has no permission to enter private properties and the task of disarming this armed group belongs to



That is a violation of resolution 1701 by every party in the conflict, that is, on behalf of the Lebanese, the existence of the armed group Hezbollah, and on behalf of the Israeli, the systematic and almost daily violation of the Lebanese air space. Both violations are permanently denounced by the UN Secretary General in his semester report.

That in the current situation, both Hezbollah and Israel maintain a kind of Cold War, being mutually respected, due to previous experiences in war and to grave consequences that would be new conflict for them.

That Israel would make the government of Lebanon responsible for any aggression on behalf of Hezbollah against its territory, population or goods, provided that, as it has been already stated, Lebanon counts on Resistance as one of the pillars of its defence and, therefore, composed of the existence of an armed branch in that political party, which would give legitimacy to Israel to act against Lebanon, not only against Hezbollah.

The Head of Mission (HoM) and Force Commandant count on an adequate structure so as to accomplish the missions imposed by the UNSC's mandate, and it is based on three fundamental pillars, the operative, with troops provided by the contributing countries; the political, with an expert team of UN officials; and the supportive in logistics and personnel,

with another team of UN officials with great experience in peace-keeping missions. One must add other information, liaison and security organisms to the three pillars, under direct orders of the Head of Mission and Force Commandant (HoM-FC)

The Force, or operational element (approx.: 12,000 troops) are organised around the Headquarters, two Brigade Sectors with 5-6 battalions each, currently led by Spain and Italy respectively, a Reserve led by France, a Maritime Force currently composed of 9 war ships from different countries and led by Brazil, and a series of support and logistic units, including helicopters (currently 5, 4 of them provided by Italy and 1 by UNIFIL). Moreover, the HoM-FC have under operational control the UNTSO mission held in Israel.

The integrated command structure allows working at a diplomatic level with strong operational capacities on land, sea, and air.

The operational structure is authorised to reach 15,000 troops, but it has never got to more than 13,000 (12,500 at the time of my command), and had the drawbacks of most multinational structures,..., staff personnel, logistics and transmissions, some are excessive and others are redundant, as in all countries with battalion and high representation want to have their own resources in those areas, in fact, in June 2010, a full deployment was made reaching 4,300 troops deployed at once on the ground (except for the Reserve forces), which, without soldiers with official permission, it proved that there were too many troops in charge of staff, logistic and support tasks. This last data is important when evaluating and revising the necessary force within UNIFIL, provided that the present situation is not the same as in 2006 and that it is constantly changing, therefore, it is necessary to adapt forces to the requirements.

Currently, there is a process called Strategic Review that intends to transfer UNIFIL tasks to the LAF, so as to progressively decrease the presence of UN troops at the same time that the LAF take charge of control and security in the area until the presence of UNIFIL is only symbolic or unnecessary, leaving, in the end, a final group of observers that make sure that the parties accomplish the agreements. This situation is yet to come, but it will not come until the parties of the conflict agree on a DEFINITIVE CEASEFIRE, which is not in the hand of UNIFIL but rather in those parties on the political territory, where strategic decisions are made.

In order to fulfil the mission, there are a series of critical factors among which we must highlight the commitment of all parties to the resolution 1701 and, moreover, the commitment and support of the contributing countries, the quality and preparation of the deployed troops with their logistics and equipment, the operational capacities of the LAF to support UNIFIL and take over its tasks, the establishment of a UNIFIL-LAF and a UNIFIL-IDF relationships, based on the transparency and impartiality to gain credibility and build trust among all the parties, correctly inform the local population about the UNIFIL mission, take

into account, from a political perspective, domestic and regional issues so as to act carefully and in the right time as a permanent goal, which it is necessary to progress towards a PERMANENT CEASEFIRE between Israel and Lebanon.

The priorities to fulfil the mission set by UNIFIL have been the following.

Establishing close liaison and coordination in both sides with the aim of maintaining the cease of hostilities and implement a series of operational procedures that decrease the risk of incidents.

Making sure that both sides respect the Blue Line over its entire length and accelerate its adequate marking in order to avoid a deliberate or accidental crossing of any of the two parties.

Building trust with each side and between them.

Helping and supporting the LAF, establishing a complete coordination with them and an absolute collaboration with UNIFIL in those activities that are more sensitive and important (within their possibilities).

Trying to achieve the definite drawback of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) from the northern part of Ghadjar, as well as the cease of overflights in the Lebanese territory.

The Protection and improvement of conditions of the Forces and the UNIFIL civilian personnel.

