Irish military bid farewell to UNFICYP

The Blue Beret
May 2005

ANZAC Day – the fallen are not forgotten

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International Day of UN Peacekeepers, 29 May, honours the sacrifice of UN peacekeepers from many lands who have laid down their lives in the service of peace. As the Secretary-General says, it is a day we re dedicate ourselves to the noble calling of peacekeeping.

During 2004, 115 colleagues were killed in the service of peace and already in 2005, another 39 have made the ultimate sacrifice, including nine Bangladeshi soldiers brutally murder in February in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the worst single attack on peacekeepers in over a decade. With sadness and pride, we pay tribute to each and every one of our fallen colleagues.

Today, more than 66,000 uniformed personnel and almost 15,000 civilians serve the cause of peace in 17 peacekeeping operations around the globe. More missions are currently deployed than ever before.

While successes in UN peacekeeping often do not receive the attention they deserve, failings are widely, and justifiably, publicized. Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by individuals serving in several missions have damaged lives, threatened security and tarnished the reputation of UN peacekeeping. The SG has proposed sweeping changes to prevent misconduct and enforce UN standards of conduct. Some important reforms have already been implemented, but more must follow, as the UN works to stamp out such abuse.

Peacekeepers’ Day is also an occasion to acknowledge the 103 Member States who contribute uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping. UN peacekeepers work every day to give practical meaning to the words of the Charter “to save and maintain international peace and security.”

The Irish presence continues in UNFICYP with 18 members of the Irish Police (Garda Síochána) currently serving as members of the peacekeeping mission’s civilian police component. There are also four Irish nationals on the mission’s civilian staff.

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One Flag Less – End of an UNFICYP Era

The Irish Defence Forces ended 41 years of peacekeeping service in Cyprus on 24 May 2005 with a well attended sunset flag-lowering ceremony near the old International Airport in the UNPA. The brief, but poignant ceremony concluded when Lt. Col. Paul Quirke, the last serving member of the Irish military contingent, presented the flag to Ireland’s Ambassador to Cyprus, H.E. Mr. John Swift.

Lt. Col. Quirke’s first exposure to peacekeeping service was as a young lieutenant in 1966 when he arrived in Cyprus with one of the very early rotations of Irish military personnel to serve with UNFICYP. One of his comrades in arms from that initial tour, Brig. Gen. Fred Swords of the Irish Defence Forces, travelled specially from Dublin to attend the ceremony, bringing the Irish military presence in UNFICYP to an end.

In his remarks, Lt. Col. Quirke remembered how he arrived on the island as a 21-year-old, landing at the International Airport, just across from the site of the closing ceremony, before deploying out to the west where he and his troops lived under canvas for the duration of that initial tour. In the days before internet and mobile phones, it was indeed a long way from Tipperary and home, he recalled.

Ambassador Swift and UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figen each paid tribute to the Irish peacekeepers who had served the mission so well down the years.

After the singing of the Irish national anthem and salute, Lt. Col. Quirke stepped forward to lower the flag. Members of the Irish civilian police contingent joined in alongside to assist him while the island’s Irish musical stalwart Dr. Irene Cotter played the harp and sang, with Indian civilian police member Insp. Krishna T.P. Balan accompanying her on the violin.

If many an eye glistened at the going down of the flag, there was applause and more tears when Lt. Col. Quirke subsequently presented his wife Noreen with a bouquet of flowers in thanks for her years of support at the family helm during his nine overseas peacekeeping stints.

From 1964 until 24 May 2005, 9,540 Irish peacekeepers have served with UNFICYP. Seven died while on service with the mission. Two, Maj. Gen. J. Quinn (1976-81) and Maj. Gen. M. Minehane (1992-94), have served as UNFICYP Force Commanders.

The Irish presence continues in UNFICYP with 18 members of the Irish Police (Garda Síochána) currently serving as members of the peacekeeping mission’s civilian police component. There are also four Irish nationals on the mission’s civilian staff.
The opening of a Bi-communal Information Centre took place on 13 May at the front of the Ledra Palace Hotel alongside the crossing. The event, hosted by US Ambassador H.E. Mr. Michael Klosson, marked the first time that Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot experts, working together under the auspices of the Nicosia Master Plan (NMP), have jointly planned and implemented such an ambitious project. The centre will also be co-managed by both communities.

