

# BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine



**New-style**

review of  
peacekeeping  
in Cyprus

Focus on

**Argentine  
Soldiers**

and

**Australian  
Police**

Mobile Force Reserve  
win military skills test

**Summer  
medal parade**

May-June 2012

# BLUE BERET

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**Front cover: Lt Santiago Agustin Vicente**

**Back cover: Argentine soldiers at the summer medal parade**

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**Blue Beret**

Published bi-monthly by the:  
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United Nations Force in Cyprus

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## Editor's Letter

**T**he military and policing support given to missions by nations forms the heart of the partnerships vital for the success of the UN. United Nations Peacekeeping draws together the legal and political authority of the Security Council, the personnel and financial contributions of member states, the support of host countries and the accumulated experience of the Secretariat in managing operations in the field. It is this partnership that gives UN Peacekeeping its legitimacy, sustainability and global reach.

Currently, UN Peacekeeping operations receive contributions of military and police personnel from 116 member states. This impressive number reflects growing global confidence in the value of United Nations Peacekeeping as a tool for collective security. It also demonstrates the strength and breadth of the partnership that the UN Organization has with the countries, large and small, that make it up.

To celebrate these partnerships, the Blue Beret will for the next year feature military and police contingents serving in Cyprus. In this edition, we look at Argentine troops and Australian police; two far away countries who have greatly contributed to the peacekeeping forces on this island.

**T**he name Argentina comes from the Latin word Argentum, meaning land of silver. Its rich heritage was forged through colonisation, migration and the struggle for independence- a complex mix that is reflected in its provocative literature and art. The second largest country in South America, Argentina has a landmass that could fit most of Western Europe.



This Latin American powerhouse has been providing military contingents to UN missions for over 20 years. It is the second biggest contributor of troops in Cyprus where they are also responsible for the UN helicopters- the only aerial capacity the mission has. Their area of responsibility in

### **The military and policing support given to missions forms the heart of the partnerships vital for the success of the UN**

the buffer zone is sector 1, a vast, hilly area with challenging roads on the western part of the island. Our feature on the Argentine blue helmets chronicles the background to their involvement in Cyprus as well some of the more colourful aspects of Argentine culture. A special spread shows the faces of Argentine soldiers currently serving.

**A**cross the Pacific blue lies another of the world's largest countries; Australia. Larger than Argentina, Australia is the biggest island and the smallest continent in the world. Home to some of the world's deadliest creatures, its diverse geography ranges from large inland deserts to lush, tropical and temperate

rainforests as well as the snow-capped mountains of the Australian Alps. Its smallest state, Tasmania, boasts the cleanest air in the world.

For 50 years, Australia has sent police and military abroad to serve in peacekeeping missions. The Australian Federal Police have been involved in Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Bougainville and Timor-Leste. One hundred contingents of 1600 police officers have served in Cyprus since 1964. It is the only country to have maintained a continuous police presence on the island since the beginning, making them a vital part of the UN police.

In this edition, we look at the Australian involvement in Cyprus and focus on their community-policing role. The relationships they have helped build with Greek and Turkish Cypriots forms the backbone to the policing work in the buffer zone. We also take a special look at Sgt. Karina Parker, the one hundredth female officer to work in Cyprus, and the road she took to get here.

**F**rom April to June, three events take place each year: the force commander's inspection, the summer medal parade and the military skills competition. This year's winners of the military skills were the multinational team of the Force Mobile Reserve.

We also cover UNFICYP's prowess in the sporting arena with two big wins in orienteering and rugby. Finally, UNFICYP's fire section give a timely warning on the fire hazards in the UN protected area as the strong summer rays beat down on the dry grass and vegetation.



**Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel**



# IN MEMORIAM



## Fatalities

(1964-2012)

171 military personnel

3 police

5 international civilians

2 local civilians

“As we mark this year’s **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**, we pay tribute to the 181 persons who lost their lives in the cause of peace on this island, the most recent of whom was Warrant Officer Graham Bean on 3 May last year. This day commemorates what we all share, whether serving in a military, police or civilian capacity – international and national staff alike.

We are all peacekeepers.

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, please think about what we are honouring and the human spirit that has endured so much and brought us so far.”

SRSG and Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim





*"I was impressed with the high level of professionalism displayed by all ranks during the inspection. The new soldiers have clearly settled into their role as UN Peacekeepers. I am particularly enthused by the willing attitude displayed by the junior officers and non-commissioned officers."  
Force Commander Major General Chao Liu, May 2012*

# FORCE COMMANDER'S INSPECTION

Force Commander's Inspections are carried out after new contingents arrive to serve with the mission in Cyprus. These inspections are a chance for the Force Commander to meet the new soldiers and officers and to assess their readiness to fulfil their tasks within the chain of command. Military personnel are examined for their ability to react to a variety of scenarios including military incursions by opposition forces, crises, civil disturbances and disasters.



# ARGENTINE FOR

The presence of the Argentine contingent in Cyprus began in 1993 when a resolution of the UN Security Council decided that UNFICYP would be restructured into three battalions of 350 men.

The Argentine Republic had been contributing military observers since 1964 to UN peacekeeping missions. But it was in 1992 when large Argentine contingents began deploying in different areas of the world where peace processes were threatened. In that year, Argentine armed forces started serving in the former Yugoslavia, Kuwait and subsequently, in Cyprus and Haiti.

On 25 September 1993, the first flight transporting the Argentine contingent landed at Larnaca Airport. These personnel were to deploy along the western area of the buffer zone. Shortly after, all Argentine military personnel were fulfilling peacekeeping tasks within sector 1, the Force Military Police Unit, headquarter staff and, latter, in UN Flight and the Mobile Force Reserve.

Thirty-nine Argentine contingents have served continuously over the past 19 years. Since 1992, more than 12,000 men and women of the Argentine army, navy and air force have served as peacekeepers on the island making it the second largest troop contributing country to the mission.

During this same period, four Argentine soldiers lost their lives maintaining peace and supporting the mission. Their spirits live on among all UN soldiers.

