

BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

January/February 2014



Inside: 50th anniversary spotlight: BRITCON, AUSCON, CANCON & IRCON ////////////////

UNFICYP
Five Decades on Patrol /////



Plus: Winter Medal Parade, All Hail the MFR, Business as Usual & Some New Faces ////////////////

BLUE BERET

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Plus New Faces from UN Flight, the Medical Section and a familiar face from the MFR.



Front cover: The first in our series of 2014 covers, we bring you a montage of UNFICYP's best patrolling moments. For five decades, our peacekeepers have crisscrossed the island and the buffer zone to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in Cyprus.

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 Force. Copyright of all material is vested in UN publications, but may be reproduced with the Executive Editor's permission.

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READER CONTRIBUTIONS

In this brand new segment, we would like to hear from you, our readers! Send us your thoughts, comments, stories and photos, and we will publish them here. The first Reader Contribution comes from Deon Gatty of the Australian Police Contingent. He took these pictures while admiring a Cyprus rainbow on patrol around OP 146.



UNFICYP at Fifty

In Pictures



Across this year's Blue Beret issues, we will dip into the UNFICYP photographic archives to bring you some of the gems from our fifty year history. In the early years of the Mission, the 1960s, United Nations peacekeeping was in its infancy. At the time, the initial deployment in Cyprus was one of the largest ever for the UN, with almost 6,000 troops deployed in the first year along with 173 civilian police.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN The 1960s

21 December 1963

Outbreak of inter-communal violence.

4 March 1964

Security Council Resolution 186 creates the United Nations Force in Cyprus for a period of three months, with a mandate to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions.

13 March 1964

The first UNFICYP peacekeepers are deployed. Over the next few months, military from the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Austria join the mission.

27 March 1964

The Force becomes operational and Lt General Gyani of India assumes his post as the first Force Commander.

22 April 1964

The first UNFICYP civilian police take up their duties. Through May and June, civilian police from Austria, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and Denmark deploy in Cyprus.





The 1960s Continued...

11 May 1964

Galo Plaza, former President of Ecuador, is appointed as the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus. He would later be named as the UN Mediator.

20 June 1964

The Security Council decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further three months, the first of many renewals.

22 December 1967

The Security Council adopts Resolution 244, which recognizes the enlargement of UNFICYP's mandate to include supervision of disarmament and arrangements to safeguard internal security.

24 June 1968

Intercommunal talks begin.

10 December 1968

UNFICYP's mandate is extended once again, for a further 6 months, with Secretary-General U Thant hailing the progress made in the intercommunal talks, and welcoming the reduction of the Force by one quarter as a sign of the 'improved situation'.



50th Anniversary Coin

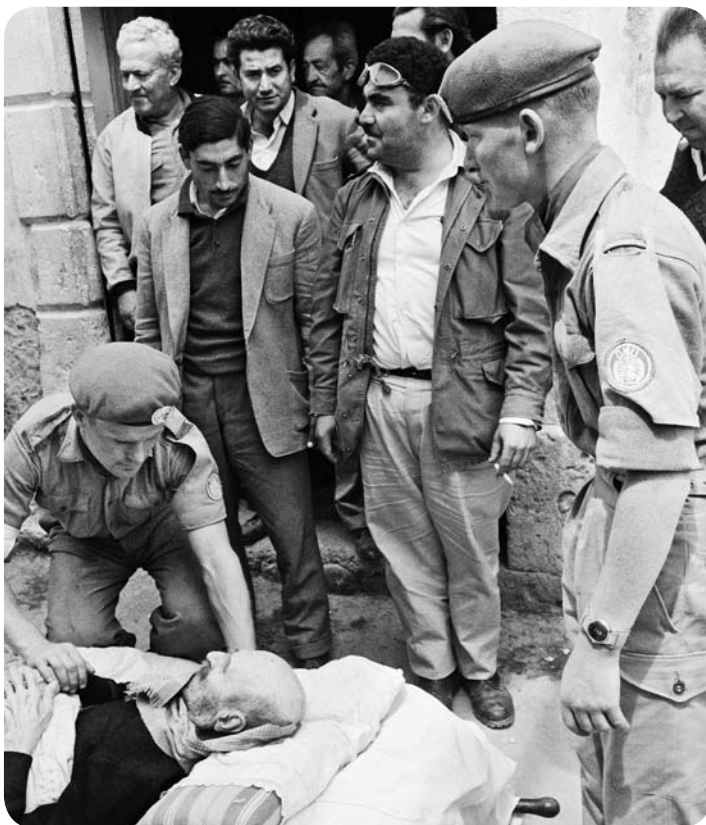
As many readers will be aware, UNFICYP is producing a commemorative coin for the 50th anniversary of the Mission. The final product should be arriving at UNFICYP in a few weeks. A great take-home memento of this historic milestone!



