

BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

July/August 2014

UNFICYP
Five Decades
of Transport
////////////////



Featuring:
A Farewell
Tribute to Force
Commander Maj
Gen Chao Liu ////



Plus: Hot Shots
around the Sectors
with the New Force
Commander /// Meet
Slovakia /// Summer
Events + MORE //////////



BLUE BERET

In this issue

Your Say

Focus

- 4 UNFICYP at 50 - the 1990s in Pictures
- 6 History of Troop & Police Contributions from
New Zealand - The Netherlands - Slovakia - Peru
Bolivia - Uruguay - Nepal - Republic of Korea - China

Feature

- 14 Farewell to the Force Commander
A Tribute to Major General Chao Liu

Events

- 17 First Female Force Commander Takes Charge
- 18 Summer Events and Visits
- 19 Medals for Peace in Ancient Salamis - Sector 4 Medal Parade

Round-up

- 20 Hot Shots: Around the Sectors with the New Force Commander
- 22 Five Decades of Military Hardware

New Faces

- 23 Welcome Norway, and Farewell to the OC MFR



Front cover: A tribute to the toys and technology that have transported UN peacekeepers around the island of Cyprus over the past five decades. See our story on page 22 for more on the vehicles and aircraft of UNFICYP.

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.

Published bi-monthly by the Public
Information Office of the United Nations
Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

HQ UNFICYP
PO Box 21642
1590 Nicosia
Cyprus

Editorial Team

Executive Editor Michel Bonnardeaux
Managing Editor Louise Barber
Artistic Director Ersin Öztoycan
Military Public Information Officer
Capt Tomas Ciampor
Force Photographer
SSgt Roman Chovanec

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

Tel: 2261-4634/4416/4408 - Fax: 2261-4461

E-mail: unficyp-mil-pio@un.org

READER CONTRIBUTIONS

A great shot of an Alouette helicopter from Jens Christian T. Olesen who served with the Danish contingent at D12. "With its 381 metres above sea level, this OP was the highest in Cyprus," Jens tells us. "The view was fantastic. And imagine the quiet up there in the Buffer Zone... I miss that!"



AUSCON in Famagusta

Siegfried Rachbauer, who served with AUSCON in Famagusta between 1986 and 1988, sent in these three great photos. Siegfried tells us that the Alouette II helicopter used to land at the Austrian Headquarters "Camp Duke Leopold V" at Famagusta from time to time, piloted by British RAF. The other photographs are from a "manoeuvre" that the forces conducted together in the Buffer Zone in 1988.



UNFICYP at Fifty

In Pictures



On to the 1990s, when the face of UNFICYP underwent major changes with the withdrawal of long-standing troop contributors such as Canada, Denmark and Sweden; the arrival of brand new contingents from Argentina, Hungary, Slovenia and the Netherlands, and a host of partners from Latin America including Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, heralded changes at the operational level, and the creation of the three UNFICYP Sectors as we know them today. Moreover, these changes brought a new peacekeeping spirit from further afield, galvanizing the already-multinational force and ensuring that it could continue to work to fulfil UNFICYP's mandate.

A CHANGING FORCE The 1990s

February 1990

Negotiations resume but are halted again later that year.

1992

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says Cyprus is a priority. He launches talks in New York mid-year, presenting his 'Set of Ideas' for a draft settlement.

March 1993

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali meets Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash. Confidence-building measures are proposed, with negotiations for implementation to begin in May. Talks resume but are cancelled in June.

December 1993

The face of UNFICYP is changing. Major troops contributing countries Canada, Denmark and Sweden withdraw. Countries like Argentina, Slovakia and Hungary will step in to fill the gap.

February 1994

The UN begins proximity talks to negotiate the implementation of confidence-building measures following confirmation of acceptance by both sides.



The 1990s Continued....

October 1995

Successful bi-communal events take place at Ledra Palace. An Open House on the UN's 50th anniversary draws over 5,000 visitors and a bi-communal friendship concert entertains over 1,000 people.

May 1997

A bi-communal concert draws 3,000 music lovers.

July 1997

Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş meet for five days of UN-sponsored talks in Troutbeck, New York, followed by a further round of talks in Switzerland in August.



4 **The Blue Beret** May 1997

THE MESSAGE WAS

Monday 19 May 1997 was an evening which will be remembered by more than the 3,000 young people of Cyprus who gathered at the Chetinkaya sports field just outside the Venetian Walls, facing the Ledra Palace Hotel. The two singers, Burak Kut from Turkey and Sakis Rouvas from Greece, provided a memorable 90-minute show.

