



# BLUE BERET

## A very Merry Christmas from UNFICYP!



**N**ICOSIA, 21 December 2015 – 2015 is drawing to a close, and while the Mission is still in high gear with its daily tasks and end-of-year reports, Christmas is also in the air, with carols piping through the festively bedecked headquarters and Christmas trees and wreaths dotting the Blue Beret Camp. UNFICYP's Christmas celebrations kicked off on 16 December with a lunch hosted by Force Commander Major General Kristin Lund for senior Mission officials, HQ staff and Sector Commanders. The event gave guests the opportunity to socialize, relax and sample some traditional Norwegian Christmas fare – delicious pork and lamb ribs, sauerkraut, red cabbage, almond potatoes, swede and cloudberries with whipped cream were on offer, washed down with Aquavit, a traditional Norwegian digestif. The following day, the Sectors and HQ troops gathered for a traditional Christmas carol service at the St. Colomba's Church

in the UNPA, led by the Sector 2 Padre with the support of the padres from Sector 1 and Sector 4. The church was filled with the melodious sounds of traditional Christmas carols performed by the sectors and UNPOL and accompanied by the congregation at large. After the final blessing, all were warmly welcomed to try a traditional Christmas delicacies prepared and served by Sectors. On 18 December, civilian and military personnel at HQ were treated to a hearty Christmas breakfast and an exhilarating raffle. Many staff will be spending the holidays with their families in Cyprus and abroad, but we'll be thinking about those who will remain on duty here in Cyprus.

*We wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



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