

BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine



HUNGARIAN Blue helmets

UN Police from
Bosnia and Herzegovina
and Croatia



UNPOL
medal parade

July-August 2012

BLUE BERET

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Front cover: (From left) IstLt Istvan Boros, Senior Inspector Marijana Todorović, Senior Inspector Vesna Stevanović

Back cover: Pte Whalid Brenner participating in the 10K run

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In this edition, the Blue Beret is proud to feature Hungary as an UNFICYP troop contributing country. Hungary has a long military history dating back over a thousand years. For half a century beginning in 899, hoards of fierce Asiatic Magyars ravaged Europe on horseback. Then in 955 the Holy Roman Emperor Otto the Great won a resounding victory over these invading hoards at Lechfeld near Augsburg, and the Magyars did what no other band of horsemen who had scourged Europe did- they settled down and created their own nation! The eleven hundred years since then have seen the country expand and contract. Hungarians survived the devastation of the Tartars and Turks, Habsburgs and Russians in the Carpathian Basin, were on the losing side of both world wars and were occupied by the former Soviet Union. It is indeed fitting that the national anthem describes the Hungarians as a "people torn by fate." Despite its relentless and often tragic history, this proud nation has bounced back time and time again and has steadily been making its mark on the international scene. At a time when many nations are facing economic problems, especially in Europe, Hungary continues to honour its UN obligations and even excel on the international scene. Hungary made an impressive showing at the latest Olympic games in London and is the country that has won more Olympic medals than any other



nation that has never hosted the Games. Over the past two decades, Hungary has contributed defence personnel to 25 UN missions.

The area known as the Balkans in southeast Europe are what geostrategists call a "hot spot", an area where throughout history neighboring powers have competed for influence whether through military or political means. In the last two decades, the Balkan states of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia have seen their countries make the painful transition from ex-Yuogslav republics to independent nations. The wars created by these transitions led to three separate UN peacekeeping missions in these two countries. The first of these, The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), ran between 1992-1995. Initially established in Croatia to ensure demilitarization of designated areas, it was later extended to Bosnia and Herzegovina to support the delivery of humanitarian relief, monitor no fly zones and

safe areas. In contrast to that of Croatia, the UNPROFOR mandate for Bosnia and Herzegovina was not to monitor a pre-existing cease-fire, but to keep the population alive while the war ended. At that time, UNPROFOR was the biggest, the most expensive and the most complex peace operation in the history of the United Nations. Later, it was replaced with the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (1994-1996) in Croatia and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995-2002). It's worth noting that two countries who in recent history hosted three UN missions are now contributing military and police personnel to UN and other peace-support missions around the world. In this edition we look at the individual police officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia who are a part of UN Police in Cyprus.

Colonel Angus Loudon has joined the mission in Cyprus as the new Chief of Staff following an impressive career spanning 30 years and three continents. In his first interview as Chief of Staff, the Colonel gives keen insight into the role of the military in peacekeeping interventions and the challenges in the post-reconstruction of failed states.



Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

UNPOL Medal Parade



From left: Sgt Stephen McKay, Sgt Ronald MacKenzie, Sgt Peter Fahey, Sgt Stuart McDonald, Sgt Brad McMeeking, Sgt Graham Blay, Supt Peter Bond



Maj Tetiana Kachan



From left: Hr Comm Nebojsa Mrvaljević, Pol Insp 1st Class Slaviša Kotlaja, Dep Director Montenegrin Police Vesko Vukadinović, Pol Ad Miodrag Stijović, Hr Comm Milutin Vasiljević



Det Gd Niamh Serberry

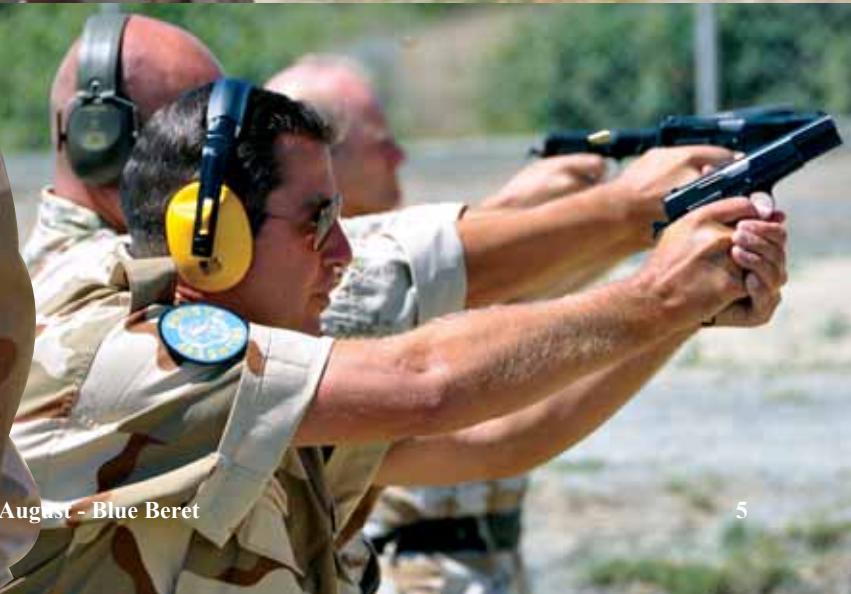


Chief Insp Cristiano Biondi receiving his medal from Force Commander Major General Chao Liu



From left: Maj Leposava Marković, Lt Nenad Lukić

TARGET PRACTICE



Left: Chief Operations' Officer LtCol Cesar Velarde
Centre: Maj Péter Kristály
Bottom: Maj Fernando de la Vega