The most important operational activity by UNIFIL is the coordination and collaboration with the LAF, which, moreover, is the most sensitive in order to avoid incidents and, therefore, it is developed in those places where the probability of them occurring is bigger. These places are mainly along the Blue Line, the areas where the rockets were launched against Israel in previous confrontations and the crossing spots of the Litani River so as to control the entry of armament in the Area of Operations, in the case that UNIFIL has no permission to register any vehicles, having to monitor and support and help the LAF if necessary.

When operational requirements make it necessary, the presence of the LAF would be fundamental in order to avoid that any individual causes an incident with the patrol, in those towns in which the UNIFIL presence is small, that can cause damage to them, both the patrol and the image of UNIFIL's peace-keeping mission.

The Maritime Force (MTF), meanwhile, has the following fundamental missions: exercising maritime interdiction operations (MIO) in the area of maritime operations (AMO), helping the LAF to prevent weapon trafficking and also the materials related to armament and used to train the LAF, performing exercises to improve their capacities so as to exercise its sovereign rights in the future. In addition, with their presence in Lebanese territorial waters,

the international community shows its commitment to the achievement of peace and stability in the area and is, at the same time, useful to UNIFIL, due to the control of the Israeli overflights in the Lebanese territory that, as we have already mentioned, are a clear violation of resolution 1701.



The slide features a blue background with a satellite view of the Mediterranean Sea. At the top, the title 'UNIFIL – MARITIME TASK FORCE' is written in yellow, underlined. Below it, the word 'MISSION' is also in yellow, underlined. The main text, in yellow, describes the task force's role in Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in the Area of Maritime Operations (AMO), assisting in the prevention of arms smuggling and providing training to Lebanese authorities. A red box at the bottom lists the 'Twofold mandate for MTF' with two bullet points: 'Maritime Interdiction' and 'LAF-Navy training'. The UNIFIL logo is in the top right corner. The date '17 September 2013' and 'OPS briefing' are at the bottom left and right respectively.

UNIFIL – MARITIME TASK FORCE

MISSION

By showing presence and conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in the Area of Maritime Operations (AMO)

UNIFIL MTF assists in the prevention of smuggling of arms and arms related materials into Lebanon and provides training and exercises in order to enable Lebanese authorities to execute their sovereign rights

Twofold mandate for MTF:

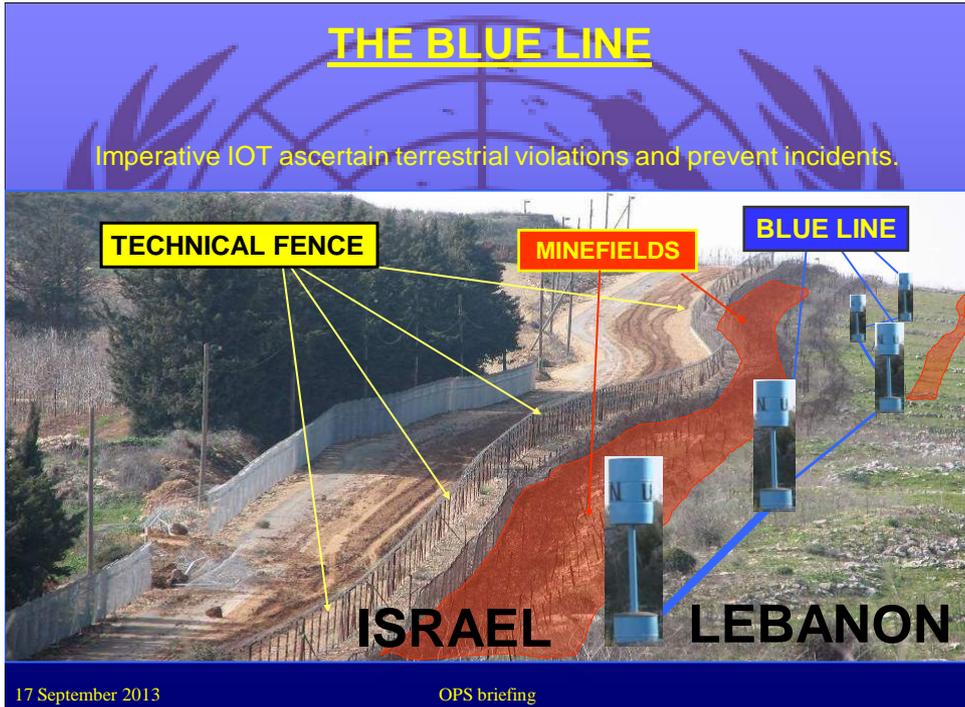
- **Maritime Interdiction**
- **LAF-Navy training**