UNITED KINGDOM

BRITCON: A Brief History

During the intercommunal conflict that broke out at the end of 1963 in Cyprus, British troops were the first to come to the aid of the Cypriot people. Moving in from the Sovereign Base areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, the British interposed themselves between the two communities to work to restore peace and security. Indeed, the now-famous 'Green Line' was drawn by Group Captain Mark Hobden RAF in December 1963, and endures to this day. The ongoing fighting led to debate in the United Nations Security Council, where UNFICYP was established and became an international peacekeeping operation in March 1964. The first British contingent numbered around 1,000 troops, initially comprised of an infantry battalion and a small operational and logistics unit. Its operational responsibility centred around the Limassol District and the Kophinou Sector of Larnaca District, with administrative command in UNFICYP's HQ in the Blue Beret Camp in Nicosia. Deployments shifted over the decades to various parts of the island and, since the departure of Canadian soldiers in 1993, the United Kingdom has been responsible for patrolling and monitoring what is now Sector 2, which includes Nicosia and the 'Green Line'. The UK also provides 14 staff in UNFICYP HQ and provides troops to the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) and Force Military Police Unit (FMPU).



Delivering humanitarian assistance in the Karpas, 1991, and left, transporting an elderly Cypriot to hospital, 1964.



British peacekeepers lend a hand to farmers harvesting carob in the Limassol area, September 1968.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

BRITCON played a critical role in providing essential humanitarian assistance to Cypriots during the 1960s and 1970s, carrying out deliveries of food aid and transporting the sick and elderly to receive medical care. Peacekeepers from the United Kingdom even stepped in to maintain several Cypriot farms until farming families were able to return to them.



On parade. BRITCON's Sector Two HQ is in the Ledra Palace Hotel.
Below, BRITCON Gurkhas upgrade an OP, 1986.



FIFTY YEARS OF COMMITTED PEACEKEEPING

BRITCON has traditionally been one of the largest forces in UNFICYP, and remains so to this day. It has held several key positions in the Mission, particularly that of Chief of Staff from the inception of the Mission in 1964 - and alternated with Canada between 1968 and 1988 - through to current Chief of Staff Colonel Angus Loudon. Approximately 300 British peacekeepers now serve in Cyprus, the modern face of UNFICYP's longest military presence and of the United Kingdom's commitment to serving the cause of peace on the island.



Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II visited Cyprus in 1993 and paid tribute to the British peacekeepers serving with UNFICYP.



BRITCON FACTS

TOTAL MILITARY: Approximately 50,000
DEPLOYMENT: Before March 1964
LOCATIONS: Limassol, Larnaca, Nicosia
CASUALTIES: 62



CANADA

CANCON: A Brief History

The 1st Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment formed the first Canadian contingent of UNFICYP. Twenty-nine young soldiers arrived in Nicosia in the lead-up to 27 March 1964, when UNFICYP became fully operational, to make arrangements for more than 1,000 troops that would soon be deployed in the capital. The Canadians were able to relieve British troops from various posts in Nicosia and Kyrenia, and eventually Canada would be responsible for Sector 3 and headquartered in Ledra Palace Hotel. Over the next 29 years, Canada would be a major troop contributor to the mission, with over 25,000 Canadian soldiers serving, including 28 Canadian peacekeepers who lost their lives in Cyprus.

At midnight of 15 June 1993, Canadian soldiers conducted their last patrol. The next day, troops passed on their duties to British and Austrian peacekeepers and Canada formally withdrew its peacekeeping force. Sector 3 ceased to exist. The names of the remaining sectors did not change to reflect the change in territory, so today the buffer zone is divided into Sectors 1, 2 and 4. Canada has maintained a presence with UNFICYP throughout the 50 years of the Mission through staff officers; Capt Yves Courtemanche is the current serving Canadian Officer with the Mission.



