

BLUE BERET

Fresh troop rotation for UNFICYP this spring

CYPRUS – With the arrival of spring 2016, UNFICYP started a new troop rotation in all three Sectors and the mission's Headquarters, replacing a great group of soldiers, some of whom received commendations from the Force Commander for their outstanding service.

The first troops arrived in Sector 1 to succeed the outgoing ATF 46. Sector 1 Commander Gustavo Adolfo Visceglie, a Lieutenant Colonel of the Argentine Army, appointed Lieutenant Colonel Pablo Luis Guimpel as DCO of the new ATF 47; he will serve in that position for a term of six months before becoming Sector 1 Commander. ATF 47 consists of the Argentine Army, Navy and Air Force reinforced by Chilean, Paraguayan and Brazilian troops. The deployed military personnel are from units throughout Argentina's territory, from Rio Mayo in southern Patagonia to Salta in the north of the country. Almost 10 percent of the workforce is made up of female personnel, occupying prominent positions such as 2nd chief of the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR), head of Extended Patrol and head of San Martín Camp's medical section, as well as members of patrols. Most of the staff will remain on the island until September 2016.

Sector 4 rotation followed, with half the Slovak and Hungarian contingent and the whole Serbian platoon from Pyla changing guard. The new personnel are from across the whole of Slovakia, including soldiers from the Air Force and Military Police. Sector 4 aims to fulfil its duties to the highest standard and build the credibility of the Sector; leading this task for the next six months will be Sector 4 Commander Lt. Colonel Josef Panko, who has a solid reputation at mission HQ based on his previous results as a Commander in 2011–2012 and Liaison officer in

2015-2016. Sector 4 has also a significant contribution within the HQ supporting units, specifically in the Engineer Platoon, which is responsible for a various engineering tasks across the whole buffer zone. Currently, 21 women serve in Sector 4 in various positions; altogether, 76 Slovaks, 35 Hungarians and 44 Serbians took over responsibilities from their predecessors. Fresh personnel were also deployed to UNFICYP HQ in Nicosia, including a new Liaison Officer, Duty Officer, Force Engineer Assistant, Force Engineer Warrant Officer and troops with the Engineers Platoon, MFR and Force Military Police Unit (FMPU).

Finally, Sector 2's contingent rotation finished on 1st April, with the transfer ceremony of the British Contingent deployed in Cyprus held in Ledra Camp and chaired by the Force Commander, Major General Kristin Lund. Commanding Officer of Sector 2 UNFICYP, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Wight-Boycott of the 1 SCOTS Battle Group Royal Regiment of Scotland, put in office the new CO of URR UNFICYP, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Walker of 36 Engineer Regiment, who will serve in this position for the next six months. The new Sector 2 URR are drawn from 22 units from across the Force Troops Command (Division) of the British Army, commanded by Major General Tyrone Urch. It is made up of 42 percent reserves; the reservists include bank staff, undertakers, restaurateurs, landscape gardeners, oil and gas engineers, consultants, media and PR, lecturers, teachers, agronomists, bio-analytical scientists and many more. Almost 5 percent of the workforce is female, occupying a number of prominent positions. Nationalities include British, Nepalese and Foreign and Commonwealth citizens.





Mission Head Quaters

Major Jürgen LACCHINI (Civil Affairs Military Liaison Officer)



Major Jürgen LACCHINI started his military career as a Non-Commissioned Officer in an Engineer Regiment in the Austrian Armed Forces. Some years later, he started his training to become an officer and was commissioned in 2004. Very soon, he was called to the Austrian Ministry of Defence, where he worked for more than three years. In 2008, he was transferred to the Austrian Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT), starting out as the Training Officer for the predeployment training of all Austrian troops being deployed to the Golan Heights and quickly thereafter becoming the Chief Instructor for this training, which he conducted until 2012. After a year abroad,

he was posted within the HQ of the AUTINT and became the Personnel and Intelligence Officer of the unit. Major LACCHINI started to gain international mission experience in the year 2001 when he served in the Explosive Ordnance Disposal-Team of the Austrian Battalion, being part of UNDOF in the Golan Heights. Five years later, he was deployed in Bosnia to serve within EUFOR/Althea. In 2010, he became Operations Officer in UNDOF's Joint Operations Centre. Two years later, he served within UNTSO as a Military Observer. He started his tour in Syria, was then posted to Lebanon and completed this mission as Deputy Chief of the Liaison Office to Cairo. His passion for serving in the name of peace was passed on to him by his late father, who also served with UNFICYP for two and a half years. In 2001, they even managed to serve together on the Golan Heights. Major LACCHINI is interested in sports, travelling and archaeology. He is married to Jennifer, an English teacher at the University of Applied Sciences. They have two boys - Christopher, 7, and Gregor, 4.