Over the years Argentina has invited other South American countries to deploy troops within its contingent to support the UNFICYP mission. Today, platoons from Chile and Paraguay and a Brazilian military observation and liaison officer successfully work alongside Argentines.

Argentine troops work with high hopes and a true belief that Argentina's effort in the Cyprus conflict will contribute towards finding a solution and establishing a long-lasting peace.

## Country Profile

Argentina is the second largest country in Latin America after Brazil (almost all the countries of Western Europe and Scandinavia could fit inside Argentina's land mass). The country is diverse and includes rain forest in the north, vast areas of fertile farming land in the centre, the Andean mountain range to the west and the desolate plains of Patagonia in the south, leading down to glaciers at the southern tip. Argentina has the world's southernmost city (Ushuaia).

**Full country name:** Argentine Republic

**Area:** 1.08 million sq miles

**Population:** 40.3 million, 1.5 million currently overseas

**Life expectancy:** 72 years (male); 79 years (female)

**Capital city:** Buenos Aires

**People:** Most Argentines are of European origin, especially Spanish and Italian. Substantial numbers also came from France, Poland, Russia and Germany. The Jewish community is the seventh largest in the world outside Israel. There are also more than 1 million people of Arab descent. Around 1% of the population are indigenous people living mainly in the north and west.

**Language:** Spanish

**Religion:** Roman Catholic (90%); Protestant (2%); others include Judaism and Islam

**Currency:** Peso





# FORCES IN CYPRUS

## MAY REVOLUTION PARADE

Argentine soldiers celebrated the May Revolution this month with a military parade attended by the Chief of Mission, Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Force Commander Major General Chao Liu and military and civilian personnel.



One of the most important national commemorations, the May Revolution was a week-long series of events that took place from May 18 to 25, 1810, in Buenos Aires, capital of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, a Spanish colony that included roughly the territories of present-day Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. These events are commemorated in Argentina as "May Week."

The May Revolution began the Argentine War of Independence, although no formal declaration of independence was issued at the time. As similar events occurred in many other cities of Spanish South America, the May Revolution is also considered one of the early events of the Spanish American wars of independence. A formal declaration of independence was finally issued at the Congress of Tucumán on July 9, 1816.

## DRINKING MATE

Football, tango and empanadas- they can only invoke images of one country, Argentina. A little less known, but just as important to the Argentine identity, is the communal tea yerba mate. The tea is traditionally drunk using a straw and in the company of others, one tea passed from person to person.

Affectionately known as the drinking mate, yerba mate is a product formed exclusively from the leaves of *Ilex Paraguariensis*, dried, slightly toasted, broken or pulverised. The plant itself is generally a small bush, characterised by its light ash-coloured stem, many branches and shiny leaves. The flowers have white petals and its fruit is reddish and bulbous. The yerba tree is found mostly in central South America and is characteristic of a temperate climate.

The tea is prepared in a small gourd called the "mate" and is drunk using a metallic pipe usually made of silver, called a "bombilla", whose ball-shaped bottom functions as a sieve. The powdered mate tea is placed in the mate to fill half of it loosely, and a small amount of water at room temperature added to wet the powdered tea. The bombilla is placed till it touches the bottom of the mate and near boiling water is added. The liquid is sucked to avoid moving the powder too much thereby preventing the sieve's holes from clogging. After all the liquid has been drunk, a fresh supply of hot water is poured into the mate. This is repeated until the tea no longer has the desired taste.

This preparation is called the "bitter mate" or "cimarron" or "natural" or "amargo". If sugar is added, it is called "sweet mate". If cold water is added, it is called "terere" (a Guaraní Indian name from Paraguay)- a very refreshing and stimulating summer drink.

## in numbers

**295**

full contingent strength

**216**

soldiers in sector 1

**33**

mobile force reserve

**28**

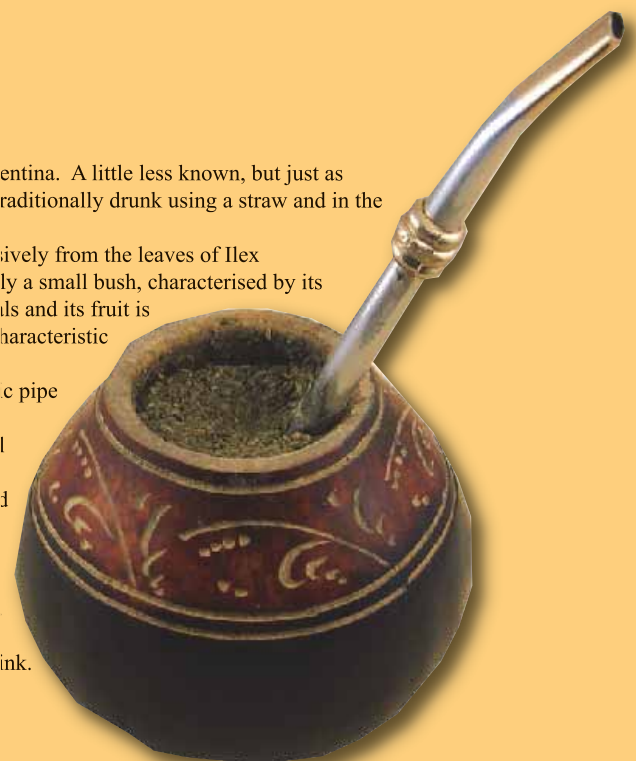
UN flight pilots and technicians

**12**

mission HQ personnel

**6**

force military police



# UN FL

**U**N Flight is stationed at headquarters in the UN protected area on the outskirts of Nicosia. UN Flight operates the helicopters out of the Nicosia International Airport which is closed to civilian air traffic. It provides the aerial patrol and transport capacity for the entire mission. The UN Flight is part of Argentina's contribution to the mission and is manned by Argentine pilots and technicians.