Hungarian Coat of Arms

Hungary

HUNGARIAN PEACEKEEPERS

The Balkan wars that erupted in the early 1990's brought conflict right up to Hungary's borders, highlighting the importance of peacekeeping and compelling Hungary to play an increasing role in peacekeeping missions around the world. Today, the Hungarian defense forces contribute armed contingents, staff officers, experts, and unarmed military observers to peace support operations in 14 countries led by UN, NATO, EU and other international organizations. Hungarian military and law-enforcement personnel have served in 25 UN missions since 1998 and are currently contributing to the work of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Hungarian participation in UNFICYP started with four military observers in August 1993 and increased to a 33-strong platoon which joined the Austrian-Hungarian-Slovenian peacekeeping battalion in 1995. In September 1997, the Hungarian contingent received a huge boost to company-strength and by 2007, 84 Hungarian peacekeepers (including seven Serbians) were serving in the mission.



In numbers...

Military in Cyprus

Full contingent strength: 84
Soldiers in sector 4: 63
Mobile Force Reserve: 49
Mission HQ personnel: 7
Force Military Police: 5

Military in UN operations

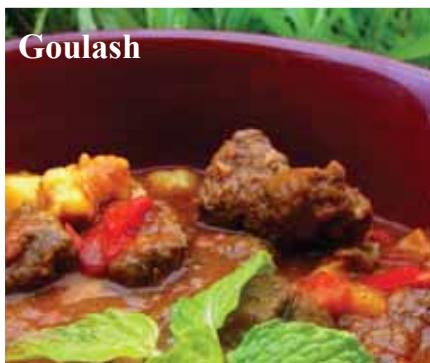
Iran-Iraq (1988-1991): 43
Iraq (1991): 1
Iraq-Kuwait (1991-2003): 7
Angola (1991-1999): 15
Mozambique (1993-1994): 43
Liberia (1993): 1
Uganda-Rwanda (1993-1994): 4
Georgia (1994-2009): 8
Tajikistan (1995): 1
Cyprus (1995-today): 84 (7 Serbians)
Kosovo (1999-2009): 38
Western-Sahara (1999-continuous): 7
India-Pakistan (1999-2000): 1
Iraq (2002-2003): 2
Lebanon (2006-continuous): 5

Defense forces in UN operations

Namibia (1989-1990): 7
Cambodia (1992-1993): 7
Mozambique (1994): 40
Angola (1994-1999): 63
Western-Sahara (1995-1996): 7
Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996-2003): 14
Kosovo (1999-2008): 8
Tajikistan (2008): 1
Georgia (2004-2005): 8
New York (2002-2010): 1

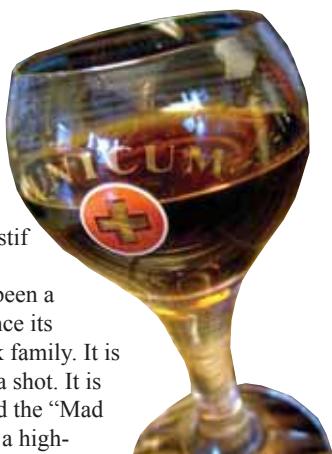
Traditional Fare

Goulash



process. Paprika stock, garlic, caraway seeds, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, peppers, celery and tomato may be added. Goulash may be served with small egg noodles called csipetke.

According to folklore, Unicum got its name after Emperor Josef II tasted it and proclaimed: "Das ist ein UNIKUM", or "That is unique!" Made using a secret formula of 40 herbs, this Hungarian herbal bitters is drunk as a digestif or apéritif and is said to have medicinal qualities. The purple/brown digestive has been a mainstay of Hungarian liqueur cabinets since its invention in the 17th century by the Zwack family. It is most often served ice-cold, straight up, as a shot. It is also commonly served as a cocktail dubbed the "Mad Hungarian" (an ice-cold shot dropped into a high-energy drink).



In Hungarian cuisine, traditional *gulyásleves* (literally "goulash soup") is made by cattle herders and stockmen. Goulash can be prepared from beef, veal, pork, or lamb. Typical cuts include shank, shin, or shoulder; as a result, goulash derives its thickness from tough, well-exercised muscles rich in collagen which is converted to gelatin during the cooking

Country Profile

Hungary is a landlocked state in central Europe, bordering Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. It is mostly flat, with low mountains in the north and north-east. The north-south flowing Danube and Tisza Rivers divide the country into three large regions. Hungary traces its history back to the Magyars, an alliance of semi-nomadic tribes

Full country name: Hungary

Area: 93,030 sq. km

Population: 10 million

Capital city: Budapest

Life expectancy: Women, 78 years; men, 71 years

People: The ancestors of ethnic Hungarians were the Magyar tribes, who moved into the Carpathian Basin in 896, conquering the people already in the region.

Language: Hungarian

Religion: Roman Catholic 67.5%, Calvinist 20%, Lutheran 5%, Jewish 5%, atheist and other 2.5%

Currency: Hungarian Forint

Spotlight on Major Sándor Szabó

Force Hygiene Officer Major Sándor Szabó is the longest serving member of Hungarian contingent in Cyprus, having served three missions in four years. In recognition of his continuing good work, Major Szabó was rewarded with the 'number eight' silver medal representing his completion of eight, six-month rotations. In Hungarian culture, the number eight represents the continuation and cyclical nature of events in life. Major Szabó has spent 27 years in the military and is an accredited public health inspector. In Cyprus, he is responsible for the health protection and preventative health of the troops. The Major will finish his service with the UN in Cyprus on 26 September and return home to his wife, Edit and 14-year old son, Bence.



from southern Russia and the Black Sea coast that arrived in the region in the ninth century. After centuries as a powerful medieval kingdom, Hungary was part of the Ottoman and then Habsburg empires from the 16th century onwards, emerging as an independent country again after World War I.





