

The Blue Beret

June/July 2009



**Military Adviser to
UN visits UNFICYP**



THE BLUE BERET

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Front Cover: Military Adviser to UN visits UNFICYP

Back Cover: Digging in on World Environment Day

Editorial

As the heat and the vacation season conspire to bring many activities to a halt in Cyprus, UN peacekeepers – military, police and civilian – will continue their work of maintaining stability along the buffer zone and contributing to the creation of a climate conducive to reunification negotiations.

The two sides are on the verge of wrapping up the first round of talks before embarking on a summer break. When they return in September, a year after the start of direct talks, the eyes of the international community will be upon them, full of expectation and hope that the "Cyprob", as the conflict in the island is less-than-endearingly called, can finally be solved.

In the meantime, and in addition to its duties on the island, the UN will start contingency planning in order to be ready to be of help in case of a settlement. The summer will probably be quiet as usual, but it will be far from sleepy.



Boost for peace process

The new crossing between north and south agreed by the leaders of the two communities on 26 June after months of discussions gave a welcome boost to the peace process. Soon after the accord, UNFICYP's engineers set to work to enable the transit of emergency vehicles in the area.

The agreement in full, as read out by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, is as follows:

"The two leaders decided to proceed with the opening of Yeşilirmak/Limnitis crossing point under normal rules of existing crossings.

"In the context of this agreement, the role of UNFICYP is underscored.

"Crossing of persons wishing to visit Erenköy/Kokkina will take place with the escort of UNFICYP. The visits will be made by minibuses on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Turkish Cypriot side may request UNFICYP escort for one or two extra minibus(es) a week.

"There will be transfer of reasonable quantities of food and water and other supplies of non-military nature with UNFICYP escort to Erenköy/Kokkina.

"Erenköy/Kokkina will be connected to the nearest electricity grid before the opening of the crossing point.

"Humanitarian Issues:

(a) Ambulances: Ambulances will be able to visit Erenköy/Kokkina to move sick persons. The rule governing the crossing of ambulances will apply. Reciprocally, Greek Cypriot ambulances will cross in the opposite direction to hospitals in Nicosia.

(b) Fire engines and water tanks: In case of fire, Turkish Cypriot fire engines and accompanying water tanks will be able to call at Erenköy/Kokkina.

"There will be reciprocal arrangements from time to time for specific events through this and other crossing points."



Art for peace

The site of the Cyprus peace talks inside the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia is currently adorned with a series of artworks in different media, illustrating themes of conflict and reconciliation among Cypriots. The artistic initiative, conducted under the auspices of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, aims to highlight the wealth of artistic expression on the island and the fruits of creative cooperation across the Cyprus divide.

"I'm a great believer in the power of art to soothe but also to provoke reflection," Mr. Downer said as he unveiled the exhibition in June. "I think the works on display are a small indication of the tremendous potential of this island, and I am heartened by the collaborative nature of the exhibition, which is conceived and led by Turkish and Greek Cypriot artists".



The Special Adviser opened a second installment of the exhibition on 13 July.

Cypriot artists Andreas Charalambous, Osman Ketten, Zehra Sonya, Pola Hadjipapa, Katerina

Attalidou, Inci Kansu, Stella Angelidou, Ismet Tatar, Tatiana Ferahian and Vicky Pericleous have generously agreed to exhibit their work. Other Cypriot artists are also invited to take part.

World Environment Day

On 5 June, UNFICYP marked World Environment Day (WED).

WED was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The theme for WED 2009 was: "Your Planet Needs You - UNite to Combat Climate Change". WED is commemorated every year on 5 June and this year it was honored once again by UNFICYP military, civilian and police personnel.

Chief Engineer Paul Kilmartin, UNFICYP's Environmental Focal Point, and Themistoklis Anthrakopoulos, the Health, Safety & Environmental Assistant, prepared

a number of activities to commemorate the event. Among those activities, the Blue Beret Camp was temporarily turned into a pedestrian- and cyclist-only zone. Many colleagues also donned gloves and swung into action to clean the areas around their different buildings. Meanwhile, the planting of some 50 trees proved to be a huge success.

