

# BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

April/May 2017



Honoring fallen UNFICYP peacekeepers

**PLUS**

**ANZAC DAY**

Trust Building **SYMPOSIUM**

# BLUE BERET

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

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# Editorial

Welcome to the April-May 2017 issue of the Blue Beret Magazine! It's been a hectic couple of months for the mission, with the negotiations at a critical point and the various UNFICYP units providing their usual stellar support to the peace process.

SRSG Spehar has kept busy with the talks in her role as the Deputy Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, and has also spent a good deal of time meeting various sections of civil society, including the Peace Players, academia and bi-communal NGOs in the Kyrenia area. These engagements are all part of UNFICYP's commitment to lend support to initiatives promoting inter-communal dialogue and understanding across the island.

Force Commander Humayun has continued his able management of the Force; among many other tasks, he and the SRSG paid a visit to Athienou in Sector 4 in early April. Maj. Gen. Humayun has also received a number of high profile guests, including the Deputy Force Commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Brig. Gen. Sandeep Singh Bajaj.

The annual commemoration of Anzac Day was bittersweet this year, as the 25 April dawn service was the last ceremony to be

held before the departure of Australian UNPOL from the ranks of UNFICYP's peacekeepers. More than 1,600 Australian officers have contributed to UNFICYP since 1964 in what was the UN's first deployment of civilian police in a peacekeeping mission. We pay tribute to Australia for its significant contribution to peace in Cyprus.

The latest rotation of UNFICYP troops is now fully immersed in their duties; meet some of the new faces from the sectors and HQ in this edition of the Blue Beret, and read about the thorough training for our new Military Observer and Liaison Officers and Sector Civil Affairs and Military Liaison Officers.

Each year on 29 May, the United Nations honours the memory of peacekeepers who lost their lives in the service of peace. The SRSG and Force Commander will lead an annual ceremony at UNFICYP HQ on 29 May to honour their memory. This year, Sector 4 engineers and the Austrian contingent restored a cross memorialising M/Cpl Wolfgang Leeb, an Austrian UNFICYP soldier who passed away in a tragic diving accident in 1993. We offer our highest tribute to the memory of those who have paid the ultimate price in service to peace, and our sincere condolences to their loved ones.



# Memorial cross honouring M/Cpl Wolfgang Leeb undergoes restoration

18 May 2017 - Sector 4 engineers, in collaboration with the mission's Austrian contingent, have completed the restoration of a cross honouring the memory of M/Cpl Wolfgang Leeb, who died in a tragic accident while diving in the area off Cape Greco on 2 May 1993. M/Cpl Leeb was born in Graz, Austria on 19 May 1966. He joined the army in 1984 and served on occasion with the Air Force and other units; he first served with UNFICYP from 6 July 1990 to July 1991, and was again deployed to Cyprus in November 1992, working as a driver with the Austrian battalion. The cross honouring his memory was painstakingly restored by Sector 4 Engineers Cpl Farkas and Pfc Zvolensky. On 18 May 2017, members of the Austrian contingent visited the cross and expressed their gratitude to the Sector Engineers for their work to preserve the memory of M/Cpl Leeb. M/Cpl Leeb is one of 186 UNFICYP personnel to have perished in Cyprus. Every year, on 29 May, the UN recognises the sacrifice made by fallen UN peacekeepers in service to peace.



# Peaceplayers

On Saturday 6 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus & Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, spent time with PeacePlayers International - Cyprus, enjoying a presentation of the organisation's activities, and later in the afternoon cheering on the youth as they played basketball.

The SRSG was inspired by the strong bonds formed between youth from across the island as a result of their participation in PeacePlayers International-Cyprus, which, beyond basketball, also teaches leadership and other key life skills, and fosters trust-building. She reaffirmed UNFICYP's continued support for

the important contribution of the organisation to building a culture of peace in Cyprus.

PeacePlayers International is a basketball initiative that grew from two brothers coaching Catholic and Protestant children in Northern Ireland, to a multi-country programme molding young leaders and breaking down barriers between communities on three continents.

PeacePlayers International began working in Cyprus in 2006, bringing Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot children and teens together to play basketball, but also to break stereotypes, forge inter-communal friendships and build leadership skills.





## Dawn ceremony marks ANZAC Day as Australian Police prepare to depart Cyprus

This year's traditional ANZAC Day dawn service was a particularly poignant one for the Australian Federal Police and UNFICYP, as the current – and 111th – contingent, will be the last deployed to Cyprus following a proud, 53-year history on the island.

A senior Australian delegation, including Justice Minister Michael Keenan and Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan, visited Australian UNPOL members in Cyprus as part of a scheduled visit to honour fallen soldiers on ANZAC Day.

At the dawn service, held in Wayne's Keep in the buffer zone, Mr. Keenan and Deputy Commissioner Phelan joined guests from all components of UNFICYP and the diplomatic community to remember and honour the sacrifice of the first ANZACs and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace.