# LIGHT

## in brief

**Date of arrival:** September 15, 1994

**Start date of flight:** September 30, 1994

**Number of helicopters:** 3

**Helicopter brand and type:** Hughes 500 D, multipurpose; Bell 212, multipurpose with a night flight capability

**Number of staff:** 16

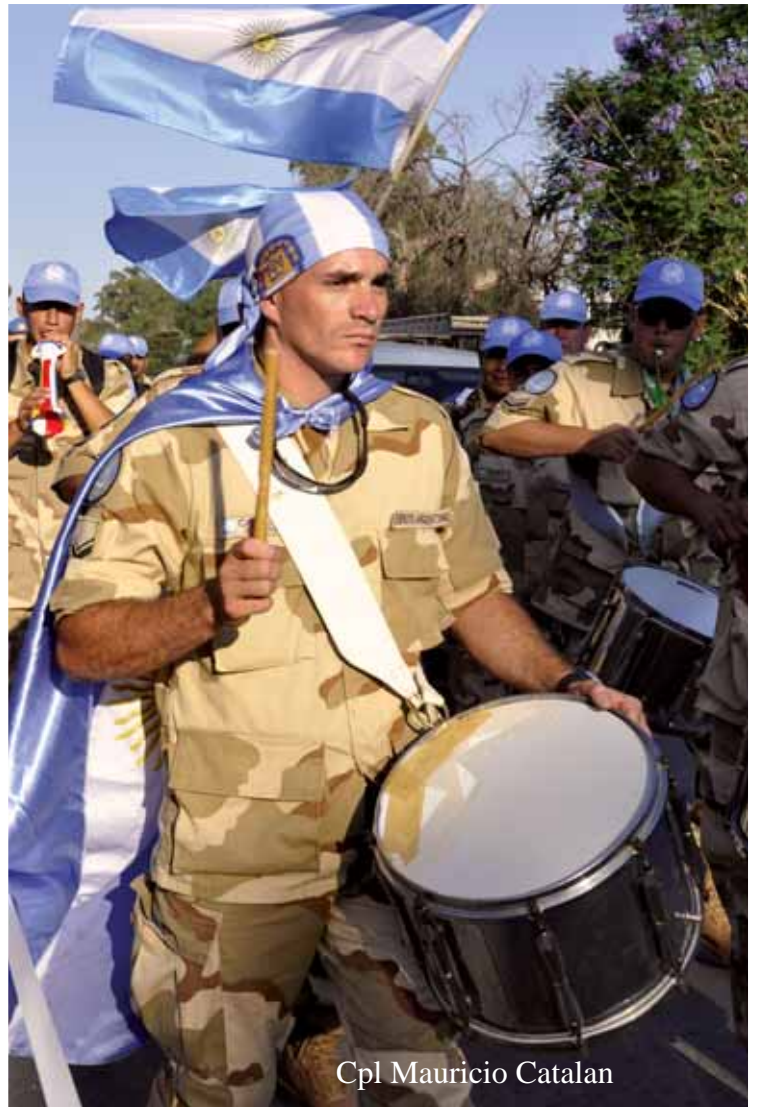
**Activities:** aerial patrols, passenger transport, freight transport, medical evacuation, search and rescue, aerial photography, embarkation and disembarkation of troops

