



PRESS RELEASE

UNIFIL TROOP STRENGTH AND ACTIVITIES

Naqoura, Lebanon (15 December 2006) -- The strength of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has surpassed the 11,000 mark with the full deployment of an infantry battalion from Indonesia and an engineering unit from Portugal.

The current total of 11,018 from 23 countries, is made up of 9,124 ground troops and 1,747 naval personnel.

UNIFIL peacekeepers continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the local population, including medical, dental and veterinarian aid. Between 8-15 December, there were 552 instances where UNIFIL peacekeepers provided medical assistance, 109 instances of dental care, and 190 occasions on which veterinary services were provided.

Meanwhile, between 8-14 December, UNIFIL de-miners from various national contingents destroyed a total of 1,305 separate explosive devices. These include rockets, grenades and cluster bombs. Since the cease-fire came into effect on 14 August, UNIFIL de-miners from various national contingents have destroyed a total of 15,887 separate explosive devices.

For further information, please contact Ari Gaitanis at the UNIFIL Public Information Office on: gaitanis@un.org (email), +961 1 827 058 (telephone) and +961 1 827 016 (fax)