Hungarians in Sector 4

Within the buffer zone, the Hungarian contingent shares responsibility with contingents from Slovakia, Serbia and Croatia for sector 4, a 65-kilometer stretch of land from Kaimakli village to the village of Dheryneia on the east coast of the island. Sector 4 includes the bi-communal village of Pyla, along with the abandoned “ghost” town of Varosha. The sector headquarters is located in Famagusta, at Camp General Štefánik. The British Sovereign Base Area near Dekhelia extends between two points of the buffer zone, Pyla and Strovia villages, and is outside the area of responsibility of the mission.

The Hungarians serve in the western part of sector 4, and have their base in the agricultural village of Athienou, 20km north-east of Nicosia. Under the command of the 1st platoon, eight Hungarians soldiers man PB-91, the only permanently manned UN facility between Nicosia and Athienou. The Hungarian peacekeepers’ camp bears the name of the nation’s founder, Szent István, and has a troop of 39 members of the 1st platoon and four military observer and liaison officers. The rest of the 1st platoon are deployed at PB-91.



UN observation post 95.

Hills in the western part of the buffer zone, close to Athienou village.



Camp Szent István, base of the Hungarian platoon in Athienou village.



Helicopter landing zone near UN observation post 91.





Faces of Hungary

Msgt Sándor Nagy

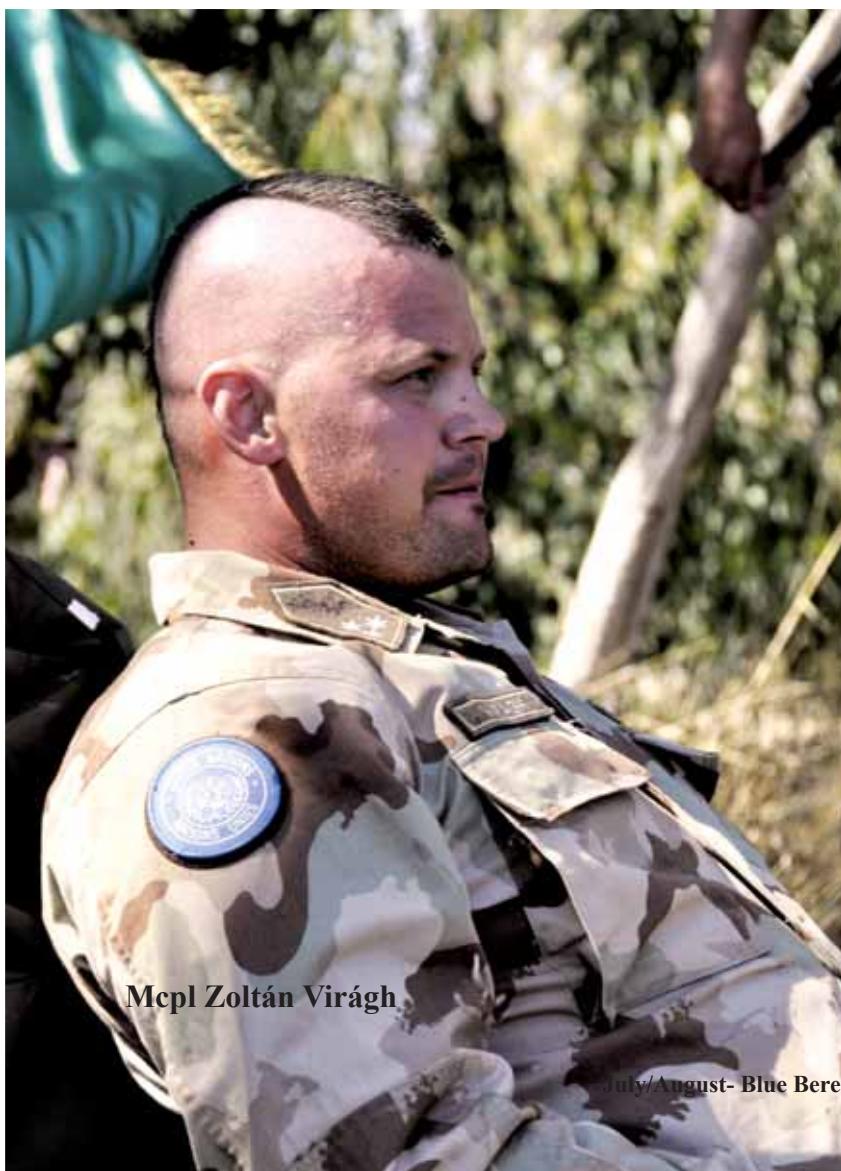


LtCol Péter Lukács



Left: Msgt Zsolt Lenti

Right: Mcpl Krisztián Kórai



Mcpl Zoltán Virág

July/August- Blue Beret



SSgt Anikó Petró

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Country Profile

Situated in east-central Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina shares borders with Serbia to the east, Montenegro to the south-east and Croatia to the north and west. It also has a 20 kilometre coastline on the Adriatic Sea. Rich in natural resources, its landscape varies from high altitude central mountains to arable land in the north and Mediterranean vineyards in the south, with most of the major towns located in valleys.



IN MISSION

The first contingent of Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) police arrived in Cyprus in July 2005. Twenty officers have since served the mission with nine currently working as part of the UN police. Since 2000, B&H has sent 155 police, including 21 women, to UN peacekeeping missions in East Timor, Haiti, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan and Cyprus.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

The state of Bosnia and Herzegovina is made up of three administrative units: the two entities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska, and Brčko District. The constitution of BiH is a civil constitution incorporated in the Dayton Peace Agreement signed on 14 December 1995. Each entity has its own constitution.