As part of the service, family members of the Australian contingent laid wreaths at gravesites of deceased Australians

and New Zealanders from WWII, while the Minister, Deputy Commissioner and invited Ambassadors also laid wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice. During his address, Australian Police Contingent Commander Bronwyn Carter reminded guests of the sacrifice of the ANZACs and the ongoing need to strive for peace.

"On this day, mindful of the awful costs of war, we renew our commitment to make peace and to keep peace. It is fitting that we do so here in Cyprus, where the troops and police of many countries have come to build and maintain peace and security," she said.

A gunfire breakfast was then hosted by the Australian Contingent at the International Mess, located in the UN Protected Area.

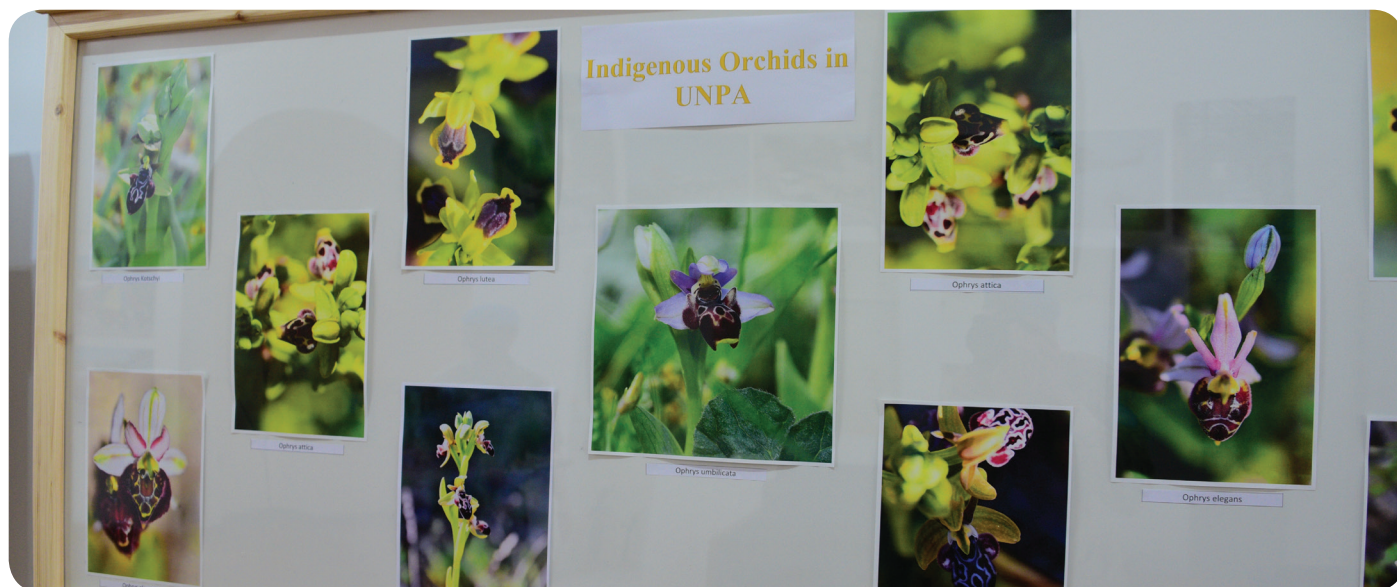
UNPOL and UNFICYP's military contingent provided support to the Australian Contingent in the planning and delivery of the event. The success of the Service was greatly due to the assistance and enthusiasm provided by the entire UNFICYP family.



Australian Police Contingent Commander Bronwyn Carter and UNFICYP Chief-of-Staff Colonel Tim Wildish at the Dawn Service



Australia's final - and 111th - contingent to UNFICYP: Reinder De Vries, Contingent Commander Bronwyn Carter, Paul King



## Untouched buffer zone bursting with biodiversity

**U**NFICYP personnel have the experience of working daily in the UN buffer zone in Cyprus, but not many of us are aware of the unique aspects of our area of operation; for example, did you know that there are 358 plant species in the buffer zone, 13 of which are endemic to Cyprus?

Did you know that there are 18 species of Mammals – the island boasts 36 species – and significant populations of vulnerable bird species facing habitat loss?

Many areas of the buffer zone have become a de facto nature reserve because of the limited human activity there. For many years, the status of the ecosystems within this narrow strip of land was mostly unknown, but a series of bi-communal biodiversity surveys funded by UNDP-ACT have provided a wealth of information as to the flora and fauna of the “Green Line”.

While these surveys did reveal the presence of several rare and endemic species, they also highlighted the role of the buffer zone as a reservoir for diseases and pests, as well as invasive species. The surveys also raised concerns about illegal activities in the buffer zone, such as illegal hunting, trapping and rubbish dumping, all of which threaten the delicate ecological balance of the island.

UNFICYP’s Environmental Committee organized a presentation for staff on biodiversity in the buffer zone on 31 March, with Nicolas Jarraud, the scientific coordinator at the Cyprus Institute, giving the keynote address.

