

BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine

March-April 2013

UN police
from **Ukraine**

Blue Helmets

from **Brazil, Chile
and Paraguay**

Plus

UN malaria prevention

Anzac Day remembrance

Military "Woodpecker" exercise

Special feature

W♀men Peacekeepers in Cyprus

BLUE BERET

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Front cover: LCpl Natasha Deacon

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The commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March brought a timely reminder of the important role women play in international peacekeeping.

While progress has been slow, the numbers of women in peacekeeping has been steadily rising. The importance of this should not be understated- not just for the advancement of women on the international scene, but for peacekeeping itself.

Peace is inextricably linked to equality between men and women and it is widely accepted that there cannot be any possible hope for a sustainable peace unless women are at the negotiating table. The UN enshrined these principles ten years ago in Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. In



An important indicator of the success of any peacekeeping mission is the ability of the peacekeepers on the ground to address the mandated needs of the local population. In this regard, the increase in women peacekeepers has surely helped.

In this edition, we salute the women

Brazil, Chile and Paraguay are featured in this edition's Blue Helmets segment. At the invitation of Argentina, these troops participate as part of the Argentine Contingent in Cyprus. While the numbers are modest, they help bolster the peacekeeping presence in Sector 1, the most remote and rugged part of the buffer zone.

Ukraine is steadily making its mark on the international peacekeeping scene. A land of wide, fertile agricultural plains, with large pockets of heavy industry in the east, it is Europe's second largest country. In Cyprus, Ukraine officers play an important role within the UN police and the Deputy Senior Police Adviser is a Ukrainian national.

There cannot be any possible hope *for a sustainable peace unless women are at the negotiating table*

reality, implementing Resolution 1325 has been a slow and complicated process. Nevertheless, an important step towards realising Resolution 1325 is increasing the number of women peacekeepers.

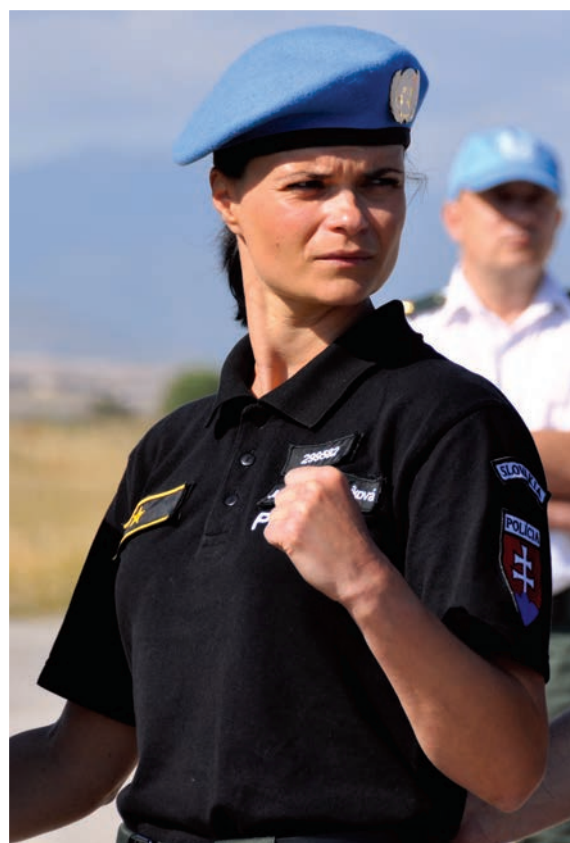
Women peacekeepers have an access that their male counterparts often do not. They are more likely to be able to provide help to victims of gender-based violence such as rape and sexual assault, which are among the most atrocious tactics used during wartime to engender terror and demoralize communities

peacekeepers of UNFICYP across the military, civilian and police sections of the mission. The women we interviewed gave open and frank accounts of their life and work as peacekeepers, what it meant for their careers and the impact that it has had on their lives. Some of the women are long-standing peacekeepers, for others, this is their first experience. Their contribution to international peacekeeping is vital and we commend them and the thousands of women around the world who are part of the peacekeeping family.

During the month of April, UNFICYP underwent its bi-annual rotations of military contingents. While we said farewell to the outgoing troops, we welcomed the incoming men and women. We hope that their tour of duty goes well and look forward to featuring them in the pages of the Blue Beret.



Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel



Soldiers from all sectors in the buffer zone participating in the 'Woodpecker' training aimed at preparing reserve units and the Mobile Force Reserve to control demonstrations which may impact on the UN buffer zone.





cker



Ukraine

Emblem of
the Ukrainian
Police



Ukrainian police in peacekeeping

Ukraine has actively participated in UN peacekeeping activities since the very first year of its independence. It has become a significant troop and police contributing country, as well as a staunch supporter of UN peacekeeping operations.

Apart from participating in international peacekeeping operations, Ukrainian police take an active role in developing strategies and policies for UN Police and maintain a number of bilateral and multilateral programs with other states and international organizations related to peacekeeping.

The Special Peacekeeping Center of the National Academy of Interior, which is the main training facility for all Ukrainian police peacekeepers, is undergoing the final stage of UN certification.

In March, this institution hosted the 3rd Regional UN Regional Meeting for the Development of a Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, which was attended by 150 high-ranked representatives from 50 contributing countries and international organizations.

At the start of this year, the Police Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN was elected by unanimous vote as head of the Strategic Group of Police Advisers of Permanent Missions to the UN.

Participation in peacekeeping missions

Since 1995, Ukrainian police have served in various peacekeeping operations led by the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. More than 2,000 Ukrainian police peacekeepers have so far participated in "hot spots" all over the world. These missions have been in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Timor-Leste, Cyprus, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

Eighty Ukrainian police officers are currently deployed to UN peacekeeping operations in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Ivory Coast (UNOCI), Kosovo (UNMIK), Liberia (UNMIL), and South Sudan (UNMISS). There are an additional 140 police officers now completing their final preparations to be deployed to the UN Mission in Liberia.

In Cyprus

The first two Ukrainian police officers arrived in Cyprus to serve as part of the UN police in October 2009. Since then, Ukraine has increased its participation to eight officers and negotiations are underway to deploy another two officers along with two military observers.

The origins of the Easter egg

Local lore is that the Easter egg had its beginnings in the Ukraine. In times gone by (and still sometimes today) these eggs were drawn on with wax to create patterns. Dye was then added to give the eggs their delightful colors – the dye not affecting the wax coated parts of the egg. Once the whole egg was dyed, the wax was removed leaving only the colorful pattern.

