

COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS  
AUTHORISED PERSONNEL ONLY



**Guide to the CMP**

# The Blue Beret

August 2005



**Launch of  
De-mining –  
Phase 2**

## THE BLUE BERET

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## Editorial

The 14 August Helios air crash in Greece, the worst in Cypriot aviation history, was also the worst loss of life Cyprus has experienced since 1974. A stunned island was plunged into sorrow and mourning.

We in UNFICYP have all been touched. Inevitably, we become close to the communities we live and work with in the course of our service here. Just as we have marvelled at the closeness of the island's family ties, we now feel the sadness and pain of the shattered families around us as the island struggles to cope with the aftermath of this tragic event.

Our Chief of Mission, SRSG Wlosowicz, has conveyed condolences on behalf of the Secretary-General, UNFICYP and the United Nations family here on the island. We have observed a minute of silence and flown our flags at half-mast to honour and mourn the victims and to show our support for the bereaved.

Roque Retamar, an Argentinian twice an UNFICYP peacekeeper, wrote from Latin America to the Cyprus Mail expressing his deepest sympathy. "I love Cyprus", he wrote, "and know you will overcome this tragedy with faith and resignation and with the help of God."

The Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Talat passed along his community's condolences to Mr. Papadopoulos. The mayor of north Nicosia placed banners at the city's two crossing points proclaiming the message "We share in your grief".

Sorrow and loss remained the theme when some days later we mourned our own fallen colleagues on the second anniversary of the Baghdad bombings. Again we stood silent in our place of work, thoughts full of the fragility of life and the enduring resilience of the human spirit. Indeed, we too share in your grief.

## A Brief Guide to the CMP



### I. Historical Background

The problem of the missing persons in Cyprus first arose as a result of the intercommunal troubles of 1963-1964. During this unstable period, several hundred Turkish Cypriots disappeared and 203 cases are still unaccounted for. A good number of Greek Cypriots also went missing, and some 40 cases are still unaccounted for today.

During the events that took place in July and August 1974, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots went missing. At that time, both UNFICYP and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were operating in Cyprus and were also dealing with the problem of the missing. During this tragic period, the ICRC was visiting all the detention centres in Cyprus and Turkey. A general programme for the

repatriation of the prisoners detained in Turkey took place in October and November 1974, under the auspices of the ICRC.

In 1976, concluding that it could no longer be of assistance on the ground, and, since there was no further necessity for a neutral intermediary because of bicomunal ad hoc committees operating under the auspices of the UN, the ICRC pulled its delegation out of Cyprus.

From 1975-1977, a number of intercommunal meetings on the problem of the missing persons were held but there was no significant progress. Between 1977 and 1981, negotiations took place in Nicosia, Geneva and New York for the establishment of a Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP).

### II. Legal Basis of the CMP and its Mechanism

Between 1975 and 1979 the UN General Assembly adopted three different resolutions on the missing persons in Cyprus, calling for the establishment of an investigatory body to tackle this humanitarian problem. Subsequently, the GA adopted two additional resolutions in 1981 and 1982, respectively, welcoming the establishment of the CMP and urging the CMP to proceed without delay in carrying out its mandate.

The CMP was established in April 1981 by agreement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. It is the only institutionalised bicomunal committee in Cyprus.

The CMP is composed of a Member appointed by each of the two communities and a Third Member, selected by the ICRC and appointed by the Secretary-General. CMP decisions are taken by consensus to the extent possible. In case of disagreement, the Third Member consults the other two members in an attempt to bridge their views and reach a consensus.

Terms of Reference of the CMP call upon the Committee to look into the cases of persons reported missing in the inter-communal fighting as well as the events of July 1974 and afterwards. The mandate of the CMP is purely humanitarian. The Committee will not attempt to attribute responsibility for the deaths of any missing persons or make findings as to the cause of such deaths (Article 11, CMP Terms of Reference).

The CMP is expected to use its best efforts to draw up comprehensive lists of missing persons of both communities, specifying as appropriate whether they are dead or alive, and, in the former case, approximate time of death.

The 31 July 1997 Agreement, which has been agreed upon by the two leaders in the same humanitarian spirit, but outside the CMP sphere, provides for the exchange of information regarding known burial sites and return of the remains of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons.

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**Front Cover: Launch of De-mining, Phase 2**  
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# A Brief Guide to the CMP

## III. Reactivation of the CMP

On 30 August 2004, after more than four years of inactivity, the CMP met formally in the Ledra Palace. The Members agreed to consider how to expand the Committee's scope of activity and responsibility, in accordance with the proposals formulated by the Secretary-General in his two letters to the two leaders of December 2003 and August 2004, calling for the resumption of the work of the CMP, namely:

- To conclude the remaining investigative work on both sides on the basis of an agreed, comprehensive timetable.
- To agree on the modalities for implementation of the 31 July 1997 Agreement in accordance with Article 12 of the Terms of Reference of the CMP of April 1981.

These two proposals are the result of long and

## IV. INFORCE Involvement

On 25 October 2004, the CMP announced that INFORCE, a non-profit forensic science organisation, had been selected to undertake the exhumation project in Cyprus. The UK-based foundation was selected by the CMP after careful review of forensic institutions recommended by the ICRC in response to a formal request by the CMP.

Once INFORCE was selected and a work agreement was reached, the forensic foundation started with a geophysical survey of burial sites in preparation for exhumations and identification of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons in Cyprus.

