The Blue Beret

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Security Council Resolution 1568

“The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 24 September 2004 (S/2004/756) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Reiterating its call to the parties to assess and address the humanitarian issue of missing persons with due urgency and seriousness, and welcoming in this regard the resumption of the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons since August 2004,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's review of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP), pursuant to resolution 1545 (2004) of 11 June 2004,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep UNFICYP beyond 15 December 2004,

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island has become increasingly benign over the last few years and that a recurrence of fighting in Cyprus is increasingly unlikely,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a further review on UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operation in advance of the next renewal of UNFICYP's mandate, including taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. Reaffirms all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;
2. Endorses the Secretary-General's recommendations for the amendment of the concept of operations and force level of UNFICYP, as outlined in his report of 24 September 2004;
3. Decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 15 June 2005;
4. Urges the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to rescind without delay all remaining restrictions on UNFICYP, and calls on all parties to cease all violations of the military status quo which existed prior to 30 June 2000;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution concurrent with the review provided for above;
6. Decides to remain seized of the matter.”

Security-Generals’s UN Day Message

Fifty-nine years ago, the United Nations was founded as an instrument of peace, human rights and development. The world is a better place because of the United Nations. But too many people are today the victims of violence, oppression, poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

We can and must do better. All people deserve to live free from fear and want. They must have hope that tomorrow will be better than today. Our common humanity requires it. Our common security demands it.

Each nation needs a government that truly serves its people. And we all need an effective United Nations - one that reflects the world we live in today, and can meet the challenges we will face tomorrow.

I believe we can build a better United Nations. That’s why I will soon be putting before world leaders a package of measures to renew the Organization. It will be up to your leaders to respond with vision and goodwill. They must find common ground at a historic meeting this time next year.

I ask you to encourage your leaders to give our world the United Nations it deserves. With your help, I know we can do it.

We are in a new era. We need a new United Nations. Let's make it happen.
I. Introduction

1. In resolution 1548 (2004) the Security Council well informed me and other UN officials of how UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operation, and decided to consider my recommendations for adjustments or renewal and invited the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of this resolution.

2. Pursuant to this resolution, review teams were established under my direction – an UNFICYP Special Representative, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, assisted by the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Herbert Figoli, and in the Secretariat, by Mr. Peter Bogaard, the Acting Director of the Europe and Latin America Division, Office of Operations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Mr. Wolfgang Wetzel-Bode, respectively. The teams conducted an in-depth assessment of the developments on the ground and the evolving role of the different components of UNFICYP. The United Nations Secretary-General visited UNFICYP from 29 August to 5 September 2004 and jointly with the UNFICYP team sought the views of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides about the situation on the ground. In addition, the teams met with representatives of the diplomatic community and the UN family in Nicosia.

II. General background

3. Since the resumption of the most recent effort of my mission of good offices in late 1999, the context in which UNFICYP operated was shaped primarily by the pace of the negotiations on a comprehensive settlement. Representatives of both communities met at various levels to discuss their differences and to come to agreement on a de facto ceasefire. My efforts came to an end with the rejection of the proposed “Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem” by the Greek Cypriot side on 26 August 2004 (Resolution 1558 (2004) of the Security Council (S/2004/637)). Throughout this period of intense negotiations, UNFICYP, assisted by the teams of the Secretariat, were the only conduit for contacts between the two sides.

4. Official contacts between leaders of both sides have ceased since the referendum in the south and Turkish Cypriot leaders have reappeared. Presently, the position of the two sides on my mission of good offices remains as reported to the Council on 26 March 2004 and as reported to the Council on 20 July 2004 by the Secretary-General. Accordingly, I continue to see no basis for resuming my good offices as long as the impasse described in that report continues. While that impasse remains unresolved as to the way forward may also be found in that report.

5. On 1 May 2004, Cyprus joined the European Union (EU). While the accession did not, as hoped, provide the catalyst for a comprehensive settlement, the EU framework, if used wisely by all parties, does have the potential to improve the climate between Cyprus, as an EU member state, and Turkey, as a candidate for EU membership. It also has potential to help reduce the disparities between the two communities on the island, promote confidence between them, and build and sustain constitutions on each side in favour of reconciliation and reunification. In this context, intra-island trade of certain goods began in August pursuant to an EU regulation. The EU Commission also recommended to the Greek Cypriot government an aid package of 250 million Euros for the Turkish Cypriots and the opening of direct trade between the north of the island and the European Union.