The tradition is thousands of years old and predates the arrival of Christianity in the country. While Christian interpretations of this practice abound, many Ukrainians still believe that the egg has immense power and releases the earth from the restraints of winter. Even the designs have meaning and the eggs are usually given as gifts or used as decorations.



Country profile

Official country name: Ukraine

Area: 756,096 sq km

Population: 45.1 million

Capital city: Kiev

Life expectancy: 75 years (women); 64 years (men)

Major language: Ukrainian (official), Russian

Major religion: Christianity

Currency: 1 hryvnya = 100 kopykas



**SnLt of Police
Tatiana Mykulets**

**Maj of Police
Tetiana Kachan**

**SnLt of Police
Lidiia Tkachenko**

**Maj of Police
Serhii Tarabanovskyi**

**Maj of Police
Viacheslav Zalkin**



**LtCol of Police
Viktor Drobotenko**

**LtCol of Police
Ruslan Borovskyi**

Interview

Commander of the Mobile Force Reserve

Major Steve Mellor

The Mobile Force Reserve is the Force Commander's quick reaction force, providing a flexible and well equipped response to any situation that may arise inside the buffer zone. Major Steve Mellor has commanded the MFR for the past six months. As he prepares to end his deployment in Cyprus, the Blue Beret speaks to Major Mellor about his time here and the special characteristics, and challenges, of commanding the only multinational unit in the mission.

You've been the head of the MFR for six months. How has this experience been for you? It's been really good. We had the chance to test the helicopters and the tactical armoured personnel carriers several times over the past few months and we know we can fill the gaps. We've had simulation exercises where the tactics have been timed going to the limit of where they can physically go in every sector. I feel confident that the team that I commanded was well equipped to respond to any incident, as we did on several occasions. On a personal note, the experience of leading the only military multinational team in the mission has been very interesting. The MFR is a multinational force with roughly half the troops drawn from the British contingent and the other half divided between troops from the Argentine, Hungarian and Slovak contingents. We all bring our different cultural perspectives and military backgrounds to the job and this provides a great pooling of knowledge. It's been interesting to see the soldiers learn some words in the language of their peers and this has been a particular boon for the troops who want to improve their English. This opens up your own mind-set and you learn a lot from it, as they probably learn from you as well. I personally have learned a great deal about how to manage the different cultures to get the very best out of the soldiers.

So what have been the particular challenges of heading the only multinational team in the mission? Well, apart from the obvious cultural challenges, there have been challenges trying to harmonise the different military cultures. For example, the Argentines sometimes provide marines and the Slovaks provide many soldiers from their air force because they are fluent in English. These are different military cultures over and above national identities that bring further subtle challenges and require harmonising. The other challenges are predominantly language based. It was difficult at first to try and get things done quickly using words of command in the English language that may not automatically translate well. A way to get around this was to develop words of command that were generally understood, and repeat these for all exercises. Consequently, many of the activities of the MFR become drill-based, meaning that they have been pre-rehearsed many times over. In this way we ensure that all

the soldiers are able to respond to emergencies rapidly. Practice makes perfect, so mass casualty events, major incident

and other contingency plans were rehearsed ad nauseam for the first few weeks to make sure everyone understood their roles and could act accordingly. Another subtle advantage to being multinational is that there is an element of national pride that compels the soldiers to perform to their best. This creative competitiveness was used constructively to reinforce high standards in the MFR.

Upon the eve of your departure, what do you take away with you from your time in Cyprus? I've learned a lot, especially about working in a multinational environment and I realise that there's always room to learn more. Key to multinational work, I believe, is the ability to keep smiling, no matter what the challenges. Displaying positive body language overrides speech and culture, keeping people on side and getting the best out of them. The ability to reach in and empathise with someone else's culture is also absolutely essential to multinational work. You may find that someone has a different way of working, but if you can relate to it rather than oppose it, it makes the whole unit work more effectively.

Do you think there are more UN peacekeeping missions in your future? Inevitably. The British army is closing a chapter of intervention operations and developing an adaptive foundation which will be related more to peacekeeping and peace operation missions. This adaptive foundation aims to prevent conflict by enhancing stability through the use of training teams possibly on behalf of the UN. Preventing conflict happening in the first place is a lot cheaper than dealing with conflict and post conflict issues.

Where will you go to after Cyprus? Initially I go back to Wrexham, in North Wales, for a parade, then onwards to my unit, 16 Squadron based in Hanover, Germany. After a few days of work I am looking forward to enjoying spring with my Slovak partner and child in my home in Slovakia.





Brazil

Brazilian peacekeepers

The Brazilian participation in peacekeeping missions began in 1947 when Brazilian military observers were sent to the Balkans. Since then, Brazil has contributed peacekeepers to operations led by the UN and the Organization of American States in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe.

In Cyprus, the Brazilian contribution to the Argentine Contingent began in 1995 when the Brazilian and Argentine army commanders reached an agreement to send one officer and one non-commissioned officer to peacekeeping missions carried out by each country at the time. So, in August 1995, Capt Spinola and WOII Teixeira were part of ATF 5 in UNFICYP, while two Argentine soldiers were based with the Brazilian Battalion in UNAVEM III, Angola. Today, Brazil sends one officer per rotation. The Brazilian Captain in Sector 1 has the important responsibility for controlling all incidents that take place in the MOLO 5's area of responsibility.

Country profile

Official country name: Federative Republic of Brazil

Area: 8.55 million sq km

Population: 196.6 million

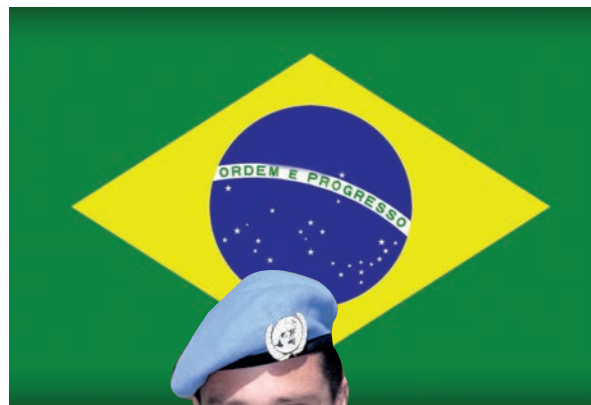
Capital city: Brasilia

Life expectancy: 77 years (women); 71 years (men)

Major language: Portuguese

Major religion: Christianity

Currency: 1 real = 100 centavos



Spotlight on Captain Mauro Cid

Captain Cid has the dubious distinction of being the only soldier in UNFICYP who thinks in Portuguese, speaks all day long in Spanish, and answers calls in English!

