

# The Blue Beret



Seedlings of Peace

## THE BLUE BERET

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## Editorial

As UNFICYP enters its forty-sixth year in Cyprus, the UN's third-oldest peacekeeping mission continues to play a vital and unique role on the island. That is the conclusion drawn by the Secretary-General in his latest report on the operation in Cyprus, an assessment the Security Council is expected to agree with by extending UNFICYP's mandate until June 2010.

The Secretary-General concludes that UNFICYP's contribution in Cyprus includes its support of the ongoing settlement talks, which are well into their second year. It has become a cliché to say negotiations have entered a critical phase. As the Secretary-General concludes in a separate report, it is undeniable, however, that since the current process began, the gaps between the sides have narrowed on a number of important issues. Differences do remain, including some very stark ones; and it is clear that much work needs to be done in order to achieve full convergence. But the leaders of the two main Cypriot communities have shown great commitment, courage and determination despite considerable challenges and criticism from domestic detractors. On this basis, the Secretary-General has expressed cautious optimism about the prospects for a settlement.

A settlement to the Cyprus problem would naturally lead to a different UN operation in Cyprus. That was the reasoning behind the provision in the last Security Council resolution on UNFICYP last June regarding contingency planning in relation to a settlement. The Secretary-General concludes that although considerable progress has been achieved in the Cyprus talks, the two sides have not yet considered in depth the role which the United Nations would be expected to play in support of a settlement. It is, therefore, too early to be able to identify with sufficient confidence the parameters of the United Nations involvement in the context of a possible solution. As talks enter yet another "critical phase", more thought is sure to be given to what that future UN presence should look like. What is certain is that the world organization will be ready to continue to support Cyprus on its path to reunification.

## Leaders show support for work of CMP

The two Cyprus leaders Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat attended an event at Ledra Palace Hotel on 17 November in recognition of the € 2 million contribution made by the European Union to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP). Both leaders thanked the European Commission for their generous support of the work of the CMP that operates under the aegis of the United Nations.

Addressing the event Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias pointed out that the problem of missing persons touches almost every family in Cyprus. "It has caused a lot of suffering and agony to so many persons, for so many years. It is a humanitarian problem, and, as such, should remain outside politics or other considerations and expediences, he said.

Christofias stressed that both communities in Cyprus should support, not only in words but in practice, all efforts towards the resolution of the problem of missing persons. "We owe it to the families; we owe it also to Cyprus and to its entire people. We should work together, in good spirit and trust, to improve and expedite what is already being done, in the framework of the CMP. Christofias congratulated the Committee, its three members, and their assistants, "for working hard and effectively to develop and operate the Exhumation and Identification Programme, and generally for trying to find the answers, the families are entitled to have".

Christofias made particular reference to the young scientists from both communities, who, for months now, are working together, in the Anthropological and DNA Laboratories, as well as for the excavations in the field. "They are an example of the way things should have been in Cyprus", he noted.

Christofias also announced that the Greek Cypriot side would donate another €150,000 to cover immediate and unforeseen needs, and to increase the number of exhumation teams.

Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat reiterated his commitment to the work of the CMP and pointed

out that, "Healing the grievances of the families has to be our top priority. For quite a long time, we worked to change the understanding of the approach to this humanitarian problem. Ultimately, we have succeeded together with the Greek Cypriot leader."

"We initiated the work of the CMP and it is doing a great job now including the excavation and identification of the remains. This work hopefully will respond to all the expectations of the families sometime in the future."

Talat stressed his commitment to help the CMP with every means and method to do its job and finalise its job which he said was crucial while avoiding the politicisation of the issue. "Politicising the matter will kill the efforts," he said.

Head of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, Androulla Kaminara, said that the EU is proud and honoured to support the work of CMP and be its largest single donor. "It is well known that the EU is always sensitive and supportive to initiatives aimed at addressing the human side of conflicts, and it is more than obvious that the EU attributes great importance to this initiative, as it is considered one of the most successful confidence building and reconciliation measures in Cyprus", she said.

Referring to the families of the missing persons in Cyprus, Kaminara expressed the EU's sincere condolences. "Our thoughts are with you, and we want to assure you that it is our goal to not only help the Committee continue, but also to speed up its work that we hope will soothe your pain", she added.

The Third Member of CMP Christophe Girod thanked the European Commission for its essential and continuous support towards CMP. In addition, he thanked the members of the European Parliament for their efforts in securing the financial aid. Girod also thanked the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus for their political and financial support, both past and present. "This donation is crucial for the work of the CMP and brings us a step closer to healing the wounds of the past for people of both communities", Girod said.