In May 2005, Dr. Margaret Cox, CEO of INFORCE, participated in a survey of selected burial sites all over the island to assess initial requirements for emergency exhumations. From 27 June 2005, the CMP carried out emergency exhumations under the supervision of an INFORCE forensic archaeologist guiding a Turkish Cypriot team comprising archaeologists, an anthropologist

and specialised workers, along with the participation of a Greek Cypriot expert. This first phase had an emergency basis intended to safeguard remains and burial sites at risk due to heavy constructions and land use projects taking place, and was completed in early August 2005.

On Dr. Cox's recommendation, the CMP also agreed to set up a forensic anthropological laboratory to be located in the buffer zone. For this purpose, an INFORCE forensic anthropologist visited Cyprus in July 2005 and prepared a comprehensive report which will enable the CMP to establish this laboratory in the near future.

In the meantime, remains found were to be taken into temporary custody under INFORCE supervision for transfer to the anthropological laboratory as soon as it is set up in the buffer zone. A team of INFORCE experts will be in charge of this laboratory, placed under the aegis of the CMP.

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## V. Identification

Identification can be achieved by comparing "antemortem data" (AMD) collected during contacts with families concerned with "post mortem data" (PMD) gathered during skeletal analysis in the anthropological laboratory. This comparison will be combined with DNA analysis of samples taken from the exhumed remains and from the families.

On 30 June 2005, the CMP agreed on the principles for the project in connection with the DNA identification of remains of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to be exhumed on the island. This CMP project involves the Molecular Genetics Department B and the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING), as well as an upgraded Turkish Cypriot laboratory.

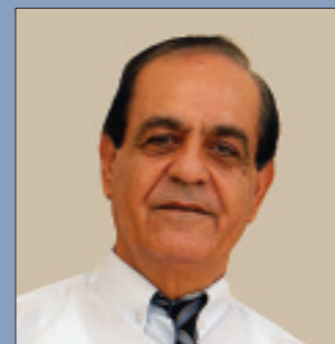
To set up this mechanism, the two Cypriot Members of the Committee each appointed a Scientific Adviser. Dr. Marios Cariolou and Dr. Erol Baysal are now helping the CMP in the implementation of the DNA identification project.

The Advisers will also recommend two Turkish Cypriot scientists to be designated by the CMP to participate fully on this project under their supervision.

**Left: Members of the CMP meet with Professor Margaret Cox (right of UN flag), INFORCE founder. Also present (from left): Xenophon Kallis, Elia Georgiades, Jan Selby, Pierre Guberan, Rüstem Tatar, Ahmet Erdengiz and Popi Chrysostomou**



## CMP Membership



**Greek Cypriot member - Elias P. Georgiades**

Elias P. Georgiades was educated in Cyprus, Greece, the UK and the USA. He holds a BA in Political Science and a Certificate in International Law. He earned his MA and PhD in International Studies at the American University, Washington DC, which he attended on a Fulbright scholarship and where he also worked as a research assistant. He spent a year at the University of Denver as a graduate fellow.

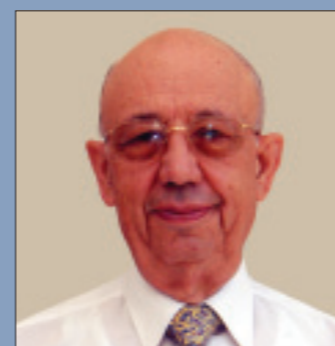
Early in his career, Dr. Georgiades worked with the Cyprus office of a U.S. multi-national company, and with the Cyprus Civil Service. He also served as a Special Intern at the United Nations, New York.

Dr. Georgiades served as Senior

Officer at the Ministry of Labour. Following the 1974 troubles, he was Assistant Director of the Special Service for the Rehabilitation of Refugees. He was also a guest lecturer at the Mediterranean Institute of Management of the Cyprus Productivity Centre.

In 1978, he was assigned special duties at the House of Representatives, becoming Director of the Office of the President of the House of Representatives in 1981. From May 1985 to May 1986, he served as the Government Spokesman.

Dr. Georgiades has held the post of the Greek Cypriot Representative on the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus since May 1986.



**Turkish Cypriot Member - Rüstem Zihni Tatar**

Rüstem Zihni Tatar, who won top honours in the London University Matriculation examination, also gained a scholarship to study in the U.K. He graduated from Nottingham University with a first-class BA Economics in 1951 and a first in Chartered Accountancy, ACA, in 1954, before pursuing post-graduate studies for an M.Phil, Budgeting and Financial Planning, at Southampton University.

Rüstem Tatar began his career with the Cyprus Treasury in 1955, becoming Acting Director of the Cyprus Audit Department in 1959. He was appointed Auditor-General of the Republic of Cyprus in August 1960, a post he held until 21 December 1963, when the

events of 1963-64 interrupted his career. He continued to serve the Turkish Cypriot community as Minister of Finance of the Turkish Cypriot side (TFSC) from 1967 to 1976.

From 1978-1980, he headed a Turkish Cypriot delegation invited by EEC authorities for meetings on the financial protocol to be prepared in accordance with the Cyprus-EEC Association Agreement of 1972. He also served as adviser to the Turkish Cypriot Negotiator in the Intercommunal Talks, 1977-1984.

Rüstem Tatar was appointed the Turkish Cypriot Member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus on 1 February 1984.



