

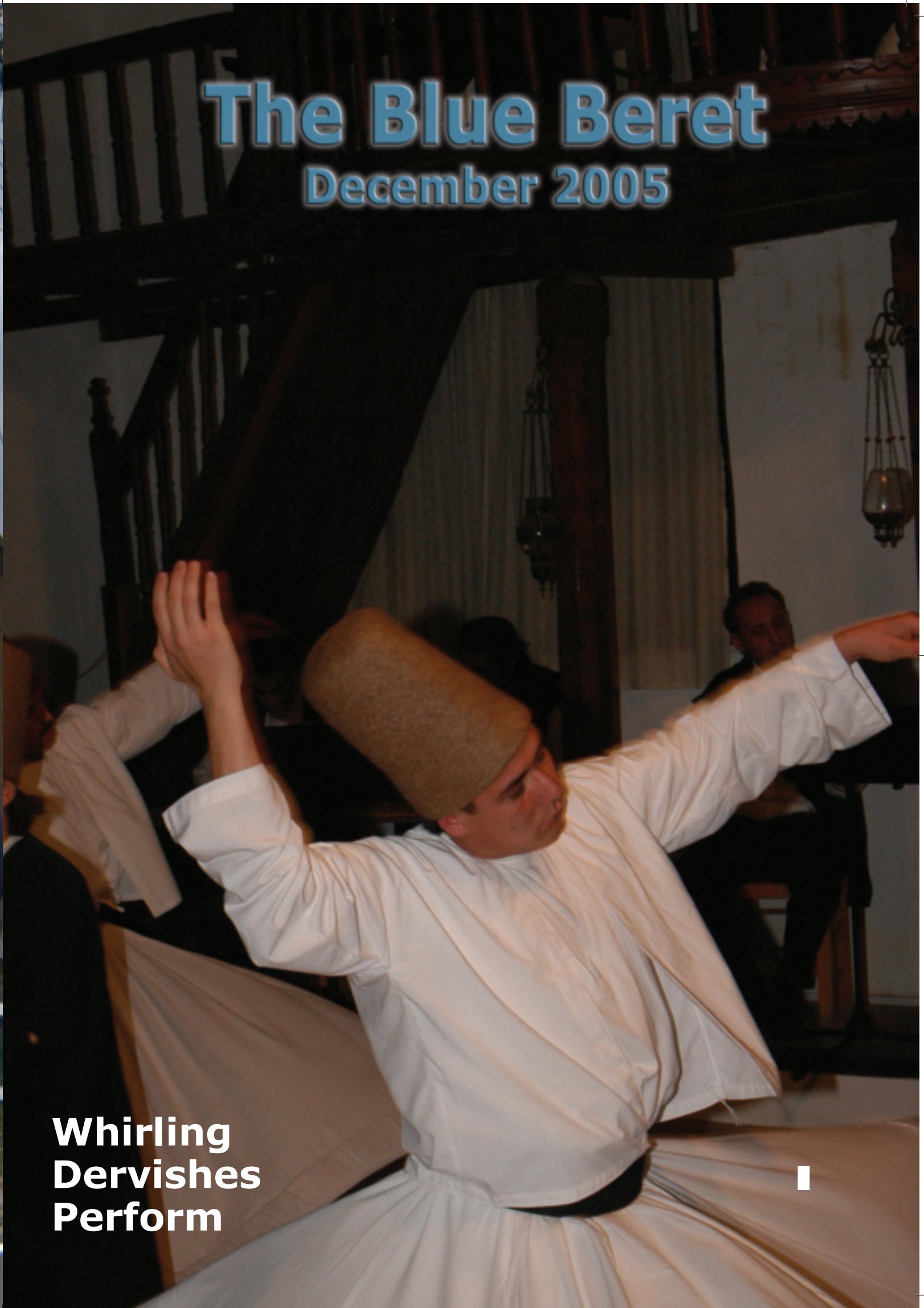
## El Salvador joins UNPOL



## The Blue Beret

### December 2005

## Whirling Dervishes Perform





## THE BLUE BERET

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## CHANGE AND FAREWELL

With the impending departure of Chief of Mission Wlosowicz (see pages 9-10) and the arrival of new SRSG Michael Møller, 2005 comes to an end on a note of change. We will have advanced no more than a week into the New Year when Force Commander Maj. Gen. Heber Figoli also departs the mission to return to his native Uruguay at the end of his two-year assignment in Cyprus.

On the page opposite, both outward bound Chief of Mission and Force Commander salute UNFICYP staff – civilian, military and police – in year-end goods wishes to all and to their families. Both attest to how privileged and fortunate they have been in leading the mission team through these recent dynamic years.

True, there has been no settlement. Still, the island they depart is distinctly different from that which greeted them when each first arrived. Force 860 is now a fact of everyday mission life as we successfully downsized the peacekeeping force by 30% to implement the new concept of operations in all its mobile modes and multiple patrols.

Recent controversy notwithstanding, crossing points have opened, easing the freedom of movement restrictions, which for so long kept the two communities apart. Millions of crossings have taken place from south to north and north to south without incident.

Protracted mine-clearance negotiations led to the successful launch of de-mining operations on both sides of the buffer zone. Today and every day, UNFICYP works closely with the de-mining cell and with EU and UNDP's PFF in pursuit of a mine-free buffer zone.

These are a part of the Wlosowicz/Figoli legacy. We wish them good luck and good fortune in their future endeavours and we look forward to the challenges ahead under the leadership of our new Chief of Mission, SRSG Møller.