"Here in Cyprus, I work shoulder to shoulder with the Argentine Contingent, strengthening our friendship and cooperating with the UN to find a solution to the Cyprus problem.

I feel that this is a unique opportunity for Brazilian soldiers and will help us develop our professional knowledge and add to our cultural development. We all work hard, have fun when we can, and generally enjoy the experience of being with so many different nationalities.

I would like to send the Blue Beret readers our friendly wishes and say that we expect everybody to go to Brazil at least once and get in touch with us if you can."

Capt Cid is an artillery officer who comes from Rio de Janeiro. He is based at the Brazilian Army Military Academy, where he was a Battery Commander of Cadets.



From left: Sgt Eduardo Godoy, Mcpl Jorge Hernández, Mcpl Eric Ruminot, Mcpl Jorge Espinoza, WOII Cristián Garay, WOII Guillermo Collao, 1Lt Pedro Peña, 1Lt Miltón Cid, Mcpl Fernando Ulloa, Mcpl Jaime Padilla, Sgt Daniel Ortíz, Mcpl José González, SSgt Juan Varas, Mcpl Marcelo Jaña

Ch

Chile occupies a long narrow strip of land between the Andes mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west in South America. The northern desert contains great mineral wealth, principally copper, and the south of the country is very rich in forest and grazing lands.

It declared its independence from Spain in 1810, and since then has developed to become one of South America's most stable and prosperous nations, a recognized

middle power and a consolidated economy. It leads South American nations in human development, competitiveness, income per capita, globalization, economic freedom and a low perception of corruption.

In May 2010, Chile became the first South American nation to join the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). Chile is a founding member of the United Nations, the Union of South American Nations and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Cyprus peacekeepers

Chile began contributing soldiers to the UN mission in Cyprus in 2000. Since then, 382 soldiers have served as part of the Argentine contingent in Sector 1.

Today, there are 14 troops from the national Chilean army and marine corps serving as part of the Argentine contingent in the Roca camp located in the northern part of Sector 1. Their main tasks are to conduct extended patrols and they serve as chief of patrol to base 03.



Chile



Country profile

Official country name: Republic of Chile

Area: 756,096 sq km

Population: 17.3 million

Capital city: Santiago

Life expectancy: 82 years (women);
76 years (men)

Major language: Spanish

Major religion: Christianity

Currency: Chilean peso

The Grape Harvest Festival

The world-renowned Chilean wine is celebrated in a special way in the central part of the nation. Preparations begin with the arrival of summer, and the festivities culminate during the final weeks of March.

The Grape Harvest Festival of the city of Curicó is probably the most impressive of all. A religious ceremony blesses the first batch of pulped grapes, followed by a parade. The Grape Harvest also chooses a Queen, who is weighed on a balance against bottles of wine while a contest is held between grape stompers.

Each competing team stomps 20 kg of grapes for ten minutes, until the fruit is converted into juice. Applause and shouts of encouragement follow the stompers' energetic progress as they compete to crush all the grapes and produce the largest quantity of juice they can.



Paraguay

Paraguayan peacekeepers in Cyprus

In 1998, Paraguay made the commitment to send troops drawn from its national army, navy and air force, to support the Argentine contingent for the UN mission in Cyprus. A total of 374 troops have so far served, with 11 soldiers currently based in the San Marino Camp in Sector 1. The Paraguayans share extended patrol duties with the Argentine troops.



The 'heart' of the Americas

Paraguay is a landlocked country located in South America, bordered by Argentina to the south and south-west, Brazil to the east and north-east, and Bolivia to the north-west. Due to its central location in South America, it is sometimes referred to as Corazón de América ("Heart of America").

Paraguay has long been one of the region's poorest, least-developed, and most isolated countries. But in 2010, the economy grew by 14.5%, the largest economic expansion in Latin America, and the third fastest in the world (after Qatar and Singapore). By 2011, economic growth had slowed to 6.4%, still far higher than the global average.



Country profile

Official country name: Republic of Paraguay

Area: 406,752 sq km

Population: 6.6 million

Capital city: Asuncion

Life expectancy: 75 years (women); 71 years (men)

Major languages: Spanish, Guaraní

Major religion: Christianity

Currency: 1 guaraní = 100 centimos



Top row left: WOI Máximo

Escobar, WOII Carlos

Mendoza, Sgt Javier Cardozo,

WOII Claudelino Fernández,

Sgt Eduardo Ojeda

Bottom row left: 1Lt Aldo

Segovia, WOII Francisco

Fernández, SSgt Amado Peña,

Lt Nidia Fleitas, WOII Rafael

Paredes, Sgt José Ruíz Díaz,

Tereré

Tereré is a typical drink from Paraguay and is popular among young and old alike. It is common to see students going to school with a guampa and their thermos underneath their arms filled with plenty of ice and water as summer temperatures can reach 40° to 45°C (104° to 113°F). Tereré (of Guaraní origin) is an infusion of yerba mate and is similar to mate but prepared with cold water rather than hot water, and drunk in a slightly larger vessel. Originally from Paraguay, it is also found in north-eastern Argentina and southern and western Brazil. When hot, the Guaraní people call this infusion ka'ay, where ka'a means herb and y means water. Tereré is also known for its medicinal properties and used to heal various ailments such as headaches, stomachaches, and diarrhoea.



