

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



Capt Lorne Cooper | October 27, 2010
Nicosia, Cyprus the main door of the UNFICYP
Headquarters building

Photo : Maj Bruce Barteaux
www.comfec-cefcom.forces.gc.ca/pa-ap/potd/photos-eng.asp?id=466

Captain Lorne Cooper, the last man in Cyprus

Since 1993 a series of lone officers have represented Canada's contributions to UN peacekeeping in Cyprus. The current last man's tenure is about to end as Captain Lorne Cooper

arrived on Canada Day 2009. While on duty Captain Cooper has kept in close contact with the UN soldiers and police officers from nations currently contributing forces to patrol the thin green line. While off duty he made it his priority to understand the longstanding dispute, travelling and interacting widely on both sides of the demarcation line.

"My role is to build situational awareness on matters pertaining to the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" for the UN Force Commander currently from the UK. I monitor changes in the political climate in the northern side, the military disposition and attitude of Turkey towards the island; anything that could have an impact on our ability to conduct our mission."

For November 11, 2009, the Captain who had only been in Cyprus a matter of months, planned a quiet solo ceremony at the Canadian Memorial in Nicosia to commemorate Canada's fallen peacekeepers. The official UN service was focused on the Sunday before Remembrance Day. Padre Major Danny Connolly of the 27th Regiment of the UK found out about Cooper's solo ceremony and offered his bagpipe and reading

expertise. By the time the “small” service took place at the memorial that Captain Cooper had painted and polished, the 27th Regiment was there as well as the wife of the Irish Ambassador to Cyprus, Cathleen Brady, formerly of Toronto.

“Remembrance Day has always been a day for all Canadians wherever they are to stop and remember the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms that we so cherish. It was simply amazing to me—those who not just remember but make that special effort to actually demonstratively remember, regardless of where they are in the world. Lest we forget.”

Memorial Photo, page 7:

www.unficyp.org/media/Blue%20Beret%20-%20pdf%20files/2009/BB_Oct-Nov_2009.pdf