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Front Cover: Whirling Dervishes  
perform the Sema ceremony  
Back Cover: UNPOL's Salvadorian flag-raising



**Incoming SRSG, Michael Møller,**  
who takes up his assignment in early  
January 2006

## Year-end Greetings

**Chief of Mission**  
**Zbigniew Wlosowicz**



Greetings and my very best wishes to you in the coming year. In my final note for the *Blue Beret*, I would like to begin with this simple message: It has been a privilege to serve as your Chief of Mission. Indeed, I find at the end of my five-and-a-half year term that I am sorry to leave this position and this island. I remain hopeful for Cyprus and confident in UNFICYP. Experience has taught me that the path to finding a Cyprus solution is a difficult one. It is

time now for me to turn the work of laying the ground for a solution to a new and capable team of leaders.

Many of you know that I first started working on the Cyprus issue while I was a student in graduate school. My doctoral dissertation focused on Cyprus. I could not know at the time that I would move from academic to active participant. Working as Special Representative for the Secretary-General required engagement in practical problem-solving. I have had the privilege with UNFICYP to lead an effective team of UN staff, military, civilian and police through a dynamic and challenging period in Cyprus' long history. It has been a rewarding endeavour that I will recall fondly as I depart for other opportunities.

This past year has provided its own series of challenges, only the

latest of which is the dispute over the Ledra Street crossing. But I have seen time and again that the UNFICYP team holds its head high and faces any problems with eyes open and minds alert. You can be proud to be an effective team of peacekeepers, as I am proud to have overseen our efforts. I wish to extend a special thank you to Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, our Force Commander, for his partnership over the past two years.

Before I say farewell, or in Polish, *zegnaj, ali nie na zawsze*, please join me in welcoming UNFICYP's new Chief of Mission, Michael Møller. Mr. Møller will arrive in early January directly from the Secretariat of UN Headquarters.

To all of UNFICYP, *Szczesliwego Nowego Roku!* May you proceed into 2006 with confidence and peace.

**Force Commander,**  
**Maj.Gen. Hebert Figoli**



My seasons greetings are extended to all in this festive season.

It has been a great privilege to serve as UNFICYP Force Commander over a very historic period for peacekeeping in Cyprus. A Force Commander's work depends greatly on the expertise and hard work of the staff, both civilian and military. These

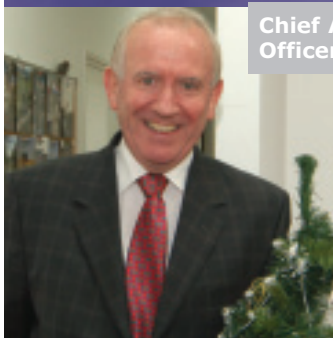
people become all-important colleagues who mark the difference between success or failure. So I leave UNFICYP with a deep sense of good fortune and gratitude for having worked with, and been supported by, such excellent people. Thank you.

When I took over in January 2004, I knew that major challenges lay ahead. But I could not have predicted the events that would unfold, placing Cyprus at the centre of international attention. The Good Offices mission in the spring of 2004; the mine clearance negotiations and subsequent demining operations with both opposing forces; the introduction of Force 860; and the ongoing challenges of opening new crossing

points have required those working in UNFICYP to cope with added pressure in many different forms. I would like to thank and congratulate you for your professionalism and solidarity during these testing times. Of course, the work that has been started now carries on. I should like to wish you all the very best of luck with this. I would also like to pay tribute to my colleagues on the headquarters staff who I have been privileged to work with in my time as Force Commander.

On behalf of my wife and son, we extend our best wishes to all our friends and colleagues in UNFICYP, and their families, during this festive season. Thank you and good luck for the future.

**Chief Administrative**  
**Officer, Francis Clancy**



Dear Colleagues, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all UNFICYP personnel for their dedication

and support during the past year. Your professionalism, competency and integrity are admired and greatly appreciated.

This time of year always brings memories of family and the good times spent together. It is often these memories of past times that give us the strength and fortitude to continue performing the important role of maintaining peace in a land far from our homes. Service in UNFICYP can never be a

substitute for being with your loved ones. But I sincerely hope that you derive satisfaction and peace of mind from the knowledge that you are making an important and genuine contribution to the saving of lives through your peacekeeping duties, the most noble of endeavours. You, and your families, have every right to be proud of your work in the "Service of Peace".

Please accept my sincerest wishes for a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. God Bless.

**Chief of Staff, Col.**  
**Peter Fraser-Hopewell**



At this time of year, we all think of our families. For some, those who have their families with them, it is a

time to celebrate as a group. For those with loved ones many miles away it is a time for reflection.

I would like to thank all of you who have worked so hard during the last 12 months. Since arriving in September I have been hugely impressed by the dedication and hard work of everyone.

Cyprus is a holiday island and, for many, a holiday destination. For us, it is a mission with a

demanding task. I am very conscious that great stresses are placed upon you all. The job is not easy as we carry out a demanding task navigating between the two sides whilst trying to move towards a resolution to the Cyprus problem.

Thank you for your efforts. To you and your families, whether here with you or back home, may you have a happy and rewarding New Year.



## SG's Message on World AIDS Day

December 1 was World AIDS Day. In his message, the Secretary-General contrasted progress and promises made to date. In the case of the latter, he said the time has come to keep them.

Today, we have about \$8 billion dollars available for AIDS efforts in developing countries annually – compared to \$300 million a decade ago. Today, the national AIDS response in some 40 countries is led by Heads of State, their deputies or Government themselves. Today, AIDS is a familiar item for discussion in the General Assembly and the Security Council. We see new signs of progress in

almost every region of the world. We have real evidence that AIDS is a problem with a solution. We have a clear plan of action to halt and reverse the spread of AIDS.