**Total current staff:** 28 men (8 pilots, 1 engineer, and 19 non-commissioned officers)

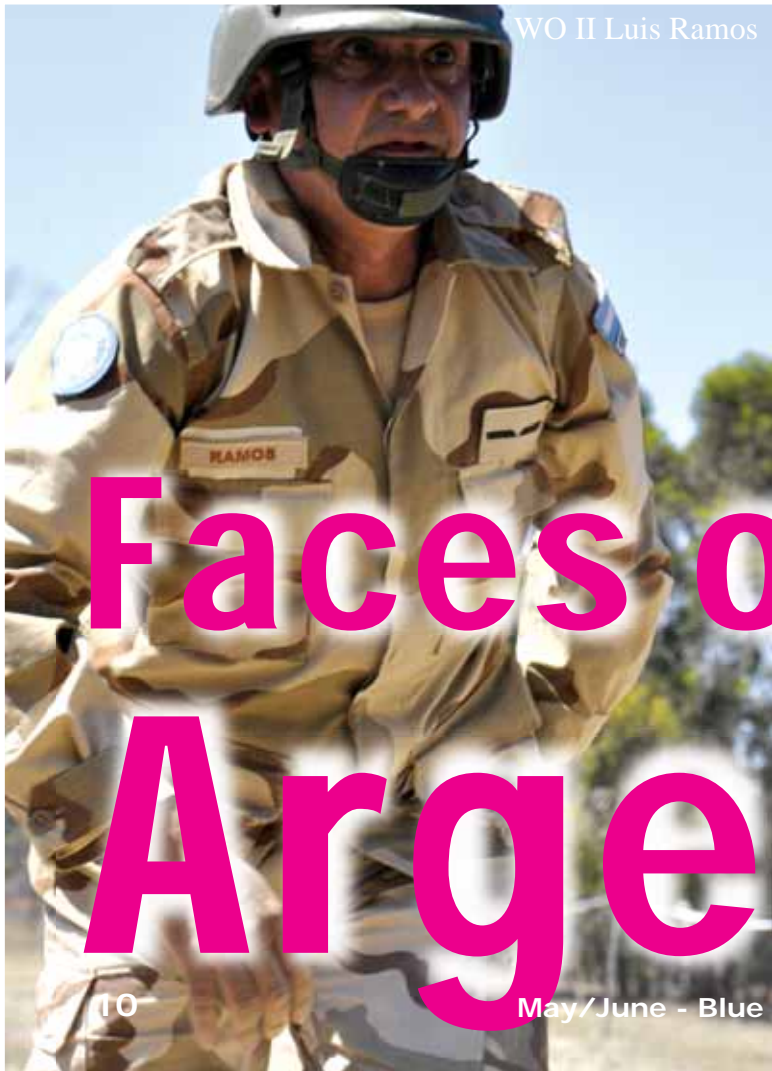




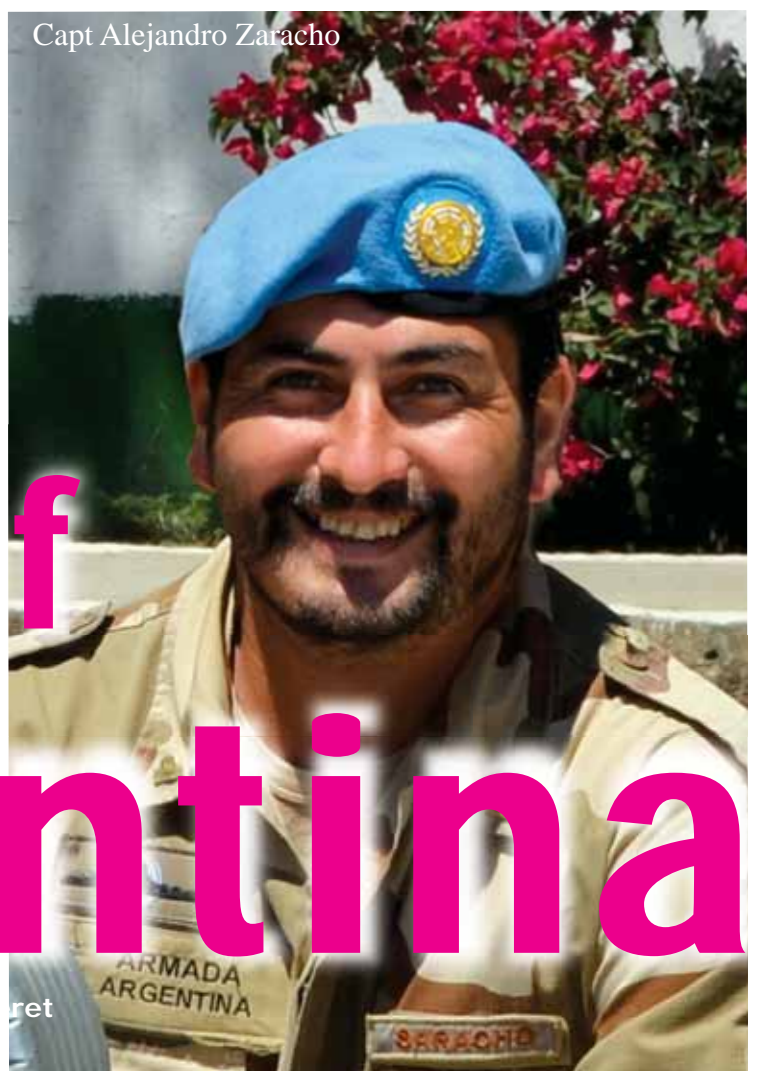
Lt Jimena Ciciliani



Cpl Mauricio Catalan



WO II Luis Ramos



Capt Alejandro Zaracho

# Faces of Argentina

10

May/June - Blue Secret





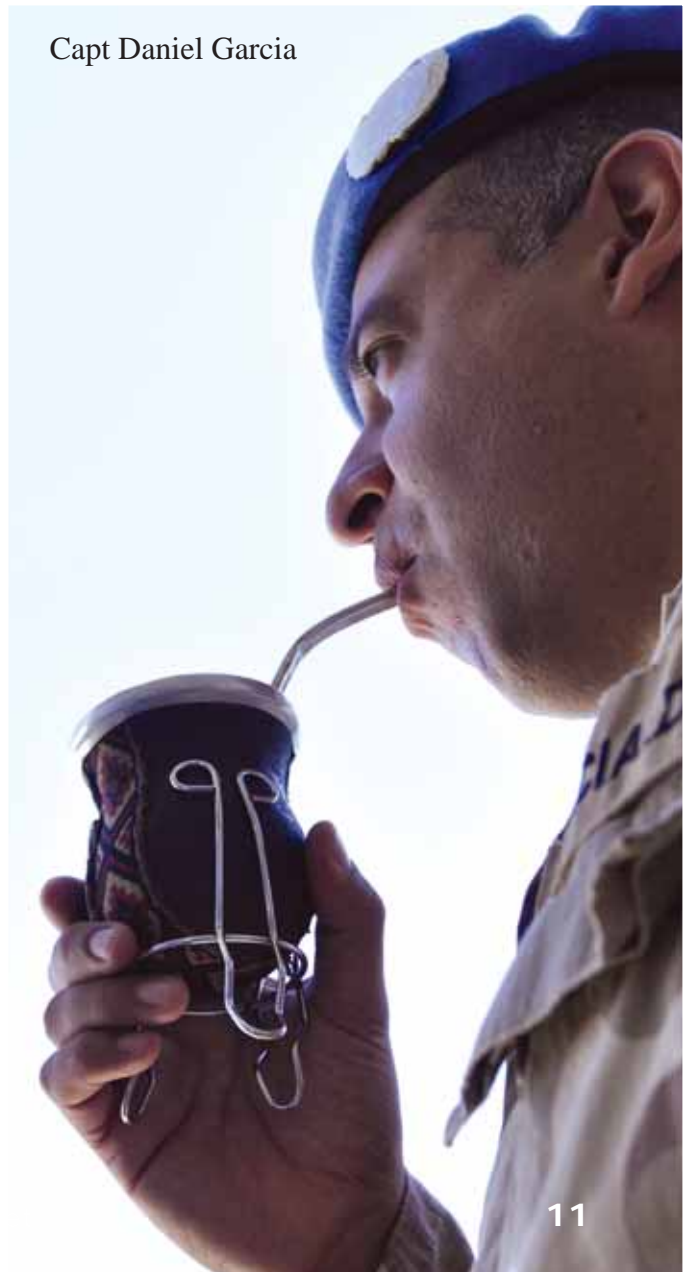


WO II Marisa Acevedo



1Lt Franco Pettiti and 1 Lt Emilio Molina

May/June - Blue B



Capt Daniel Garcia





# SECTOR 1

The buffer zone is divided into three sectors. The Argentine forces are the lead nation in sector 1 (pictured), an area covering the distance of approximately 90 kilometres from Kokkina village on the western coast of Cyprus to the village of Mammari, west of Nicosia. The rocky, high roads are difficult to patrol, especially in winter where strong winds and rain pound the tracks. Sector 1 is home to diverse and unique wildlife, such as the Moufflon, the Cyprus sheep.



