

The Blue Beret



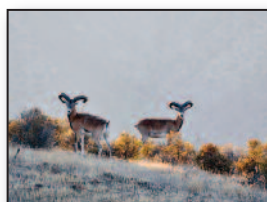
Greentree Trio

The UNFICYP Magazine
August/September/October 2011

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Front page photo: Secretary-General meets with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Leaders in New York, 30 October 2011

Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

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Editorial

The UN's Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon held a new round of talks between Cyprus' Greek and Turkish community Leaders in a bid to reunify the long divided island. The negotiations entered their fourth year as of last September with the United Nations playing an enhanced role, as needed, in the talks. Since their meeting with Mr. Ban last July in Geneva and during this intensified phase, the Leaders met 19 times. It was a difficult period at times, but both sides stayed the course and progress was made on some key outstanding issues.

The Secretary-General met with the Leaders over two days at the Greentree meeting facility in New York. During that time Mr. Ban instituted substantive discussions on four core issues of the Cyprus talks: 1) on governance and power-sharing emphasizing in particular the issue of the executive and the presidency; 2) on property; 3) on territory and 4) on the issue of citizenship. Prior to the New York gathering, considerable advances had been made in the areas of economy, EU matters and the internal aspects of security.

Following the meeting, Mr. Ban said he was confident that a comprehensive settlement could be achieved. Greek Cypriot Leader Mr. Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Leader Mr. Dervish Eroglu have agreed that further efforts are essential over the next two months to move to the end game of the negotiations. This was the fifth meeting of the Secretary General with the Cypriot Leaders as they work to develop a comprehensive settlement for Cyprus.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he and his Special Adviser Alexander Downer remain committed to achieving progress in the talks. He added that he had invited the two Leaders to meet with him again in a similar format in January of 2012. Mr Ban said he expected the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem to have been resolved by then so that the parties could move to the multilateral conference shortly thereafter.



Chief of Mission Lisa M. Buttenheim inspects Nicosia's old town from the H-500 helicopter flown by UNFICYP first ever woman pilot, Lieutenant Maria Jorgelina Camarzana, 24 August, 2011.

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'The Nine O'Clock News in 2030'

It is 21 September 2030. You have just come home from work, tired from the daily chores of your duties, perhaps suffering from Monday syndrome. You reluctantly switch on the television to watch the Nine O'Clock News, even though you feel it will only add to your gloom. But to your amazement, the news is upbeat, showing successful partnerships in the agriculture field; a lucrative sponsorship deal for the football team you support; the opening of the Global Competitiveness Forum in Kyrenia, and a re-forestation project in what was once known as the UN buffer zone but in the year 2030, it is the renowned Mesaoria International Peace and Wildlife Park.

Were this to happen today it might be considered fiction but it is both possible and achievable in a united Cyprus.

The Economic Interdependence Project managed by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce brought hundreds of Cypriots together on the International Day of Peace for the premiere of the short movie entitled "The Nine O'clock News in 2030". It gave viewers a sneak preview of what the future might be in a united Cyprus.

At the premiere, speakers from the two Chambers of Commerce highlighted the importance of economic interdependence and the benefits of economic cooperation. Alp Cengiz Alp, Vice President of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, and Manthos Mavrommatis, President of the Greek Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and Industry also urged Cypriots to look at the big picture in Cyprus.

"Sometimes, we are occupied with daily problems, and we fail to see the big picture. The big picture tells us that economic cooperation and interdependence is

to the benefit of all Cypriots," said Mr. Alp.

As for Mr. Mavrommatis, he admitted to having to overcome some initial skepticism about what he was viewing: "When I first watched it, I thought to myself this is Cyprus in a fantasy world. But I thought about it over and over again, and I can see the picture more clearly now: why should we take the given realities for granted? It's not a far-fetched situation. It's more like a Back to the Future situation."

The 15-minute bilingual movie drew a overflow audience from across the island to Nicosia's Chateau Status for the screening. All seats were taken; while others stood at the back attentive and fascinated. When the lights came up at the end there was an enthusiastic round of applause.

A short panel discussion followed, presented by leading actors Osman Alkas and Varvara Larmou, who were joined by the Project leaders Leonidas Paschalides and Kemal Baykalli from the two Chambers. Afterwards, during a cocktail reception, the audience had an opportunity to chat directly with the representatives of the Chambers and artists, and to discuss the possibility of a "normal Cyprus" in the coming years.

The movie was released as part of the Economic Interdependence project, implemented by the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with support from UNDP-ACT.

The full movie is also available on YouTube. Viewers can watch it in the following formats:

- With rotating Greek/Turkish subtitles
at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1YInLKIQc8>
- With English subtitles
at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbrk1i4xXBI>

By Cem Cicek



Year 2030: Cypriot children visiting the renowned Mesaoria International Peace and Wildlife Park

Cypriot women and youth write to UN Secretary-General

Just prior to the tripartite meeting in New York, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women and youth organizations called on the UN Secretary-General and the Cyprus Leaders to use the occasion to “find a solution to the Cyprus problem as soon as possible”.

In letters addressed to the Secretary-General and submitted to UNFICYP, the organizations concerned underlined their commitment to a solution based on the principle of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation.

They asked Mr Ban Ki-moon to “take efficient initiative and deliver his good services in order to facilitate the negotiating process”. They also called on the Cyprus Leaders to show their full commitment to the negotiation process.

The meeting that took place on 30 and 31 October was the fourth between the Secretary-General and the two leaders. Previously, they met in New York in November 2010, and in Geneva in January and July of this year.



Representatives of Greek and Turkish Cypriot women organizations with UNFICYP Spokesperson Michel Bonnardeaux.



Representatives of Greek and Turkish Cypriot youth organizations handing in their letter to Secretary-General at Ledra Palace Hotel.

August is a busy month for UNFICYP

August was a busy month for peacekeepers, military and police alike, as they laid on additional patrols and escort services in the searing heat of high summer to help ensure that a series of commemorative events on both sides of the buffer zone went off smoothly and without incident.

Some 40 Slovak soldiers from Sector 4 deployed the weekend of 6-7 August near Dherynia village where the annual Greek Cypriot rally protesting the events of 1974 is held. The Sector deployment was charged with maintaining the integrity of the adjoining buffer zone area, a task that requires tact and sensitivity given the fact that feelings can run high among participants at such events.

The Dherynia rally also recalls the death of two Greek Cypriots killed in separate protest incidents involving Turkish forces in August 1996.

Day one of this year’s demonstration rally was attended by President of the Republic Christofias and some 200 participants. Day two saw a markedly different atmosphere with some 300 motorcyclists pouring into the village to be joined later by about 100 supporters of a political group.

An escort detail under Sector 4’s Captain Roman Bobal, including SCAT members, helped facilitate the laying of commemorative wreaths by designated representatives of the demonstrators in the buffer zone area.

Meanwhile on 8 August, about 900 Turkish Cypriots travelled in 40 vehicles via the Limnitis crossing to Kokkina (Erenkoy) to mark the 47th anniversary of the Kokkina siege. Those attending were escorted through

the buffer zone and the Greek Cypriot village of Kato Pyrgos by UNPOL members from Sector 1, including SCAT and Civil Affairs Branch members.

Participating numbers were down on previous years where the average attendance was closer to 2,000. The reason for the lower turn-out was because this year’s commemoration fell during Ramadan.

However, there was a significant difference this year because those attending were able to travel to Kokkina using the newly opened crossing at Limnitis (Yesilirmak).