At the World Summit held at the United Nations in September 2005, leaders pledged to fully implement the Declaration of Commitment of HIV/AIDS adopted in 2001, by scaling up efforts for prevention, treatment, care and support so that every person, without exception, has access to these life-saving programmes. Next year, we will review progress in implementing the Declaration.

So this is a time to concentrate our minds. It is a time to recognize

that although our response so far has succeeded in some of the particulars, it has yet to match the epidemic in scale. It is a time to admit that if we are to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of AIDS by 2015, then we must do far, far more. That mission concerns every one of us. For halting the spread of AIDS is not only a Millennium Development Goal in itself; it is a prerequisite for reaching most of the others.

Today, let us make clear this is a time to keep the promise. On this World AIDS Day, I ask all of you to join me in that mission.



Today, treatments exist that will slow the progression of HIV and allow those infected to live healthy lives for years.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reported in late November that the number of people living with AIDS in 2005 was over 40 million, up from an estimated 37.5 million in 2003. Nearly 3 million of these individuals infected represent children and 3.1 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses. However, without the combination of prevention and treatment measures that were introduced by UNAIDS, the number would have been closer to 3.4 million. As noted in the SG's message above, the UN is now allocating about \$8 billion annually toward AIDS efforts in

developing countries – compared to \$300 million spent only decade ago. Progress is definitely being made, but the total infection rates are continuing to rise globally meaning much work remains to be done.

In Cyprus, the Ministry of Health reported recently that a total of 466 known cases of HIV were recorded since 1989 when the first case appeared. The annual infection rate has increased however, with 23 new cases diagnosed this year alone. While this would indicate an extremely low prevalence of infection in the south, all infections were sexually transmitted. In the north, while no HIV or AIDS cases were officially reported, there is

concern amongst non-governmental organisations providing education and counselling that suspect the sex trade is a potential source of infection.

This year's World AIDS day theme **"Stop AIDS. Make the Promise"** is intended to encourage each of us to make small pledges toward changing our behaviour in ways that can support the fight against HIV/AIDS. Make a promise: to demonstrate you care and are concerned about HIV and AIDS; to reduce stigma or discrimination currently faced by the many people living with the virus; to avoid risky behaviour caused by drinking excessively or taking drugs and to wear a condom.

**What is HIV?** The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, attacks the body's immune system. It weakens the body's defences against disease and makes the body more vulnerable to a number of potentially life-threatening infections and cancers.

**What is AIDS?** If left untreated HIV will almost always destroy the immune system. The body then becomes vulnerable to disease. This stage of HIV is called AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The more the body's system becomes damaged, the greater the risk of death from infection and/or disease.

**STOP AIDS.**  
Make the Promise.

If you or a friend wishes to have information on testing or services available in Cyprus:

Larnaca General Hospital	– HIV/AIDS treatment and counselling clinic: 24-800-464
Pembe Kosk, north Nicosia	– Counselling and prevention education: 90-392-22-70-638
UNFICYP – HIV/AIDS focal point	– Anne Bursey: 22-61-4546

## SG's Message on Human Rights Day

Fifty-seven years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibited all forms of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, torture remains unacceptably common. Recent times have witnessed an especially disturbing trend of countries claiming exceptions to the prohibition on torture based on their own national security perceptions.

"Let us be clear: torture can never be an instrument to fight terror, for torture is an instrument of terror", the Secretary-General said in his message.

"The prohibition on torture is well established under international law. It is also unambiguous and absolute. It is binding on all States in all territories under their jurisdiction or effective control. It applies in all circumstances, in times of war as in times of peace. Nor is torture permissible when it is called something else: cruel and inhuman treatment is unacceptable and illegal, irrespective of the name we give it.

"States must honour this prohibition and vigorously combat the impunity of perpetrators of torture. Those who conceive of or authorize any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and those who commit such acts, should not go unpunished. Nor may any State condone torture by a third party. This means that individuals must never be rendered to another State if there is any danger that doing so may subject them to torture.

"The international community must speak forcefully, and with one voice, against torture in all its forms. Today, I call on all States who have not done so to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Torture Convention. And I urge all States to allow the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Torture independent access to detainees within their control. Unimpeded access is an essential protection for these individuals, whose isolation makes them especially vulnerable to abuse. Together, we must give voice, and redress, to abused detainees as well as to all victims and survivors of torture.

"Humanity faces grave challenges today. The threat of terror is real and immediate. Yet fear of terrorists can never justify adopting their methods. Nor can we be complacent about the broader prevalence of cruel and inhuman punishment, which in so many of our societies disproportionately affects the most vulnerable people: the imprisoned, the politically powerless and the economically deprived. Instead, we must respond to this evil wherever we find it by reaffirming humanity's most basic values.

"Today, on Human Rights Day, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and let us rededicate ourselves to wiping the scourge of torture from the face of the earth."

## Winter Fire Safety

### ALL FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED

The following are fire prevention guidelines for winter:

1. Gas heaters are NOT to be used within sleeping accommodation buildings.
2. When using gas heaters, make sure that they are checked and serviced by Engineering workshops and the area is well ventilated.
3. Never leave a functioning heater unattended.
4. Never plug electric heaters into extension leads on a carpeted floor.
5. Never dry clothes near or over a heater.
6. Never move a heater when it is on/working.
7. Keep heaters at least 1.25 metres away from any combustible materials.
8. Empty or full gas cylinders must not be stored inside the building. Store them in the designated areas provided. The only gas cylinder that is permitted inside a building is one that is used inside a gas heater.
9. Electric heaters can only be installed by qualified Engineering Section workshop electricians.
10. Don't overload electric sockets. Extension leads should be secured along a wall and not on the floor.
11. Don't use a two-pin unearthed plug in a three-pin socket, USE AN ADAPTER.
12. SMOKING is permitted in designated areas only.
13. All electric appliances and fixtures should be checked monthly. Report any faulty equipment immediately. Simple work service such as changing lights, light covers or repairing cracked and damaged sockets can prevent fire and save lives, property and equipment in the long term.
14. All personnel should seek advice from the Engineering Section or Sectors engineers to determine the maximum number of electrical appliances than can be used in each area.