The aim of the Information Centre is to raise public awareness of the achievements of the NMP. For the past two decades, the NMP has served as a truly bi-communal framework that has guided the process of conservation and rehabilitation in the Walled City. This Information Centre in the heart of Nicosia will inform Cypriots on the overall role of the Nicosia Master Plan, and will hopefully encourage greater public engagement in the efforts for the development of the area.

EU Visitors on the Green Line

On 13 May, Luxembourg’s Minister Delegate of Foreign Affairs Nicolas Schmit was received with Honour Guard at UNFICYP headquarters before proceeding to the globe outside the MFR where he laid a wreath in memory of UNFICYP’s fallen peacekeepers. He is seen in the photo above with UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli. The Chief of Mission, plus senior UNFICYP officials and members of the Luxembourg delegation, also attended.

Peacekeeping Tribute

A review team from UN headquarters visited UNFICYP from 6 to 12 May to study the result of the mission’s downsizing. The four officials, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Acting Director, Europe and Latin America Divisions, Office of Operations, DPKO, Mr. Oseloka Obaze, DPA, Ms. Grethe Stornes, Civilian Police Division, DPKO, and Lt. Col. Michio Suda, Military Adviser’s Office, DPKO, met with UNFICYP senior staff who accompanied them on a buffer zone inspection of Sectors 1, 2 and 4. Photos show them in Sector 1’s stretch of the line on 7 May.
**Hazards – And How to Deal With Them**

**Liquified Petroleum Gas – LPG**

April 8th was a busy day for the Fire Crew at HQ UNFICYP. The Engineering Section/Fire HQ received an emergency call from UNFICYP's Engineering Section regarding an incident involving the delivery of Liquifed Petroleum Gas (LPG). A delivery truck had been travelling along the Nicosia Airport runway when one of the gas bottles loaded accidentally fell to the ground, breaking all connections and causing a massive gas leak in the area. The Fire Crew was immediately called to the scene. It was one of the most hazardous tasks for the Fire Crew to bring under control with lives at risk. It took just over two hours to declare the area safe again.

Incidents like this serve as an example for all of us to be aware of potential hazards at our LPG LPG is used in our everyday life for lighting stoves and barbecues. LPG-fuelled small space heaters are also widely used during winter months.

**HAZMAT Training**

From 18-22 April, the UNPA was the setting for a week of intensive hazardous materials response training, provided by the staff of United Nations Multidisciplinary Environmental Impact Assessment (UNMOVIC). Two top experts, Harald Markhor and Peter Mhor, arrived on island to introduce UN staff to the complex and dangerous world of hazardous materials. UNFICYP, along with UNMOVIC, had received permission from Mr. Demetrius Perricos, the Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, to include some of our staff on this specialized training course to bring us closer to the Seer Service's knowledge.

Always use LPG appliances and other gas equipment that meet EU safety standards. Never check for gas leaks using a lit match. Always use a solution of soapy water and look for bubbles coming from around valves and pipe joints. These bubbles indicate a gas leak.

**Summer fires and earthquake safety instructions have been sent to each sector, section and unit. Read them carefully.**

For more information about fire safety, please read the UNFICYP Fire Standing Orders on L-drive-Library, or simply call the Fire HQ on Ext. 4453/4454.

**Action to take in case of fire:**

In case of fire involving any electric equipment, the following steps should be taken:

a. If safe to do so, cut of the main electric supply/switch.

b. Call the fire crew on 22-61-4777 and evacuate the building.

c. If it is safe to do so, fight the fire with carbon dioxide (CO2), or dry powder fire extinguishers. Never use water or foam on live electrical fires.

d. If there is a fuel leak, cover the area with foam/fire blanket. Care should be taken when electricity is involved (see a. above).

e. If a fire does start, DO NOT move the equipment involved in the fire unless it is essential for safety reasons. Always wait for the investigation to be completed.

Last but not least, we should all remember that ALL FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED.