Ledra Palace Hotel, 1986.



A group of soldiers from the Royal 22nd on watch, 1964.



On foot patrol in Kyrenia, accompanied by local children, 1964.



An injured Canadian soldier shows off the bullet that wounded him, 1974.



Behind the sandbags.
Ledra Palace Hotel, 1974.



Canadian troops on patrol, 1974.

Tribute to Brigadier Clayton Beattie



A final farewell to Brigadier General Clayton E. Beattie of Canada, who sadly passed away on 3 February 2014 at the age of 86, after a long and gallant battle with Parkinson's disease. Brigadier General Beattie began his career as an artillery officer. He served for five years over two deployments in Cyprus, finishing up in 1976 as Chief of Staff. As Commander of the Canadian contingent Brigadier General Beattie personified the Blue Beret, upholding the principles of human rights and personally ensuring the safe return of prisoners of war to their homes during the release of over 380 civilians held at Ledra Palace Hotel. During the tense summer of 1974, Brigadier General Beattie was instrumental in negotiating a ceasefire to the epic battle of Nicosia Airport. He placed himself between two belligerent battalions sworn to fight to the last man, made his way between the opposing sides, climbed onto the roof of an abandoned bus and raised what he called the blue and white "bulletproof flag". Among his many honours, Clayton Beattie was awarded Commander of the Order of Military Merit, which carries the following citation:

"...The danger to Colonel Beattie while he conducted his duties throughout this period of air attacks, artillery, mortar, tank and small arms fire was extreme."
Farewell Brigadier General, your mission is accomplished.

Photo: Former UNFICYP COS Brigadier General Clayton E. Beattie, CMM, C St, CD, photographed at the Nicosia International Airport in 1974



Patrolling in downtown
Nicosia, 1974.

CANCON FACTS

SINCE 1964
TOTAL TROOPS: More than 25,000
FIRST DEPLOYMENT: 27 March 1964
LOCATIONS: Nicosia & Kyrenia
CASUALTIES: 28

AUSTRIA

AUSCON: A Brief History

Austria was among the first countries to contribute to UNFICYP. From March to May of 1964 it rallied to send its military medical expertise to staff the field hospital in Nicosia, and also provided the first civilian police to the Mission. In 1972, Austria would begin contributing troops, with the first Austrian battalion deployed to Paphos.

The Austrian Field Hospital

Drawing on their medical expertise, Austria responded to the crisis in Cyprus by sending 54 medical staff to care for the fast expanding UN Force. A small mobile medical unit deployable anywhere in the island supplemented the 50-bed hospital, x-ray facility and dental centre in the old hospital at Kokkinotrimithia, Nicosia. In 1973, the Austrian field hospital was reorganized as a smaller medical centre in the mission headquarters with a staff of 14. The centre continued to operate until 1976. During the decade from 1964 to 1973 the hospital provided medical care for 65,000 patients. Medical services were extended to Cypriots too and the hospital played a key role in responding to incidents in Kokkina in 1964. It also provided medical care to UN soldiers who served in Gaza in 1967.



Images from the Austrian field hospital.



Austrian CIVPOL assist Cypriot Police at a checkpoint, 1973

FIRST CIVILIAN POLICE

Not long after the field hospital was up and running, Austria sent a group of 34 police officers to support the mission. The police officers worked with the local population and Cypriot police, patrolling and monitoring checkpoints and escorting vehicle convoys through dangerous areas. Their duties also included looking for missing persons and assisting the displaced. Between 1964 and 1977, Austrian police carried out a total of 10,000 investigations. To promote international exchange, Austrian police officers occasionally served with the Swedish and Australian contingents and vice versa. From 1968, the size of the Austrian police contingent was increased to 45, with two or three officers assigned to mission headquarters in Nicosia. By the time the Austrian police contingent wrapped up its mission on 27 July 1977, a total of 276 Austrian police officers had served in Cyprus.