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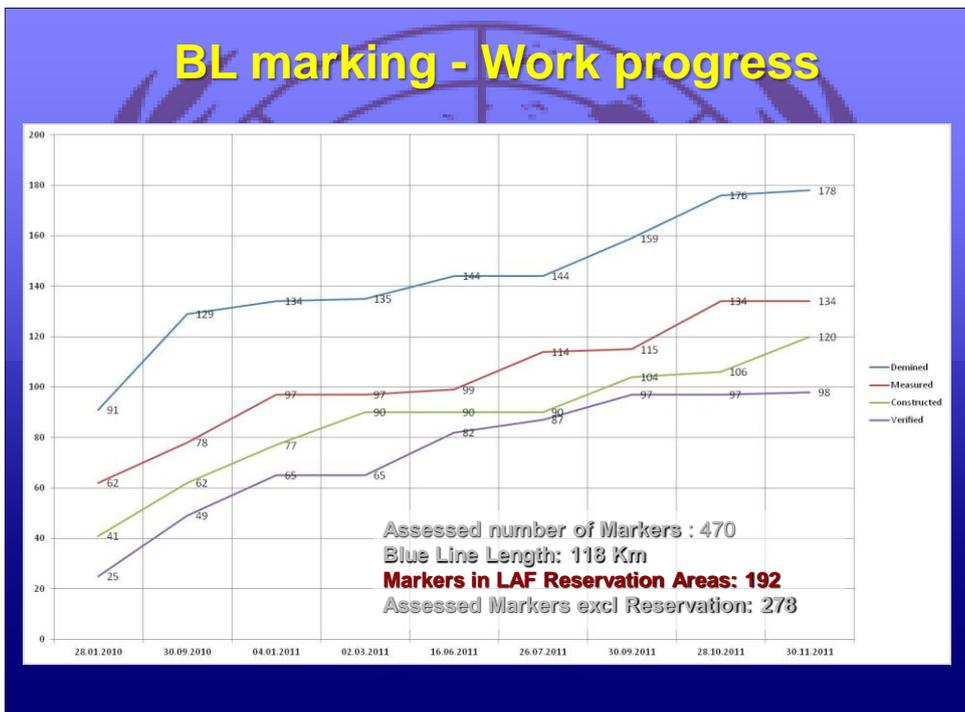
Also, an important element of the UNIFIL activities is the one related to CIMIC; any activity in this field serves to gain the minds, trust, hearts of the people, and it has a positive impact on the effectiveness and result of operations. UNIFIL and the contributing countries make a considerable effort to both economic and in human and material resources in this field, not only of the making of quick impact projects for the benefit of communities, but also with reconstruction work, mine clearance, medical and veterinary assistance, language courses, etc. Spain, in collaboration with the Cervantes Institute, is doing a great job in teaching the Spanish language in the area under Spanish responsibility.



As it has already been stated, one of the priorities of HoM-FC in these last two years has been the adequate marking of the Blue Line. In this regard, the non-visibility situation in some of its parts causes, as a result, ignorance and misunderstanding on behalf of the population, that still confuses the Blue Line and the Technical Fence built by the Israeli as a defensive measure (which in some sections coincides with the Blue Line, but when this does not happen, it is always located in its southern part and, therefore, in the Israeli section), and it also causes accidental violations of the BL. This originates incidents that can increase the tension between the parties and even lead to an armed conflict between the LAF and the IDF, as it happened on the 3rd of August 2010, when the felling of a tree by the IDF close to the Israeli Technical Fence, provoked an exchange of fire between both sides, resulting in 4 deaths (3 Lebanese and 1 Israeli), several people injured and damage to the Lebanese infrastructures; the immediate and ulterior intervention of UNIFIL was crucial to achieve the cease of hostilities, however, the trust between the two parties was very damaged and many efforts were needed to restore it and come back to the previous situation.