6. However, key decisions on the EU’s relations with Turkey and with the Turkish Cypriots have yet to be taken. This has led to considerable uncertainty on both sides of the island. The Turkish Cypriot side has opposed the Commission’s recommendations on direct trade, and has proposed its own formula for improving trade between the two sides. These have been largely dismissed by the Turkish Cypriot side, which has also expressed opposition to proposals by the EU to facilitate trade by reducing the number of customs points for goods entering the island.

7. Perhaps the single recent event to have the most impact on the implementation of the Good Offices mission was the opening of four crossing points through the Green Line in April 2003. Despite the current absence of direct relations at the political level, the opening of such crossing points to ordinary Cypriots has continued to grow. Since April 2003, there have been over four million crossings of the buffer zone per month, as compared to an average of 2,500 per month. The crossing points have been further facilitated by the Turkish Cypriot side’s willingness to enter into the south by EU nationals and Cypriots without a visa for stays up to three months, and beyond, respectively. For their part, the Turkish Cypriot authorities agreed that Greek Cypriots could show identity cards, rather than passports, when crossing the buffer zone to the north. People from both sides of the island, including the public and private sectors, have continued to meet with their counterparts and participate in common events. Many such encounters have taken place under the UNFICYP’s premise in the buffer zone with the assistance of UNFICYP.

8. In addition, proposals for confidence building measures were put forward by the Turkish Cypriot side. In June, it proposed, through UNFICYP, the withdrawal of military equipment and un-manning of positions around the old town of Nicosia and in the Derynia-Paralimni area, as well as a part of its military personnel. Other measures have included the exchange of the people in the buffer zone; the military contingents are deployed to ensure, to the extent possible, the maintenance of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines.

9. The opening of crossing points has been welcomed generally in the island, particularly in the aftermath of the events of 1974. UNFICYP’s mission of good offices is now to do its utmost to contribute to the implementation of this resolution.

III. UNFICYP’s mandate and tasks

10. Since its inception, the mandate of UNFICYP has remained unchanged. It was provided by the Security Council in Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 and expanded by Resolutions 304 (1974), 425 (1978) and 1548 (2004). UNFICYP’s function should be, in the interest of preserving international peace and security, to use its best efforts in the following respects:

(a) To make available, on request, its assistance in finding solutions to disputes.
(b) To contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order, and a return to normal conditions.
(c) To adjust its tasks in response to changes on the ground particularly in the aftermath of the events of 1974.

11. UNFICYP is comprised of three substantive components – political/civil affairs, civilian police and military. The political/civil affairs unit is engaged in aiding political, as well as humanitarian, economic and bi-communal contacts, the civilian police component contributes to the maintenance of law and order, and the military contingents are deployed to ensure, to the extent possible, the maintenance of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines. Over the years, the specific tasks of UNFICYP have substantially changed in response to the changed realities on the ground.

IV. Political and Civil Affairs

12. UNFICYP is headed by the Chief of Mission who also acts as the Senior Adviser and a Spokesperson. UNFICYP’s civil affairs branch consists of two civil affairs officers, who are supported by a military police liaison officer and military personnel dedicated specifically to this task.

13. The Chief of Mission provides overall leadership to UNFICYP’s civilian components. The Chief of Mission’s Action Branch serves as the Senior Adviser’s deputy. Because the Office of the Senior Adviser has no substantive support staff, and in the absence of a political office within UNFICYP, the civil affairs branch has assumed some functions normally carried out in a political section. It has become a de-facto extension of the Office of the Chief Mission, regularly supporting that office’s mediating efforts, negotiating, facilitating, and in some cases providing humanitarian assistance.

14. The review team recommended a small increase in the staffing of the Office of the Chief Mission and the civil affairs branch for this purpose.

V. Civilian Police

15. UNFICYP’s civilian police perform a range of community and humanitarian tasks. These include contributing to the maintenance and restoration of law and order in the buffer zone; preserving its integrity from unauthorized entry; preventing or activities of civilians; and facilitating and monitoring investigations in the buffer zone by the Cyprus Police and the Turkish Cypriot Police. UNFICYP’s civilian police personnel will be of the current strength of UNFICYP’s civilian police component is 69 personnel, the actual strength is 44 personnel (see annex), deployed at the Cyprus Police station in or near the buffer zone.

