

**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL STAFF  
OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE**



**MULTINATIONAL  
CIMIC EXERCISE  
«ARGONAUT-2019»**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS  
AND  
EXERCISE PROGRAMME**

MAY 2019

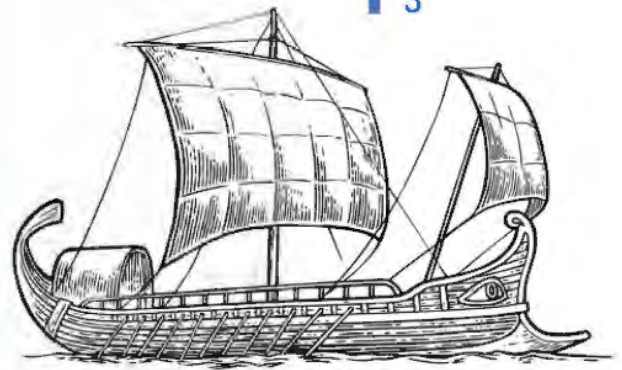
## THE ARGONAUTIC EXPEDITION

According to the Greek Mythology, the expedition of the Argonauts was organized by Iasonas (Jason) with the voluntary participation of fifty heroic men from all over Greece, in the quest to find the Golden Fleece and bring it back home from Colchis.

“ARGO” was the name of the ship that was constructed for the expedition, under the directions of Goddess Athena, and it was distinguished for its speed and robust construction. The sailors manning the ship were named ARGONAUTS. Nowadays the Argonautic Expedition is used as a “historical” model associated with the rapid response to threats by Naval Forces.

Its success was based mainly on the “spirit of unity” between the participating heroic men from different areas and the utilization of their capabilities in their respective domain. The exchange of their knowledge and experiences multiplied their power and capabilities to face even the greatest dangers, that could not have been faced individually.

Today the development of cooperation and unity spirit among all the countries interested in maintaining peace, prosperity and stability, is a prerequisite for the successful management of modern threats.



## **ARGONAUT EXERCISE AT A GLANCE**

### **1. GENERAL**

The Exercise "ARGONAUT" 2019 is a multinational civil – military Joint staff exercise that will be held between the 27th and 31st of May 2019.

The CIMIC-EX «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) tabletop 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 previous evacuation operations, and uses them as a model aiming to upgrading procedures during the tabletop 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.



## 2. AIM

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.

## 3. PARTICIPATION

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. 21 departments and authorities of Cyprus Republic form Joint teams that deal with all the aspects of the operation from the detailed planning to the execution.

In addition, the member states of the NEO CG and an increasing number of foreign delegations and Countries participating with aeronautical means.

#### **4. POINT OF CONTACT**

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**PROGRAM**  
**EXERCISE**  
**"ARGONAUT - 2019"**



**Monday, 27 of May 2019**

**PLACE**

CIVIL DEFENCE PREMISES LARNACA – COORDINATION CENTER  
"ZENON"

(08:00-19:00)

- Preparation for Table Top Exercise of the NEOCG
- Check the Information and communication systems

**PARTICIPANTS**

MFA, NGGS, CD, NEO-CG Member States

**Tuesday, 28 of May 2019**

Arrival of Foreign Observers to Cyprus

**PLACE**

CIVIL DEFENCE PREMISES LARNACA – CC "ZENON"

(08:00-17:00)

- Pre-ex of the Table Top Exercise in Crisis Management NEOCG
- Pre-ex of the Table Top Exercise of "ESTIA" National Plan.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

MFA, MoI, MoD, NGGS, CY Police, JCCR, CD, NEO-CG Member States, Medical Services, Asylum Service, Ambulance service, Department of Customs, Social Welfare Services, CPA, Red Cross, CTO, CSO, CYTA

## **PLACE**

Crisis Management Department MFA

(17:00-20:00)

- Test of the Communications System
- Implementation of "ESTIA-1", by the MFA (Send and receive coded messages)
- Convening of the Coordinating Team of Crisis Management (CTCM).
- Implementation of "ESTIA-2" by the MFA.
- Teleconference between a foreign Embassy and OCC
- Implementation of "ESTIA-3" (Send coded messages)