Major Leon GALE AGC (RMP) (Force Provost Marshal)



Major Leon GALE joined the British Army in August 1992, serving with the Parachute Regiment as a soldier for eight years before attending the commissioning course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and joining the Royal Military Police in 2001. He has served at Regimental Duty in a number of appointments – from Platoon Commander to Company Commander – and has been predominantly operations-

focused throughout his career. His operational tours have included Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Iraq on TELIC 5, as well as two tours to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 8 and 19; he also served as the Close Protection Team Leader to the British Ambassador in Baghdad in 2010. He has also deployed on Short Term Training Teams to Nigeria and Canada. Post Staff College, his staff appointments have been at HQ 3(UK) Division as Staff Officer 2 Military Police and Chief-of-Staff at Tidworth Bulford and Netheravon Garrison, the largest in the British army. Major GALE is a keen fan of the English rugby union team and enjoys all aspects of fitness training. He is married to Leanne, with whom he has a one-year-old son, Henry, who takes up most of their free time. Major GALE was assigned to UNFICYP on 2 Apr 2016 as the Force Provost Marshal, his first mission with the United

Commander Leonardo MAUGERE DI MARCO (Force Signal Officer)



Commander Leonardo MAUGERE DI MARCO took over the post of Force Signal Officer on 21 February 2016. Born in Lima, Peru, to Argentinian parents, he took Argentinian citizenship and joined the navy in 1988, graduating from the Naval Academy as a Midshipman in 1992. He received his specialty in Communications in 1995, following which he was assigned to different units as Navigation Officer, Communications Officer and Operations Officer, taking part in a number of national and international exercises. He visited the Antarctic twice in the Argentinian Icebreaker as a Navigation Officer, and also spent two years as Deputy Commander (XO's) of an auxiliary ship. In 2008, he graduated from the Naval War College as a Command and Staff Officer, and in 2009, graduated from the Join Armed Forces War College. There he served as Deputy Team Leader, Team VICTOR. He also served for three years in the main Naval Communications Centre in the Navy HQ, and also one year as a Chief in the Argentinian Mission control Centre – COSPAS SARSAT System (Satellite Rescue). UNFICYP is his second UN mission experience; in 2011, he was deployed in Lebanon with UNTSO, as part of the Observer Group Lebanon, supporting UNIFIL mission as a military observer. Commander MAUGERE DI MARCO has a degree in Naval Systems and a postgraduate degree in Logistics. He used to be an avid rugby player, but today he enjoys watching his sons play rugby and is a big supporter of the Argentinian National team. He is married to Lorena, and has three children, Hernán (15), Gonzalo (12) and Pilar (5).



Sector 1

Lieutenant Colonel Luis Pablo Guimpel (Deputy Commanding Officer)



Lieutenant Colonel Luis Pablo Guimpel joined the Argentine Army in 1986, and graduated from the Military College in 1989 as 2nd Lieutenant of the Signal Corps. He has armoured and paratrooper special skills. During his career he has successfully fulfilled not only his military duties, but he also found time to complete his postgraduate studies, becoming a Doctor in Military Science. His first foreign experiences started in 1996 with the Signal Officer Advance Course at the Communications Center & Fort Gordon (US Army), followed by a position as an Assistant S-3 (Training Officer) in the 67th SIGBAT (US Army) in 1996 and finally two stints in the Brazilian Army School of Command and Staff as a student in 2006 and as Liaison Officer and Military Instructor in 2007. Within the Argentinian army, he has been assigned a number of posts, most recently 141th SIGBAT Commanding Officer. He has previously served with the UN, participating in UNPROFOR (Croatia) as a B Coy Signal Officer, in 1992.