15. Fire and smoke alarms should be fitted to the ceilings of all accommodations. Any and all defects and damaged equipment should be reported immediately.

16. Fire and earthquake drills should be carried out regularly. Check emergency alarms weekly and monthly to be sure that they are serviceable. Winter and earthquake safety instructions and "OP Fire Survival" instructions have been sent to each Sector, Section and unit and should be read carefully.

For extra copies of the "OP Fire Survival" instruction manual or to sign up for your fire training course - Contact UNFICYP Fire HQ (Ext: 4453/4)

### In the event of a fire, the following steps should be taken:

#### 1. Evacuate the building

#### 2. Call the Fire crew

UNPA: 22-61-4777  
South Tel: 112/199  
North Tel: 199

#### 3. Cut off the main electric/gas supply switch (if safe to do so. Otherwise, reach for your main electric switch).

#### 4. If safe, fight the fire with fire extinguishers (for electric fires, use carbon dioxide (CO2) or dry powder fire extinguishers only). Never use water or foam fire extinguishers on live electric fires (conductive/shock hazard).

#### 5. If fuel is leaking, cover the area with foam or fire blanket or sand or soil. Special care should be taken when electricity is involved (see 3).

**NOTE: In case of a fire, never move the equipment involved in the fire unless it is absolutely necessary for safety reasons. Always wait for the investigation to be completed.**

Senior Fire Officer Qadir Paul Nadeem



# Crime Reduction & Safety of Personal Possessions

Cyprus has a relatively low level of crime compared to other countries. It is easy, therefore, for us to drop our guard and when we do that, we are much more likely to become a victim of crime, even here on the island of Aphrodite! In this first look at ways of promoting crime reduction, FMPU offers tips on ensuring the safety of your personal possessions. A thief only needs a moment to make off with your valuables. Your coat hung up in a restaurant, your mobile phone left on the bar while you pop to the loo, your briefcase beside your chair, even, your card left on the table while you pay the bill... all are vulnerable if you look away for a second. So try to be careful at all times.



**Money and plastic cards**

Don't make it easy for pickpockets! Carry your wallet in an inside pocket, preferably one which can be fastened – not your back pocket. If someone bumps into you in a crowd, see if you still have your wallet or purse. Cash is a favourite target for thieves, so try to avoid carrying large amounts.

When on leave or R&R, take travellers' cheques or cards. If your plastic card is stolen, tell the card company IMMEDIATELY. Keep the number handy. If you delay reporting the loss, it could lead to a crime being committed in your name, as a thief could make fraudulent use of your card. Thieves can use plastic cards for over-the-counter and telephone purchases.

Never carry the personal identification number (PIN) with your cash dispensing cards. Always memorise your number, and never disclose it, not even to bank staff or close friends. Sign new plastic cards as soon as they arrive, and cut up old ones when they expire.

Never let your handbag out of

your sight. On public transport, keep hold of it, with the clasp or zip shut so a thief cannot steal your purse. In the office, keep it in a drawer, or in a corner near you and out of sight. Even in a car, keep it out of sight – if you have the windows open or a door unlocked, a thief may reach in when you stop in traffic.

Always keep your cheque card separate from your cheque book; a thief needs both to write a cheque.

## Passports

Only carry your passport when you need to. Thieves can sell stolen passports, and replacing them takes time and trouble.

## Mobile phones

Theft of mobile phones is becoming more and more common, but you can help to minimise the risk. Keep your phone out of sight, whether in the car or in the street.

Always use your phone's security lock code or PIN number, protecting the phone and the stored number content. Register your phone with the operator. If you report your phone stolen, the operator should then be able to bar the handset and the SIM card. Try not to use your phone in crowded areas where you feel unsafe and avoid displaying your phone in public view, where thieves can see it as a target. Do not leave your phone unattended and keep it with you at all times.

Security marking both the battery and mobile phone is also a good idea.

By providing the police with some basic information about your phone, you can make it more difficult for a thief to use it. Some



**Keep mobile phones out of view from thieves**

mobile phone networks can now stop stolen and lost phones being used on any network, even if the SIM card is removed and replaced.

The police may need these details if you report your phone stolen. The 15-digit serial or IMEI number helps to identify your phone and can be accessed by keying in digits into most phones or by looking behind the battery of your phone. The digits to use are as follows: **\*#06#**. This number could help the police to trace ownership quickly.

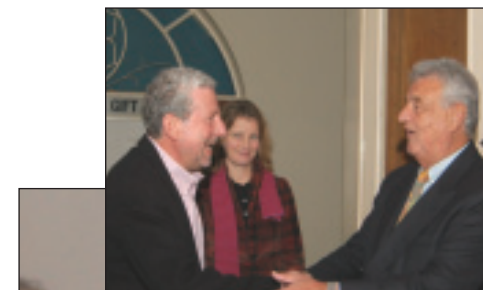


**It is a good idea to record details about your phone and store them in a safe place.**

- phone make and model
- fascia details (colour etc.)
- phone number
- serial/IMEI number
- PIN number

Call the CSM for more Crime Reduction advice at the FMPU: 22.61.4667

## End of CMP Era as Pierre Guberon Departs



On 9 December, over 120 guests gathered together at the conference rooms of the Ledra Palace Hotel to bid farewell to Pierre Guberon, Third Member i.a. of the Committee for Missing Persons.