## **PARTICIPANTS**

MFA (NCCM), NGGS, Cyprus Police, Civil Defence





**Wednesday, 29 May 2019**

Participation of foreign observers - First day

## Observers

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Observers, Escort Officers  
MFA, NGGS, JRCC, CD

(08:30)

Gather at "Europe" Square (Next to the Sun Hall Hotel)

«SUN HALL» HOTEL

(09:00-10:30)

- Welcome by:
  - Chief of Staff of the NGGS
  - Head of the Department of Crisis Management - MFA
- Briefing to foreign observers
- Analysis of the phases and the activities of the Exercise
- Briefing on the «ESTIA» National Plan
- Briefing on the SAR EXERCISE

Observers' visit and simultaneous briefing at:

(11:00-12:00)

- Lodging Area of Civilians ("KITION")

Health Rehabilitation Center in KITI

(13:00-16:00) Lunch

### **PLACE**

Civil Defence Larnaca

(16:00-17:00)

Table Top Exercise of "ESTIA" National Plan.

## **SAR PHASE**

(18:00-24:00)

Night Exercise Search and Rescue (SAR) (Specific National Plan - "NEARCHOS")

### **PARTICIPANTS**

JRCC, NGGS, CY Police, CD, Medical Services, Aeronautical means of participate countries

## **Thursday, 30 May 2019**

(08:30)

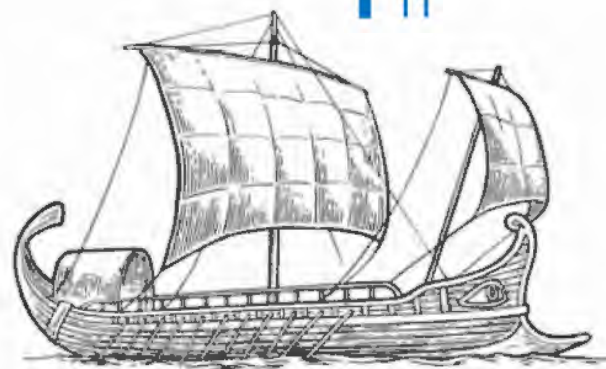
Gather at "Europe" Square (Next to the Sun Hall Hotel)  
- Transfer to Coordination Center "ZENON"

(09:00-10:30)

Day Exercise Search and Rescue (SAR) (Specific National Plan - "NEARCHOS")

(11:00-12:30)

Exercise NEOCG at the coordination center "ZENON"



## **PARTICIPANTS**

Observers, Escort Officers  
MFA, NGGS, CY Police, CD,  
Medical Services, Medical Services,  
Aeronautical means of participate countries

(13:00-17:00)

Free Time

## **DV-DAY**

### **PLACE**

Larnaca Port

(17:30)

Gather at "Europe" Square (Next to the Sun Hall Hotel)  
- Transfer to Larnaca Port

(18:00-20:00)

Watch the practical implementation of the "ESTIA" National plan

(20:30)

Reception


## **PARTICIPANTS**

Observers, Escort Officers  
MFA, NGGS, CY Police, CD, Medical Services, Asylum Service,  
Ambulance service, Department of Customs, Social Welfare Serv-  
ices, CPA, Red Cross, CTO, CSO, CYTA

(22:00)

End of "ARGONAUT - 2019"

## ABBREVIATIONS



CD:	Civil Defence
CPA:	Cyprus Port Authority
CRC:	Cyprus Red Cross
CPAU:	Cyprus Police Aviation Unit
CTO:	Cyprus Tourism Organization
CSO:	Cyprus Sports Organization
CYTA:	Cyprus Telecommunication Authority
DCA:	Department of Civil Aviation
ERU:	Emergency Response Unit
ETCM:	Executive Team of Crisis Management
JRCC:	Joint Rescue Coordination Center
MoD:	Ministry of Defence
MFA:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mol:	Ministry of Interior
NG:	National Guard
NGGS:	National Guard General Staff
OCC:	Operations Coordination Center
PMP:	Port and Marine Police
SWS:	Social Welfare Services