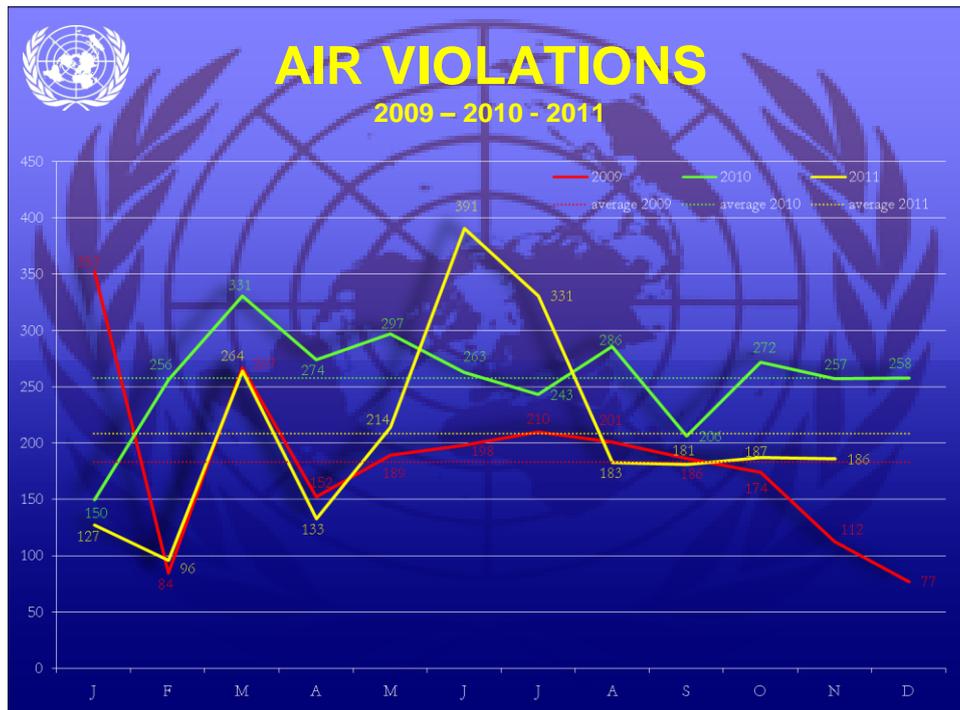


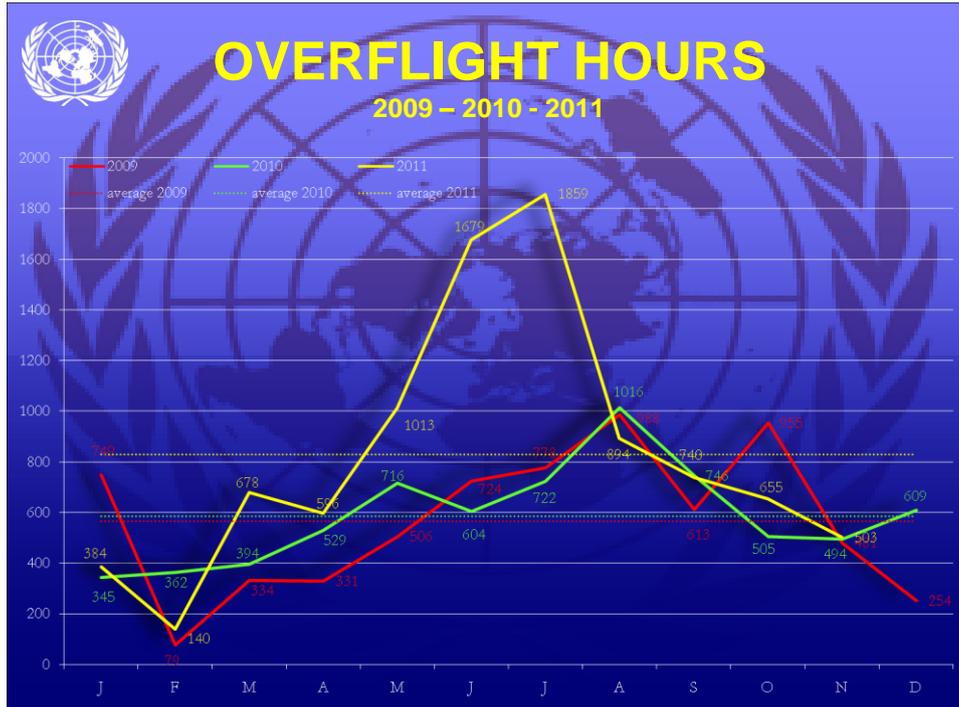
The marking process is complex, each spot requires the agreement of both sides, demining where necessary, measure and that every part agree on the measurement, build and install the barrel and, finally, test it and accept it.



In late January 2012, that is, two years after the takeover of the HoM-FC in the mission, the progress of the adequate marking of the Blue Line has been significant, in relation to January 2010, demining, measuring and installing more than the double of what it had been done during the previous four years, taking into account, moreover, than during 10 months, that process was completely stopped due to the lack agreement of both parties. There are, moreover, thirteen reserved areas on which the parties do not agree and, although they agreed to respect the whole length of the BL, they do not want to mark the spots because of territorial claims that they have to resolve before that line becomes an international border in the future; in these reserved areas, the length of the BL represents approximately 40% of its total length, and they are areas with which they have to be careful because of the bigger possibility of having incidents.