The bi-communal peace concert required several weeks of intensive preparations, including the removal of barbed wire, scrap fences, old concrete foundations, undergrowth, etc. Once the clearing was complete, an area of just over 30,000 square metres was levelled with heavy vehicles - bulldozers, wheel loaders, trucks, JCBs and roller/compactors were used. The bastion walls had to be cleared manually by 35 UNFICYP soldiers from all sectors. Trees were pruned, palm trees trimmed, the VIP stand erected and ramps constructed for the purpose of medical assistance. This mammoth task was completed in record time, thanks to the willingness and determination of all personnel within the Force.

Security during the concert was of paramount importance. Over 400 UNFICYP peace-keepers were assigned to ensure that the event took place peacefully. There was excellent cooperation with the police on both sides.

All this effort was not in vain, and by the evening, everything was in place, ready for the concert. Regardless of the uncertainty and some negative predictions, the two brave young men went ahead with their programme as scheduled. The United Nations extends its thanks to Burak and Sakis, who showed great courage in the face of adverse media reporting and counter demonstrations by groups which opposed the event.

The concert opened with a duet, followed by solo songs by the two artists singing in their respective languages. The audience was truly bi-communal in its response, equally

cheering both singers. At the end of their performance, Burak and Sakis launched into a selection of English songs, including *Imagine* by John Lennon, *Come Together* by the Beatles and Bob Dylan's *Knocking on Heaven's Door*, lyrics with a deep meaning that could easily be applied to the situation on this troubled island.

Language was no barrier - the common meaning was in the songs. The message of peace and togetherness was felt by the whole crowd as, side by side and holding hands, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots swayed together to the rhythm of the music. They mixed readily, sang and danced together, and exchanged flowers and addresses.

This concert could not have taken place without the approval of both community leaders. The "green light" for this event was given, and UNFICYP is most grateful for the support given by the two sides at all levels. It is worth recalling that at a meeting at the Ledra Palace Hotel in March, leaders of the political parties on both sides pledged to co-sponsor concerts and other such bi-communal events.

They have thus shown their willingness to contribute to an atmosphere which will help bring about a solution to the Cyprus problem.

The concert came to a close around 23:30 hours with the entire audience chanting "we want peace".

At the subsequent press conference held in the Ledra Palace Hotel, the Chief of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus, Mr Gustave Feissel, expressed his great respect for the over 3,000 people who attended the function, and who had sent a message of peace across the island and abroad. He also thanked the soldiers of UNFICYP who worked so hard for this event. Mr Feissel then presented both singers with a plaque from UNFICYP in appreciation of their contribution to making the evening a success.

Burak, visibly moved by the whole event, commented that he was: "very pleased to be in Cyprus tonight, and that he was sure everyone would get the message that what has happened in the past is over, and that what is important now is friendship between Cypriots." "Peace", he said, "is always true".

"Imagine"....., "Come Together".....

May 1997 **The Blue Beret** 5

LOUD AND CLEAR

Sakis added: "We should all look to a better future. Burak and I are only singers, but we are doing something we believe in by trying to put our message clearly across to the politicians and to the people in the most effective and genuine manner. We feel we have succeeded in what we set out to do. It is now up to the people to nurture the seed which has been planted and help it grow".

When asked about the message which was directed towards the youth of the island, Mr Feissel commented "the best message we can give to those people who decided not to come is to look at those who came. I am quite confident that what our two friends have done will help the UN very much in moving things forward at a time when we are about to embark on important negotiations. Even though there have been some difficulties, we should not overlook the most important message of friendship, which was very visible tonight."

UNFICYP considers this concert an inspiration and great encouragement for its efforts to promote bi-communal activities. The concert has been an undeniable confirmation that Cypriots from both sides want to live together in a federal Cyprus, and are prepared to make the effort.

This was an unforgettable evening, with everyone leaving just a little more united than they were before - and looking forward to the next bi-communal concert!

The view is better from up here!

Presentation of plaques by Mr Feissel to Sakis (left) and Burak

Message from the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, and the Force Commander, Major General Evergisto de Vergara, to all military and civilian staff

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the Force who were involved in the planning, organizing and conduct of the bi-communal concert which was held at Chetinkaya sports field in Nicosia on 19 May 1997.

