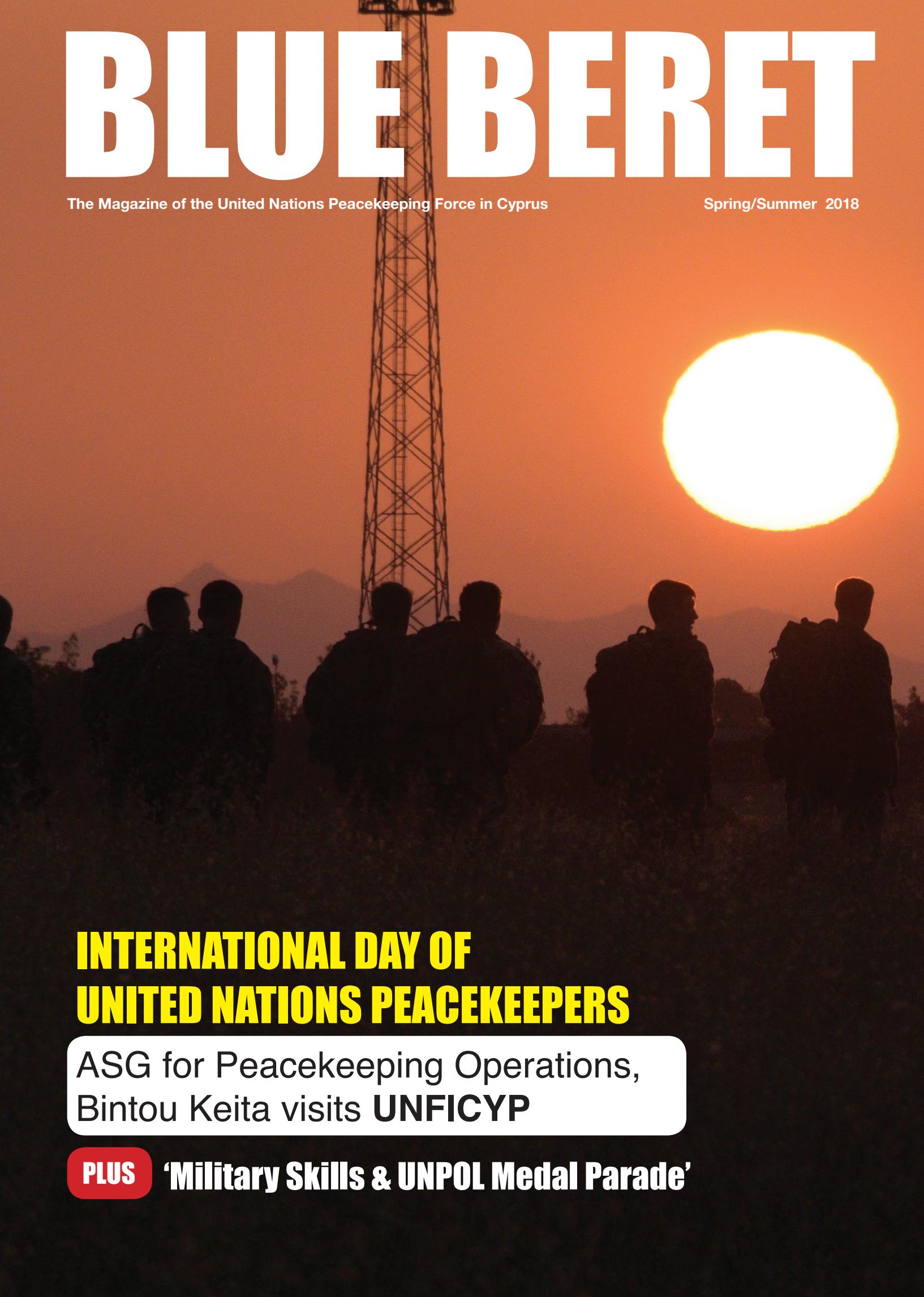


# BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Spring/Summer 2018



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

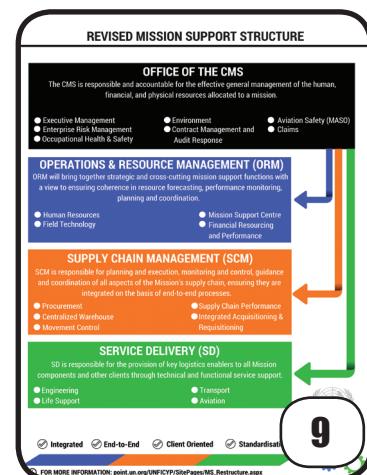
ASG for Peacekeeping Operations,  
Bintou Keita visits **UNFICYP**

**PLUS** 'Military Skills & UNPOL Medal Parade'

# BLUE BERET

## In this issue

- 4 Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita visits UNFICYP / Colonel Ed Freely appointed as UNFICYP's new Chief of Staff
- 5 UNFICYP celebrates International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 6 Town Hall meeting on Gender Equality / Sweden re-deploys peacekeepers to UNFICYP after 25 years
- 7 Bi-communal Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters celebrates its 10th anniversary
- 8/14 UNFICYP set to launch revised Mission Support Structure
- 15 Anzac Day commemorated at UNFICYP headquarters in Nicosia
- 16/17 UNFICYP holds annual Military Skills Competition
- 18 Interview: Lt Col László Ujházy, SO2 U3 POL
- 19 UNFICYP honours 16 UN Police Officers for their service at medal parade
- 20 UNFICYP personnel wed in June
- 21/23 New Faces



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# Editorial

Dear readers,  
We are pleased to introduce the Spring-Summer 2018 edition of Blue Beret, which contains news, short features and interviews regarding UNFICYP's ongoing efforts to facilitate lasting peace across Cyprus as well as many of the Mission's events and activities of the year.