The day went off smoothly in large part thanks to the hard work of UNPOL Sector 1 members and the strong professional and personal relations they have developed with their counterparts in Cypol and in the Turkish Cypriot Police.



Turkish Cypriot buses on their way to Kokkina.

Candlelight Ceremony on Day of Peace



UNFICYP marked the International Day of Peace on 21 September through a solemn candlelight ceremony held in front of the Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone.

The event honoured Greek and Turkish Cypriot war veterans who fought together during the Second World War. They were represented at Ledra Palace by the Cyprus World War Two Veterans' Association.

Also in attendance were UN staff, diplomats, representatives of civil society and members of a bi-communal youth group who delivered their own messages of peace in observance of the Day, and its "Peace and Democracy: Make Your Voice heard" theme.

During the ceremony, participants lit candles and observed a moment of silence in the name of peace and in remembrance of the victims of war. UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim remarked that this was the sixth straight year that this global observance was commemorated in Cyprus.

Pointing to the lighted candle, the Chief of Mission noted how it symbolized the worldwide peace vigil held by millions of people to mark this very special day.

"By lighting our own candles we shine a message of peace and hope for all those in despair around the globe. We all have a part to play in waging peace; the elderly and the young alike. We must join forces in activities that contribute to resolution of conflicts, bridging cultural divides and fostering tolerance," she said.

Turning directly to the Cyprus World War II Veterans, the SRSG spoke of the wonderful example they represented of how Greek and Turkish Cypriots can unite for the greater good. "As Cypriots, you helped bring peace as you fought tyranny during the Second World War and you represent the generation that founded the United Nations," she said.

The Chief of Mission also highlighted the presence of

the members of the Cyprus Youth Activism Project. She noted, "these inspiring youngsters from across the island have been dedicated to spreading messages of peace and bridging divides, and in turn encouraging others to do the same."

Referring to the global work of the United Nations, Ms Buttenheim said the organization has been engaged on several fronts to bring peace and stability to regions in conflict. "UN peacekeeping missions, and our efforts to support peace, and sustainable development, human rights and democracy, are making a difference for countless individuals and communities," she said.

UNFICYP has worked vigorously for nearly five decades to ensure that every day on this island is a day of non-violence and continuing cease-fire, she said. The commitment of mission staff, along with that of UN colleagues from the Good Offices, UN Development Programme, the Committee on Missing Persons, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Mine Action Centre for Cyprus, has fostered peace building and cooperation and helped close wounds of the past.

"A comprehensive settlement in Cyprus remains our overarching goal. A settlement would certainly help unleash the enormous potential and capacity of this beautiful island and make it a stronger and more prosperous home for all Cypriots. There are countless reasons to strive for the larger good, to look beyond the past, to the common and promising future that awaits Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots," the Chief of Mission said.

"We maintain our view that a solution is within reach. On this Peace Day, let us renew our commitment to the reunification of the island."

Work of Committee of Missing Persons

*I wonder how
So many meanings fit in one word,
So much catastrophe in a moment,
So much rage in a box of bones.*

"Bones of a Missing Person" by Chrystalla Magani

This quote comes from the opening frame of *Digging for a Future* documentary on the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP).

The documentary shows why the CMP is one of the most successful examples of the bi-communal cooperation in Cyprus and illustrates the committee's efforts to locate, identify and return to their respective families the remains of about 2000 Cypriots who vanished in the violence and conflict of the 1960s and 1970s. It also features statements of families of the missing and a message by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

At the launching of the documentary, Mrs. Elsi Christofias, wife of Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias, underscored the importance of the CMP's work for building "a more constructive vision this", and Kudret Ozersay, Representative of Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu pledged that they would do their utmost to prevent any obstacles from block-

ing the way of the humanitarian task of the CMP.

In the documentary, the wider impact of the CMP's work on the peace efforts in Cyprus was highlighted by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who stated that "determining the fate of missing persons occupies an increasingly prominent place in peace-making, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus has been a model of successful cooperation between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. The United Nations has been proud to facilitate the committee's work with the support of the international community."

The CMP is not only a case of the truly productive cooperation between the UN and the two communities, but it is also a splendid example of a successful team effort by the UN family and the international community.

The CMP reports to Department of Political Affairs at UN Headquarters in New York, enjoys administrative and logistical support of UNFICYP, its funds are managed by UNDP and to date, numerous member states have shown their support by donating funds to the CMP operations. Many have done so repeatedly. The European Union, the biggest donor, also financed the documentary.

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CMP Facts

- There are 1,464 Greek Cypriot and 494 Turkish Cypriot Missing Persons in Cyprus
- The CMP was established in April 1981 by agreement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities under the auspices of the United Nations.
- The CMP is composed of a Member appointed by each of the two communities and a Third Member, selected by the International Committee of the Red Cross and appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- The current Project on the Exhumation, Identification and Return of Remains of Missing Persons started in July of 2007.
- The entire project is carried out by bi-communal teams of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists working together in the field on both sides of the island and at the CMP anthropological laboratory at the UNPA.
- As of 31 August 2011 the CMP visited and opened 546 alleged burial sites (329 sites did not contain any human remains), exhumed bones relating to 798 individuals, conducted 474 osteological analyses at the Anthropological Laboratory, had 1,443 skeletal elements transferred to the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING) for DNA analysis, 1,369 DNA analysis performed by the CING, and returned to their families remains of 300 missing individuals for a proper burial.
- The efforts of the CMP, while it is Cypriot owned and lead, are facilitated by the United Nations, supported by the international community and enjoy robust endorsement by both leaders.

UN Flight: 20,000 hours in the air

On 30 September 1994, exactly 17 years ago, the first UNFICYP helicopter took off under the able leadership of Argentinean Air Force pilots and crew. Since then, UNFICYP's Flight component has made remarkable achievements.

In addition to successfully carrying out one of our mission's main tasks of monitoring the 186-kilometre-long buffer zone on a daily basis, it has been on hand to assist with evacuations and emergency situations; has helped track fires in the buffer zone and even transported local firefighters to the scene, thus preventing the fires from spreading and, in effect, helping save lives and property.

UN flight has also provided transport to senior UN officials and visiting delegations. On several occasions it has flown high-ranking officials from the island's two

main communities to events in the buffer zone aimed at building further bridges across the island. Also of note, during the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict, it was tasked with transporting the then Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora to Beirut after he had attended a crisis conference in Rome. By engaging in these tasks, and many more, UN Flight under command of Argentinean personnel reached this year the notable landmark of 20 thousand hours of flight time.

UN Flight is an integral part of UNFICYP's work in Cyprus. It plays a pivotal role in the successful running of the mission which remains very reliant on air support. It has three helicopters (two Hughes 500 and a Bell 212), with two in operation at all times. The unit is based at UNFICYP headquarters and staffed by 28 personnel from the Argentinean contingent.



SRSR Lisa M. Buttenheim with OC UN Flight Lt. Colonel Enzo C. Bressano congratulate UN Flight members, Capt. Ivan Pettit, Lt. Marino Leonardo and Sgt. Jesus Fernandez.

History of UN Flight

The UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps, originally known as the Force Aviation Flight, became operational on 27 March 1964.

Before 1974, the Flight's main tasks were to resupply the Kyrenia Range Ops and liaison flying between the dispersed contingents.

Since 1974, operations have been concentrated mainly on flights within the Buffer Zone, including observation, reconnaissance, liaison, movement of personnel and material, CASEVACs, MEDEVACs and a range of humanitarian, ecological, search and rescue and assistance with fire fighting.

On 18 June 1994, UNFICYP announced that Flight was to be replaced by a new Argentinian Flight of two Hughes 500D helicopters.