Beating Crime: An informal guide to crime reduction in the buffer zone

By Major Milan Cerovsky, Second In Command, Force Military Police Unit

Preventing crime is not as difficult as you may think. There are simple, yet effective measures that if followed, would minimize the chances of a person becoming the victim of criminal activity. Crime reduction strategy looks at potential crime risk areas, assesses them and develops way to decrease the amount of criminal activity, or minimize the harm they cause. The Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) statistics for 2012 show that 14 thefts were reported to this unit; two burglaries and seven cases of damage. At the time of writing, FMPU has investigated 10 thefts and three incidents involving criminal damage- and this is just during the first four months of 2013! The FMPU has a policy of offering victims of crime advice on how to protect themselves, and statistically, this

1. At the end of each working day lock and check all doors and windows. Close all curtains, blinds and external shutters.
2. Never leave money or other valuables unattended on your desk.
3. Lock office doors and windows when you are absent. Lock any valuables in a drawer or locker.
4. Never leave valuables or equipment unsecured or in isolated areas or in places with little human or vehicular traffic. Vehicles and equipment left in exposed areas are easy targets for thieves.
5. Keep and regularly update an inventory of stores and equipment. Accurately note issues and receipts of such stock and restrict access to them.
6. Lock important or classified documents away.
7. Change access codes regularly and don't share the code with unauthorized personnel. Keep key cards on you at all times.
8. Change codes to safes regularly and restrict access to them. The safe should be secured to the floor or wall, or at least heavy enough to prevent someone from moving it. Try to limit the amount of money kept in the safe. Offices with safes should have bars on the

policy appears to be effective as such advice arms the person with better situational awareness.

I can confidently state that with a better awareness of crime reduction measures, it is possible to seriously reduce the opportunity for criminals to strike. Crime reduction is simple, cost effective and can protect us from becoming victims of theft, burglary and vandals. There are many offices and buildings within the UNPA, Blue Beret Camp and Sectors. The majority of us have personal valuables together with UN-issued high value equipment. Follow these easy crime reduction steps to minimize the chances of becoming the target of criminal activity:

9. Politely note the details of workmen (and their vehicles) should they need to access your building to complete tasks and supervise the workmen.
 10. If you see suspicious people loitering, note their description and vehicle details and report the matter to FMPU/Security Section.
 11. Never leave valuables on display in your vehicle when it is unattended. Lock them in the glove compartment or secure them in the trunk. Make sure the car is locked and the windows are closed. If the stereo has a removable face, remove and hide it.
 12. Always try to park your car on the drive, in a garage, or in a well-lit area, preferably with CCTV or a car park attendant.
 13. Never bunch your house keys with your car keys.
- Lastly I would just like to point out that if you have any suspicions that someone has broken in to your office or car, please refrain from touching the doors or windows and do not enter the building. This will avoid disturbing potential trace evidence. Report the matter to FMPU immediately. Together we can combat crime!

UN helps local authorities prevent malaria



The Cyprus Anti-Malaria Control Program is a bilateral agreement between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot health services to prevent the onset of malaria by spraying against mosquitoes and treating stagnant water pools across the whole island, including the buffer zone. The UN mission's force hygiene officer is the point of contact for the programme and the liaison between the UN and the Greek and Turkish Cypriot health services. "There are 32 identified mosquito breeding sites within the buffer zone," said Force Hygiene Officer, Captain Andrea Kelemen, MD. "It's important that we treat the sites at the proper states to stop the breeding cycle. In Cyprus, this means starting the treatments in the beginning of April. We'll continue this till the end of November, or until the stagnant water pools dry out." UN patrols escort Greek and Turkish Cypriot civilian laborers' teams through the buffer zone to treat the affected areas every two to three weeks. The treatment is an environmentally friendly biological method that involves casting granules of bacterial pesticide onto water surfaces. Mosquito larvae ingest these particles that attack the gut lining of the mosquitoes' stomach, resulting in the death of the mosquito larvae.

Cyprus mosquitos are from the anopheles species. The female of this species of mosquito carries malaria from person to person via infected blood



Anzac Day

By Commander Peter Bond, UN Police



On 25 April each year, in every city and town across Australia and New Zealand, Australians and New Zealanders gather at dawn to remember the sacrifices made by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – ANZACS. The year 2013 marks the 98th annual commemorative service. In Cyprus, the Australian Police Contingent serving with UNFICYP hosted this year's ANZAC Day remembrance Dawn Service at the Wayne's Keep Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the United Nations buffer zone.

The Dawn Service commemorates the World War One dawn landings at Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey in 1915 by 16,000 soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, who became known as 'ANZACS'. Gallipoli marked the first major participation in battle for both nations; the Australian colonies had only become a federation 14 years earlier in 1901. ANZAC Day also commemorates the sacrifices made by the men and women of the armed services of both nations in other conflicts since the Great War including the second world war, namely Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, the Gulf, Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Australian soldiers were also stationed in Cyprus in World War II preparing to defend the country against an anticipated German invasion which did not occur in the end. The 2013 Guest of Honour was 98 year old Mr Harold 'Happy' Berlowicz, a second World War Australian veteran who was one of the legendary 'Rats of Tobruk' in North Africa. Harold also served in Papua New Guinea in the Pacific campaign.





Women and pe
Work
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Women in Pe

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As peacekeeping has evolved to encompass a broader humanitarian approach, women have become increasingly part of the peacekeeping family. They are deployed in all areas – police, military and civilian – and have made a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, both in supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women’s rights.

In all fields of peacekeeping, women peacekeepers have proven that they can perform the same roles, to the same standards and under the same difficult conditions, as their male counterparts. It is an operational imperative that we recruit and retain female peacekeepers.

UN gender teams

The UN gender teams work tirelessly to make sure that the voices of women are included in all areas of peacekeeping. There are eight senior gender advisers in peacekeeping operations around the world. Their work includes supporting local women to participate in peace processes, protecting women and girls from sexual violence and engaging women’s voices in legal and judicial procedures. More recently, Women’s Protection Advisors have started being deployed with a specific mandate to address conflict-related sexual violence – whereby sexual violence is used as a tactic of war, and as noted by the Security Council, is qualifiable as a crime against humanity, war crime and a constituent act of genocide.

In numbers...

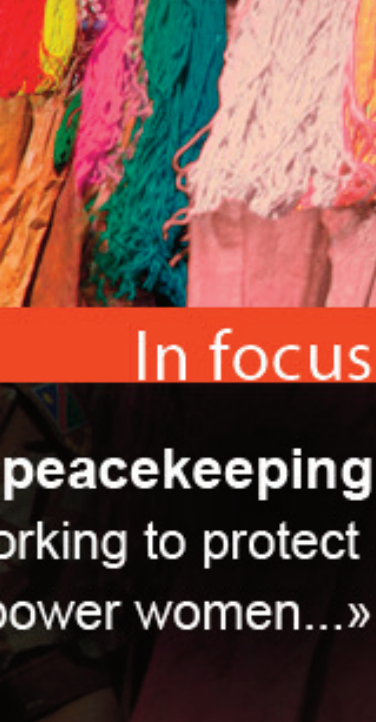
In the 32 years between 1957 and 1989 a total of only twenty women served as uniformed UN peacekeepers.