The concert was a large-scale, high profile and most successful event covered by the local and international media where the Force was very much in the spotlight. This operation placed a heavy workload on members of the Force, but was nevertheless carried out in a highly competent manner and with the professionalism expected from UNFICYP. We are very gratified at the way personnel collaborated in harmony as a cohesive team in the true spirit of the United Nations. The skillful handling of this concert has enhanced the reputation of UNFICYP, not only in Cyprus but also abroad, and has been the subject of much favourable comment.

All members of the military, police and civilian staff are to be congratulated for their hard work which was essential for the success of the venture. We are confident that the clear message of reconciliation that emerged from the concert will contribute to the efforts of the Secretary-General to bring about an overall settlement to the Cyprus problem.



NEW ZEALAND

Kiwi Police: Founding Members of the UN Police Presence in Cyprus

A Brief History

The New Zealand Police presence in Cyprus began on 21 May 1964 when a Hasting aircraft of the New Zealand Air Force touched down in Nicosia carrying 25 "Kiwi Coppers". Inspector George Wells led this first NZ police unit, which completed an 8-month tour. By 1966, the 20-strong "KIWICIVPOL" were headquartered at the Curium Palace Hotel in Limassol with an isolated detachment of four men in the Troodos Hills at Mallia. In their Landrovers they covered the whole of the Limassol area and had clocked up more than 92,000 miles during their patrols. The 6th and last Kiwi Police Contingent in Cyprus departed the island on 27 June 1967 after a 6-month tour



NEW ZEALAND FACTS

TOTAL POLICE: 80 in the period 1964-1967

DEPLOYMENT DATE: 21 May 1964

LOCATION: Limassol District



THE NETHERLANDS

A Brief History

The Netherlands contributed 100 troops a year to UNFICYP between 1998 and 2001 and 44 police officers between 2004 and 2010. This wonderful article from the Blue Beret of June 1998 describes the arrival of the first Dutch peacekeepers to Cyprus, and the photo archive shows that the Netherlands were active participants in the military skills competition!



THE NETHERLANDS FACTS

TOTAL MILITARY: 397

TOTAL POLICE: 44

DEPLOYMENT DATE: 9 June 1998

LOCATION: Sector 2

2
The Blue Beret
June 1998


DUTCH KING'S COMPANY BECOMES PART OF THE UNFICYP FAMILY

On 9 June 1998, the remaining few of the 100 soldiers who joined the Netherlands detachment within UNFICYP's Sector Two set foot on the island for their six-month tour of duty with the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

For some, this is their first operational mission abroad, however most of the soldiers have served with the UN before. The unit itself, Alfa Company of the Regiment known as the Grenadiers and Foresters Guards (also called the King's Company), secured the Tuzla air base in 1994 during the Bosnia War. The Regiment is one of the three infantry regiments of 11 Airmobile Brigade. This brigade was founded in 1992 as the first part of a major reorganization of the Netherlands Army. Subsequently, it was also the first unit, starting off with the Alfa/King's Company, to be manned with exclusively volunteer soldiers.


Since this major reorganization, national service in The Netherlands ceased to exist. The soldiers of this brigade are considered to be the fittest of the Netherlands Army, and discipline is said to be higher than anywhere else in the forces. Physically, their tasks in Cyprus will not be as demanding as their work as infantrymen, although patrolling on foot and bicycle in the summer will doubtless make up for this.

subjects: their goals and missions. And these are clear! Our goal is to win the hearts and minds of both the opposing forces, our mission is to serve the peace in Cyprus. We intend to achieve this by acting in a firm, fair and friendly manner."



Captain Harm van der Have

Captain Harm van der Have, the ever-smiling officer commanding of King's Company, is proud to introduce his company to his blue beret colleagues. "Yes, the King's Company is a unit I am proud to be the commander of", he says. "The name 'King's Company' has an historical background. Whenever a future Dutch King joined the army, he started off as a platoon commander within the Alfa Company of the 11th Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. Since we've had three Queens in succession reigning over The Netherlands, it has been a long time since we've had royal blood within our Regiment. And I personally am sorry that Prince Willem Alexander, our future King, joined the Navy instead of the Army!"



