

BLUE BERET



Change of Command in Sector 1.

On 31 August 2016, UNFICYP Sector 1 HQ, San Martin Camp, hosted a Change of Command ceremony. In the presence of Chief of Staff and acting Force Commander Colonel Tim Wildish and other invited guests, the outgoing S1 Commander, Lt. Colonel Gustavo Visceglie, handed over command to incoming Sector 1 Commander Lt. Colonel Luis Pablo Guimpel, who has served as Deputy Commander since February this year. In his speech, Colonel Wildish expressed appreciation for Sector 1’s development and maintenance of excellent working relationships with all the relevant actors within their area of responsibility under the command of Lt. Colonel Visceglie. He wished him good luck and continued success in his career path. Col. Wildish also welcomed the newly arrived contingent troops and wished them the best during their tour.



Below, we introduce some of the newly arrived members of Sector 1.

Lt Col JUAN PABLO de la VEGA



Deputy CO S1

Lieutenant Colonel Juan Pablo de la Vega joined the Argentine Army in 1988 and graduated from Military College in 1990 as Second Lieutenant of Infantry Corps. One of his first most notable military appointments was in Military College where he was an Instructor Officer. Afterwards he was assigned to War College as student, and Uruguayan Military Institute as student in 2008. He was Deputy CO in the 24th Mechanized Infantry Regiment in Argentine Patagonia.

From 2012 to 2014 he was Head of the Investment Project “Acquisition of Armored Fighting Vehicles”. At the end of 2014 he was appointed as Commander Officer of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, which is now deployed as core unit of the ARGCON in UNFICYP.

Lt Col De La Vega has the following titles: Staff Officer of the Argentine and Uruguayan Armies and a Degree in Strategy and Organization. He served with the UN in UNPROFOR, Croatia, in 1992. He is married with María del Rosario and has three sons, Juan Ignacio, Francisco José and María del Pilar.

Captain Diego Sebastian SIERRA



Chief S2 INFO

Captain Diego Sebastian SIERRA joined the Argentinian Navy in 2001, graduating from the Navy Academy as a midshipman in 2006.

He received his specialty in communication in 2008, 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 has visited the Antarctic twice, once in an icebreaker and on another occasion in a transport vessel.

This is his first experience as a blue helmet, and he expects to have more opportunities to serve. He points out that it is an excellent experience and a unique opportunity to learn about the work of the United Nations.

He added that his family is very proud of his work. Captain Sierra is married to Estella, and has two children, Sofia (6) and Bruno (2).

Lt. Maria Jose PODESTA



Lieutenant Maria Jose PODESTA joined the Argentine Army in 2012. She specializes in traumatology, and currently serves as Head of San Martin Camp's Health Group.

She comes from the Argentine Army's Central Military Hospital "Cir. My. Cosme Argerich" 601. Lt. Podesta is very happy to have been selected to join UNFICYP, and said she wishes to put into practice the knowledge she has acquired to effectively fulfill the tasks entrusted to her by the United Nations.

Captain GERMAN GOMEZ POLITO



Captain German Gomez Polito joined the Argentine Army in 2001 and graduated from the Military College as 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry Corps.

His first military appointment was as Platoon Commander at 25th Mechanized Infantry Regiment located in the middle of Argentinian Patagonia.

At beginning of 2006 he served with the UN for first time as APC Platoon Commander (MFR / UNFICYP). Following this, he was appointed to 4th Mechanized Infantry Regiment as Company Commander, and in 2013, he was assigned to Military College as Instructor Officer.

He is a member of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Regiment which is now deployed here in Cyprus.

Captain German Gomez Polito is married to Gisela, with three sons, Lujan, German and Constantino.

WO III Ramón Eduardo LOPEZ



Assistant Sergeant Ramon Eduardo LOPEZ, entered the Argentine Army in 1991. He studied at the School of NCOs "Sergeant Cabral" Cape graduated as Infantry. From the Mechanized Infantry Regiment 5 "General Felix Olazabal".

It is the third time he serves in UNFICYPnited Nations, on the island of Cyprus. He is Assistant Personnel Officer in Sector 1. His expectations are to put his knowledge into practice as Staff Assistant and share his experience with junior staff.

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