

BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

November/December 2014



Highlights: Military Skills Competition, Force Commander's Sector Visits + MORE //////////////////////////////////////////////////

UNFICYP

Five Decades of Peacekeepers

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Plus: We complete our recap of TCCs and PCCs: Italy, Lithuania, Ukraine, Paraguay, El Salvador, Chile & Brazil //////////////////////////////////



BLUE BERET

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Front cover: Faces of a Peacekeeping Force. Over 100,000 peacekeepers have served under the UN flag in Cyprus since 1964. They have come from 34 countries to support peace on this beautiful island.

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READER CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to facebook follower “Donnie Brasco” for these great photos.



The first picture shows Italian and Bosnian UNPOL members Francesca Tirel and Svjetlana Bijelic; in the second photo, Bosnian and Italian UNPOL members Damir Jusufspahic and Gianfranco Milazzo are in Pyla, November 2013; the third picture shows two brothers who served in UNFICYP as Bosnian UNPOL members: Damir Jusufspahic, and Adnan Jusufspahic, August 2014; the fourth picture is taken in Sector 4, UN OP 123.

IN LOVING MEMORY

UNFICYP lost a much loved colleague and friend in November, our Spokesperson and Chief of the Public Information Office, Michel Bonnardeaux.

The Mission held a memorial at the Head of Mission's Residence in the UN Protected Area on 11 December. It was a chance to remember Michel for all of his many wonderful qualities – his professionalism and consummate knowledge of peacekeeping and politics, his kindness and generosity, his incredible sense of humour, passion for travel, and great gift for languages. The memorial was a celebration of his life, where work with the UN took him all around the world. Michel was also the Executive Editor of the Blue Beret. On behalf of the team in the Public Information Office, we would like to dedicate this issue of the magazine to Michel's memory. He is greatly missed.



-- Extract from the remarks of UNFICYP Head of Mission, Lisa Bittenheim, in memory of Michel Bonnardeaux, Thursday, 11 December 2014, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Since September 2011, Michel Bonnardeaux served as Spokesperson and Chief of Public Information for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General. He wore his two professional “hats” with skill and aplomb, just as he brought great style to the selection of his well-known chapeaux. Michel was a distinct presence in our midst – he had an astute eye that quickly summed up any delicate situation, a wonderful ear both for language and for unspoken dynamics among people, a quick-thinking head for all sorts of facts and figures that ranged from the general to the most obscure (one could always go to Michel for advice on which airline had the best route at the most economic price), alongside a deep understanding of the world we live in, always getting the big picture. And last but not least, Michel had an enormous heart. This is reflected in the outpouring of emails, letters and telephone calls received from the many people he got to know on this island, as well as countless others he met around the globe, all of whom cite his intelligence, his generosity, his warmth and wit...

-- Remarks of Information Assistant, Ersin Oztoycan

Michel was simply the best, and I'm sure if he was standing here today he would have made a joke about that comment, because Michel had the ability to make you smile or laugh within minutes of meeting him.

My PIO colleagues and I had the pleasure of working with Michel over the past three years. He was not only a true professional, he was a man who knew how to connect with people, and he used his love of languages to do exactly that. In addition to his easy-going persona, he also had a deep understanding and knowledge of what was going on in the island, an astute awareness which allowed him to do his job thoroughly and well, and to all our benefit.

Michel loved practicing how to pronounce words and names in Greek, Turkish and Slovakian. He would suddenly pop up and say “Suvlagi”, “Davutoglu” or “dovideniya” all with the correct accents.

It's been a long standing tradition in PIO to prepare personalised cards or posters for outgoing colleagues and Michel truly embraced this tradition and enjoyed coming up with ideas, like Captain Solvackia from the Captain America cartoon, which we adapted for our outgoing MPIO. I was always dreading the day we would have to prepare a poster for Michel because I never wanted him to leave and I could not have imagined saying farewell in this way. But if we were going to prepare a poster for him it would have most definitely been an adapted poster of Superman because that's exactly what he was.