In 2012, women constituted around 30% of the approximately 7,500 UN international civilians.

Out of approximately 125,000 peacekeepers, women constitute 3% of military personnel and 10% of police personnel.

Three women lead peace operations as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, including in Cyprus and one as acting head.

Three all-female UN police units have been deployed around the world: Indian in Liberia, and Bangladeshi in Haiti and DR Congo.



In focus

peacekeeping
working to protect
power women...»



**Whenever there is conflict
the women and children are the
first victims. So women should
work to bring about peace."**

—Chief Inspector Libereta Mukugussana,
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

United Nations
Peacekeeping
un.org/peacekeeping



**"Women can and must play a leading role in political
participation, conflict resolution and the transition
from conflict to peace."**

—Hervé Ladsous, Head of UN Peacekeeping

peacekeeping

Women's Day, 8 March

Why is it important to have women peacekeepers?

Women peacekeepers act as role models in the local environment, inspiring women and girls in often male-dominated societies to push for their own rights and for participation in peace processes.

The increased recruitment of women is critical for:

- Empowering women in host communities;
- Addressing specific needs of female ex-combatants during the process of demobilizing and reintegrating into civilian life;
- Helping make the peacekeeping force approachable to women in the community;
- Interviewing survivors of gender-based violence;
- Mentoring female cadets at police and military academies;
- Interacting with women in societies where women are prohibited from speaking to men.

The presence of women peacekeepers can also:

- Help to reduce conflict and confrontation;
- Improve access and support for local women;
- Provide role models for women in the community;
- Provide a greater sense of security to local populations, including women and children; broaden the skill set available within a peacekeeping mission.

Civilian peaceke

Faylene Wooley Chief, Civil Affairs

I have been working in international development for 20 years, the last 12 of which have been for the UN in Kosovo, Nepal, Liberia and now in Cyprus where I head the civil affairs section.

There have been many benefits brought by the choices I made to live abroad and work in international development. I have seen parts of the world I would never have seen and experienced things I might never have. I hope that along the way I have contributed something useful through the work I have done and added something into the lives of the people I met.

But there is always a price. And maybe it's a different price for women than for men. When you are a woman working in some of the more dangerous missions, you tend to be more conspicuous and perhaps more vulnerable to attack. Also, there is the risk that you lose a sense of belonging and connection with family and community, and of course you don't have the stability that comes with putting down roots in one place – I'm not sure if this is more important for a woman, but it has been something that has affected me.

I think a woman who is willing to live in these circumstances- the hardship, the vulnerability to attack, disease, loneliness, all the extremes that come with living in peace-keeping missions- becomes more resilient. I have seen the coping mechanisms that these women employ to deal with the tough circumstances, and more often than not, these mechanisms tend to be healthy. For example, I took up tae-kwon-do while living in Liberia. I always tried to balance the long working hours with some type of exercise, as well as making sure I had the internet facilities to communicate with friends around the world.

I've stayed in peacekeeping because this life offers many things that I value- autonomy, independence, travel, mobility, variety and opportunities to work on projects that have a meaningful impact on people's lives. Despite the challenges, peacekeeping has been exciting enough for me to stay in it. It may have cost me some things, but no decision comes without a price, and so far, it has been a price that I have been willing to pay.

For women who might be considering a career in peacekeeping, I would say, "do it!" You don't know the potential you have until you are stretched. I've discovered much more patience, much more resilience and courage than I realised I had and probably would have never tapped into had I not chosen this path.



Keepers in Cyprus



Efthymia Angeli Driver

It has been eight years since I picked up the newspaper and noticed an advertisement for a driver working with the UN mission in Cyprus. I had been working in an office as a translator and knew I needed something different so I applied and the next thing I knew I was driving trucks.

My main task is to drive the trucks up to the Karpas peninsula as well as to the sectors in the buffer zone- which stretches from the east to the west of the island- to deliver rations to the observation posts. Sometimes I am tasked to run the dispatch office so my working days are varied.

I work with a team of men, which was a new experience for all of us, but from the very start they have been supportive and allowed me to be myself and grow within our working environment. I am given equal opportunities when it comes to training and we each acknowledge our personal strengths.

The job was a totally new experience for me at the beginning, because not only was I the first female truck driver in the mission, but it was simply unheard of to have a woman driving trucks in Cyprus. I found out later that I was the first woman truck driver in the country! Because of this, I used to feel self-conscious when people noticed me driving around the island. Now you see more women driving buses, but I still have yet to see another woman truck driver.

I really enjoy my job. Every day is different and I get to meet new people all the time and I've become friends with many of the people I deliver supplies to in the north. I would like to go to another mission and do something similar, but in a new environment.

I enjoy the adventure and the challenge of each new day but I won't deny that in general, it is difficult for working women. We have to deal with our spouses, our families and our communities.

For me though, I like the anticipation and responsibility of doing a job I enjoy and working with a team of professional people who I also count as my friends. I really believe that my job is about breaking barriers as well, especially in Cyprus, and I like to think that I could inspire other women.

For example, after I got this job, a female friend of mine from my village went out and passed her mini-bus licence and then her bus licence and now she is thinking of going for a truck licence! I feel proud to be a woman successfully working in a field that is traditionally thought of as a man's world.

SrLt Tatiana Mykulets

I wanted to join a peacekeeping mission since the first time I heard of them when I was 19. One of my lecturers at university had been in missions and inspired me to want to do the same.

This is my first mission and I like it a lot. The work is very different from back home where I was primarily doing office work. As a patrol officer with the UN police, I am out everyday, meeting people and doing different things.

I am really thinking about serving in more missions. For me, one of the best parts of being here has been working with all the different nationalities. I think the most important thing is to be flexible and open when dealing with colleagues from all around the world.

I'm not sure how easy it would be for other Ukrainian policewomen to join missions. There is still an expectation back home that women will start families by their mid 20s, so this naturally limits their opportunity for international work.

Right now, there are five Ukrainian women police officers serving abroad. You might say that we are paving the way for more of our women colleagues to join us.

Sgt Daina Evans

This is my fourth peacekeeping mission- I was previously in Juba, South Sudan, Khartoum, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. After having served in the Australian police force for many years, I wanted to try something different and the prospect of international work appealed to me.