On 15 September 1994 at 4pm, a Hercules C-130 (LV-APW) arrived at Larnaca Airport from Argentina. It carried two Hughes MD500 helicopters and their commanders, together with a helicopter group made up of six officers and 10 non-commissioned officers.

On 30 September 1994, UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps was disbanded and the Army Air Corps flag lowered after 30 years, six months and four days in Cyprus – in service of peace, and the new era began.

UNFICYP's first woman pilot

Seventy seven years after pioneering Australian aviatrix (woman pilot) Jean Batten chose an airstrip on the outskirts of Nicosia as one of the stop-overs during her record-breaking solo flight from England to Australia, the site that is now the old Nicosia airport witnessed yet another pioneering event in the history of female aviation.

For the first time in UNFICYP history, UNFICYP Flight unit has among its members a woman pilot. Twenty-seven-year-old Lieutenant Maria Jorgalina Camarzano, the first female helicopter pilot to serve in the Argentinean Air Force, arrived in Nicosia in July this year. A graduate of the Military Aviation School (E.A.M.) in Cordoba in 2005, she completed the Military Aviator Course in 2009 before being assigned to the VII Brigada Aerea in Buenos Aires, where she did her advanced specialization in helicopters.

Lt. Camarzano served two years with VII Brigada Aerea as a Hughes 500 pilot before taking up her current assignment with UNFICYP. Here she pilots Hughes 500 helicopters (UN 021 and UN 025).

Lieutenant Camarzano loves flying. She says she decided that she wanted to be a pilot during her third year at E.A.M. when she started flying sailplanes. "When I felt the real sensation of flight I loved it," she confesses.



Lieutenant Camarzano partner in life is another pilot. She is married to Lieutenant Marino Leonardo, also a pilot at UNFICYP Flight. They married in 2009 after a five-year courtship.

'Greta Garbo of the Skies' in Cyprus



Jean Gardner Batten (1909-1982) was a New Zealand aviatrix who became one of the best-known pilots of the 1930s by making a number of record-breaking solo flights across the world.

In May 1934, she successfully flew solo from England to Australia in a Gipsy Moth. Her trip of 14 days and 22 hours beat the existing England-to-Australia record of English aviatrix Amy Johnson by over four days. In 1935 she set a world record flying from England to Brazil in the Percival Gull Six monoplane. In 1936 she set another world record with a solo flight from England to New Zealand.

Batten was named Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1936 and she was also given the Cross of Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour that year. In 1938, she was the first woman to be awarded the medal of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, aviation's highest honour.

World War II ended Batten's flying adventures. After the war Batten became a recluse. In 1982 she was bitten by a dog on the island of Majorca. She refused

treatment and the wound became infected. She died alone in a hotel from complications from the dog bite. Because of her striking looks, her glamorous appearance at receptions (she always took a dress with her on her record-breaking flights), and her later reclusive ways, Batten was often called the "Greta Garbo of the Skies".

Batten in Nicosia

Batten landed at Nicosia airfield after a flight from Athens. Next day she took off for Damascus on the next leg of her flight from England to Australia.

In her autobiography, she wrote: "Seven hours out from Athens, a faint smudge on the horizon resolved itself into the island of Cyprus... Crossing the limestone hills of Kyrenia I flew inland over the large plain of Mesaoria, which looked dry and parched for want of rain."

Like all who fly small planes in Cyprus she had to deal with the heat rising from the sun-baked land: "It was extremely hot, and strong upward currents made the flight to Nicosia unpleasantly bumpy. On one occasion the Moth gained over a thousand feet in less than a minute, only to bump down hundreds of feet the next." She described Nicosia airfield as "a really natural landing-ground, and the red earth surface, blending with that of the surrounding country, would make it very difficult to distinguish were it not for the white corner markings and circle. The surface was sparsely covered with scrub, but there were no trees or buildings to hamper the approach."

At dawn the next day, Jean Batten took off and headed eastward, passing over Famagusta "with its palms and Byzantine churches. I saw the ancient citadel known as Othello's Tower."

(From "Story of a photograph" by Gerald Butt, published in *Cyprus Mail*. 11/11/2007)

Troulli Village holds clean-up day

As the sun rose over the Troulli village square on 25 August 2011, volunteers gathered on the balcony of the village coffee shop, armed with rakes, shovels, backhoes, rubbish trucks and a front end loader.

The display of equipment in the village square was an advertisement to all of the work which is required as a result of dumping rubbish in unauthorised locations.

Supported by UNPOL and UN military members from Sector Four, village volunteers set to tackle the task of removing rubbish from unauthorised dumping sites in the buffer zone.

The morning began with an address by Troulli mukhtar Nikos Papacharalambous, who thanked the UN for its encouragement and support of the clean-up initiative, and welcomed the display of cooperation and unity.

People and equipment then dispersed to five sites where the bustle and noise of heavy equipment was soon punctuated by jokes and banter between villagers, police and soldiers as they vigorously set about the task at hand.

Some of the local residents of the dump sites were rudely disturbed by the activities, with a snake escaping from the weeds as a backhoe set to work, giving a fright to some of the workers nearby.

At another site, a rubber snake found amongst the rubbish provided entertainment as it was employed in jokes which required only the common language of humour between villagers and UN personnel from eight different countries.

As the heat of the day increased, the fruit, soft drinks and ice-creams distributed by the village mukhtar were gratefully accepted and spurred everyone on until the task was completed. Looking across the clean sites after the hours of hard work was a satisfying experience but people didn't linger as they headed once again to the village coffee shop where a lunchtime feast had been prepared.

Joined by the SPA, Chief Superintendent John Farrelly and DSPA Higher Inspector Miroslav Milojevic, the Sector Four UNPOL and UN military members enjoyed a traditional Cypriot lunch with villagers and volunteers. Once again, the mukhtar wholeheartedly thanked the UN for their support and welcomed its members into the village community, inviting them to drop in for a coffee, as honoured guests, whenever they were in the area. The SPA welcomed venture and thanked the mukhtar and village community for their warm hospitality.

Hopefully, encouraged by the efforts of the mukhtar to promote the free use of skip bins throughout the village, the closing of entrances to the unauthorised dumping sites and the example of the clean-up day, the buffer zone around Troulli will remain rubbish free. Equally as important though, the cooperation and goodwill which were forged between UN members and locals through the joint efforts will surely be remembered well into the future by all those who were involved.

By Sgt Amy Poiner



Hawks, doves and wild sheep: buffer zone becomes an unexpected wildlife sanctuary



No one has lived in the hillside village of Variseia since 1974. Nestled in the no man's land dividing Cyprus, it has been abandoned to the elements and its stone walls are crumbling.

But the village now hosts a very different type of inhabitant: the island's largest wild mammal, the endemic Cyprus mouflon, which today number about 3,000, can be regularly encountered in the area.

The animal, listed as endangered by the World Conservation Union, was coming close to extinction a decade ago but now has gradually regained its numbers, mainly thanks to a conservation drive by the government of the Republic of Cyprus and the serenity of the buffer zone.

Also birds, foxes, snakes and other threatened wildlife take refuge along the 180-kilometre strip of no man's land and find the lack of human activity in the buffer zone to their liking.

While evaluating the flora and fauna of the buffer zone, a joint team of experts from the Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot communities working together between 2007 and 2009 on a UNDP-funded project, recorded 358 plant species, 100 bird species, 20 reptile and amphibians and 18 mammal species. They found evidence of endemic plant species such as the Cyprus Tulip and the Cyprus Bee Orchid as well as the fresh water terrapin (turtle) and other protected plants and wildlife that elsewhere suffer from the effects of the massive housing and tourism developments. They also established that rare bird species, such as the stone curlew, faced with serious habitat loss outside of the buffer zone, had managed to establish breeding populations within it which could help secure their future on the island.

