Seedlings of Peace
The Blue Beret is UNFICYP’s in-house journal. Views expressed are of the authors concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy. Articles of general interest (plus photos with captions) are invited from all members of the Force.

Contents

Editorial ......................................................... 2
Leaders show support for work of CMP ............. 3
Letting peace take root ........................................ 4
Music and dance build trust in Kylya ................. 5
In memoriam ................................................. 6
Remembrance Day .......................................... 7
Celebrating UN Day with Cypriot children/ UKRAINE joins UNPOL ranks ...................................................... 8
Marking fall of one wall with hope ............................ 9
Secretary-Generals reports: Caustic optimism and extension of UNFICYP’s highlights .......................... 10-11
UN Staff Day ................................................. 12-13
Force Commander Inspections ............................ 14-15
New Faces .................................................... 16-17
Visits/Kiki’s Farewell ......................................... 18
Childrens Halloween party/Fireworks night ........... 19

October/November - Blue Beret

The two Cyprus leaders Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat attended an event at Ledra Palace Hotel on 17 November in recognition of the €2 million contribution made by the European Union to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP).

Both leaders thanked the European Commission for their generous support of the work of the CMP that operates under the aegis of the United Nations.

Addressing the event Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias pointed out that the problem of missing persons touches almost every family in Cyprus. “It has caused a lot of suffering and agony to so many persons, for so many years. It is a humanitarian problem, and, as such, should remain outside politics or other considerations and expediences, he said.

Christofias stressed that both communities in Cyprus should support, not only in words but in practice, all efforts towards the resolution of the problem of missing persons. “We owe it to the families; we owe it also to Cyprus and to its entire people. We should work together, in good spirit and trust, to improve and expedite what is already being done, in the framework of the CMP. Christofias congratulated the Committee, its three members, and their assistants, “for working hard and effectively to develop and operate the Exhumation and Identification Programme, and generally for trying to find the answers, the families are entitled to have”.

Christofias made particular reference to the young scientists from both communities, who, for months now, are working together, in the Anthropological and DNA Laboratories, as well as for the excavations in the field. “They are an example of the way things should have been in Cyprus”, he noted.

Christofias also announced that the Greek Cypriot side would donate another €150,000 to cover immediate and unforeseen needs, and to increase the number of exhumation teams.

Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat reiterated his commitment to the work of the CMP and pointed out that, “Healing the grievances of the families has to be our top priority. For quite a long time, we worked to change the understanding of the approach to this humanitarian problem. Ultimately, we have succeeded together with the Greek Cypriot leader.”

“We initiated the work of the CMP and it is doing a great job now including the excavation and identification of the remains. This work hopefully will respond to all the expectations of the families sometime in the future.”

Talat stressed his commitment to help the CMP with every means and method to do its job and finalise its job which he said was crucial while avoiding the politicisation of the issue. “Politising the matter will kill the efforts”, he said.

Head of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, Androulla Kaminara, said that the EU is proud and honoured to support the work of CMP and be its largest single donor. “It is well known that the EU is always sensitive and supportive to initiatives aimed at addressing the human side of conflicts, and it is more than obvious that the EU attributes great importance to this initiative, as it is considered one of the most successful confidence building and reconciliation measures in Cyprus”, she said.

Referring to the families of the missing persons in Cyprus, Kaminara expressed the EU’s sincere condolences. “Our thoughts are with you, and we want to assure you that it is our goal to not only help the Committee continue, but also to speed up its work that we hope will soothe your pain”, she added.

The Third Member of CMP Christophe Girod thanked the European Commission for its essential and continuous support towards CMP. In addition, he thanked the members of the European Parliament for their efforts in securing the financial aid. Girod also thanked the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus for their political and financial support, both past and present. “This donation is crucial for the work of the CMP and brings us a step closer to healing the wounds of the past for people of both communities”, Girod said.
Letting peace take root

In a symbolic gesture of peace and unity, on 15 October the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders planted two olive trees at the entrance to the site where they are currently engaged in talks aimed at unifying the divided island.