The first mission I served in was an Australian-funded mission in the Solomon Islands. After this, I was fortunate enough to work overseas as part of the Australian Federal Police's contribution to UN missions on a more permanent basis. I feel that I am able to work abroad as I am not bound to Australia in the way that women officers with families tend to be- I do think it's harder for women with families to serve in international missions on a regular basis.

The work has been rewarding for me and I have found it refreshing to be able to use my police experience to help other countries. In terms of the work, yes there are challenges. Local police forces in the host countries are not always open to the assistance that UN police provide, but the onus is on us, as UN police, to find ways of communicating and working that are effective.

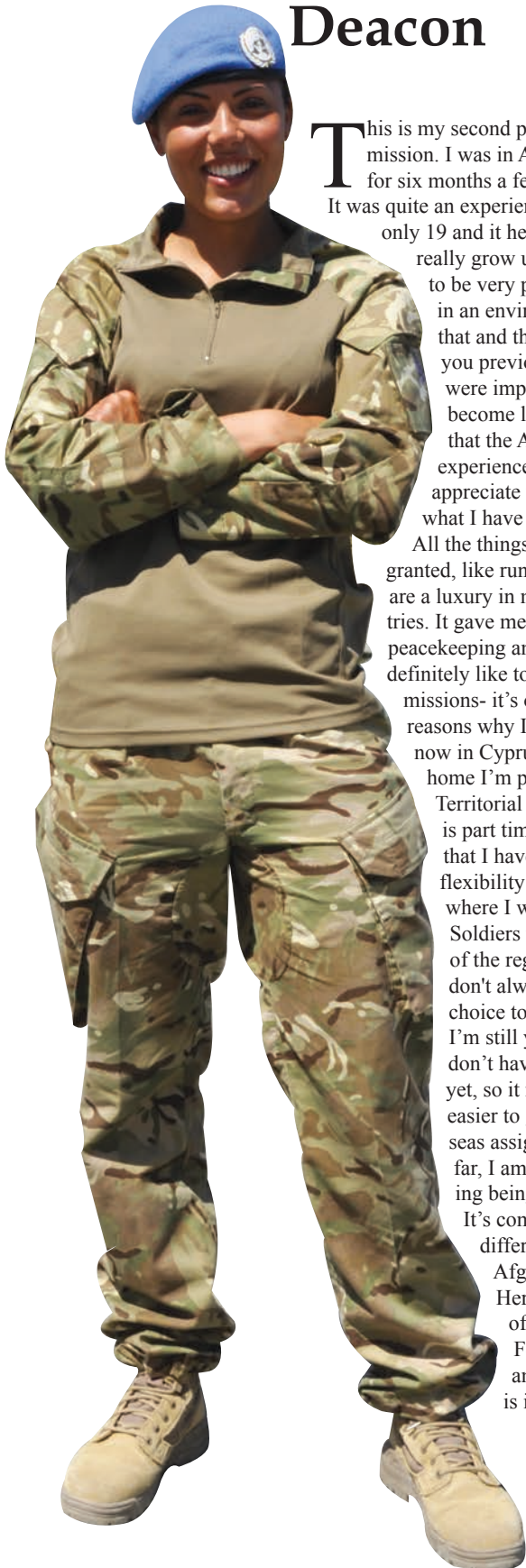
I would say to other women wanting to join a UN mission that I have always felt comfortable and accepted and in some ways it has been easier, as a woman, to work with the UN than it has been working in my own police force. Overall, it has been an extremely rewarding experience and I would recommend it.



Gender based violence training

Sgt Daina Evans and SrLt Tatiana Mykulets were recently chosen to participate in special training on gender based violence, a UN standardised course taught to UN police on detection, prevention and prosecution of offenders. "Before, rape was perceived as an unfortunate consequence of war," said Sgt Evans. "Now, it is accepted as the crime that it is and taken very seriously and perpetrators are pursued. I am happy to have done this training and can now pass this on to other UN police."

LCpl Natasha Deacon



This is my second peacekeeping mission. I was in Afghanistan for six months a few years ago. It was quite an experience. I was only 19 and it helped me to really grow up. You have to be very professional in an environment like that and things that you previously thought were important, become less so. I feel that the Afghanistan experience made me appreciate much more what I have back home. All the things we take for granted, like running water, are a luxury in many countries. It gave me a taste for peacekeeping and I would definitely like to do more missions- it's one of the reasons why I am here now in Cyprus. Back home I'm part of the Territorial Army, which is part time. It means that I have a bit more flexibility to choose where I want to go. Soldiers that are part of the regular army don't always have a choice to go overseas. I'm still young and don't have a family yet, so it makes it easier to go on overseas assignments. So far, I am really enjoying being in Cyprus. It's completely different to Afghanistan. Here, I am part of the Mobile Force Reserve and the work is interesting.