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Front Cover: Seedlings of Peace  
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## Letting peace take root



In a symbolic gesture of peace and unity, on 15 October the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders planted two olive trees at the entrance to the site where they are currently engaged in talks aimed at unifying the divided island.

The leaders also received a petition from civil society representatives from both communities conveying a message of hope and solidarity for the negotiations process and for a united Cyprus. Demetris Christofias, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Mehmet Ali Talat, Turkish Cypriot leader, saluted the civil society initiative and pledged to their utmost to achieve a successful conclusion to the negotiations process.

Speaking for the more than 40 organizations involved in the initiative, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot representatives expressed their "dedication to strengthening the peace efforts, by opening and maintaining channels of communication, building mutual trust and promoting reconciliation between the two communities".

Through their combined statement they also affirmed their commitment "to contribute to a new impetus in moving forward to realizing a bi-communal, bi-zonal Federal Cyprus".

Following the ceremony, the two leaders met to continue discussions, under the auspices of the UN, focusing on how the executive of a future united country could function.

Speaking to the media following the talks, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Representative on the island, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, said the two leaders had "discussed each other's proposals in a very constructive manner" and planned to meet next week to continue their discussion on governance and then take up the issues of external relations and property rights.

In May last year, Mr. Christofias and Mr. Talat committed themselves to working towards "a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as defined by relevant Security Council resolutions."



## Music and dance build trust in Pyla

The wives of the Cyprus leaders, Elsi Christofias and Oya Talat, agree: rapprochement between the island's two communities is an essential ingredient of efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem.

The two women reiterated this message at a bicommunal concert held on 25 October in the main square of the buffer zone village of Pyla, where Greek and Turkish Cypriots live together. The concert, titled, "Love and Peace for our Country", was organised by the political parties of the two communities in cooperation with the local authorities of Pyla and UNFICYP, and under the auspices of Slovak Ambassador Anna Turenicova.

Addressing the event, which was attended by Special Adviser of the Secretary-General Alexander Downer, Elsi Christofias welcomed the promotion of political cooperation between the two communities. "Rapprochement constitutes the means for building trust and for establishing the prospect of peaceful co-existence between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots", she said.

Mrs. Christofias noted that although rapprochement

alone cannot solve the problem, it can offer an important contribution towards restoring trust between the two communities on the basis of mutual respect, friendship, love and acceptance of diversity.

Mrs. Christofias recalled that she and Mrs. Talat had previously organized humanitarian activities, including a joint fund-raising event in support of children with special needs. "As women and mothers, we are anxious about the future of our country and that of our children and we know that to succeed in our efforts we have to rely on everything that unites us", she said.

Mrs. Talat said Pyla was the only village in Cyprus where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots continued to share their day-to-day existence after 1974. Pyla's inhabitants have contributed a lot to the political and social history of Cyprus, she said, adding that as we proceed to the road of a federal, bi-communal, and bi-zonal solution their contribution continues. "It is our duty to support every step taken towards the direction of a solution," she said. "Everybody must support the ongoing direct negotiating process between the leaders of the two communities".



## In Memoriam

### De-miner dies in accident



A member of the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) was killed on 28 October 2009 in a demining accident, the group's first fatality in five years of work on the island.

Femisberto Novele, a MACC member from Mozambique, died in an explosion at approximately 8am in a minefield near Geri, some 10 kilometres south east of Nicosia.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNFICYP, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun,

said he was saddened and shocked to learn of the accident, which he called a tragic reminder of the dangers landmines still pose in Cyprus. He conveyed condolences to Mr Novele's family on behalf of the United Nations team in the country.

The Mine Action Centre Cyprus is a project of the United Nations Development Programme's Partnership for the Future. The MACC has removed and destroyed more than 14,000 mines since 2004, with the support of UNFICYP. A total of 57 minefields have been cleared to date, covering more than 6.5 million square metres of land.

In the summer of 2008, The Blue Beret featured the work of the brave men of the MACC, including Mr. Novele who said he was proud to be a deminer and strongly opposed landmines having seen first hand the devastation they can cause.

"I am proud to be a deminer because our efforts are to guarantee the new generations of the future a safer world. What we need now is to rebuild schools and hospitals, not lay down mines." Mr Novele said he would feel great satisfaction if on the land he had cleared in Cyprus a recreation centre, school or other community project was developed for the benefit of the people. He leaves behind a wife and eight children.