One of the highlights of this issue is a detailed overview of UNFICYP's revised Mission Support structure which incorporates a contemporary method of management based on realigning resources to maximize efficiency and greater use of standardized processes. Under the recalibrated structure, the Chief of Mission Support (CMS) will be responsible and accountable for the executive management of all human, financial and physical resources within the Mission. Therefore, we interviewed Joel Cohen, Chief, Mission Support, to give our readers an overview of how UNFICYP is transitioning into a leaner, more efficient way of conducting business aimed at delivering more effective support across all components as it carries out its mandated tasks.

Other events featured include the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, which was especially relevant as 2018 marks 70 years on UN peacekeeping operations worldwide; the recent UN Police medal parade where the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and UNFICYP Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar, awarded medals to 16 UN Police officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Ireland, Italy, Montenegro and Norway; and the annual Military Skills Competition, one of the most anticipated activities of the military component's calendar, which involved nine competing teams who aim to demonstrate their mastery across eight necessary military disciplines.

Finally, as always, we bring you news about all our new arrivals to the Mission.

Blue Beret continues to evolve as UNFICYP's flagship publication and we welcome your feedback. To send comments by email, please put "Letters to the Editor / Blue Beret" in the subject line and send the email to: [unficip-public-information-office@un.org](mailto:unficip-public-information-office@un.org).



# Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita visits UNFICYP



**O**n 11 May 2018, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for UN Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita, concluded a three-day visit to Nicosia, Cyprus. Ms. Keita's visit was focused on evaluating UNFICYP's operations and the implementation of the recommendations of its recent Security Council-mandated strategic review.

The ASG also took the opportunity to meet with a cross-section of civil society actors, members of the diplomatic community and relevant stakeholders on both sides of the island.

Additionally, ASG Keita attended briefing sessions with senior Mission officials and interacted with military as well as police peacekeepers deployed at UNFICYP's various sectors.

UNFICYP is one of the longest-running peacekeeping missions across the world and is mandated to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of inter communal conflict across Cyprus as well as contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order. This is Ms. Keita's first official visit to UNFICYP in her capacity as ASG.

## Colonel Ed Freely appointed as UNFICYP's new Chief of Staff



**O**n 11 May 2018, Colonel E.B.M. Freely, from the Royal Irish Rangers, was appointed as UNFICYP's Chief of Staff. Colonel Freely was previously deployed to UNFICYP in 1985; his operational expertise is extensive and includes Northern Ireland, the Balkans, West Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan.

His prior UN experience includes commanding of a 20-person strong multinational observer team on the Liberian/Sierra Leone border and an appointment as Chief of the Joint Mission Analysis Cell in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). From 2007 to 2010 he commanded the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, including during a six-month operational deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2008. He has also held several NATO appointments—notably, on promotion to Colonel, he was responsible for NATO Defence Planning and Capability Development from 2012 to 2015.

Most recently, and until April 2018, Colonel Freely has been working in the Capability Directorate at the British Army Headquarters. Colonel Freely is a graduate of the UK Advanced Command and Staff Course and has a Master's degree in Defence Technology from Cranfield University. From 2003 to 2005 he was an instructor at the Joint Services Command and Staff College. This was followed by completion of the NATO Defence Course in Rome. He completed the UN Chief of Staff & Sector Commanders' Course in 2018. Colonel Freely is married with three children. He enjoys travel, painting, history, tennis, skiing, and meeting people.



## UNFICYP celebrates International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

**O**n 29 May 2018, UNFICYP commemorated International Day of UN Peacekeepers with an interactive Town Hall meeting at its headquarters in Nicosia, where military, police and civilian peacekeepers spoke about how they make a tangible difference in the lives of Cypriots on both sides of the island. They also commented on the sacrifices demanded from individual peacekeepers as they continue delivering the best services possible to the populations that depend on them.

Additionally, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar, briefed on latest developments in the Mission as well as the UN Secretary-General's new initiative, "Action for Peacekeeping" (A4P), aimed at mobilizing all partners and stakeholders to support, improve and strengthen peacekeeping.

A4P, a diplomatic effort of the Secretariat to renew political

support for UN peacekeeping, calls for change in three areas—refocusing peacekeeping with realistic expectations; making peacekeeping missions stronger and safer; and garnering greater support for political solutions and for well-structured, well-equipped and well-trained forces, stated SRSG Spehar.

She concluded by thanking UNFICYP personnel for their contribution to the ongoing peace efforts across the island.

Other topics discussed included a detailed presentation on the findings of the global Staff Engagement Survey by Joel Cohen, Chief of Mission Support.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping. UNFICYP's military, police and civilian peacekeepers have been serving dedicatedly since 1964 to ensure sustainable peace across Cyprus.



# Town Hall meeting on Gender Equality

As part of its commitment to advancing gender equality within the Mission, in April 2018, UNFICYP's Gender Affairs Officer organized a Town Hall meeting for personnel from the civilian, police and military components to discuss what we can do internally to contribute to a gender equal working environment. The event included an overview of the policy framework guiding the UN's approach to gender equality, and provided straightforward, tangible ways that all Mission personnel can integrate these commitments into their own work.

While ensuring that the necessary policies are in place to advance gender equality is imperative, gender norms are often entrenched and unconscious, and yet influence all aspects of our

daily lives. Therefore, another aspect of the event was discussing unconscious gender bias in order for UNFICYP personnel to recognize and bring awareness to the impact of gender bias into our daily lives. Group discussions, facilitated by members of UNFICYP's Inside the Blue team, were held to delve a little deeper into the ways in which unconscious gender bias shapes our personal and professional lives. At the end of the event, each group was asked to make realistic commitments to addressing unconscious gender bias in their own lives and further contribute to a gender equal working environment. UNFICYP intends to continue with similar initiatives in order to support gender mainstreaming throughout all Mission components.