The leaders also received a petition from civil society representatives from both communities conveying a message of hope and solidarity for the negotiations process and for a united Cyprus. Demetris Christofias, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Mehmet Ali Talat, Turkish Cypriot leader, saluted the civil society initiative and pledge to their utmost to achieve a successful conclusion to the negotiations process.

Speaking for the more than 40 organizations involved in the initiative, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot representatives expressed their “dedication to strengthening the peace efforts, by opening and maintaining channels of communication, building mutual trust and promoting reconciliation between the two communities”.

Through their combined statement they also affirmed their commitment “to contribute to a new impetus in moving forward to realizing a bi-communal, bi-zonal Federal Cyprus”.

Following the ceremony, the two leaders met to continue discussions, under the auspices of the UN, focusing on how the executive of a future united country could function.

Speaking to the media following the talks, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s Special Representative on the island, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, said the two leaders had “discussed each other’s proposals in a very constructive manner” and planned to meet next week to continue their discussion on governance and then take up the issues of external relations and property rights.

In May last year, Mr. Christofias and Mr. Talat committed themselves to working towards “a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as defined by relevant Security Council resolutions.”

Music and dance build trust in Pyla

The wives of the Cyprus leaders, Elsi Christofias and Oya Talat, agree: rapprochement between the island’s two communities is an essential ingredient of efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem.

The two women reiterated this message at a bicommunal concert held on 25 October in the main square of the buffer zone village of Pyla, where Greek and Turkish Cypriots live together. The concert, titled, “Love and Peace for our Country”, was organised by the political parties of the two communities in cooperation with the local authorities of Pyla and UNFICYP, and under the auspices of Slovak Ambassador Anna Turenicova.

Addressing the event, which was attended by Special Adviser of the Secretary-General Alexander Downer, Elsi Christofias welcomed the promotion of political cooperation between the two communities. “Rapprochement constitutes the means for building trust and for establishing the prospect of peaceful co-existence between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots”, she said.

Mrs. Christofias noted that although rapprochement alone cannot solve the problem, it can offer an important contribution towards restoring trust between the two communities on the basis of mutual respect, friendship, love and acceptance of diversity.

Mrs. Christofias recalled that she and Mrs. Talat had previously organized humanitarian activities, including a joint fund-raising event in support of children with special needs. “As women and mothers, we are anxious about the future of our country and that of our children and we know that to succeed in our efforts we have to rely on everything that unites us”, she said.

Mrs. Talat said Pyla was the only village in Cyprus where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots continued to share their day-to-day existence after 1974. Pyla’s inhabitants have contributed a lot to the political and social history of Cyprus, she said, adding that as we proceed to the road of a federal, bi-communal, and bi-zonal solution their contribution continues. “It is our duty to support every step taken towards the direction of a solution,” she said. “Everybody must support the ongoing direct negotiating process between the leaders of the two communities.”
De-miner dies in accident

As the sole member of the Canadian Contingent serving with UNFICYP the honour and responsibility of maintaining the Canadian Memorial at Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia for the fallen peacekeepers from over 45 years of service with the UN in Cyprus fell on my shoulders. I was often asked to consider accepting an additional person to help with the service and I would answer “not this time”. This was a big responsibility and I was doing it to remember the fallen. However, it wasn’t long before the personal loss of a comrade forced me to seek help.

Work was well underway and the Canadian Memorial had received a fresh coat of paint and the brass was polished. However it wasn’t long before the memorial service grew. The service was led by Sector 2 Padre, Maj Danny Connolly, and delivered in English, Spanish, Hungarian and Slovakian, with the help of fellow padres the Reverend Father Oviedo from Sector 1 and the Reverend Father Paluba from Sector 4. The Last Post was played by bugler Cpl James Christopher.

Remembrance Sunday falls on the closest Sunday to the 11th November and marks the end of hostilities of the First World War in 1918.

Wayne’s Keep itself consists of three cemeteries - Roman Catholic and Maronite, Greek Orthodox, and the central and largest cemetery - the British War Graves Cemetery. This was opened by the British military authorities for those service personnel who lost their lives in the course of duty and to this day is maintained by three local civilians who are employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Following the service, a traditional post-Remembrance Service reception was held to honour the veterans and fallen soldiers, at Ledra Palace Hotel.