ARRIVAL

of the Austrian Battalion

In 1972, after Ireland reduced the size of its contingent from 400 to 100 troops, an Austrian battalion was called for. The advance party reached Cyprus on 24 March and on 3 May 1972, the 238-strong Austrian battalion assumed responsibility for the Paphos district. After a reassignment of operational areas in 1973, the district of Paphos was handed over to the British contingent and the Austrian battalion took over the district of Larnaca. In one of the most tragic losses of life for UN troops on the island, three Austrian peacekeepers were killed near Koshi on 14 August 1974 when a Turkish fighter jet destroyed their Land Rover with napalm bombs. A memorial service is held every year at a monument erected in their honour near the village of Goshi.

In 1977, in an exchange with the Swedish contingent, the Austrian battalion took over the district of Famagusta in what became known as Sector 4. In 1995, Hungarian peacekeepers joined the Austrians and two years later, the Slovenian contingent was sent to form the United Nations Austrian-Hungarian-Slovenian Battalion (UNAHSB). On 18 June 2001, the Austrian contingent withdrew and Sector 4 was taken over by Slovak command. Since then, Austria continues to support UNFICYP with staff officers based in mission headquarters. There are currently four Austrian military personnel in Cyprus.

AUSCON FACTS

Since 1964

TOTAL MILITARY: 10,078

TOTAL POLICE: 549

DEPLOYMENT: 27 March 1964

LOCATIONS: Kokkinotrimithia & Omorphita in Nicosia, Paphos, Larnaca & Famagusta

CASUALTIES: 16



Austrian troops line up for a medal parade



Paying tribute at the Austrian memorial in Goshi.



Austrian peacekeeper on patrol in Athna, 1990

IRELAND

IRECON: A Brief History

Ireland deployed over 1,000 troops to UNFICYP in 1964. The Irish contingent's first responsibilities after arriving on 28 March 1964 were patrols in Famagusta and Agios Theodoros. By 1965, the Irish were responsible for the Troodos-Morphou area, including Kokkina, Kato Pyrgos, Limnitis, Lefka, Kampos-Tsakistra and Kakopetria, where they worked in close collaboration with the Australian police. Irish officers held key positions, providing two of UNFICYP's Force Commanders: Major-General James Quinn (1976-81) and Major-General Michael Minehane (1992-94).

Military Contribution

In 1972, the Irish contingent was on the point of withdrawal, but eventually remained in smaller numbers; a reduced force of 130

soldiers took on responsibility for the town and coast of Larnaca, the eastern foothills of the Troodos Mountains and villages of the Mesaoria Plain. Its headquarters were at Camp Wolfe Tone outside the town of Larnaca. IRECON was withdrawn on 24 May 2005 after 41 years in Cyprus.

Irish Police

Irish civilian police, the An Garda Síochána, which translates from Gaelic as 'Guardians of the Peace', have carried on the Irish contribution in Cyprus, serving here since 1993. At present there are 12 Irish police officers deployed on the island. The position of Senior Police Advisor has been filled by several Irish commanders.



Irish blue helmets



Irish troops on the lookout.



Irish police officers on duty. This photograph made the cover of the Blue Beret in March 1994.



A group of Irish troops pose at UNFICYP HQ



Irish peacekeepers escort Turkish Cypriot refugees, 1964.



Stationed near Famagusta in 1964, these Irish troops marvel at the ruins at Salamis.



IRECON FACTS

Since 1964

TOTAL MILITARY: 9,540

TOTAL POLICE: 338

DEPLOYMENT: 28 March 1964

LOCATIONS: Famagusta, Agios Theodoros, Troodos-Morphou, Larnaca

CASUALTIES: 8



An Irish policewoman meets then Secretary-General Kofi Annan during his visit to Cyprus in 2002.

Business as Usual

UNFICYP might be turning fifty, but we are as busy as ever! Everyday tasks continue to keep our military, police and civilians very busy indeed. Patrols, inspections, meetings, visits, training and welfare – all the core activities that have been a part of UNFICYP's operations for five decades.



At an historic meeting of the two leaders on 11 February 2014, a Joint Declaration was signed to restart the Cyprus Talks



The first meeting of Cyprus negotiators, Andreas Mavroyiannis and Kudret Ozersay, posing here with DSASG Lisa Buttenheim, kicked off a few days after the signing of the Joint Declaration.