Ambassadors, UNFICYP senior staff, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Members of the CMP together with their assistants and representatives from both sides of the island listened to UNFICYP Force Commander Maj.Gen. Hebert Figoli as he bade farewell to his Swiss friend and colleague after 20 years of service in Cyprus.

Maj.Gen. Figoli said that "I know Pierre, not only as a friend, but also as a man who drives a very hard bargain! That ability to drive a hard bargain comes from a great

breadth of experience and a rich and varied career."

He stressed that Pierre Guberon has worked tirelessly in his endeavours to help all people of Cyprus. In doing so, he has earned the respect of his fellow colleagues and Members of the Committee. He has faced many frustrations along the way, but he is a skilled negotiator. It is this blend of charm, tact and determination that many of us will remember most of all.

Pierre, you will be greatly missed by your friends and colleagues here in Cyprus. We wish you all the best in your retirement at home in Aubonne, Switzerland, together with your wife Janet and family.

## UNPOL Remembers

On 12 November, a memorial service was held for deceased Austcivpol member Ian Donald Ward. The service, usually held annually on 29 September (Police Remembrance Day) was deferred this year because of AUSTCIVPOL staff changes during September.

Australian police have been serving with UNFICYP since 1964. Ian Ward is one of three Australian police killed whilst serving in Cyprus.

The small service was conducted by the Deputy Senior Police Adviser, Col Speedie, and was attended by the Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris and members of the 82nd, 83rd and 84th Australian Contingents. Representatives from the

Dutch, Bosnian and Irish contingents were also there and their attendance was appreciated.

Ian Donald Ward was born in 1949 and joined the New South Wales Police on 12 April 1968, serving with the 11th Australian Police Contingent. On the morning of 12 November 1974, he and Sgt. John Woolcott had collected a Turkish Cypriot family and taken them south to Limassol.

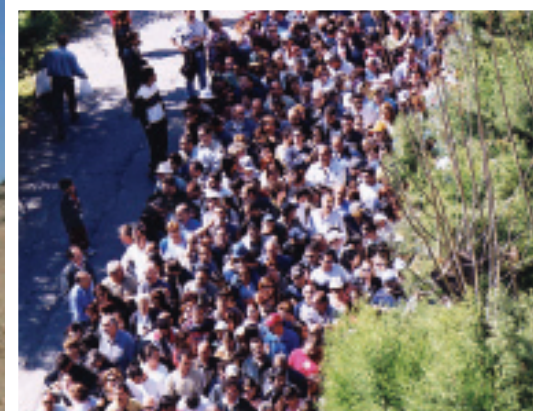
On the return journey, again accompanied by the Turkish Cypriot family, the vehicle detonated a landmine 650 metres north of the current memorial site in the buffer zone. Ward and a member of the Turkish Cypriot family were killed instantly. The other family members and Sgt. Woolcott were all badly injured, but survived. The remnants of the Landrover are still visible and cannot be removed because of the minefield. They remain a constant and stark reminder, not only of Ward's death, but also of the dangers faced by police in peacekeeping roles.

As part of the service, Col Speedie read a portion of the Australian Federal Police Commissioner's address to federal police which was delivered on Police Remembrance Day. He then touched on issues relating to the dangers of policing, no matter where officers serve, and reminded officers of the necessity to remain vigilant at all times, no matter what tasks were being performed. Following the service, Col thanked the Linou station staff for their ongoing commitment to maintaining the memorial site.





# End of Assignment



UNFICYP's Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz closes out five tumultuous years at the helm of one of the United Nations longest running missions. Tumultuous may seem an incongruous word to use when referring to the stewardship of a man known for a low-key, cautious approach to the day-to-day complexities of dealing with the Cyprus issue.

Zbig, as his friends call him, saw his role as that of stabilizer, assuring the optimum conditions for settlement talks, discharging his duties as the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the island.

In the course of his five plus years with UNFICYP, Zbig saw the kick-off of the Annan Plan talks in January 2002 through to culmination at the 24 April 2004 referenda. During that time, he

twice co-hosted visits by the Secretary-General to the island.

In between, he witnessed the opening of the first crossing point on 23 April 2003 and helped lay the groundwork for four subsequent openings. Before the referendum, he helped prepare a contingency plan that would have doubled the Force's size in the event of a settlement. Later, he helped conduct and implement a review that reduced Force strength from 1,230 to 860 peacekeepers (a 30% cutback) earlier this year.

In November 2004, he also helped launch the ongoing EU-funded, UN-executed buffer zone de-mining project. Other milestones in his time on island included the entry of the Republic of Cyprus into the European Union

and the departure from leadership of two seminal figures in the Cyprus story, the Greek Cypriot leader Glafkos Clerides and the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, and the arrival of their successors Tassos Papadopoulos and Mehmet Ali Talat.

Zbig brought a wealth of experience to his new assignment when he became Head of Mission in May 2000. A former lecturer of international law, in his own student days at Cambridge he'd made a special study of the Cyprus problem.

He arrived from New York where he had been advising UNDP on External Relations. Prior to that,

he had served as Poland's ambassador to the United Nations, one of the youngest, if not the youngest, to hold the presidency of the Security Council.

He quickly settled in. December 2001 saw the unprecedented meeting between the leaders of the two communities at his residence in the UNPA. Then came the announcement from the residence steps to some 300 media gathered outside in the rain that direct talks between the leaders would start early in the new year under UN auspices.

Over the next 28 months, there were the highs and lows of the negotiation process both on and off the island, including the Secretary-

General's visits in pursuit of a UN-brokered settlement between the two sides. On the first of those trips, the SG was accompanied by his wife Nane. On both occasions, Zbig's mother was a significant behind-the-scenes figure. She presided over the residence kitchen, preparing and serving an array of sumptuous meals to a stream of high-level visitors and negotiators. Her "peace cookies" became the stuff of legend among the Cyprus media.

