

BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Winter 2018

GENDER EQUALITY AT PEACEPLAYERS
INTERNATIONAL-CYPRUS SUMMER CAMP

International Day of Peace is
observed by **UNFICYP**

PLUS

Medal Parades & Aid Collection

BLUE BERET

The **BLUE BERET** is UNFICYP's in-house journal. Views expressed are of the authors concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy. Articles of general interest (plus photos with captions) are invited from all members of the Mission.

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FRONT COVER:

On 19 June 2018, UNFICYP's Gender Advisor and Civil Affairs team held a workshop on gender equality with some 25 young leaders participating in the PeacePlayers International-Cyprus summer camp, which included 60 youth representing both communities in Cyprus, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, South Africa and the United States of America. The event took place in Agros.

Photo by Daniel Dobrovsky, UNFICYP.



BACK COVER:

On 12 November, two new crossing points opened for the first time in eight years. Dozens of people from the island's Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot community streamed across the eastern Dherynia crossing point, walking past United Nations peacekeepers. At the same time, the Lefka / Aplici crossing opened in the northwest of the eastern Mediterranean island. Look out for more in the next issue of Blue Beret. Photo by Konstantinos Stergiopoulos, UNFICYP Photo.

Submissions from all members of the military, police and civilian components are welcome.

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Editor's Note

Dear readers,
We are pleased to introduce the Winter 2018 edition of Blue Beret, which contains news and short features regarding UNFICYP's efforts to facilitate sustainable peace across Cyprus, as well as key Mission events and activities.

One of the highlights of this issue is a detailed overview of UNFICYP's multimedia campaign for International Day of Peace, where Cypriots from both sides of the island shared their opinions on how sustainable peace on the island would benefit both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Additionally, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres recently appointed Major-General Cheryl Pearce of Australia as UNFICYP's new Force Commander, making us the first-ever peacekeeping mission in history to not only be led by a female Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG), Elizabeth Spehar, but to now also have female leadership in both uniformed components, including Special Police Adviser, Ann-Kristen Kvilekval.

Other events featured include, but are not limited to, coverage from a gender equality workshop conducted for members of Peace Players International, the Mission's commemoration of 25 years of Argentinian troop contributions to UNFICYP, as well as a snapshot of numerous medal parades.

Finally, as always, we introduce you briefly to our new arrivals in the Mission.

Blue Beret continues to evolve as UNFICYP's flagship publication and we welcome your feedback. To send comments by e-mail, please put "Letters to the Editor /Blue Beret" in the subject line and send it to: unficy-p-public-information-office@un.org.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Blue Beret Editorial Team

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UN Secretary-General appoints Major General Cheryl Pearce as UNFICYP Force Commander

On 8 November 2018, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, announced the appointment of Major General Cheryl Pearce of Australia, who succeeded Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir of Bangladesh, as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

With the appointment of Major-General Pearce, UNFICYP becomes the only UN peacekeeping operation in history to not only be led by a female Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG), Elizabeth Spehar, but to now also have female leadership in both uniformed components, including Special Police Adviser, Ann-Kristen Kvilekval.

Major General Pearce has had a distinguished career in the Australian Defence Force, most recently as Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy (since 2017), which provides undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as military training and education for future leaders of the Navy, Army and Air Force. In 2016, Major General Pearce was the Commander of the Australian Joint Task Force Group in Afghanistan providing training, advice and assistance to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces as part of the Resolute Support Mission of The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). From 2013

to 2016, she served as the Australian Army Headquarters Chief of Staff and, from 2010 to 2012, as Director of Special Operations Support. She also held the positions of Commandant of the Defence Police Training Centre and Commanding Officer of the 1st Military

Police Battalion. Major General Pearce was also the Australian Army's Provost-Marshal and a military observer with the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor in 2002.

Major General Pearce holds a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from the University of New England in Armidale, a Masters in Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism from the Macquarie University in Sydney and a Masters of Arts in Defence Studies from the Deakin University in Melbourne.

Born in South Australia, Major General Pearce has a partner and two daughters.