## Force Commander inspects Argentine soldiers

On 2 May, UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Chao Liu inspected Sector 1, the area of responsibility within the buffer zone manned by Argentine soldiers. The Major General was received by the Commanding Officer of the Argentine Task Force 39 Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Ramon Aguilar and proceeded to visit camp facilities, patrol bases and was briefed on the operations of the Argentine Task Force.



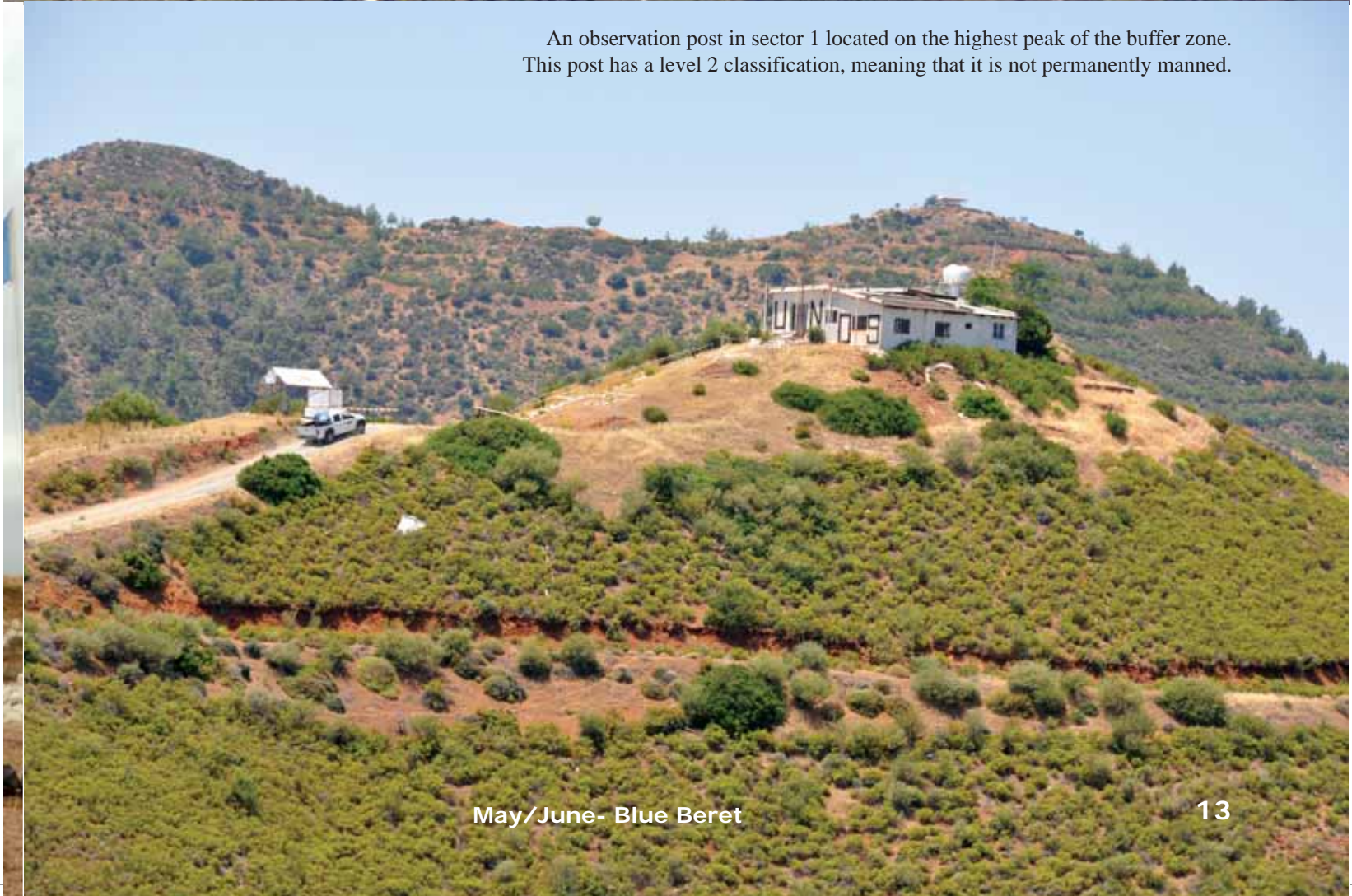




Hills in the Tillyria region on the north-western part of the island



An observation post in sector 1 located on the highest peak of the buffer zone. This post has a level 2 classification, meaning that it is not permanently manned.



May/June- Blue Beret







Photo Shots



# SUMMER ME







# DAL PARADE





# AUSTRALIAN POLICE



Australian police have served with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus since 1964. Australia is the only country to have maintained a continuous police presence since then. It is Australia's longest and oldest overseas police mission with over 1600 police having served in Cyprus.

## The road to Cyprus

In 1964 UNFICYP was established via UN security council resolution 186. The Australian government responded to the UN call for civilian police by providing forty Australian officers as part of a contingent of 174 UN police. Australian police arrived in Nicosia in May 1964 to investigate inter-communal civilian

disputes. From 1964 to 1974 Australian police strived hard to support the mission's mandate to prevent the recurrence of fighting, contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and contribute to a return to normal conditions. However a coup d'état in 1974 against then-President Makarios by the ruling junta in Greece led to a military intervention by Turkey. Hostilities lasted about one month from July to August until a cease-fire came into effect.

During the Turkish intervention UNPOL

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**Australia is the only country to have maintained a continuous police presence since 1964**

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officers were subject to machine gun and mortar fire and Turkish air attack. Some of their motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal items at that time were destroyed, lost or stolen. Throughout this time the UNPOL officers displayed great acts of courage in assisting both Greek and Turkish Cypriots displaced by the fighting.