Be sure to check:

- All your electrical appliances and fixtures at least once a month. Simple works services/repairs can prevent fires, saving lives and money.

- Before leaving your place of work or accommodation that all lights, fires and cigarettes (in smoking area) are extinguished and all non-essential electrical equipment is unplugged.

- Your electric equipment is turned off from the electric supply (wall socket), especially air conditioners at the time of day.

- Your area of responsibility to ensure that no combustible materials are left exposed to the elements.

- Your fire/smoke alarms in all accommodation are fitted on to the ceiling with bells and/or buzzers. In each room, at least one fire/smoke alarm should be fitted to walls, behind ceiling fans or without a cover.

- There are no two-pin unearthed plugs in three-pin sockets. Ensure that two-pin plugs are used only with an adapter in three-pin wall sockets.

- **FIRE!** This is probably the most frightening alarm you could ever experience. Yet as we all know, the best way to ensure that you only hear this word during a drill is, of course, prevention.

- On 5 May 2005, the UNFICYP Fire Crew had to deal with a fire emergency in one of the UNPA accommodation units. The fire was started by a short-circuited electric kettle, which had not been turned off from the wall socket and had over-heated. A simple thing to overlook, yet this could have caused a catastrophe. As it happened, there was no casualty and damage to property was limited. Nevertheless, incidents like this should serve as a reminder to all UNFICYP personnel about the dangers of fire.

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- **Remember: Treat LPG with respect!**

Remember: Treat LPG with respect! A minor fire in the accommodation block...
"At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We shall remember them"

The other day, someone asked me: "Why do you Australians get up before dawn to commemorate a battle that went horribly wrong – where a battle was lost and so many died?" I replied, "It's something we Australians and New Zealanders have been doing since the end of WW1, and I have been doing it just about all my adult life – to remember the heroic efforts of our solders on that fateful April day.

ANZAC stands for Australian & New Zealand Army Corps and as such the Australians and New Zealanders were allied with the British at the outbreak of WW1. On the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey, 96 years ago in 1915 we fought alongside each other against the Turks, putting up one hell of a bloody fight. It was at dawn on 25 April that the ANZACs hit the beaches of Gallipoli. So like they did then, we get up before dawn to remember those who died serving our countries.

During the ANZAC service, a verse called Baynun’s Lines is read out. The last few lines of the verse are telling: "At the going down of the sun, And in the morning, we shall remember them."

The morning was slightly cool, with a gentle breeze blowing across the fields, promising a warm day ahead. We received representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Ireland and of course, UNFICYP, bringing the size of the gathering to around 140 persons.

AUSCIVPOL Stn. Sgt. Graham Leary led the service as the master of ceremonies. Sgt. Leary, Australian Civil Contingent Commander, is a veteran of three years UN service in Cyprus, with UNCIVPOL Deputy Commander Trevor Clarke.

Four troopers from First Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, under the command of their drill sergeant, formed the Caisogne (honour guard) around the Cross of Remembrance with the reverse rifles drill done with precision and perfection.

BRITCON Padre Lee Gandiya conducted a brief and moving service. Several guests joined him at the lectern, including Deputy Commander Trevor Clarke, Sgt. Carolyn McParron, Miss ClaireMeinderdoff, Sgt. Christopher Woods and Sgt. Nathan Renwick. Each in turn recited poetry and prayers for the fallen.

Wreaths were also placed by the British High Commissioner, Mr. Lyn Parker, and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNFICYP Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and by UNFICYP Acting Force Commander Lt. Col. G. Vignolo and UNCIVPOL Deputy Commander Trevor Clarke. Bouquets of flowers were placed by the graves of the four fallen Australians and the lone New Zealander interned at Wayne’s Keep. The flower bearers were Mrs. Daphne Joblin, Mrs. Jan Selby, Mrs. Jan Clarke and Ms. Bernadette Flynn.

As we remembered them, we could fully appreciate the care and dedication of the Wayne’s Keep groundskeepers, as the flowers and shrubs planted were in immaculate order.

The ANZAC service may have finished but there was more to come as guests headed to the UNFICYP International Cafeteria for breakfast. Coffee and tea were on hand, and a traditional splash of Bundy rum was added to a few cups.

