

# BLUE BERET

SUMMER 2020



**UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus**  
**marks International Day of Peace**

**PLUS**

**20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women, peace and security agenda**  
**An interview with UNFICYP Chief of Civil Affairs**



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 | Interview: Chief of Civil Affairs
- 6 | Women, peace and security
- 7 | UNFICYP bids farewell to Chilean peacekeepers
- 8 | UNFICYP and Youth Champions roll up sleeves on World Cleanup Day
- 9 | Keeping the peace and combating COVID-19



- 10 | Morphou gate reopens
- 11 | Peacekeepers in action
- 12 | Military skills competition
- 14 | Interview with UNPOL
- 15 | New faces

Front and back cover:

## International Day of Peace



**ZERO TOLERANCE**  
FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

**D**ear readers, we are excited to launch the summer edition of the Blue Beret magazine with a special cover photo to mark the International Day of Peace in Cyprus. This year's theme is "Shaping Peace Together" and we hope that by spreading compassion and kindness will continue to bring peace on the island.

In this edition, we invite you to read about the work and activities carried out over the last months by UNFICYP and by our peacekeepers in these difficult times of physical distancing. Despite the challenges, much has been done in all sectors and by all sections.

We hope you enjoy an interview with UNFICYP's Chief of Civil Affairs, Fay Woolley, we invite you to learn more about the Field Technology Support and their efforts to bring cost effective solutions to the Mission. We also included

an article about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security. You will also find an opinion piece from one of our peacekeepers from Sector Two and how he and his fellow colleagues had to adapt to COVID-19 preventive measures. Furthermore, join us in welcoming new staff joining the Mission and read stories from UNPOL colleagues.

Peace means much more than the absence of war. Ordinary conflicts arise from disputes with friends, colleagues, and even family or neighbours. These all disturb our sense of peace. To mark the day - and the months ahead - we can start by making peace with ourselves. Learn to forgive. Learn to let go. We can make every day a peace day by working in harmony.

Join us so that even apart, we can shape peace together. Enjoy the reading!

## MESSAGE FROM SRSG ELIZABETH SPEHAR



**C**OVID-19 has thrown not only Cyprus, but the whole world into turmoil and reminded us that what happens in one part of the world can have an impact on people everywhere.

This year, it has been clearer than ever that people from different communities, different races or with different political affiliations are not enemies. Our common enemy is a virus that threatens our health, our security and our way of life.

The theme of this year's International Peace Day - "Shaping Peace Together" is a timely reminder of the importance of working together to overcome challenges and build a peaceful future for all.

In March this year, Secretary-General António Guterres called for belligerents around the world to lay down their weapons and focus on the battle against this global pandemic. While the specific message is intended for armed parties, the spirit of the

Secretary-General's appeal applies to all those in conflict: put aside your differences to tackle COVID-19. Resolve your problems through dialogue. Solidarity and cooperation are keys to peace. These messages are also critical for our peace making and peace building efforts in Cyprus.

This year the UN is marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and across the world we are starting a global conversation on how to build a better future for all. At UNFICYP we are proud to be working with dynamic young Cypriots from both sides of the island to help start that conversation in Cyprus. We are supporting a network of young environmental activists to help protect this shared environment and step up peace building efforts across Cyprus. We are also working on engaging women from both sides to explore questions such as: What future would you like to see for Cyprus? What role do you see for women? And what are you prepared to do to build peace?

During these challenging times, Peace Day marks an opportunity to foster dialogue, and we, at UNFICYP, remain committed to bringing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots together in support of lasting peace.

As we mark this day, I call on all people across the island to come together, including virtually, and engage in reconciliation and dialogue to help build a peaceful future for all.

# BLUE BERET

Summer 2020

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Published by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

# “To see this island united is my deepest hope:”

## An interview with Faylene Woolley, Chief, UNFICYP Civil Affairs

UNFICYP Civil Affairs was established in 1998 to reflect the increasingly civilian nature of the issues confronting the mission. The Mission connects Cypriot civil society organizations with an understanding that the contribution made by Civil Affairs helps build bridges for communication and to break barriers of mistrust or misunderstanding.