Approximately 200,000 persons were displaced from their homes on both sides and humanitarian assistance was provided by UNPOL and UN military officers where possible. UNPOL continued to negotiate between both sides and escorted refugees to

safety throughout the conflict. Sadly, three Australian police officers have lost their lives whilst deployed to Cyprus.

Cyprus marked the first overseas deployment for an Australian policewoman. In May 1988, Sergeant Kathy Burdett arrived in Cyprus as a member of the 28th Contingent. Sgt. Burdett was also selected in 1988 to represent UNFICYP when the Nobel peace prize was awarded to UN peacekeeping forces. Kathy travelled to Oslo, Norway accompanying UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who received the Nobel peace prize on behalf of all UN peacekeepers. To be chosen to represent UN police was not only a great honour for Kathy but for all Australians. One hundred female officers have so far served with UNFICYP.

The Australian contingent today numbers fifteen police who serve for one year with six month rotations. A significant milestone was recently achieved with the deployment of the 100th Australian contingent in 2011 who returned to Australia on 13 May 2012. The majority of the current contingent were not even born when that first contingent was deployed in 1964. The Australian police continue to serve with pride maintaining the traditions of service commenced forty-eight years ago by that first contingent of Australian police peacekeepers.

Sgt Karina Parker and Sgt Phillip Jones





# SERVING SINCE 1964



## In numbers (1964-2012)

**1600** total number of police  
**100** women officers  
**15** police currently serving  
**3** fatalities

## Country Profile

**A**ustralia is the smallest continent and the largest island in the world. The sixth-largest country in the world by land mass, its comparatively small population is concentrated in the highly-urbanised east of the Australian continent. The island continent combines a wide variety of landscapes, including deserts in the interior, snow capped mountains in the south east, tropical rainforest in the north and densely-populated coastal strips with long beaches and coral reefs off the shoreline.

Through its isolation from other continents, Australia has developed an abundance of unique plant and animal life, most famously marsupials such as the kangaroo and koala.

**Area:** 7,682m sq km **Coastline:** 25,760 sq

**Population:** 23 million

**Capital city:** Canberra

**People:** 98% of the population are of European or Asian descent

**Languages:** Mainly English with some other European, indigenous and Asian languages

**Religion(s):** Majority Christian with Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and other minorities; in the 2006 Census, 18.7% of the population defined themselves as having "no religion". Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution.

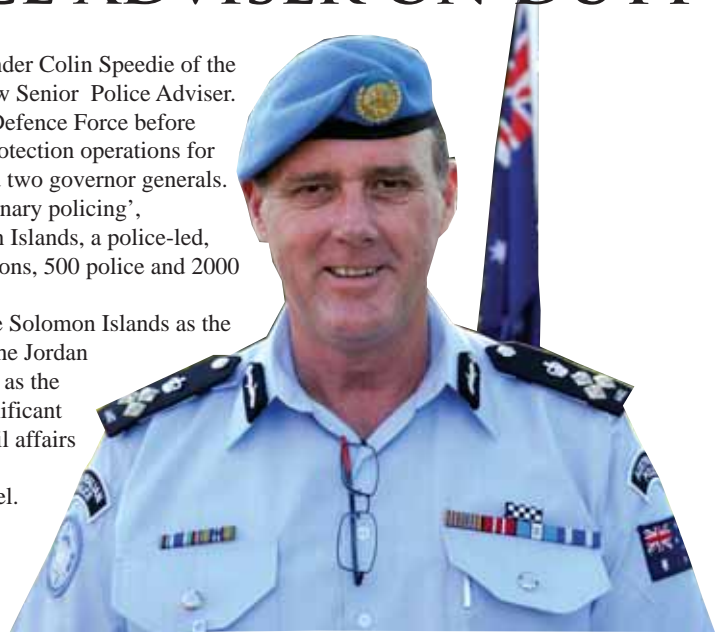
**Currency:** Australian Dollar

## NEW SENIOR POLICE ADVISER ON DUTY

**C**oming to Cyprus for the third time on official duty, Commander Colin Speedie of the Australian Police Force has re-joined UNFICYP as the new Senior Police Adviser. Commander Speedie spent nine years with the Australian Defence Force before joining the Australian Federal Police in 1987, focusing on close protection operations for over ten years, including the protection of two prime ministers and two governor generals. Since 2003, Commander Speedie has been involved in 'expeditionary policing', commencing with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, a police-led, military supported intervention operation involving 12 Pacific nations, 500 police and 2000 military personnel.

Career accomplishments since then include deployments to the Solomon Islands as the head of community policing and to Jordan as the chief of staff of the Jordan international police training centre. In 2005, he returned to Cyprus as the deputy senior police adviser, driving the UN police through a significant reform program that included the implementation of the sector civil affairs team handover from the military to the police component and the establishment of jointly staffed operations centers at the sector level.

From September 2008 to October 2009, Speedie deployed to Kabul as the commander of the Australian police mission in Afghanistan, with a secondary role as a senior adviser on civil policing and national criminal investigations to the commanding general of CSTC-A. It was during this year he successfully established the Afghan Major Crimes Task Force and the senior police advisers group in Kabul. Following this, the Commander completed a year of full time study at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and completed a masters degree in strategic studies at Deakin University. Commander Speedie is married and has two adult daughters.