The CIVPOL Club later hosted a "Two Up" game with bets placed on the outcome of two pennies being tossed in the air in the hope that a combination of heads or tails, odds or evens would play out. Morning morphed into the lunch hour, when a BBQ feast was served up with refreshments.

I'm sure all who attended would agree that it was a memorable day, a success directly attributable to those who helped organise the occasion.

I'm also sure that although spirits were high, the significance of this ANZAC day was not lost on a single participant, "...as we remembered them".

Sgt. Charlie Kascan
MOLO Graduates!

For those in the know, congratulations! For all those still uninitiated, the Military Observer and Liaison Officer (MOLO) concept is an evolving one, the vision of which sees close cooperation, liaison and communication with the OPFORs at a new (regimental) level. Ultimately OPFORs will grow accustomed to the ever-present MOLOs, and it is hoped the higher level of communication and mediation will contribute greatly towards a solution to the Cyprus problem.

The recent MOLO course, held at St Michael’s School, UNPA, is now a distant memory. The days spent orienteering around UNPA, navigating the busy streets of Nicosia and on the cross-country driving circuit are a thing of the past as we thrust on with “real world” issues. The 16 students all “graduated” from the course with a great sense of achievement. The course is intensive; 10 days of mixed theory and practical lessons focusing on meeting and negotiation techniques, patrol skills and production of supporting paperwork. The course finished with a three-day demanding exercise drawing all of the lessons together. However, the MOLO course is about much more than developing these essential skills.

In addition, the course, tutored by senior UNFICYP personnel (both military and civilian), delivered an insight into Cyprus, the OPFORs and the MOLO role within it. Maj. Chris Frazer, KOSB and WO2 Elliott shaped, moulded and delivered a thoughtful and insightful course that provoked much interesting debate and topical discussion. It gave us all a great sense of purpose.

However, above all else, as the MOLO Mission prescribes, the MOLO concept relies upon the development of trusted relationships. This was reflected throughout the course. It was achieved directly with the OPFORs who attended the course on a rotational basis (a brilliant and highly beneficial idea); and indirectly within the Sectors, with Argentinians, British, Croatians, Hungarians and Slovaks joining forces to drive the MOLO concept forward.

Naturally, no course is perfect and requests have been made for such things as language training (Turkish and Greek) and tips on interview techniques. The incorporation can only improve an already successful course. The MOLOs produced by the course are potent “weapons”. Sectors are advised to use them wisely!

Keep those Mosquitoes at Bay!

The Cyprus Anti-Malaria Control Programme is a bilateral agreement between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot health services to prevent the onset of malaria by spraying known mosquito breeding sites with insecticides over the whole island. There has been no malaria in Cyprus for over 50 years.

Nevertheless there is a thriving mosquito population, particularly in areas rich in under and overgrowth. Within the buffer zone, there are 32 known mosquito breeding areas.

The Project Coordinator for the programme is Force Hygiene Officer Maj. Zsolt Fejes. He serves as the point of contact and liaison officer between the two health services and UNFICYP. In accordance with the Programme, treatment is carried out every two weeks by Greek and Turkish Cypriot civilian workers who are escorted on each occasion by UN patrols. The spraying and water treatment started in March 2005 and is scheduled to finish in December.

Although harmless most of the time, mosquito bites can be very uncomfortable causing itching and inflammation, and can sometimes become infected. Young children especially should be protected by the numerous insect repellant sprays and creams available on the market. If out-of-doors at night, long sleeves should be worn, and netting over the bed also goes a long way to ensure a mosquito bite-free sleep.

Wayne’s Keep Cemetery – 50 Years On

The 1st Battalion the South Staffordshire Regiment first served in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles in 1955, losing four soldiers in the first year of deployment. This year was the 50th anniversary of the Regiment’s first tour in Cyprus. To mark this event, 120 ex-service-men and women, accompanied by family members, arrived on island for a commemoration service held on 3 April at Wayne’s Keep Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. The four soldiers, Pte. S. Ingram, Pte. K. Hewitt, Pte. W. Asprey and Pte. R. Banks, are among 813 servicemen, women and civilians buried here.