Where possible, UNFICYP facilitates civilian use of the buffer zone for peaceful purposes, such as agricultural work, maintenance of public utilities and communications, and the construction of residential buildings. Over the years, Civil Affairs has made utmost efforts to allow for normal civilian life and activity in areas of the buffer zone that are deemed unlikely to increase tensions between communities.

In this edition, we interviewed Fay Woolley, UNFICYP’s Chief of the Civil Affairs Section, who has been leading the section since 2012. Fay opens up about her views on the critical work done by her and her team, the effects of the pandemic and main challenges and accomplishments when it comes to a durable peace in Cyprus.

**Blue Beret:** In your words, how has UNFICYP been contributing to keeping the peace process on the island?

Overall, the Mission’s contribution to the peace has been led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and you may say that some key components of the Mission mandate have been operationalized through the work that we at Civil Affairs do, as well as the work of the military and UNPOL. And it is possible to notice that our presence here in the island has helped keeping the situation stable. However, I would say that the increased focus that we had in the recent years in the intercommunal work is what shows the most direct and positive impact on communities.

These initiatives are allowing space to change the mindset and build trust between Cypriots from both sides.

**Blue Beret:** What has been Civil Affairs’ main accomplishment towards this goal?

I see two main points: first is that internally, our section has become more cohesive, larger and a stronger team, with our presence expanding to other sectors over the course of the years, and on the other hand, externally, I think the presence of the Mission during COVID helped a lot of individuals and supported many who were having difficulties in moving between both sides of the island. However, I find it difficult to point one specific outcome and call it an accomplishment.

For example, before the pandemic, we had very positive discussions and increasing attendance from both Greek Cypriot as well as Turkish Cypriot women in the



intercommunal activities we facilitated for them to meet for the first time and discuss common issues. We assisted farmers to access their lands and provide support for their families, we supported the return of a few religious ceremonies that took place after a long time, and much more. In a way, every time we can contribute to bringing people together peacefully, reducing tensions or making life easier for individuals, we have accomplished something important.

**Blue Beret:** What still needs to be done? What are the challenges?

In my opinion, until this island is united, our mission is incomplete. To see this island united is my deepest hope and I know I am not alone in this. We can continue the work and we have all the processes in place to do so, however, we need a sustainable solution.

**Blue Beret:** We spoke about challenges and you mentioned the pandemic; how are you and your team coping with keeping up activities during COVID-19?

As soon as we were aware of the COVID-19 outbreak, we moved to an alternative work arrangement—telecommuting. We worked remotely for at least 85 days! I can say that we adapted quite well until the scenario





improved and allowed us to return to our offices. However, during that period, we - and the whole world - were adjusting to navigating life around the virus. In Cyprus, because it is a small island, and because it is divided, we faced numerous practical issues that, in a way, forced us to be flexible and put our heads together as a unit to find solutions and assist communities as they were experiencing different challenges themselves.

### **Blue Beret: How it has impacted the Section's work?**

We were at the centre of the Mission's activity on the ground and as a credible voice we were working to convey correct messages and calm the populations we serve. We needed to make sure that essential workers and those in need of medical treatment would be able to use the crossing points without obstacles and that medical and humanitarian supplies could still be delivered to communities in need. For example, we supported people who are being treated at an oncology facility to cross smoothly and continue their treatments.

We had another group of people who needed medication that, before the pandemic, could easily be bought at the pharmacy. However, with the crossings closed it was not possible for them to access that specific medication, so we also assisted them with this provision.

Another example was with some of the humanitarian supplies that we deliver to the Maronite community in the north with the support of UNPOL. That was also a challenge as the crossing points were closed. We had to overcome disruptions in our work and find solutions, especially because this is not something you can stop and resume after the pandemic, these are essentials that communities depend on, so we had to find ways to complete the task even under these challenging circumstances.