UNFICYP bids farewell to Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir

Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir of Bangladesh was appointed as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in July 2016. After more than two years of service to UNFICYP, 28 September 2018 was Major General Kabir's last day in the Mission; he handed over his duties to the Mission's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Ed Freely. Additionally, the Mission organized a Guard of Honour as well as a traditional send-off attended by military, police and civilian staff. In the days preceding his departure, Major General Kabir attended official farewell meals with his primary interlocutors from both sides of the island and

also received the American Ambassador to Cyprus in his office. On 27 September, UNFICYP's military component organized a formal farewell dinner in his honour which was attended by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General/Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar, and senior military, police and civilian staff. UNFICYP is one of the longest-running UN peacekeeping missions. It was set up in 1964 to prevent further fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island and bring about a return to normal conditions. During his UN assignment, Major General Kabir was in charge of more than 800 troops coming from 12 Member States.



UNMAS trains UNFICYP personnel on Improvised Medical Techniques

From 4-15 June 2018, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) conducted four sessions of its Improvised Medical Techniques (IMT) training course for UNFICYP's military and police personnel. Each session stretched over two-and-a-half days and aimed at equipping all participants with skills to respond to a medical emergency in the absence of a first aid kit or a well-stocked trauma bag.

While the sessions contained some theoretical elements, the focus was on hands-on, practical training, which built on the participants' existing medical knowledge and first aid skills.

Upon completion of the course, participants are expected to be able to provide immediate medical care to an injured person in an emergency situation and stabilize them until professional medical help is available. The course coaches participants on a variety of life-saving skills and techniques including assessing the scene of an emergency; identifying patients; using primary and secondary surveys to scan for signs of life and injuries; delivering CPR and performing airway management procedures as well as utilizing

items that can substitute for medical equipment from the nearby environment. It should be noted, though, that these techniques are not intended to be final medical treatment or a substitute for professional medical intervention.

Derek Somers, the UNMAS Medical Coordinator in South Sudan, was the Lead Trainer for the IMT programme and a trained paramedic. "For peacekeepers across the world, being prepared to deal with unexpected events and emergencies has increasingly become a necessity," stated Mr. Somers. "This is why the IMT course is such an important learning tool," he added.

In July 2016, UNMAS became an integral component of UNFICYP, providing dedicated expertise in mine action planning and coordination, demining capacity (2016-17), quality assurance oversight and data management for mine action information. UNMAS also provides assistance to the Committee on Missing Persons to ensure safe access to areas it conducts activities in and technical guidance to UNFICYP for small arms ammunition management.



UNFICYP staff shine in Finance and Accountancy examinations



Anna Stylianou and Marina Pekri from UNFICYP's Financial Resources and Performance Section (previously called Budget and Finance Section) had participated in specialized online training being provided to staff across UN field missions, through a partnership between the Organization and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). They were nominated by UNFICYP to participate in these courses and fully funded by the Mission.

Ms. Stylianou and Ms. Pekri enrolled in the programme in International Public Financial Management which consists of two courses—financial accounting and management accounting.

They were part of a total of 39 staff from missions as diverse as MONUSCO, MINUSMA, MINUSCA, UNIFIL, UNFICYP, UNDOF, UNOAU, UNMOGIP, UNOWAS/CNMC, UNVMC and UNIOGBIS who enrolled in the first semester of training, which offered some 48 courses.

Of these 48 courses that were undertaken, examinations were attempted in only 28 of the courses that were enrolled in and only 10 staff from 11 missions worldwide cleared the tests. UNFICYP is proud to announce that Ms. Stylianou and Ms. Pekri were among the successful candidates, ensuring that the Mission achieved a 100 per cent pass rate, and thereby, being adjudged the best performer among all participating field missions.

The United Nations partnership with CIPFA aims at developing and reconfiguring the finance and budget functions of field missions to improve stewardship as well as active management and oversight of mission resources.

We wish the very best to Ms. Stylianou and Ms. Pekri for their second semester!