Full name: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Land area: 51,200 sq. km.

Population: 4.62 million

Capital city: Sarajevo

People: Bosniak (48%), Serb (37.1%), Croat (14.3%), other (0.6%)

Life expectancy: Women, 78 years; men, 73 years

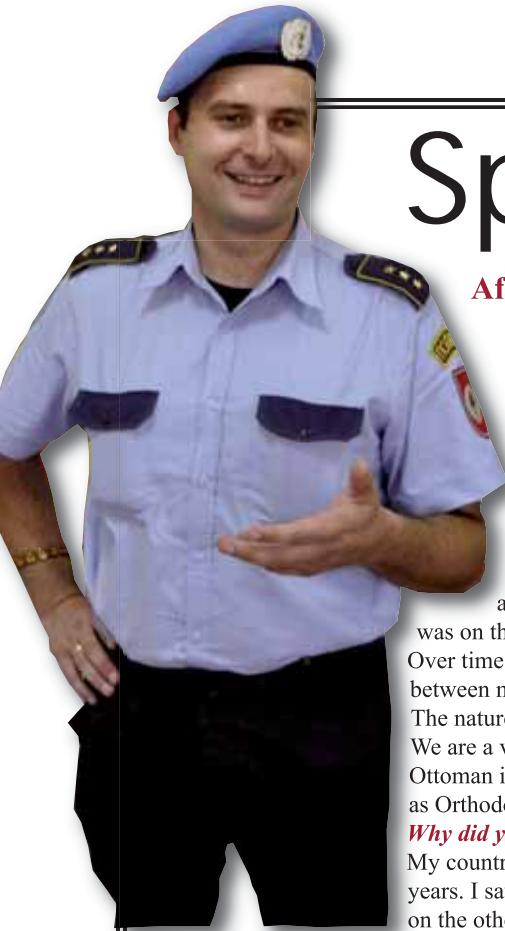
Languages: Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

Religions: Islam, Serbian Orthodox, Roman Catholicism

Currency: Bosnian Convertible Mark



(From Left) Police Officer Aleksandar Bojić, Inspector Dragan Kremenović, Higher Inspector and Deputy Contingent Commander Dusko Simić, Sergeant Zdravko Gligorić, Higher Inspector and Contingent Commander Amir Kasapović .



Spotlight

After three years and three months, one of the longest serving police officers, Deputy Senior Police Adviser Miroslav Milojević, is leaving Cyprus. The Blue Beret asks him how he feels.

What were your first impressions of Cyprus?

When I first came to Cyprus, I was so confused. I found myself in what I thought was a very strange environment. I wasn't sure if I was on the right path. But then I slowly got used to it. Over time I started to see how many similarities there are between my culture and the mixed culture of this land. The nature of Cypriots is very similar to Bosnians. We are a very passionate people! And because of the Ottoman influence in my country, we have Islam as well as Orthodox Christianity, so many similarities.

Why did you want to serve in a peacekeeping mission?
My country was host to a peacekeeping mission for seven years. I saw first hand how they operated. I wanted to be on the other end of peacekeeping. Let me explain what I mean by this. The UN mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

was tasked with monitoring, training and helping to select local police. I was a local police officer and went through this process. I wanted to be on the other end of peacekeeping where I would be the one helping. So now, I have been on both sides of peacekeeping; getting their help and giving help. I was interested to come to Cyprus because my knowledge about the Cyprus problem was much more than about other missions. So, I thought I would fit in better in Cyprus.

How do you think you have contributed to the peace process?

The Cyprus problem is similar to the Bosnian problem in many ways. I think that knowing this has really helped me communicate with both the Greek and Turkish Cypriots and I was asked to be a facilitator on the technical committee on crime and criminal matters.

What are you most proud of during your time in Cyprus?

I am really proud of the way the UN police handled the Ledra St. protests. What started as an ad hoc gathering of musicians and other people turned into a camped protest that lasted seven months. There were about 70 people camped there at the height of the protests. While the protesters were more or less peaceful, there were safety issues to consider. The camp was right between the opposing forces of the Turkish army and the National Guard. There were also health and sanitation issues as the camp was located on a busy area and attracted a lot of stray dogs. We (UN police) were the lead group dealing with the protests and we managed to resolve it and disband the camp without incident.



Senior Inspector Vesna Stevanović



Senior Police Officer Miodrag Petrović, (left) and Inspector Željko Tanasić

Sarajevo Film Festival

The Sarajevo Film Festival is the premier and largest film festival in the Balkans, drawing international and local celebrities to Sarajevo every year. Held in August, the film festival showcases an extensive variety of feature and short films from around the world. The first Sarajevo Film Festival was held from October 25 to November 5, 1995. At that time, the siege of Sarajevo was still ongoing and attendance projections were very low. However, a surprising 15,000 people came to see the films, of which there were 37 from 15 different countries. The festival grew at a remarkable pace and is now considered the most prominent film festival in South-East Europe, attracting tens of thousands of people a year. In 2001, the European Film Association made the Sarajevo Film Festival one of the eleven festivals that could nominate a film for the award of "Europe's Best Short Film."

Croatia



Chief Police Inspector and Contingent Commander Zdravko Peternel has been a police officer for 17 years, specializing in economic and computer crime. This is Peternel's second UN mission- the first was in Kosovo during 2005/6 where he worked in the specialized investigation unit.