Rotation time is coming up, and the Force Photographer is shooting lots of goodbye photos!



Cypriot media colleagues were out in force for the Joint Declaration, with the Blue Berets from the MFR, the FMPU and Civilian Police, on hand to help.



Force Commander Major General Chao Liu presents his commendations.



One of UNFICYP's Hughes helicopters gets a paint job.



Police Officer Sonja Radic-Argirudis from Bosnia and Herzegovina with Civil Affairs colleague Roussa Demosthenous. Close cooperation between UNPOL & Civil Affairs is essential to facilitate normalization in the buffer zone.



The Public Information Office had a visit from Adam Marnero, the Cypriot pilot who flew the last civilian plane into Nicosia International Airport in 1974



A Hungarian member of the Force Military Police conducts speed checks in the UNPA.



Chief of Staff Colonel Angus Loudon, centre, oversees preparations for firearm training & the regular shooting competition to keep the soldiers' skills up.



IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE Winter Medal Parade



Dusk at the Old Airport

On a cold evening on Tuesday, 4 February 2014, soldiers from all sectors gathered at the United Nations Protected Area to be presented with the UN peacekeeping medal under the Organization's famous blue flag. It was a prestigious moment for these men and women of UNFICYP, who have been serving in Cyprus since September 2013. In all, peacekeepers from seven countries received medals: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Hungary and Serbia. Ambassadors from these last four troop-contributing countries were on hand to help present the medals alongside UNFICYP's Chief of Mission, Lisa Buttenheim, and Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



A proud moment for the Mobile Force Reserve on 27 February 2014 as they received their UN peacekeeping medals for their service with UNFICYP at a ceremony led by the Force Commander. The multinational MFR have been busy lately with the restart of Cyprus Talks along with their many other duties. Well deserved and congratulations to all!



MFR Medal Parade

ALL HAIL THE MFR

What would UNFICYP do without its Mobile Force Reserve? The MFR does so much more than greet us at the entrance each morning & raise the boom gate for us in the evenings. Its members train hard & form the honour guards to greet visitors. The MFR is instrumental in supporting this new important phase of the Cyprus Talks by ensuring security for leaders' meetings through the Op Dragoon. They form the reserve for planned operations & conduct patrols in all sectors. And it is very hard to fit them all into one photo, as you can see here, along with a photo of MFR OC Major Phipps in action.





UNFICYP at 50 YOUR PHOTOS

We asked our Facebook followers to send us their photographs as part of the commemoration of UNFICYP's 50 years in operation. We received an overwhelming response. Here are some of the contributions. We would still like to hear from you. Send your photos to us via Facebook message at:



facebook.com/unficy



Lieutenant General Günter Höfler of Austria, who served with UNFICYP as a young officer in 1973.



Kent Bradling from Sweden was a peacekeeper in Cyprus in 1968, 1973 and 1974-75. Here he is pictured on guard on Artimes road in Larnaca, Summer 1968.



Patrolling in Sector 4. Photo from Gabryell Nagy.



David Provan, Continuity Warrant Officer, LPH 2007-2010, with his dog Scamp in the Buffer Zone near Ledra Palace.



Kevin Hollahan was a peacekeeper here in 1971-72. He sent us this photograph from Canada of the Leaf 3 PPCLI transport Pl Support Coy at Maple Leaf Camp.



Remembrance Day, 2013. Photo thanks to Pt Glyn Murray.



Leposava Markovic from Serbia sent in this photo from the pilgrimage to Agia Marina in Dherinia in July 2012.



Sunrise, Sector 1. Photo from Lt Ivan Pieragostini, ARGCON FTA XXXVII 2011 .

Padre & his Pacemakers TRAVERSING THE BUFFER ZONE ON FOOT FOR CHARITY

Dispatch from the 28 Engineer Regiment

Sector 2 Padre Capt Andy Oliver was on the lookout for a challenge to undertake for charity, hoping to raise money to give to good causes on the island. Casting around for a fitting task, he decided that walking the 180 kilometres of UN buffer zone over just four days was the way to go. Once the plan was devised, he enlisted some willing volunteers to accompany him along the way and 'The Padre and his Pacemakers' were born!