## Sweden re-deploys peacekeepers to UNFICYP after 25 years

Sweden re-deploys peacekeepers to UNFICYP after 25 years. On 7 May 2018, the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) welcomed Superintendent Staffan Kall and Inspector Karin Stenhammar from Sweden, the first Swedish police officers to be deployed to the Mission in 25 years. The duo raised their country's flag in the presence of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar, and the Swedish Ambassador to Cyprus, Anna Olsson Vrang. Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Olsson Vrang highlighted the fact that a total of 2,365 Swedish police officers had previously served with UNFICYP between 1964 and 1993. The first Swedish police contingent deployed to UNFICYP in April 1964 was comprised of 40 officers and had a mandate of only three months. In the course of the same year, the Swedish presence increased to some 1,000 officers serving in the Mission. The lowest recorded Swedish deployment to UNFICYP was in 1973, with only 265 uniformed and civilian personnel. By the end of 1987, Sweden withdrew its military battalions but still maintained a small military and police element within the Mission until 1993, when all Swedish deployments ceased.

Furthermore, 17 Swedish personnel have lost their lives while serving with UNFICYP.

The UN Police (UNPOL) in UNFICYP currently consists of 69 police officers from 14 different contingents, commanded by the Senior Police Adviser, who hails from Norway.



# Bi-communal Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters celebrates its 10th anniversary



On 24th of April 2018 the Bi-Communal Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters (TCCCM) celebrated its 10th anniversary at Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia.

A celebration organized by the UN Senior Police Advisor Ann-Kristin Kvilekval was attended by current and former members of the TCCCM and the Joint Contact Room (JCR).

In addition, UNFICYP Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Humayun Kabir, Good Offices officers, various UNPOL Sector Commanders and HQ Liaison Officers were among the participants.

Addressing the event, SPA Kvilekval spoke about the importance of the role of the Technical Committee and the immense contribution made by them in fostering good relations and building bridges across the divide, thus contributing to trust-building measures.

The TCCCM team leaders, Prof. Andreas Kapardis and Mr Hakkı Onen also spoke of the importance of the work being done by the Committee and of their hopes for a continuation of the good will and cooperation displayed by all connected with TCCCM. Both also remarked on the involvement of the UN in facilitating and fostering of the TCCCM and expressed their appreciation for their continuing support.

The gathering was an opportunity to renew friendships and highlight the Committee's achievements. The event was an enormous success and added hugely to the already excellent relations between the many people connected with this rather successful Technical Committee.

Greek Cypriot Team Leader Prof. Andreas Kapardis highlighted that the TCCCM's most significant achievements during the last 10 years are:

1. The establishment and functioning of the JCR in the buffer zone.
2. Organizing bi-communal seminars on a range of important contemporary criminological issues.
3. Managing to collaborate across the Green Line and through the JCR over the years in dealing with various issues that matter for everyday life.
4. Demonstrating that it is possible to build strong friendships and to enhance trust-building measures and for the two communities to work together for the common good.

The Turkish Cypriot Team Leader Mr. Hakkı Onen stressed that "the JCR has its own working place in the Buffer Zone, Nicosia which they carry on their given duties on daily 7/24 hours".

The Bi-Communal Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters was established in April 2008. During its second year the committee managed to establish, as a sub-committee, the Joint Contact Room (JCR) which continues to yield practical results and has developed into a significant model as far as confidence-building measures on the ground are concerned of the UN. The TCCCM leaders and their team members meet often enough at their dedicated premises in the buffer zone and deal with a broad range of important contemporary issues, their unofficial motto being "Where there is a will, there is a way".

# UNFICYP set to launch revised Mission Support Structure

In recent years, United Nations peacekeeping operations across the world have been faced with new challenges that have necessitated changes to ensure that peace operations remain agile and fit for purpose. UNFICYP, one of the oldest peacekeeping missions under the United Nations' umbrella, is no exception.

1 July 2018 will mark the official implementation of UNFICYP's revised Mission Support structure which incorporates a contemporary method of management based on realigning resources to maximise efficiency and greater use of standardized processes.

The new structure, which is heavily focused on targeted client service delivery, recognizes the fact that a service rarely begins and ends with a single organizational unit but is delivered across different work sections. Therefore, in-line with the principle of end-to-end services, it embraces an integrated approach to conducting business.

Under UNFICYP's recalibrated structure, the Chief of Mission Support (CMS) will be responsible and accountable for the executive management of all human, financial and physical resources within the Mission.

Additionally, several other units shall report to the CMS; these include Environment, Enterprise Risk Management, Occupational Health and Safety, Contract Management and Audit Response Claims and Aviation Safety.

The CMS leads delivery of mission support across three pillars—Operations and Resource Management; Supply Chain Management and Service Delivery.

The Operations and Resource Management pillar will bring together strategic and cross-cutting mission support functions to ensure coherence in resource forecasting, performance monitoring, planning and coordination. Guided by the CMS, the Head of this pillar will oversee and manage strategic operations as well as resourcing functions of Mission Support components.

On its part, Service Delivery shall be responsible for the provision of key logistics enablers to all Mission components and other Mission clients through technical and functional service support. Reporting directly to the CMS, Chief of this pillar will take on the management of UNFICYP's Engineering, Life Support, Transport and Aviation functions.