Major Jos Reijnhout

The senior national officer of the contingent, Major Jos Reijnhout, looks positively towards serving with UNFICYP. "I hope and expect that we shall be integrated within the UNFICYP family soon, and that we shall contribute to a stable situation on this beautiful but sadly divided island. The Dutch soldiers have been most fastidious in their preparations to work together with 19 Regiment Royal Artillery. I am not exaggerating when I state that the integration within 'the 19th' is already complete. That is logical. Professional soldiers communicate at the same level about the same

Major Reijnhout and his men are well aware of the opportunities serving with a multinational organization has to offer. "My grenadiers and I are looking forward to meeting colleagues from other countries, and to learn how they deal with our common challenges. In particular, the Dutch troop participating in the Mobile Force Reserve will have the opportunity to work in a deeply integrated multinational force. However, I am sure that the Dutch soldiers in Liri Troop and Falcon Troop will also make good contacts, not only with their comrades in arms, but also with both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parties. After all, these are the people we are working for. Dutchmen are traditionally used to communicating with other nationalities and have, over the years, developed good negotiating skills. I hope these skills will assist us in fulfilling our mission in Cyprus."

SLOVAKIA

A Brief History

Slovak National Council Resolution Number 1372 of 10 May 2001 gave its consent to the deployment of the first unit of the Armed Forces to UNFICYP; the first SLOVCON members arrived on the island soon afterwards.

SLOVCON took command of Sector 4 from Austria. It was the first time in Slovak history that its armed forces assumed command of a sector in a UN peacekeeping mission.

Slovakia's deputy in Sector 4, the Hungarian Contingent, also joined UNFICYP in 2001. In 2005, Sector 4 was strengthened by the addition of soldiers from Croatia, and more recently in 2010 with a contingent of soldiers from Serbia, and in 2013 from Ukraine. The Area of Operation of Sector 4 is therefore UNFICYP's most multinational. The five countries contribute 284 men and women to the mission, the majority of whom work within Sector 4, in 3 platoons and MOLO teams, with others in the UNFICYP Headquarters and Contingent Headquarters. The Contingents also have personnel assigned to the Mobile Force Reserve, the Force Military Police Unit, and a separate troop of 37 Slovak Engineers who are located in the United Nations Protected Area.



SLOVAK FACTS

TOTAL MILITARY: 2,500
DEPLOYMENT: May 2001
LOCATION: Sector 4
CASUALTIES: 2



IN COMMAND IN SECTOR 4



PERU



A Brief History

Peru's contribution in Cyprus totals 45 troops serving between 2005 and 2010 in Sector 1 under Argentinean Command. A founding member of the United Nations, the Republic of Peru has maintained a continuous interest in contributing to UN peacekeeping operations. The first mission in which Peru participated was the UN Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) in 1958. Its largest contribution of UN peacekeepers so far was in the Second UN Emergency Force (UNEF II) and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Middle East after the 1973 Arab-Israeli conflict. Over decades, Peru has deployed personnel to 20 UN missions. More recently, in 2004, Peru deployed a contingent to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The deployment, known as *Compañía Peru*, has some 200 troops. According to official data, 4,244 troops have been deployed overall to MINUSTAH over the course of 17 rotations.

Peruvians Appointed by the Secretary-General to Cyprus

Javier Perez de Cuellar and Alvaro de Soto

Two significant leaders in the history of the UN's involvement in Cyprus hailed from Peru. Javier Perez de Cuellar was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus from 1975 to 1977 and later went on to become Secretary-General from 1982 to 1991. The former Peruvian diplomat played a key role in the Cyprus Talks, including the presentation of the 'Draft Framework Agreements' and introduction of the 'Summary of Ideas' as a basis of a comprehensive settlement.

Peruvian Alvaro de Soto was the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus from 2000 to 2004 and went on to become the UN's Special Coordinator of the Middle East Peace Process until 2007.



Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi

Peru took the reins of the Force in Cyprus with the appointment of Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi (pictured below) in 2008. RA Debernardi arrived in Cyprus on 1 April in the midst of one of most significant events on the island – the opening of the Ledra-Lokmaci Street crossing.



PERU FACTS

DEPLOYMENT: 2005-2010
TOTAL MILITARY: 45
LOCATION: Sector 1

BOLIVIA



A Brief History

Bolivian troops began serving in UNFICYP's Sector 1 under Argentinean command in 1993 and contributed to peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus until 2003.

Bolivia has participated in UN Peacekeeping Operations since the early 1980s. As of June 2010, it was supplying a total of 438 personnel to six UN peacekeeping operations (28 military observers and 410 troops). Bolivia also hosts a Centre for Peacekeeping Training (COMPEBOL in Spanish), to provide training to the Bolivian peacekeeping forces that support UN peacekeeping operations around the world. COMPEBOL trains approximately 700 troops annually.

