



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL STAFF

Practical information for participants

MULTINATIONAL CIMIC-EX «ARGONAUT 2019»

NATIONAL GUARD
GENERAL STAFF

Limassol Aveue
1433 Nicosia
Cyprus

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Republic of Cyprus

The Island of Cyprus is the third largest of the Mediterranean islands and officially known as the Republic of Cyprus. Strategically placed at the crossroads of **Africa, Asia** and **Europe**, the island has had a very turbulent history, which is reflected in the architectural ruins, abandoned villages, ghost-towns and Nicosia, Europe's last remaining 'Divided City'. In the island, one encounters an exotic and exciting mix of east and west, which is reflected in the cultural traditions and lifestyle. Cyprus, which was placed under British administration based on the Convention in 1878, was formally annexed by Britain in 1914. The island gained its independence by the London and Zurich agreements in 1959, after an armed struggle that lasted 4 years. Cyprus has been a full member of the EU since the 1st of May 2004 and adopted the Euro on the 1st of January 2008.

Nicosia (Lefkosia) is the capital of Cyprus and is located roughly in the center of the island. Instead of the sea breeze, here one can feel an air of sophistication and cultural diversity that reinforces its capacity as a European capital. With a rich history that can be traced back to the Bronze Age, Lefkosia became the capital in the 11th century AD, and it was the Lusignans who transformed it into a magnificent city with a royal palace and over fifty churches. Later in the 16th century the Venetians gave it its trademark city walls, which completely encircle the Old City. The massive and architecturally impressive walls have a circumference of 4.5 Km, with 11 heart-shaped bastions and 3 gates to the city. The walls divide Lefkosia into the Old City within, and modern and continuously developing city outside the walls. Sadly, Lefkosia is still divided, with the demarcation Green Line running right across the Old City from east to west. Crossing over from one side to the other is now possible upon presentation of ID card or passport.

Larnaca, the host town of the exercise, is a city on the southern coast of Cyprus. It is the third-largest city in the country, after Nicosia and Limassol, with an urban population of 144,200 (2015). Larnaca is known for its palm-tree seafront, the Church of Saint Lazarus (last place of rest of Jesus' friend), the Kamares Aqueduct and its medieval fort. It is built on the ruins of ancient Citium, which was the birthplace of the Stoic philosopher Zenon. Larnaca is the country's primary airport, Larnaca International Airport. It also has a (both passenger and cargo) seaport and a marina.

The **Northern Part of Cyprus** has been under Turkish Military Occupation, since the invasion of the island in 1974. Although the whole Republic of Cyprus has joined the EU, according to the Treaty of Accession the application of European Law has been temporarily suspended in these territories, over which the government of Cyprus cannot exercise any control. As a consequence, visitors to the occupied part of Cyprus, do so at their own risk. Incidentally, the territory of the British Military Bases in Cyprus has also been excluded from accession to the EU.

ARGONAUT EX at a Glance

The multinational joint exercise of civil - military cooperation (CIMIC) «ARGONAUT», resulted, from the 2006 Lebanese crisis, where 60,000 civilians were evacuated from the region via Cyprus. More than 30 countries were involved in this operation. The Republic of Cyprus and friendly countries recognized the necessity to exploit the lessons learned from this operation and since 2008 the multinational Exercise Argonaut is being carried out for the prompt preparation of the various Authorities and Services of the Republic of Cyprus with the participation and collaboration of friendly countries.

The main tasks of the exercise concerns the provision of humanitarian assistance during the evacuation of civilians.

The CIMIC- EX ARGONAUT 2019 will examine:

The NEO CG (Non-combatant Evacuation Coordination Group) table top exercise for the NEO participating Countries that deal with the coordination and cooperation of their aeronautical means, in order to maximize the evacuation capacity from the crisis area. The exercise considers the experience gathered during the evacuation operations (such as the Lebanese crisis in 2006), and uses them as a model aiming to upgrading procedures during the table top exercise. The NEO CG Table Top exercise is implemented in the ARGONAUT since 2014.

The National Plan “ESTIA”, concerns the reception of civilians from a war zone. 21 Authorities from 6 Ministries of the Cyprus Republic work together in order to ensure the safety of the evacuees, to provide humanitarian help and above all to cooperate with the Embassies of the evacuees personnel. The final face of the “ESTIA” exercise will take place at the Larnaca harbor, (30 1800 May 2019) which will be the Distinguish Visitors Day (DV-Day)

The National Plan “NEARXOS” will deal with two Search and Rescue incidents (aeronautical accidents) in the evening of the 29th and morning of the 30th of May 2019. At the exercise several countries will participate with aeronautical means in order to assess any critical situation, during the evacuation.