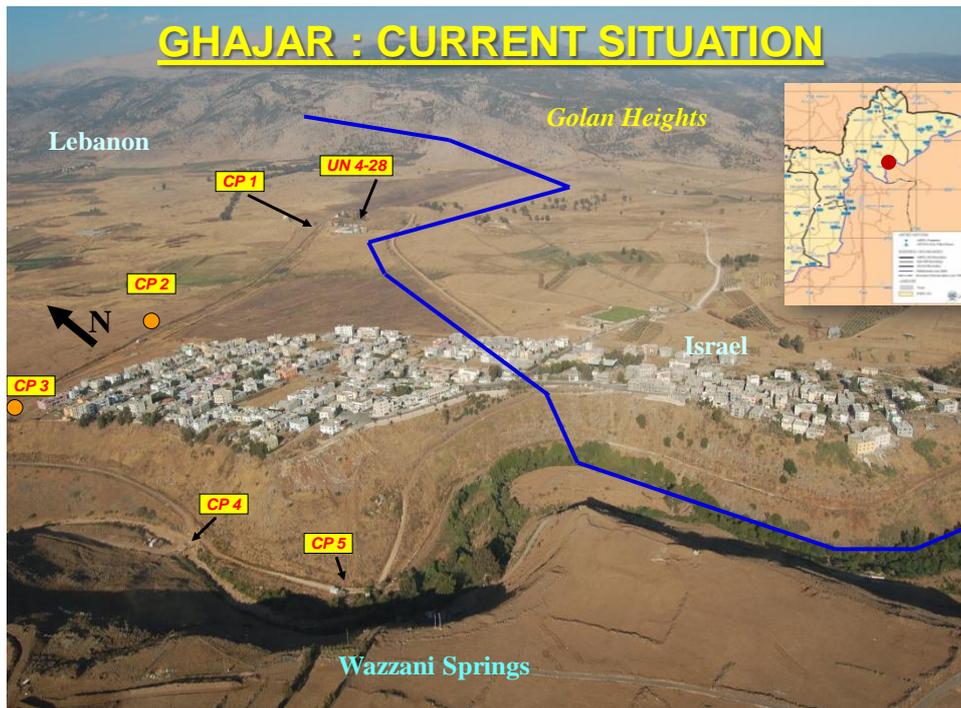
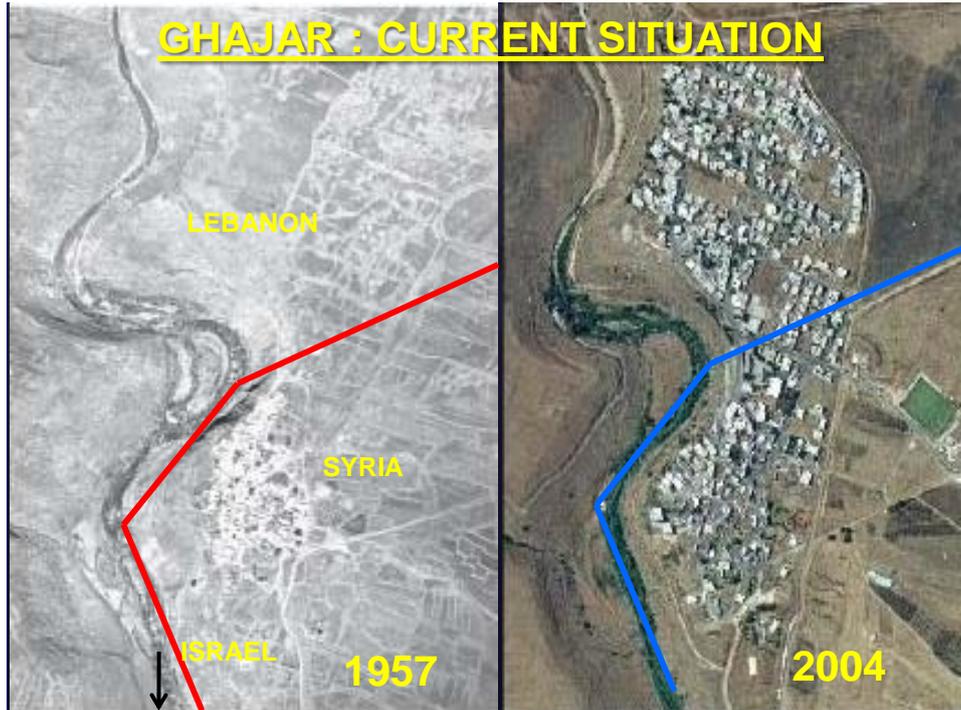
As for the air violations by Israel, and as it has already been mentioned, they are a matter of concern and discussion between the parties. The violations practically occur every day and with more or less intensity, depending on the weather conditions and special celebrations. UNIFIL thoroughly controls them through radar detection means and daily reports to the UN, both on the number of overflights and on the hours and areas overflown.