BOLIVIA FACTS

DEPLOYMENT: 1999-2003

TOTAL MILITARY: 2/year

LOCATION: Sector 1



URUGUAY



A Brief History



Uruguay was also part of the Force in Sector 1 between 1999 and 2003. "Uruguay's commitment to global peacekeeping is without rival," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once said in remarks to the National School for Peacekeeping Operations, located in the capital, Montevideo. "When adjusted for population, no country contributes more troops than Uruguay." More than 25,000 Uruguayans have served in 21 peacekeeping missions since 1951, with some 2,400 Uruguayans currently serving under the blue flag. Twenty-seven Uruguayans have lost their lives in UN service.

Force Commander Major General Hebert Figoli

Major General Figoli (pictured left) of Uruguay assumed his responsibilities on 8th January 2004 as UNFICYP's 14th Force Commander.

URUGUAY FACTS

DEPLOYMENT: 1999 – 2006 **TOTAL MILITARY:** 15 **LOCATION:** Sector 1

NEPAL



Major General Victory Rana UNFICYP Force Commander, 1999-2001

Nepal became an UNFICYP troop-contributing country with the appointment of Major General Rana as Force Commander in 1999. He brought with him an early career experience in Cyprus, where in 1967 he served as a young officer cadet from the UK's Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He recalls the experience as an initial "small taste" of peacekeeping.

"I believe in leading by example," said Major General Rana on his arrival in Cyprus. "I expect to spend a lot of time visiting the various sectors we have here, getting to know the commanders and getting to know the problems they face."

Nepal became a member of the United Nations in 1955 and first contributed military peacekeepers in 1958, sending five observers to the UN Military Observation Group in Lebanon. As of April 2013, Nepal had contributed 94,000 peacekeepers to 43 UN missions overall. Since late 2006 it has consistently provided at least 3,000 or more peacekeepers, making it one of the UN's largest troop-contributing countries.



CHINA



Major General Chao Liu UNFICYP Force Commander, 2011-2014

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Major General Chao Liu of China as UNFICYP Force Commander on 14 January 2011. Major General Liu succeeded Real Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi of Peru, taking up his duties on 25 Feb 2011.

China currently contributes 2,188 personnel to UN Peacekeeping Operations. Its history of involvement in UN peacekeeping began in 1988 when China joined the special committee on peacekeeping operations, and sent its first military observers the following year. China sent the first company of engineers to Cambodia in April 1992 and, since then, China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations has dramatically expanded by type, numbers of personnel and location of missions. This year, China is planning to send more than 400 military engineering, medical and transport teams, as well as military observers, civil policemen and political officials to join the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan.

For more on Major General Chao Liu's time with UNFICYP, turn to our tribute on the following pages.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Lieutenant General Jin Ha Hwang UNFICYP Force Commander, 2002-2003

Lieutenant General Hwang assumed command of UNFICYP on 7 January 2002, succeeding Major General Victory Rana of Nepal. The opening of the first crossings in 2003 marked his two-year deployment.

The Republic of Korea has long been an active troop-contributing nation and advocate of UN peacekeeping. It has actively participated in UN Peacekeeping Operations through the dispatch of infantry troops and by supporting other contingents, with medical and engineering units. With 637 troops deployed in eight missions, including the deployment of 317 troops to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and 290 troops to the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), Korea ranks 35th in the number of troops dispatched as of May 2014.



FAREWELL TO THE FORCE COMMANDER

AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS COMMANDING UNFICYP'S PEACEKEEPING FORCE, MAJOR GENERAL CHAO LIU COMPLETED HIS TENURE IN AUGUST 2014. WE TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS TIME HERE WITH THIS RETROSPECTIVE IMAGE SELECTION NARRATED BY THE FORCE COMMANDER HIMSELF.

"It is my personal honour and privilege to command a multinational force in Cyprus. I will say that I am the first Chinese general to be a commanding officer of a multinational force and I really enjoy my job. It will be a very unique part of my military career."

INSPECTING THE TROOPS

"The main aim of my inspections was to check that the newly arrived contingents are well-trained and well-prepared for this Mission. I was very happy to meet the new contingents on the ground and to talk to the individual soldiers. I was always very happy to talk with the individual soldiers, and listen to their opinions and feelings about their mission in Cyprus. Sometimes they will mention challenges, frustrations – in the military we always want to take on challenges. As the Force Commander I try to explain what the meaning of our operation is. And I hope that what I said makes them realize that the mission in Cyprus is as important as the other UN missions in Africa and the Middle East."