The "green theme" carried on into everyone's workstations, as the IT section implemented green font on all email communication for the day. And the Engineer Unit and the MFR cleared away some of the abandoned barbed wire in the perimeters of the UNPA.

Themistoklis Anthrakopoulos



UNFICYP medal parade



Chief of Mission lauds work of peacekeepers

In his address to the medal parade, Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun thanked the decorated soldiers for helping bring about the conditions that made it possible to try to reach a negotiated settlement to end the division of Cyprus. But he also lauded what he called the "often unheralded" but equally important work of the blue berets. "Often overlooked are the many other daily tasks of our peacekeepers", he said, "from contributing to efforts to rid Cyprus of landmines, to assisting people from all communities with day-to-day challenges arising from the division of the island. This can include delivering textbooks, facilitating medical evacuations and smoothing the way for commemorative, religious or socio-cultural gatherings".

Such work, he continued, is "no less essential in bringing closer the day when all Cypriots share their island under peaceful and stable conditions".

The Chief of Mission also reviewed progress in the peace process, reiterating the United Nations' view that the "solution has to, and will, come from Cypriots themselves".

He concluded by restating the Organisation's support for Cyprus.

"Cypriots will continue to see a concrete manifestation of international support in the work that our peacekeepers who strive to ensure that stability and calm remain the norm in the buffer zone, and that day-to-day life for all Cypriots is as normal as possible", he said.

250 soldiers who had arrived in UNFICYP in March were decorated with the United Nations peacekeeping medal on 10 June 2009.

The Old Nicosia Airport Terminal Building was the venue for the UNFICYP Combined Summer Medal Parade 2009. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, and Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi, carried out an inspection of troops. The medal has been awarded for various supervisory or observation roles with the United Nations Force in Cyprus since March 1964. For subsequent tours over the initial qualifying 90 days, a silver numeral is affixed to the ribbon. To date, 173,773 medals have been awarded since the start of the mission.

Lt. Col. Paul Warwick was responsible for the planning, coordination and delivery of this key event in the mission's annual

calendar. "Such an event requires a team effort, with every single element of the team doing its part", he said. "And that is exactly what happened as we pulled together the administration, logistics and personnel required to produce the Parade".

Lt. Col. Warwick added that the work force from the Mobile Force Reserve, commanded by 2IC Capt. Castro Olivera, had the lion's share of the tasks required for the event. "And under the guidance and leadership of CQMS SSgt. Penston, soldiers from across the mission transformed the site from bare concrete to a remarkable venue", he said. He also commended other HQ Units for contributing to the event, including the Force Engineers led by FE Maj. Kamil Bilek, the FMPU element commanded by SSgt. Tina Kilnan, the Supply Unit commanded by Maj. Mick Hunt and the Medical Unit under Capt. Sylvia Nogouria.



UNFICYP's engineers



HQ UNFICYP's HQ Engineering Unit is based in the UNPA at Camp Tatry. Headed by Maj. Kamil Bilek, the team consists of 39 Slovak soldiers and one Hungarian, the Force Engineer's Assistant and also the 2i/c, 1/Lt. László Kovács.

The main tasks of this Unit are the repair and maintenance of the patrol track in all sectors along the length of the buffer zone. During the year, other tasks depend on the season. For instance, now that it is summer, much of their time is spent clearing bushes and weeds from the observation posts (OPs) in order to make fire breaks. In the rainy season, they are mainly concerned with checking and repairing the bridges, culverts and river beds along the buffer zone.

Throughout the year, they have to maintain the more than 20 helipads, in addition to carrying out minor maintenance jobs in the OPs in Sector 1 (Roca Camp, St. Martin Camp, Camp Brown), Sector 2 (Ledra Palace/Wolseley Barracks), Sector 4 (Camp St István, Camp General Stefanik), and the UNPA. This includes, of course, cooperation with the Chief Engineer Paul Kilmartin and his civilian staff.