“It’s not that we find radically different species in the buffer zone than in the rest of Cyprus, it’s just that the populations in the buffer zone in many cases are more robust, because there is less pressure from human activity and habitat loss”, he said. Asked about future ideas for the buffer zone, he said: “I would

say that what is essential is to start from now a participatory bi-communal dialogue on a buffer zone “master plan” for the sustainable development of the area in the event of a settlement, and the sustainable management of the area in case the status quo continues. It is essential that this is a bottom-up process, involving all the communities who either used to live or still live within the buffer zone and its surroundings”.

Regarding the role of UNFICYP Environmental Committee, Paulos Demissie, Chief Engineer at UNFICYP and chairperson of the committee said: “The UNFICYP Environmental Committee is constituted to advise and support UNFICYP Senior Leadership and all Mission Components in undertaking tasks and activities in accordance with the DFS Environmental Strategy, which includes but is not limited to: Monitoring environmental compliance at all UNFICYP sites, assessing environmental risks from UNFICYP operations and providing guidance on the required preventive/remedial actions; and develop Environmental Action Plan for the Mission to address the main environmental issues related to its operation”.

UNFICYP, through the UN’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations and its Department of Field Support, is an active member of a UN-wide working group on sustainability management, promoting ‘Greening the Blue’, the official UN campaign to make a more sustainable United Nations. The Mission is conducting activities to ensure the sustainability of its areas of operation – these include tree planting, as well as plans to achieve progress across five key pillars: energy, water and wastewater, solid waste, wider impact and environmental management system.



# International Day of Peacekeepers

## Honoring fallen UNFICYP peacekeepers

### IN MEMORIAM

Sgt. H Bassam	United Kingdom	18 April	1964	WO2 N Westberg	Sweden	6 October	1966
Pte. J Matikainen	Finland	20 May	1964	Sgt. O Foulkes	United Kingdom	6 October	1966
Dvr. L Platt	United Kingdom	7 June	1964	Lt.Col. C Chettle MC	United Kingdom	16 February	1967
Maj. E Lacey	United Kingdom	7 June	1964	Cpl. O Redmond	Canada	10 March	1967
Tpr. J Campbell	Canada	31 July	1964	Cfn. S Houghton	United Kingdom	13 July	1967
Sgt. Neilsen	Denmark	13 August	1964	2Lt. A C N Mitchell	United Kingdom	13 August	1967
Lt. P Gordon-Smith	United Kingdom	28 October	1964	Pte. K K Kangasmaki	Finland	7 Sept	1967
Pte. C E Gjedsted	Denmark	26 Nov	1964	Cpl. A K Salmon	Canada	24 Sept	1967
Lt. K E Edmonds	Canada	25 Dec	1964	Capt. C McNamara	Ireland	16 January	1968
Sgt. N Larson	Denmark	11 January	1965	Pte. O Soerensen	Denmark	14 April	1968
Pte. F Smith	United Kingdom	10 February	1965	Sgt. L G Andersson	Sweden	26 May	1968
Sgt. W Macauley	United Kingdom	22 February	1965	Pte. R L G Gissel	Denmark	29 May	1968
Sgt. J Hammill	Ireland	7 April	1965	Cpl. J Fagan	Ireland	10 June	1968
Sgt. R J Kiviniemi	Finland	3 May	1965	Pte. B K Kannan	United Kingdom	11 August	1968
Cpl. T Hollingsworth	United Kingdom	7 June	1965	Lt. R Byrne	Ireland	20 Sept	1968
Cpl. W Heterington	Ireland	19 July	1965	WO T Samuelsson	Sweden	28 February	1969
Rfn. P J Hoare	Canada	14 August	1965	Pte. J T Chelmick	United Kingdom	24 May	1969
Pte. P Soininen	Finland	5 October	1965	WO T R Jokinen	Finland	3 June	1969
WO S Attemalm	Sweden	5 October	1965	Tpr. M Kennedy	Ireland	1 July	1969
Capt. P K Jarvinen	Finland	12 Dec	1965	Sgt. L J Thomas	Australia	26 July	1969
Gen. K S Thimayya	India	18 Dec	1965	Pte. J A Lerue	Canada	9 February	1970
Gdsm. J J P Chartier	Canada	14 March	1966	Pte. D Newstead	United Kingdom	11 February	1970
Pte. K T Jorgensen	Denmark	18 March	1966	Pte. T J Hall	Canada	31 July	1970
Pte. J Knudson	Denmark	18 March	1966	Maj. F R Hansen	Denmark	2 Sept	1970
Mr. Z Maydenov	Secretariat	18 March	1966	Cpl. P C Isenor	Canada	26 October	1970
Pte. J Antera Huha	Finland	8 June	1966	SAC E E Mellish	United Kingdom	24 Dec	1970
Pte. J E Jonsson	Sweden	6 July	1966	Rfn. R P Hill	United Kingdom	2 January	1971
Pte. J P E Bernard	Canada	9 July	1966	Rfn. K Chavenor	United Kingdom	4 January	1971
Tpr. J J Synott	United Kingdom	9 July	1966	LCpl. K R Truswell	United Kingdom	4 March	1971
Pte. M J Tilus	Finland	7 August	1966	Pte. S Cummins	Ireland	11 June	1971
Tpr. L W Nass	Canada	27 Sept	1966	Cpl. J B Neilsen	Denmark	12 July	1971