PROGRESS ON DEMINING

"What we dealt with this Spring was a mine hazard issue and we got great assistance from UNIFIL, demonstrating a very good intermission cooperation. We expressed our gratitude to the Force Commander of UNIFIL and his staff and team and especially the Cambodians who did an excellent job. Given these deminers' backgrounds, coming from Cambodia where they have a very serious issue, they came here and helped the people to get rid of mines here – finding one antitank mine. It was an excellent effort."



“In China, we say that the barracks are always there but the soldiers come and go. I have been in Cyprus for over three years and it is high time I left. I was very honoured that Mr. Ladsous presented me with my medal, and the very rare number 7 numeral.”



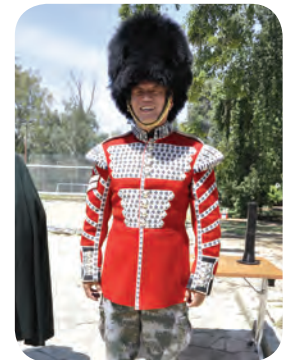
SUCCESSSES AND INNOVATIONS

“When I came and read in the Force Employment Book that our mission was to dominate every inch of the buffer zone, I realized, since we have only a small number of troops – 860 – I cannot task our troops to dominate every inch of such a large area. So I asked the tasking to be changed from “domination” to “demonstrate a credible UN presence”. The Sectors have understood what my intent is – to demonstrate this credible presence to cover the key areas. This is a change – and I will not say that this is just because of me. Now, the soldiers patrol into critical areas or key areas and not every inch –and we make an effort to double or triple our patrols in certain areas. They will change their patrol plans accordingly to be more flexible and adaptable to the operating environment. We may use the very limited resources to deal with the main issues, not just patrol without reason, and my intent is also we should be very tough. After all, we have a mandate to deal with violations.”



EXPERIENCING NEW CULTURES

“I sent this photo to my colleagues in China and they said – you are smoking something! Putting on the Irish Guards costume, this was a very good memory. So many social functions – I enjoyed their cultures, their food, their traditions and hospitality. Its very unique, very special, I learned a lot. I was the defense attaché to India, but this type of international job is very unique.”



CHINESE CULTURE IN CYPRUS

“I was very happy to introduce the Chinese culture to all the sectors and soldiers and officers working in Cyprus – they all prepared a dragon dance for the Year of the Dragon, and the diplomatic community was invited and they really enjoyed this. All the nationalities contribute to this mission and I was also happy to present the Chinese culture, which may be unfamiliar to many.”



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

"Every commanding officer may have their own idea how to implement his or her mission on this island, and as I said I had my ideas when I came in, and I would say mission accomplished. From my experience, this mission is not just a military mission, you must have a very strong political sense, and diplomatic skills and build good relations with the opposing forces, and ensure cooperation and coordination with the other three components of the mission. In China, we always say that the relations matter the most. You must build working relations and personal relations with your colleagues and counterparts."



REFLECTIONS ON UNFICYP, A MULTINATIONAL FAMILY

“I think UNFICYP is a big family. The members might have their own backgrounds and their own cultures but we work and live on this island as a big family. In the past 3 and a half years, I participated in medal parades, military skills presentations, social functions hosted by all the sectors. The 3 sectors have their

own characteristics. The Slovaks and Eastern Europeans, the British, the Latin Americans each have different characters. The Latin Americans have very good social functions, very exciting, a lot of dancing and singing. The Europeans are very organized, down to the minute, and the British are very ceremonial and very traditional.**”**



TEAMWORK

"We have a very good team. The UNFICYP Senior Management Group is very good and cohesive and determined to deal with the issues and I have been very happy to work closely with those colleagues. We also have very good troop contributing countries in this mission. I also have very good staff working for me in my team (pictured below). I am extremely grateful to them for all their support."



NEW HORIZONS

"I will head back to Beijing for a university job, to give lectures at the National Defense University when it comes to foreign cooperation and peacekeeping operations, how to train the troops. China will send an infantry battalion to South Sudan soon, so I may provide some advice based on how the Argentineans, Slovaks and Brits are trained to serve here, to be trained for this scenario. In the infantry we are trained to deal with the worst scenarios, even if we are posted to Cyprus where the likelihood of putting our training into practice is low. It might be calm and stable but who knows, we always have to be ready."

First Female Force Commander Takes Charge

Major General Kristin Lund of Norway officially assumed her duties as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on 11 February at a handover ceremony in Nicosia where she was warmly welcomed by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim. Maj Gen Lund takes over from Maj Gen Chao Liu of China, and is the first woman ever to command a United Nations peacekeeping force.



Stay tuned to the next issue of the Blue Beret for an in-depth feature on Major General Lund.