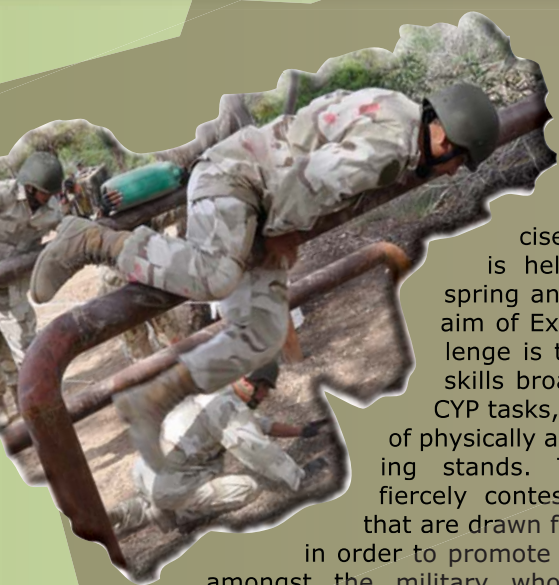
"The team we have on the island now is very reliable and cohesive", 1/Lt. Kovács says. "We all work together very well, and I believe that a lot of this is due to the fact that many of these soldiers have previously served in much more dangerous missions, including Iraq and Afghanistan, where conditions were much harder. Here, many of them are on their second or third tours, so they really know what this mission is all about. They are experienced and hard-working, and, having served in danger zones, they are extremely disciplined."

In their spare time, many of the engineers work out in the gym, explore Cyprus and engage in various athletic activities. Sports play a big part in their lives: the engineers are so keen on beach volleyball that they have built a new pitch in Camp Tatry to which they invite other teams from the Sectors for competitions.

As 1/Lt. Kovács says, "Sport keeps soldiers physically and mentally healthy, and this team is definitely that. When you work outside in temperatures up to 45°C, you need some relaxation, so keeping active and fit is the best possible way of serving with UNFICYP."

Miriam Taylor

UNFICYP military skills competition



The UNFICYP military skills competition (MSC), entitled Exercise Unifying Challenge, is held biannually in the spring and autumn. The main aim of Exercise Unifying Challenge is to test basic military skills broadly reflecting UNFICYP tasks, through the medium of physically and mentally demanding stands. The competition is fiercely contested between teams that are drawn from Sectors and Unit in order to promote an "Esprit de Corps" amongst the military who contribute to the UNFICYP mission. The latest of these exercises was held on 27 May in the UNPA.

All nine teams (two from Sector 1, two from Sector 2, two from Sector 4, MFR, UNPOL and HQ) gathered in the exercise control area at 5.00 a.m. to complete registration and meet up with their team controllers. Every competitor is required to carry 12 kg, excluding their weapon, helmet and water. Once the weighing was completed, everyone was given a day's rations. After this, all teams make their way to the mass start of the endurance race, which commenced at 6.00 a.m.

Endurance March

The endurance march was started by the Force Commander, where all teams rush off simultaneously. After about 1.5km, each team has to push a 4x4 truck over a distance of about

150m, and then carry on down the route. Once they arrive at around the 3km point, they collect a log and carry this to the end of the course, which is another 1km. The stop watch clocks the time when all six team members have crossed the line and formed up in squad. This year's winner of the Endurance March was Sector 2 A team with an excellent time of 24 mins 22 secs.

Command Tasks

For this stand, each team has to complete two command problems they are presented with. This is often done blindfolded. There is always much hilarity on this stand, as team captains despair at their levels of communication whilst watching their team disappear over the horizon. This year, Sector 1 B team was the winner.

Map Reading

This stand is run by the resident Force Cartographer. It combines both compass work and a written paper testing the teams' knowledge of UN map symbols and also conventional symbols that can be found on maps used within the mission. The test is very demanding, and some teams struggle with the time limits imposed upon them. The overall winner this year on this stand was HQ.