UNFICYP peacekeepers, alert to the natural beauty of the buffer zone and its environmental value, work hard

to preserve these unique assets as they go about their day-to-day peacekeeping activities.

However, the island's division has negative environmental effects as well.

The effective suspension of the EU's environmental acquis in the Turkish Cypriot community entails serious divergences in environmental standards, particularly regarding environmental impact assessments, corporate environmental responsibility, urban planning, and the establishment of conservation areas.

The growing tourism and housing boom have also resulted in habitat loss, increased quarrying activities, and growing sanitation problems.

Similarly, weak technical cooperation between the two communities on environmental issues raises risks of wildfires in the buffer zone.

The fact that hunting is forbidden in the buffer zone should further help protect endangered species. However, evidence of both hunting as well as illegal bird trapping is regularly uncovered during UNPOL and other regular patrols. Also, in the areas reserved for farming, UN often come across illegal rubbish tips and containers of dangerous pesticides which are presumably dumped there by nearby communities.

Finally, there is a question of what will happen to the buffer zone if and when the island re-unites. Nobody knows what the future will hold for the buffer zone's flora and fauna and whether there is any chance that this land might one day be transformed into a peace park or wildlife corridor as, for example, portrayed in the new mock documentary *Nine O'Clock News 2030*. Perhaps we should think about it now.

(Based on Hawks, doves and wild sheep by Nikolas Jarraud, published in Development and Transition Journal, 09, 2008)

'Peacing' the island together



In his most recent assessment report on the status of the negotiations in Cyprus, SG Ban Ki-moon specifically acknowledged the importance of work done by the United Nations Development Programme - Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT) and their partners, and their contribution to the peace process. He also reiterated his call to the Cyprus Leaders "to engage civil society in the task of reaching a comprehensive settlement and take into account these and other important civil society efforts to contribute to the peace process."

UNDP's role in helping to address Cyprus' conflict is unique in the global experience of the organization. For more than a decade, it has been supporting island-wide inter-communal initiatives aimed at increasing trust and cooperation, and helping to create a space for the development of a future vision for a united island, one in which all communities can work and live together in peace.

Technically, such work is called peace building. Practically, it offers civil society a way to engage in reconciliation and have a say about its future.

'Peace' of history

During last three years, through its projects, UNDP-ACT has brought various civil society groups, such as business leaders, media and technical professionals, service providers, civil society activists, youth leaders, educators, academics, researchers, opinion leaders and policy makers, to work together on issues of common interest, such as economic development, cultural heritage, and youth. Each of our projects has its own focus but all are geared towards peace building in Cyprus, and today, civil society organizations stand as one of the most important voices in promoting inter-communal reconciliation.

'Peace' of success

Despite many challenges and the fact that the results are not always tangible, the fact that Cypriot civil society has become more effective in advocating for reconciliation shows that together Cypriots can achieve more as a community than if they were to work in isolation from each other. Here, some of UNDP's civil society partners describe their role and activities, and explain why their projects can and do make a difference.

The next "peace" of the puzzle

While ACT has helped to lay the foundations for civil society to engage with the decision-making process, such channels for dialogue need to be sustained. Thus, during its third phase (2011-2013), UNDP-ACT will support the sustainability of its partners' efforts, as they engage with more people outside their circle, and with key decision makers. In practical terms, this will lead to a focus on building and consolidating civil society's role on the island, and creation of a network, which will bring these under a Cypriot-led reconciliation umbrella entitled "Peace It Together". The solidarity of this network will mean that more can and will be achieved by working as a group of organisations towards a common goal.

The other UNDP-ACT's projects include Cyprus Community Media Centre, Cyprus 2015, Cultural Heritage, Future Together: Participatory Development in Cyprus, Support to Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), and Youth Activism. For more information on all the projects, various activities and upcoming events please visit www.undp-act.org

By Pembe Mentesh



UNDP's civil society partners describe their role and activities

Alev Tugberk, Educational Director, Multiperspectivity & Intercultural Dialogue in Education (MIDE), in partnership with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR):

My current project promotes dialogue and cooperation within the framework of educational activities. It brings teachers, educators and academics together in social and academic environments, and encourages educational communities, including students, to collaborate. It is an extremely important achievement because it sets a good example to the future generations in Cyprus. I am proud of being part of a team of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots working together [in the Home for Cooperation in the Buffer Zone] towards a common goal and setting a very good example to our leaders, our communities and future generations. We interact on a day-to-day basis and we showcase how preconceptions of the so-called "others" can be overcome in time and space.

Kemal Baykalli, Director of International Relations and Communications, Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and member of the Steering Committee of Economic Interdependence Project:

The Economic Interdependence Project is being implemented by two institutions whose members have diverse backgrounds, coming from all walks of life. In 2009, the Leaders signed off on the project, endorsing it and the significance of economic cooperation in Cyprus. Since then we have produced a detailed study, concluded market studies, helped establish partnerships, created an updated database of traders and strengthened cooperation between both Chambers. In the long run, we are all aware of the fact that cooperation will benefit everybody. I am very lucky to work with a team consisting of excellent, professional and hard working people coming from both Chambers. Mutual trust is the key for all achievements.

Nicholas Papachrysostomou, Project Manager for Engage – Do your Part for Peace:

ENGAGE activities are diverse. They range from organizing a seminar on Human Rights-based approaches one month to the screening a co-produced documentary film about coexistence between the two communities. We have taken part in historical walks in Limassol to promote understanding of the coexistence of the communities there. Likewise, in Nicosia, we have participated in a treasure hunt on both sides of the divide, hunting for clues in the history of our capital. ENGAGE offers an optic on life in Cyprus, a different lens, one of optimism, of potential and of the very possibility of reuniting the island. For me, a definite highlight has been the positive response of civil society organisations island-wide when ENGAGE sought to put together the NGO Fairs 2011. It was a pleasure to witness how humanitarian, cultural, educational and human rights NGOs responded and gathered together to voice their wish for a united Cyprus.

Sarah Malian, outreach officer, Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC):

CCMC exists to support civil society in its communication and media work. Through our training workshops we empower individuals to create their own productions, operate cameras, edit video, write blogs, record podcasts and much more. A highlight of working at CCMC has been seeing the confidence of our members grow as they become producers of multimedia content themselves. Through our workshops they gain valuable skills that they can put into action afterwards. We want to demystify the process and show that with the right support, anyone can get their message out in more dynamic ways. For me the key to what CCMC is all about making connections, bringing people together, and using the free tools at our disposal to encourage free expression for positive change.

NY2N Challenge

To cap off a highly successful tour as the Sector 2 Roulement Regiment, soldiers of 3 Royal Anglian rowed, ran, biked and swam the equivalent of 9,000 km (the same distance as that between New York, home of the United Nations, and Nicosia, the Battalion's posting). They used a range of gym equipment to complete the mammoth task. Two charities benefited from the dedicated soldiers' efforts: Cans for Kids and The Army Benevolent Fund. A particularly laudable achievement was that of Lt Mark Hart, who ran the 213 km length of the Buffer Zone in 48 hours, knocking three hours off the previous record. Lt Hart even managed to collect EUR 30 from generous passers-by.