Finally, Supply Chain Management will include planning and execution, monitoring and control, guidance and coordination of the Mission's supply chain; the objective is to achieve complete integration on the basis of end-to-end processes.

The Head of Supply Chain Management reports to the CMS and is responsible for all tasks related to UNFICYP's Procurement, Centralized Warehouse, Movement Control, Supply Chain Performance and Integrated Acquisitioning and Requisitioning units.

UNFICYP is, thus, transitioning into a leaner, more efficient way of conducting business aimed at delivering more effective support across the Mission as it carries out its mandated tasks.

## Interview: Chief of Mission Support

**Joel Choen**



**Q: What is the restructuring all about?**

In simple terms, the restructuring is about aligning resources and processes within the Mission Support Component to provide more effective and efficient service delivery to our clients across all facets of the Mission's operations. The restructuring acknowledges that we have excellent staff in Mission Support and therefore these changes should better enable our colleagues to work together in carrying out their functions.

**Q: What are the benefits for the Mission, for staff members and for clients?**

In terms of expected benefits, the Mission should see demonstrated changes in terms of more streamlined and transparent processes, hopefully less bureaucracy and more client-focused services leading to faster and more responsive support across all areas. Staff within Mission Support will also benefit through greater decentralization and decision-making as well as through realignment of functions, revised structures and focus on stronger interrelationships within sections and between pillars, that will support their work.

**Q: You were tasked to coordinate efforts within the Mission. What was your main challenge?**

One of the many challenges that all field missions currently face is implementing change, especially changes in how we work. The restructuring of the Mission Support component represents a significant change in the way that we will do business, hence it is essential to communicate to both managers and staff within Mission Support and our clients why this change is important and why we are implementing it at this time. I am pleased to report that most staff recognize the likely benefits of this change which is very encouraging.

**Q: How did you ensure buy-in from section chiefs?**

Clear communication and inclusion is essential in ensuring buy-in, regardless of the subject. It was very important, therefore, that managers in Mission Support were kept informed of the restructuring proposals and the implementation plan from inception; they were invited to provide input and have contributed to this process since it was announced early in 2018.

**Q: Should staff members be afraid of losing their jobs?**

No. There are no major changes to staffing as part of the restructuring exercise. The majority of staff within Mission Support will not be affected in terms of their current functions and responsibilities. Only a very small number of positions are affected, largely as a result of reprofiling of functions. A number of sections may be realigned and report to a specific head of pillar or directly to the CMS, but this is designed to strengthen the support of the sections/units and, hopefully, staff will see and feel closer management engagement.

# REVISED MISSION SUPPORT STRUCTURE

## OFFICE OF THE CMS

The CMS is responsible and accountable for the effective general management of the human, financial, and physical resources allocated to a mission.

- Executive Management
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Occupational Health & Safety

- Environment
- Contract Management and Audit Response

- Aviation Safety (MASO)
- Claims

## OPERATIONS & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ORM)

ORM will bring together strategic and cross-cutting mission support functions with a view to ensuring coherence in resource forecasting, performance monitoring, planning and coordination.

- Human Resources
- Field Technology

- Mission Support Centre
- Financial Resourcing and Performance

## SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM)

SCM is responsible for planning and execution, monitoring and control, guidance and coordination of all aspects of the Mission's supply chain, ensuring they are integrated on the basis of end-to-end processes.

- Procurement
- Centralized Warehouse
- Movement Control

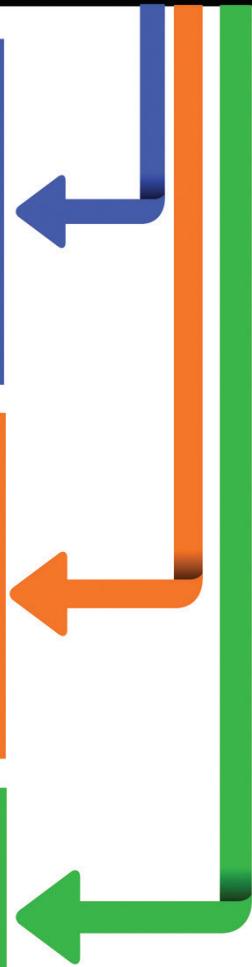
- Supply Chain Performance
- Integrated Acquisitioning & Requisitioning

## SERVICE DELIVERY (SD)

SD is responsible for the provision of key logistics enablers to all Mission components and other clients through technical and functional service support.

- Engineering
- Life Support

- Transport
- Aviation



**Integrated**

**End-to-End**

**Client Oriented**

**Standardisation**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [point.un.org/UNFICYP/SitePages/MS\\_Restructure.aspx](http://point.un.org/UNFICYP/SitePages/MS_Restructure.aspx)



# REVISED MISSION SUPPORT STRUCTURE

## OBJECTIVES

### CLIENT ORIENTED

Client service begins with a requirement that is clearly identified by a client and then met through collaboration and partnership between the service provider and the client office. A service only ends when the requirement has been met within reasonable and agreed service provision levels.

### END-TO-END

A recognition that a service rarely begins and ends within a single organizational unit, but is delivered across different work streams. The successful final delivery of most services require consolidation of processes where possible, and in cases where the inputs of multiple support components are required, clarity on processes, mutual accountability and agreed service delivery targets to ensure a service is met within reasonable service levels.

### INTEGRATED

In a modern field support environment, multiple work units, at multiple levels, are expected to work collaboratively to deliver services successfully. The new model promotes greater specialization of skills and capabilities within work units and demands greater collaboration between them.