Motor Vehicle Stand

This stand involved guiding a 4x4 vehicle around a very technical and demanding course, also the removing and replacing of a road wheel. Incorporated into this stand was a very difficult speed judgment exercise without the aid of the speedometer, and concluded with a road safety test. As always, the stand was run and judged by the Master Driver. The overall winner this year was Sector 2 A team.

Ranges

This stand combines each team member's abilities to shoot their own weapon and their skill in stripping and assembling the other contingent weapons in the mission. The shooting phase is conducted after the team has completed a small obstacle course. This gets the breathing going and makes for a more "interesting shoot".

The strip and assemble phase sees the re-appearance of the ubiquitous blindfold. Some of the weapons are much more complicated than others and getting the right piece in the right place whilst working against the clock can be very tricky. The winner will have the best overall time in the strip and assemble phase, coupled with the best shoot. This year, the honour went to MFR.



Incident Reaction

This stand tests the team's reaction to an incident in the buffer zone, including their skill with first aid, dealing with mines/OPFORs and any other realistic obstacles that could possibly arise. The professionalism on this stand is a pleasure to watch. With all that in mind, two teams came joint top – Sector 2 team A and Sector 4 team B.

Patrol Observation

The patrol observation stand is run by the Ops Info cell and tests the team's powers of observation and knowledge of OPFOR weapons, vehicles, uniforms and insignia. The first part of the stand reflects the missions increasing use of CCTV to monitor sensitive areas in the AOR. Teams were shown CCTV images using HQ UNFICYP thespians. They were then asked questions on what they had seen and other aspects regarding the uniforms worn and weapons carried. The second part of the stand was a questionnaire where certain items of equipment commonly used by the OPFORs needed to be categorized. This year eagle eyes belong to Sector 4 team A.

Assault Course

This is always the last stand for each team, and in recent years has always been the stand that decides the overall winner. It consists of a course approximately 600m long and includes walls, bunkers, wire crawls and all sorts of difficult obstacles that must be overcome. In addition, each team has to carry a full water can and a large ammunition container filled with gravel. The winner of the assault course this year was Sector 2 team A.

At the end of the day, nine very weary teams were addressed by the Force Commander and prizes were awarded to the first three teams. In spite of the superhuman effort of all involved, Sector 4 Team A

from the Slovak Contingent achieved first place for the first time in the competition's history. A celebratory meal and drinks followed.

Thanks go to everyone who took part and all the admin staff for their help in setting up and running this very successful military skills competition.

WO2 Justin Coleman



Final Results

1st: Sector 4 Team A
2nd: Sector 2 Team A
3rd: MFR



Opening of HQ's new cafeteria

Force Commander Maj. Gen. Mario Sánchez Debenardi opened the refurbished UNPA International Cafeteria on 15 July after many weeks of hard work to improve this facility, used by the civilian, military and police of UNFICYP.

Included in this upgrading was the installation of new catering equipment in the kitchen area, new flooring, and the tiling of all kitchen walls which contributes to an improved working environment for contract staff and enabling improved meal choice. The dining area was also greatly improved with new flooring, ceiling, lighting, air conditioning, and the supply of contemporary furniture, new crockery and glassware and other service line facilities, all of which contributes to an improved dining environment with a distinct international feel. The patio and entertainment areas also had new seating installed.

As the FC said, "Credit goes largely to Chief Engineer Paul Kilmartin and his team of national staff who worked hard on this project. My thanks also go to FSO Maj. Mick Hunt for his support."



Memorial service

UNFICYP colleagues and friends of Alleyne Anderson were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of his untimely passing here in Nicosia on 14 July 2009. Anderson had been ill for some weeks following his evacuation from Darfur, but still the unexpected suddenness of his passing has shaken us and filled our hearts with sorrow.

In early 2007 he had the opportunity to join UNMIN in Nepal on a short-term assignment. In 2008, he moved again to UNAMID, Sudan.