### Sad farewell

Sergeant Antonio David Ojeda was killed on 27 November 2009 in a traffic accident near Kokkinotrimithia in Nicosia.

Sergeant Ojeda was born in Argentina in 1981 and attended the NCO Navy Academy where he trained as a communications operator and a diver. He was an experienced peacekeeper, and served in the Argentinian Task Force 24 from September 2004 to March 2005. He served in the Amphibian Vehicles Battalion in Punta Alta, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He arrived in Cyprus on 11 September and served in the Argentine Contingent as a specialized driver of Patrol Base 32. He leaves behind a wife and two children.



## Remembrance Day

### Honouring sacrifice

Remembrance Sunday -- celebrated internationally on the eleventh day of the eleventh month -- was marked on 9 November 2009 at Wayne's Keep Cemetery, located within the buffer zone area of Nicosia.

UNFICYP's Sector 2, commanded by Lt Col David Albon RLC of 27 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, hosted this year's memorial service which was attended by representatives of the diplomatic community, soldiers and guests from the local community -- including a contingent from the Royal British Legion and the Airborne Veterans Association. A total of twenty four wreaths were laid in front of a congregation of some two hundred and fifty people.

The service was led by Sector 2 Padre, Maj Danny Connolly, and delivered in English, Spanish, Hungarian and Slovakian, with the help of fellow padres the Reverend Father Oviedo from Sector 1 and the Reverend Father Paluba from Sector 4. The Last Post was played by bugler Cpl James Christopher.

Lt Col Albon said, "Today's ceremony was a thought provoking ceremony, enhanced by its multi-nationality and reminded us of the dangers faced by friends and colleagues currently serving in Afghanistan".

Remembrance Sunday falls on the closest Sunday to the 11th November and marks the end of hostilities of the First World War in 1918.

Wayne's Keep itself consists of three cemeteries - Roman Catholic and Maronite, Greek Orthodox, and the central and largest cemetery - the British War Graves Cemetery. This was opened by the British Military Authorities for those service personnel who lost their lives in the course of duty and to this day is maintained by three local civilians who are employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Following the service, a traditional post-Remembrance Service reception was held to honour the veterans and fallen soldiers, at Ledra Palace Hotel.

By 2LT Adam Stratford



### "Lest we forget"

As the sole member of the Canadian Contingent serving with UNFICYP the honour and responsibility of maintaining the Canadian Memorial at Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia for the fallen peacekeepers from over 45 years of service with the UN in Cyprus fell on my shoulders. I had decided initially to conduct a quiet one person memorial service on 11 November while the rest of the UN was focused on the Sunday prior to Remembrance Day.

Work was well underway and the Canadian Memorial had received a fresh coat of paint and the brass was polished. However it wasn't long before the memorial service grew. While having a quiet informal chat with the Padre Connolly from 27 Regt RLC (UK) I explained the simple service I was planning. In no time the "Danny" volunteered to do a reading and play the bagpipes as only a Scotsman can. Honoured by his enthusiasm I readily accepted and didn't think much more of the issue until a couple of days later Danny dropped by to see me and asked if 27 Regt RLC (UK) could participate as well.

It seems the Padre in speaking to the CO of the unit excited his interest and the simple service at the Canadian memorial grew yet again. In short, the word spread and our remembrance service grew to include the wife of the Irish Ambassador to Cyprus Mrs Cathi Brady a Canadian originally from Toronto, Ontario



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.

By Capt. Lorne Cooper



## UNFICYP Report

In his latest report on the work of UNFICYP (S/2009/609, available on [www.unficy.org](http://www.unficy.org)) the Secretary-General commends the work of UNFICYP over the previous six months and recommends the extension of the mission's mandate. He writes that the opposing forces have cooperated very well with UNFICYP and that the situation in the buffer zone has remained stable.

The Secretary-General notes that, from June to November, military violations by the opposing forces were at comparable levels following a reduction in violations by the Turkish Forces. However, he continues, despite a significant relaxation of restrictions placed on the movement of UNFICYP military personnel, the continued restriction on the movement of locally-employed United Nations civilian personnel imposed by the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces remains a concern. Regarding the National Guard, he records that in June 2009 that force was responsible for a violation that subsequently developed into a serious incident in which two UNFICYP mobile patrols were threatened with weapons and detained. The incident was remedied by the prompt intervention of the respective Military Observation and Liaison Officers, resulting in the immediate release of the UNFICYP personnel.