### STANDARDISATION

Mission structures are unified across all field peace operations and clearly understood in terms of functions, roles and responsibilities and interlocutors by all personnel, and key stakeholders including Member States.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

[point.un.org/UNFICYP/SitePages/MS\\_Restructure.aspx](http://point.un.org/UNFICYP/SitePages/MS_Restructure.aspx)

# OPERATIONS & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ORM)

ORM aims at bringing together strategic and cross-cutting mission support functions with a view to ensuring coherence in resource forecasting, performance monitoring, planning and coordination related to operational and resourcing activities.

## HUMAN RESOURCES



Travel



Client Support



Specialist Support



Recruitment

## FINANCIAL RESOURCING & PERFORMANCE



Strategic Resourcing & Stewardship



Performance Monitoring & Stewardship



Risk Management



Cashier

## FIELD TECHNOLOGY



Service Management



Operations Management



Geospatial Information (GIS)

## MISSION SUPPORT CENTRE



Provides timely, coordinated and efficient logistic support planning for operational priorities and key project implementation

# SERVICE DELIVERY (SD)

SD is responsible for the provision of key logistics enablers to all mission components and other clients through technical and functional service support.

## ENGINEERING



Electro-Mechanical



Engineering & Facilities Management



Planning & Design



Occupational Health & Safety



Force Engineering

## LIFE SUPPORT



Rations



Fuel



General Supply



Force Medical

## TRANSPORT



Fleet Management



Vehicle repair and Maintenance Unit



Dispatch

## AVIATION



Mission Air Ops Centre



Air field Support & Tech. Compliance

# OFFICE OF THE CMS

The CMS is responsible and accountable for efficient and effective general management of all human, financial and physical resources allocated within the Mission.

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Overall management of all Mission Support operations.



## ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY



## ENVIRONMENT



## CONTRACT MANAGEMENT & AUDIT RESPONSE



## AVIATION SAFETY (MASO)



## CLAIMS



[POINT.UN.ORG/UNFICYP/SITEPAGES/MS\\_RESTRUCTURE.ASPX](http://POINT.UN.ORG/UNFICYP/SITEPAGES/MS_RESTRUCTURE.ASPX)

# SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM)

SCM is responsible for planning and execution, monitoring and control, guidance and coordination of all the Mission's supply chain ensuring full integration on the basis of end-to-end processes.

## PROCUREMENT



Office of Chief  
Procurement  
Officer



Contracts



Purchasing

## INTEGRATED ACQUISITIONING & REQUISITIONING UNIT



Acquisition  
Planning



Requisitioning

## CENTRALIZED WAREHOUSE



- Centralized Warehouse
- Receiving and Inspection
- Warehouse Operations
- Stock Control
- Property Disposal
- Contingent Own Equipment

## SUPPLY CHAIN PERFORMANCE



Business  
Intelligence



Property  
Management

## MOVEMENT CONTROL



Inbound  
Coordination



Passenger &  
Cargo Movement



## Anzac Day commemorated at UNFICYP headquarters in Nicosia

On 25 April 2018, a commemorative dawn service at the Australian police memorial marking Anzac Day was held in the UN protected area at UNFICYP's headquarters in Nicosia.

The event was attended by numerous members of the diplomatic community, including France, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Poland, the United States of America and India, as well as senior UNFICYP personnel. All those gathered honored the sacrifice of the Anzacs and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace.

Additionally, Alan Sweetman, the Australian High Commissioner, spoke about the service of the Anzacs and urged everyone present to remember their sacrifices.

Following a blessing by the Reverend Graham Collingwood, the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand marked the closing of the official ceremony.

A national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, Anzac Day broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations while acknowledging the contribution and sacrifices of all those who have served or continue to serve the cause of peace.

The date itself is historically significant as it marks the anniversary of the landing of New Zealand and Australian soldiers – the Anzacs – on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915 with the aim to capture the Dardanelles, the gateway to the Bosphorus and the Black Sea.

The first Anzac Day was celebrated in 1916 and has changed much since.

UNFICYP peacekeepers provided logistical and catering assistance for the event.





## UNFICYP holds annual Military Skills Competition

**O**n 24 May 2018, UNFICYP held the summer edition of its annual Military Skills Competition. The event, one of the highlights of the military component's calendar, involved nine competing teams—two teams each from the Mission's three sectors; two teams from the Mobile Force Reserve and a Force Military Police Unit team—who compete to demonstrate their mastery across eight necessary military disciplines.

The Competition was attended by UNFICYP Force Commander, Major-General Mohammad Humayun Kabir, and Chief of Staff, Colonel Ed Freely.

The first three disciplines included an endurance run where all nine teams had to cover a distance of 6.5 kilometers in full combat kit while carrying a 12-kilogram load; testing of teamwork,

coordination, leadership and so forth; and, finally, navigating an assault course. The teams then rotated between the next stages—off-road driving; target shooting; incident reaction; UN knowledge; map reading and opposing forces recognition.

The final exercise that participants had to navigate was an aquatic assault course at the UN swimming pool.

The event concluded with the Force Commander announcing the best 3 teams: the Sector 1's Alpha team, which was also the only team with a female representative, came in at third place; second place went to the Alpha team from Sector 2, while the Alpha team from the Mobile Force Reserve was adjudged the winner.





# Interview: Lt Col László Ujházy, SO2 U3 POL

Lieutenant Colonel László Ujházy is an associate professor and head of the Department of Military Leadership at the National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary. Lieutenant Colonel Ujházy has published several articles on military and security issues. He deployed to Cyprus in September 2017.



**Q: How were you deployed to a United Nations peacekeeping mission such as UNFICYP and what made you decide to participate?**

For members of the Hungarian Armed Forces, deployment to UN peacekeeping is very similar to participating in other peace operations. Primarily, deployment to peace missions is voluntary and there is a complex system of application, which includes diverse criteria such as overall health and physical condition, language and computer skills, valid driving license and so forth. It is also necessary to obtain consent from your commanding officer. Once your application is accepted, you have to undergo preparatory exercises for several weeks, similar to peacekeepers from other countries.