### **Blue Beret: How do you see UNFICYP Civil Affairs, moving forward?**

I think one good example of a positive approach we could continue to benefit from came to us during the pandemic. Before the outbreak, a lot of our intercommunal work was done face-to-face, however, with the physical distancing we had to quickly switch to virtual meetings and online discussions. Now we have seen how these online connections are successful, and at times even more convenient, as participants from remote areas do not need to drive for hours to be in designated meeting places. New technologies allow us to conduct our work in new ways.

I think this will help shape the future of our Section if we can draw from this experience and blend face-to-face and virtual meetings, as it has the potential to bring more people to the table. This will allow us to think of strategies to gather more communities together, from the north and south of the island and even from outside the island. Imagine having expert Cypriots living abroad, joining such discussions and putting their minds together to find solutions for the challenges in Cyprus? It can be a brilliant additional means in our toolkit!

### **Blue Beret: How have you managed to keep your staff motivated during Covid-19?**

At the beginning of the pandemic people were coping well. We created a WhatsApp group for our Section and colleagues were sharing photos of their workspaces and keeping the conversation lively within the team. The staff was creative and shared news, videos and recipes. We also had regular meetings including with the team based in headquarters and in the sectors. This helped combat the fact that we were physically distant in our houses, so we did not feel isolated.

The staff rose to the occasion; they showed incredible commitment and professionalism to deliver our work to the communities we serve.

### **Blue Beret: What message you would like to send to Cypriots on the upcoming International Day of Peace?**

I don't know if it comes from a saying, but my message is: "If not now, when? If not me, who?" In a sense that peace is not only in the hands of those in power or those elected, it is the hands of everyone.

How can we make peace? I guess my answer is to say that peace is built in our day-to-day relations, in showing our respect and care for others. How do we treat each other? How do we go about our daily lives? That is the true reality of peace.

How many people do you know from the other community? How many do you consider as friends? How many would be willing to live next door and have normal interactions? I have seen Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots living in the same street in London and their 'Cypriotness,' their understanding of the unique environment they come from brings them together. So, if this is possible outside the island, I hope it can happen here too.

While we wait for leaders to act on the broader scale, we can do our part to make peace a daily reality.



# 20 years of the women, peace and security agenda

In 2000, when the Security Council adopted the resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, it was a diverse and geographically representative coalition of Member States with a strong global constituency of women civil society organizations who first tabled the resolution, which now celebrates its 20th anniversary.

It was the first time a Security Council resolution linked women to the peace and security agenda, looking at the impact of war on women and their contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

The resolution consists of four pillars: 1) Prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict-affected areas; 2) Women's equal participation in peace, political and security decision-making; 3) Women and girls rights are protected during and after conflict; and 4) Relief and recovery: meeting women's and girls' specific humanitarian needs.

It also recognizes "the indispensable role of women in increasing the overall performance and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations," stressing that a better balance between men and women contributes to greater credibility of Missions among the people the UN is mandated to serve and protect.

UNFICYP's Gender Affairs Officer, Lauren McAlister, reflects about the meaningful role played by the Mission

in the implementation of the resolution during the past years. "The 20th anniversary of the resolution is an opportunity for reflection. It is an opportunity to take stock of what has been done to support women's inclusion and how still there is much to do. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified existing gender inequalities, including a global surge of cases of gender-based violence. During this outbreak, we must now more than ever recommit to the full implementation of the WPS agenda to avoid the rollback of the limited gains that have been made over the past twenty years, and it is up to us all to do our part," McAlister affirmed.

She noted that "the women, peace and security agenda is incredibly significant for our collective understanding of what is required to achieve sustainable peace". It has allowed for a broadened appreciation of the experiences that men and women have during conflict, creating space and opportunity for responding to their needs.

McAlister explains that UNFICYP is committed to support women's meaningful participation within the Mission by creating an environment that supports the needs and concerns of our male and female personnel equally. The Mission is also working closely with partners to support forums where Cypriot women can shape and influence the overall peace process. "Their perspectives are integral to capturing the diversity that can help both bring about, and sustain, peace," she concluded.





