

BLUE BERET



Hungarian troops commemorate Independence Day

Every year on 15th March, Hungary commemorates the 1848 revolution and the subsequent War of Independence against the Austrian-Hapsburg rule, which lasted until August 1849. Initially, the Hungarian forces achieved several victories, which led to Hungary's complete independence from Austria and Lajos Kossuth was named Governor-President. 15th March is commemorated as a national holiday in Hungary, with several buildings and traditions becoming symbols of the revolution and part of the commemorative ceremonies. Hungarians proudly wear cockades on this day and official celebrations are held.

On 15 March 2016, Hungarian troops serving as a part of UNFICYP's Sector 4 raised the Hungarian flag and gathered in Szent Istvan camp in Athienou to commemorate this important historical event in their history.

The event happened just a day before the Sector 4 contingent troops' rotation started, providing a good opportunity for Sector 4's Deputy Commander and Hungarian contingent commander,

Lt. Colonel Zoltan Csatari, to hold a short ceremony to recognise the outstanding service of three outgoing Hungarian soldiers at the end of their one-year tour.

Capt. Csaba Kekesi (MOLO), Sergeant First Class Szabolcs Olah (Ops Clerk), Staff Sergeant Gergely Zambo (Squad leader), Sergeant Tibor Jenei (Rifleman) and Corporal Zoltan Hornyik (Rifleman) received their memorial plaques; their commander highlighted their hard work and significant contribution to UNFICYP, which boosted Hungary's reputation and credibility. He also expressed appreciation for the outstanding work of three Hungarian soldiers – Major Tibor János Nagy (Financial Officer of HUNCON), Master Corporal Attila Tímár (Rifleman) and Master Staff Sergeant Péter Alföldi (Section leader) – who received a Force Commander's commendation.

The Sector 4 rotation was completed on 23 March 2016, when a fresh deployment of 77 Hungarian started their 39th tour as peacekeepers in Cyprus.



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