Andy performed his duties with competence, diligence and an unselfish devotion to duty. He was a reserved man but he had a boundless enthusiasm for the task at hand, always ready to help in any enterprise



Anderson was born on 7 August 1954 in Barbados. Known to all his colleagues and friends as Andy, he joined the United Nations in 1978 which gave him the opportunity to serve all over the world. Whilst serving in Tiberias, Israel, he met Audrey. They married in 1987 and were blessed with two beautiful girls, Allison, 19, and Ashlee, 13. Andy also served in Asmara, Eritrea, Kuwait.

Andy started his career as a vehicle mechanic, but in 2002 he joined UNFICYP as the Chief Transport Officer.

and did so with good humour and a generosity of spirit that in all respects was worthy of the highest standards expected of a United Nations staff member. He combined with his charm an unlimited energy and the highest integrity. He was a man with a remarkable and unique personality whose loss will be deeply felt by a great many.

The memorial service held on 21 July at Saint Columba's Church, UNPA, was a celebration of Andy's life, with more than 150 people in attendance.

World Refugee Day

June 20 is World Refugee Day. As a tribute to the indomitable spirit, courage and strength of many of the world's refugees, UNHCR Representation in Cyprus organised in June 2009 an open-air photographic exhibition with the theme "Refugees: Real People, Real Needs".

Every picture and every face tells its own unique story. Behind the unmet needs of refugees, there are real people with personal stories of tragedy, courage and compassion.

Faced with violence and violations of human rights and humanitarian law in their homelands, millions of people are left with no option but to flee. After often embarking on perilous journeys at sea or over land, the challenge for those who make it into another country seeking protection is to start a new life, free from fear and oppression.

The works in the exhibition are a selection of the most striking entries in the World Press Photo (WPP) competition. WPP is an independent, non-profit organisation, based in Amsterdam, that organises the world's largest and most prestigious annual press photography contest.

Also on show is a small selection of photos from the exhibition, "Protection: What Refugees Need", launched last June at the House of Parliament.

The exhibition was opened on 20 June at the Municipality Gardens by the Mayor of Nicosia and the Representative of UNHCR in Cyprus. The exhibition then moved to Limassol before travelling to Paphos, in front of the Archaeological Park along the marina, from 1 to 16 August. Finally, the exhibition will travel to Larnaca's Foinikoudes promenade from 18 August to 3 September.

UNHCR



Georges Gobet / Agence France Presse



Michael S. Wirtz / The Philadelphia Inquirer



Tom Stoddart / Getty Images



Tom Stoddart / Getty Images

Buffer zone pilgrimages

When the buffer zone was established in 1974, several villages were evacuated. One of these is the village of Ayios Georgios in Sector 1's area of responsibility (AOR). Every year, Greek Cypriot pilgrims request UNFICYP's permission to return to their village and hold a service.

This year again, at 8.00 a.m. on 10 May, Sector 1 personnel, assisted by members of UNPOL, escorted approximately 150 men, women and children to the Orthodox Church in that sits within the Force's San Martín Camp. Following an emotional service, the pilgrims walked to Ayios Georgios to visit the abandoned village, and in particular the cemetery.

UNFICYP then escorted the pilgrims back through the buffer zone to the checkpoint, whereupon all expressed

their gratitude to UNFICYP for facilitating this sentimental event.

Ayia Marina Church, a Byzantine domed building probably from the 12th century, stands isolated in fields about three kilometers east of Dherinia in the UN buffer zone. The church is within Sector 4's AOR, and under the auspices of UNFICYP, church services have been taking place there since 18 October 1977. A celebration commemorating the completion of refurbishment took place on 14 March 1998.

On 17 July, 40 members of UNFICYP (UNPOL, SCAT and Sector 4), 14 pick-ups and three buses were involved in the organisation of a pilgrimage involving two convoys of 926 men, women and children to Ayia Marina. The operation took place without incident.



Visits



From the left: OC MFR Maj. Mark Comer, FC Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez-Debernardi, MA to the UN Lt. Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor, UNFICYP COS Col. Gerard Hughes, and Peacekeeping Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Krzysztof Mikolajek

The Military Adviser to the United Nations, Lt. Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor, visited UNFICYP from 27 to 29 July as part of a wider trip to all UN missions across the middle-east.