According to the Secretary-General's report, the opposing forces continue sporadically to employ low-level tactical measures that provoke reactions from the other side, mostly in the centre of Nicosia. UNFICYP remains optimistic that the military confidence-building measures it has proposed, such as the unmanning and/or closing of observation posts in areas where opposing troops are particularly close to one another, as well as agreements for future demining activities, would help improve the situation. To date, the National Guard has agreed to these measures, but UNFICYP is still waiting for concrete steps to be taken by the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces.

In addition to its buffer zone stability tasks, the military component of UNFICYP has continued to support the peace process, including the mobilization of the UNFICYP Mobile Force Reserve and the Force Military Police Unit in support of over 50 meetings between the two leaders at the premises of the good offices mission in the United Nations Protected Area.

### Mine-free buffer zone

Demining in the buffer zone is progressing well, with 57 of the 72 minefields cleared, the report notes. A total of 14,000 mines have been destroyed and more than 7 square kilometres of land cleared of mines.

The period the report covers also saw a tragedy, however. On 28 October, a civilian contractor of the Mine Action Centre, Mozambican Femisberto Novele, was killed in a demining accident, the demining group's first fatality in five years of operation on the island. The accident occurred in the buffer zone, some 10 kilometres south-east of Nicosia.

### Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

Cypriots from both sides continued to seek assistance from UNFICYP in addressing day-to-day issues arising from the division of the island that affect their lives, including in relation to educational matters, the transfer of deceased individuals, and commemorative, religious and socio-cultural gatherings.

During the period covered in the report, UNFICYP recorded approximately 928,200 crossings through the buffer zone, of which 205,100 occurred at the Ledra Street crossing point. Goods worth approximately €237,000 crossed from the south to the north, and goods worth approximately €2,982,000 crossed in the opposite direction. Both sides have agreed to proceed with the implementation of the joint project prepared by the two Nicosia municipalities under the Nicosia Master Plan for the restoration of buildings at Ledra Street. Work in that area is expected to commence soon.

On 26 June, an agreement was reached by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders on the opening of a buffer zone crossing at Limnitis/Yeşilirmak (see Blue Beret ...). Technical surveys to determine the amount of work and funds that will be required to upgrade the road has been completed. In the meantime, the UNFICYP military engineering unit enhanced the patrol track in this area of the buffer zone to a standard suitable for emergency use by civilian traffic in advance of the construction of a new road.

UNFICYP also continued to deliver humanitarian assistance to Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north of the island; facilitate the delivery of textbooks and the appointment of teachers to the elementary and secondary Greek Cypriot schools in Rizokarpaso, on the Karpas Peninsula in the north; assist Turkish Cypriots living in the south with obtaining identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education; and work with the local authorities and community representatives in Limassol and Paphos to strengthen support in educational and social areas.

Members of both communities continue to seek to use the buffer zone for various civilian activities, including farming, the maintenance of public and private infrastructure, construction and commercial ventures. Facilitation of those activities while ensuring stability and maintaining the status quo in the buffer zone remains one of the main challenges facing UNFICYP. Lack of adherence to UNFICYP procedures regarding civilian activities in the buffer zone and differences in the mapping of the buffer zone continued to pose problems in the implementation of the mandate of the mission.

UNFICYP continued its efforts to assist in maintaining good relations and building confidence between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in the mixed village of Pyla in the buffer zone. To that end, UNFICYP continued to play a mediation role and to monitor long-standing arrangements established between the two communities.

### Missing persons

During the reporting period, the Committee on Missing Persons pursued its bicomunal project on the exhumation, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. By November 2009, the remains of 570 individuals had been exhumed on both sides of the buffer zone by the Committee's bicomunal teams of archaeologists. The remains of over 350 missing persons had undergone examination at the Committee's bicomunal anthropological laboratory in the United Nations Protected Area. After DNA genetic analysis had been carried out in 1,232 cases by a bicomunal team of scientists at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, the remains of 186 individuals were returned to their respective families.

### Observations

During the reporting period, the situation in the buffer zone remained calm, the Secretary-General concludes. The number of military violations has been comparable to that in the previous reporting period, while the opposing forces have demonstrated restraint and overall good cooperation with UNFICYP. Notwithstanding this, the consistent efforts of UNFICYP to advance discussions on military confidence-building measures have so far failed to produce positive results.

The Secretary-General notes with satisfaction that

## Good Offices Report

In a first stand-alone report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus since the start of direct talks in September 2008, the Secretary-General says he is encouraged by the commitment, courage and determination shown by the two leaders despite the considerable challenges posed by the negotiations and ongoing domestic criticism in the north and the south directed at the leaders and the process.