Due to bad weather, the first half of the service was held inside St. Columba’s Church. For the Last Post, the group marched to the cemetery and wreaths were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice by the Chairman of the Staffordshire Regiment Association, Mr. A.J. Bolas, the British Defence Attaché, Col. Tom Fitzallan-Howard, and CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. Julian Free, 26 Regiment RA. Group members then laid wreaths on the individual graves of their fallen family members and comrades.

The bugler who played the Last Post was himself on duty with the Regiment in 1955, and brought with him the very same instrument he used when comrades were buried within Wayne’s Keep cemetery during his tour.

After the wreath-laying, the group were hosted at the Ledra Palace for tea by the Sergeants’ Mess. A fitting end to a memorable occasion.

Fine Fare and Equestrian Flair

As was only to be expected from the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, there was a touch of equestrian flair to the occasion. Arriving guests were greeted by gunners on horseback (photo left), before being escorted along metres of red carpet to the new Mess area where they were royally wined, dined and treated to a musical medley by members of the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons (photo right).
Admiral Jorge Godoy, Argentinian Naval Chief of Staff, took the opportunity to pay a two-day visit to UNFICYP during an official tour of Europe.

The visit started on 24 April when Adm. Godoy arrived at Patrol Base 32. Later that day, Admiral Godoy presided over a parade at Camp San Martin, where he met with Argentinian troops, in particular navy personnel. The next day, Admiral Godoy visited HQ UNFICYP where he paid a courtesy call on Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz. He was then escorted on a heli tour of Sector 1.

At the end of his visit to Cyprus, Admiral Godoy departed for Rome, resuming his official visit.

Brigadier Wolfram Celedón Mecketh, Chilean Air Force, paid a brief visit to Cyprus on 10 May. On arrival at HQ UNFICYP, he inspected the Guard of Honour and then paid courtesy calls on Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli.

Accompanied by CO Sector 1 Lt. Col. Federico Sidders, Brig. Gen. Celedón, who also holds the post of Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Chile, visited Camp San Martin. There he met with Chilean personnel serving with Sector 1. He ended his tour with a visit to Patrol Base 18.

Brigadier Normando Costantino (Air Force), Director of Operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Argentina, arrived for an official visit to UNFICYP from 23 to 24 May.

Following an inspection of a Guard of Honour, Brig. Costantino met with the Force Commander, OC and 2IC MFR, CO UN Flight, and CO Sector 1. Later that day, Brig. Costantino attended a reception given by the Force Commander, met with Argentinian personnel working at HQ UNFICYP and the MFR and visited UN Flight.

On 24 May, Brig. Costantino travelled to Camp San Martin to meet his fellow countrymen in Sector 1.

Trevor Clarke – Movie Star!

It was a sad day for UNCIVPOL when we bade farewell to Trevor Clarke, seen here with his wife Jan (left) and UNCIVPOL Commander Carla Van Maris at the mug-out held in his honour on 29 April.

Trevor returns to Australia on retirement after over 30 years with the police service, having served the last 15 months with UNCIFCYP. Trevor served with the mission on two previous occasions.

His humour and wit will be sorely missed. Both were in evidence during the mug-out showing of an uproarious spoof documentary-style video compiled by Master Director Insp. Satwinder Lally showing highlights of Trevor’s latest and last UNFICYP tour. Lally’s loving profile showed Trevor in various guises (including a blue turban), a tribute to the cosmopolitan Aussie’s cultural adaptability.

Trevor and Jan plan to tour Australia prior to settling in New South Wales. Trevor was presented with a Cypriot silver salver complete with moufflon engraving, a shining reminder of the island he loves.
Return to Varisha

When the buffer zone was established in 1974, several areas had to be evacuated. One of these areas was the village of Varisha, 14 km from Camp San Martin in Sector 1.

Varisha is also the site of a small church consecrated to Saint George (Agios Giorgios). It lies 200 metres to the south of the village. This is the destination of an annual pilgrimage to commemorate the saint’s day.