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18. UNFICYP’s civilian police branch, supported by the police and military components of the mission, still carries out its tasks, but the number of personnel involved in these tasks has significantly diminished. Today, civil affairs officers intervene on behalf of a member of one community on the other side, if they are aware of a situation that affects them positively or negatively. Today, civil affairs officers intervene on behalf of a member of one community on the other side, if they are aware of a situation that affects them positively or negatively. Civil affairs officers also mediate between the sides on economic matters that are not covered by the military sector.

19. Civil affairs officers also serve as a source of advice to the civilian police component in cases of arrest, detention and trial on either side; and provide analysis and reporting on political developments. Goodwill from the two sides, combined with UNFICYP’s impartial role, underpin these efforts promoting a return to normal conditions and the well-being of the population on both sides.

20. The review team recommended a small increase in the staffing of the Office of the Chief Mission and the civil affairs branch for this purpose.

Continued overleaf
The Blue Beret
The Ruins of Amathus

Founded in the 8th century BC and reconstruced various times until the 2nd century AD, Amathus had a defensive system that included the Southwést Wall and Gate (5), the Central Wall of the Acropolis (6), the West Wall (10), the North Wall (13), the East wall (15), and the East Gate (18). The complex of the Agora (market place) (1), includes a large paved square with porticos, Roman and Hellenistic baths, a Nymphsium, shops and a drainage system. North of the Agora is a Subterranean Cult Place (2), while in the west, a Complex of Buildings (3), is arranged on three levels. At the foot of the Acropolis is a small Basilica Church (4).

At the Palace (7), high quality of the workmanship and the finding of clay seals painted red and many large storage-jugs suggest an important administrative and economic centre. Built in the middle of the 8th century BC and reconstruced later around 500 BC, the Palace was partially destroyed many centuries later.

The Archae and Hellenistic houses (8) are found some 50 metres west of the Palace. The Stairway of Kalimikos (9), was a gift by L.V. Kalimikos, a Greek, who became a Roman citizen.

The Sanctuary of Aphrodite began functioning in the 6th century BC. Although very little remains of this period, religious vestiges found here indicate Greek, Eastern and Egyptian influences. In the courtyard there were two colossal monolithic vases of the 8th century BC, fragments of one remain in place, while the other was taken to the Louvre in 1865. This vase weighs about 15 tons and measures almost 2 metres high and more than 3 metres in diameter.

An inscription on the bull under one of the handles, written in the Cypriote Syllabary, reads "a-na". This word means nothing in Greek, and in fact belongs to the Eteocypriot language. The term "Eteocypriot" was coined by scholars in the 19th century to denote the indigenous population of Cyprus before the arrival of the Greeks and the Phoenicians in the 13th and 9th centuries BC, respectively. (Eteocypriot inscriptions showed great similarities to the Aegean Middle Bronze population.) Greek and Eteocypriot were the two official languages of the empire of the 8th century BC. The Church of Saint Tychon (16) was constructed in 700-100 AD under Roman rule. Later in the 6th and 7th centuries, stones from the temple were used to construct a Church (12) measuring 32 by 15 metres, which was the last monument built here.

The Church (14), probably Hellenistic, traverses the cemetery on the southern wall NW-SW direction.

The Church of Saint Tychon (16) is dedicated to the first Bishop of Amathus. Numerous remains of the first (4th century) and the second (5th century) phase of the building. Only the third and final Frankish construction (14th-15th centuries) remains a small building of 26 by 7 metres.

The Church of Saint Tychon Church lies the Hellenistic Eastern Suburb (17), with a paved and centrally drained road connecting them.

Remains of the podium of a Mausoleum (19) were found in the cemetery outside the city on the east. The Great Southeast Basilica (20) is a huge church, originally 70 metres in length. This three-aisled basilica of the 6th century lost its southern half to the sea.

The Outer Harbour (21), constructed at the end of the 4th century BC, measured 180 by 100 metres. It silted up quite soon after its construction, but its submerged jetties can be seen through the water.

The Inner Harbour (22) occupied the sandy depression between the ticket office and the modern coastal road. As the outer harbour flooded, and silted up and access between the two harbours was hampered, it was gradually abandoned.

The Eastern and Basilica of Saint Barbara (23). A number of important rock-cut tombs were found in this cemetery. To its west, excavations brought to light a grotto chapel of Saint Barbara.

A Rock-cut Tomb (24) with a central and three subsidiary lunette chambers at the end of a long dromos was found west of Amathus.

The West Cemetery and the Tomb of the Amathus Beach Hotel (25).

A varied selection of finds, both of religious and non-religious nature, are to be seen in the Limassol Museum.