Gaps between the sides have narrowed on a number of important issues, the Secretary-General continues. However, differences remain, and it is clear that much work needs to be done in order to achieve full convergence. Implementing in practice the agreed objective of a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality in a united Cyprus in which the concerns of both parties are taken into account and that is, at the same time, functional and stable, is a considerable challenge. It is ambitious, but it is achievable. Ultimately, the two sides must continue to demonstrate flexibility so as to accommodate each other's concerns, as no solution can be perfect for either side. At the same time, the process of negotiation should not be seen as a "zero-sum game", since both sides will gain in a united Cyprus.

The Secretary-General notes that it is important that both parties create a favourable environment and conditions conducive to the continued progress of the talks. In this regard, active participation and engagement on the part of civil society in the effort to achieve a solution and in its implementation will be crucial. Furthermore, the parties will have to be prepared to explain to the people in the clearest terms the benefits of a solution so that they can make an informed decision regarding the peace agreement.

In this context, the Secretary-General continues, it is noteworthy that, after the agreement was reached on

the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces have lifted almost all restrictions on the movement of UNFICYP personnel. At the same time, he calls for the urgent removal of the remaining restrictions on the movement of locally employed United Nations civilian personnel. Freedom of movement for all United Nations personnel is a matter of principle to the Organization and an operational requirement for UNFICYP.

The Secretary-General commends both sides for reaching an agreement on opening the Limnitis/Yeşilirmak crossing and calls for urgent implementation of stage two of the restoration of buildings at the Ledra Street crossing.

Concerning demining activities, the Secretary-General calls the tragic accident on 28 October a reminder of the danger posed by the remaining minefields in Cyprus, both inside and outside the buffer zone. He urges both opposing forces to continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations to achieve a mine-free buffer zone as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General concludes that it is his firm belief that UNFICYP continues to play a vital and unique role on the island, including in support of his good offices mission. He recommends that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for six months, until 15 June 2010.

nearly two dozen confidence-building measures during the preparatory phase of the talks, the parties made little progress in their implementation of some of those measures during the reporting period. The measures improve the daily lives of many Cypriots and also assist in facilitating increased interaction between the two communities. I urge the parties to make greater efforts to implement the confidence-building measures in order to strengthen intercommunal relations and to build greater public support within the communities for the process. "My overall assessment," writes the Secretary-General, "is that the parties are making solid progress, and I am cautiously optimistic that a solution can be achieved. On the basis of what has been accomplished so far, the international community expects the talks to continue to make substantial progress in a timely fashion. The broad outline and established parameters of a solution are well known and already articulated by the two sides". "There is also a clear desire on the part of both sides to reach a settlement, as they have both asserted that the status quo is unacceptable", according to the Secretary-General. "In addition, there is a general acknowledgement that the benefits of a solution for both sides would be huge, whereas the cost of failure could be high".

In conclusion, the Secretary-General recalls that the negotiations are Cypriot-led, and the two sides have assumed responsibility for and ownership of the process. "The pace at which the negotiations proceed will be determined by the two sides alone", he writes. "I reaffirm the Organization's steadfast commitment to and support for the peace process under the leadership of my Special Adviser, and I stand ready to personally assist and facilitate the negotiations if requested to do so by the parties".

# UN Staff Day

**24** October was an enjoyable day planned with the usual activities plus a few surprises. The new football programme allowed the staff to join in the other events on offer as well as enjoy the delicious BBQ cooked and served up by Michael's team from the International Cafeteria.

Other annual favourites included the backgammon and speed chess competitions and who can resist the gripping enigma that is Wellie Throwing. This year staff crammed into the new Bingo tent with Ersin

who did a great job calling out the numbers making this a definite regular in the future.

The Transport Unit came up with a variation on last years Big Toy game and the chance to play with the crane truck by moving a road cone to two specific targets using the remote control with a time trial as a side interest.

However the unexpected highlight of the day turned out to be the Potted Games. Several teams from the contingents, a team of local staff and another from UNPOL

battled it out for first place in one hilarious game after another. Equally a spectator and competitor's event each game was subtly designed to strip away every last shred of each team member's dignity. And we loved every single moment.

All thanks go to WO2 Dave Povey who arranged every single aspect of this fantastic event. UN Staff Day 2009 was definitely the most fun and most successful by far!