During his stay in Cyprus, General Obiakor, a highly experienced Nigerian officer, was able to get a true flavour of the operations conducted in UNFICYP. The visit included a tour across all three sectors of the buffer zone. The General witnessed the stark reality of the division of Cyprus during a buffer zone tour in Sector 2, which covers old Nicosia. He was able to visit the narrowest part of the buffer zone, where time has virtually stood still since 1974, before emerging onto Ledra Street, where tourists shop and dine completely oblivious to the "Green Line" that cuts the city in two.

"As peacekeepers you have the best job in the world, indeed a divine job", the General told his hosts before departing the island. "You are servants of humanity who give your all in the service of your fellow man, and you should be justifiably proud".



Swedish Ambassador H.E. Mr. Ingemar Lindahl and parliamentary delegation visited UNFICYP on 25 June. They were met by the FC and paid an office call on the CM.



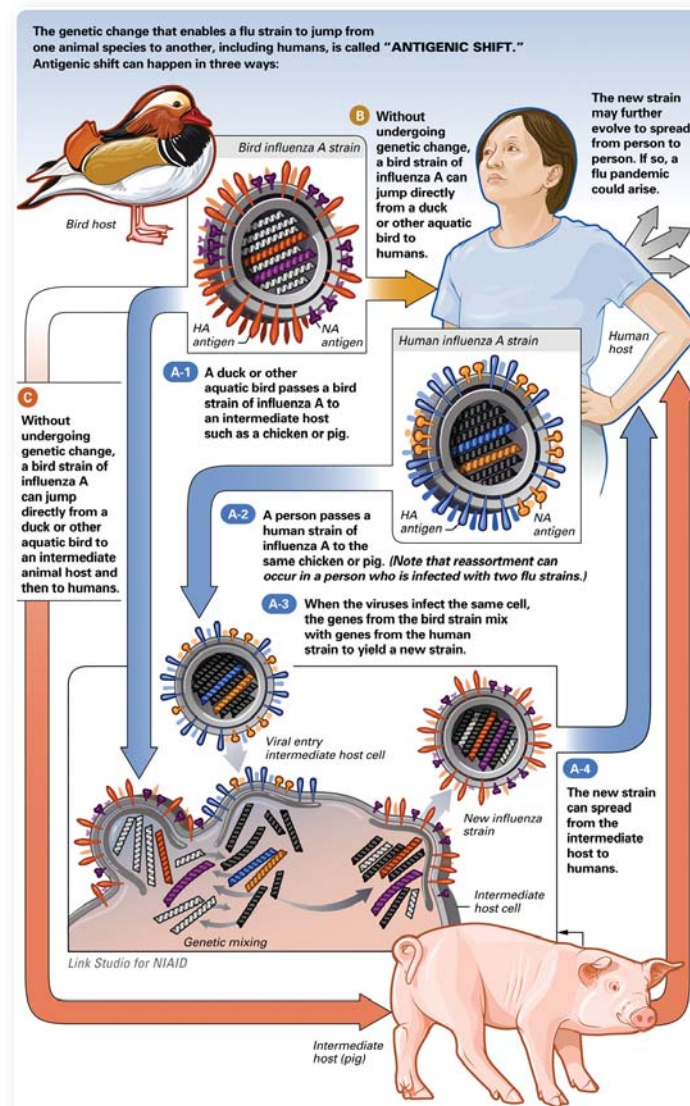
60 members of the British Royal Military Police from 101 Provost Company, 5 RMP, visited UNFICYP on 31 July. They were first given a briefing by the MPIO on the history of the old Nicosia International Airport, after which they visited Wayne's Keep cemetery and St. Columba's Church. The RMPs were in Cyprus on an annual British military exercise (Exercise Lion Sun) in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan next year.

Dealing with the H1N1 pandemic

The whole world has been affected by the spread of the H1N1 virus. Cyprus is no exception. As of mid July, 201 cases had been reported in the Republic of Cyprus, and 14 cases in the north. Three UNFICYP staff members have contracted the virus, but happily they have recovered.