In terms of maritime affairs, the most important issue has to do with the Lebanese territorial waters. The buoy line separating Lebanon and Israel was defined unilaterally by Israel, and it differs by 20 degrees to the claiming of the Lebanese authorities. This line is located 2km to the south of the UNIFIL's CG in Naqura, and this core of incidents, without creating major problems, will be the centre of great tensions in the future because of the oil and gas deposits recently found in international waters and whose location affects Cyprus, Israel and Lebanon. The solution to this problem is difficult taking into account that Israel has not signed the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) and the parties haven't agreed on their maritime borders. Meanwhile, UNIFIL has been required a report on the incidents in the buoy line, but it is not authorised to act on it, as it is not included in the mission of resolution 1701.

Another issue that concerns UNIFIL, and that is a permanent violation by Israel, is the non-cease and, therefore, occupation of parts of the north of Gadhjar, which is divided into two by the Blue Line, and the northern part belongs to Lebanon. The Syrian-Lebanese border was originally set in the north of Gadhjar, but the permanent presence of Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) since 1967 has made that the town grows towards the north of that border and that its population, mainly Syrians (Alawites), has the Israeli citizenship and live under Lebanese territory. This situation has contributed to the growth of the population between 1957 and 2004, as it can be observed below. Currently, about two thirds of the 2,121 inhabitants of that village live in Lebanese territory.

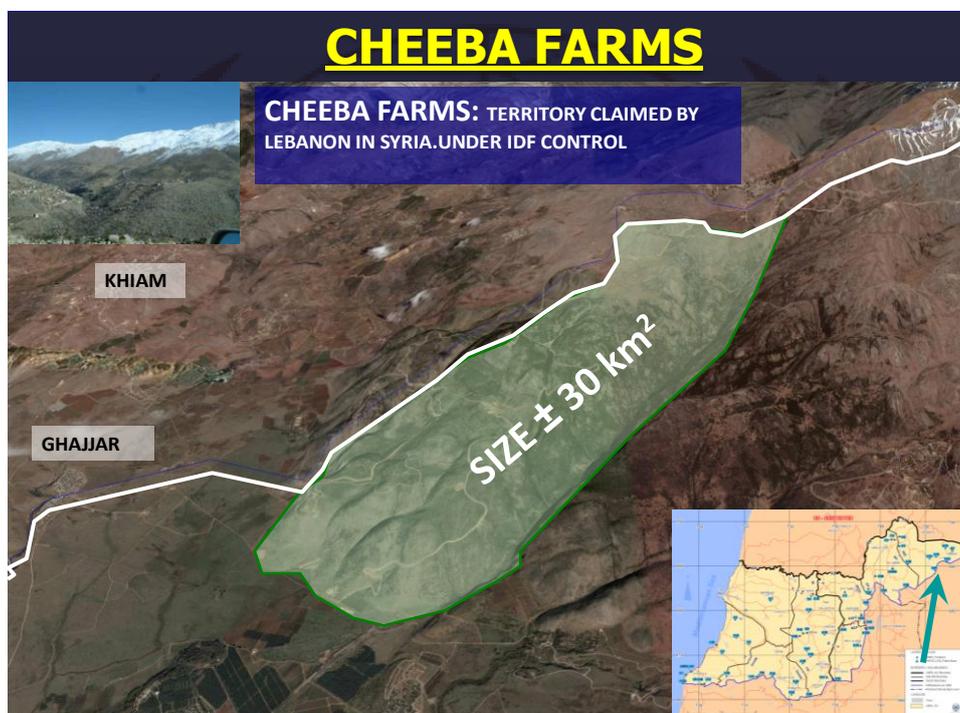


Gadhjar is very important because of its proximity to the waters coming from the springs of the Wazzani River which, at the same time, feed the Hasbani River; the springs and the river not only provide water to Gadhjar and the neighbouring towns and lands, they also are the

largest suppliers of water to Jordan Valley. After the year 2000, in which the UN cartographers identified the BL passing through the centre of the town, it was decided not to divide the town and threaten their coexistence, wishing, moreover, to maintain their current status. Gadhjar and its surrounding area are monitored by UNIFIL and by Spanish and Salvadorian soldiers through a fixed position outside the town, and 5 check points, in two of which, there are Lebanese troops.