**Third Member a.i. - Pierre Guberan**

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland, Pierre Guberan has served with the CMP since July 1985, initially as First Assistant to the Third Member and, from 2000, as the Third Member a.i.

Before taking a University of Lausanne economics degree and embarking on a career with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1971, Guberan was a professional artist. He specialised in ceramics, having graduated from the Swiss Ceramics School in Lausanne.

From 1971 to 1985, his ICRC

assignments have included stints as ICRC head of delegation, first in Jordan 1973-74 (during the October War); then during the regime transition in Vietnam in 1975-76; and, as supervisor of a visits programme for 25,000 political detainees in Indonesia, 1977-78, a period during which he also headed the first ICRC survey in East Timor.

Guberan also served as delegation head in Beirut, 1979-81, and as ICRC chief delegate in Indonesia and East Timor from 1982-84.

## The INFORCE Foundation

Founded in 2001, the INFORCE Foundation is an internationally recognised forensic centre of excellence. Based at Bournemouth University, UK, it was established by current CEO Professor Margaret Cox. INFORCE is a registered charity, apolitical and has no religious affiliation.

INFORCE has at its disposal a wealth of scientific multi-disciplinary expertise and experience gained from post-conflict regions across the world over the last 10 years. Cyprus apart, INFORCE has deployed teams to Iraq, Rwanda and the Congo in the past three years.

INFORCE also offers training to scientists from post-conflict countries as part of a capacity building

process. Between September 2004 and July 2005, with funding from the UK Government, INFORCE has trained over 70 Iraqi scientists and other professionals in forensic and humanitarian skills, some of whom were trained to train their own people in Iraq. Similarly, INFORCE is developing programmes to help a fledgling Colombian forensic group and other professionals to establish in-country expertise. The Colombian project is funded in part by the German Government and the EU.

Such capacity building is an option that could be implemented in Cyprus in parallel with the main programme of exhumation and identification.

# The Kilcullen Contingent

Back in June 2003, Sgt. Walter Kilcullen had a difficult decision to make. He very much wanted to apply for a posting abroad, since he had never served overseas in his 33 years of service with the Irish police force "Garda Siochana". Translated literally, this means "guardians of the peace", and Walter felt that having spent most of his working life in the inner city of Dublin as a detective sergeant dealing with murders and serious crime, it was time for a change. Overseas postings are much sought after by the Irish police – hundreds of applications for few places (18 in Cyprus, three in Bosnia). Walter wanted to try.

However, he had other factors to take into consideration – the prime one being his family. His wife Mary and six children definitely had a say in this, since Walter had decided that it was all – or none! So, they had a family consultation and Mary, who at first had reservations about the suggestion, said: "Go for it. If you get the posting, we shall take it from there".

Walter went ahead and applied. When the news came through that he was accepted, he, Mary and daughters Sara and Emma flew to Cyprus to check out the location where they would spend the next year – in or near the village of Pyla, where Walter was to take up the post of PYCALO (Pyla Civil Affairs Liaison Officer). There were many rudimentary issues to clarify – most importantly, where they were going to live and which schools the children would attend. Walter's posting was an unaccompanied tour, so all expenses were to come straight out of his pocket.

They immediately decided to buy a house, rather than rent one. One evening, Walter took Emma, who suffers from cerebral palsy, out for a stroll. They came across a small estate of villas being built. Emma walked into the shell of one of them and said: "Nice house, Dad". They bought it!

So it was that in August 2004, all eight Kilcullens arrived on island. Their building contractor had arranged for the family to be housed in temporary accommodation until their four-bedroomed villa (with swimming pool!) was completed. The family finally moved in on New Year's Eve 2004.

Twins Karl and Mark (16) and Sara (12) were enrolled into the English-speaking Mediterranean High School in Larnaca. They were a little dubious about their new school to begin with – naturally enough, they all missed their friends back in Ireland. The boys have since accepted their school, but Sara has grown to have a great time there.



From the left: Anthony Hapeshif, George Demosthenous, Headmaster of the Pyla primary school and Walter

The three younger children had different arrangements made for them. Through his work in Pyla, Walter met and became friendly with the headmaster of the Greek Cypriot primary school in the village, Mr. George Demosthenous. He invited Walter and Mary to visit his school, and told them that if they considered the idea workable, he could offer Gary and Dara (9-year-old twins) a place there. Emma (11) was also offered a place. Even though the school was Greek-speaking, the boys had each other for company and soon managed to communicate with the other children in their class.

Emma, however, was a different matter altogether. Being a child with special needs, she required more intensive attention. This was out of the question in the village of Pyla. Walter made enquiries everywhere, including the British Bases, but the schooling there was for British children only.

However, he had also contacted the authorities in the south. Much to his delight, they managed to find Emma a place in Prodomos Primary School located in the centre of Larnaca. Here she received full-time special needs education and she thrived. The class had only three other children, all Greek-speaking, but somehow they – teachers and children – managed.



Emma (third left) at the Prodomos School for differently-abled children, together with her classmates and teachers

Body language and gestures played a great part in overcoming most of the language problems.

With the family settled, Walter felt much more at ease to tackle his job. Based at the UNPOL station in the centre of Pyla, PYCALO's prime function is maintaining harmonious contact between the two mukhtars and their communities who live and work side-by-side in the only mixed village in the buffer zone.