International Day of Peace observed by UNFICYP

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed across the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

This year's theme was "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70," which celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all over the world. The Declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

UNFICYP commemorated the International Day of Peace with an interactive Town Hall led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of Mission, Elizabeth

Spehar, where staff members discussed what the right to peace means to them.

Speaking about this year's theme in a press statement, SRSG Spehar said, "For the United Nations, the right to peace entails not only the absence of violent conflict but also the protection of all human rights and the realization of development objectives. This can only be attained when individuals and societies recognize not only their rights but also the rights and needs of others, practicing tolerance, solidarity and mutual understanding. In Cyprus, as elsewhere, all can do their part." For his part, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, urged everyone to promote and defend human rights for all, in the name of lasting peace. The Universal Declaration is available in more than 500 languages and is as relevant today as it was on the day that it was adopted.





UNFICYP holds workshop on gender equality at PeacePlayers International-Cyprus summer

On 19 June 2018, UNFICYP's Gender Affairs Officer and Civil Affairs team held a workshop on gender equality with some 25 young leaders participating in the PeacePlayers International-Cyprus summer camp, which included 60 youth representing both communities in Cyprus, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, South Africa and the United States of America. The event took place in Agros.

The workshop aimed at introducing different gender concepts to participants as well as discussing how gender roles and stereotypes play out in their respective societies. Furthermore, participants provided constructive suggestions as to what they can do to challenge these stereotypes in families, schools and among their peers. Since the theme of the camp was developing leaders and building up an international mentoring programme, those attending the session were older members, also known as mentors.

According to Lauren McAlister, UNFICYP's Gender Affairs Officer, "the young leaders - both young women and young men - demonstrated tremendous insight into how gender influenced their lives in different ways and were keenly aware of how gender

roles are reinforced through so many different mediums in their societies."

Speaking on behalf of PeacePlayers International-Cyprus, Jale Canlibalik, Managing Director, said that the workshop was a unique opportunity for participating youth to see how gender stereotypes affect them on a daily basis and how deep-rooted such stereotypes can be. "We have a lot of strong young girls in our programme and here at camp, and it allowed them to express their frustrations they face within their respective communities but more importantly how they are trying to change and break those stereotypes," added Ms. Canlibalik.

PeacePlayers International is a basketball initiative that grew from two brothers coaching Catholic and Protestant children in Northern Ireland, to a multi-country programme moulding young leaders and breaking down barriers between communities on three continents.

PeacePlayers International began working in Cyprus in 2006, bringing Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot children and teenagers together to play basketball, and also to break stereotypes, forge inter-communal friendships and build leadership skills.

World Environment Day commemorated by UNFICYP

5 June is annually celebrated as World Environment Day; the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) held a Town Hall meeting to mark the occasion at its headquarters in Nicosia, Cyprus, while the Mission's military and police peacekeepers carried out hands-on environmental work by cleaning two beaches close to UNFICYP locations.

The event, held under the global theme, "Beat Plastic Pollution," included a presentation by the Environmental Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment on the issue of plastic usage in Cyprus as well as a screening of a video by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting was attended by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar; UNFICYP Force Commander, Mohammad Humayun Kabir; Senior Police Adviser, Ann-Kristen Kvilekval; the Chief of Mission Support (CMS), Joel Cohen as well as UNFICYP personnel.

In his opening remarks, Joel Cohen, CMS, spoke about the initiatives undertaken by UNFICYP to strengthen environmental management within the mission, which include a reduction in the number of generators within the Mission area and installation of photovoltaic panels and infrastructure to generate electricity from renewable energy sources, along with the creation of a Green Park where all Mission recyclables are collected and removed by a recycling specialist. In his speech, Mr. Cohen reminded us that "UNFICYP continues to advance efforts to integrate environmental measures into our planning and operations to avoid and minimize the impact of activities carried out by the



Mission on the environment and to protect human and animal health from such environmental impact - effectively reducing our environmental footprint."

For her part, SRSG Spehar highlighted the range of UNFICYP's environmental activities which span the implementation of projects using renewable energy sources to the protection of rare orchids in the United Nations Protected Area. "Keeping the Buffer Zone clean is a Mission priority, not only for the safety of UNFICYP personnel operating in this area, but most importantly, for the health and safety of the local population and the preservation of the environment," she stated.