The General Aim of the CIMIC-EX ARGONAUT 2019 is the development and interoperability between the Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus, the EU Member States and third countries during the management of humanitarian crises in the wider region of the Eastern Mediterranean,

Aiming

at the enhancing of the readiness of the Authorities and Services of the Republic of Cyprus and of the participating countries, in providing humanitarian assistance during the evacuation of unarmed civilians, Search and Rescue, confronting special situations and establishing the necessary mechanisms as well as the improvement of existing plans.

The exercise is coordinated by the National Guard's Operations Directorate via the Common Planning Team (CPT) framed by representatives of all the involved Departments.

In that purpose, the National Plan "ESTIA" involves departments from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior, Communications and Work, Health, Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment, Finance, Justice and Public Order, Tourism, Labour and Welfare and Social Insurance. These departments form Joint teams that deal with all the aspects of the operation from the detailed planning to the execution.

GENERAL EXERCISE SCHEDULE

No	EVENTS	DATE	LOCATION
1.	NEO CG Pre Exercise (Communication and Systems Check) (For NEO CG Members and NEO CG Observers Members).	27-28 May 2019	Larnaca Civil Defence HQ and Coordination Center «ZENON»
2.	CIMIC-EX «ARGONAUT 2019»		
	• NEO CG Table Top Exercise (For NEO CG Members and NEO CG Observers Members).	29-30 May 2019	Lca CDHQ and CoC «ZENON»
	• Observers Arrival (All invited Countries)	28 May 2019	
	• Initial Observer Briefing	29 (0900-1030) May 2019	Sun Hall Hotel
	• Lodging Area of Unarmed Civilians ("KITION").	29 (1100-1230) May 2019	«KITION» Training Center
	• Hosted Lunch by the National Guard	29 1300 May 2019	Larnaca Officers Mess
	• SAR EX (Evening Scenario)	29 (1800-2400) May 2019	Exercise Areas
	• SAR- EX (Day Scenario)	30 (0700-1300) May 2019	Exercise Areas
	• NEO CG Exercise at Civil Defence (premises)	30 (0900-1000) May 2019	Lca CDHQ
	• NEO CG Exercise at Coordination Center «ZENON»	30 (1030-1300) May 2019	CoC «ZENON»
	• <u>Distinguished Visitors Day</u> <u>(DV-DAY)</u> Simulation of massive Entitled Personnel (EP) arrival (Live EX – of the National Plan "ESTIA")	30 (1800-2100) May 2019	Larnaca Port
	• Reception	30 2100 May 2019	Larnaca Port
3.	END-EX	30 2100 May 2019	

Cyprus Key Facts Quick View

Geographic Location: Eastern Mediterranean Island
Climate: Mediterranean (hot)
Local Time: GMT time +3 (Summer time for “B” Zone)
Area: 9,251 sq km (3,572 sq miles)
Population: 848,300 (2015)
Capital city: Nicosia (Lefkosia) (population: 330,000)
People: Greek Cypriot (78%), Turkish Cypriot (18%), Armenians, Maronites, Latins (4%)
Official Languages: Greek, Turkish. English is widely spoken.
Religions: Greek Orthodox (78%), Muslim (18%), Maronite, Armenian Apostolic, and other (4%)
Currency: Euro
Government: Republic (Presidential System) since 1960
Head of State: President Nicos Anastasiades
Minister of Defence: Savvas Angelides

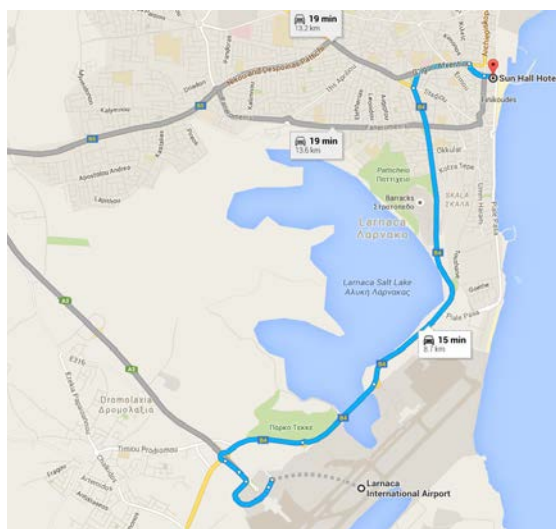
Cyprus Airports

Cyprus Airports are located in **Larnaca** and **Paphos**, however for this event the **Larnaca International Airport is highly recommended**

Email address: info@hermesairports.com Website: www.hermesairports.com

LARNACA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (LCA) (Tel. No. +357 77 77 88 33)

Larnaca International Airport is Cyprus's main international airport and is situated 5KM south of the town of LARNACA. A new terminal building opened in November 2009, serving 9 million passengers a year.