In the course of his assignment, Zbig entertained many luminaries and dignitaries ranging from the Presidents of Hungary (Mr. Madl Ferenc) and the Slovak Republic (Mr. Rudolf Šuster) to European Parliament President Borell.

But Zbig always had a special place in his heart for the island's "leaders of tomorrow", whether they were the school children who regularly visited the UNPA or those he encountered at bicomunal events such as the annual UN Day celebrations at Ledra Palace.

His athletic abilities also stood him in good stead as he took full advantage of all the island could offer by swimming, skiing, roller-blading, and mountain biking, depending on the season. Some learned to be wary of his nightly jogging treks because they so often turned into impromptu inspections

of the litter situation around the UNPA!

A year and a day before the referenda, the then Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash unilaterally announced the opening of the first crossing point on the island, effectively ending 29 years during which movement between the two sides had been restricted to the point of paralysis.

Mr. Denktash offered less than 24 hours notice of his intention to open that first crossing point by the Ledra Palace Hotel. Unfazed, UNFICYP, led by its Chief of Mission, met the challenge, coping with the thousands who thronged the buffer zone area in those initial days of what in retrospect can only be described as "organised chaos".

Ironically, as the Chief of Mission prepares to depart, UNFICYP finds itself once again embroiled in the consequences of a unilateral attempt to open a crossing point. This time, the site is Ledra Street in the heart of the historic old town of Nicosia. Sadly, this time around, there has been no resolution as yet and it seems our Chief must end his tenure among us with an impasse.

We wish Zbig well in his future endeavours; whether in his native Poland or the United Nations, which he served so faithfully during his tenure in Cyprus.



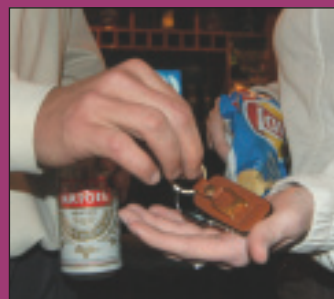
# SAFE TRAVELS

Now that we have launched ourselves on the party circuit, the transport unit would like to help us celebrate the festive season safely.

**The Transport Unit wishes everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!**



## DRINKING BUT NOT DRIVING



**Fact 1** On average 3,000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink drive collisions.

**Fact 2** Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.

**Fact 3** Drinking and driving occurs across a wide range of age groups but particularly among young men aged 17-29 in both casualties and positive breath tests following a collision.

There is no failsafe guide as to how much you can drink and stay under the limit. It can depend on many factors such as the amount and type of alcoholic drink, your weight, sex, age, food intake and metabolism. The only safe option is not to drink any alcohol if you plan to drive and never offer an alcoholic drink to anyone else who is driving. Alcohol affects your ability to drive safely as your reaction times are impaired and you're unable to judge speed and distances. People who drive at twice the current legal alcohol level are at least **50** times more likely to be involved in a fatal car crash. You cannot calculate your alcohol limit, so don't try. Any amount of alcohol affects your ability to drive safely.

## THE MORNING AFTER

If you've been out drinking you may still be affected by alcohol the next day. You may feel OK, but you may still be unfit to drive or over the legal alcohol limit. You could still lose your licence if you drive the next day when you are still over the legal alcohol level. It's impossible to get rid of alcohol any faster. A shower, a cup of coffee or other ways of "sobering up" will not help. It just takes time.

## THE ONLY SAFE OPTION IS NOT TO DRINK IF WE PLAN TO DRIVE.

But if you decide to have a drink, use your common sense

- **Book a taxi**
- **Use public transport**
- **Stay overnight**
- **Designate a driver who will not be drinking**
- **Don't be tempted to get into a car with a driver who has been drinking.**

Even a single drink will affect your driving performance.

## "NONE FOR THE ROAD"

**"I had a drink but it was at lunch time."**

Even a small drink at lunchtime can make you more sleepy and impair your driving.

**"I'm driving slowly and carefully."**

Alcohol actually makes you less alert.

**"I feel fine to drive."**

Any amount of alcohol will affect your judgement.

**"I'm only going down the road."**

A large proportion of all drink drive crashes occur within three miles of the start of the journey.

## SAFELY FIRST WHEN DRIVING THIS WINTER

Winter is upon us and it's time for the Transport Recovery Team to put on its boots and pull pick-ups out of the mud. (Two from Sector 2 already!). Here are a few useful tips to help everyone remain safely on the road rather than off.

**Tip No. 1** If you can't walk in it, chances are you cannot drive in it. Stay clear of thick mud and you will be less likely to get stuck in it.



**Tip No. 2** There are limitations as to what UNFICYP Chevy pick-ups are built to handle.

- Our trucks are not built like Land Rovers and we cannot drive where Land Rovers are able to.
- Our pick-ups are not 4-ton trucks and will not withstand heavy loads like one.



**Tip No. 3** Our Chevy trucks are not designed to tow vehicles (like a recovery truck is). That is for the transport unit to take care of. Tying a piece of rope to the rear bumper of any of the pick-ups and trying to pull out a stranded vehicle could have one or more of the following unfortunate effects:

- a. Re-design the rear bumper.
- b. Remove the rear bumper.
- c. Get your vehicle stuck.
- d. Damage whatever part of the stranded vehicle you tied the rope to.
- e. A certain visit to the Transport Unit to fill out a Driver's Damage Report.
- f. Seriously injure you if a heavy piece of metal snaps off and comes flying back toward you.