## Slovak Engineers take UN Day Cup

The Slovak Engineers prevailed over their compatriots from SLOVCON (Sector 4) in the UN Day Football Cup Tournament 2009 with a score of 2-1. SLOVCON took an early lead but did not faze the Engineers, who had already had to make up a 1-0 deficit against HUNCON earlier in the tournament in order to advance. All involved thanked Force Commander Real Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi

for making the draw and assisting with medal and trophy presentations, as well as the PROM Office for the excellent pitch preparation. "Last but not least", said Evrikos Demetriou, "a massive thank you to all participating teams and loyal spectators during the two week tournament, which had all the great ingredients that contributed to this successful tournament, as I'm sure it was appreciated by all".



# Force Commander's Inspections

Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi conducted inspections of all sectors and units in the last two weeks of October following the major rotations of all contingents. The inspections aimed at assessing the operational capability of the force and ensuring it remains at high standard at all times. The Force Commander met with the troops of the various contingents and had the opportunity to participate in patrols as well as visit observation posts and meet with the troops on the ground. During his inspection of the FMPU, the Force Commander was invited to use the Ultralyte Speed Meter device in order to see how efficient this piece of equipment is in detecting speeding. Under the direction of SSgt Gary Brown, Senior Investigator, the unit then staged a Major Incident scenario and talked the FC through the procedures required to deal with the most serious of incidents and the necessary steps involved in order to gather all the evidence required to piece together how and why such accidents happen.

## Sector 4



## MFR



## FMPU



## Engineers



## FMPU





# New faces



## Public Information Officer

**R**olando Gómez, a New Yorker of Peruvian origin, joined UNFICYP's Public Information Office in October to assume the post of Public Information Officer. Rolando arrived from Geneva where he most recently served as Spokesman for the UN Human Rights Council at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Prior to this he worked in various capacities in the Department of Public Information (DPI), both in Geneva and New York, including media focal point for sustainable development, HIV/AIDS, human rights and peacekeeping operations, the latter during a stint in the Spokesman's Office at UNHQ. He has also worked on peacekeeping missions in Ethiopia/Eritrea and in Timor Leste where he was a member of the team tasked with conducting the voter

education campaign in 1999 leading up to the referendum that year and eventual independence of that country. Rolando served as a Spokesman for the first and second UN Internet Governance Forums, held in Athens and in Rio de Janeiro, in 2006 and 2007, respectively, and has worked with OCHA in promoting disaster reduction strategies following the 2005 South Asian Tsunami. He has also worked as a press officer in DPI and has supported the Spokespersons travelling with the Secretary-General on official visits. Before joining the UN in 1992, Rolando worked in the advertising and film industries in New York. Rolo, as he prefers to be called, plays the guitar and is an avid tennis player. He greatly looks forward to his wife Cecilia and son Teo joining him on the island in the coming months.



## Commanding Officer Sector 2

**L**t Col David Albon assumed command of Sector 2 on 1st October 2009. Born in September 1968 in the UK, Lt Col Albon spent the majority of his younger years living and studying in Kenya. He then moved to the UK where he studied for a degree in Modern European Studies, before attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and commissioning into the Royal Corps of Transport in 1991. Following a number of squadron appointments in Germany, Lt Col Albon returned to the UK as the Adjutant of an Airmobile Combat Service Support Battalion in 1996. Since then, he has completed several

tours including SO3 G4 of a Brigade Headquarters, Officer Commanding of a Brigade Support Squadron, SO2 G4 Plans in a Divisional Headquarters, Directing Staff at the UK Staff College and OF4 Training Policy for Logistics. He attended the UK Staff College in 2000. During his career Lt Col Albon has deployed on a number of operations including Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq. Lt Col Albon is currently the Commanding Officer of 27 Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps and deploys to Cyprus with his regiment as the incoming Sector 2 United Nations Roulement Regiment. Lt Col Albon is married to Martine and has a 4 year old son George. His interests include military history, all sports, skiing, and travelling widely.



## Deputy Commander Sector 2

**M**aj Paul Holder arrived in UNFICYP on 24 September to take up the post of Deputy Commander Sector 2. He was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport in Dec 1991. Following a tour with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, Support Battalion, he became the Operations Officer for the Northern Ireland Logistic Regiment. Subsequently, after a tour at HQ LAND as the SO3 Log Sp Ops (responsible for Operational Commitments), he was appointed Military Assistant to the Lord Mayor of London. After a year at Shrivenham on the Advanced Information Systems Course, he was selected to be a Project Manager for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations. This was followed by a post in the office

of the Assistant Chief Defence Staff (Log), where he manned the Logistics Desk during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. His sub unit command was in London as the Officer Commanding 20 Logistic Support Sqn and Commanding Officer of Regents' Park Barracks. Maj Holder's last post was in the Army Personnel Centre as the RLC Captains' Desk Officer. He started with 27 Regt RLC as the OC 8 Fuel Sqn in Jun 07 where he deployed as OC of the Combat Service Support, Operational Monitoring and Liaison Team in Afghanistan; later becoming the Regt 2IC in Jun 08. Having been selected for promotion to Lt Col, on his departure from Sector 2, he will become the SO1 Logistic Support Operations in the HQ Land Forces. He enjoys canoeing, skiing and trekking. His interests are travel and photography.