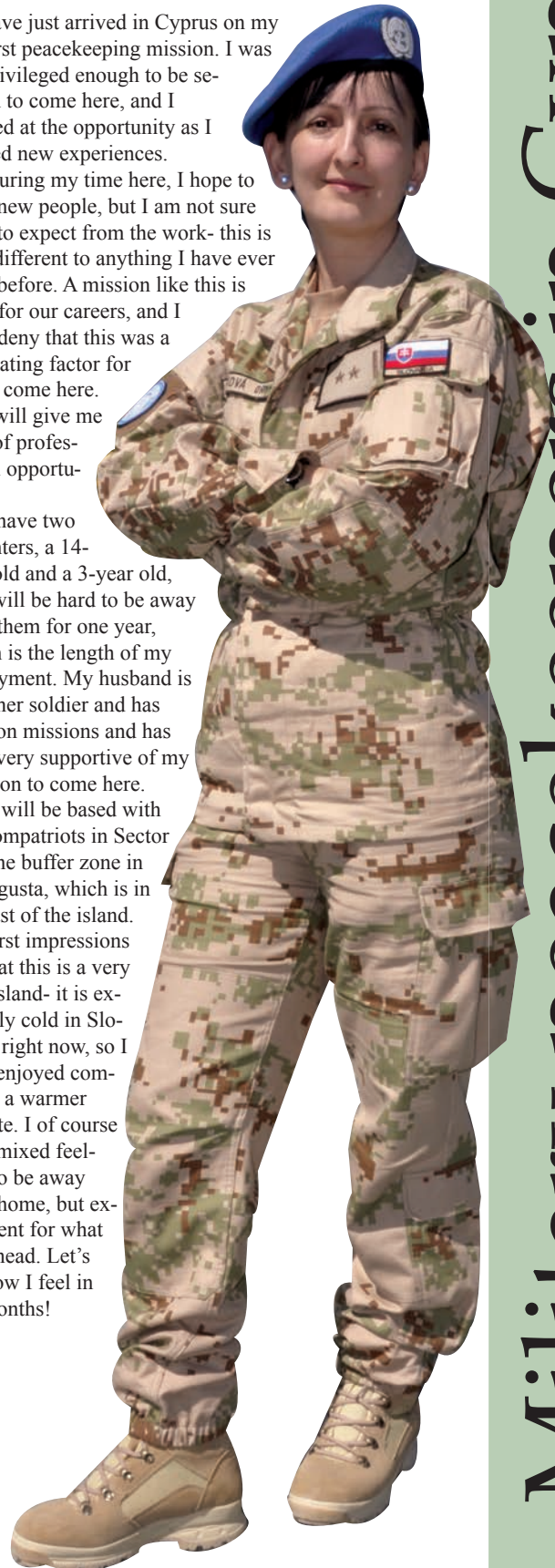
SSgt Gabriela Ksenakova

I have just arrived in Cyprus on my first peacekeeping mission. I was privileged enough to be selected to come here, and I jumped at the opportunity as I wanted new experiences.

During my time here, I hope to meet new people, but I am not sure what to expect from the work- this is very different to anything I have ever done before. A mission like this is good for our careers, and I can't deny that this was a motivating factor for me to come here. This will give me a lot of professional opportunities.

I have two daughters, a 14-year old and a 3-year old, so it will be hard to be away from them for one year, which is the length of my deployment. My husband is a former soldier and has been on missions and has been very supportive of my decision to come here.

I will be based with my compatriots in Sector 4 of the buffer zone in Famagusta, which is in the east of the island. My first impressions are that this is a very nice island- it is extremely cold in Slovakia right now, so I have enjoyed coming to a warmer climate. I of course have mixed feelings to be away from home, but excitement for what lies ahead. Let's see how I feel in six months!



New Faces



LtCol Rob Askew, Commanding Officer, Sector 2

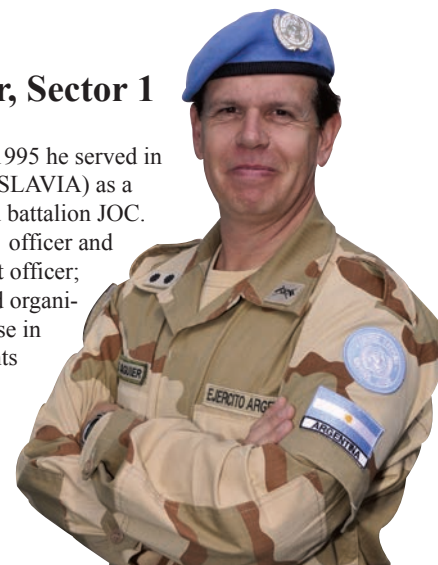
Lt Col Rob Askew joined the Royal Corps of Transport in 1990 prior to reading for a Business Economics degree and commissioning into the Royal Logistic Corps. Early service at regimental duty included exercise and operational deployments to Poland, Norway, the US, Northern Ireland and Bosnia. As regimental operations officer, he coordinated assistance to the civil authority during the fuel and fire strikes, and deployed operationally to Kosovo. Following two years as a platoon instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, primarily with Rowallan Company, he completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course,

gaining an MA in defence studies. LtCol Askew completed his staff appointment on the plans staff of 16 Air Assault Brigade, serving with Task Force Helmand during their deployment to southern Afghanistan, and as brigade deputy chief of staff during the subsequent training year. As an officer commanding, he deployed with his squadron to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Following a brief return to the staff college as part of the Army Division Directing Staff, Lt Col Askew was posted to the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre as a member of the team responsible for writing Army Doctrine Publication Operations. He assumed his current appointment as Commanding Officer 17 Port and Maritime Regiment in October 2011, deploying in command to support the London Olympic Games during summer 2012. LtCol Askew is married to Michelle who, with their two children, live on the Cornish coast. Beyond his family commitments, his main interests include cricket and surfing. He remains a committed but ageing runner, turns out (occasionally) on the wing for the RLC veterans' rugby team, and continues to resist the temptation of taking up golf!

LtCol Martin Luis Ham Saguier, Deputy Commanding Officer, Sector 1

LtCol Martin Luis Ham Saguier arrived in UNFICYP in March 2013. Born in Buenos Aires, LtCol Saguier graduated from the Argentine Military College as Cavalry 2nd Lieutenant in 1988. During his career, he has served in a number of appointments: 10th Cavalry Tanks Regiment (tanks platoon leader), "General SAN MARTIN" Horse Grenadiers Regiment (presidential escort), National Military College (cadets senior instructor – teacher of Cavalry Branch cadets), 8th Cavalry Tanks Regiment (tanks company commander – intelligence branch officer), Argentine War School as a student, 9th Cavalry Tanks Regiment (senior operations officer and senior intelligence officer), 13th Cavalry Light Armoured Regiment (2nd in command), Cavalry School (teacher and head officer and NCO's Courses – Head Education Division). Today, he is the commanding officer of the 10th Cavalry

Tanks Regiment. In 1992 and 1995 he served in UNPROFOR (former YUGOSLAVIA) as a mechanized platoon leader and battalion JOC. He is a staff officer, joint staff officer and logistic management specialist officer; he has a degree in strategy and organization and a postgraduate course in international humanitarian rights and defense. He is married to Silvina and they have two children, Santiago (14) and Eleonora (10).



Maj Richard Király, Senior Logistics Officer, Sector 4

Maj Richard Király took over the post of SLO S-4 on March 2013. Born in Kral'ovský Chlmec, Slovakia, he began studying at the military academy in Vyškov na Moravě, Czech Republic and graduated at the military academy in Liptovsky

Mikulas (Slovakia) as a 2nd Lieutenant of the Ground Forces as a tank platoon commander. Later, Maj Király served at the mechanized battalion as a mechanized company commander. Major Király held the position of Chief of Staff of the Ground Forces. This is Maj Király's second tour of duty with UNFICYP; the first was in 2009 – 2010 as company commander in Sector-4 (CGS Famagusta). Maj Király enjoys every sports activity, reading and working. He is a football referee and has three children, David, Bianka and Norika.