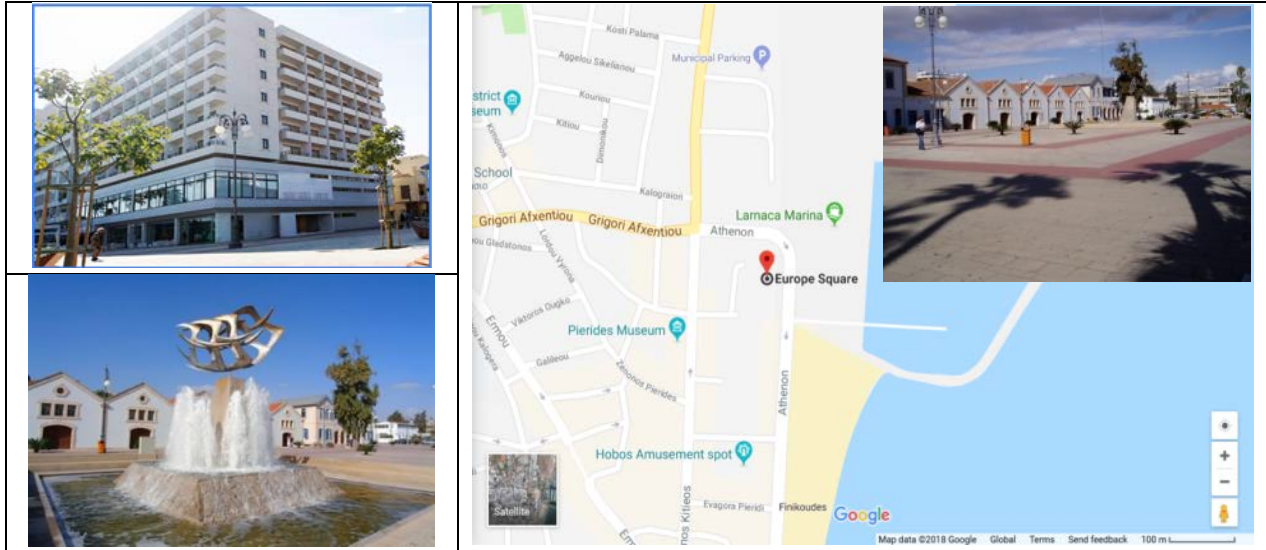
The distance from Larnaca International Airport to the Europe Square (outside the Sun Hall Hotel) is 8,7 Km and around 15 minutes by car- taxi or 25 minutes by bus (bus number 425, bus station Finikoudes)

TOURIST INFORMATION

Information to tourists is provided by a tourist information office located in the Arrivals area, as well as by various airline information desks, which are located on the public concourse. Please visit the official site of Cyprus Tourism Organization, www.visitcyprus.com

Meeting Place – Accommodation

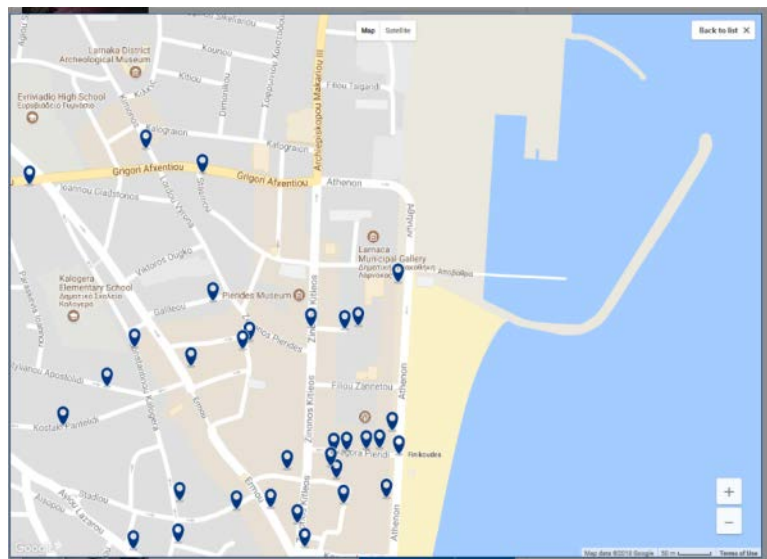
The 1st initial meeting of the exercise Observant at 29 08:30 May 2019 will be held at **Sun Hall Hotel** in **Larnaca** (sunhallhotelcyprus.com). We have selected the Europe Square to be our meeting place.