## Force Engineer

**L**t.Col. Igor Dobrovic arrived in UNFICYP on 23 September 2009 to take up the post of the Force Engineer. He was born in the beautiful region of the rural Low Tatras mountain range in central Slovakia. There he spent his childhood and teenage years before joining the army. He graduated the Slovak Air Force Academy in 1989 and during his military career he has achieved a number of military awards and honors. He has served in different

units of the Slovak Armed Forces as Company Commander, Chief of the Airbase Field Support Service Branch and as Chief of Logistics Operations Planning Department at the General Staffs of the Slovak Armed Forces. He has attended many logistics and foreign operations courses that he subsequently applied in his military career. Lt.Col. Dobrovic is married to Iris and they have a son Daniel who is 18 years old. In his free time he enjoys swimming, cycling, listening to music and reading books.

## Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer



**L**t Col Paul Stockdale arrived at the end of September to take up the appointment of Chief Personnel and Logistic Officer. Born in the North of England he joined the Army in 1982, and was commissioned in to The Royal Corps of Transport. He served his first 5 years in Germany with a Heavy Lift Transport and then a Tank Transporter Regiment, during which time he did an attachment with a sister French regiment. On return to UK he qualified as Second in Command of one of the three ocean-going Landing craft and served at sea for 3 years. Subsequently he served as an Ops Officer, Logistic Brigade Plans Officer and Adjutant of a Reserve Unit. He commanded 12 Artillery Support Squadron and then became Senior Instructor at the School of Logistics and SO2 Combat Service Support at the UK Brigade Training Unit. His last Regimental tour was as

Second-in-Command 27 Regt RLC, after which he was promoted. He joins UNFICYP on completion of 3 years in the Ministry of Defence in London as an SO1 planning future UK Deployment, Reception and Sustainment capability. He has deployed on operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and Iraq and has been involved with exchange appointments with the Australian, French and US Forces and formed training teams to support Polish, Georgian and Kenyan Armed Forces. He is happily married to Tracy and they have two teenage children; Vicky (17), and Tom (19). Lt Col Stockdale is a keen mountain biker and horse rider, skier and sailor and a great rugby fan.

## OC Mobile Force Reserve



**M**aj Mick Nichol took over the post of OC of the Mobile Force Reserve on 1 October 2009. Mick joined the Army in February 1979 as a driver at 8 Regt RCT in Munster. After spending the majority of his non-commissioned service in Germany with the Field Army, he was commissioned from the Regimental Sergeant Major appointment of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistic Corps in May 2000, and was subsequently posted to 79 Port Clearance Squadron Royal Logistic Corps as Second in Command. During his military service he has deployed on operations to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Greece in addition to exercises in USA, Canada, Denmark, Spain

and Hungary. He completed the Intermediate Command and Staff Course in May 2007 before assuming the post of SO2 Training Operations 1 at the Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration. During this time he was responsible for managing the Recruit Allocation Plan for the Royal Logistic Corps and Adjutant Generals Corps. Maj Nichol is married to Jackie for 27 years and they have two grown up children, Alan (25) and Kirsty (19). His interests include Football, Skiing and Motorhomes.

## Deputy Commanding Officer Sector 4



**L**t Col Ferenc Sándor took over the post of DCO Sector 4 in September while at the same time taking on the role of CO of the Hungarian Contingent. Born in Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary in 1962 Ferenc attended the former Máté Zalka Military Polytechnic College in Budapest in 1980 and commissioned into a radar base of the Hungarian National Air Defence in 1984 where he served in different positions as radar specialist until 2001. Since 2001 he has been working for the HDF 12th "Arrabona" Surface-to-Air Missile Wing and its predecessors. His last position was the CO of the Command and Control Battalion, prior to that he also was appointed as battalion CoS and Chief Engineer. He participated in a Live Firing Exercise in Poland in 2005 and worked jointly on the

integration of the Hungarian SAM systems to the NATINADS. He attended specialised radar and IFF courses in Russia in 1986 and 1989 and was a correspondence student of the Miklós Zrínyi Military Academy from 1999 till 2002. He feels himself fortunate to be serving for a second time in Cyprus, having first deployed for a six month tour in 2006. Ferenc has been married to Erzsébet for 24 years and they have two daughters (23, 19) and a son (15). He is interested in reading, exploring historical sights and nature. He likes to play football and is a qualified referee.