LtCol Jozef Zekucia, Liaison Officer, Turkish Forces

LtCol Jozef Zekucia is the mission Liaison Officer for the Turkish Forces. Born in Spišská Nová Ves, LtCol Zekucia started at the military academy in the Czech Republic in 1989. For the next 20 years, the LtCol held a number of appointments including as a fuel officer in the Reconnaissance Battalion, staff officer in the Slovak army, chief of fuel

department, staff officer and senior staff officer for J4 Slovak Armed Forces General Staff, commander of the 16th SLOVCON KFOR Kosovo and commander of the Logistic Battalion Prešov, Slovakia, a post which held from 2010-2013. LtCol Zekucia has participated in overseas missions in Afghanistan (2007-2008) and Kosovo (2010). He has also undertaken several NATO courses in logistics and peace support and holds a Masters of Science degree in engineering. LtCol Zekucia is married and has three children.

Captain Tomas Ciampor, Military Public Information Officer

Capt Tomas Ciampor took over the post of MPIO in March 2013. Born in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, he finished school for officers in 2000 as a 2nd Lieutenant with appointment as a reconnaissance platoon leader. Following this, Capt Ciampor served at various posts in the Slovak armed forces as a platoon commander, deputy company commander and staff officer at Air Force HQ. He completed the junior staff officer course in Sweden, international staff officer course in Slovakia and UN contingent officer course in India.

This is Capt Ciampor's first tour of duty with UNFICYP, having previously served with the UN mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (2002-2004) and one tour with ISAF in Afghanistan (2006). Capt Ciampor enjoys alpine skiing, trail running and various forms of fitness. He is married to Stanislava and they have a three-year old son, Michal, and a one and a half year old son, Adam.



WO1 Robert Brierton, Regimental Sergeant Major

Warrant Officer Class One Brierton enlisted into the British Army in September 1988, into the Royal Pioneer Corps. He completed his initial training at the Junior Leader Battalion Shornecliffe. His first posting was with 187 Pioneer Company Northampton. He has seen active service in Kuwait, Northern Ireland, the Balkans,

Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and Cyprus. In April 2012 he took up appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment. He is a keen sportsman willing to try all sports, though he particularly enjoys rugby.

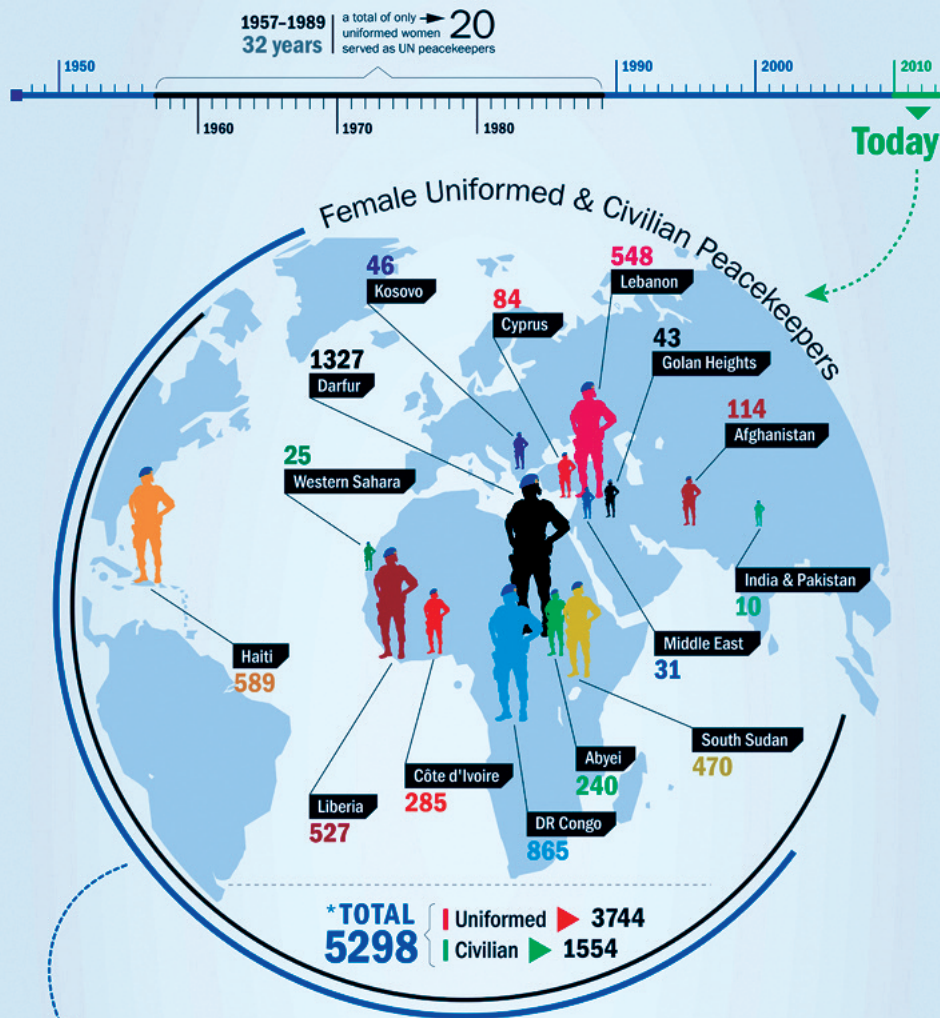


Maj Paul Walkley, Officer Commanding, Mobile Force Reserve

Maj Walkley joined the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (Territorial Army) in 1989 before transferring to 107 (Ulster) Brigade in Northern Ireland in 1991, where he served on a part-time basis including officer training at

The Queen's University of Belfast Officers' Training Corps. After deciding to take a sabbatical from army life in 1994, he re-joined in 2003 with the West Midlands Regiment, which became the 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment. He has served at regimental duty as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Mortar Officer, Rifle Company Commander and Battalion Second-in-Command of the 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment. Maj Walkley has served in Northern Ireland on operations BANNER and HELVETIC and has also been mobilised for UK operations. He is a keen shot and regularly represents his regiment at the Brigade and Bisley level.

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3

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Haiti Bangladeshi unit
Liberia Indian unit
DR Congo Bangladeshi unit

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political participation, conflict resolution
and the transition from conflict to peace. ”**

—Hervé Ladsous, Head of UN Peacekeeping

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* Statistics from October 2012

Coming in the next issue of the Blue Beret
**Focus on Serbian and Croatian blue helmets
and UN police from Serbia**

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