By 2LT Adam Stratford

Remembrance Day

Honouring sacrifice

Remembrance Sunday -- celebrated internationally on the eleventh day of the eleventh month -- was marked on 9 November 2009 at Wayne’s Keep Cemetery, located within the buffer zone area of Nicosia.

UNFICYP’s Sector 2, commanded by Lt Col David Albion RLC of 27 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, hosted this year’s memorial service which was attended by representatives of the diplomatic community, soldiers and guests from the local community – including a contingent from the Royal British Legion and the Airborne Veterans Association. A total of twenty four wreathes were laid in front of a congregation of some two hundred and fifty people.

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Lt Col Albon said, “Today’s ceremony was a thought provoking ceremony, enhanced by its multi-nationality and reminded us of the dangers faced by friends and colleagues currently serving in Afghanistan”.

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Sad farewell

Sergeant Antonio David Ojeda was killed on 27 November 2009 in a traffic accident near Kokkinotrimithia in Nicosia.

Sergeant Ojeda was born in Argentina in 1981 and attended the NCO Navy Academy where he trained as a communications operator and a diver. He was an experienced peacekeeper, and served in the Argentinian Task Force 24 from September 2004 to March 2005. He served in the Amphibian Vehicles Battalion in Punta Alta, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He arrived in Cyprus on 11 September and served in the Argentine Contingent as a specialized driver of Patrol Base 32. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

By Capt. Lorne Cooper

“Lest we forget”

As the sole member of the Canadian Contingent serving with UNFICYP the honour and responsibility of maintaining the Canadian Memorial at Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia for the fallen peacekeepers from over 45 years of service with the UN in Cyprus fell on my shoulders. I had decided initially to conduct a quiet one person memorial service on 11 November while the rest of the UN was focused on the Sunday prior to Remembrance Day.

Work was well underway and the Canadian Memorial had received a fresh coat of paint and the brass was polished. However it wasn’t long before the memorial service grew. While having a quiet informal chat with the Padre Connolly from 27 Regt RLC (UK) I explained the simple service I was planning. In no time the “Danny” volunteered to do a reading and play the bagpipes as only a Scotsman can. Honoured by his enthusiasm I readily accepted and didn’t think much more of the issue until a couple of days later Danny dropped by to see me and asked if 27 Regt RLC (UK) could participate as well.

It seems the Padre in speaking to the CO of the unit excited his interest and the simple service at the Canadian memorial grew yet again. In short, the word spread and our remembrance service grew to include the wife of the Irish Ambassador to Cyprus Mrs Cathi Brady a Canadian originally from Toronto, Ontario
Celebrating UN Day with Cypriot children

UNFICYP peacekeepers visited children at the Tembria Nursery School on 25 October as part of efforts to raise awareness of UNFICYP’s work on UN Day. The children of Tembria together with the children of Korakou Nursery School prepared a petition with the help of their teacher calling for peace in Cyprus, “free of barbed wires where all children can live happily and safely.” The children who signed the petition with their thumb prints presented it to Captain Pablo Cayetano Petrocelli, Captain Eduardo Forte and 1st Lt. Pablo Carballo from Sector 1.

Ukraine joins UNPOL ranks

Ukraine joined the ranks of UNPOL in October. The flag raising ceremony was held on 30 October 2009 and was attended by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Demianiuk. The Ambassador noted that Ukraine had been a long time supporter of peacekeeping with peacekeepers in various missions around the world. He said that his country’s presence sent an important political message for the continuation of peacekeeping and support for this peacekeeping mission in its efforts to solve the Cyprus problem. He expressed the hope that the Ukrainian peacekeepers would be effective and successful in their mission.

Lt. Colonel Andrii Sachavo, 41 is the first Ukrainian officer to serve in UNFICYP and is stationed at Ledra Palace where his responsibilities include patrolling the buffer zone, checking farming permits and ensuring no unauthorized personnel are found in the buffer zone. They also control illegal dumping and hunting in the buffer zone as well as monitoring construction.