# Young people unite to overcome challenges during COVID-19 in Cyprus

To keep activities in place even in times of physical distancing, UNFICYP Civil Affairs section held a series of online discussions with civil society organisations. In July, a special one was held with for young people and organized by the Xenion High School in Paralimni, the 'Famagusta Avenue Garage' in Deryneia and GIGEM (Kyrenia Youth and Resources Centre).

The participants talked about how the pandemic has affected their lives and future, its impact among vulnerable groups and ways that youth from both communities can collaborate to overcome challenges.

The main concerns of the young participants are education, future employment, the health and financial future of their families, as well as the continuous restrictions in crossings. The youngsters also discussed positive aspects of the physical distancing.

Colleen Malvina Demetriou said that "during the lockdown I had the chance to connect online with persons from other communities," while Yassine Chagh stated that "online events, like this, provide more opportunities to easily connect with persons living throughout the island."



More similar discussions are planned to connect youth from both communities and deepen their understanding and relations with each other.

The recently launched 'Famagusta Students Together' initiative that aims to bring together high school students through collaborative activities, resumed its actions after a pause due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

## UNFICYP bids farewell to Chilean peacekeepers

On 3 September, UNFICYP held a flag-lowering ceremony for Chile to pay tribute to the country for its dedication and commitment to furthering the cause of peace in Cyprus.

The event was marked by departing Chilean peacekeepers with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar and UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General Cheryl Pearce. The flag was lowered by the senior national representative of Chile, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Cristobal Lopez Troncoso.

Chileans have been contributing to UNFICYP since 2001, when the first Chilean peacekeepers arrived to Cyprus led by Captain Samy Hawa, from the Marines Corps.

Over the years, more than 600 Chilean peacekeepers have been deployed to the island to fulfill the mandate of the operational work of the Mission of serving for peace.

"Chile had an important role in this Mission and the collegiality and professionalism of its officers will be missed. We thank their contributions and wish the best in their future endeavors," stated Ms. Spehar.





# President of the European Union Council, Charles Michel, visits Cyprus



Elizabeth Spehar, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, welcomed the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, during his visit to the island. Ms. Spehar and Mr. Michel visited the buffer zone in Sector Two and met with civil society organizations from both sides to discuss peacebuilding efforts.

## UNFICYP and Youth Champions roll up sleeves on World Cleanup Day

To mark World Cleanup Day, observed on 19 September, UNFICYP personnel including its Head of Mission, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, rolled up their sleeves together with the UNFICYP Youth Champions for Environment and Peace to clean up the buffer zone.

While some areas of the buffer zone are well-preserved havens for wildlife, other parts have turned into illegal dumping grounds for residents and companies from both communities. All kinds of rubbish including plastic, construction and household waste, lie on the patrol tracks and even in agricultural fields, harming nature and constituting an eye sore.

As custodians of the buffer zone, UNFICYP decided to take action on World Cleanup Day. Together with our UNFICYP Youth Champions for Environment and Peace, the Mission selected two sites, one in Nicosia and one close to Pyla, from which rubbish was cleared and properly disposed of.

UNFICYP Youth Champions for Environment and



Peace is an initiative to bring together young Cypriots from across the island who have a shared interest in the environment. It is based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a blueprint to achieve a peaceful and sustainable future for all.

The initiative is implemented with the generous support of the Stelios Foundation.



# Keeping the peace and combating COVID-19

By Lieutenant James Moreton Wakeley



**W**e felt as if we had flown not only from one country to another, but also from one world to a destination quite unknown. When the approximately 250 men and women who comprised the Sector 2 Roulement Regiment first came together to serve the cause of peace on a cold and wet English winter's morning, few had heard of COVID-19. By the time we completed our pre-deployment training and landed on the already summery island of Cyprus, the disease was shutting down the world and changing the way in which billions of people lived their lives. Our experience was of course bound to be affected.