The team comprised Maj Hill, 2Lt Piper, SSgt Ward, Sgt Soord-Gurney (MFR), Spr Bundy, Spr Duke, Cfn Gregory, Cfn Morfitt and Pte Terry (MFR). Along with a couple of support drivers provided by UNFICYP HQ, the team set off from UN OP8 on the western side of the island at 0600 hrs on Saturday, 1 February 2014.

Day 1

A hot, twenty mile slog through the mountains of Sector 1, the team was accompanied by support guides from Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. They reached Sector 1 HQ at San Martin Camp by last light for a very welcome overnight stop. After a good night's sleep and an early breakfast the team was ready for another day.

Day 2

Off again at 0600 hrs, the Padre and his Pacemakers encountered overcast skies on their second day as they trekked through open countryside and winding tracks, covering over 30 miles to reach Sector 2 HQ at Ledra Palace Hotel by the end of day. An exhausted team enjoyed a traditional British Sunday roast before a well-earned rest.

Day 3

The weary team set off through the highlight of the Buffer Zone, Nicosia's Old City, and then headed out to the East AO towards Sector 4, where they enjoyed the guidance of Slovaks, Hungarian, and Serbian troops. An easier day underfoot saw the team reach Athienou, to be greeted by some overwhelming Sector 4 hospitality.

Day 4

The final day began with an eager team, finish line in sight, and glorious weather to boost the morale. By mid-afternoon the team had reached UN OP146 on the east coast, just south of Famagusta. A weary but happy team dipped their feet in the sea, a great sense of achievement at the accomplished task.

A Great Result for Charity

So far, the Padre and his Pacemakers have raised over 1200 pounds, with the proceeds going to:

Caritas Cyprus: <http://caritascyprus.com>

SOS Children's Villages International:

www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/sponsor-a-child/europe/north-cyprus



A Message from the Medical Section

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

By Capt Z. Budan and LtCol Dr. Z. Fejes

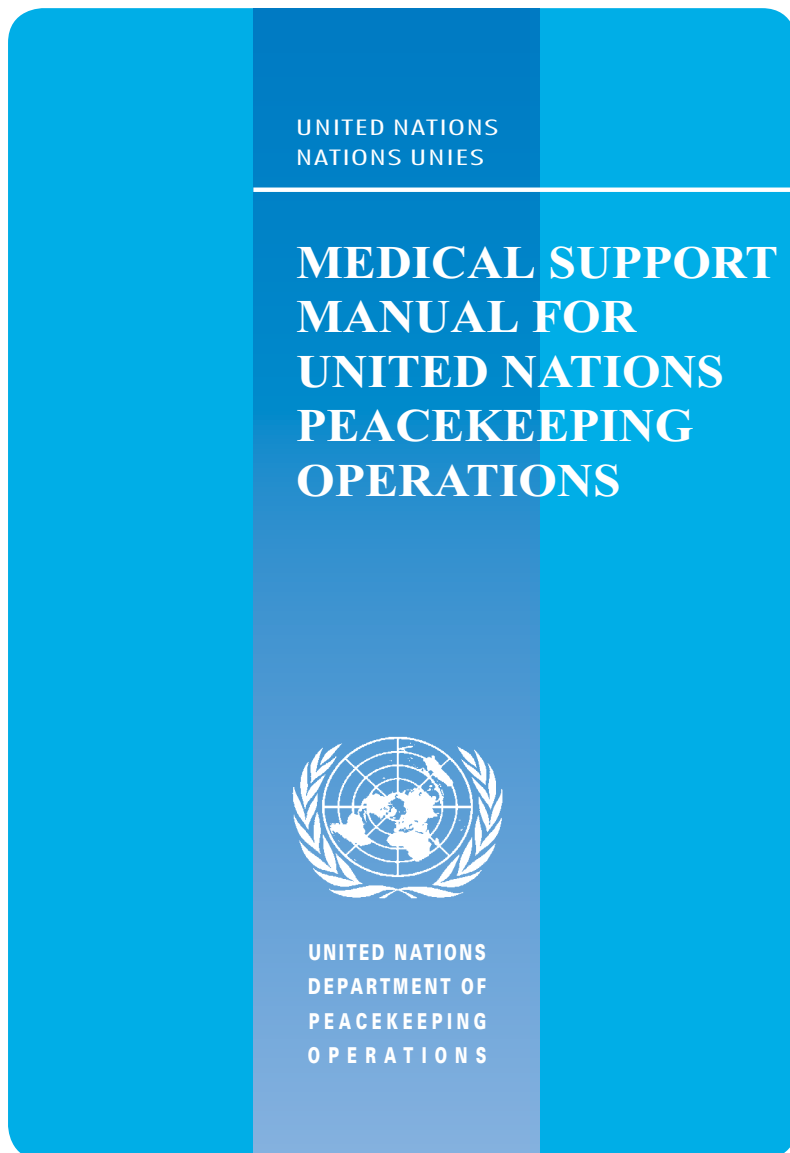
Peacekeeping environments can be hazardous and high-risk. In the field, medical professionals generally have two major challenges: maintaining the good health of troops, and preventing emerging diseases in the mission area.