SUMMER EVENTS AND VISITS



26 August: Former Force Commander Maj Gen Rafael Jose Barni of Argentina visited, pictured here with the new Force Commander.



9 July: Senior Police Adviser Andrii Sachavo of Ukraine hosted a meeting of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters.



12 July: The Argentinean Contingent organized a Tango for Peace event in Nicosia.



4 July: UNFICYP's Mobile Force Reserve, Force Military Police and UNPOL supported the Leaders' Meeting at the UN Good Offices.



20 August: Hungarian National Day is celebrated.

MEDALS FOR PEACE IN ANCIENT SALAMIS

On 15 July, the peacekeepers of Sector 4 received their United Nations Peacekeeping Medals against the stunning backdrop of the ancient amphitheatre at Salamis. As the sun set, Force Commander Major General Chao Liu commended the Slovak, Hungarian, Croatian, Serbian and Ukrainian troops for their dedicated service in Cyprus.



HOT SHOTS

Around the Sectors with
the new Force Commander

After the formalities of the Handover Ceremony, UNFICYP's new Force Commander Major General Kristin Lund got down to business touring the sectors and getting to know the Mobile Force Reserve, Force Military Police Unit and Force Engineers.

Sector 2



Sector 2



Sector 4



FMPU



MFR



Sector 1



Sector 1



Sector 4



MFR



FMPU

FIVE DECADES OF MILITARY HARDWARE

This issue's front cover is dedicated to the theme of military tools and toys. Our uniformed personnel could not do their jobs without vehicles adapted to the terrain, helicopters that can cover the expanse of the buffer zone with ease and manoeuvre amongst the foothills of the Troodos mountains.

In 2014, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous put the importance of using military technology and of finding innovative ways to carry out peacekeeping tasks, squarely on centre stage. "A Force for Peace. A Force for Change. A Force for the Future." This is the new slogan for the UN's global peacekeeping operations. Across its missions, the UN is pushing to employ new technologies that can change the way we operate and improve the impact of our troops on the ground.

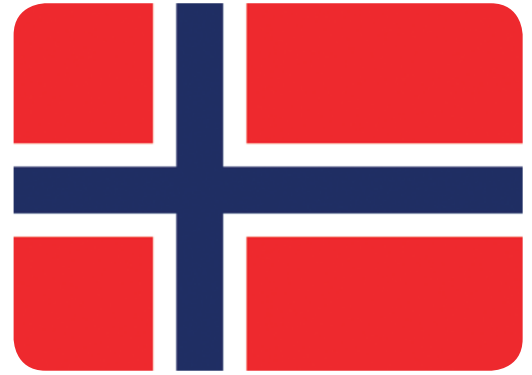
In terms of military hardware, UNFICYP has employed a range of technological innovations over its five decades in operation – from helicopters to tactics. While many of these tools may look vintage to our eyes, in many cases, at the time, they were at the cutting edge.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR TACTICA FROM YOUR FERRET SCOUT?

The Blue Beret has pulled together these images of some of the most impressive-looking units over the past decades. Can you name them all? Send in your answers to the BB team at unficy-mil-pio@un.org



NEW FACES



NORWAY JOINS THE RANKS

With the arrival of new Force Commander Major General Kristin Lund, Norway becomes the 33rd troop or police contributing country to support the United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus. Major General Lund brings with her two support colleagues from her home country to round out the newest UNFICYP contingent. Welcome the Norwegians!

Introducing...

Major Erik Tandberg
Personal Staff Officer
to the Force Commander

“I was born in Lillehammer, Norway on the 17th of May 1979. Today I live in Hamar with my wife Mona Stokke and our two boxers Brutus and Gaius. I am an artillery officer, and proudly so. My last assignment before UNFICYP was battery commander of Bttn/Artbn/BrigN in northern Norway. I served in Afghanistan twice; as a mentor in NOR Kandak OMLT 1 in 2009 and as targeting officer in PRT MEY in 2010. This is my first UN mission.”

Education: Military Academy 2001-03, School of design and architecture 2005-2006 and Bachelor in International Studies (UiO) 2006-2010.