## Liaison Officer for Turkish Forces



**L**t Col Csaba Vysztafel arrived in Cyprus on 23 September 2009, taking up the position of UNFICYP Liaison Officer for Turkish Forces. This is his first UN mission, but second overseas mission overall. In 2008 he served in the NATO mission in the Uruzgan province of Afghanistan as a CIMIC staff officer in the Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Team. Lt Col Vysztafel was born in 1961 in Bratislava. He graduated from the Military Technical Academy in 1989, as a specialist for radiolocation, and joined the former Czechoslovak Air Forces in Plzeň as a technical support officer for airfield radars. In 1998 he again attended the Military Academy for studies this time in andragogics, and

graduated in 2003. During his studies he changed profession and went to work for the social and psychological services branch of the Air Force Headquarters in Zvolen. In 2005 he was appointed as a chief of CIMIC and PSYOPS Section in the Operations Branch of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces. Lt Col Vysztafel is married to Melinda and they have a daughter Orsolya (17) and son Marcell (16). He enjoys mountain biking, playing tennis and watching documentary movies.

# Visits



Slovak Chief of general staff - Gen Ľubomír BULÍK and Hungarian Chief of general staff - Gen László TÖMBÖL visited UNFICYP between 20-22 November. The two Generals inspected an honour guard on arrival at UNFICYP before meeting with Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun and Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi. This was followed by meetings with their country's respective contingents serving in Cyprus.



Austrian Ambassador, Mr. Martin WEISS and the Austrian Defence Attache Col Nikolaus Egger visited Sector 1 on 11 November 2009, accompanied by the COO LtCol Ricardo Beldi and CO AUSCON LtCol Bernhard Theissel. The visit included a tour and briefing on the full area of responsibility of Sector 1 by the CO Sector 1, LtCol Carlos M. Michel.



British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Christopher John Bryant, accompanied by British High Commissioner, Peter Millet were extended the usual courtesies during their visit to UNFICYP on 23 November 2009. The delegation met with Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun and Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi.

# Kiki's farewell



Kyoko Shiotani, better known to her friends and colleagues as Kiki, left UNFICYP in early November after three years of remarkable work as head of the Civil Affairs Branch. Chief of Mission Taye-Brook Zerihoun put it best when he said, during a farewell function on 26 October, that working with Kiki had been a pleasure and a privilege. Kiki has since taken up her new duties as regional UN ombudsman, based in Vienna. We wish her and her family all the best.

# Children's Halloween party



The Annual Children's Halloween Party was held on Monday 19 October at the Nicosia Library. The children all looked fantastic in their fancy dress - there were monsters, pirates, witches, devils, ghosts, vampires and fairies to name but a few. It was a very difficult decision for Mrs Tracy Stockdale who very kindly judged the competition but in the end it was Samuel Thomas dressed as

Frankenstein who won! Mrs (Good Witch) Mel Alderson supervised the game 'Pin the Nose on the Witch' that was won by Caitlan Dyke. The Ghost colouring competition was won by Meghan Dyke. All of the above winners each received a €15 book voucher from The Solonion Bookshop in Nicosia. A big thank you also goes to Mrs Krissy Thomas for her delicious homemade Halloween cakes.



# Fireworks night

The annual International Fireworks Night was held on 30 October 2009. As with previous years the event attracted members of the UNFICYP community, their friends and families as well as members of the diplomatic community.

The event was held at the UNPA airfield in the vicinity of the old Air Traffic Control tower.

The event went off smoothly in large part thanks to the organizers, the British Property manager - Maj. Paul Anderson and CPLO Lt. Col. Paul Stokedale but of course a lot of hard and dirty preparation work done was carried out by members of the MFR, the Slovak engineers, the Fire unit and FMPU.

The proceeds from the event will be given to the families of the late Femisberto Novele, a member of the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) who was killed in an demining accident on 28 October 2009 and Sergeant Antonio David Ojeda who died in a traffic accident on 27 November 2009. (see related articles on page 6).

Remembrance Day  
11 November 2009