**Tip No. 4** Use some kind of weight in the rear of pick-ups in wet conditions to enhance tyre grip and cornering capabilities of the truck. Sandbags or cut tyre inner tubes weighing about 100 kilos, will help to decrease braking distances and make the ride in the pick-up more comfortable.

Snow in the mountains causes treacherous road conditions. Ensure your vehicle is prepared for the journey (pack snow-chains) and allow plenty of time. Adjust your driving to the road conditions.

**The Transport Unit and the Master Driver will be issuing detailed driving instructions before the snow sets in. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact the unit in the case of an Emergency of with any questions.**

**Transport Unit  
22.61.4452  
22.61.4451**

**Master Driver  
22.61.4708**





## The Whirling Dervishes

Nicosia's Rumi Institute held a week of festivities marking the anniversary of the death of the poet Jelaluddin Rumi, also known as Mevlana, the founder of Sufism. The fourth annual commemoration staged by the institute included lectures on the philosophy and history of the Mevlana, and his book "The Mevlevi", concerts, dance shows and exhibitions.

Known to the West as the "Whirling Dervishes", members of the Mevlevi Order (named for their founder Mevlana, also known as "Rumi") lived in what we might call cloisters or monasteries, which, to them, were the "Mevlevihane".

The Mevlevi Order founded by Mevlana is made up first and foremost of tekyes (tekke), similar to the monasteries of the West. The first of these tekyes was named for Mevlana and was considered to be the source of those to follow.

The rituals of Rumi's followers (Whirling Dervishes) are among the most enduring as well as the most exquisite ceremonies of spirituality.

The ritual whirling of dervishes is an act of love and a drama of faith. It possesses a highly structured form within which the gentle turns become increasingly dynamic as individual dervishes strive to achieve a state of trance. The music that accompanies the whirling from beginning to end ranges from somber to rhapsodical; its effect is intended to be mesmerizing. Chanting of poetry, rhythmic rotation and incessant music create a synthesis which, according to the faithful, induces a feeling of soaring, of exaltation and of mystical flight.

### THE WHIRLING DERVISHES

*"Come, come again, whoever you are, come!  
Heathen, fire worshipper or idolatrous, come!  
Come even if you broke your penitence a hundred times,  
Ours is the portal of hope, come as you are.  
Come, come again, whoever you are, come!"*

**Mevlana**

## The Ritual of Sema

The Sema ceremony represents a spiritual journey; the seeker's turning toward God and truth, a maturing through love, the transformation of self as a way of union with God, and the return to life as the servant of all creation.

The Semazen (with a camel-felt representing a tombstone and a wide white skirt symbolizing the death shroud), upon removing his black cloak, is spiritually born to the Truth. At first, semazens stand with their arms crossed, ready to begin their turning. In their erect posture, they represent the number one, testifying to God's unity. Each rotation takes them past the sheikh, who stands on a red sheep skin. This is the place of Mevlana Celaledin-i Rumi, and the sheikh is understood to be a channel for divine grace. At the start of each of the four movements of the ceremony, the semazens bow to each other honoring the spirit within. As their arms unfold, the right hand opens to the skies in prayer, ready to receive God's beneficence. The left hand, upon which his gaze rests, is turned towards the earth in a gesture of bestowal.

The Mevlevi sect belongs to the Sunni or orthodox mainstream of Islam. Fix-footed, the semazen provides a point of contact with this earth through which divine blessings can flow. Turning from right to left, he embraces all creation as he chants the name of God within the heart.

## UNPA Holiday Carol Service

More than 300 carollers gathered from across the sectors to raise their voices in the annual UN carol service held in St Columba's Church, UNPA on 15 December. Under the joint leadership of Padre Stephen Hancock (BRITCON), Padre Stanislav Lipka (Sector 4) and Padre Gaston Martini (Sector 1), prayers were led while choristers from each sector sang traditional Christmas songs in their own language. There were readings from various

members of the UN including the Force Commander, CAO, PIO, UNPOL and Sector Commanding Officers.

Padre Hancock shared Christmas thoughts with the congregation and reminded everyone of the meaning of Christmas. Following a rousing version of "Silent Night" sung in many languages, the service ended with a Christmas blessing. The congregation then gathered for fellowship and snacks outside the church.



**Slovcon**



**Argcon**



**Britcon**



**Huncon**

Padre Hancock (Britcon) presenting a C£126.45 (US\$266) cheque to CAO Frank Clancy for funds raised at the service. This contribution went toward a total US\$4,145.97 donation from UNFICYP sent to UNICEF-Islamabad who are assisting families in Pakistan suffering from the effects of December's earthquake. Of note: Maj. Neil Wright's donation from sponsorship received for competing in November's Athens Marathon contributed to

nearly half the entire amount collected (US\$1,881.61).

The Padres from each sector who jointly hosted this year's service are indebted to BQMS MFR SSgt. Stuart Dempsey and SO2 Pers Maj. Istvan Kisborso for their hard work in arranging the event. Our prayers are with Istvan and his family who recently returned to Hungary following a family bereavement.





## St Barbara's Day The Patron Saint of The Royal Artillery



On St Barbara's day, 4 December, 12 Regiment Royal Artillery held a charity run in aid of children in the north and south and also to help the kindergarten in the base location.

The first runners arrived at 0700 in the Ledra Palace Hotel car park to start the 11-mile route through the Sector 2 West area of the buffer zone. The runners were sent out with the temperature a cool 14 degrees centigrade. The RSM managed to be first home in 1 hr.



28 min, setting an early target for those who followed.