Gadhjar is an unresolved issue despite the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statements to the UN in November 2010, when he announced his government's willingness, "in principle", to order the withdrawal of the IDF from the north of Gadhjar, which, to date, his Council of Ministers hasn't approved after that UNIFIL immediately started working on a Security Plan. After several meetings, in both Israel and Lebanon, UNIFIL sent the plan to both parties in June 2011, receiving an almost immediate positive response from the Lebanese, whereas the Israeli haven't answered yet. At this point, it is necessary to clarify that, without the approval of the Security Plan by the parties, it is not possible to start working on the rest of the plans, such as the Diplomatic, the Domestic, and the Law and Order ones.

The Gadhjar case is the paradigm that, no matter the interest, effort, resources and means that UN puts on this, any step forward made through UNIFIL regarding the implementation of resolution 1701 always depends on the willingness and intention of the parties.



In relation to the Cheeba Farms, these are located in Syrian territory, claimed by Lebanon and under the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). In accordance with the documents from the beginning of the last century, the inhabitants of the Farms paid their taxes to Lebanon. In 1923, France determined the border between Syria and Lebanon, located in that territory, to be on the Syrian side, without existing any conflict of sovereignty until 1967, in which, at the time of the Six-Day War, Israel occupied the Golan Heights, including the Cheeba Farms. In the year 2000, Lebanon claimed the sovereignty of that territory. This area is a permanent source of conflict and incidents due to the inadequate marking of the BL, because of being a reserved area and of the rugged land, as well as of Hezbollah using the claims for those territories as an excuse to continue being armed. The solution of the sovereignty of the land of the Farms occupied by Israel, can be made through an agreement between Syria, Israel and Lebanon, so it is an issue that goes beyond the mandate imposed by resolution 1701 and, therefore, also the tasks to accomplish by UNIFIL.

One of the key factors for the success of the mission consists of building trust between the parties and between the parties and UNIFIL. Monthly, in this regard, a meeting called Tripartite is held, between a commission of the LAF and another from the IDF, headed by UNIFIL's HoM-FC. This meeting is held close to the BL, in Lebanese territory, and it is the only forum in the world in which members from Israel and Lebanon meet to discuss issues that affect them both. The Tripartite deals issues related to resolution 1701 and it mainly focuses on its implementation, in the cease of hostilities. This meeting is fundamental as liaison and coordination element among the parties, in which they tackle tactical, operational and security issues, as well as the violations from both sides to the resolution 1701.



TRIPARTITE FORUM

- Only forum where Lebanon and Israel engage each other
- Military forum focusing on cessation of hostilities
- Coordinated withdrawal of IDF and LAF deployment South of Litani
- Addresses key security and military operational issues, including violations
- Critical element for liaison and coordination
- Essential confidence building mechanism between the parties

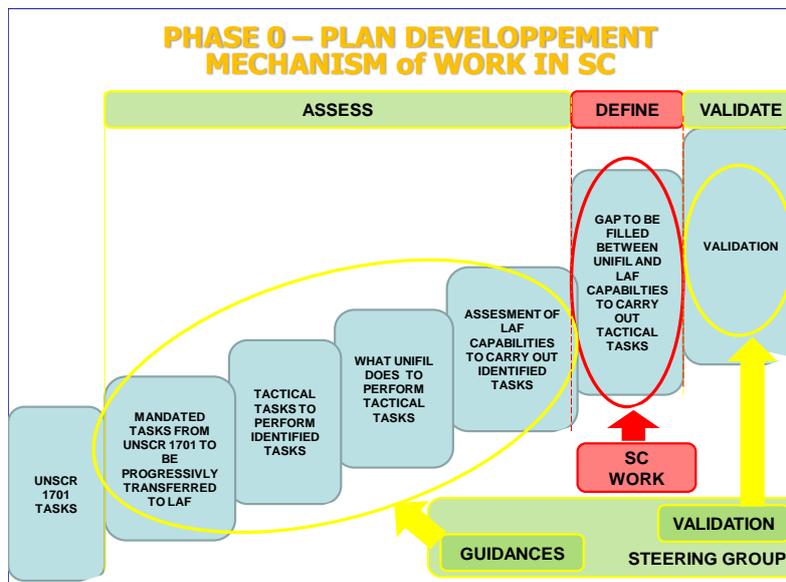
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At this point, it is noteworthy that, thanks to this liaison and coordination mechanism, many security problems have been resolved, as well as, in general, the CEASE OF HOSTILITIES is practically achieved; the parties collaborate with UNIFIL to make sure that no incidents occur and they don't show any intention to. However, at a political level, in which strategic decisions are made, no reunion has been held to in order to initiate an approach to ultimate goal of resolution 1701 (2006), that it, the PERMANENT CEASEFIRE..., now one must ask: if the military of both sides are capable of sitting to deal issues that affect them on the ground to maintain the cease of hostilities and the security and stability of the region, why don't diplomacy and politics start doing it? Whereas the current situation is maintained, Israel and Lebanon will not be able to solve important issues such as the establishment of internationally recognised borders or the issue about the gas and oil resources recently found in the sea and of which we have previously spoken, and any other issue that, as neighbours, they must solve peacefully.