As peacekeepers, we were also conscious of our duty to combat COVID at the forefront of everything we did. We had a duty, not only to our colleagues and to our mission, but also to the civilian population around us to pose no risk whatsoever and to do all we could to ensure the suppression of the pandemic. It was not the tour of duty we expected. Our first month was dominated by getting to grips with the mission while also with learning to exercise, eat, meet and work in a way that minimized the risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19. From reorganizing our canteen, to building outside classrooms and holding meetings in the open air. British soldiers, like our colleagues from other national contingents, are used to living cheek-by-jowl in relatively confined spaces and to seeing one another not just as comrades and friends, but also as family. Physical distancing, therefore, hardly came instinctively.

Adaptability is one of the things on which our battlegroup had most cause to pride itself. We all volunteered for what the British Army calls 'Op TOSCA' as we wanted to seize the chance to help keep the peace on Cyprus – as well as to serve our country – when the opportunity came our way. We had to adapt not only to COVID-19, but also to living and working as regular soldiers.

Our peacekeepers come from a diverse range of

backgrounds. The men and women walking the streets of Nicosia, cycling and driving through the open land to the city's East and West are everything from accountants to electricians, builders to bankers, and managers to mechanics in their civilian lives. For most of us, this was our first operational tour. We have been motivated by the principles that underscore our mission: to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to maintain a stable environment.

Serving the cause of peace takes many forms. Beyond mounting a series of patrols into the buffer zone, we have liaised regularly with both sides in order to counter violations and to try to build trust, goodwill, and cooperation. Building such interpersonal rapport was of course threatened by the distancing forced upon us by COVID. Our persistence not to let it limit the boundaries of the possible, however, defined the start to our tour and ensured that relationships were maintained and extended. COVID could not let us lose sight of the mission.

We have also made a determined effort to improve the assets UNFICYP has to hand to keep the peace. Decaying observation posts have been refurbished and barriers replaced, not least through the efforts of the Slovakian Force Engineers, whom we have found to be excellent hard-working colleagues. We have also welcomed the chance to work with our Argentinian friends, with whom we had the chance to launch a series of joint patrols. Cooperation at this level puts into action the abstract language of international cooperation. It is one of the great benefits of any UN tour of duty and one of the best ways in which to foster mutual understanding and respect.

Our tour has been like none other. We were a unit that had to adapt to full-time soldiering as well as to COVID-19, as part of a mission that demands a detailed grasp of complex problems alongside a posture aimed at building cooperation and trust. It was a challenge we relished. I know I speak for all of us when I say that it has been an honour to serve in the blue beret.



# Morphou gate reopens using technology to allow access to UNPA

In July, the Operations Management Unit at UNFICYP reopened the access to Morphou gate at the UN Protected Area (UNPA).

The unit, which is part of the Field Technology Support, implemented monitoring and accessibility technologies at the location to allow a more convenient access to the UN Headquarters in Cyprus to those coming from Sector One and surrounding areas.

The gate serves as a secondary entrance to UNPA and was operated by military personnel until September 2019. However, due to the military relocation to other sections of the Mission, the access had to be closed given the lack of human resources to manage the movement of vehicles.

This impacted the lives of several staff members, who at times, had to drive additional 10 kilometres to enter UNPA through Foxtrot gate. Amir Djema, UNFICYP's Telecommunications Technician, was one of them: "Since Morphou had been closed, I had to add 30 minutes to my commuting."

To address the issue, he brought a suggestion to his supervisor. "In our office we have space to come up with innovative ideas and they are welcomed, so I proposed to automate the gate to restart operations as it was going to facilitate the lives of staff and don't leave the area abandoned," he explained.

After evaluating the cost effectiveness of Amir's suggestion, the OMU introduced the technology at Morphou gate and since early July, the secondary entrance has been automated to ensure that only staff with identification can have access to UNPA.

In addition, CCTV cameras have been installed and are being remotely monitored for 24 hours by the Force Protection Unit to respond in case of unauthorized entries.