Preventive medicine is one of the most important aspects of medical support in the field, incorporating immunization, disease prophylaxis, food and water borne diseases, vector control, control of communicable disease, control of general hygiene and sanitation. Proper and continuous health and hygiene education, correctly planned and implemented vaccination, and immunization programmes are the most effective tools.

Under the direction of the Force Medical Officer and Force Health

Officer, UNFICYP's Senior Medical Officers and Medical Officers are responsible for implementing preventive medicine practices for the military and police contingents and civilian staff members. It is their task to monitor the immunization status of troops, to manage any required vaccination or disease prevention programmes, and maintain documentation. Each member of the contingent must be provided with or have in their medical record the World Health Organization (WHO) international certificate of vaccination, or its national equivalent.

UN HQ sets the policy on the vaccination requirements within a mission area, in line with WHO regulations. Requirements are divided into mandatory, recommended, standard, optional and special case vaccinations.



World Health Organization

Check your vaccination status!

The following vaccinations are recommended for your stay in Cyprus:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal vaccine
- Seasonal Influenza
- Typhoid
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio

See your nearest Medical Officer for advice!



Second Time in Cyprus Skies

Our readers may remember First Lieutenant María Jorgelina Camarzana from her 2011 tour in Cyprus where she served as UNFICYP's first female pilot. 1st Lt Camarzana is back on the island for a second tour and spoke to the Blue Beret.

Since my tour in 2011, I have become a flight instructor. This has been an important career progression. For me, being an instructor is a real source of pride. It is great to be on the other side, to be able to share the knowledge that I have learned with others. As an instructor, I work to inspire men and women equally. Lots of men want to become pilots because of me. There are only 4 women in the Argentinean Air Force, and I was the second ever female Argentinean pilot, and the first to specialize in helicopters. It is a challenge being a woman in a male-dominated workplace, but we are a very tight-knit team and we really support each other, male and female. Although I sometimes feel that all eyes are on me to prove myself, this is motivation for me. In a way, it encourages me to work to be better than the men. I believe that I am opening ways, and I am sure that it will be easier for other woman to take the path that I have taken. My husband is also in the Argentinean Air Force. He is currently stationed in Haiti. It helps to have that support, knowing that he understands my work and how important it is to me. I am delighted to be back in Cyprus. We are 28 in UN Flight now, with the Bell Helicopter back on deck. There's a lot of interesting work for us to do. Meanwhile, I look forward to practicing my English, travelling and experiencing the culture here in Cyprus for the second time around!

Incoming... UN Flight has a new Officer in Command



Lt Col Patricio Hernan Pelourson Officer in Command, UN Flight

Lt Col Pelourson took up the post of Officer in Command of UN Flight on 30 December 2013. Born on 29 August 1969 in Pergamino City, 200km north of Buenos Aires, he joined the Argentinean Air Force when he was 14. He graduated from the Military Aeronautical High School in 1987 and after a further four years study at the Argentinean Force Academy, attended the Military Aviator Course in 1992 and received his "Military (Fixed) Wings". In 1993 he was appointed to the VII Air Brigade and became Helicopter Pilot. He has flown the Hughes 500, Bell UH-1H and Bell 212, reaching over 3000 flying hours in diverse locations such as Antarctica, the Brazilian Amazonia region, the United Kingdom, and throughout Argentina. Lt Col Pelourson has several tours in Cyprus under his belt, the first in 1996, followed by 2002, 2004, and 2010 as Military Aviation Safety Officer. He served with the UN Mission in Haiti in 2009 and is also an accomplished helicopter instructor, military trainer, search and rescue expert, VIP transport and forest firefighting practitioner. In 2013 he was Bell 212's Squadron Leader. In his spare time he enjoys playing tennis, volleyball and car racers.