On behalf of all my colleagues in PIO, I convey our deepest condolences to Michel's family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Nurlar icinde uyu -
O theos anapafsi tin pseehee dou -
RIP Michel -

... When entering this residence today you will have seen diverse photographs of Michel, especially here in Cyprus. He enjoyed enormously the contacts he established across the island with Cypriots from all walks of life. The presence here of such a broad array of people outside the UN family – ranging from members of the GkCyp and TkCyp negotiating teams, to local journalists and representatives of civil society more broadly, to the diplomatic community to regular people “without a title” whom Michel got to know – is evidence of his outreach to all. Michel truly explored this country, just as he explored every place where he was posted with the United Nations as well as nearby countries during his time off...

... It is clear that Michel Bonnardeaux made a lasting impression wherever he served the United Nations and we will carry his memory forever, all the better for having known him.



UNFICYP at 50

2014 Wrap-up

On 4 March 1964 the Security Council established UNFICYP. Fifty years later, on the same day in 2014, today's UN peacekeepers in Cyprus gathered to mark the occasion in a small ceremony at the Blue Beret Camp. The passing of this milestone was a chance to pay tribute to the more than 100,000 men and women from 34 countries who have served under the UN flag on the island. At fifty, UNFICYP commemorated the 184 lives lost from its peacekeeping ranks during these years.

UN CYPRUS TALKS

The 50th anniversary also provided a chance to reflect on UN efforts over the decades to facilitate negotiations through its Good Offices, to work towards a comprehensive and sustainable settlement, and to redouble our commitment to support the Cypriot-led and Cypriot-owned peace process. UNFICYP marked its 50 years in the hope that its presence on the island would soon no longer be needed. The Joint Declaration of February 2014 provided a renewed impetus for a solution, and the year's many leaders' and negotiators' meetings kept UNFICYP's military, police and civilian components busy in their crucial support roles. After farewelling Mr. Alexander Downer in April, a new Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, took the helm in August.

More: www.uncyprustalks.org
www.facebook.com/UNCyprusTalks



A VERY SPECIAL SUMMER MEDAL PARADE

As part of the commemoration of its 50th anniversary, UNFICYP's Summer Medal Parade was bigger and brighter than ever. The Mission was honoured to host Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Mr. Herve Ladsous at the June event on the tarmac of the Old Nicosia International Airport, and to welcome the ringing tones of the illustrious Band of the Irish Guards. Men and women military and police proudly received their medals "In the Service of Peace" under the setting sun.





FAREWELL CROATIA, AND WELCOME TO ROMANIA AND NORWAY

In 2014, UNFICYP saw off the last Croatian military and police personnel after a distinguished 10-year contribution to UNFICYP. At the same time, we welcomed new police from Romania, and new Norwegian military colleagues deployed with the Force Commander. Their arrival brought the number of countries to contribute troops or police to UNFICYP to a grand total of 34.



A NEW FORCE COMMANDER

UNFICYP bade farewell to Major General Chao Liu of China, and welcomed its new Force Commander Major General Kristin Lund of Norway in August. In a first for UN Peacekeeping, Maj Gen Lund became the first woman to lead a UN force – and made the news around the world.



DEMINEING

This year a group of 21 Cambodian demining experts deployed from the UN Mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) joined UNFICYP's ranks through April and May to clear two suspected Mine Hazard Areas in the buffer zone. With one anti-tank mine discovered and destroyed the project was all part of efforts to move toward a mine-free Cyprus, thanks to the help of new Cambodian friends.



A NEW SENIOR POLICE ADVISER

UNFICYP said goodbye too to Senior Police Adviser Colin Speedie of Australia who was succeeded by Andrii Sachavo of Ukraine.

ITALY

A Brief History

The first Italian peacekeepers to serve in Cyprus arrived in August 2005. They were welcomed at an official ceremony on 31 August, and Italy has, since that time, deployed four police officers regularly with UNPOL. UNFICYP recently said farewell to Deputy Senior Police Adviser Paride Turli who returned to Italy after a distinguished stint in Cyprus. The newest crop of Carabinieri arrived in December 2014.