Marking fall of one wall with hope of dismantling another

The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall in November had a special resonance in Nicosia, famously the “last divided capital in Europe.” While it is much easier to cross the buffer zone in Cyprus than it ever was to get from one side of the German city to the other, the decades-long division of the island is no less painful for its people. As the reproductions below show, the commemoration of the events of autumn 1989 in Germany sparked renewed interest in the barrier so many Cypriots are bravely trying to dismantle.

20 years after Berlin Wall fell, Nicosia remains divided

Where time stopped

Marking fall of one wall with hope of dismantling another

By Sonia Wolf (AFP) – Oct 25, 2009

NICOSIA — Shoppers in the capital of the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus sometimes have to take along an extra item with their credit cards and mobile phones -- their passports. The process that we are facilitating now, because both leaders... are very committed to making this process successful.”

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In his latest report on the work of UNFICYP (7/10/09/0/90294 UNFICYP.org), the Secretary-General commends the work of UNFICYP over the previous six months and recommends the extension of the mission’s mandate. He notes that the opposing forces have cooperated very well with UNFICYP and that the situation in the buffer zone has remained stable.

The Secretary-General notes that, from June to November, military violations by the opposing forces were at comparable levels in direct contrast to the significant violations by the Turkish Forces. However, he continues, despite a significant relaxation of restrictions placed on the movement of UNFICYP military personnel, the continued restriction on the movement of locally-employed United Nations civilian personnel imposed by the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces remains a concern. Regarding the National Guard, he records that in June 2009 that force was responsible for a violation that subsequently developed into a serious incident in which two UNFICYP mobile patrols were threatened with weapons and detained. The incident was remedied by the prompt intervention of the respective Military Observation and Liaison Officers, resulting in the immediate release of the UNFICYP personnel.

According to the Secretary-General’s report, the opposing forces continue sporadically to employ low-level tactics to create a sense of tension on the other side, mostly in the centre of Nicosa. UNFICYP remains optimistic that the military confidence-building measures such as monitoring and/or closing of observation posts in areas where opposing troops are particularly close to one another, as well as the exchange of personnel, would help improve the situation. To date, the National Guard has agreed to these measures, but UNFICYP is still waiting for concrete steps to be taken by the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces.

In addition to its buffer zone stability tasks, the military component of UNFICYP has continued to support the peace process, including the mobilization of the UNFICYP Mobile Force Reserve and the Force Police Unit in support of over 50 meetings between the two leaders at the premises of the good offices mission in the United Nations Protected Area.

Mine-free buffer zone

Demining in the buffer zone is progressing well, with 57 of the 140 designated minefields cleared. A total of 14,000 mines have been destroyed and more than 7 square kilometres of land cleared of mines.

During the reporting period, the UNFICYP mine clearance team recorded approximately 928,200 crossings through the buffer zone, of which 205,100 occurred at the Ledra Street crossing point. Goods worth approximately €237,000 crossed from the south to the north, and goods worth approximately €2,582,000 crossed in the opposite direction. Both sides have agreed to proceed with the implementation of the joint project prepared by the two Nicosas for the mine clearance of the Master Plan for the restoration of buildings at Ledra Street. Work in that area is expected to commence soon.

On 26 June, an agreement was reached by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders on the opening of a buffer zone crossing at Limmitsi/Vesiliyirmak (see Blue Beret ...). Technical surveys to determine the amount of work and funds that will be required to upgrade the road has been completed. In the meantime, the UNFICYP military engineering unit enhanced the patrol track in this area of the buffer zone to a corridor that can accommodate civilian traffic in advance of the construction of a new road.

UNFICYP also continued to deliver humanitarian assistance to Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north of the island; facilitate the delivery of textbooks and the maintenance of public and private infrastructure, construction and commercial ventures. Facilitation of those activities while ensuring stability and maintaining the status quo in the buffer zone continued to pose problems in the implementation of the mandate of the mission.

UNFICYP continued its efforts to assist in maintaining good relations and building confidence between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in the mixed village of Pyla in the buffer zone. To that end, UNFICYP continued to play a mediating role and to monitor long-standing disagreements established between the two communities.