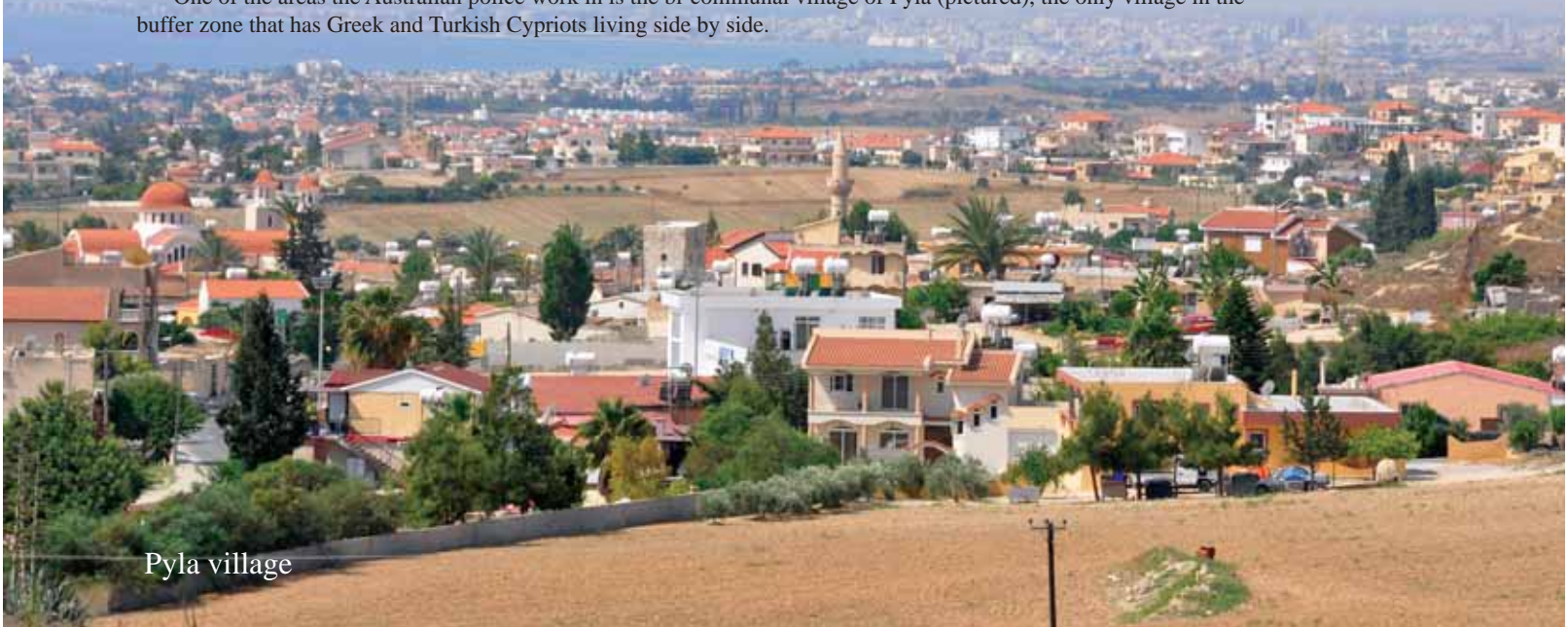




# COMMUNITY POLICING

Australian police work side by side with other UN police to maintain and restore law and order in the buffer zone as well as support the military and civil affairs branch of the mission. Their role is primarily as community police, which means working with citizens to both prevent and solve crime. Effective community policing can only happen if the police establish and maintain good relationships with the communities they work in. In Cyprus, this means engaging daily with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot people and police.

One of the areas the Australian police work in is the bi-communal village of Pyla (pictured), the only village in the buffer zone that has Greek and Turkish Cypriots living side by side.



Pyla village

Sgt Grant Beatty with local farmer



Sgt Martin Kappel with Pyla resident



Sgt Stuart McDonald





# HOW A SMALL TOWN GIRL CAME TO POLICE THE BUFFER ZONE



I grew up on a country farm near Hobart, the capital of Australia's small island state, Tasmania. I started my police career at the age of 20 with the Tasmania police service working at community police stations. When I graduated in 1996, I could not have imagined that my first major job as a probationary constable would be responding to the Port Arthur Massacre, a killing spree that today still remains one of the deadliest shootings worldwide committed by a lone gunman. Sixteen years later I find myself patrolling the tracks of sector 2 alongside my United Nations counterparts, and 1996 seems a world away from where my policing career started. In 2006, I transferred to the Australian federal police international deployment group, an organization that provides law enforcement and peacekeeping activities to UN peacekeeping missions and Australian-led regional assistance missions. This role gave me the opportunity to work side by side with local police along with colleagues from all over the world. My policing experience has been greatly enriched, both personally and professionally, by the influence of my multinational colleagues. My policing career was always my first priority until I met my future partner, a Papua New Guinea/Irish man, known as Thomas O'Reilly. A few years later, Tom and I had our first son together, Kai Jonah O'Reilly; my greatest achievement so far. It can certainly be hard to juggle both motherhood and a career, as any working mum will tell you. Six months after Kai's birth, I found myself finishing maternity leave one day and deploying to Cyprus the next,

something that seemed quite daunting at the time. But with a little determination, dedication and most importantly the love and support of both my family and work colleagues, the transition to being a working mum in Cyprus has been extremely rewarding.

**Sgt Karina Parker is the 100th female police officer to serve with UNFICYP**

## GOVERNOR-GENERAL ON TOUR

Australian Governor General Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO visited Australian police officers at Ledra Palace during her three-day state visit to Cyprus from 31 May to 2 June 2012.







## Feature



# A test of s

The multinational team representing the Mobile Force Reserve have won the summer round of the military skills competitions for 2012. "All teams did extremely well this year but particular congratulations go to the winners, the Mobile Force Reserve team," said Force Commander Major General Chao Liu. "Physically and mentally challenging competitions like this test core competencies and leadership but most importantly build teamwork. Another hugely successful and well organized event."

The skills and knowledge of soldiers and police serving in UNFICYP are tested twice a year in a day-long series of challenges designed to assess endurance and physical and mental readiness to conduct their duty in service of peace within UNFICYP.

The fiercely contested competition is unique to the mission in Cyprus. Soldiers and police are grouped into teams of eight, representing the UN police, Mobile Force Reserve, HQ personnel and soldiers from the three sectors. Each team must have at least one female member. For the summer round nine teams competed in activities that included the endurance march, driving skills, command tasks, incident reaction, map reading, shooting, patrolling and observation and challenging assault course.