The recent bicomunal football match held in Pyla on Sunday 17 July, the first in over 30 years, is evidence of their success. However Walter is highly conscious about the work of his predecessors. "UNPOL has a very good name in Pyla, and it is thanks to their hard work and the reputation they have gained over the years. This bodes well for me and all those presently working here, and it is up to us to uphold the good name. I am in daily contact with the people of Pyla, and there is no doubt that the power of persuasion works well." Fortunately for UNFICYP, the Irish have plenty of that! The eloquence bestowed on those who have kissed the Blarney Stone can work wonders.

When Walter first arrived in Pyla in August 2004, the only other UNPOL members apart from the Irish were from Australia. Two months ago, with the augmentation of the civilian police unit, a Dutchman, Hans Kempes, joined the Pyla team. According to Walter, "this adds to the flavour"!

Walter enjoys meeting up with other members of UNPOL and civil affairs personnel at the Friday morning meetings at HQ UNFICYP. "Now we have police officers not only from Australia, Ireland and the Netherlands, but also from Argentina, Bosnia, Croatia, India and Italy. It's a growing family and we all get on well. UNPOL police officers may wear a different uniform and speak a different language, but back in our home country, there is a great similarity. The same types of situations, the same problems – and the same jokes!"

Now that the Kilcullens are nearing the end of their year on the island, they are feeling nostalgic at the thought of leaving. As Walter says, "Coming here was a fabulous opportunity to spend time with the family. The children are fast growing up and it will soon be time for the first of the fledglings to 'leave the nest', so the timing was just right.

"At home in Ireland, we never had this quality of life. We have really been able to spread our wings here. The whole family has been on trips to Egypt, Israel and the Lebanon – cruises that were not only very enjoyable, but also educational. The children will never forget them."

Walter considers Pyla in particular a "very special place". He says: "I was openly accepted and welcomed here immediately by both communities, both as a police officer and as a family man". However Walter had taken the trouble to read up on the history of Cyprus before his arrival. He thinks it is vital to be aware of the background, and found himself constantly comparing the situation here to the problems back in Ireland. Coming from a country with a history of conflict, it is easy to understand why.

Back in Ireland, Walter has already completed a higher diploma in adult and community education, and soon hopes to further his studies in this general area. His experience in Cyprus has given him great ground-work – so much more important, he says, than simply reading from books. He will definitely be able to use the experience he has gained working with UNFICYP's multi-national force, and living side-by-side with people from totally different backgrounds, beliefs and political views. As he says, "Back in Ireland, it is rare to find people who have true pride in their heritage. Nobody could ever say this here – coming from Pyla is a status symbol! I have grown used to the village now and its friendly and easy-going, laid back way of life. This took some effort at first – now it's part of my nature!"

So as the Kilcullens fly out of Cyprus on 26 August, it will not be goodbye to what is now their second home. It will simply be au revoir.

MT



From the left, standing: Gary, Sara, Karl, Mark, Emma and Dara. Sitting: Mary and Walter



Walter with the children of the Greek Cypriot primary school in Pyla, just before the summer holiday break



Walter with the children of the Turkish Cypriot primary school in Pyla, just before the summer holiday break

Walter has nothing but the highest praise for the Cyprus Ministry of Education, so much so that he has written to express his sincere gratitude for all the help they provided with Emma's education during her year on the island.

# Launch of Second Phase of Buffer Zone De-mining Project

Phase two of the European Union-funded, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Partnership for the Future (PFF) Landmine and Ordnance Clearance Programme in Cyprus was launched early in the morning of 12 August. Two landmines were detonated in a Turkish Forces minefield in the buffer zone adjacent to the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) and UNFICYP headquarters.

The controlled explosions were triggered after countdowns by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zbigniew Wlosowicz, UNFICYP's Chief of Mission, and by Dr. Kezban Akansoy from the office of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus.

Mr. Wlosowicz welcomed the expansion of de-mining activities into the minefields of the Turkish Forces as well as the commitment of the Turkish Cypriot authorities and Turkish military authorities to the removal of landmines from the buffer zone once and for all.

"As of today, it is especially gratifying to note that we are now in a position to plan and programme for a mine-free buffer zone with the full co-operation of all concerned, an outcome that can only be of benefit to the island as a whole", he said.

The SRSRG paid tribute to the ongoing collaboration between UNFICYP peace-keeping, UN Mine Action expertise, and the EU. He thanked the EU for its generous support for the buffer zone de-mining project.

He recalled how, at the initial launch of the de-mining programme last November, he had commented that every mine destroyed "brings us a step forward on the path to crossing points, to normalcy and to peace and reconciliation". Now, he hoped it would not be long "before more crossing points are opened".

Dr. Kezban Akansoy, on behalf of the European Commission Representation in

Cyprus, spelled out the EU's long-standing tradition of financing de-mining operations around the world, noted how mine clearing in Cyprus would contribute to normalization of the situation on the island and thanked UNFICYP for its help and co-operation. She described the four million Euro initiative as "an active contribution to peace building, increased safety and reconciliation here on the island".

Both the United States Embassy in Cyprus and the British High Commission issued statements welcoming the fact that the new phase had been launched and that, in the words of the U.S. statement, "the two sides are actively cooperating with the UN on the process of de-mining."

Said a spokesman for the British High Commission: "We welcome both sides' commitment to a process that can only help to build confidence between the two communities."

The Mine Action Centre was set up in October 2004 and mine clearance activities officially began on 19 November 2004. To date, the programme has cleared 1,294 anti-tank mines and 892 anti-personnel mines, making for a total of 2,186 mines cleared. In the process, 13 minefields and some 575,686 square metres have been declared clear by the de-mining team.