Ongoing environmental activities at UNFICYP, facilitated by the Mission's Environmental Committee, include a cleanup campaign targeting surplus or damaged assets and premises to reduce environmental waste and prevent health hazards as well as a tree-planting drive across the Mission. Furthermore, the Mission has installed photovoltaic street lights to replace conventional street lights and is due to start two environmentally-friendly waste water treatment plants.



UNFICYP distributes "No Excuse" pocket cards among peacekeepers

UNFICYP military peacekeepers received the 'No Excuse' for sexual exploitation and abuse pocket card which is a concise and portable statement of the UN rules and prohibitions related to sexual exploitation and abuse. The card, which includes contact details for reporting allegations, is distributed regularly to all deployed UNFICYP military, civilian, and police personnel, affiliated staff and contractors. The UN has a zero tolerance policy with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Photo by Katarina Zahorska, UNFICYP.



EVERY PERSON UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING PROHIBITIONS:

- ! **It is strictly prohibited** to have any sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18 years (regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally or in my home country). Mistaken belief as to the age of the person is no excuse.
- ! **It is strictly prohibited** to have sex with anyone, in exchange for money, employment, preferential treatment, goods or services, whether or not prostitution is legal in my country or the host country;
- ! **It is strictly prohibited** to engage in any other form of sexually humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour;

Sector 1 Medal Parade

On 7 August 2018, UNFICYP peacekeepers from Sector 1, consisting of troops from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, received medals in recognition of their service to the United Nations.



Sector 4 Medal Parade

On 24 July 2018, UNFICYP peacekeepers from Sector 4 received UN medals from the Mission leadership. Speaking at the event, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP, Elizabeth Spehar, expressed her appreciation for the consistent troop contributions of the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine to UNFICYP.



Summer Medal Parade

On 4 July 2018, UNFICYP held its Summer Medal Parade at the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia. The Mission's main troop contributing countries include Argentina, the Republic of Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom, along with military representatives from Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Paraguay, the Republic of Serbia and the Ukraine. Speaking at the event, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP, Elizabeth Spehar, commended all contingents for their service. "It is always both a great pleasure and privilege to be in the presence of the uniformed men and women serving in UNFICYP as they receive the recognition earned in the form of the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal," stated the SRSO.



UNFICYP celebrates 25 years of continued Argentinian support

On 25 September 2018, UNFICYP commemorated the silver jubilee of continued Argentinian support for the cause of sustainable peace in Cyprus.

Argentina, as a founding member of the United Nations itself, has played an active and pivotal role in defending international peace and security, human rights and sustainable development since 1945. Argentina's participation in UN peacekeeping, specifically, began in 1948 - since then it has contributed more than 40,000 members of its Armed and Security Forces to more than 30 missions worldwide.

Since 1993, Argentina has deployed more than 16,000 troops to UNFICYP. These range from highly trained staff from the Argentine Army, the Marine Corps, the Air Force and security forces of the Argentine National Gendarmerie, not to mention Military Observers and technical and maintenance Civilians of the Argentine Armed Forces. Two previous Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and a Force Commander who have formerly served with UNFICYP have also hailed from Argentina. In recent years, peacekeepers from Argentina have served, primarily, in four peacekeeping operations under the flag of the United Nations - Haiti, Cyprus, Western Sahara and the Middle East.

Furthermore, Argentina is at the forefront of the UN Secretary-General's efforts at increasing the involvement of female



peacekeepers and recognizing the importance of supporting gender responsive peacekeeping, which increases the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

Most recently, Argentina deployed much needed Military Observers in Colombia, following the recent Peace Agreement, ending decades of civil war in that country.