# IN MEMORIAM

Insp. P M Hackett	Australia	29 August	1971	Cpl. R J Munton	United Kingdom	4 Sept	1981
Pte. H Faickley	United Kingdom	18 Sept	1971	Pte. F S A Thomas	Denmark	26 Nov	1981
Ranger F T McLernon	United Kingdom	9 March	1972	Pte J E R Archambalt	Canada	30 Nov	1981
Cpl. H B Oboril	Austria	3 August	1972	LCpl. J Oberberger	Austria	16 January	1982
Dvr. B J Lover	United Kingdom	13 August	1972	Tpr. K W E Randall	United Kingdom	23 January	1982
Pte. E Mearns	United Kingdom	13 August	1972	Pte. A J Prins	Canada	25 Sept	1982
Sgt. L C Fjellstrom	Sweden	20 August	1972	Pte. D M Wilson	Canada	22 January	1983
MCpl. J R Lassard	Canada	1 December	1972	Pte. P M Thomassen	Denmark	5 July	1983
Capt. M T Toumi	Finland	20 January	1973	Pte. R Silek	Austria	23 February	1984
Miss A Valentine	Secretariat	29 January	1973	Pte. P P Salender	Sweden	3 March	1984
Sgt. C H Edenberg	Sweden	29 January	1973	ALCpl. W Dickenson	United Kingdom	27 May	1984
Sgt. L Enberg	Sweden	29 January	1973	Pte. A Glaser	Austria	4 July	1984
Pte. J B Masters	United Kingdom	8 February	1973	Cpl. M A Wagstaff	United Kingdom	29 Sept	1984
CSgt. J L Meacock	United Kingdom	28 March	1973	Lt. K Kleminten	Austria	8 Nov	1984
Pte. W R A Mallone	United Kingdom	21 June	1973	Pte. M Kern	Sweden	1 Dec	1984
2Lt. G A Paterson	United Kingdom	13 October	1973	LCpl. D P Key	United Kingdom	25 Dec	1984
2Lt. K B Petersen	Denmark	9 December	1973	Pte. W Ter	Sweden	26 January	1985
Insp. W Payer	Austria	10 January	1974	Cpl. W Hagel	Sweden	7 Sept	1985
LCpl. J E Laird	United Kingdom	2 February	1974	Pte. S R Hylander	Sweden	15 Sept	1985
Cpl. A Roach	Canada	17 February	1974	Pte. J Hingesberg	Denmark	26 March	1986
Supt. V J G Fogt	Denmark	15 March	1974	Pte. P J Trotter	Canada	25 April	1986
Pte. N O Pedersen	Denmark	1 June	1974	MCpl. M MacRae	Canada	5 December	1986
Sgt. C A Wamback	Canada	30 June	1974	Dvr. S Garland	United Kingdom	5 May	1987
Gdsm. G Lawson	United Kingdom	21 July	1974	LCpl. N Tulloch	United Kingdom	22 October	1987
Pte. J L G Perron	Canada	8 August	1974	Maj. P M Christensen	Denmark	14 April	1988
LCpl. A Isak	Austria	14 August	1974	Gdsm. L D Sinclair	United Kingdom	20 April	1989
Lt. J Izay	Austria	14 August	1974	Tpr. J J Costello	United Kingdom	12 Dec	1989
MSgt. F Decombe	Austria	14 August	1974	Sgt. F Maier	Austria	27 January	1990
Pte. C S Andersen	Denmark	16 August	1974	Tpr. T G Burkat	United Kingdom	20 May	1990
Sgt. D S Christensen	Denmark	16 August	1974	LCpl. A H Rimmer	United Kingdom	15 July	1990
Pte. J J C Berger	Canada	9 Sept	1974	LBdr. M A Moorcroft	United Kingdom	8 August	1990
Sgt. J D Ward	Australia	12 Nov	1974	Cpl. G H Garrad-Cole	United Kingdom	7 Sept	1990
Pte. J J Huttenen	Finland	25 Dec	1974	Cpl. K J Easter	United Kingdom	7 Sept	1990
Maj. D R Wingefalk	Sweden	25 Dec	1974	LCpl. M D Owen	United Kingdom	7 Sept	1990
Pte. K O Mogensen	Denmark	10 February	1975	LCpl. S G Shrubsole	United Kingdom	7 Sept	1990
Pte. P Thygesen	Denmark	21 February	1975	Sgt. G Poms	Austria	20 February	1991
Pte. H D Ollinen	Sweden	17 March	1975	Lt.Col. E Anderson	United Kingdom	14 May	1991
Pte. D C Hurley	United Kingdom	17 March	1975	Tpr. S McGee	United Kingdom	21 May	1991
Capt. J E Patten	Canada	1 April	1975	Sgt. M Schmuck	Austria	4 December	1992
Pte. S J Kholman	Canada	11 April	1975	Sgt. D L Kloss	Canada	8 April	1993
Sgt. R G McGeown	United Kingdom	4 May	1975	MCpl. W Leeb	Austria	2 May	1993
Sgt. B V Sondergaard	Denmark	12 Dec	1975	Cpl. J Schopfer	Austria	23 July	1996
Capt. K C Crawford	Canada	20 Dec	1975	Mr. B. Garrett	United Kingdom	8 July	1997
Pte. K J Uuttu	Finland	26 June	1976	Mr. G. Sigas	Cyprus	16 January	1998
Pte. D R Kreiger	Canada	17 August	1976	WO3 L A D'agata	Argentina	1 March	1999
WO T Moen	Sweden	14 Dec	1976	Pte. L J H Harrison	United Kingdom	15 March	2000
Pte. T E Kornberg	Finland	16 January	1977	Sgt. N D Davies	United Kingdom	8 July	2000
Dvr. C J Ellerby	United Kingdom	14 April	1977	Pte. J M Escalante	Argentina	12 Dec	2003
Pte. F Lorentzen	Denmark	20 April	1977	Sgt. A O Chocobar	Argentina	12 Dec	2003
Sgt. A J R Dupont	Canada	24 April	1977	Mr. A Demetriou	Cyprus	22 April	2004
Pte. O Britz	Austria	8 November	1977	Ms. S Kyriakides	United Kingdom	22 May	2004
Cpl. D Hansen	Denmark	18 February	1979	Sgt. M Hruska	Slovakia	8 June	2004
SSgt. F A Christensen	Denmark	18 February	1979	Mrs. S Kariuki	Kenya	22 January	2005
Capt. S A R Martinsson	Sweden	4 August	1979	Mr. P Loizou	Cyprus	1 January	2006
Cpl. of H. B R Meade	United Kingdom	31 August	1979	WO2 S Goldsmith	United Kingdom	23 Nov	2007
Pte. J Lackner	Austria	5 November	1979	Pfc A Simkovic	Slovakia	05 October	2008
MCpl. J D G McInnes	Canada	30 March	1980	Mr. P Fennelly	Ireland	14 March	2008
Sig. P C Child	United Kingdom	7 December	1980	Mr. A Alleyne	Barbados	14 July	2008
ALCpl. R D Perry	United Kingdom	17 January	1981	Sgt. A D Ojeda	Argentina	27 Nov	2009
Sgt. C H Hardcastle	United Kingdom	22 March	1981	WO2 G Bean	United Kingdom	3 May	2011
Cpl. J McAfee	United Kingdom	22 May	1981	Mr. M Bonnardeaux	Canada	26 Nov	2014
Pte. L Brown	United Kingdom	22 August	1981	Pte. J.L Sawyer	United Kingdom	12 March	2015