As part of the phase two programme, the Mine Action Centre announced the start of de-mining operations to the west and east of Nicosia's Ayios Dhometios/Kermia area beginning 22 August.

A 100-metre safety cordon will be in place around the minefield during normal working hours (7.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.), necessitating possible road closures for mine clearance operations. To ensure safer, faster operations, detour directions are being posted in affected neighbourhoods, while the public is being advised to comply with safety instructions from local authorities.



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## New HIV/AIDS Focal Point Joins Campaign

This July marked the fifth anniversary of the passing of UN Resolution 1308 in response to the AIDS epidemic. The resolution underscored the fact that if left unchecked, AIDS could pose a risk to stability and security worldwide. Thus the issue was put on the map for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

To commemorate the event, DPKO invited ten HIV/AIDS Advisers and Focal Points to attend a week-long workshop, the second ever, hosted this year at New York HQ.

Anne Bursey, UNFICYP's Public Information Officer and newly nominated Focal Point for HIV/AIDS, was there to learn what plans the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and DPKO have launched to help fight the spread of the HIV virus and to lend support to this important effort. DPKO and UNAIDS joined forces to ensure that the UN sets the highest possible standards in protecting both peacekeepers and the populations we are in contact with from contracting HIV.

Before settling into a series of lectures and brainstorming sessions, workshop host Roxaneh Bazergan kicked off the week by whisking everyone into an impressive Security Council meeting addressing HIV/AIDS and international peacekeeping operations.

In his speech to the Security Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Guéhenno, underlined the positive impact of work undertaken by the DPKO-UNAIDS partnership over the last five years. For example, in Haiti, a number of quick-impact projects developed by the UN's public information office working with a local non-governmental organisation fought stigma and discrimination and promoted awareness among local journalists.

Mr Guéhenno also pointed out some key challenges that remain in the fight against AIDS, including the "need to ensure AIDS awareness is considered a command responsibility, moving beyond rhetoric to engagement at the highest levels". He spoke of a five-point strategy that was implemented



to reduce the risk of peacekeepers contracting the virus while in mission: first, the creation of specific capacity within missions to address AIDS; second, ensuring the availability of condoms and observing universal medical precautions; third, the development of voluntary counselling and testing capabilities in mission; fourth, establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; fifth, setting up projects for outreach to local communities and mainstreaming the issue of AIDS into mission mandates".

DPKO has over 66,000 uniformed personnel and more than 13,000 international and national civilians serving 17 missions worldwide. This is a significant number of people who, at any given time, need to be advised and trained on how to prevent the spread of the virus. This is why AIDS was also high on the agenda for the conference of force commanders held in NY this past July. Indeed, it has become a key part of senior management training for those serving in all peacekeeping operations.

Meantime, Anne, as part-time Focal Point to UNFICYP, will support DPKO by maintaining an on-going awareness campaign for HIV/AIDS in mission, as well as providing current communication tools to sector medical officers who deliver the required AIDS training for new contingents.

In Mr. Guéhenno's words, "knowledge in itself does not protect people from HIV; it is what people do with that knowledge and how they change their behaviour that makes the difference".

## One Voice, One Staff, One UN

Members of UNFICYP's UNFSU (United Nations Field Staff Union) committee were recently sporting new UNFSU T-shirts. Perfect for the motivated staff member, the T-shirts proudly announce "One Voice, One Staff, One UN". The comfortable cotton shirts are being sold in a team-spirited effort to raise funds for the staff union.

The UNFSU represents all international Field Staff recruited specifically for service in peacekeeping and other field operations. President of the UNFICYP unit, Ross Wickware, proudly states, "We're committed to work hand in hand with UNFICYP administration, focusing on the issues that can positively affect the UN's greatest asset – the staff". The committee works on issues such as classification of duty station, education grant, reform of the field service category, and the new staff selection system.

Locally recruited staff members are represented by United Nations Staff Union (NY Staff Council) and in Cyprus by UNFICYP's own ULESO (Union of Locally Employed Staff Organisation).

The T-shirts come in white, blue and sand, medium and large, on sale for £7.50 at the PIO. Call Aldo Henriquez on Ext. 4409.



## Introducing Peacekeeping Conduct and Discipline Units

In the latest move in reforms to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations has instructed eight of the United Nations' peacekeeping operations to establish Conduct and Discipline Units immediately.

Each office will be staffed by senior-level experts on personnel conduct issues and replacing mission focal points on sexual exploitation and abuse, who were installed following reports of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations over the past year and a half. The Conduct and Discipline Units place dedicated, senior and skilled personnel in several peacekeeping mission headquarters. They will be guided by a Conduct and Discipline Unit now being staffed in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' New York Headquarters.

The Conduct and Discipline Units will address issues such as preventing misconduct, handling complaints and data management and ensuring compliance with United Nations standards of conduct. United Nations rules forbid staff from contact with prostitutes, forbid sexual relations with anyone under 18, and "strongly discourage" relations with beneficiaries. (In UN peacekeeping, that means all members of the host population.) Individual peacekeeping missions also have their own codes of conduct with more stringent requirements, including such measures as curfews, lists of off-limits establishments, a rule that troops wear military uniforms off-duty, and telephone hot-lines to report abuse.