I decided to participate for professional reasons. In Hungary, as a regular officer, I work as an associate professor. I also head the Department of Military Leadership and General Subjects, Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training, at Hungary's defence university, known as the National University of Public Service. In fact, some of my former students are currently serving with me at UNFICYP.

Since the Hungarian Defence Forces will continue to participate in peace operations in future, it is important that we prepare our officers for a multinational environment. Ensuring such an educational experience for my students requires me to have the widest possible international operational experience.

I was fortunate enough to work with NATO and the EU, but I had hardly any experience with the UN, apart from the fact that almost 15 years ago I successfully applied for a UN military observer assignment in Georgia (UNOMIG). I completed the UN International Military Observer Course successfully, but eventually didn't deploy due to a major reorganisation of the Hungarian Defence Forces at the time. Therefore, I was extremely keen to join UNFICYP, one of the UN peacekeeping operations Hungary is currently involved in.

**Q: What is your daily routine and some of the challenges you face?**

Primarily, Hungarian peacekeepers maintain the status quo in the UN Buffer Zone in Sector 4 of UNFICYP. I work with the Operations Branch at the Mission's headquarters in Nicosia, covering air operations.

Some of the challenges include the complexity of the operation and coordination between the Mission's civilian, police and military components; the different environment, cooperation in multinational surroundings, the extreme heat through a significant

part of the year. I was fortunate to have prior experience as a Policy and Plans Staff Officer at the European Union Force Althea, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, which has held me in good stead here at UNFICYP.

**Q: How familiar do you need to be with the culture and history of Cyprus in order to be effective?**

The better we understand the background of the situation here, the easier it is to be effective at our job. Peacekeeping operations require a great degree of humility from those serving in them. An enormous amount of respect is necessary. We can perform our duties effectively only if we respect the operational environment, in a broader sense.

It is equally important to be fully aware at all times that we are 'guests' here. Respect is also a prerequisite of cooperating with our colleagues, especially since all of us at the UN, are very diverse, very multicultural.

My background as a historian and my PhD in Security Studies has been very helpful in operating in such a multicultural context.

**Q: What kind of relationships have you cultivated with peacekeepers from other countries?**

We have a good relationship with peacekeepers from other countries, especially in light of the fact that the UN has consciously put together nations whose relationship has not always been excellent in the past. Great friendships are created among peacekeepers from different parts of the world. In fact, I coined the informal term, "dual peace keeping," to describe what we do since in addition to maintaining peace in Cyprus, we also help to improve relations with the representatives of all participating nations.

**Q: How would you describe your stint with UNFICYP? What does it mean for your career and how can you build on these experiences once you return to your service in Hungary?**

I consider UNFICYP as a significant station in my professional career. Hungarians participating in peace operations have an advantage — our history has taught us the kind of humility I mentioned earlier. However, our involvement in peace operations is a relatively new phenomenon. Hungary first sent peacekeepers to a UN operation only in 1988, so we have a lot to learn. For this reason, as the head of a very important department in the military faculty of our defence university, I am convinced I can make significant use of the knowledge and experience gained here, in the preparation of future generations of Hungarian officers.



## UNFICYP honours 16 UN Police Officers for their service at medal parade

**A**t a ceremony held on 17 May 2018 at the headquarters of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in Nicosia, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and UNFICYP Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar, awarded medals to 16 United Nations Police officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; China; Ireland; Italy; Montenegro and Norway.

Among those honored for their service and commitment to UN peacekeeping was Ann-Kristen Kvilekval, UNFICYP's Senior Police Adviser, who commands 22 female officers among her ranks, representing the highest percentage of female police officers in any peacekeeping operation.

Since UNFICYP began its operations in 1964, the UN Police has played an important role across the island. A cornerstone of UNFICYP's successful mandate implementation, they patrol the buffer zone and engage with local community members, contributing to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions.

Recently, UNFICYP's police personnel have been deployed from the Mission headquarters to three field sectors to ensure that they are in greater contact with the communities they serve on both sides of the island and are empowered to make a tangible difference in their lives.

Furthermore, UN Police officers deployed to the Mission facilitate the Joint Communications Room, which enables information to be shared on crimes, criminal matters and humanitarian cases, in parallel with its parent body, the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters.

Speaking at the occasion, SRSG Spehar thanked UNFICYP's Police component for their work in support of the Mission and commended them for their partnerships with their military and civilian counterparts which are critical in defusing tensions and resolving disputes. "For those who are moving on, I wish them and their families the very best as they take on new challenges and embrace new opportunities when they return home," she added.

UNFICYP's Police component is currently comprised of 65 members from a mandated total of 69 officers as per Security Council Resolution 1569 (2004).



# UNFICYP personnel wed in June

Sergeant Liana Smith, from the British Army, tied the knot with Sergeant Robert France, on 15 June 2018 at St Paul's Cathedral, Cyprus. The couple were together for three years and recently deployed together to UNFICYP in March 2018, where Robert is a Platoons Sergeant with the Operational Company and Liana, the Regimental Nurse for the Royal Lancers.

The decision to get married in Cyprus was spur-of-the-moment—both of them felt that it was a unique opportunity to host an intimate ceremony, followed by an evening reception, with close friends and family members, as they serve the cause of sustainable peace on the island.

One of the most touching moments of the day was the pictures of Liana's father pasted on the back of her shoes—though her father passed away a few years ago, in spirit, he still walked her down the aisle! Other highlights included a Lance Guard in support of the newlyweds from the Royal Lancers regiment.