## UNFICYP trains new military & civilian liaison officers

One of UNFICYP's key roles is to resolve incidents in the buffer zone at the lowest level through negotiation; liaison officers, whose main goal is to establish and maintain good relationships with their counterparts to solve the incidents by peaceful means, are among the most important elements for the successful execution of this role. As such, with every new troop rotation, thorough training for Military Observer and Liaison Officers (MOLO) and Sector Civil Affairs and Military Liaison Officers (SCAMLO) is critical.

This year, UNFICYP HQ organized the MOLO/SCAMLO training course at the UNPA between 28 and 30 March. The aim of the course was to make them aware of the political, operational and legal framework in which they will operate, to familiarize them with their daily duties and to provide guidance on how to resolve possible issues to de-escalate potentially difficult situations in the

most suitable manner.

The course includes practical scenarios as well as theoretical lessons. The aim of this exercise was to give the officers practice in responding to incidents they may encounter during their UNFICYP tour. It included simulation exercises featuring officers taking on roles as police, hunters, military forces, UNPOL, etc...

All officers successfully accomplished the course and received their certificates from the Force Commander, Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir, at UNFICYP HQ on 30 March; the Force Commander expressed his appreciation for the excellent work the course organizers had done.

Many thanks to HQ MOLO officers Lt. Col. Andreas Duerr and Lt. Col. Andrej Cucvara, who, supported by the MOLOs and SCAMLOs from the Sectors, executed an excellent course.



# Head of Mission, Force Commander visit Athienou

On 6 April, Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, accompanied by Force Commander Mohammad Humayun Kabir, paid a visit to Athienou in Sector 4. Ms. Spehar visited the military component, receiving a terrain briefing on some of the Sector's operational issues. Ms. Spehar also participated in photo shoot with female peacekeepers from the Hungarian Contingent, and visited Agia Marina Church on the way back to UNFICYP HQ.



# Trust-building symposium

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, made opening remarks at a symposium on trust-building co-organised on 15 May 2017 by the European University Cyprus and UNFICYP.