The new Conduct and Discipline Units will not conduct investigations. These will be handled by the United Nations' Office for Internal Oversight Services and other offices.

The new units are part of the ongoing reforms sparked by reports of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, which the United Nations has been pursuing vigorously with investigations, disciplinary measures, training and policy changes since early 2004.

## If In Doubt, Stay Out!

It remains a priority objective for UNFICYP to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). Sally Anne Corcoran, UNFICYP's Gender and SEA focal point, conducted the mission's first gender and SEA-related training with the incoming UNPOL SCAT teams now preparing to take over civil affairs functions from sectoral military components.

At the end of last month, the Chief of Mission noted in a circular to all personnel that United Nations SEA procedures consider establishments such as bars, nightclubs, brothels, or hotels featuring sexual exploitation and abuse in the form of prostitution to be "Off-Limits Locations", and warned that the presence at such a location constitutes support for sexual exploitation and shall be dealt with accordingly.

UN rules also prohibit the following activities by its personnel:

- Sex with prostitutes
  - Sex with anyone under 18 years of age
  - Exchanging money, goods, or employment for sex
- UNFICYP personnel are advised they must adhere fully with UN regulations. This means avoiding premises that are clearly involved in or suspected of sexual exploitation activities.

The United Nations has completed investigations against some 186 peacekeeping personnel in its field missions since January 2004. Seven civilian personnel have been dismissed, two police officers repatriated and 78 military personnel – including six commanders – repatriated on disciplinary grounds.

Several troop-contributing countries have confirmed disciplinary and criminal prosecution against repatriated United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

The Conduct and Discipline Units are among the recommended actions proposed by Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, the Secretary-General's Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel.

In May, the Security Council condemned acts of sexual exploitation by United Nations peacekeeping troops and expressed support for Prince Zeid's strategies for combating the problem.

In June, the General Assembly approved a wide-ranging package of these recommendations. In addition to the Conduct and Discipline Units, other measures being put into effect include a policy on victims assistance, intensified mandatory training of peacekeepers, measures to strengthen leadership accountability, improvements in living conditions and welfare for peacekeeping personnel and amendments to legal agreements with troop-contributing countries and contracts with all peacekeeping personnel to include prohibitions on sexual exploitation and abuse.

In approving a \$3.2 billion peacekeeping budget for 2005-2006, the General Assembly emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive, well-defined and coherent policy to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse in all United Nations activities. It also stated that the implementation of zero tolerance towards acts of sexual exploitation and abuse should be clearly defined as a core management function.

The General Assembly is due to take up the issue again during its 60th session, this autumn.



Sally Anne Corcoran briefing UNFICYP personnel in the HQ conference room

**Remember: If in doubt, stay out!**

## New Contingents arrive as UNCIVPOL becomes UNPOL

Much news on the Civpol, sorry, make that the UNPOL front. It has now been officially ordained by New York that the UNCIVPOL designation is no more and that from now on, our civilian police are to be known as United Nations Police (acronym, UNPOL). So, it's goodbye Civpol and hello UNPOL. Many will have noted that the

mission's UNPOL configuration has been in expansive mode these last few months. Not only has UNFICYP acquired more police, but we have a whole new range of unfamiliar uniforms out there on patrol to prove it! The five-contingent-strong UNPOL (remember, the Croats joined the Australians, Dutch, Indians and Irish in mid-April), now boasts eight

contingents with the late June arrival of the first Argentinian police, followed by the Italians in mid-July and the Bosnians in late July. This brings UNPOL's strength to 59, ten short of the 69-strong ceiling set by the Security Council. Still, keep a sharp watch-out for new uniform insignia because there's bound to be more to follow!

**The first Argentinian UNPOL Contingent joined UNFICYP on 29 June 2005**



**Fernando Lopez** **Elias Auadre**  
**Domingo Zerpa** **Sergio Oitana**

**Capt. Sergio Oitana** (Contingent Commander) deals with immigration, narcotics and federal crimes. He is the newly appointed SCAT coordinator at UNPOL HQ, UNPA.

**Lt. Elias Auadre** is involved with public security and terrorism. He is now attached to the SCAT team in Mammari, Sector 1.

**Sgt. Rosario Domingo Zerpa** is a communications officer. He is attached to the new UNPOL station in Leonarisso as a patrol officer.

**1/Cpl. Fernando German Lopez** specializes in the prevention of drug addiction. He is now attached to the Dherinia station as a patrol officer.

**The first Bosnian UNPOL Contingent joined UNFICYP on 24 July 2005**



**Nenad Djuric**  
**Slobodan Kovacevic**

**Insp. Slobodan Kovacevic** (Contingent Commander) holds a law degree and specializes in people trafficking, narcotics and organized crime. He is currently attached to the SCAT team in Sector 2.

**Snr. Police Officer Nenad Djuric** is a fire-arms and field training officer. He is now attached to the UNPOL training office in the UNPA.

**The first Italian UNPOL Contingent joined UNFICYP on 12 July 2005**



**Salvatore Cassara** **Salvatore Masia**  
**Massimo Diagora** **Antonello De Chiara**

**Ch. Insp. Salvatore Masia** (Contingent Commander) deals mainly with crime and traffic investigations and public order. He is currently Station Commander in Dherinia.

**Ch. Insp. Antonello De Chiara** is involved with the emergency services and INTERPOL. He is attached to the SCAT team in Sector 2.

