



**HEADQUARTERS SECTOR 4  
UNAHSB /CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V  
FAMAGUSTA**



FAMAGUSTA, 15th June 2001

**P R E S S - I N F O R M A T I O N**

**Change of Command Ceremony:**

**Withdrawal of Austrian and Slovenian UNFICYP-soldiers –  
Slovakians to take over Sector 4**

(Camp Duke Leopold V./Famagusta on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2001, 1800 hrs)

**A Change of Command Ceremony in Famagusta will mark the end of the United Nations Austrian Hungarian Slovenian Battalion (UNAHSB) and the deployment of the United Nations Slovakian Hungarian Battalion (UNSHB) with effect of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2001.**

When Lieutenant Colonel Kienberger (Austria) will hand over Sector 4 to Lieutenant Colonel Kovac (Slovakia), a lot of VIPs are expected to attend the ceremony. Speeches will be held by the Force Commander (General Rana), the Austrian Chief of Defense Staff (General Pleiner) and by the Ambassadors of Austria (Dr. Pollitzer), Slovenia (Mr. Mahnic) and Slovakia (Mr. Rozbora).

The reason for the change in Sector 4 is, that Austria and Slovenia had to reach the military-political decision to withdraw their soldiers from the Infantrybattalion serving with Sector 4/UNFICYP in the east of Cyprus.

This decision became necessary, as for example in spring Austria was ranking first within the European Union's countries to contribute soldiers to international peace-keeping and humanitarian missions – despite Austria and its army are rather small and the budget for matters of defence and security is traditionally very low. So it was a question of resources, which are still needed in the Austrian Infantrybattalions remaining with KFOR on the Balkans and with UNDOF at the Golan Heights. Austrian and Slovenian resources also will be needed with priority in the planned EU's Rapid Reaction Force.

Austria was one among the very first countries to contribute to UNFICYP: In April 1964 a Austrian Field Hospital with 54 soldiers was deployed in Kokkini-Trimithia west of Nicosia to take care of UN personnel as well as of civilians of both communities. Later it was replaced by an Austrian Medical Center between 1973-1976. In Mai 1972 additionally a Austrian Infantrybattalion with 283 troops was sent to the island. At the begin, they were responsible for the district of Paphos. 1973 they were moved to the district of Larnaca - the area, where Austrians also have served during the fights of 1974 - and finally the UNAB left for Famagusta.

In 1995 Hungarian peacekeepers have started their joining the Austrians in Sector 4. Two years later, additionally the Slovenian Contingent was sent to form the trinational United Nations Austrian Hungarian Slovenian Battalion (UNAHSB), where at last 245 Austrians, 114 Hungarians and 29 Slovenians have served in an excellent cooperation in the service of peace.

Alltogether 15.255 Austrians were sent to Cyprus in the 37 years of presence in the mission – and 15 of them have died (3 in an air-attack in 1974; the other 12 in accidents and after suicide).

The Slovenian engagement on the island will end this year completely but Austria will remain at least until 2004 with some personnel in the UN Headquarters of UNFICYP in Nicosia.

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PIO/Austrian MoD supporting UNAHSB/Famagusta