Stone vase transferred to the Louvre in 1865

Marble head from the Sanctuary of Aphrodite

South of Saint Tychonas Limassol’s eastern suburb lies the once important ancient site of Amathus, one of the island’s oldest city-states. Here, on an uphill area north of the coastal road, archaeologists are still in the process of unravelling the site’s mysteries and revealing its past.

A already, however, architectural ruins that spread over an area of about five square kilometres suggest immense material to show how Amathus might have looked during the various phases of its long history, spanning from the last years of the 2nd millennium BC to the end of the 7th century AD.

According to mythology, the name of the city comes from Amathus, the son of Aias, King of Paphos, and grandson of Herakles. In another story, the name derives from Amathus, the mother of King Kinyras of Paphos.

In efforts to reveal the history behind the mythology, excavations using proper scientific methods were carried out by the legendary Swedish CyproExpedition in 1930, and later by the Department of Antiquities and the French School of Archaeology in Athens.

The finds surrendered by the excavations so far show that the settlement around Amathus had been inhabited as early as the aceramic Neolithic period (approximately 8000-7500 BC). The earliest pottery deposit at Amathus itself, however, dates much later, to about 1100 BC. This indicates that people lived in the area long before the city-kingdom was founded in the 8th century BC. It is easy to understand why the site of Amathus was chosen; it had natural defences: was close to forests and areas with water supplies; the sea allowed for a double defences; was close to forested areas and water supplies; the sea allowed for a double

In 499/8 BC, during the Greco-Persian war, the king of Amathus fought on the side of the Persians – who then controlled the island – against his fellow kings, such as the king of Salamis. Later, under Roman rule, Amathus became the capital of one of the four Roman districts on the island. Arab raids in the 7th century AD, however, and the silting-up of the harbour, led to the city’s gradual decline.

The result is extensive ruins that include the defensive walls and gates, along with public buildings such as the palace, agora, acropolis, temples (which were turned into churches with the arrival of Christianity), aqueducts, cemeteries and individual tombs, as well as an inn and an outer harbour.

2003 found the Regiment deploying with 3 RHA on behalf of the Army Contingent in the then neutral land of Cyprus. The guns were used extensively throughout the conflict. After briefly returning to Gutersloh, the Regiment then went back to Iraq on OP TELIC 3 as an Infantry battle group. Another quick turn around in Germany and now the Regiment is in Cyprus.

Sector 1 Rotation

Every six months, a rotation of the majority of Sector 1 personnel takes place. This time, the rotation was completed on 7 October and coincided with the rotation of the Commanding Officer, a one-year post. Thus, Lt. Col. Federico Sidders assumed command of the Sector.

L t. Col. Federico Sidders was born on 8 May 1959 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He completed high school studies in 1976, joining the Argentine Army the following year as a cadet of the Military Academy. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant of the Cavalry Corps four years later in 1980, and was appointed to the 4th Cavalry Mountain Regiment.

As a junior officer, he also served in the 1st Cavalry Explorer Armoured Squadron, School of Cavalry, 161 Cavalry Explorer Armoured Detachment and Cavalry Cadets “General San Martin” Regiment.

After completion of the Staff Officer’s Course at the Superior War College in 1994, he was appointed to the 7th Cavalry Tank “Cuirassiers Coronel Estomba” Regiment, where he served as Operations Officer and afterwards as Second in Command from 1997 to 1999.

He was then assigned to the Operations Department at the Army General Staff Headquarters. In 2003, he assumed command of the 11th Cavalry Tank “Defenders of National Honor” Regiment, the unit where he served until his latest assignment as CO Sector 1.

Lt. Col. Sidders is married to Maria Teresa Casanova, and they have three children, Federico (15), María Mercedes (14) and Lucía (9).

Nobel Peace Prize 2004

T he Secretary-General was delighted to learn of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2004 to Wangari Maathai, which shows that the Nobel Committee shares his view on the need for a broad vision of human security, in which the connections between peace, development and social justice are clearly understood.

Renowned and admired throughout out her native Kenya and across Africa for her pioneering struggle against deforestation and for women’s rights and democracy, Ms. Maathai has also played an important role at UN conferences such as the Earth Summit, making an imprint on the global quest for sustainable development. Her commitment has had a long and fruitful relationship with the United Nations, including membership on various UN advisory and expert committees and as a goodwill ambassador for UN Women. Her tireless work has brought new urgency to the causes to which she has devoted her life.

New York, 8 October 2004
New Faces from.....