While the number of confirmed H1N1 flu cases on the island is expected to increase, in practically all cases reported so far the symptoms of the flu have been mild and patients have made a rapid and full recovery. Neither UNFICYP nor any health authorities – WHO or Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus – are recommending any travel or activity restrictions. The most important preventive measure is to practise good personal hygiene – frequent hand washing, using disposable tissues, etc. Staff are being advised to contact their physician should they exhibit any flu symptoms – fever, aching muscles, feeling weak, severe headache, sore throat, runny nose, coughing – and to stay home.

The UN Staff Pandemic Information Portal has more information: <http://www.un.org/staff/pandemic>.



Helping keep Cyprus malaria-free

Canadian memorial maintenance

At least every six months, the Canadian Contingent of UNFICYP carries out maintenance of a commemorative memorial plaque located at Wolseley Barracks in Sector 2.

The plaque was erected in remembrance of the Canadian soldiers who lost their lives whilst serving with UNFICYP between 1964 to 1993 when the Contingent as a whole left the mission.

One Canadian officer now serves with UNFICYP and takes the responsibility of maintaining the plaque.

In the photo on the right is Capt. Lorne Cooper (left), who took over his two-year posting from Capt. Mike Solonynko who returned to Petawawa, Ontario earlier this month.



June/July - The Blue Beret

Among UNFICYP's lesser known tasks is its participation in malaria prevention and control programme in the buffer zone, alongside the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot health services.

There are within the buffer zone 32 known mosquito breeding areas that have to be treated by Cypriot civilian health inspectors and labourers. They are in turn escorted by Argentinian, British, Hungarian and Slovak patrols from UNFICYP. Sector Civil Affairs Teams (SCAT) liaise with the civilian spraying team and UN patrols.

The project coordinator is the Force Hygiene Officer, who is the point of contact for the programme and liaison between the civilian health authorities and UNFICYP. The Civil Affairs Military Liaison Officer provides assistance.

This year, fumigation and water treatment started in April in the buffer zone, and is expected to conclude in mid December 2009.

Malaria around the world

Malaria occurs in over 100 countries and more than 40% of the people in the world are at risk. The World Health Organisation estimates that each year, 300-500 million cases of malaria occur and more than one million people die of the disease. Most deaths occur in young children, for example in Africa, a child dies from malaria every 30 seconds.

Malaria occurs most frequently in tropical Africa, parts of Asia, Central and South America and the Middle East. It occurs less frequently in the Mediterranean, Greece and Turkey. Here, in Cyprus, most malaria cases occur in people who have travelled to areas where the disease is present and in immigrants from those areas.

About the disease

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal infectious disease

transmitted by the bites of mosquitoes infected with the malaria-causing parasite.

You can become infected with malaria when you are bitten by a certain type of mosquito which is infected. You cannot get malaria by being near a person with the disease. Most malaria infections cause flu-like symptoms, and may include the following: fever (may be periodic), muscle pain, chills, headache, sweats, fatigue, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, tiredness, dry cough, enlarged spleen and/or loss of consciousness. Malaria may cause anaemia and icterus (yellow colouring of the skin and eyes) because of the loss of red blood cells.

For most people, symptoms begin 10 days to four weeks after infection, although a person may feel ill as early as eight days or up to one year later.

Maj. Fejes MD/Maj. Kolonics MD

June/July - The Blue Beret

Sport

Over 40 competitors took part in the UNFICYP Triathlon held on 20 June, organised by UNPOL. In what proved to be a very exciting race, involving beginners, novice and experienced triathletes, we saw Sector 2 just pip the MFR for first place in the team event and Sgt. Darren McCarthy from UNPOL come first in the individual event.

The triathlon, started by the Force Commander, included a 750m swim, a 20km cycle ride and a 5km run. Many thanks go to the FMPU, MFR, Irish Contingent family members and staff at the Dolphin Swimming Pool for their assistance in making this a very successful event.