Upon completion of their tour with UNFICYP, Sergeants Smith and France will organize another event in England for their loved ones where they will showcase a video of their Cyprus nuptials.

On behalf of the Mission, the Blue Beret team wishes both of them the very best.

# New faces

## SECTOR - 1



### **Lt Col. CARLOS RODRIGO SURREACO – Commanding Officer Sector 1**

Lieutenant-Colonel Carlos Rodrigo Surraco was born in Argentina in 1970. He graduated as an Artillery Officer from the Army Academy in December 1992. Lieutenant-Colonel Surraco holds a degree in Strategy and Organization and specialises in joint military planning. Through his 30-year career, he has served in various capacities in the Argentine Army. Currently, he is the Commanding Officer of the Argentine Task Force 51st in UNFICYP. Lieutenant-Colonel Surraco is married with one child.



### **Lt Col. GUILLERMO MÜLLER – Air Liaison Officer Sector 1**

Lieutenant-Colonel Guillermo Müller graduated as a Military Aviator in the Argentine Air Force. Later he specialized in helicopters and then he developed as an instructor in the School of Military Aviation. Additionally, he is an Officer of State and Joint Planning as well as an Officer of State Major. He holds degrees in Strategy and Organization and specialises in Operational Strategy and Joint Military Planning. Furthermore, he holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Universidad of USAL / Deusto, Spain. He is married and he has four children.



### **Maj. GUSTAVO CAMERUCCI – Chief U3 OPS Sector 1**

Maj Gustavo Camerucci was born in Argentina in 1972. He graduated from the Army Academy in 1997 as a Cavalry Officer. As a subaltern official, he served in three Tanks Cavalry Regiments, in an Exploration Cavalry Regiment and in the Superior War College. Major Camerucci graduated as Officer of State Major and has specializations in Logistics and Armoured Troops. He is married with three children.

## SECTOR - 2



### **Lt Col. HENRY SEARBY OBE - Commanding Officer S2 URR**

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Searby joined the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) in 2000 as a Troop Leader in C Squadron, then based in Hohne, Germany. He was deployed as a Troop Leader in 2001 for six months to Kosovo, supporting the NATO peace support mission. Later that same year he took part in Exercise Saif Sareea II in the deserts of Oman, acting as the reconnaissance force for 3 Commando Brigade. In 2002, the Regiment delivered opposition force in the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATU), Canada. Following this, Lieutenant-Colonel Searby was sent to Bovington to complete his Regimental Signals Officer (RSO) course. He deployed to Iraq in 2003 and, upon his return, was seconded to a joint organisation where he was employed variously but returned to Iraq and Afghanistan on a number of occasions. In 2013, he was posted to Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade in Northern Ireland as Chief of Staff, before returning to staff college in 2015. Most recently he completed a six-month posting to a London-based operational headquarters working on operations in Iraq and Syria. Lieutenant Colonel Henry has three children. He is closely engaged with the charity Diabetes UK, where he works on their Diabetic Council.



### **Maj. ALEX BOWIE - Deputy Commander S2 URR / Officer Commanding OPS COY**

**M**ajor Alex Bowie joined the Queen's Royal Lancers in 2006 as a Troop Leader in A Squadron, based in Catterick, UK. He was deployed as a Troop Leader in 2008 for 6 months to Helmand Province, Afghanistan with A Squadron as part of the Viking Group. He again deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 and 2013 with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force and in a staff appointment in the UK Brigade Headquarters in Lashkar Gah. He has served in various reconnaissance roles in Canada, Oman and Kenya. He was appointed as D Squadron's Surveillance Troop leader in 2009 and in 2014 was given Command of D Squadron. Following Staff College in 2015 he has held staff appointments ranging from the Regimental Operations Officer to SO2 Performance Management and Risk in Army Headquarters. Most recently he was appointed Military Assistant 2 to the Chief of the General Staff. He is married with two children.



### **Class 1 Regimental Sgt. Major S2 URR KEVIN HOUGH - Warrant Officer**

**W**arrant Officer Class 1 K.M. Hough enlisted into the Army in 1998. He then joined The Queen's Royal Lancers in Osnabruck, Germany. Early service saw him deploying on several key operations before completing relevant career courses, including crew commanders. He then deployed as a Troop Corporal, in the Masan Province, South Korea. His last operational deployment was in Afghanistan. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 in May 2017 and assumed the post of RSM of The Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeths' Own). He is married and has two children.

## **SECTOR - 4**



### **Maj. MÁRIO ANTONI - Senior Logistics Officer**

**M**aj. Mário Antoni was born on 24th December 1976, in Stara Lubovna, Slovakia. He has started his professional military career in July 2000 after graduation from the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas. Maj Antoni was commissioned into the Mechanized Battalion in Nitra, where he served as a Logistics Officer. His next duty has led him to the Air Defence Brigade in Nitra, where he continuously served as Logistics Officer. Later, for a short period he served as a Chief of Staff of SA-10 GRUMBLE Group and Commander of Logistics Battalion. His last position before his deployment was a Brigade Chief of Logistics, where He should be designated again, after his deployment to UNFICYP, This is Maj. Mário Antoni's second deployment within the United Nations. Previously he was deployed to UNFICYP in 2012 -2013, as a Sector 4 Motor Transport Officer. MAJ Antoni has two children – Mario (15) and Michaela (13). He is enjoying sports, particularly soccer, running and swimming.



