

Canadian Contingent Headquarters Task Force El Gorah OP CALUMET Sinai, Egypt PO Box 5237 Stn Forces Belleville, ON K8N 5W6 Quartier général du Contingent Canadien Force opérationnelle El Gorah OP CALUMET Sinaï, Égypte BP 5237 Succ Forces Belleville ON K8N 5W6

26 December 2019

South Delta Secondary School 750 53rd Street Delta, British Columbia V4M 3B7 Canada

Dear students and faculty,

On behalf of all the Canadian Armed Forces personnel who are currently deployed as part of Task Force El-Gorah on Operation CALUMET with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, I am writing to thank you for the countless letters received from South Delta Secondary School this holiday season. Many spoke of individual challenges being overcome and challenges conquered. As military personnel, we too, have daily challenges that we strive to conquer. Early mornings, meeting deadlines, and time zones make it difficult to communicate with our families back home. Being away from home also means that many family events and celebrations are missed, however, it is the support of our military family here that make these challenges easier to overcome.

The MFO is a mission that helps maintain peace between Egypt and Israel, and by extension has contributed towards stability in the Middle East for more than forty years. Our fifty-five-person team is a cross-section of people from across Canada of different occupational trades and ranks. We work closely with military personnel from twelve other troop-contributing nations from around the world. After reading your letters we can see that the staff and students of South Delta Secondary School and Task Force El-Gorah are one in the same – hard-working people from many backgrounds coming together to achieve amazing goals.

On behalf of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen of Operation CALUMET, thank you for taking the time to share your individual stories and experiences. Your encouragement and support have brought smiles to our faces. We wish you and your families all the best and more importantly a very Happy Holiday and prosperous New Year.

Go Sun Devils!

Ryan Smith Colonel

Commander Task Force El Gorah