Around Cyprus on bike

It took Major Peter Michlik, Sergeant Emil Duraj and Sergeant Mario Macko four-and-a-half days to cycle around the whole island of Cyprus along its winding coastal routes. The three soldiers from Sector 4 set off from General Stefanik Camp in Famagusta at 6:15am on 14 September and arrived back to the camp at 6:15 pm on 18 September. In total, they covered a distance of 704 kilometres. Along the way they visited such beautiful spots as Golden Beach and Apostolos Andreas Monastery in Karpasia (Karpas), the Pentakdaktylos (Besparmak) mountains, Camp Rocca, Ayios Mamas Church in Morphou (Guzelyurt), Kato Pyrgos, Akamas, Paphos, Zygi, Kiti, Larnaca, Ayia Napa and Capo Greco. "We are tired but happy because we successfully overcame our last challenge before going home," they told Blue Beret after arriving back to Famagusta.

Bravo Zulu One - Well done

Nineteen soldiers from Sector 1 set out on a night patrol exercise on 14 August. Starting off from Patrol Base (PB) 03, over the next three days, the soldiers covered 91 kilometres of the buffer zone patrol track by foot. The detailed plan included filing SITREPS every half hour to Sector 1 JOC. Each night the patrol marched on its way under a full moon and a star studded sky. The patrol finished at OPT 42. The exercise was memorable and successful for all involved.



Dog goes home

Molly, a three-year-old terrier-cross and ex-resident of the Nicosia Dog Shelter, left Cyprus for South Wales on 27 September. She was probably a bit surprised when she arrived at her new home in the Brecon Beacons National Park since the weather there was a bit harsher than in Cyprus.

However, her proud owner, Lance Bombardier Hannah Byrne, who served with UNFICYP MFR last summer, was sure that Molly would have fun in the UK. She looked forward to taking Molly on long walks with her soon-to-be new best friend Domino, a border collie, accompanied by Hannah and her fiancé.

Twenty-eight-old Hannah met Molly when she arrived to join UNFICYP last April. Even though she promised herself she wouldn't get unduly attached to her, the fates decided otherwise. Luckily, Molly had already had all her vaccinations and tests done and with her pet passport issued and secure she avoided the usual quarantine.

If you would like to help support the dogs at the Nicosia Dog Shelter, you can contribute by buying the Shelter's newly available 2012 calendar, or a T-shirt or a mug. They are available at CESSAC, UNPA Nicosia.

Hungarians celebrate St. Stephen's Day

On 20 of August, UNFICYP's Hungarian Contingent (HUNCON) celebrated its National Day at Dolphin Swimming Pool and Restaurant at UNPA in Nicosia. St. Stephen's Day, known also as the Day of the New Bread, is the most important national holiday in Hungary. Its origin goes back to the first king and the patron saint of Hungary, St. Stephen, who united Magyar tribes and established Christianity in the country. When his tomb was opened for his canonisation in 1083, legend has it that his right hand was found to be perfectly preserved. St. Stephen's Day also marks the festival of the new bread which is celebrated in cities and towns all around the country. Traditionally, the first bread from the new harvest is baked and then blessed on this day.

MFR and 3 Royal Anglian help sick children and environment

As the senior Platoon Commander in the senior Company of the 3 Royal Anglian Group and a member of the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR), Captain Ali Hartwell naturally felt responsible for instigating an appropriate charitable project for his platoon to support. Obviously, his first requirement was to choose an ideal cause, and after much thought and discussion, he decided that it should be a local NGO helping sick children. Then by pure chance, at the Deep Purple concert in Nicosia in May, Captain Hartwell met local journalist Rosie Charalambous. Because of the venue, their initial conversation was difficult for both parties but thankfully, after a lot of shouting at each other, Captain Hartwell realized that he found what he was looking for.

Over twenty years, after the tragic loss of their young son through leukemia, Mrs Charalambous and her husband Lakkis had set up a highly efficient and worthwhile charity Cans for Kids. Ever since, this charity has been collecting used aluminum drinks cans, sorting them at its small factory and then compressing them into bales. These bales are then sold at market value for recycling into new cans, cars, fridges; or, possibly, even airplanes, and with the money earned this way, the charity buys state-of-the-art medical equipment for the children's ward of a local hospital.

The MFR Company decided to assist Cans for Kids in a variety of ways. Firstly, the soldiers refurbished three can collection banks on UNPA; secondly, they actively recycled all the used beer cans from the UNPA Bars (strangely, there never seemed to be shortage of them); and thirdly, they volunteered to

give up their free time in order to sort, crush and pack used cans at the Cans for Kids factory.

The latter, despite the intense heat, soldiers did regularly, happily producing 350 euro worth of recyclable metals for two hours once a week throughout the summer.

But this is not the end of the story. The 3 Royal Anglian Group was so impressed by Captain Hartwell and his Platoon that they also decided to support the same charity. In September, soldiers from the entire Group gave up their free time to cycle, run or swim the equivalent distance of New York to Nicosia (see the story below), and half the money they raised also went to Cans for Kids!

If you would like to help very ill children in Cyprus, please view the Cans for Kids website at www.cansforkids.org – they will be very grateful for your support! And please note that this charitable work does not involve collecting sponsorship or completing extraneous challenges; it simply involves doing a bit of extra work. The end-result of this work is plain to see – highly valuable bales of pure, recyclable aluminum, and believe us - it is a very satisfying sight indeed!



By Sgt James Bell



UNFICYP's Orienteering team travels to S.E. Europe



Four members of UNFICYP recently travelled to the Republic of Macedonia to compete in the 1st South East European Orienteering Championships held in Krusevo from 7 to 10 September.

WO1 Kevin Main the Regimental Sergeant Major with 3 Royal Anglian Regiment (Sector Two), Sergeant Jon Rooney from the Royal Engineers with Sector Two, Sergeant James Bell of 3 Royal Welsh attached to MFR and Diana Bridger the PA to the Senior Police Adviser in UNPOL HQ, each took part in four separate events in their respective age categories and were up against some strong competitors from the National Teams of Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and a few other individual runners from Italy, Switzerland and Ukraine.

Over 300 competitors ranging in age from ten to over seventy years old took part in this four day event, hosted in the home town of famous local singer Tose Proeski – a UNICEF ambassador tragically killed in a car accident in 2007.

Krusevo, at 1350m, is the highest town in the Balkans and is built on the side of a steep mountain. It's labyrinth of narrow roads, alleys, paths and steps

thus proved to be the perfect place to hold a sprint event - a type of event that is becoming increasingly popular with runners and sponsors due to good spectator value. Since it was the first time that either Diana or James had run in any town sprint - a worthwhile morning was spent training on 'model' maps of similar areas. Special mention should be made of James anyway as he only took up the sport earlier this year!

The sprint event itself ended in the town main square and the team was delighted when Kevin Main won his class, as this made up for Diana's disaster when her Sport-Ident gadget used to tag each control had not worked for her at one control. Jon came fourth and James fifth.

The Open courses held in the mountainous and thickly forested countryside high above the town proved exceedingly technical and again tested all the competitors' fitness and map reading abilities.

In the Long Distance event on Day Two, the water points out on the course had run out of water by the time our runners had even started so they are gasping for water by half way round. Despite their dehydration and the severe climb between some controls, the guys finished a creditable fifth, sixth and seventh in their class, whilst Diana was second in her group.

The Middle Distance event was challenging as well - Jon was fourth, Kevin fifth James sixth and Diana was third in their respective classes and proved yet again just how much difference even the smallest error could make to the end result.