The Netherlands

Our new Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer is Lt. Col. Alex Thomas Boyd.

Lt. Col. Boyd’s previous peacekeeping work includes a posting as Chief Logistcs Officer at UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone and various positions at UNIKOM in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Boyd was raised in Glascow and describes himself as being “of pure Scottish stock.”

“My wife Christine joins me in early November,” he explains joyfully, “and we look forward to exploring Cyprus and the Middle East together during this tour. I do speak poor Arabic, and can order a beer in many other languages.”

“No doubt my daughter Sophie, who is a holistic therapist and world traveller, will join us at the earliest opportunity. On the other hand, my son Ross may find it difficult to visit extensively, as he is currently going through his officer training at Sandhurst and will have little free time this year.”

Lt. Col. Boyd plans to continue studying after he retires from the military.

Hungary

Sector 4’s new Deputy Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Csaba Csorba, was commissioned into the Hungarian Air Defence in 1984.

He served in 14th Air Defence Regiment as Platoon Leader and Deputy Battery Commander. Then in 1989, he was posted to 5th Anti-Aircraft Brigade as Battery Commander. After attending a Staff Officer’s course, he was appointed Operations Officer at brigade level. In 1994, he was posted to 3nd Mechanized Brigade as Chief of the Air Defence Branch.

After graduating from the Hungarian Defence University in military management, he was posted to 3rd Mechanized Division as Acting Deputy Chief of the Air Defence Branch. He presently holds the position of Chief of Staff, 5th Air Defence Missile Regiment.

Lt. Col. Csorba is married to Katalin and they have a son (17). His interests include travelling and history.

Canada

Ross Wickware is our new Field Security Officer.

Originally from Calgary, Canada, Ross is a former military peacekeeper. His first tour was in Bosnia in 1994. Then in 2002, he worked as Field Security Adviser, Northern Region, for the World Food Programme in Afghanistan, and in 2004, he set up the Security Programme for 10 international NGOs in the province of Balochistan, Pakistan.

“I was in Quetta, Pakistan, when the opportunity to work for UNFICYP arose, and I jumped at the opportunity. I was in the process of hiring national staff when this position was offered, so I hired a replacement for me as well,” explains Ross.

“A bit of a cultural shock, from the dust of south central Asia, to the beauty of a Mediterranean island,” Ross Wickware states. “I am pleased to be a part of the mission, and look forward to assisting all staff in making this a safer and more secure operational area.”

Visitors to UNFICYP from ..... 

Austria

The Austrian Federal Minister of the Interior, Dr. E. Strasser, together with members of his ministry, paid an official visit to Cyprus on 7 and 8 October.

On 8 October, Mr. Strasser visited HQ UNFICYP. He was welcomed by an honour guard, following which he and his entourage were greeted by the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli.

After the welcome, the Senior Adviser, Mr. Wlodek Cibor, gave a short briefing to the Minister on the current situation in Cyprus.

The Austrian Minister did not leave without meeting with the Austrian personnel (military and civilian) currently serving with HQ UNFICYP.

This meeting took place at the UNOPS offices where veterinary specialist Dr. Gerhard Zechner gave a short briefing on the work of UNOPS.

Soon after, Mr. Strasser and his entourage left the island for the next stage of their tour – Italy.

Slovakia

The State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Slovakia, Mr. Martin Fedor, along with the Director of his office, paid a visit to UNFICYP on 7 and 8 October.

UNFICYP Senior Adviser, Mr. Wlodek Cibor, welcomed the Slovak visitors to the HQ on 7 October and briefed them on the political situation in Cyprus.

Then the State Secretary and the Slovak Ambassador were escorted to the old Nicosia International Airport for a further briefing. Afterwards, State Secretary Fedor met with Slovak peacekeepers serving at the Headquarters to discuss various issues concerning their tours.

The next day, the State Secretary, accompanied by CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko, went on a tour of the buffer zone to see Slovak soldiers on duty close up.

In Famagusta’s General Stefaník Camp, the State Secretary met with senior military personnel and also took the opportunity to visit the liaison post in the Karpas.

Buffer Zone Run

During the month of October, three cheques totalling £1,066 were presented to three charities in Cyprus: “Help Those With Cancer” (north Cyprus); “Cans for Kids” (south Cyprus); and the Kyrenia Leonard Cheshire Home.

The money was raised by Sgt. Lee Crawford and MSGt. Guido Abi from HQ UNFICYP when they ran 100 km through the buffer zone from UN OP 8 (Sector 1) to the Ledra Palace Hotel.