Slovakia primary contributing country for Sector 4

Going forward, the Slovak Republic will be primary troop contributing country for UNFICYP Sector 4. However, for years, UNFICYP has relied strongly on the consistent contributions of Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine in Sector 4 - their steadfast commitment to peace efforts on the island shall never be forgotten. UNFICYP's Force Commander, Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir honoured UN peacekeepers from Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine and thanked them for their service in the name of peace as the Mission bid them farewell after having completed their deployment in Cyprus. "I would like to pay a special tribute to our departing troops from Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine. We have relied strongly on you in Sector 4. And we remain forever grateful for the consistent contributions of Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine since your first deployment - rest assured that your steadfast commitment to peace efforts on the island are appreciated and shall never be forgotten," said Major General Kabir.



Love at first sight!

On 4 September 2018, another UNFICYP wedding took place on the Ayia Napa seaside, during which the Mission's Military Public Information Officer, Captain Peter Vanek, married his long-time love, Mary, in the presence of their family. The couple hails from Slovakia, where they met 10 years ago. Also present at the wedding was their two-year-old son, Benjamin, who was the ring bearer during the ceremony. On behalf of UNFICYP, we wish Captain Vanek and his family a happy and prosperous future together. Congratulations!

By Lauren McAlister



UNFICYP collects aid for Greece

Photographed below are UNFICYP staff who organised an aid collection venture to extend a helping hand to the people of Greece affected by wildfires earlier this year. Contributed items included packages of medicine and dry food. UNFICYP Photo.



Barn Owl nesting boxes placed in the UNPA

During the last week of September 2018, the UNFICYP Environmental Committee, in collaboration with the Game and Fauna Service, facilitated the placing of 15 nesting boxes for barn owls (*Tyto alba*) within the UN Protected Area (UNPA). This is an initial pilot project for the entire Nicosia area. The UNPA is an ideal location for the pilot programme, being not too far from the city but, at the same time, a quiet and protected area with lots of open space, agricultural fields, small forest pockets, all of which constitute an ideal habitat for the owl.

The cosmopolitan distribution of *Tyto alba*, more commonly known as the barn owl, can be attributed to its great adaptability to different environments and, consequently, its wide range of prey species and foraging habits.

Although selective, the barn owl is opportunistic and its flexible hunting strategy makes it a very successful predator with a much greater ability to colonize new environments than other species of the raptor family. It feeds mainly on small mammals - mice (*Mus*), rats (*Ratus*), various insects and, to a much lesser degree, on birds. Barn owls can also effectively reduce pesky, feral pigeon populations.

The barn owl project, therefore, is of particular significance as it is a natural predator of small mammals (mostly rodents) and an ideal alternative to placing chemical rodenticide to control rats and mice. During the autumn months, the previous season's fledglings are dispersing and in search of vacant sites in order to establish their own nesting territories. Eggs are usually laid in March with some as early as late January and some as late as May. Clutches are between two to 11 eggs with an average of about six. Broods are, thus, between one and eight, with an average of four fledglings surviving.

Given the perfect location of the UNPA, it is hoped that at least 50 per cent of these boxes will be inhabited by nesting barn owls over the next few years. The nests will be monitored two or three times a



year and the relevant information and statistics will be documented and studied.

The UNFICYP Environment Committee is very much involved with and committed to this fascinating project and it is hoped that further nesting boxes can be placed in suitable locations along the buffer zone.

The UNPA is a unique haven not only for various endemic species of flora but also wildlife—foxes, hares, partridges, francolins, bee-eaters and stone curlews can be seen on a regular basis and are obviously thriving. If you have a suitably located tree or disused open building in your Sector, then please contact: bridger@un.org

By Diana Bridger

UNFICYP and sport

UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Colonel Ed Freely, is pictured with the Minister of Defence, Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Savvas Angelides, at the International Military Sports Council (CISM) run which took place in October. CISM is one of the largest multidisciplinary organizations in the world. CISM organize various sporting events for the armed forces of its 138 member countries and is one of the global sports organizations in which the largest number of disciplines is represented. UNFICYP Photo.