Missing persons

During the reporting period, the Committee on Missing Persons pursued its bimural project on the exhumation, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. Over 570 individuals had been exhumed on both sides of the buffer zone by the Committee’s bimural teams of archaeologists. Over 350 missing persons had undergone examination at the Committee’s bimural anthropological laboratory in Cyprus. After DNA genetic analysis had been carried out in 1,232 cases by a bimural team of scientists at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, the remains of 129 individuals were returned to their respective families.

Observations

During the reporting period, the situation in the buffer zone remained calm, the Secretary-General notes, as the number of military violations has been comparable to that in the previous reporting period, while the opposing forces have demonstrated restraint and overall good cooperation with UNFICYP. Notwithstanding this, the consistent efforts of UNFICYP to advance discussions on military confidence-building measures have so far failed to produce positive results.

The Secretary-General notes with satisfaction that the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces have lifted almost all restrictions on the movement of UNFICYP personnel. At the same time, he calls for the urgent removal of the remaining restrictions on the movement of UNFICYP personnel. Freedom of movement for all United Nations personnel is a matter of principle to the Organization and, as such, is essential to the effective performance of UNFICYP’s functions.

The Secretary-General commends both sides for reaching an agreement on opening the Limnitis/Vesiliyirmak crossing and calls for urgent implementation of stage two of the restoration of buildings at the Ledra Street crossing.

Good Offices Report

A first stand-alone report on its mission of good offices in Cyprus since the start of direct talks in June 2004, the Secretary-General notes that the two leaders have been encouraged by the commitment, courage and determination shown by the two leaders despite the considerable challenges posed by the negotiations and ongoing domestic criticism in the north and the south directed at the leaders and the process.

Gaps between the sides have narrowed on a number of important issues, the Secretary-General continues. However, differences remain, and it is clear that much work needs to be done in order to achieve full convergence in the remaining issues. In particular, bicongressional, bicommunal federation with political equality in a united Cyprus in which the concerns of both parties are taken into account and that is, at the same time, functional and stable, is a considerable challenge. It is ambitious, but it is achievable. Ultimately, the two sides must continue to demonstrate flexibility so as to accommodate each other’s concerns, as no solution can be perfect for each side. As one of the process, the need for negotiated solutions should not be seen as a “zero-sum game”, since both sides will gain in a United Cyprus.

The Secretary-General notes that it is important that both parties create a favourable environment and conditions conducive to the continued progress of the talks. In this context, he calls on the leaders to engage constructively with civil society in the effort to achieve a solution and in its implementation will be crucial. Furthermore, the parties must be prepared to explain the terms of the agreement to the public, in the clearest terms the benefits of a solution so that they can make an informed decision regarding the peace agreement.

In this context, the Secretary-General continues, it is noteworthy that, after the agreement was reached on nearly two dozen confidence-building measures during the preparatory phase of the talks, the parties made little progress in the implementation of these measures during the reporting period. The measures improve on the daily lives of many Cypriots and also assist in facilitating increased interaction between the two communities.

I urge the parties to make greater efforts to implement the confidence-building measures in order to strengthen intercommunal relations and to build greater public support within the communities for the process. “My overall assessment,” he says, “is that the parties are making solid progress, and I am cautiously optimistic that we are making real progress.”

In his latest report on the work of UNFICYP (7/10/09/0/90294 UNFICYP.org), the Secretary-General notes that the problems faced by the United Nations are difficult to solve, but UNFICYP is still waiting for concrete steps to be taken by the parties. However, he notes, the Secretary-General is pleased that the parties are making solid progress, and I am cautiously optimistic that we are making real progress.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General says that the proposals of the Secretary-General are good and that the parties are making solid progress. However, he notes, the Secretary-General is pleased that the parties are making solid progress, and I am cautiously optimistic that we are making real progress.
The Slovak Engineers prevailed over their compatriots from SLOVCON (Sector 4) in the UN Day Football Cup Tournament 2009 with a score of 2-1. SLOVCON took an early lead but did not frighten the Engineers, who had already had to make up a 1-0 deficit against HUNCON earlier in the tournament in order to advance. All involved thanked Force Commander Real Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi for making the draw and assisting with medal and trophy presentations, as well as the PROM Office for the excellent pitch preparation. “Last but not least”, said Evrikos Demetriou, “a massive thank you to all participating teams and loyal spectators during the two week tournament, which had all the great ingredients that contributed to this successful tournament, as I’m sure it was appreciated by all”.