"This initiative represents the commitment of the Mission's management to address the needs of the staff, but also it showcases how even when there are human resources limitations, we can still design cost effective solutions using innovative ideas", concluded Keerthi Subasinghe, UNFICYP's Chief of the Operations Management Unit.



*Operations management Unit staff inspect equipment at Morphou gate*



# Peacekeepers in action



## Maintenance of the buffer zone

Engineers from Slovakia and peacekeepers from the United Kingdom carrying out maintenance work in the buffer zone to ensure towers are in good conditions to continue the effective monitoring of the area.



## Monitoring demonstrations

UNPOL officers continue to ensure security inside the buffer zone during demonstrations at Ledra street crossing point. Preventing tensions and maintaining public order remains a key priority despite COVID-19.

## Greening the blue

Our peacekeepers are committed to protecting the environment for the benefit of the communities we serve. Peacekeepers from the United Kingdom help clean debris and waste off the buffer zone in sector Two. The items collected are brought to their headquarters at Ledra Palace Hotel and disposed of according to UNFICYP's recycling policy.







## A unifying challenge: UNFICYP holds military skills competition to test readiness of troops

**I**n early July, UNFICYP held its bi-annual military skills competition at the UN Protected Area in Nicosia. All military components were invited to compete and put into test their skills and tasks performed within the Mission. The exercise was planned and coordinated by the military training cell.

This year's theme for the event was a unifying challenge and it assessed four components: a military march, shooting, driving skills and a knowledge test. All aimed at combining physical and mental challenges over a two-day period. In total, 97 military personnel participated in the different segments of the competition. The objective

of the exercise was to test basic military skills reflecting the peacekeepers tasks at UNFICYP, through physical and mentally demanding stands contested between teams which were drawn from all sectors, departments and force troops in order to promote the 'Esprit de Corps' amongst all those who contribute to the Mission's mandate.

The multinational Force Military Police Unit team, composed of military personal from Argentina, Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom won this summer's gold medal. We congratulate not only the winners, but also those who participated. Their zeal and enthusiasm, plus urge to put up a great show will be remembered!





# Summer medal parades

During this summer, UNFICYP recognized the contribution and work of peacekeepers from the three sectors and from different units from our headquarters, including the UN Flight Unit. We are proud of their commitment to keeping the peace in Cyprus and we appreciate their efforts and their adaptation to safety measures, especially in these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## UNFICYP holds triathlon to foster team spirit, ensure peacekeepers are agile

On 25 July, UNFICYP held a triathlon competition within the UN Protected Area to test its peacekeepers' physical conditions. The exercise was demanding and included a 250-meter swim, followed by a 7-kilometer cycling stretch and a 3-kilometers run to the finish line. Some 47 peacekeepers joined the different segments. The goal of the competition was to promote sports and encourage participation, regardless of whether participants are first timers or as experienced in triathlons. The event was memorable with each stroke, turn of the pedal and stride was as rewarding as it was challenging.





# UNPOL officers supporting peace in Cyprus

## Marcela Vaskova

**M**arcela Vaskova, from Slovakia, has been serving in Cyprus for the past 18 months. She has been based in Sector Four, in the village of Pyla, one of the oldest of the country. In the first 10 months of her arrival, she was responsible for patrols, now she is one of the Sector Civil Affairs Police Liaison Officer. Marcela brings to UNFICYP 15 years of experience as a Police Officer in her home country. This is her first time serving in the UN, however, not her first time in an international setting, in 2013 she had been deployed in Georgia with Mission from the European Union. In Sector Four, Ms. Vaskova and her colleagues have been maintaining the integrity of the buffer zone and ensuring law and order as part of the UN's mandate. "Some of the pressing issues we deal with are the illegal disposal of residues, pilgrimages and building relations with farmers from both sides." She says that, "one of our most important tasks is to always be prepared to defuse conflict. To do so, we work in building trust of people living and working in the buffer zone to come to us to discuss any problems. This way, we can help them find solutions and avoid confrontation".