"Trust-building between opposing groups can be a core building block for resolving conflict; it is an essential ingredient to achieve reconciliation in divided societies and is an element of peacebuilding.," SRSR Spehar said. "Building greater trust and open communication between governments and those that they govern, and also between diverse groups in society can generate the "glue" or cohesion necessary for successful and sustainable democracies in an increasingly globalized world."

The symposium involved both Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot university students, encouraging them to delve into challenges and opportunities for trust-building in Cyprus. The event was part of UNFICYP's commitment reach out to various sectors of society throughout Cyprus and lend support to initiatives promoting inter-communal dialogue and understanding.



# Cyclists cover hundreds of kilometres in Cycle Challenge

**1** 9 May 2017 - The 21st annual British Forces Cyprus Cycle Challenge 2017 (CCC17) took place between 16 and 19 May 2017 with nearly 60 cyclists, ranging in ability and experience, with some having only started cycling and training 9 months ago with the challenge their target. Organised by the Joint Service Signal Unit (JSSU), The CCC17 route is arduous and challenging, covering over 530km of roads and incorporating a total in excess of 5500m of ascent. A challenging and memorable event, riders demonstrate physical and mental robustness, team work, and esprit de corps. Day 1 took the cyclists along the South coast from Ayios Nikolaos, finishing with the climb up to Episkopi. Day 2 incorporated the beautiful coastal views over the SW coast leaving Episkopi and concluded with a steep and gruelling 700m climb up Droushia Heights before descending to Polis. On day 3 (the most challenging day), cyclists descend to sea level before

embarking on the 2500m total climb up to Troodos, battling with strong winds and rain. The final day enjoyed the steep and rapid descent from Troodos to Nicosia, taking in the historical and significant sections of the UN buffer zone past the old international airport, before weaving through the back roads and completing the loop into Ayios Nikolaos. The challenge this year was underpinned by a simply superb support team, motorcycle outriders, medical cover and local police support. Without this support, the challenge wouldn't be possible and the support was seamless and above and beyond. Thanks extend to the UN for access through the buffer zone; an essential and historical route choice. Events like this further underpin the island's friendly and inclusive ethos; the community support throughout the event and the welcome home party afterwards was an amazing and emotional sight to see after such a tough week in the saddle.

*by Capt S J Smith*



## 7 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps takes charge of Sector Two

**O**n 31st March, UNFICYP held a Transfer of Authority ceremony which saw the 4th Battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment officially hand over responsibility of the Sector to 7 Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps, who will be in Cyprus until September 2017. The ceremony took place at Iedra Palace Hotel, which serves as Sector Two HQ. Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Lt Col Tony Royce, handed over command of the Sector to Lt. Col. Steve Cornell of 7 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps. The Regimental second-in-command, Maj. Jez Pattinson, took the parade, and the salute was taken by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Mohammad Humayun Kabir, who gave an energising welcome speech. 7 Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps has a diverse group of personnel, including 52 reservist soldiers. Pte. Quinn, a soldier in Ops Company, said: "I am very happy being here knowing that, along with my colleagues, we are making a positive contribution to the ongoing peacekeeping process within Cyprus."



# New faces



## Major Robert SCHUTZ - Military Public Information Officer

Major Robert SCHUTZ joined the Slovak Armed Forces in September 1986 as a student at the Military Secondary School in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. He then attended the Military Academy in the same town, graduating in 1995 before being commissioned into the Surface to Air Missiles Brigade in Garrison Roznava, Slovakia. He then changed the course of his career, joining the Slovak Military Police in 1996. After completing four years of uniformed service, Major Schutz transferred to the Special Investigations Branch. Following a number of appointments in various garrisons, most recently as a DCO at the Military Police Training Centre, he joined the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces at the J7 Training and Exercise Branch in 2016. Major Schutz's career has seen him serve in Slovakia, Afghanistan and Cyprus, where he first served as Deputy Provost Marshal from 2008 to 2009. Among many other medals, he was awarded the US Commendation Medal for his distinguished service

as Provost Marshal at the Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in 2013. Major Schutz is happily divorced and has two children – Robert (17) and Katarina (11) – who live in eastern Slovakia. He is keen on spending time at the range, where he can indulge his love of the outdoors with IPSC shooting. A fiercely loyal but chronically frustrated supporter of Slovak hockey, he also enjoys practicing martial arts (jiu-jitsu, aikido and kendo) and reading historical novels.

## Anton Hookes – Inter-communal team, Civil Affairs Section



Anton HOOKES joined the Inter-communal Unit of UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Section in February 2017. He started his professional life as a social worker specializing in the protection of young people and those with complex mental health needs. He studied in London, UK and Leuven, Belgium and holds a degree in geography and masters qualifications in both Social Work and Social Security. Anton has served with the UN in Kosovo – where he also worked with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe – South Sudan and New York. From 2009 to 2013, he worked in Malakal, South Sudan, where he managed a Civil Affairs Team promoting and facilitating peace talks between government authorities, rebels, pastoral communities and local communities. He was thanked personally on South Sudan TV news by the spokesperson of the South Sudan People's Liberation Army for fostering talks between the SPLA and South Sudan Democratic Army which directly resulted in a peace agreement. Others in Malakal were equally happy with his scrambled eggs and broccoli and anchovy cooked on a two ring stove. He is most happy when riding a

bicycle, mountaineering or skiing, and least happy when writing a UN Code Cable. Anton lives between missions, his home nation and his partner's home in New York. He met his partner while working in Kosovo and again in South Sudan. Who says hard work in austere conditions is without its benefits?

