

WILD CAT MASCOTS

Oman's Caracal Mascot by GREG BALAGIAN

The mascot of the second CISM World Football Cup held in Oman is probably the Asiatic caracal (*Caracal caracal schmitzi*) known for its speed and agility. The caracal mascot appears on a 2017 stamp for the second CISM World Football Cup with Muscat, the capital of Oman, as the venue.

Caracals have longer hind legs that help in jumping and climbing and distinctively large ears with black ear tufts.

The International Military Sports Council (IMSC), or *Conseil International du Sport Militaire* (CISM), is the second largest multidisciplinary sport organization in the world after the International Olympic Committee

(IOC). It was established in 1948 and holds over twenty annual competitions. It organizes various sporting events for the armed forces of 134 member countries. The aim of CISM is to promote sport activity and physical education between armed forces to foster world peace, and its motto is "Friendship through Sport."

Football, or as we call it soccer in the U.S., along with track and field and swimming, were first sport disciplines which had officially organized championships under the auspices of CISM.

The Sultanate of Oman is an Arab country on the southeastern coast of Arabian Peninsula. A vast gravel desert plain covers most of central Oman, with mountain ranges along the north and southeast coast. 🐾

Oman 599b depicts the caracal mascot for the second CISM World Football Cup held in Oman in 2017. An enlargement of the mascot is on the right.