The cooperation with the LAF is a vital issue to UNIFIL, and the regular dialogue mechanism called "Strategic Dialogue" has been established, whose main goal is to transfer, progressively, UNIFIL responsibilities to them. In order to do that, a specific structure has been set, which, to date, has achieved 5 meetings in which: forces and terrestrial capabilities have been analysed, a correlation and difference between capabilities have been established and their possibilities.

UNIFIL has helped the LAF identify the operational necessities and requirements so as to do the tasks related to resolution 1701, and it has explored the way to facilitate gradually the exercise of responsibilities by the LAF in security issues, regarding the UNIFIL's are of responsibility and the Lebanese territorial waters.

The graph shows a global view of the conflict:



In order to give an idea of UNIFIL's magnitude, and the effort and commitment of the international community in maintaining the stability of the area and, therefore, of the region, it is convenient to provide some data on resources, both human, and economic and material.

Without taking soldiers' wages into account, which are paid by the international community, the UNIFIL's budget for the fiscal year June 2011-June 2012 increased up to 545.4 million dollars, for a total force of about 12,000 troops to which we must add 1,000 UN officials.

The mission has 3,840 vehicles, from which 680 are combat vehicles, as well as 7 helicopters (2 on board) and 9 war ships that, as a whole, consume 25 million litres of diesel per year, and 0.9 million litres of aviation fuel.

In terms of food, 30,000 lunches are served a day, which is 172 tons of food per week (the Spanish, Italian and French contingents are not included here, they are self-sufficient).

UNIFIL maintains 14 wells and 26 wastewater plants and 11 sewage treatment plants that serve the needs of the 63 positions distributed within the AOR.

The strategic reserves maintained in case of emergency are 124,000 forecasting rations, 1 million litres of drinkable water, 1 million litres of diesel, and 55,000 litres of aviation fuel.

CONCLUSION

Important conclusions from the presence of UNIFIL are the following:

- 1- The CEASE OF HOSTILITIES is practically achieved, being Politics the one having to act in order to achieve a PERMANENT CEASEFIRE.
- 2- At a tactical and operational level, great progress has been made so as to BUILD TRUST between the parties.
- 3- At the moment, the presence of UNIFIL with its current capabilities is absolutely necessary to the stability of the area, forces could be reduced but not CAPABILITIES.
- 4- THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARTIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY are key so as to accomplish mission required by the UNIFIL's mandate.
- 5- The COORDINATION, COLABORATION, AND SUPPORT TO THE LAF is absolutely necessary, not only because in the future they will have to assume the control of security in the area, but because of security itself and the protection of soldiers and civilian personnel of UNIFIL.
- 6- The international community and the UN will have to exercise a BIGGER PRESSURE ON THE PARTIES in order to end the systematic and permanent violations of resolution 1701, such as the existence of armed groups and other weapons that don't belong to the LAF or

UNIFIL, the Israeli overflights in the Lebanese territory, and the Israel occupation of the northern part of Gadhjar.

7- The formula, POPULATION-ARMY-RESISTANCE for the defence of Lebanon would make responsible to the government of this country of any hostile action that Hezbollah could make against Israel, and it would justify an armed action against Lebanon as a whole.

8- It is essential to complete the ADEQUATE MARKING OF THE BL in order to avoid incidents that can create a bigger conflict.

9- In the current situation, the key to keep progressing and achieve the goals set by resolution 1701 that can be summed up in two word: CALM AND TIME.

10- In Lebanon, due to its particular democratic structure, different interests of different countries or groups are at stake, THE POLITICAL ROLE OF UNIFIL SHOULD STICK TO THE STRICT AND IMPARTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MANDATE in its AOR, acting carefully and with patience at all times so as to make decisions when necessary.

11- UNIFIL IS A SOURCE OF INCOME for the local population, being the main company to hire personnel in the area and, possibly, in Lebanon, both with direct and indirect jobs.

12- UNIFIL's integrated command structure allows to work at a DIPLOMATIC LEVEL WITH STRONG OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES on land, sea, and air.

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Division General