SECTOR - 1



Major Mario Andrés Humbert - Deputy Commander Officer

Major Mario Andrés Humbert was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 4 December 1974. He graduated from the Army Academy in December 1996 as an Engineering Officer. As a Senior Officer he has been variously assigned to the Army War School and the Joint War School; 2IC of the 6th Mountain Engineer Battalion; Chief of Course and Chief of Doctrine Division, Engineer School. He served in UNFICYP as 2IC Engineer Platoon from ATF 14 and Liaison Officer HQ/S1 from ATF 51. Major Humbert has graduated as Staff Officer from both Army War School and Joint War School from Argentina. He has a degree in Strategy and Organization and is a specialist in Operational Strategy and Joint Military Planning. Major Humbert is married.



First Lieutenant Vanessa Alegre - Senior Medical Officer

First Lieutenant Vanessa Alegre was born in Obera Misiones on 10 December 1986. She studied elementary and high school there before moving to Corrientes Capital to study medicine at the National University of the Northeast; she graduated from the institution in 2011. She joined the army in 2012 to pursue a residency in Ear Nose Throat (ENT). This is her first deployment with the United Nations.



Major Luis Maria Papiermeister - Operations Officer

Major Luis Maria Papiermeister was born in Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, on 28 May 1974. He graduated from the Army Academy in December 1997 as an Artillery Officer. As a subaltern official, he served in the 16th Artillery Group, "BARILOCHE" Mountain Military School, 2nd. Armored Artillery Group and in the Superior Army School of War. He is a Staff Officer who graduated from both the Superior Army War School and the Superior Joint War School. He holds a degree in Applied Mathematics and postgraduate specializations in Operational Strategy and Joint Military Planning, Public Security Policies, and Superior Conduction of Military Earth Organizations. From 2016 to 2017, Major Papiermeister was Second-in-Command of the 15th Field Artillery Group. Major Papiermeister is married and has a daughter.

SECTOR - 2



Lieutenant Colonel JDL Leask MBE - Commanding Officer S2 URR

Lieutenant Colonel James Leask was commissioned into the Scots Guards from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2000. He served at regimental duty in London, Germany, Canada, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. On promotion to Major he completed the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham. This was followed by a posting to the Ministry of Defence (2011 to 2013) as SO2 Afghanistan. While he was in London, he successfully completed a Masters of Arts focusing on the Afghan National Army. In 2015 Lieutenant Colonel Leask returned to regimental duty to command Left Flank (2013 to 2015). In 2017 Lieutenant Colonel Leask returned to Shrivenham to complete the Advanced Command and Staff Course (2017 to 2018). In recognition of his contribution to the UK's very high readiness forces, Lieutenant Colonel Leask was made a Member of the British Empire. He is married and has two children.



Major Chris J Paul - Officer Commanding the MFR

Major Chris Paul joined the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales) in 2005. As a Warrior Platoon Commander, Major Paul deployed for six months to Basra with B Company who were attached to the 2 RIFLES Battlegroup. Upon returning to the UK, he took over as the Second-in-Command of B Company, 3 MERCIAN. He moved to Germany with 3 MERCIAN in 2009 and deployed on exercise to Canada twice. He also deployed in 2011 to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 14. On the staff he worked in operations/plans at 1 Mechanized Brigade, deploying in 2013 to Afghanistan as part of Headquarters Task Force Helmand (Op HERRICK 18). Following Staff College and the Battlespace Technology Course he was posted to the Light Armour desk at Army Headquarters. Major Paul currently commands C Company, 1st Battalion The Scots Guards. He is married.



Warrant Officer 1 Peter Tetlow - Regimental Sergeant Major

Warrant Officer 1 RSM Peter Tetlow joined the 1st Battalion Scots Guards on 6 October 1996, and has served with the Regiment in UK, Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus, Canada, Iraq and Afghanistan. Warrant Officer 1 Tetlow received his first Staff appointment in March 2012 as CSM B Company and deployed to Afghanistan as the ISTAR Officer during Herrick 17. Subsequently he took up appointment as CSM F Company from 2013-15. He was then appointed as the Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant (Technical) 2015-17 where he successfully deployed, managed and returned the Battle Groups kit and equipment to BATUS Canada. He took over his appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major on 2 April 2017.