When asked about her role as a peacekeeper, Marcela says it has been a rewarding experience: "I am proud



to represent the women of my country and to work for peace in Cyprus. But not only that, as a peacekeeper we learn from both sides and from a myriad of different cultures. I have learned from other colleagues that there are many paths to peace, but collaboration, being 'armed with a smile' and having a nice attitude towards people is what makes a positive difference."

## Shamel Barsik

**C**aptain Shamel Barsik is a Police Officer from Jordan and has been deployed in Cyprus for the past 8 months. This is his second UN Mission, prior to being on the island, he served in Sudan for little more than a year.

Captain Barsik is based in Sector One and describes his three main tasks in the buffer zone: to facilitate escorts in crossing points, monitor and report any unauthorized movement and to keep the integrity of the area. "To accomplish these successfully, we must always convey a message that we are here to help both communities. It is important for them to understand we are making efforts to mediate relations and de-escalate tensions," he explains.

In times of COVID-19, Barsik states that: "our work has become more challenging and we are having to adapt and follow protocols to respect social distancing, but nonetheless, we are committed to continue to deliver our mandate with integrity and respect."

According to him, to serve a peacekeeper has made his family proud, "but what makes me happy is to see people's faces when we can help. For example, last



month, a nurse was having problems at one of the crossings, but we, as UNPOL, facilitated for her to reach to the other side. To see her satisfaction to go to work made me feel that we are supporting them to continue their daily lives, even if COVID makes it harder."



# UNFICYP's new faces



**Ilkhom Saliev, Chief of Service Delivery**

Is from Tadjikistan and a Civil engineer with 39 years of experience. He has been serving with the UN in Timor-Leste, Burundi and Syria. For him, "working together requires a coordinated exchange of experience and pooling of resources. My team and I are committed to contributing our expertise to the continued improvement of the methods of work, creating joint technical support, pooling capabilities, explore further potential contributions to mission activities."

**Lieutenant Erin Hawco (Canada)**

"Canadians have a long history of contributing to peacekeeping efforts across the globe, and many of us consider peacekeeping, as part of our national identity. Canada contributed troops to the original UN Peacekeeping Force established in 1964, and the operation is one of Canada's longest running overseas military commitments. I am looking forward to wearing the Blue Beret, just like many Canadians have dreamed of doing, and contributing in any way possible, in maintaining peace in Cyprus."



**Major Maryum Raana, Force Signals Officer (Pakistan)**

"It is an extreme honour and profound privilege to serve under the auspices of the United Nations. I shall work wholeheartedly with commitment and dedication to further enhance peacekeeping efforts of UNFICYP and will contribute to the best of my abilities for betterment of people of Cyprus"

**Major S J Howard, Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff (United Kingdom)**

"The prospect of supporting the integrated efforts of uniformed and civilian personnel across the Mission is one I have been looking forward to. Aside from it being a snug fit, to me my new blue beret represents the joint identity of this multinational team that I am now a part of, affording a unique experience and diversity of thought in addition to some more favourable weather than the UK routinely has to offer!



**Captain Juliano Dill de Almeida Cardoso, S03 U5 Future Plans Officer (Brazil)**

"I intend to update the plans to prevent a recurrence of fighting in the island and I feel rewarded for wearing the Blue Beret again after 8 years, when I was deployed in Haiti."

**Force Cartographer, Warrant Officer Dr. Clemens Strauss (Austria)**

"I am extremely pleased to work as a cartographer for UNFICYP and to be able to give orientation and an understandable picture of the area with the products of the cartographer's office. It is a great honor for me wearing the Blue Beret and be a part of a large community, which focus on peace – a crucial and important status for society and for every individual."



**Viktor Krokhmalov, Chief Security Officer**

Mr. Krokhmalov is from Ukraine and comes with several years of experience in the area of safety and security having served with the UN Offices in Iraq and Sierra Leone, as well as being deployed to UNTAES, UNAMSIL, Afghanistan, Nagorno Karabakh and Kosovo during his military service.





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