**Insp. Massimo Diagora** is a crime scene investigator. He now holds the post of Staff Officer Ops at HQ UNPOL, UNPA.

**Insp. Salvatore Cassara** deals with criminal investigations in southern Italy. He is presently a patrol officer in Dhenia.

## Irish Rotation

As we welcome the 10 new members of UNPOL, UNFICYP said its goodbyes this month to 11 members of the 12th Irish Civilian Police Contingent. The mug-out took place on 5 August in the UNPOL club.

The festivities started at 7.00 p.m. Mugs were presented by the Irish Contingent Commander, Supt. Liam Mayock, who had no trouble in relating a few kind words about each of the recipients!

The departing Irish, in a true patriotic gesture, then gave a rendition of the Irish national anthem, led by renowned tenor Walter Kilcullen.

A splendid barbecue had been arranged for the evening. Thanks go to Aisling McCommon and Rita Butler for a fantastic spread. The event was very well attended by many members from all contingents presently in the UNPOL component, so much so that the club shut its doors at 5.00 a.m.

Out go the Irish in style!



**From the left (standing): Sgt. John Nolan, Sgt. Walter Kilcullen, Insp. Willie Redmond, Garda Finn Phillips, Garda Una Shanley, Sgt. Gabriel Plower**  
**Kneeling: Garda Eugene O'Leary, Garda Mary Moran, Garda Aideen Ryan, Garda Tom Miller and Garda Kevin Duggan**

## South American Medal Parade marks Tour's End

UNFICYP's Sector 1, Argentinian Contingent headquarters, known as Camp San Martín, lies nestled amongst a forest of cypress trees and green valleys, past the village of Katydhata, and adjacent to the western sector of the buffer zone. It was here, on 11 August where UNFICYP guests, officials from Chile, Germany, Switzerland, the French Defence Attaché, families and friends were invited to celebrate the 12th Argentinian medal parade for 155 troops coming to the end of their tour in Cyprus.



**Maj. Gen. Figoli saluting the troops**



**Lt. Col. Sidders presenting the UN medal to one of his soldiers**

The Argentinian Contingent (ARGCON) has served UNFICYP in Sector 1 since September 1993 and comprises troops from the Argentinian Task Force 25, the MFR and UN Flight. With the arrival of new recruits, these South American troops fly out on 7 October 2005, returning to bases in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Argentina.

The evening's pageantry began with a drill formation and medal presentation to peacekeepers who had served in Cyprus over the last six to 24 months.



**Sgt. Danial Vilchez, ARGCON member, performs the "malambo" during the evening's entertainment**

Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli complimented members of Sector 1 on their immaculate turn out and bearing on the medal parade.

He commended them on their professionalism while serving with UNFICYP and bid a fond farewell to those soon returning home to be reunited with families and loved ones. One minute of silence was observed in memory of the fallen Argentinian soldiers who died in the name of peace throughout UN missions.

Commanding Officer Sector 1, Lt. Col. Frederico Sidders, gave a very moving speech in both English and Spanish, noting: "We worked responsibly, with efficiency and commitment toward accomplishing the assigned mission".

As the soldiers marched off proudly bearing their new UNFICYP medals, guests were led to an elegantly laid out array of food and drinks on the moonlit terrace overlooking pool and stage.

The highlight of the evening once the sun had set came with performances of Argentina's "Chacareras" and "Gatos" dances by Camp San Martín personnel. Sgt. Vilchez showed off several lively, fast and precise toe-tapping manoeuvres in a dance style called "Malambo". Complete with the very finest of "Classic Tango" demonstrations, the show was capped with a finale of folkloric song by the Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Jorge Giudice, radiating yet more of Argentina's rich musical tradition.



**Standing at attention: this resplendent uniform dates back to the historical Grenadiers' Regiment led by Gen. Jose de San Martin in the emancipation campaign of 1812 against the Spanish.**



Ersin and Costas during the Cyprus Symposium

## Outside Activities ... Dyslexic Conference in Limassol

Association, Mr. Costas Apostolides. Drawing on Costas' experience, Ersin set up the NCD. At first, their only contact was by e-mail. However when the crossing points were opened on 23 April 2003, facilitating passage between north and south on the island, members of the two associations then had the luxury of meeting up in person.

Thus, a three-day International Multilingualism and Dyslexia Conference – the first Cyprus Symposium – took place in Limassol, starting on 14 July. Twenty Turkish Cypriots representing the NCD crossed to the south and gathered at the Hawaii Hotel to meet 20 Greek Cypriots from the CDA. The featured keynote speaker was Dr. Ilhan Raman of the School of Social Sciences, Middlesex University, UK. His insightful remarks sparked a lively discussion on how to help the children of both communities through the design of appropriate education systems for dyslexics.

A follow-up conference has been arranged for later this summer at the premises of NCD in northern Nicosia. Ersin and Costas will no doubt be getting their heads together to achieve even more progress for dyslexics island-wide. As Ersin says, "All children have the right to an education, irrespective of any learning difficulty. It is no different in Cyprus."

Interpreter/translator/information assistant Ersin Öztoyan, one of UNFICYP's PIO staff members, is the founder member of the Northern Cyprus Dyslexia Association (NCD).

Ersin and her family returned to north Cyprus from the UK in 1996. Two of Ersin's three children suffer from dyslexia, and she soon found there was no dyslexia awareness in the north of the island. She therefore made enquiries with international associations for dyslexics, and discovered that in fact, one association did exist on the island, but south of the buffer zone, an area which at that time was almost impossible for Turkish Cypriots to cross to.