The Tose Proeski Cup event was held on the last day and this was another technically challenging fight through ferns and forests and up and down mountains, finishing with a run-in round a picturesque man made lake just outside town. Diana, Kevin and James came second, fifth and seventh respectively, while Jon was kicking himself for missing a control.

The hospitality shown to the teams by the host town and the organisers was exceptional and they went out of their way to assist everyone.

Macedonia is an exceptionally beautiful country with friendly hospitable people and anyone who has the opportunity to visit should grasp the opportunity - and see if they can find the GEOCACHE we left behind!!

By Diana Bridger

The fellowship of football

Respect and fair play at all times' Mention the word 'football' and watch the instant passion it seems to trigger in a certain section of the human race. Such was the response to the suggestion that a mini tournament take place on the UNPA football ground with teams made up from contingents and nationalities across UNFICYP and a bi-communal Cypriot team of archaeologists from the Committee of Missing Persons (CMP).

The kick-off was set for 6pm on 4 August 2011 and just the thought of running around in temperatures well over 40 degrees, wearing brightly coloured football strips was all that was needed to gather enough teams eager to battle it out in this unique event.

UNFICYP's own football fixture expert, Rick Demetriou was the person who made the tournament happen also refereeing the final match which in the end was won by ARGCON against their worthy opponents from CMP. At the time, a travelling Brazilian film crew who were visiting UNFICYP joined in the entertainment and took the opportunity to take some professional footage of the matches.

There were no trophies to be won on the day; just the glory of taking part and finally a BBQ held at the Hungarian Bar for everyone to analyse the day's matches.

By Christine Iacovou

UN Rugby – a soldier and the Unicorns

Our CO was keen for all his troops to indulge in physical training throughout our tour. I am no lover of running so when I saw a poster for rugby training at UNPA I leapt at the chance. It had been some 16 years since I had last picked up a rugby ball, and I am larger and slower now than I was in my youth. Still, I looked on it as an opportunity to regain some of my long lost athleticism.

There was a big turnout for the first training session. Since some had never even watched a game of rugby, let alone picked up a rugby ball, we started with the basics of throwing and catching. After we had “mastered” these skills we learnt about tackling and some other basics of the game. It was good to know that I had not forgotten everything and that I was starting to settle back into the game. After the training session, we had a chat about the ethos of the club. I was reassured on hearing that it was not all about smashing people on the rugby pitch (which can be great fun by the way!). It was also about the development of the players, with a few “social” events chucked in for good measure.

Training progressed at a reasonable pace and although the personnel were never exactly the same at each session (generally due to work commitments) we slowly began to develop a “core” team.

Our first run out at the UNPA pitch featured Veterans vs Youngsters. It was dedicated to the memory of the Third Royal Anglian Group’s WO2 Graham Bean, who succumbed to a heart attack while on patrol in the Buffer Zone. Before the game got underway, players and spectators observed a minute’s silence.

I am not sure what it says about the age range on display but, happily, I was on the Youngsters’ side and we were the team to draw first blood. Sadly, “youthful” athleticism was not enough as the “oldies” moved the ball around the field in a well-drilled and disciplined manner. The game ended with a resounding victory for the Veterans.

After the game, players and supporters adjourned to the bar for “the third half”. This comprised food and liquid refreshments, the trophy presentation, and then, united as one team (the UN Unicorns), we joined forces to watch the Army v Navy game live on TV and see the British Army defeat the team of the Royal Navy. With each training session, we learnt more and more.

The backs got better at passing and movement, and the forwards worked on lines-out, scrums, rucking and mauling. Soon an improved team was facing the “Vikings” of the 1st Battalion of Royal Anglian Regiment. This was the big one. Many of the Third Royal Anglian had served with members of the Vikings before.

Despite the Unicorns showing some early promise, the more experienced Vikings eventually won out. Next came the RAF Akrotiri International Rugby 10’s Tournament. This required us to adapt our playing style to ten-a-side rugby. Still, we were reasonably confident going into the game as we felt well-drilled in what we needed to do. However, once the game began, for reasons unknown, we promptly forgot everything we had been practicing. There were some flashes of brilliance from the Unicorns but it was not enough, and we were beaten once again. Yet, no one gave up and everyone got game time.

By now, despite our aches and pains, training was stepped up to three times a week in preparation for a big game against a Barbarians team in the north. We were even more determined to get that elusive win and had yet to score a try.

On game day the team took to the field looking better than ever before. The first 20 minutes was “smash mouth” rugby as both sides looked to dominate with their forwards. With only a try and a penalty to the home team, victory was still up for grabs. Finally, after some outstanding play, the Unicorns got the long awaited try! This spurred the team on but not enough to ensure a win.

Continued on page 18



Your environment tips please!



In September 2011, in accordance with the DPKO/DFS Environmental Policy for United Nations Field Missions, UNFICYP formed an Environmental Committee that is to examine the mission's environmental activities (including but not limited to the monitoring of environmental compliance at all UNFICYP sites), collect data, and report compliance status to senior management.

The Committee will also assess environmental risks from the mission's operations, provide guidance on the required preventive and remedial actions, and assist with the development of an Environmental Action Plan.

To be able to achieve these aims, the UNFICYP's Environmental Committee asks all UNFICYP staff to participate in this effort. Your contribution can be made by sharing with the committee's members any bright environmental ideas, suggestions and observations you believe would help to succeed in creating a better eco-friendly environment at UNFICYP. This can be done by filling in the "Opportunity for Improvement" and/or "Environmental Incidents Report" forms, found in the

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on UNFICYP's intranet page, and sending them to the Environmental Committee's Group on the Lotus Notes e-mail service. Your ideas and suggestions are eagerly awaited. Remember: to accomplish an eco-friendly environment at work is important for an organization that respects its employees' health, safety and well-being, and beneficial for all of us! Please, do not be just a mere spectator in this effort!

Further information can be attained from the following Committee Members:

Themis Anthrakopoulos, Health & Safety
Athina Aristotelous, Secretary
Diana Bridger, UN Police Component
Enrique Arriola Dale, Information & Communications Technology Service
WO1 (SSM) Paul Hallett, Supply Section
Paul Kilmartin, Engineering Section
Michael Larkin, Transport Section
Lora Megerditchian, General Services Section
Hiroko Mosko, Civil Affairs Section
Brett Whitley, Engineering Section
Maj. Sandor Szabo, Military Component

Work of Committee of Missing Persons *(continued from page 7)*

This year, the International Day of the Disappeared (30 August) was marked by the online launch of another documentary *Cyprus: Digging the Past in Search of the Future*, produced by The Elders organization. The Elders are an independent group of eminent global leaders, brought together by Nelson Mandela to offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

In the film, Lakhdar Brahimi, Jimmy Carter and Desmond Tutu join four teenagers – two Greek Cypriot and two Turkish Cypriot – to learn about the CMP's efforts to search for missing persons in Cyprus. The Elders and their young friends, Idil, Tayfun, Thalia and Michael, hope that the documentary will help current and future generations to better understand the painful memories of their families and communities, and that dialogue and understanding may eventually help to heal the wounds of the past.

Both of these films address the significance of the CMP work for the people of Cyprus. The importance that is best expressed by a relative of the missing in her conversation with one of the CMP Member: "You give us courage. Thank God... Thank God..."

The Missing Persons' problem is more than a human-

itarian problem or a political issue. First and foremost, it is a human tragedy, the problem of a profound pain. The pain that does not differentiate, that has no nationality, no religion, has no race or age. Slicing through individual human hearts, it leaves deep bleeding



wounds in a society at large. The efforts to find the fate of the missing, in order to heal these wounds, can succeed only through a dialogue between the parties. The bi-communal scientific teams of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) have been working painstakingly since 2006 to return the remains of the loved ones to their families.