Several Hotels with can be used for your accommodation in a walking distance (less than 500m) from the Europe Square in variety of prices and different star ratings.

Sun Hall hotel is the nearest to the Europe Square

Advised to make your tripe planning early (most of the hotels offer free cancelation) taking in to consideration that May is a busy holiday month in Cyprus).



The National Guard has a special arrangement with the Sun Hall hotel for the following services:

Room rates:

- €95,00 Sea Side view room **(Bed and Breakfast)**
- €110,00 Sea view room **(Bed and Breakfast)**

Supplements:

- Half Board €20,00
- Full Board €38,00

Different Types of rooms can be arranged directly with the Hotel for ex a Twin Inland view room or a Twin Sea Side view room

Check in time: 14:00 check out time: 12:00

Any other special arrangements can be made directly with the hotel (ex. early check-in late check-out)

Sun Hall Address: Athens Avenue 6
Larnaca 6302

Room Reservation:

Participants should make their reservation directly to the hotel reservation department by sending the registration form for the CIMIC EX ARGONAUT 2018 to the email: info@sunhallhotel.com.cy or by fax to the number +357-24652717, copy to:

- Cdr Vassilis DEMETRIOU depix_ops@army.com.cy and to
- Major Alexandros KAKOPETRITIS intaffairsarmy@cytanet.com.cy

Other Suggested Hotels

- Ciao Stelio Hotel, www.theciaostelio.com
- Les Palmiers, <http://www.lespalmiers.com.cy/lespalmiers/index.html>
- Amorgos, <http://amorgoshotel.com>

Luxurious Hotels can be found at the Oroklini Seafront (20min) by car from the meeting place (Europe Square) as:

- Golden Bay Beach Hotel
- Palm Beach Hotel & Bungalows
- Lordos Beach Hotel

Arrival in Cyprus

Participants are expected to make their own travel



arrangements towards one of the legal points of entry of the Republic of Cyprus [LARNACA International Airport (recommended) or PAPHOS Airport].

You can reach the Sun Hotel by taxi (12-15 euro) or bus no. 425 (bus stop: FINIKOUEDES).

For those arriving /departing from Paphos Airport they can use either Taxi which will cost about 100 euro (1 hour and 25 minutes – 125 Km) or KAPNOS Airport Bus Shuttle which will cost about 15 euro (2 hours). For further information see transports in Cyprus.

Meals - Coffee Breaks

During the exercise Coffee Breaks will be offered (coffee, beverages and snacks). A hosted Lunch by the National Guard will take place on the 29th of May 2019.

Reception (finger food) will take place after end of the DV-Day (30 2100 May 2019) at Larnaca Port.

Internet Access: Free WIFI will be provided in the hotel premises and to the most of the exercise areas.

Uniform code: combat uniform or operational uniform

Transport in Cyprus

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses are the only means of public transport in Cyprus. **There are no metros or trains.**

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FROM PAPHOS AIRPORT TO LARNACA AIRPORT VIA LIMASSOL

KAPNOS AIRPORT SHUTTLE provides “Shuttle” service between Paphos International Airport and Larnaca International Airport at €15 per person. For more details please follow the link <http://www.kapnosairportshuttle.com/> or call Tel.: +357 24 00 87 18. Please note that if you choose this way to travel, you should take the bus or a taxi for the rest of the route to the hotel.

URBAN BUSES

Urban buses link different areas within the respective cities and operate frequently during the day. Each city has its own bus company. **The cost of tickets is: One way €1.50, daily €5.00, night €2.50. Daily tickets are valid until 21:00 of each day. From 21:00 and later, passengers should issue the night ticket.**

TRANSURBAN/INTERCITY BUSES

Public bus transport between towns is provided by Intercity Buses Co Ltd. For exact timetables contact: INTERCITY BUSES Co Ltd., Tel.: 23 81 90 90, www.intercity.buses.com

URBAN TAXIS

Urban taxis are available 24 hours a day in all towns. They can be booked by phone or hired on the street. Additionally you can ask for a taxi at your hotel reception desk.

Taximeters are installed in all urban taxis and charging starts as soon as you get into the car.

HIRED CARS

Self-drive car rental firms have offices in all towns, as well as at Larnaca International Airport.

To be permitted to drive in Cyprus, you must hold either a valid national or international driving license provided that it is valid for the class of vehicle you wish to drive. CAUTION: Traffic moves on the LEFT-hand side of the road, NOT on the right. Due to the usual intense brightness of the clear Mediterranean sky, drivers are advised to wear sunglasses.