Sgt. Lee is presenenting one of the cheques to Raziy Şokasçan of the Help Those With Cancer association. Raziy Şokasçan said: “I am very happy to receive this donation on behalf of the association, as it will allow 10 cancer patients to be flown overseas for treatment.”

Sgt. Lee intends to run the entire length of the buffer zone from UN OP 8 to UN OP 146 (Baywatch – Sector 4) in March 2005 for the same charities.
Introducing...

Name: Vera Musil
Captain, Doctor
Status: Single
Place of Birth: Slavonski Brod
Education: 1997 graduate and 2001 post-graduate of the Faculty of Management and Computer Science in Varazdin.

Military Experience: Joined the Croatian armed forces in 1996 after 10 months of service as a conscript.

Previous Appointment: Chief of IT Section of the operational branch in Sector 4.

UNMOC Assignment: Duty Officer, Sector 4.

Interests: Free time spent in gym keeping fit and playing various sports, computers and sometimes plays chess. At Camp General Stefaňik, he won all the games he played.

Capt. Macanga is proud to be the first Croatian soldier to serve with UNFICYP, and hopes more Croatian soldiers will serve in Cyprus under the UN flag in the future.

Name: Danijel Macanga
Captain and Commander of the Croatian Contingent.

Status: Married to Mirta; they have a nine-year-old daughter, Anamarija.

Place of Birth: Đakovo (near Osijek and Vukovar in the Slavonia district).

Education: 1997 graduate and 2001 post-graduate of the Faculty of Management and Computer Science in Varazdin.

Military Experience: Joined the Croatian armed forces in 1996 after 10 months of service as a conscript.

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Martial Arts Training

and the experiences we gain which cause us to adopt the same philosophy and principles, will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

It is an art that does not have an equal, either in power or technique. As a martial art, its discipline, technical and mental training are mortars to construct a pillar of justice, humanity and resolution.

What is the objective of these six months of training?

The supreme objective of TKD is to eliminate the idea that the strong always beat the weak, whether it be on the basis of humility, justice, wisdom, morality or faith.

This practice aims to elevate the human spirit to the highest level; to have the will to progress, even though this may be arduous; and to do what is worth doing, no matter how many difficulties arise.

To be gentle with people; to be a teacher who can guide anyone, regardless of race, religion or ideology; to teach by attitude and ability, not only with words; to be an eternal teacher, who teaches with the body when young and with words when old.

The hours used in training and physical exercises are not wasted hours, given the personal satisfaction.

Although TKD is practised solely for the exercise, the benefits are commensurate with the amount of time put into it. The exercise benefits are the same for children and women as for young or adult men.

What can be said about the classes?

At first we started classes in the UNPA’s gym, but soon, with the increase of students, we had to move to the hangar of the Blueprint.

We meet three times a week, always trying to fix a day and time that does not interfere with everyday duties. Each class lasts one to two hours, depending on the theme of the day. Basically, a class is divided into the following: warm-up and stretching, basic techniques, free attacks, sport combat, self-defence, and basic forms (TULS).

As a greater knowledge and technique is obtained, theoretical and practical examinations are taken to evaluate the students.

The classes were very well attended and today, after only two months, we have 13 students, some of whom have taken the first examination with very good results.

UK Air Cadets Pay a Flying Visit to UNFICYP

On 19 October, UNFICYP hosted a party of air cadets and their instructors visiting Cyprus from Scotland. One of the goals of the visit was to give them an insight into the history of Cyprus and the reason for the presence of UNFICYP.

The first port of call was Nicosia Airport, where the party was hosted by RSM Doherty from Ireland. The visit started with a briefing in the shade of the former control tower building, which coincided with the departure of one of the ARGAIR UN Flight helicopters. The party then split into two groups and toured the airport as well as the facilities where they were shown the area formally used by the Royal Air Force, the terminal building and the hulk of a Cyprus Airways Trident 3.

After a packed lunch, the group transferred to Wolsley Barracks, where 2 Regt, Royal Artillery attached to UNFICYP, played host.

Following a briefing on the role carried out by the Royal Artillery, the instructors were given a fascinating tour of the Green Line through central Nicosia.

The Air Cadet Organisation is funded by the British Ministry of Defence. Its aims are to develop citizenship skills in young people between the ages of 13 and 22 by providing opportunities for them to participate in flying, gliding, adventure training and the opportunity to acquire educational qualifications through a Vocational Training Scheme.