Nevertheless, Ersin pursued her endeavours to establish awareness and struck up a friendship with the Greek Cypriot President of the Cyprus Dyslexia

## Albanian Elections



As a member of the European Youth Forum (AEGEE), I was fortunate enough to be selected as an international election observer to help monitor Albania's parliamentary elections in early July. We worked closely with a local NGO (MIJAF) to promote voter turnout in a campaign entitled "Walk the Vote".

Amidst rumour and speculation about the way the elections would be run, we set about our challenging task, backed by USAID as part of its commitment to free and fair elections worldwide. In helping to fund our presence and by providing technical support for the electoral process,

USAID helped ensure a more secure and comfortable environment in which to vote.

We in turn, as international observers, were able to experience Albanian hospitality. During my week monitoring the election campaign in the city of Shkoder, I talked to local people about their concerns and expectations for the up-coming event.

On 3 July, Albanians proved they could indeed "walk the vote", as the electorate voted to replace the incumbent Socialist Party with the Democratic Party.

Yasa Yesilada,  
UNFICYP Interpreter/Translator/Info. Asst.



## Argentinian Air Force Day

This month was very important for all personnel of the Argentinian Air Force around the world. On 12 August, we celebrated the creation of the "Escuela de Aviación Militar", built in Buenos Aires in 1912 during the presidency of the late Roque Sáenz Peña. This date officially marks the birth of the Air Force and commemorates its long history of national defence.

Our training institutes worldwide take on the responsibility of maintaining our high standard of performance. In this, we feel privileged to learn from those already based in the Antarctic, Haiti and, of course, here in Cyprus. Being grateful for the support and hospitality, we in turn try to help the international

community in times of humanitarian disaster by offering aid, medical evacuations, search and rescue operations, and even fire fighting.

On 12 August, UNFICYP hosted a moving ceremony at the old Nicosia Airport to honour such actions. All 28 members of UN Flight attended (see photo above), including our Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Osvaldo José Albanesi. Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli was also there. In celebrating 93 years of dedication, we paid our respects to those who died in the service of our country, proud to be part of such a legacy.

1st Lt. Alfonso Naish

## CANCON Hands Over, 30 Metres Below

Capt. Dan Zegerac was a bit cheeky when he and fellow Canadian Ross Wickware decided to inaugurate the arrival of Capt. Alain Chabot – under water!

With Dan's departure end of summer, and a common passion with the new SO3 for under-water diving, of course it only seemed natural that they should conduct CANCON's command handover one kilometre off-shore. At the popular diving spot off Larnaka, location of the wreckage of the ferryboat "Zenobia", Canadian and UN flags plus handshakes were exchanged 30 metres below the surface.

Capt. Chabot, a native of Quebec City and a graduate in biology (this explains his love for marine life), arrived mid-summer with his wife Sonia, and two children Alec (8) and Marika (5). This is a nice change

for Alain who served with CANCON in several gnarly missions prior to volunteering for Cyprus. His most recent deployment was to Kabul, Afghanistan, (2004), preceded by tours to Banjaluka, Bosnia, (2001/2), and, before that, with UNPROFOR in Visoko, Bosnia, (1995).

UNFICYP is Alain's second UN mission. Considering Canada's long military and political relationship with Cyprus (1964-1993), it is no



Capt. Alain Chabot

small wonder that Alain knew so much about the history and situation on the island. In fact, when he walked the green line tour across Nicosia with Sector 2, he came upon the very locations where he was able to see and touch the remnants of stories heard back home from an era lived not so long ago.

Not everyone in the Canadian military is interested in joining a mission with family, he said. While the benefits of non-separation were attractive for Alain and his wife, most captains in the Canadian Forces have children who are in their teenage years for whom being uprooted is not terribly appealing. The young children in Alain's family made the decision an easy one. From his perspective, it is a luxury to spend two full years with loved ones without having to ship out every six months for six months!

Alain, UNFICYP vous souaite la bienvenue!



## Bi-Cultural Cyprus Theme Night

The bi-cultural Cyprus theme night held on 21 July 2005 was the first event of its kind at the International Cafeteria.

Organised and sponsored by Eurest Support Services (ESS), and supported by the Force Supply

Officer, Maj. Alan Staples, it reflected the colourful cultures of the two communities in Cyprus. The event was held in lieu of the evening meal, outside the international cafeteria to take advantage of the beautiful summer night.

Cypriot specialities were prepared and served by the chefs from both communities and the evening also featured traditional music and dancing by a professional local group. Dances were performed by men and women in traditional Cypriot costumes, and included the "Syrtos", "Datsia" and "Sousta".

All the dances reflected the spirit of Cypriot society. However, the most entertaining was undoubtedly the "arapias tis kandilas" (the dance with tumblers) in which a dancer balances as many glasses on his head as he can. Almost the whole audience joined in the energetic last dance – "Sousta" – bringing the evening to a close.

The event shows once again Facility Manager Michael's dedication to the military and civilian personnel as he continues his efforts to bring these unique aspects of the Cypriot dining experience to the table. This is an event that many soldiers might not have had the opportunity to enjoy outside the UNPA during their time in Cyprus.

ESS hopes that there will be many more such events that will not only entertain UN personnel, but also promote positive relations between the two communities.



Hungarian WO1 Janos Bokor, helping with the traditional Cypriot "dance of the tumblers"!