ABOUT THE CARABINIERI

The ancient corps of the Royal Carabinieri was instituted in Turin by the King of Sardinia, Vittorio Emanuel I, in 1814. It was given the dual function of national defence and policing with special powers and prerogatives. Today, the Carabinieri force is linked to the Ministry of Defence but retains its autonomy in its role of armed force, military police force, and has the responsibility for public order and security. The force depends functionally on the Ministry of Internal Affairs for public order and security. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the Carabinieri force has been involved in overseas operations, assisting in the reconstruction of the forces of law and order and in associated training programmes. From 1950 to the present day, Italy has contributed its officers to the UN as well as to NATO, EU and OSCE peace support missions.

ITALY FACTS

DATE ARRIVAL: 2005

TOTAL POLICE: More than 40

LOCATION: UNPOL stations across the island



UKRAINE

A Brief History

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



LITHUANIA

A Brief History

Lithuania's commitment to international peace and security is realized through its contribution to UN-led peacekeeping missions and UN-mandated European Union (EU) operations. In 1997, Lithuania joined the Standby Arrangements System for the United Nations peacekeeping operations and placed its officers under the UN standby arrangement system.

LITHUANIAN FLAG RAISED AT UNFICYP

On June 20 2013, the Lithuanian flag was raised for the first time at the Headquarters of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in an official ceremony to mark the arrival of the Lithuanian police contingent.



LITHUANIA FACTS

DATE ARRIVAL: 2013
TOTAL POLICE: 4 so far
LOCATION: UNPOL stations

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, DRC, 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).

In Cyprus the first two Ukrainian police officers arrived to serve as part of UNPOL in October 2009. Since then, Ukraine has increased its participation to eight officers and negotiations are underway, which also includes 2 military personnel serving in sector 4.

UKRAINE FACTS

DATE OF ARRIVAL: UNPOL: 2009 - MIL: 2013
LOCATION: UNPOL stations and sector 4



SENIOR POLICE ADVISER ANDRII SACHAVO

In 2014, Colonel Andrii Sachavo took up his post as Senior Police Adviser, commanding UNFICYP's 69-officer strong police force in 8 police stations across the island.

SOUTH AMERICAN TROOPS IN UNFICYP

Over the years of its service in Cyprus, Argentina has invited other South American countries to deploy troops within the Argentinean contingent to support the UNFICYP mission. Today, platoons from Chile and Paraguay and a Brazilian military observation and liaison officer successfully work alongside the Argentines who command Sector 1 of the buffer zone.

Argentina's contingent contributes 295 military personnel to UNFICYP, mainly based in Sector 1 but also located at UNFICYP HQ, the Mobile Force Reserve, Force Military Police Unit and UN Flight. In the past, the Argentinean Contingent has included soldiers from Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay too (see the Blue Beret July/August 2014). Although from the same continent, each country is unique and brings its own special contribution to UNFICYP's multinational force – culinary arts, cultural traditions, and language – of course most of our colleagues from this part of the world speak Spanish, but the Brazilian officer's mother tongue is Portuguese.

PARAGUAY

A Brief History

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



PARAGUAY FACTS

DATE OF ARRIVAL: 1999
TOTAL TROOPS: around 400
LOCATION: Sector 1



EL SALVADOR

A Brief History

While its Latin American neighbours contributed troops to UNFICYP under Argentina's command, El Salvador contributed police officers to UNFICYP between 2005 and 2013. Like some of the contingents represented in UNFICYP's Sector 4, El Salvador too has first-hand experience of UN peacekeeping. From 1991 to 1995 the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) operated to verify implementation of all agreements between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional, including a ceasefire and related measures, reform and reduction of the armed forces, creation of a new police force, reform of the judicial and electoral systems, human rights, land tenure and other economic and social issues.

EL SALVADOR FACTS

DEPLOYMENT DATES: 2005 – 2013
TOTAL POLICE CONTRIBUTION: around 50
LOCATION: UNPOL, island-wide



BRAZIL

A Brief History

Brazil's engagement in United Nations mandated peacekeeping operations dates from 1956. 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.