Once a recipient of aid, Croatia is modestly making its mark on the international peacekeeping scene, contributing troops and police to various peacekeeping missions for the past 13 years. The military were first deployed to the UN mission in Sierra Leone in 1999. Police were later sent to UN missions in East Timor, Haiti, Kosovo, Cyprus and for the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan. In Cyprus, 26 Croatian police, including seven women, have served since April 2005. The Croatian contingent is the only contingent in UNFICYP to have a 50% gender balance.

Croatia trains police in global peacekeeping efforts

Since 2006, the Croatian Ministry of Interior has implemented an international course for police officers (UNPOC) sent abroad to participate in peacekeeping missions. In February 2008, the Ministry of Interior received a certificate of UNPOC compliance with UN standards of training for peacekeeping missions. With the implementation of this course, Croatia has emerged as an active partner in global peace efforts. The UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations has implemented new common standards and training materials for police officers and UNPOC Croatia 2009 was the first course held entirely according to these standards. So far, 127 police officers from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Slovakia, Lithuania, Belgium, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Uganda, Yemen, Malawi and Iraq have participated. The Croatian UN Development Programme office has been co-organising UNPOC since 2010.



Senior Police Inspector Marijana Todorović has worked for the past 12 years in the areas of illegal immigration, crime prevention, domestic violence and juvenile delinquency. She has helped create social welfare programs to deal with domestic violence and youth crime and is the gender focal point for UN police in Cyprus.



Sergeant Mario Kuzmić has since 1999 focused his police work on drug trafficking, immigration and traffic accidents. His love of bikes led him to work in the special traffic unit where officers travel on motorbikes. In Cyprus, he patrols the buffer zone from the Astromeritis checkpoint.



Senior Sergeant Silvija Paškvan joined Croatian law enforcement in 1997. For the past five years she has specialised in criminal investigations. Paškvan holds a bachelor degree in economics. During her time in Cyprus, she has worked as a patrol officer as well as a sector civil affairs officer in Pyla, the only bi-communal village in the buffer zone.



Country Profile

Full name: Republic of Croatia

Land area: 56,542 sq. km.

Population: 4.2 million

Capital city: Zagreb

Life expectancy: Women, 80 years; men, 73 years

Language: Croatian

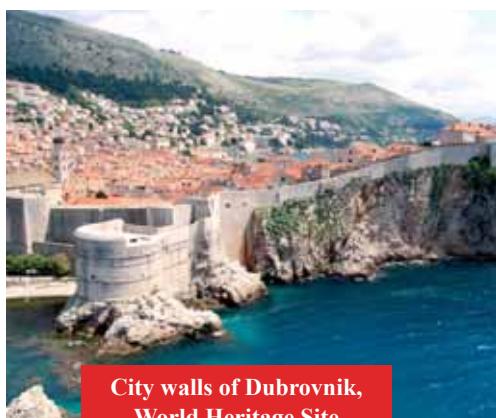
Religion: Roman Catholic (85%) Orthodox (5%) Muslim (1.3%)

Currency: Croatian Kuna

Croatia represents a blend of western and eastern cultures. Because of its strategic geographic position, it has been influenced by the Western Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the Mitteleuropa and the Mediterranean culture. The Illyrian movement was the most significant period of national cultural history, as the 19th century period proved crucial in the emancipation of the Croatian language and saw unprecedented

developments in all fields of art and culture, giving rise to a number of historical figures.

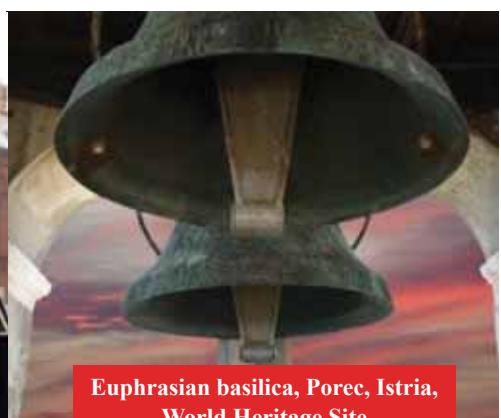
UNESCO has inscribed seven sites in Croatia on the World Heritage List. The country is also rich with intangible culture and holds ten of UNESCO's world intangible cultural masterpieces, surpassing all countries in Europe except Spain which possesses an equal number of the listed items.



**City walls of Dubrovnik,
World Heritage Site**



**Croatian neckband,
the cravat**



**Euphrasian basilica, Porec, Istria,
World Heritage Site**

did you know...

The modern tailored necktie originates from the cravat, a neckband worn by 17th century Croat mercenaries in France.

Fingerprinting as an identification method was discovered by Ivan Vučetić from the Croatian island of Hvar.

The city walls of Dubrovnik are the best preserved fortification system in Europe. The first quarantine hospital in Europe was established in this town in the 14th century.

As legend has it, the famous seafarer and discoverer of China Marco Polo (1254-1324) was born in the Croatian town of Korčula on the island of the same name.



Interview

New Chief of Staff

Colonel Angus Loudon

Colonel Angus Loudon's career has seen him serve in Germany, Kenya, Northern Ireland, Australia, Kosovo, Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan and The Netherlands. He has just joined the UN mission in Cyprus as the new Chief of Staff. Colonel Loudon talks to the *Blue Beret* about his past work, the role of the military and the challenges of military interventions in a post-cold war world.

You've worked all over- what's been your most challenging post to date?

I think the most challenging job I had was a training mission I ran in Iraq in 2003. It was set up at very short notice, I had very little time to prepare my team and get the training organized before being deployed to Iraq. I spent over two months in Iraq training American forces in low-level counter-insurgency tactics. That was probably the most challenging, and also probably the most rewarding job I've done in 31 years.