## Lt Col Diego Ignacio Berra – Deputy CO Sector



Lt Col Diego BERRA was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 28 April 1970. He graduated from the Army Academy in December 1991 as a Cavalry Officer. In 1994, he was deployed in Croatia, taking part in UNPROFOR as a Mechanized Platoon Commander. In 2000, he successfully completed the Armor Captains Career Course in the US, and served at the 1-8 Cav, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cav Div in Fort Hood, Texas, for 3 months. He is a Staff Officer who graduated from both the Superior Army War School and Superior Joint War School in Argentina. He also is a Staff Officer graduate of the Brazilian Army War School (ECEME), gaining a Doctorate in Military Sciences. Lt Col Berra is married to Karina Elizabeth, who, along with her son Dante Cesar, 15, accompanied him to Cyprus for this deployment.

## Captain Alejandro Rodrigo Ciri – Chief U2



Captain Alejandro Rodrigo CIRI was born in Gualaguaychú, Argentina, in 1980. He joined the Argentinian Navy in 2000, graduating from the Navy Academy as a Midshipman in December 2004. He received his specialty in Communications in 2007. He also graduated as an Intelligence Officer in 2014, and as an Electronic Warfare Officer in 2015. He was appointed to various Marine Units as Section Commander, Chief of Company and Operations Officer. This is his third deployment with UNFICYP - he was in Cyprus in 2009 and 2012 - and his fourth experience as a blue helmet, having served with MINUSTAH in 2006. Currently, he is serving as Deputy Commanding Officer of the Signal Battalion No. 1 at the "Puerto Belgrano" Naval Base. Captain Ciri is married to Cecilia Inés, with whom he has a daughter, Alma Lucia (2).



### **Lt Col Pedro Andrés Figueira Tibiletti – Chief U3 OPS Sector 1**

**L**t Col Pedro Andrés Figueira TIBILETTI joined the Argentinian Army in 1991, graduating from the Military College as an infantry officer in December 1994. He received his specialty in Mountain Warfare in 1996 and Parachute and Commando in 1998. He was assigned to a number of Army units as Section Commander, Operations Officer, Deputy Commander Officer and Infantry School Military Professor. From 2010 to 2012, he attended the Army War College, and then the Joint War College from 2013 to 2014. He then served as a professor at the Peruvian Army War College. Currently, he is an Operations Officer in the Special Operation Force Group. Lt Col Tibiletti is married to Gloria.



### **Major Alejandro Daniel Nesci – Chief MOLO Team Sector 1**

**M**ajor Alejandro Daniel NESCI joined the Military Navy Academy in 1997 and graduated in December 2001 as a Midshipman. On completion of his first grade, he entered Officer School and obtained a degree in Naval Propulsion Systems. As a member of the Corps Command, he carried out tasks as Chief of Engines in different Naval Units, including Supply Ship A.R.A. “CIUDAD DE ROSARIO”, and warships A.R.A “INDOMITA”, A.R.A. “GRANVILLE” and “A.R.A “GUERRICO”. He also carried out tasks as Chief of Logistics of the Maritime Patrol Division. His first experience with the United Nations was in 2013 in MINUSTAH, where he performed tasks as a safety officer. Major Nesci is married to Patricia Soledad, and they have two

## **SECTOR - 2**



### **Major Joanne Moseley RLC - SCAMLO Sector 1**

**M**aj Joanne MOSELEY was born in 1977 in Cornwall. She attended the Army Sixth Form College and then commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1999. Maj Moseley has served with 2 Close Support Regiment RLC, 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC, 4 General Support Regiment RLC, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC and 3 (UK) Division. During this time, she has had a varying career and undertook roles including Fuel & Transport Troop Commander, Radio Troop Commander, Regimental Signals Officer, HQ Squadron 2IC, Postal & Courier Squadron 2IC, Adjutant and SO3 G1/G4. She has a wide range of operational experience and has deployed on tours to Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq. On the last tour Maj Moseley ran the postal service for the 15,000 British troops based in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. Maj Moseley retired from the Regular Army in July 2007 taking up the role

of Adidas Sports Marketing Executive where she managed all kit provision for Team GB, the London Marathon, Team Sky, British Cycling and British Triathlon. In November 2013 she commenced a Royal Mail Senior Talent Entry Programme for MBA Graduates. In 2015 Maj Moseley returned to uniform; joining the Army Reserve. She is due to take command of a Task Squadron in 167 Catering Support Regiment RLC on return from Cyprus. Maj Moseley is a keen hockey player and has represented both the Army and UK Armed Forces. She also enjoys walking her black Labrador in the Lake District.