By Oleg Egorov

Film Digging for a Future is available at:

www.cmp-cyprus.org

Film Digging the Past in Search for the Future is available at

www.theelders.org

UN Rugby – a soldier and the Unicorns *(continued from page 17)*

Another loss but again I came away feeling incredibly proud of my team. I even boasted a cut on my nose - sustained whilst forming a ruck. The combination of blood and sweat dripping down my face made me feel like a real rugby player. Bloody but unbowed, you might say. So what have I got out of this experience?

Well, the social aspect is definitely a plus, but the team's spirit is what stands out. This is a team that sets out to enjoy and celebrate the game. Yes, it's nice to

win. But Unicorns rugby feels like it is more than that. I love the "don't quit" mentality of the team, and seeing guys who had never even watched a game of rugby before, deliver some crunching tackles on the field. If anyone asks me if it was worth the cuts, bruises, ice packs and aching muscles then I'd answer 'yes' every time.

By Corporal Jimmy Fallon



Road safety for all

Many of UNFICYP members need to use cars for carrying out their duties.

We should all remember that ninety percent of all road traffic accidents are caused by human error. Much has been done over the years to promote road safety and highlight the important role everyone has in improving safe driving but with the summer over and Christmas coming up quickly, here are some useful tips on the subject that everyone, including non-drivers, might find useful.

Dangerous, careless driving

Please remember:

- Don't drive too close to the vehicle in front. Closer you are, harder it is to stop in time and it frustrates other drivers. Be considerate.
- Feeling tired at the start of a journey limits your senses and concentration. You will only get more tired as the journey continues. Don't fall asleep at the wheel. If you do get tired, either change drivers or pull into a rest area for a sleep.
- Aggressive driving can only lead to a conflict and road rage might be the end result. If you feel your anger level rising, pull over at a safe spot and get out of your vehicle. Have a walk around and try to calm down. Heat is a major factor with road rage.

Drink and Driving

Drink driving is not acceptable. Thanks to successful "Drink Driving" awareness campaigns over the years it is now no longer considered socially acceptable to drive after drinking.

At UNFICYP, consumption of alcohol or other intoxicant (e.g. drugs) prior to or during driving is strictly prohibited (zero tolerance) and it is reason for immediate repatriation. UNFICYP SOP chapter 3 part II section 4 para 16 is very clear about impaired driving. "Drinking and driving will not be tolerated and any military/civilian/CIVPOL member of UNFICYP found guilty of drinking and driving may be repatriated".

If you are going out and want to have a drink, there are other options for you:

- Don't take your vehicle
- Designate another driver
- Arrange for a taxi or other transport options

Speeding

Speeding is one of the most common reasons of traffic accidents. You need to be aware of all speed limits both within the UNPA and when driving on Cypriot open roads and built-up areas. Driving at 25 kph, even an alert driver will require 10 metres to stop. Remember, speed limit is a limit and not a target; drive in agreement with conditions as speed causes the most deaths on roads worldwide. Watch your speedometer on a regular basis.

Driving on the left (correct) side of the road

While most of the troop-contributing countries drive on the right hand side, Cyprus belongs to the left-driving countries club. Even when you think you are used to a change in driving habits, such as driving on the

'wrong' side of the road, it is easy to forget, and suddenly find yourself driving on the right. Driving on the left is second nature for the Brits, the Irish and the Australians, but may take some other nations some time to get used to. Beware.

Safe distance

Keep safe distance between you and a vehicle in front of you in order to have enough time to react, if the car ahead does something sudden (e.g. stops in case of emergency). In general, it is recommended to keep so called "two-second" distance.

Foresighted driving

Never assume that you know what the other driver is going to do. Just because they are indicating to turn left, does not always mean they will. Anticipate that the car emerging from the junction up ahead may not stop.

Seat belts

Always wear your seat belt. Seat belts are sometimes uncomfortable, but if you don't wear a seat belt and you are involved in a crash, your car might stop suddenly, but you will not!

Turn signal

Use your turn signal to indicate that you want to turn or change lanes. Turn it on to give the cars behind you enough time to react before you make your move. Also, make sure the signal is off once you're done.

Dangerous, indiscriminate parking

Abandoning your vehicle wherever you like is not only dangerous, but selfish. When parking use a recognised parking area and if this is not available, don't park on single or double yellow lines. They are there for safety reasons

Mobile phones

Mobile telephones are now part of everyday life for most of us. The practice of driving while still having one hand on the steering wheel and one hand to your ear is not only illegal, but extremely dangerous. Most countries within the EU are now outlawing the use of mobile telephones when driving as it has been proven to distract you from your driving which could result in possible death if an accident occurs. No call is that important. If you need to make a call, pull off the road to a safe spot and park. A driver should concentrate on his driving.

Radio

Don't blast your radio. You might miss a siren or a horn that could warn you of possible trouble.

Finally

Do not forget to wear a headress when you wear uniform and drive a UN car.

If you feel that you need any advice with regards to improving your driving or with regards to the law, please contact either the Master Driver or the FMPU as both will be happy to give advice.

New Faces

Spokesperson



Michel Bonnardeaux recently joined the mission as Spokesperson coming from the Public Affairs Section in the Department of Peacekeeping operations (DPKO) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Prior to this, he worked as Chief Public Information for MINURCAT, the UN mission in Chad and the Central African Republic, where he also served as Special Advisor to the Special Representative of the Secretary General. He was deployed to Haiti immediately following the earthquake in January 2010 to head up public information efforts for MINUSTAH, the UN mission in Haiti. He has served as Spokesperson for MONUC, the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and as Producer for Radio Okapi. He also served as Public Information Manager for OCHA, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Congo.

Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Bonnardeaux worked with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation set up under the NAFTA treaty and as a communications specialist in the private sector. He received a B.A. in International Relations from McGill University, an L.L.B. Law Degree from the University of Quebec, and an M.B.A. in Organizational Behavior from Concordia University in Canada.

Commanding Officer Sector 1



Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Ramon Aguilar was born on 28 March 1965 in the city of Parana in Argentina. He graduated from the Military College as Second Lieutenant of Cavalry in 1986. During his career, he worked in various military destinations, including: Tank Cavalry Regiment 1, the Horse Grenadiers Regiment "General San Martin" and, as Instructor at the Cavalry School. In 1999, after training at the War College, he served as Staff Officer in the XI Mechanized Brigade. Afterwards, he was designated as Commanding Officer of the Exploration Armored Squadron of Cavalry 11. Currently he serves as Commanding Officer of Tanks Cavalry Regiment 11. This is Lieutenant Colonel Aguilar's third tour of duty with UN forces; in 2009 he served as Deputy Commanding Officer of UNFICYP Sector 1 (Task Force Argentina 33 and 34) while in 1995, he served in the Argentine Battalion 7 and 8 in UNPROFOR (former Yugoslavia). He holds an Official Argentine Army General Staff degree as well as a degree

in Strategy and Organization. He is married to Mrs. Susana Marini and has three children, Sebastian, Maria de los Angeles and Maria Josefina.

Commanding Officer Sector 2



Lieutenant Colonel Dom Fletcher was commissioned in April 1990. During his first posting he deployed on Gulf War 1 between January and April 1991, and to West Belfast, Northern Ireland as an Infantry Platoon Commander from November 1991 to May 1992. On the formation of the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) in April 1993, he was posted to Gutersloh, Germany as Troop Commander, during which time he successfully completed Parachute training. On promotion to Captain in 1995, he was posted to 5 Airborne Logistic Battalion. He was subsequently posted to 11 Regiment RLC as Adjutant. In 1998 he was selected to be a Platoon Commander Instructor, at Sandhurst.