To keep the operational tempo going as normal as possible, soldiers from 12 Regiment RA, MFR and guests from UNFICYP trickled through the start all day long. At 0800 the competitive race got underway with the more athletic runners registering to compete. It was soon apparent that soldiers from 12 Regiment, even though on peacekeeping duties, still had a competitive edge. The fastest time recorded was 1 hr. and 17 min. All runners who completed the run also received a t-shirt donated by Atlantis Travel in Nicosia.

Prize giving was held in the

Ledra Palace ballroom at 1700, little more than an hour after the last of the finishers completed the course. "Danny the Jeweller" from the northern side of Nicosia old town, generously donated and awarded the first, second and third prizes. The race was won by LBdr. Welford. Second was LCpl. Burgess and third was Cpl. Kettle.

Thanks go to WO2 (TSM) Wright and his team for the hard work they put in to ensure that the day ran smoothly. Also, a special thanks to all who participated. They showed a positive and enthusiastic attitude both in running and in helping raise over CP£1,000 for the charity fund.

*According to legend, Saint Barbara was the extremely beautiful daughter of a wealthy heathen named Dioscorus. Because of her singular beauty and fearful that she be demanded in marriage and taken away from him, he jealously shut her up in a tower to protect her from the outside world.*

*Whilst confined to the tower Barbara converted to the Christian faith. As her belief became firm, she directed the builders who were redesigning the*

*bathhouse by order of her father to add another window so that the three windows might symbolize the Holy Trinity.*

*When her father returned, he was enraged at the changes and infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the prefect of the province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading. Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence. On his way home, he*

*was struck by lightning and his body consumed.*

*The legend of the lightning bolt which struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death. When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western world, Saint Barbara was invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions and she became the patroness of the artillerymen.*

## Engineering Effort



Almost every day, one (or more) members of the 37 engineers in the HQ Engineering Platoon can be seen, actively engaged in upgrading conditions within the buffer zone.

In the last two months, the new kitchen block in Sector 1's Roca Camp has been completed and additional telephone poles erected in Sector 4's Camp Saint Istvan, Athienou. In all sectors, the ongoing repair and maintenance of patrol tracks continue, spurred on by the early winter rains, which often create hazardous conditions, particularly in the mountainous areas.

The UNPA work includes a new container, temporarily erected to house Operations Branch during the refurbishment of their old building. Paths have been constructed to and from accommodation quarters in Blue Beret Camp, and new patrol tracks and fencing have been installed around the UNPA as part of the on-going security programme.

Even though all HQ military engineers rotated recently, the commitments taken on by their Unit continue to be put into effect smoothly and efficiently. During this period the very popular Force Engineer Maj. Marián Mjartan departed, and was replaced by Maj. Karol Kubica.

*Photo: Improving the security fence*

## El Salvador Joins UNPOL



Six November 2005 will always be remembered in the Civil National Police of El Salvador, as it marked the arrival of its first eight-member contingent in UNFICYP. Founded in 1993, the El Salvadorian Police Force counts almost 20,000 members and is held in very high regard in the Central American region.

The new UNPOL members are:

**Agent Luis Jimenez**

from the disciplinary investigations department at police headquarters in the capital city, San Salvador.

**Agent Francisco Perez**  
and **Agent Raul Ponce**

from the emergency communications room in police headquarters, San Salvador.

**Agent Hugo Quevedo**

a member of the staff team at the INTERPOL office in El Salvador.

**Agent Mario Diaz**

from the Salvadorean Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. (Also trained in mountain and urban rescue.)

**Agent Rafael Centeno**

a qualified English teacher and a member of the Training Department at Police Headquarters.

**Deputy Inspector Raul Arana**

a computer engineer, is also an expert in criminal investigations, working closely with the FBI.

**Deputy Inspector Nelson Cañas**

a trained medical doctor, he is the Contingent Commander here in UNFICYP and back in El Salvador heads a major policing unit.

The eight Salvadorian members of UNPOL stood proudly to attention at the flag-raising ceremony. The event was attended by Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz, Force Commander Maj.Gen. Hebert Figoli, Senior Police Adviser Commander Carla Van Maris, Deputy Senior Police Adviser Commander Col Speedie, and members of UNPOL. Special guests included H.E. Dr. Roberto Andinao, the Salvadorian Ambassador to Rome, and Mr. Mario Polyviou, the Salvadorian Honorary Consul in Cyprus.

Following the flag-raising ceremony, a small reception was held for the guests.

## UNPOL Force Level Reached

With the flag-raising ceremony of El Salvador, on 20 December, the number of UNFICYP UNPOL Contingents reached a total of nine. Australia and Ireland, the "traditional" UNFICYP Contingents, have been joined now by India, Italy, The Netherlands, Croatia, Bosnia, Argentina and El Salvador. Under the current Security Council mandate, the approved strength is 70, an increase from an initial 43 to 70 in the year.

Last September, UN Police took over the SCAT (Social Civil Affairs Task) from the Military Component. A special training has been developed, and new offices and accommodation have been established. The expansion and the revised task of the UN Police will require a new approach towards its partners in the field. The development of planning and strategy will therefore have priority in the year to come. The UNPOL is clearly "on the move"!

## Introducing the Force Engineer



The new Force Engineer, Maj. Karol Kubica, completed the Military Academy at Brno as a construction engineer in 1989 and immediately took over as platoon leader of a construction battalion.

He served for four years in the Slovak Armed Force's Chief of General Staff's department, after which he took up the post of chief of the Support Regiment's construction branch of the General Staff in Trenčin. He then became chief of the Construction Branch of HQ Land Forces, Slovak Armed Forces, Trenčin.

Maj. Kubica is married to Klaudia. They have two sons, Jakub (11) and Filip (10), and a daughter Karolinka (6). His hobbies include swimming, hiking, tennis and gardening, but most of all his family.