The other job that I found particularly satisfying was as the defence attaché in Kabul. I was the first defence attaché in the British embassy for over 35 years, I had

no brief to start from, I had to basically make it up with the Ambassador. We set up the defence section, set up links with a variety of Afghan ministries, military headquarters, that was very challenging as I was by myself with no staff, but it was very satisfying, very rewarding and I felt that I achieved something.

You mentioned two countries in which the success or failure of the interventions have been argued endlessly. Do you see any prospects for peace or stability in either Iraq or Afghanistan?

Well, Iraq doesn't seem to be quite as bad as people thought it would be, on the whole that is. They have a government and I think that the military did the best job it could given the circumstances. In Afghanistan, again, we are there to try and help the Afghans create organs of government- the departments of state, armed forces, police- so that they look after their own country which is something they haven't been able to do before.

That's a very important aspect of what we do and certainly from a British perspective, our focus has very much been on capacity building with the Afghans to enable them to stand on their own two

feet and to combat the threats of terrorism and also the pernicious effects of drugs as well.

What you seem to be talking about is the post-reconstruction of failed states, which is what you did your masters thesis on.

Well, how you define a failed state can be a little bit awkward. You can argue that Iraq wasn't a failed state. It had a president, an economy, it had a functioning government- it just wasn't one that a lot of people liked. Afghanistan, you can classify as almost a classic failed state in many respects. Another place I've been in, Kosovo, is another good example of a failed state that was the result of the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, with a strong humanitarian element to it. That's not quite the same thing. But the common theme that ran through all of them was a need for stability and that could only be achieved initially by some form of military intervention. However, it is clear that in Iraq in particular, we intervened ourselves, we created the conditions for that failure of the state rather than it failing from within.

So how important are military interventions?

I think it depends. We have to remember that all military operations of this nature are fundamentally politically led. And in every case we've mentioned so far, there was a political will to do something about the situation. Be it in Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, wherever. And the military was one of the means by which this was achieved. But it's not the only means- there's very much a civil requirement here, say of the government departments being involved, or the political end state being clear enough, we hope.

The military are merely a way of stabilising and creating some certainty

To paraphrase Clausewitz, the military is politics by a different means.

Going back to your master's thesis- you wrote about the post-reconstruction of failed states, then you actually ended up working in some of those failed states....

Yes, that was rather ironic, wasn't it?

Did the reality of working towards post-conflict reconstruction in failed states gel with the theory?

Well, I actually tested the theory while on mission. In general terms, if I were to re-write it now, I wouldn't change a lot. As I have alluded to, the political end state of these operations needs to be clearer. The military is one of those golf clubs in the golf bag. You've got civil reconstruction, you've got the creation of democracies through electoral reform, the creation of organs of states such as armies, police forces, customs officials, tax officials-

all these things that help countries have self-defence capabilities and raise revenue, spend their own money and not rely on foreign aid, have functioning border controls- all these things pertain to all these places and they are all things that I considered when I wrote my thesis. I think perhaps what I would like to look at again is why do states fail in the first place and how we can avoid that from happening.

One of the mantras I've come up with is "go fast, go hard, and then go home". The military have the ability to react quickly because they can move with short notice, they are well equipped, they are well trained and ably to deploy quickly by virtue of their seaborne and airborne capabilities. So I think the military has a great role to play in getting into an area very quickly. When I say hard, I mean, get stuck in when you get there. It doesn't mean aggressive necessarily, but imposing one's self on the situation and stabilizing it.

we're trying to create democracies in less than a decade when in our own countries it took hundreds of years

But the third part of the military component is once the job's done, you should get out, not linger on. And I think we've perhaps spent too long in some of the places, thinking that the military have all the answers. They (the military) are merely a way of stabilising and creating some certainty, both in the minds of the people living in those countries, and for the agencies that are helping set up the future for them.

Would you classify Iraq and Afghanistan as two of the countries where the military have perhaps overstayed?

I don't think they overstayed in Iraq and of course it came to the point where the Iraqis themselves said they didn't need us anymore, and the British training mission was folded at that point. I think we had stabilized the situation as much as we could by setting up the appropriate police and defence forces to do the job. In Afghanistan the challenges are completely different. The terrain, the climate, the fact that it's landlocked affects the supply chains, threats from the Taliban and other terrorist groups, so the challenges are very different. It's also the problem of an initial lack of a functioning government. Iraq had a functioning government at one point- quite a well organized government, certainly not to everyone's taste, but well-organised. Afghanistan had nothing like this- they had the Taliban theocracy.

So the challenges of trying to reconstruct that in Afghanistan are very profound, and particularly in training the necessary army, police and other departments of state that allow democracies to thrive. So that has meant that the armed forces have been used for longer. I think that also it takes time to build up armies, particularly ones in a country like Afghanistan where there are so many different ethnic groups competing and we want to get a balance right there as well. So Afghanistan is a particularly awkward and complicated example.

Of course the military and police forces in our own countries took many years to develop.

That's a very good point, we're trying to create democracies in these countries in the span of less than a decade when in our own countries, like the United Kingdom, it took hundreds of years in fact. But you can't forget that at the same time in Afghanistan, you are looking at a tribesman who has a herd of sheep, no car, a house with no running water, no electricity, but has a mobile phone. So they make huge leaps technologically in some areas, and absolutely none in others. Which made our job even more difficult.

You worked for NATO which arguably has helped keep the peace in Europe for the last century. However, the challenges that exist now are very different to those in 1949. Terrorism, proliferation,

cyber security, budget cuts, even climate change- do you think NATO can adapt to the challenges of the 21st century?