October was an enjoyable day planned with the usual activities plus a few surprises. The new football programme allowed the staff to join in the other events on offer as well as enjoy the delicious BBQ cooked and served up by Michael’s team from the International Cafeteria.

Other annual favourites included the backgammon and speed chess competitions and who can resist the gripping enigma that is Wellie Throwing. This year staff crammed into the new Bingo tent with Ersin who did a great job calling out the numbers making this a definite regular in the future.

The Transport Unit came up with a variation on last years Big Toy game and the chance to play with the crane truck by moving a road cone to two specific targets using the remote control with a time trial as a side interest.

However the unexpected highlight of the day turned out to be the Potted Games. Several teams from the contingents, a team of local staff and another from UNPOL battled it out for first place in one hilarious game after another.

Equally a spectator and competitor’s event each game was subtly designed to strip away every last shred of each team member’s dignity. And we loved every single moment.

All thanks go to WO2 Dave Povey who arranged every single aspect of this fantastic event.

UN Staff Day 2009 was definitely the most fun and most successful by far!
Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi conducted inspections of all sectors and units in the last two weeks of October following the major rotations of all contingents. The inspections aimed at assessing the operational capability of the force and ensuring it remains at high standard at all times.

The Force Commander met with the troops of the various contingents and had the opportunity to participate in patrols as well as visit observation posts and meet with the troops on the ground. During his inspection of the FMPU, the Force Commander was invited to use the Ultralyte Speed Meter device in order to see how efficient this piece of equipment is in detecting speeding. Under the direction of Sgt Gary Brown, Senior Investigator, the unit then staged a Major Incident scenario and talked the FC through the procedures required to deal with the most serious of incidents and the necessary steps involved in order to gather all the evidence required to piece together how and why such accidents happen.

**Sector 4**

**FMPU**

**Engineers**

**MFR**

**FMPU**
Lt Col Paul Stockdale arrived at the end of September to take up the appointment of Chief Personnel and Logistic Officer. Born in the North of England, he joined the Army in 1982, and was commissioned into The Royal Corps of Transport. He served his first 5 years on the UK Bulk Transport and then to a Tank Transport Regiment, during which time he did an attachment with a sister French regiment. On return to UK he qualified as Second in Command of three ocean-going Landing Craft and served at sea for 3 years. Subsequently he served as an Ops Officer, Logistic Brigade Operations Officer and Adjutant of a Reserve Unit. He commanded 12 Armoured Support Engineers, and then became Senior Instructor at the School of Logistics and SO2 Combat Support Support at the UK Brigade Training Unit. His last Regimental tour was as Second-in-Command 27 Regt RLC, after which he was promoted. He joins UNFICYP from the Ministry of Defence in London as an SO1 planning future UK Deployment, Reception and Sustainable Capabilities Liaison Officer, deploying to operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and Iraq, and has been involved with exchange appointments with the Australian, French and US Forces and formed training teams to support Polish, Georgian and Kenyan Armed Forces. He is happily married to Tracy and they have two twin children, Alex (17) and Tom (19). Lt Col Stockdale is a keen mountain biker and horse rider, skier and a great rugby fan.

Maj Mick Nichol took over the post of OC of the Mobile Force Reserve on 1 October 2009. Mick joined the Army in February 1979 as a driver at 8 Regiment RCT in Munster. After spending the majority of his non-commissioned service in Germany with the Field Army, he was commissioned from the Regimental Senior NCO’s course into 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistic Corps in May 2000, and was subsequently posted to 79 Port Clearance Squadron Royal Logistic Corps as a Commanding Officer. As a result of his military service he has deployed on operations to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Greece in addition to exercises in USA, Canada, Denmark, Spain and Hungary. He completed the Intermediate Command and Staff Course in May 2007 before assuming the post of SO2 Training Operations 1 at the Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration. During this time he was responsible for managing the Recruitation Allocation Plan for the Royal Logistic Corps and Adjutant Generals Corps and managing the various training schools for 27 years and they have two grown up children, Alan (25) and Kirsty (19). His interests include Football, Skiing and Motorhomes.