Winning teams from the left: MFR (in third place) Sector 1 (first place) and HQ (second place)

A swimming competition took place on 25 June at San Martin Camp with participation from Sectors 1, 2 and 4, UNPOL, UN Flt and MFR. The event included a 100m individual swim and a 4 x 50m relay race.

The competition was purely internal with some fun moments showing good sportsmanship between the various components of UNFICYP. Typical Argentinian delicacies rounded up a very enjoyable sporting event.



From the left: Capt. Boabaid (Sector 1), Lt. Berczi (MFR) and Sgt. Horgan, UNPOL

Teams from across UNFICYP arrived at the UNPA football pitches on 17 July for a 9-a-side tournament.

League 1 consisted of HQ UNFICYP, Force Engineers and MFR, and Sector 2, Sector 4 and UN Flight made up league 2. Despite the intense heat, the games saw a fast pace and the competitive pride of those representing their unit. Seen right is the Force Commander playing for the HQ.

The winners were Sector 4, who edged out Sector 2 1:0. Congratulations go to all teams for a well-played tournament.



UNFICYP saw its first-ever water football competition on 10 July, an event that brought together all the mission's elements for some fun relief from the heat.

Kicking off the competition, the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander thanked the the Hungarian Contingent for taking the initiative to organise the matches. The event had a very international flavour, with players from Argentina, UK, Slovakia, Greece, Peru and Hungary on the field.

The games were cheered by the supportive and enthusiastic crowd, who enjoyed the slippery acrobatics and some of the longest long sliding tackles in history. Happily, no injuries were reported, save for some hurt pride.

MCpl Zoltán Hegedűs

New Faces

Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer

Jennifer Wright first arrived in Cyprus on 1 November 2005 and spent three and a half years working with the Committee on Missing Persons prior to joining UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Branch on 1 June 2009.

Jennifer was born in the UK but grew up in Switzerland. She took a first degree in Hispanic studies at a British university and participated in a year-long exchange programme with universities in Spain and Ecuador. She later obtained a

Masters degree in International Relations from an Irish university.

Prior to serving with the UN, she worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for seven years in Bosnia, Colombia, Rwanda, Jerusalem and at Headquarters in Geneva.

Her interests include discovering new places in Cyprus, hiking, skiing, reading, music and dance.



SO2 Ops Info

Maj. Jon Stanier took over the post of SO2 Ops Info on 25 May.

Born in Hereford, England, in 1976, Jon attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and commissioned into the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment in 1999, following which he deployed on operations in Northern Ireland as a platoon commander. His next post was as an instructor of recruits at the Army Foundation College.

He then returned to regimental duty as commander of a support weapons platoon and deployed again on operations in Northern Ireland and also on exercise in Kenya. Jon then served as an

instructor at the Regular Commissions Board, which is the British Army's officer selection centre. Following this he was posted to Brecon as the SO3 G7 Trg (Brigade Training Officer) of a regional brigade.

On selection for promotion to Major, he attended the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the British Defence Academy and was fortunate to be selected for a posting to UNFICYP.

Jon has been married to Suzie for six years, and they both live in the British married quarter area on the UNPA.



SO3 Ops Info

The Canadian Contingent has seen a complete rotation of its personnel. With the departure of Capt Mike Solonynko, Capt Lorne Cooper (Coop to all his friends, which includes everyone here) has arrived to represent his country.

Born in 1959 in Nova Scotia, Canada, he studied Civil Engineering and operated a property management company before enrolling in the Royal Canadian Artillery. He has served in many places in Canada as well as Germany and the USA, with operational UN assignments in Bosnia in 1993, Sierra Leone in 2004-5 and Afghanistan in 2008.

He comes to Cyprus from the Canadian Expeditionary Force Headquarters in Ottawa where he has been employed in various operational staff capabilities.

Coop is single and has two daughters, Laura and Sarah, back in Canada attending post secondary schooling.

He is looking forward to two years of rewarding work as a member of UNFICYP Ops Info Branch, as well as exploring the sights and history of Cyprus in his free time.





**Digging in on
World Environment Day**