Major Andres Lucas SEIDEL (Chief S2 INFO)



Major Andres Lucas SEIDEL joined the Argentinian Navy in 1993. During his final year of study, he made the voyage on the school vessel, Fragata A.R.A. “LIBERTAD”. He is a surface officer specialized in anti-submarine warfare. He successfully finished all courses required by the Navy, including Naval War College (in 2012) and the Joint Warfare School (in 2013). During his career, he has served in various naval units of the Sea Fleet, from auxiliary units to destroyers. All this professional experience came in handy for his most recent position as Battalion Chief at the Warrant Officers School of the Navy.

In 2008, he served with the UN mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH, as a staff officer (S-1) of the Argentine Battalion in the city of Gonaives. He points out that it was an excellent experience and a unique opportunity to learn about the work of the United Nations in peace and humanitarian aid. That experience was so positive that he decided to participate in as many UN missions as possible, which is how Major Andres SEIDEL joined UNFICYP.

Lieutenant Natalia Liliana GODOY (Chief of Extended Patrol 04)



From an early age, Lieutenant Natalia Liliana GODOY dreamed of being a marine, a dream that became a reality in 2007, when she finished Navy School as a Marine Officer, specialized in communications and joined the Argentinian Navy. She has served in various marine battalions, including the Communications Battalion and Campaign Artillery Battalion N° 1. She went on to improve her proficiency in communications at the Navy Officers’ School. Lieutenant GODOY had long toyed with the idea of joining the blue helmets, which is how she came to Cyprus to face her first mission challenge.

Sector 2

Lieutenant Colonel Richard WALKER RE (Commanding Officer 36 Engineer Regiment)



Lieutenant Colonel Richard WALKER returns to 36 Engineer Regiment as CO, having served previously as Officer Commanding and Deputy Commander of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron. He has also served as a Troop Commander at 36 Engineer Regiment and 59 Commando Squadron, HQ Engineer in Chief (A), ARRC, RMAS and HQ Royal Engineers in various roles, also deploying numerous times with Op HERRICK during the course of his career. Lieutenant Colonel WALKER is married to Jenny, with two great kids, Elizabeth and Oliver, who are now settled in the family home in Camberley, Surrey. He continues to love outdoor adventure, running the annual Army Canoe Union assault on the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, although his sporting and military injuries have served to slow him down a little in his personal endeavours. He also enjoys climbing, telemark skiing and cycling.

Sector 4

Major Richard SZILASI (Senior Operational Officer CGS)



Major Richard SZILASI is serving with UNFICYP for the second time. In 2012-2013, he occupied the position of Senior Operational Officer, which he now returns to. His military career started in 1987 when, aged 14, he joined a military grammar school in Banská Bystrica; in 1991 he continued his military studies at the Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš. His first military appointment was as Radar Engineer in his hometown of Veľká Ida in Slovakia. Following this, he occupied the position of Chief-of-Staff of the Air Surveillance Battalion in Zvolen, where he continues to work today. He has completed a Junior Staff Officers Course in Liptovský Mikuláš. Major SZILASI is married with two sons. He enjoys powerlifting and bodybuilding.

Captain Bratislav ANTIĆ (Platoon Commander, 2nd Platoon, Sector 4)



Braca, as his friends call him, is a 40-year-old Commander of the Serbian Platoon located in PB 126 near Pyla village. He completed a military high school in 1995 and continued his studies at the Military Academy of the Army-Telecommunications, where he graduated in 1999. He also successfully completed a Special Training Certificatory Course in 2009 and Basic Officers Staff Course in 2014. A highlight from his previous appointments is a position as Company Commander and Chief of the Telecommunications and IT group in Battalion S-6. Captain ANTIĆ was born in Pirot in Serbia. He is married and the father of two sons. His hobbies are running, football and tennis.

Capt. Renáta TÓTH (Deputy Senior Logistics Officer CGS)



Captain Renáta TÓTH started her military career by joining a Human NCO Mi-2 Helicopter Company in Szolnok Mixed Transport Helicopter Regiment in 1995. Her military studies began at János Bólyai Military College in Budapest in 1999. From 2003 to 2005, she moved her occupation to Human NCO JAK-52 Airplane Company. In 2007, Captain TÓTH joined a Logistics Department at a Planner Sub-department. In 2006 she continued her military studies by finishing her Master's of Defence Administration at the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University. Captain TÓTH is married with four daughters. She speaks both English and French and enjoys running.



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