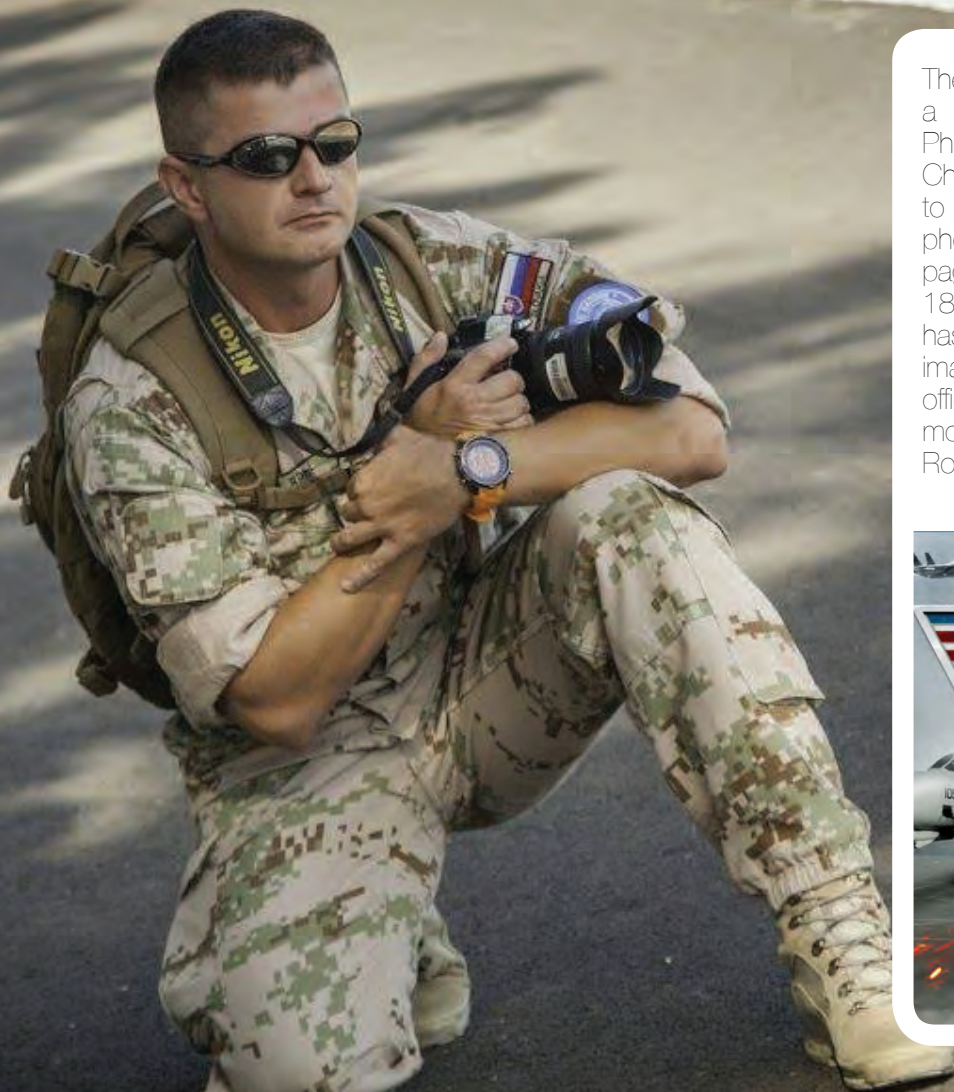


And farewell to...

Major Rob Money
Office Commanding,
Mobile Force Reserve

Having graduated from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Major Robert Money attended and completed the Army commissioning course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2002. As an infantry officer, he has served two tours of Afghanistan, two tours of Iraq and one tour of Northern Ireland. He has completed both the Jungle and Arctic Warfare instructors' courses and has spent two and a half very happy years with 45 Commando. Having promoted to Major and completed Staff College in 2011, he took up an intelligence and reconnaissance staff post with the UK's airborne brigade. He was posted back to his much-loved home regiment, the Irish Guards, in January 2014 as a Company Commander and remarks, "Simply put, Op TOSCA is like nothing I've been asked to do before!" An avid apiarist, a keen sailor and an intolerably poor karaoke contestant, Rob returns to the UK in October 2014 having joyfully seized and enjoyed all the opportunities that Cyprus has to offer.





The Blue Beret team extends a special farewell to Force Photographer SSgt Roman Chovanec who returns soon to Slovakia. Roman's great photographs have graced the pages of the magazine for the past 18 months and his can-do attitude has been essential to capturing images at Leaders' Meetings, office calls, medal parades and more. Best of luck & warm wishes Roman!



Next Issue: The new Force Commander – In Depth!

Plus: 50th Anniversary Focus: Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, & Bosnia & Herzegovina //////////////

BLUE BERET



www.facebook.com/UNFICYP
www.twitter.com/UN_Cyprus
www.unficy.org