A Brazilian Chief of Mission

UNFICYP's second Chief of Mission was a Brazilian diplomat, Carlos A. Bernardes. He took on the role after the first Special Representative, Gala Plaza of Ecuador, was appointed as the Cyprus mediator. Bernardes held the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus until 1967.



BRAZIL FACTS

DATE OF ARRIVAL: 1995

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

More than 20

LOCATION: Sector 1

CHILE

A Brief History

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 in the Roca camp located in the northern part of Sector 1. Their main tasks is to conduct extended patrols, and they serve as chief of patrol to base 03.

Chile's participation in international peacekeeping has grown significantly since the 1990s. In earlier decades Chile provided military observers to a handful of missions under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter. Beginning in the 1990s, Chile participated in a variety of UN missions (in Cambodia, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Iraq, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and East Timor) but in limited numbers (never more than 50 troops per mission). At the end of the decade the government decided to authorize its forces for Chapter VII missions in recognition of the complexity of contemporary UN peacekeeping operations. The creation of a peacekeeping training center (CECOPAC) in 2001 enabled integrated training of military, police and civilian personnel for complex, multidimensional missions, and the bi-national peacekeeping force established jointly with Argentina (Cruz del Sur) in 2006 qualified for deployment under UN stand-by arrangements.



A Chilean Chief of Mission

Mr. James Holger of Chile held the post of Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus over two periods, from 1984 to 1988, and from 1999-2000.



CHILE FACTS

DATE OF ARRIVAL: 2000

TOTAL TROOPS: Around 150

LOCATION: Sector 1

Hot shots from UNFICYP's Force Photographer





REGIONAL FC CONFERENCE

A military meeting of minds took place at UNFICYP on 6 November as Force Commander Maj Gen Kristin Lund hosted her counterparts from UN Peacekeeping Missions in the region - UNDOF in the Golan Heights, UNTSO in Jerusalem, UNIFIL in Lebanon, and UNMIK in Kosovo.



UNPOL INDUCTION



WORLD AIDS DAY



UNFICYP CAROL SERVICE



FORCE COMMANDER'S INSPECTIONS

Major General Kristin Lund headed out and about to visit troops across the three sectors.







UNFICYP

Military Skills Competition

UNFICYP Peacekeepers proved their Military Skills once again. Congratulations to Sector 4 Team B made up of members of the Hungarian and Serbian contingents, who won the legendary Mil Skills trophy in December. Driving skills, map reading, fitness, team work, and precision were all put to the test in the gruelling one-day competition - well done to all teams involved!





REMEMBRANCE DAY

The British Contingent led a solemn ceremony at Wayne's Keep Commonwealth War Cemetery in Nicosia on 9 November 2014 to mark the traditional two-minute silence in memory of service personnel who have lost their lives in conflict. Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim and Force Commander Maj Gen Kristin Lund laid wreaths in their honour, and in tribute to the 184 UNFICYP peacekeepers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice serving under the UN flag in Cyprus.





Faces of a Peacekeeping Force



More than
100,000
men and
women....



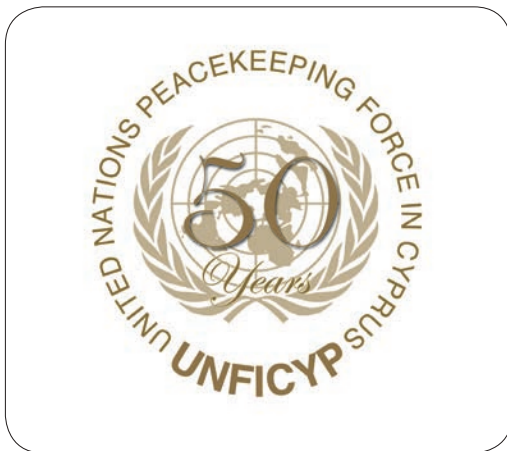
....from 34
countries....



Military, Police and Civilian Peacekeepers



....Have served
under the UN flag
in Cyprus since
1964





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