I think NATO has adapted extremely well. It's also adapted to the political changes that have happened in Europe and embraced nations that used to be on the other side of the iron curtain. So it has shown itself able to adapt. I think that NATO has got to be a little bit careful how far it goes sometimes, both in terms of how many more countries it takes in and in how far away from Europe it may wish to see its troops deployed. But of course globally it is seen as the major military alliance. Most of the same countries that are in the EU are in NATO and they've tended to hang their hat on the NATO hook rather than the EU. But on the whole, I think that NATO has adapted well to the post-cold war scenario. I don't think it's necessarily an alliance looking for a mission, as has been suggested by some- it's evolving in line with existing threats and the threat of extremist groups, such as the Taliban, are there for all to see and if

they aren't stopped at the garden gate, i.e. where they arise from, then they'd be at the front door, i.e. in Europe.

So, after all these years and different missions, you have come to Cyprus. What are your early impressions? What do you think can be achieved?

I have only been here a couple of weeks, yet it reminds me in many ways of my time in Northern Ireland- there are quite a few similarities. I think that despite the progress that has been made, more needs to be achieved. In some respects, the country's economic woes have diverted attention away from the "Cyprus problem". There are some positive sides, though- quite a lot has been agreed in the talks and the technical committees are soon to start work again. And of course there are opportunities in the future, particularly with the elections.

But I don't think we should fool ourselves- there are some very serious issues in Cyprus to be resolved - these are the big, big issues, but I don't think they're insoluble. And again, I refer back to my own experience in Northern Ireland, where for so long I thought there would never be a chance of a settlement. And yet one was struck. And now the British army presence is greatly reduced. The entire security responsibility for Northern Ireland now rests with the police. That shows it can be done, with the right will from both the politicians' side and the people's side. I think our job in UNFICYP is to hold the ring between the two sides, maintain the status quo and see that there's no return to violence so that the politicians can have the space to work and come to a political solution.

On a personal note, how are you enjoying Cyprus?

Well, my family have been made very welcome which is very pleasing. It doesn't surprise me however, I've worked with the international community on many occasions and it has always been a good experience. Cyprus strikes me as a fascinating country with very friendly people and lots to do. I'm really looking forward to working in Cyprus with my military and civilian colleagues.

Widowed in 2011, Colonel Loudon has three children, Charlotte (20), Catriona (15) and Adam (13), and two cats. His family home is in (very) rural Perthshire, where he indulges his love of the outdoors with running, hillwalking and field sports, golf and occasional cricket. A fiercely loyal, but chronically frustrated supporter of Scottish rugby, he also enjoys art, music and the finer points of malt whisky!

A full biography of Colonel Loudon is featured on the UNFICYP website www.unficip.org

10K RUN

At exactly 7 o'clock on a clear Tuesday morning on 10 July, the sound of the foghorn cut through the air. Taking their cue, 93 runners sprinted from the starting line down a 10-kilometre track in the UN protected area. The temperature was already 30°C and soaring. Within the next hour, it would rise to almost 35°C.

Soldiers and police braving the temperatures were bolstered by six watering stations along the track that provided much needed hydration to the runners. At 7.36, Private Maphuruma from the Mobile Force Reserve crossed the finish line to become the fastest individual in the race. The Argentine group from sector 1 took the team award.

The road race is held in February and July each year for individuals and for 15-member teams. It is a test of endurance where competitors prove they are able to perform under physically demanding conditions. It fosters good will and promotes inter-sector/departmental relations. In his closing speech, Force Commander Major General Chao Liu thanked all participants for their high-quality performances and highlighted the international cooperation and spirit of fair play shown by all.



Winner

Private Tshepo Maphuruma



- 1 Pte Whalid Brenner
- 2 Capt Mauro Rodriguez
- 3 Pte Stajić Goran
- 4 Maj John Axcell
- 5 SSgt Diego Gomez
- 6 Sgt John Antony
- 7 Wo3 Erzsébet Oláh
- 8 Pte Tshepo Maphuruma
- 9 SSgt Beu Cannon
- 10 Cpl Suraj Butkp
- 11 IstLt Laura Gločeková
- 12 Cpl Petra Smad
- 13 Capt Michal Harnadek
- 14 Cpl Arwel Davies
- 15 Cpl Petra Smadová
- 16 Cpl Leigh Stephens

Preparing for the worst



The past few years have grimly demonstrated that the UN is not immune to natural and man-made disasters. With the expansion of the UN footprint around the globe, real-time, disaster preparedness exercises have become a priority for response teams. In Cyprus, two real-time emergency preparedness drills took place to test the readiness of the crisis management team. The first simulated a full-scale disaster perpetuated by an earthquake off the coast of Cyprus. The second looked at how prepared the mission was for an aviation emergency.

WHEN THE EARTH SHAKES

In June, UNFICYP's crisis management team underwent a tabletop earthquake simulation exercise together with a team from New York. The exercise looked at how a large-scale earthquake would potentially impact on the island's infrastructure and facilitated discussion through a scripted scenario in an informal, stress-free environment.

It was designed to elicit constructive discussion as participants examined and resolved problems based on the existing business continuity plan and identified areas that needed to be refined. The simulation included a possible evacuation of staff and a request for assistance from national authorities.

Experience has taught us that it is unreasonable to expect everything to be orderly, sane, and appropriate during disaster management. The best we can hope for is controlled chaos guided by emergency teams who are as prepared as they can be.

The Designated Official in Cyprus, SRSG Lisa Buttenheim said she believed that the exercise generated an improved plan, that the plan was now well known by relevant staff members, and that it was being revised continuously.

BELL 212 DOWN

At 9.40am on a clear morning on June 14, UNFICYP's security received an emergency call. The mission had lost communication with a helicopter believed to have crashed. How would the mission respond?