General Information

Languages: English is widely spoken. All presentations will be in English language.

Local Time: Cyprus Time during the exercise is GMT +3.

Climate & Weather

The island's climate is characterized by hot summers and mild winters. May is the month when weather in Cyprus changes from spring to summer. In May there are usually several days with fresh spring breezes blowing in from the sea. However, in late May you should expect temperatures around 24 to 32°C.

Currency Exchange

All banks operating in Cyprus offer foreign currency exchange services and quote the exchange rates of the Euro against all major foreign currencies daily. Foreign currency can also be exchanged at hotels.

ATMs and Credit Cards

All major banks in Cyprus have automatic teller machines (ATMs) in most towns and in the majority of the large villages. All major credit cards are accepted almost everywhere.

Electricity supply

The electricity supply in Cyprus is 230-240 volt, AC. 50 Hz. Sockets are usually 13 amp, **with 3-point plugs, square pin (UK Type)**. Many hotels provide adaptors upon request from the reception.

Smoking: Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public places and night clubs.

Opening hours: Shops normally open around 09.00 and close around 19.00 every day (closed on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons).

Banks are open on workdays (Monday to Friday) between 08.30 and 14.00. Banks are closed on weekends and public holidays.

Restaurants and cafes have varying opening hours, but lunch is most often served between 12.00 and 15.00. Dinner is served from 19.00 until late in the evening.

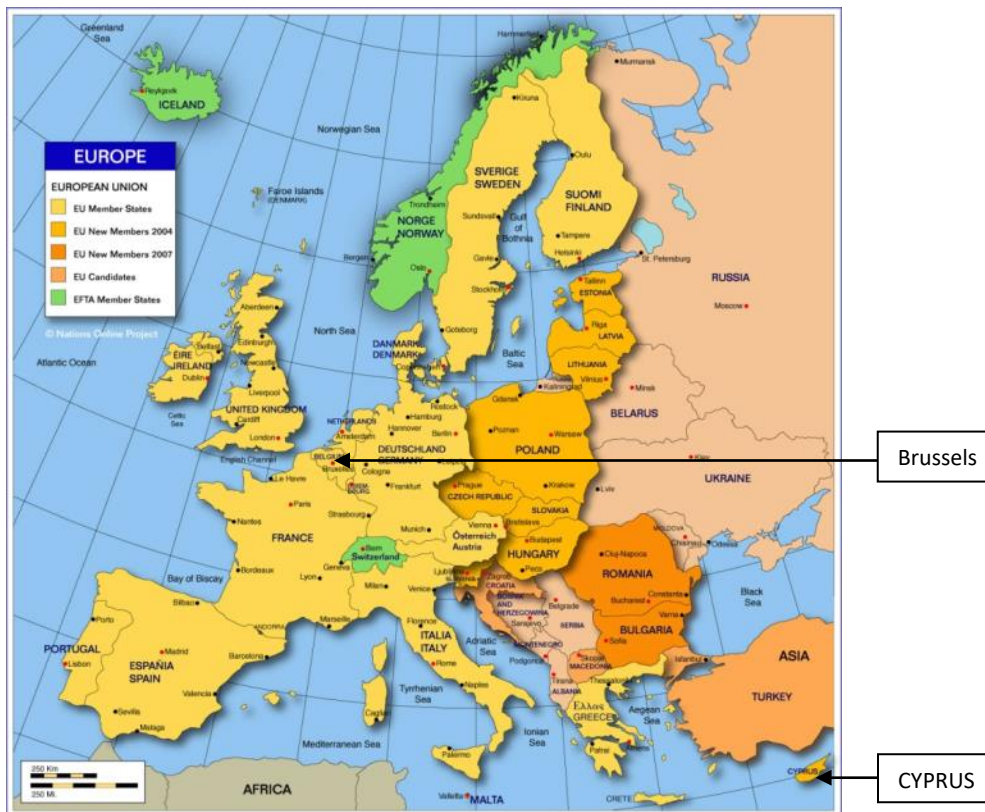
Driving Side: Driving is on the **left-hand side of the road**. All the international road traffic signs are in use and placed on the left-hand side of roads. On roundabouts, priority is given to the right side.

Emergency Number: Call 112, the EU-wide emergency number for police, fire department and ambulance.

Dial Code for Cyprus: +357

Telephone Directory Assistance: 11892, 11822, 11800, 11833, 11811.

MAP OF EU



MAP OF CYPRUS