### **Major John Landy - Chief MOLO Sector 2**



**M**aj John LANDY was born in 1969 in the large town of Blackburn, which lies North West of the Pennine Moors on the southern edge of the Ribble Valley. On leaving school in Darwen, Maj Landy had only one focus, and that was to join the British Army. At the age of 18, he joined the Royal Corps of Transport; his first unit was in Duisburg, Germany. Within the first three months of his military service, he found himself on his first operational tour to West Belfast, Northern Ireland. Since then, Maj Landy has had significant operational experience throughout his military career, serving on all of the UK’s primary deployments, including most recently Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to deployment on OP TOSCA (Cyprus), he was selected to command OC HQ Coy on his return to the UK. Maj Landy is married to Claire and they have two children aged 17 and 13 years old, both currently studying at boarding school in Oakham, Rutland.

### **Captain James David Smale RLC MA (Hons) - MOLO Sector 2**



**C**aptain SMALE was born and educated in Scotland; at the University of Dundee he studied Politics and completed a dissertation studying “the Cyprus Problem.” He commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the Royal Logistic Corps in April 2010. During his first Captain’s appointment he deployed to Afghanistan, spending the majority of his tour overseeing targeting and influence activities for both 40 Commando RM and 1st Bn Scots Guards in Gereshk and the Upper Gereshk Valley respectively. Over the course of his career, Captain Smale has deployed to Scotland, Germany, Cyprus, Singapore and the Falkland Islands. Captain Smale is married to Alison and they have two children; Florence (5), and Lachlan (2). Outside of work he enjoys playing rugby union, distance running and mountaineering. He is also a passionate Tottenham Hotspur supporter, an unfortunate trait passed on to him by his North London born Father.

## SECTOR - 4



### Major Vladimír Smolej - Senior Operations Officer Sector 4

**M**ajor Vladimír SMOLEJ was born in Svidník, Slovakia, on 13 September 1977. He completed his higher military education in the Military Academy in 2001, when he graduated in the field of military economy specialization. He was then commissioned to the Military Air Base in Prešov, where he served till 2010 in various staff positions. His most recent appointment was within the Air Force Command of the Slovak Armed Forces, where he fulfilled the special duties of comprehensive financial support for respective military units. Maj Smolej has attended several specialized military trainings dedicated to marksmanship throughout his career. Back at home, he is an instructor for shooting training with short and long rifles. This is Maj Smolej's second deployment with UNFICYP; he previously served as a Military Observer Liaison Officer in 2013-2014. In his current deployment, he serves as Senior Operational Officer with UNFICYP Sector 4 in Famagusta. He is excited to have another opportunity to use his valuable military experience to serve under the blue flag. Maj Smolej is married and has one daughter and one son.



### CPT Gábor Gyula Polonyi - OPS Assistant Officer Sector 4

**C**aptain Gábor Gyula POLONYI was born on 11th February 1982 in Budapest, Hungary. He joined the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University Engineering Faculty in 2000, completing his studies as an engineer for vehicles in 2004. In 2005, he finished a Military Car Accident Inspector course. In 2014 he took the Staff Officers course at the Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training, part of the National University of Public Service. He served in various positions within the Hungarian Defence Forces as a Platoon Commander and Company 2IC. Back at home, his current position is Company Commander. During his studies at the National Defence University, he was the editor of the student news magazine. Captain Polonyi enjoys reading, running and hiking. This is his first deployment abroad, and he looks forward to embracing the challenges ahead.



### Lt Col Viktor Masliuk - MOLO Team Leader Sector 4

**L**t Col Viktor MASLIUK was born on 13th October 1977 in the Ukraine's Zhytomir region. He graduated from the National Defence University, Lviv Polytechnic, with a Masters in Law in 1999. In 2011, he completed his studies at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in the United Kingdom. He has served in various positions within the Armed Forces of Ukraine, General Staff and the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, primarily as a member of the legal corps of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He was deployed with UNMIL in Liberia in 2014-2015, serving as a legal advisor and liaison officer to Ukrainian Aviation Unit. He is married and has two sons.



### Private First Class Martina Molnárová - Logistician Specialist

**P**rivate First Class Martina MOLNÁROVÁ is one of five female members of the Slovak contingent that arrived in UNFICYP Sector 4 area during the March 2017 rotation. She grew up in a mountainous area in northern Slovakia, where she decided to join the Armed Forces. Completing her basic military training and education in 2004, she continued with her military career as a signaler. She has served in various military positions within the armed forces at the battalion and brigade level, and received an award as the best serving soldier within her brigade in 2013. This is her first peacekeeping experience, and she aims to use it to increase her military skills in the international environment. Pfc Molnárová is deployed to UNFICYP as a logistician in Camp General Štefanik, Famagusta.



Female UNPOL officers at a Medal Parade on 28 May 2017.  
Photo UNFICYP/Ludovit Veres

**BLUE BERET**



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