### **Maj. PAVEL KOŽLEJ - Senior Operational Officer**

**M**aj Pavel Kožlej joined the Czech and Slovak Army in 1992 as a student of military high school. After, he proceeded in studies to Military academy with the graduation of MSc. degree in Anti-Aircraft Missile Defence. He started his military career as a technician appointed in SA-10 GRUMBLE battalion. He has been assigned to many positions within SA-10 GRUMBLE battalion as a platoon leader or company commander. Last position before deployment to UNFICYP was Deputy Battalion Commander of SA-10 GRUMBLE. This is his second tour with the UN, first appointment from 2012 to 2013 as a MOLO officer. Maj Kožlej is married to Katarína and has two sons. He enjoys family, generally sport, good book and movies.



### **Capt. MARTA RODANIČOVÁ - Personnel Officer**

**C**apt Rodanicova was born in Bardejov, Slovakia. She began her professional military career in July 2009 after graduation from Academy of Armed Forces of general Milan Rastislav Stefanik in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. Capt Rodanicova was appointed as a Personnel Officer and later promoted to Chief of Personnel Group in the Transport Battalion in Hlohovec, Slovakia. Her next posting led her to Training and Support Forces Headquarters as a Personnel Officer. In October 2014 she started working for Armed Forces' Office of the Personnel in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia as a Personal and Financial Officer. Current assignment in UNFICYP is Capt Rodanicova's first deployment to United Nations mission where she is serving as a Personnel Officer in Sector 4.



## Capt. PETER VANEK - Military Public Information Officer

**C**aptain Peter Vanek joined the Slovak army in September 2000 and attended the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia; he graduated as a Lieutenant in 2005. As a logistic officer he served in various tactical and operational positions in Trencin and Hlohovec. Upon earning a Master's degree in law in 2011, he transitioned to the military legal service. After serving as legal advisor to the Battalion commander in Topolcany, he was deployed to the Regional Command South in Afghanistan in 2013-2014. He continued to serve as legal advisor at the General Staff's Legal Department, upon his return. In 2017, Captain Vanek graduated from ELTE University in Budapest, obtaining his third master's degree in International and European Business Law. He attended several international and military courses focusing on rules of engagement and human rights law Rights. Captain Vanek currently serves as a Military Public Information Officer at UNFICYP. Captain Vanek is engaged and has one child.



## Capt. NENAD BOGDANOVIC - Force Engineer Assistant

**C**aptain Bogdanovic was born in 1980, in Pancevo, Serbia. He entered the Army as a military high school student in 1995 and began his professional military career in September 2004, after graduating from the Military Academy in Belgrade, Serbia. In the course of his career he has held numerous positions, including as Platoon Leader; Engineering Officer; a CIMIC (Civilian-military cooperation) Officer and Company Commander. He also has extensive experience in dealing with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), especially cluster ammunition. From 2014-2015, Captain Bogdanovic served as Staff Officer at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and is currently deployed as Force Engineering Assistant with UNFICYP. He is married with one child and plays chess professionally.



## Lt Col. ZDENĚK HORÁK - Liaison Officer to Turkish Forces

**L**ieutenant-Colonel Zdeněk Horák has been appointed as UN Liaison Officer to Turkish Forces (UNLO TF) in March 2018. He graduated from the Military Academy in the Slovak Republic. In the past two decades, Lieutenant-Colonel Horák has worked in strategic information security within the Slovak Armed Forces, as well as communication and information systems at the General Staff and Communication Operations Centre. In 2005 he was posted as a system engineer to the NATO Communications and Information Systems Services Agency in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Belgium. Following this, he served as an Information Security Officer at the NATO C3 Agency in Brussels, which was later reconfigured into the organization's current Communication and Information Agency. In the course of his career, Lieutenant-Colonel Horák has represented Slovakia at a series of communication and information systems interoperability exercises and functioned as the country's representative

to the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence Steering Committee. Lieutenant-Colonel Horák is married with two children and enjoys sports.



## Maj. GONZALO SEBASTIAN OJEDA - Force Signals Officer

**M**ajor Gonzalo Sebastian Ojeda from Argentina was born in March 1977 and graduated as an Air Force Officer from the Air Force Academy of his country in 2000. He received his specialty in communications in 2007. He has served for 10 years in the Directorate of Communications of the Air Force where he developed expertise in Communications Systems. Maj Ojeda has participated in numerous operational exercises at the national and international level and, in 2007, obtained a degree as a Telecommunications Engineer. Following this he obtained an additional specialization in Telecommunications Technology in 2015. During the same year, he graduated from the Air War College as Command and Staff Officer. Prior to his deployment to UNFICYP, he was working as the Chief of the Communications Department in the Directorate of Communications in the federal capital of Argentina. This is his second stint with UN peacekeeping; he previously served in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in 2008.



## 1st Lt. MARIA ANABELLA SCARLATO - Senior Medical Officer

**F**irst Lieutenant Maria Anabella Scarlato was born in Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1988. She graduated as a doctor from the South National University in 2013. After two years of working in emergency rooms and occupational clinics, she joined the Argentinian Navy in 2016, graduating from the Naval Integration Course. As a military doctor, First-Lieutenant Scarlato I participated on several operational and search and rescue commissions on naval ships, as well as campaigns with marines. She was most recently based in the Navy Hospital in Puerto Belgrano Navy Base, Punta Alta, Buenos Aires. She is currently a Senior Medical Officer with UNFICYP. This is First Lieutenant Scarlato's first experience as a UN peacekeeper.



The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of #UNFICYP, Elizabeth Spehar, is pictured at the memorial for Canadian peacekeepers who gave their lives in service of peace in Cyprus. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Canadian contingent handing over their area of responsibility to British and Austrian peace-keeping troops, though it has maintained a presence with #UNFICYP through 54 years of the Mission.

**BLUE BERET**



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