



# BLUE BERET

## Sector 2 Medal Parade

**U**N peacekeepers from UNFICYP Sector 2's 36 Engineers Group were honored for their service to the cause of peace in Cyprus at UNFICYP's Medal Parade on Friday 2nd September. The ceremony took place at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Lynn Hastings, Senior Advisor UNFICYP, Chief of Staff, Col Tim Wildish, and Sector 2 Commander, Lt Col Richard Walker RE, praised the UN peacekeepers for their diligent work.

Col Tim Wildish said: "You have been continually carrying out paroles, liaising with opposing forces, covering events and in many respects acting as a front of house for UNFICYP and the Good Offices.

"Your presence continues to keep the environment calm and stable; this is essential to provide the right environment for the politicians, diplomats to do their work for lasting peace in Cyprus. We are on the right track, progress in the negotiations is promising, with realistic expectations of a lasting solution on the island."

The troops received medals, awarded on behalf of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to honor their contribution in the service of peace. Since the start of the mission in 1964, more than 125,000 uniformed personnel from 34 different nations have received the UNFICYP Medal. The UNFICYP Medal is awarded in recognition of a minimum of 90 days' duty in Cyprus.

Commenting on the medal itself, Col. Wildish said: "When you look at the medal in years to come, the two narrow dark blue lines

that border the white band should remind you of your time in the Med serving for peace. Peacekeepers of Sector 2, I congratulate you on a job well done, you should be take great comfort and pride in a service in the name of peace on this island and in the knowledge that you have been excellent representatives of the United Kingdom. Again it is a privilege and a pleasure for the Sappers amongst you this is a historical year anniversary of 300 years of the Corp. I wish you luck for the rest of the mission and thank you for all your hard work and professionalism."

Also speaking at the event was the Commanding Officer of Sector 2 UNFICYP - 36 Engineer Group, Lt Col Richard Walker: "Today we take great pride in presenting the UN medals to our final group of recipients... Wherever you where, those receiving their medals today, whether on patrol, guard, on standby, in the kitchen, in the mess or elsewhere, you are a critical part of a great team and today is your day of recognition"

UN peacekeepers from 36 Engineer Regiment, is a mixed British and Gurkha unit that consists of 42% Reserve, 7% female and nationalities including British, Nepalese and Foreign and Commonwealth citizens. It has 55 persons based in Northern Ireland, with the remainder drawn from across mainland UK, including Engineers, Gurkha Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Signallers, Logisticians, Medics, Artillery, Infantry, Physical trainers and Clerks.



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