In January 2000 he deployed on a six-month UN tour to Sierra Leone as a military observer with UNAMSIL. On return he was posted as SO2 J4 at the Joint Helicopter Command at HQ LAND. In 2003 he commanded 1 Squadron in 10 Transport Regiment which included a three-month tour in Iraq on Op TELIC 1. In 2005 he was posted to PJHQ Northwood, as SO2 J5 which included a six-month deployment on Afghanistan as part of the National Support Element. On selection to Lieutenant Colonel, he attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course in September 2008 gaining a Masters Degree in Defence Studies. Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher enjoys triathlon, Nordic skiing and mountain biking. His interests include backpacking, cooking and eating. He is married to Jackie, a serving RLC Officer.

Commanding Officer Sector 4



Lieutenant Colonel Jozef Panko was born in Trstena in Slovakia in 1968. He began his military career at the age of 14 when he joined the Military Secondary School. In 1991, after graduation from the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas, he deployed near Prague (former Czechoslovakia) as a specialist of Ground-Based Air Defence System (GBAD). In 1993, he returned to newly independent Slovakia and was appointed to the Air Defence Brigade where he progressed through the ranks, finally becoming Deputy Commander. Between 2006 and 2009 Lieutenant Colonel Panko served as Senior Officer for GBAD to Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein in Germany. He also took part in number of military courses in Holland, Germany, France as well several international exercises around Europe and the USA. He is married to Jarmila, and they have two children Sonia (aged 18) and Jozef (aged 14), and his hobbies include sport such as running and gym, computer skills and travelling.

Force Engineer HQ



Lieutenant Colonel Jaroslav Marko was born in 1969 in Detva, in Slovakia. He joined army in 1992, and was appointed Platoon Commander, and Coy Commander of Material Support. In 1998, he was appointed Chief of Logistics in Battalion of Support at the Headquarters of Air Forces in Zvolen. At the same time he was promoted to Captain. Between 2000 and 2003, he worked as Chief of Staff in Battalion of Material Support in Sliac. In 2003, he was promoted to Major and his military career continued as Chief of Logistics at the Air Base in Sliac. During this period, he supported mission of the Slovak Army ISAF in Afghanistan. Between 2006 and 2007, he served in UNFICYP as Senior Logistics Officer in Sector 4. Afterwards, he continued as chief of logistics at the Air Base in Sliac. In 2010, after graduation from Higher Command and Staff Course at Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and

assigned as Chief of Logistic Support Section at the Headquarters of Air Forces in Zvolen. Lieutenant Colonel Marko enjoys water sports, football, tennis and fitness. He is married to Janka and they have two sons (18- year-old Jaroslav and 12-year- old Richard).

Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer



Lieutenant Colonel Peter Williams arrived in UNFICYP in early October to replace Lt Col Paul Stockdale as Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer (CPLO). Born in Herefordshire, England in 1966, but raised and educated in Hong Kong, he describes himself as "a youthful 45 year-old with an international perspective". Lt Col Williams has served in various places around the world, both within national and NATO appointments, including: the United Kingdom, Central America, Canada, Germany, the Balkans and Afghanistan. This is not his first visit to Cyprus because he previously served with the British Forces in Akrotiri (where his son was born), but he admits that this is his first UN appointment. Lt Col Williams is a graduate of the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College, and holds Masters degrees from Kings College in London (MA) and Cranfield University (MSc). Accompanied by a very outgoing wife, Jill, and two children, he says he

has great intentions to pursue all kinds of outdoor hobbies in order to take advantage of the beautiful Cypriot weather, and feels rather spoilt for choice.

UNPOL Commander Sector 2



Superintendent Mick Lernihan was born in Galway on the west coast of Ireland in 1958. Since 1977 he has been a member of the Irish Police - An Garda Siochana - at Garda, Sergeant and Inspector rank. In 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Superintendent and since then has served in many roles in the Irish Police, including District Officer in Bray, County Wicklow, and Head of Internal Audit and National Finance Officer at Garda Headquarters. He holds a Bachelor of Business Studies Degree, Advanced Management Diploma (Post Grad) and an MBA awarded by the National University of Ireland. He is also a graduate of the European Security and Defence College having completed the High Level Course in 2007/2008. He has been involved in many exchanges with police colleagues in France, Scotland, Spain, Portugal and the USA. Mick is married to Maura (a serving Superintendent of Police in Ireland) and has three children.

OC MFR



Major Alex Atherton commissioned into the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) in 1997 and was posted to 47 Air Despatch Squadron. During this tour he deployed on Operation Banner as an infantry Multiple Commander with 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. In 2003, Major Atherton deployed on Operation Telic 1 as a Squadron 2IC with 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC. On returning from Iraq, he served with 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC. Later, in 2005, he returned to 23 Pioneer Regiment as Operations Officer for 18 months prior to assuming the role of Adjutant for 12 months. During this time he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 5. As a Major, he attended Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) and was then appointed as SO2 Contractor Support to Operations Plans at the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ). Major Atherton took command of 522 Pioneer Squadron in summer 2011 and deployed on

Operation Tosca as Officer Commanding the Mobile Force Reserve. Major Atherton occasionally represents the Army Crusaders football team. He also enjoys skiing; however his enthusiasm somewhat outweighs his ability. Never shy of a challenge he most recently completed the Troodos Walkdown and has an entry in the 2012 Edinburgh Marathon.

Visits



Brigadier A P Williams OBE, Commander 49 (East) visited UNFICYP on 3 September 2011 where he met Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



Assistant SG Anthony Banbury accompanied by a delegation from the Department of Field Service visited UNFICYP on 5 October 2011 where they met with UNFICYP officials.



SRSR Lisa M. Bутtenheim receiving gift from Senior Colonel Zhang Li, Deputy Chief of Peacekeeping Affairs Office, Ministry of Defence P.R. China, who visited UNFICYP on 10 October 2011.



Egyptian Ambassador Mrs. M.M. Bakhoun visited UNFICYP on 18 October 2011 where she met with SRSR Lisa M. Bутtenheim.



Hungarian Defence Attache Col. Tamas Varhegyi visited UNFICYP on 20 September 2011 where he met Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



Australian High Commissioner Mr. Trevor Peacock visited UNFICYP on 20 September 2011 where he met with Senior Police Adviser John Farrelly and other officials.



Australian High Commissioner Mr. Trevor Peacock, Netherlands Ambassador Mrs. B Schwachofer and Spanish Ambassador Mrs. AM Salomón Pérez visited UNFICYP on 21 October 2011 where they met with SRSG Lisa M. Buttenheim and other officials.



Col Gaston Irigoyen visited UNFICYP on 29 September 2011 where he met with Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



Brigadier General N Costantino visited UNFICYP on 30 September 2011 where he met with the Force - Commander Major General Chao Liu and other officials.



Indian Defence Attache Col. Girish Kalia visited UNFICYP on 29 September where he met with UNFICYP officials.



Danish Ambassador Ms. K. Geelan and German Ambassador Dr. Gabriela Guellil visited UNFICYP on 21 September 2011, where they met with SRSG Lisa M. Buttenheim, Senior Adviser Wlodek Cibor and other officials.



Hungarian Ambassador Mr. Balazs Botos visited UNFICYP on 28 September 2011 where he met with UNFICYP officials.



Second World War veterans celebrate Day of Peace