Lieutenant Commander Pedro Martín Fernandez Force Signal Officer

Born in San Miguel de Tucumán, northwest of Argentina in 1972, Lt. Cdr. Pedro Martín Fernandez graduated from the Argentine Naval School as a Midshipman in 1994. He attended a communications specialization course in 1997 and a submarine orientation course in 1998. As a submariner he was assigned to different units as "Navigation Officer", "Communications Officer", "Operations Officer" and "Second in Command", taking part in many national and international exercises. He also served as Staff Officer at the "Submarines Force Command" and the "Command of Naval Operations". In 2008, he did his second trip in the "Libertad" sailing ship, on that occasion as a Chief of Naval Officers (Midshipmen). In 2011 he graduated from the Naval War College as "Command and Staff Officer", and then he was the Commanding Officer of a research ship in Antarctica.



Lt Col Dr. Tibor Krajcsi Force Medical Officer

Lt Col Dr. Krajcsi joined the Hungarian Defense Forces (HDF) in 1977. His first placement was at the Medical Centre HDF. After completing a scholarship at the Medical University in Budapest, his first assignment was with the Hungarian Airforce as a Regimental Doctor. He went on to work at the Medical Branch of the Hungarian Airforce Command and qualified as a Medical Doctor of Aeronautics. During his military career he also qualified as a NATO Force Protection Medical Evaluator, taking part in numerous NATO courses and exercises across Europe and deploying with UNFICYP HUNCON as a Medical Officer, 1998-1999; NATO KFOR, 2000-2001; and UNFICYP HQ as Force Medical Officer, 2005-2006. From 2003, he worked at the HDF Medical Command as Deputy Head of the Health Care Management Division. In 2007 a cut in defence spending led Lt Col Dr. Krajcsi to take early retirement after 33 years of service. Several months later he returned to the HDF as a civilian. After five years as a public servant, Lt Col Dr. Krajcsi, his heart still with the military, joined the Volunteer Operational Reserve Service. His wife is a nurse in the military and they have a son, Balázs, 23. Lt Col Dr. Krajcsi enjoys gardening, fishing, reading, travelling and exploring the internet.

... and Outgoing Faces... the Mobile Force Reserve will rotate out in April. We only just had a chance to feature the MFR officer in command... but better late than never... Good luck Maj Phipps on your next assignment!

Maj J W Phipps PWRR OC Mobile Force Reserve

Maj Phipps commissioned into the Second Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and has served at Regimental Duty as a Platoon Commander, Company Second in Command, Battle-Group Intelligence Officer and Adjutant. Out of Regimental Duty he has served as SO3 G2 / Exercise Plans at the Operational Training Advisory Group delivering operational training for troops deploying to Afghanistan. He took over as Training Major with 3 PWRR in July 2012. He has deployed on Operational tours in Northern Ireland serving in South Armagh and Londonderry as a Platoon Commander; Afghanistan in Musa Qal'eh district as Company Second in Command, Nad-e Ali and Lashkar Gah as the Intelligence Officer and with OPTAG in Nahr-e Seraj attached to the 1 Royal Gurkha Rifles Battle-Group. During the London 2012 Olympics he was deployed as a military liaison officer working with the police. In 2005 Maj Phipps deployed on an exchange exercise with the French Army in Djibouti and in 2012 ran a Short Term Training Team to Uganda training the Ugandan Peoples Defence Force for deployment to Somalia with AMISOM. Maj Phipps is married to Victoria and they have a son, William, born in April 2013.





Next Issue: Blue Beret Turns 50, Women in Peacekeeping & More Reader Contributions

Send us your inputs! It's your Blue Beret!

Plus: 50th Anniversary Focus on Finland, Sweden, Denmark & Australia // // //

BLUE BERET



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