

McKee Officers Club Project

CYPRUS & UNFICYP RE-VISITED

Advance Notice – Seeking Expressions of Interest

In 1964 Ireland deployed the 40th Inf Bn on peacekeeping duties to Cyprus. Officers & NCOs were also assigned to HQ UNFICYP staff. The Irish contingent was increased a few weeks later with the arrival of the 3rd Inf Gp. Overall Ireland provided a total of three full battalions and nineteen infantry groups for service with UNFICYP. These units served in different operational areas across the island with Bn / Inf Gp HQs located at different times in Famagusta, Skouriotisa, Ktima, Xeros, Zygi and Larnaca. In Oct 1973, in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War, the Irish troops were redeployed to the Sinai for duty with UNEF. Following that redeployment to UNEF, Ireland retained a small military staff component at HQ UNFICYP and in Aug 1974 during the Turkish intervention Irish officers serving at HQ UNFICYP rendered distinguished service during the period of military confrontation which eventually ended with an amended UN mandate and a realignment of UNFICYP positions along a cease fire line between opposing forces. This line now runs from Kokkina on the North coast through Nicosia to the East coast near Dherinia on the border of Dhekila Sovereign Base Area. Ireland's military participation in UNFICYP ended on 24 May 2005 but Ireland's involvement with UNFICYP continues in the form of a contingent of An Garda Síochána with the UN police component.

To mark the 55th Anniversary of the first Irish military deployment to UNFICYP, it is proposed to conduct an 11 day tour to Cyprus over the period 11 to 21 Oct 2019. The broad planning concept for this proposed tour is for direct flights ex Dublin to and from Paphos Cyprus with a tour base in Larnaca from which day tours will be organised. These tours will include visits to and briefing at HQ UNFICYP Nicosia (c/w Green Line Tour) and other locations of interest to Irish personnel including, Skouriotisa, Xeros, Limnitis and Famagusta. The tour will also include one overnight stay in Kyrenia and conclude with 3 overnights in Paphos.

Administrative Information

- ARCO Members are invited to participate in this commemorative event and may be accompanied by spouse, partner or guest.
- Proposed costs, itinerary, etc., will follow at a later stage.

TO GAUGE THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS, MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE HON SEC MCKEE OFFICERS CLUB OF THEIR INTEREST BY EMAIL TO secmckeclub@gmail.com BY NOT LATER THAN **30 JUNE 2019.**