Years ago, a security operation had to be mounted each year to control access into the BZ and avoid possible incidents. Nowadays, there is more stability in the area and as a consequence, the annual petition for pilgrims to attend a mass on 23 April at Varisha’s Church is granted. Ensuring that the pilgrimage occurs without incident involves mounting a major support operation. A large number of Sector 1 personnel took part in this exercise with backup from UNICIPOL, UN Flt and the MFR. The first pilgrims arrived at the southern limit checkpoint at 7.00 am. A total of 160 men, women and children finally made the pilgrimage. Among those present was Varisha’s former priest, now aged 90.

After a very emotional and spiritually uplifting service, the pilgrims returned quietly to their homes.

SCAT Fund-Raising Event

Around 50 girls and their leaders from the Episkopi District had a wonderful time recently, thanks to a day especially organised for them by WO2 Micky Gibb of the UNFICYP Civil Affairs Office at headquarters.

Lifeguards kept some of the girls entertained with races and games in the pool whilst another group went out to a nearby field to play games. These were organised by one of the soldiers who happens to be a scout leader in the UK. Yet a third older group of Guides, accompanied their District Commissioner, Karen Pointen, across to the Fullbright Centre to sell toys at a Toy Fair. This proved to be a very popular event, if quite challenging in terms of money and language transactions. Not only were there people from both sides of the crossing point, but there was a fair mixture of tourists as well! After a while, the groups swapped over and took turns sampling a very tasty lunch at the poolside kiosk.

The reason behind the day was to say a big thank you to Guides, Brownies and Rainbows in both ESBA and WBBA for the toys they donated to charity at the New Year Fair. This proved to be a very popular event, if quite challenging in terms of money and language transactions. Not only were there people from both sides of the crossing point, but there was a fair mixture of tourists as well! After a while, the groups swapped over and took turns sampling a very tasty lunch at the poolside kiosk.

As well as thanking the girls for their efforts, WO Gibb thanked Open Arms for the seed money to help start up the fund.

Francesca Pearson was there to receive a plaque from Mrs. Rassli Kocaisalim of the “Help Those With Cancer Charity”. Sgt. Lee Crawford came along to present a cheque in aid of “Help Those With Cancer” and to Rosie Charalambous from “Cans for Kids”. This money was raised when he ran the buffer zone earlier this year.

Mrs. Norma Kinneer, Commissioner for Girl guiding Cyprus, was full of praise for the effort put in by Micky Gibb and the girls. Every eventually was covered from first aid, drinking water (laid on at every point) and prizes and treats for the girls. All were delighted to meet the blue UN hats as they ran at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day. The adults accompanying them had a pretty good time too!

Seven New Members from India Join UNICIPOL

Dep. Supt. Mahabir Prasad, who holds a BA degree, joined the Indian police service in 1972, working all over the country. In 1996-97, he served in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNMIBH) on a 15-month tour, and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 1997.

Dep. Supt. Mohammed Basheer has BA and LLB degrees. He joined the Indian police service in 1980 and worked in the CID in various departments. In 1995, he served a one-year tour in (UNMIK), Kosovo, and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 2000.

Dep. Supt. Basheer currently holds the position of Station Commander, UNICIPOL, Famagusta (Sector 4). Together with two Australian sergeants, he regularly participates in the weekly North-South Police forces liaison of hospital and prison visits, and on occasion participates in bicommunal events at the Ledra Palace.

Dep. Supt. Babu Kochukanju, MSc, joined the Indian police force in 1986, working initially in the Central Bureau of Investigation. During his service, he was mainly concerned with fraud, narcotics and anti-corruption cases. He was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 2003.

Dep. Supt. Kochukanju joined UNICIPOL in February 2005 on a one-year tour, and holds the post of Civil Affairs Police Liaison Officer (CAPLO) at HQ UNICIPOL. He is responsible for all liaison between Civil Affairs and the north/south police forces, liaison of hospital and prison visits, and on occasion participates in bicommunal events at the Ledra Palace.

Dep. Supt. Mahabir, who joined UNICIPOL in April 2005 for a one-year tour, is now attached to the Ledra Palace station (Sector 1). His unit is responsible for patrolling the buffer zone, attending coffee shop meetings and assisting the de-mining operations in the area.

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