SECTOR - 4



Lieutenant-Colonel Ján Hudák - Sector 4 Commanding Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel Ján Hudák was born in Martin, Slovakia. He attended the Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia, in 1993 and graduated in 1998 as a Second Lieutenant, Air Defence. He has successfully completed all required courses within the Air Force and Army. As a junior officer he served in various capacities - Intelligence Officer, Training officer and Track Production Officer. As a Senior Officer he has served as Master Controller and Deputy Commander of the Command Control and Reconnaissance Wing. Between 2010-2013, Lieutenant-Colonel Hudák served as ASO, CAOC UEDEM in Germany. This is Lieutenant-Colonel Hudák's first deployment with the United Nations. He is married with three children.



Sergeant - Major Miroslav Štadler - Regimental Sergeant Major

Sergeant-Major Miroslav Štadler was born on 28 July 1976 in Levice, Slovakia. He started working in the Armed forces of the Slovak Republic in 1999. The first position in the Armed forces was as an executive non-commissioned officer. Subsequently, he continued as the commander of the security command group in Levice. From 2003 to 2011 he worked at the office of the non-commissioned officer as Master Sergeant Company in Levice. Since 2012, he has been promoted to Sergeant-Major and became the major non-commissioned officer of the battalion in Nitra. From October 2015 until his deployment to UNFICYP, Sergeant-Major Štadler worked as a non-commissioned officer in charge of the 1st mechanized brigade in Topoľčany. Additionally, Sergeant-Major Štadler has served twice in the KFOR mission in Kosovo as a non-commissioned officer and company commander.



Major Igor Serbin - Chief, Engagement Branch

Major Igor Serbin joined the Czech and Slovak Armed Forces in 1988. He started his military career as a technician and has been assigned to several positions of increasing responsibility ever since. He earned his Masters degree in Aircraft Engineering at the Air Force Academy in 2000. Prior to his deployment to UNFICYP, Major Serbin was Senior Officer for maintenance (electric and special equipment for aircraft) at the Slovak Air Force Headquarters. This is his second deployment with the United Nations.

UNFICYP - HEADQUARTERS



Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Glanner - Deputy Chief of Staff, Engagement

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Glanner joined the Austrian Armed Forces in October 1983 as a gunner and graduated from the Austrian Theresian Military Academy in 1988 as an Artillery Officer. In his military career, Lieutenant-Colonel Glanner has occupied several basic commanding positions as well as various staff and instructor functions at the Austrian Artillery School. He attended the Advanced Leading Course at Austrian National Defence Academy in 2006 and holds a Master's Degree in Defence and Security Management. Lieutenant-Colonel Glanner has been deployed four times to UNDOF. In 2010 he was deployed to EUFOR as Commander of the Regional Coordination Centre 4. Lieutenant-Colonel Glanner is married with two children.



Lieutenant-Colonel Sunny Kara - Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Sunny Kara was commissioned into the Royal Logistic Corps in 1993 after which he served at Regimental Duty in several appointments. He joined UNFICYP from a strategic communications role the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence. His previous appointments include being a deployed military advisor and staff positions in the UK's Operations Directorate, Command and Control Development Centre, and the Army's Personnel Centre. Lieutenant-Colonel Kara spent 12 months at the Indian Defence Services Staff College as the selected British Army officer student where he gained a Master of Science in Defence and Strategic Studies. He has held operational squadron command twice and been deployed to Belize, Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Northern Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan and Nigeria. He is married.



Major Jozef Baran-Tomik - Senior Support Officer, Mission Support Centre

Major Jozef Baran-Tomik was born in Bardejov, Slovakia, on 14 March 1973. He graduated from the Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš in 1999. Following this, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned to 5th Special Forces Regiment in Zilina. In 2014, he graduated from the Army Logistic University, Fort Lee, United States of America. Subsequently, in January 2016 he was appointed as Chief of Logistics Branch in 5th SF Regiment. He is also a qualified paratrooper 1st class of the Slovak Armed Forces. Major Baran-Tomik was deployed to Afghanistan from September 2012 to April 2013 as a Logistics Officer in Task Force 10. He is married with two children.



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