The helicopter had been flying over sector-1, west of the UN protected area, and was carrying two pilots and three passengers. After the initial call, the security and fire team started preparations to activate UNFICYP's aviation emergency response plan. At 9.55am, a call confirmed that the helicopter had indeed crashed. Responding immediately, the crises management personnel proceeded to the air crash site with fire trucks. The injured pilots and passengers were evacuated after the team gained access to the helicopter. More fire fighting and rescue resources began arriving together with members of the force military police, UN police, and mobile force reserve. Medical teams took over the medical triage area and injured personnel were evacuated to Nicosia General Hospital. There was one fatality. The exercise then entered a consolidation phase in order to ensure continuity of proper vehicles, equipment, media response and coordination with fire fighters.



Agia Marina Pilgrimage

Between 16-17 July, military and police peacekeepers from sector 4 escorted over 1,000 pilgrims to the Agia Marina church in Dheryneia village situated in the buffer zone. The main hall of the Agia Marina church was built in the 12th century. This Orthodox church is believed to protect the health of children and a water well under the church holds high levels of water considered sacred with local villagers who use it to cleanse themselves of illnesses.



Mission staff clean up dirty beach

Members of UNFICYP's environmental committee and volunteers from various sections of the mission commemorated World Environment day (5 June) and World Ocean Day (8 June) by cleaning up the rocky area and beach at OP146, Famagusta. The enthusiastic volunteers and committee members arrived early, fully equipped with gloves and disposable bags. UN cars and ropes were used to lift heavy, large sized garbage found at the bay. Braving the harsh June sun, the team worked through the day, clearing up all rubbish and debris. The end result: a crystal clear beach!

World cuisine served at chef swap

By Captain Daisy Busher



UNFICYP soldiers have been experiencing the taste of different cultures as part of a 'chef swap' across the three sectors of the missions. The first to cook up culinary delights were the Hungarian chefs who came to Ledra Palace Hotel in sector 2 and produced a magnificent dish consisting of chicken with mushroom sauce called 'magyar csirke gomba martassal'. They were followed by the Slovaks who cooked a delicious potato pancake filled with chicken stew called 'brigadiers pocket' which were also very well received by the soldiers.

Sgt Giannasi and Pte Penny brought a taste of the United Kingdom to sector 4 serving steak and ale pie and mash potatoes to 140 hungry soldiers. The pie was also distributed to various outposts across the sector. "The whole day has been a fantastic success. It is a really good opportunity to integrate with other nationalities and sample dishes from around the globe," said Sgt Giannasi. The scheme is set to continue and the British chefs are preparing a gastronomic treat for sector 1 in the very near future.

NEW FACES



2006. In the following year he deployed to Afghanistan in the Kandahar in the Regional Command South from May 2007 to January 2008. In July 2008, Capt Gendron was posted to 5 Area Sector Group as operations officer in St-Jean Garrison, and in November 2008 was appointed coordinator of St-Jean Garrison until January 2010. Capt Gendron was posted in his current position at Canadian Force Leadership and Recruit School in August 2010 as division 2IC for the Support Division. Capt Gendron is married to Stephanie Appleton and has a son Jonathan, 26. He enjoys scuba diving and ballroom dancing; definitely a past time that he will pursue on the island.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthias Hannes Zarfl was born on 19 December, 1972 in Wolfsberg, Austria and graduated from High School in 1992. After entering military service in 1992, he finished his education as a non-commissioned officer in an airborne battalion in Klagenfurt. After four years as a squad-leader in the airborne battalion he attended the professional officers education at the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt from 1997-2001. In 2001 he was commissioned into the Guard Battalion in Vienna, where he served as an infantry officer. From 2003 to 2007 LtCol Zarfl was commander of an infantry company and followed as S1 officer. During this time he served with EUFOR as SO3curr in the HQ of the MNTF(N) in Bosnia Herzegovina for six months. His subsequent appointments have been as a S1 officer in the Center of International Cooperation (2008-2010) and as a S3 officer in the Regional Command of Styria (since 2010). LtCol Zarfl and his partner Manuela have one daughter Lisa and one son Lukas.

Captain Mario Gendron joined the Canadian Forces in August 1981. Following his graduation from the Canadian Forces Recruit School and completion of an artillery course, Capt Gendron was posted to Petawawa, Ontario, where he served with the PARA Battery. In August 1988, he was promoted to sergeant and was posted to Germany in July 1989 to serve as a technical warrant officer in the battery command post. In May 1991 he completed the Senior Leaders' Course. Capt Gendron was posted to Valcartier in July 1992 to the 430 helicopter squadron, where he completed the Air Observer and Forward Air Controller course and was employed as an air observer FOO/FAC with the unit. He was deployed with the UN in Bosnia from May to November 1995 with the 430 squadron in a FOO/FAC team, and then to Haiti with the UN from October 1996 to April 1997 and promoted to warrant officer in May 1999. He was employed as the troop sergeant major from 1999 to 2000. As a warrant officer in 2000 he commissioned from the ranks to his present rank. He was then deployed to the Golan Heights in Israel where he was employed as the adjutant. Following this he returned to the Royal Canadian Artillery Regiment after his tour in March



Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, visited UNFICYP on 5 July. Pictured with (from left) Force Commander Major General Chao Liu, Senior -Adviser Wlodek Cibor and outgoing Chief of Staff Colonel Gerard Hughes.



On Tuesday 24 August, forty peacekeepers were honoured at the Force Commander's Commendation ceremony. The Force Commander's Commendation recognizes valuable, distinguished or courageous service to the force.





Coming in the next issue of the Blue Beret
**Focus on Slovak blue helmets
and UN police from El Salvador and India**