Lt Col Albon spent the majority of his younger years living and studying in Kenya. He then moved to the UK where he served in the British Army as a Transport Officer, before returning to the UK as the Adjutant of an Airmobile Combat Service Support Battalion in 1996. Since then, he has completed several tours including SO3 G4 of a Brigade Headquarters, Officer Commanding of a Brigade Support Squadron, SO2 G4 Plans in a Divisional Headquarters, Directing Staff at the UK Staff College and QFA Training Policy for Logistics. He attended the UK Staff College in 2000. During his career Lt Col Albon has deployed to a number of operations including Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq. Lt Col Albon is currently the Commanding Officer of 27 Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps and deploys to Cyprus with his regiment as the incoming Sector 2 United Nations Roulement Regiment. He is married to Mary and has a 4 year old son George. His interests include military history, all sports, skating and travelling widely.

Maj Paul Holder arrived in UNFICYP on 24 September to take up the post of Deputy Commander Sector 2. He was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport in 1991, following a tour with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, Support Battalion, he became the Operations Officer of the Northern Irish Logistic Regiment. Subsequently, after a tour at HQ LAND as the SO3 Log Sqn Ops (responsible for Exercise Support) he was appointed as an Assistant Project Manager for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Celebrations. This was followed by a post in the office of the Assistant Chief Defence Staff (Log), where he managed the Logistics Desk during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. His sub unit command was in London as the Officer Commanding 20 Logistic Support Sqn and Commanding Officer of the 412 Support Base. Maj Holder’s last post was in the Army Personnel Centre as the RFC Captains’ Desk Officer. He started with 27 Regiment as the CO Surveillance Officer and as the HQ of the Royal Logistic Corps deployed as OC of the Combat Service Support, Operational Monitoring and Liaison Team in Afghanistan; later becoming the Regt 2IC in Jun 08. Having been selected for promotion to Lt Col, on his departure from Sector 2, he will become the SO1 Logistic Support Operations in the HQ Land Forces. He enjoys canoeing, skiing and trekking. His interests are travel and photography.

Lt Col Csaba Vyszavel arrived in Cyprus on 23 September 2009, taking up the position of UNFICYP Liaison Officer for Turkish Forces. This is his first UN mission, but second overseas mission overall. In 2008 he served in the NATO mission in the Uzbekistan province of Afghanistan as a CIMIC staff officer in the Dutch Airborne Combat Support Team. Lt Col Vyszavel was born in 1961 in Bratislava. He graduated from the Military Technical Academy in 1989, as a specialist for radiolocation, and joined the former Czechoslovak AF in Plzen as a technical support officer for airfield radars. In 1998 he again attended the Military Academy for studies this time in agronomy, and integration of the Hungarian SAIM systems to the NATADIN. He attended specialised radar and IFF courses in Russia in 1986 and 1989 and was a correspondence student of the Mlados Zrinyi Military Academy from 1999 till 2002. He feels himself fortunate to be serving for a second time in Cyprus, having first deployed for a six month tour in 2006. Ferenc has been married to Erzsebet for 24 years and they have two children, Maria (21), and a son (15). He is interested in reading, exploring historical sights and nature, he likes to play football and is a qualified referee.

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The Annual Children’s Halloween Party was held on Monday 19 October at the Nicosia Library. The children all looked fantastic in their fancy dress – there were monsters, pirates, witches, devils, ghosts, vampires and fairies to name but a few. It was a very difficult decision for Mrs Tracy Stockdale who very kindly judged the competition but in the end it was Samuel Thomas dressed as Frankenstein who won!

Mrs (Good Witch) Mel Alderson supervised the game ‘Pin the Nose on the Witch’ that was won by Caitlan Dyke. The Ghost Colouring Competition was won by Meghan Dyke.

All of the above winners each received a €15 book voucher from The Solonion Bookshop in Nicosia. A big thank you also goes to Mrs Krissy Thomas for her delicious homemade Halloween cakes.

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Remembrance Day
11 November 2009