# kill





## Round-Up

### VISITS



The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Stanislav Cadjo speaking to Force Commander Major General Chao Liu during his visit to Republic of Srpska police officers deployed in the UN Peacekeeping mission in Cyprus on May 29, 2012.



Mr. Bálint Ódor, Deputy State Secretary for EU Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary with SRSG and Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim on 14 June.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Miroslav Lajčák, with Slovak troops on 18 June. The Minister donated on behalf of the Slovak Republic EUR 10,000 to the Committee on Missing Persons.

### UNICORN'S RUGBY TRIUMPH

After almost a year since their last game, UNFICYP Unicorns RFC played the Cyprus Barbarians RFC on Saturday 12 May 2012. The Unicorns fielded a team with members from ARGCON, BRITCON, FMPU and UNPOL giving 30



peacekeepers the chance to play together and represent the mission. The pitch was in excellent condition thanks to Major Dave Hall and his hardworking ground staff. Rugby may not have the global pull of soccer, but UNFICYP has troop and police contributing countries from many of the sport's major nations. It was a real experience to have Argentine, English, Fijian, Irish, Scots and Welsh qualified players working together in one team. Normally a rugby squad is 15 players with seven reserves, but for this friendly fixture the Barbarians allowed all 30 UN players to have at least part of the match.

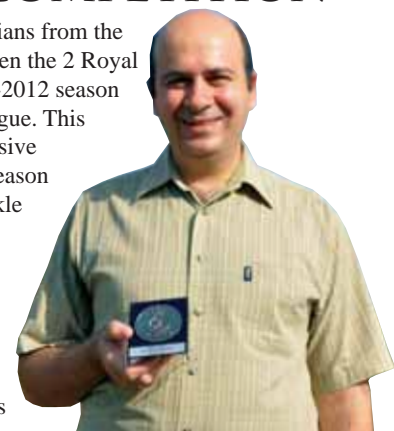
After a bright start by the Barbarians, the Unicorns were awarded a penalty and took the three points on offer. From then on there was only ever going to be one outcome in the match. Leading 10-0 after 20 minutes the Unicorns began rolling the substitutions. In all aspects of the game the Unicorns were matching or outplaying a star-studded Barbarians team who boasted players from Pafos, Agios Nikolaos, Limassol as well as Nicosia. Taking a 24-7 lead at half time the Unicorns restarted strongly after the break.

Despite a spirited revival from the Barbarians the Unicorns held firm with excellent defence and fast handling in attack. By the end of 80 minutes of hard and fair rugby the Unicorns ran out 43-14 winners. The game was played in a true rugby spirit with both sides keeping fair play to the fore. Anyone interested in playing should contact Julian Charvat, unficyp.unicorns@gmail.com. The club will be playing more home fixtures soon and always welcomes your support!

### TEAM UNFICYP WIN

### NAVIGATION COMPETITION

A mixed team of military and civilians from the UN mission in Cyprus have beaten the 2 Royal Anglian Regimental in the 2011-2012 season of the Cyprus Services Orienteering League. This year's success was mainly due to impressive navigation and running throughout the season by Captain Emmitt Andrews and Miss Tekle Gvildyte, both of whom picked up well deserved trophies for their top league positions. At the annual end of season championships held in April, the UNFICYP team again did rather well and once more came home with an impressive haul of trophies. Day one was the individual event in Dhekelia and Ms Diana Bridger from HQ UNPOL came second overall on the technical and longer



Kyriakos Michaelides, a member of the UNFICYP Relay Team, shows his medal.

A course, beating most of the men. Mr Lennart Gustavsson, our veteran champion, was runner up on the B course. In the relay event on day two at Akrotiri, the UNFICYP B Team were runners-up behind the HQ BFC Team. Orienteering is a sport requiring participants to navigate themselves round a course of points in the fastest possible time using a map and compass. It was originally a training exercise in land navigation for military officers.



# FIRE SEASON: *ARE YOU READY?*

By UNFICYP Fire Officer Nadeem Paul Qadir

The biggest fire hazard within UNFICYP during this time of year is dry grass and vegetation. The appropriate precautionary measures can prevent fires, potentially saving lives and damage to property.

## Don't

**Throw away lit cigarettes or matches.**

Smoke in offices and buildings- smoke in only designated areas.

**Use plastic bins in your smoking areas.**

Throw away glass material within grass or forest fire hazard areas.

**Park your car near dry grass or vegetation as the hot engine can cause sparks.**

Leave your vehicle engine running while it is parked.

**Hold a barbecue anywhere other than in designated locations.**

Leave your barbecue unattended and when finished, use water, sand or soil to dampen the fire.

**Burn any material. For the burning of sensitive material contact security or the fire unit on ext. 4453/4.**

Use water if electricity poles are involved in the fire, especially near UNFICYP ops- use dry powder, co2 fire extinguishers or fire beaters.

**Risk your life to fight a fire. Take appropriate safety measures and wait for the fire crew.**

Start your patrol without having at least four fire beaters in your vehicle. Also check your dry powder fire extinguisher and medical kit.

**Fight fires alone- always attack the fire in groups.**

Fight fires up or down wind, always from a cross wind direction and take care from smoke and radiation heat.

**Forget that mines are present in the buffer zone.**

Spread fire with your boots; wash them as you leave the area.

**UNFICYP fire/emergency telephone number 22-61-4777**

Call signs 9-india/9-x-ray/ 9-zulu on channel 14 UNPA. Civilian fire emergency telephone numbers are in the south 112/199 and in the north 199/112.

**For any inquiries about fire safety courses please call the Security Section/Fire Unit on 22-61-4453/4454.**



UNFICYP's Security Section/Fire Unit has responsibility for the mission's fire safety, fire prevention and fire fighting with the coordination of the sector fire officers, location fire non-commissioned officers and building wardens. They hold fire safety management inspections, check, test and maintain fire equipment, conduct fire trainings and fire drills, provide updated information on policies and coordinate with local fire services.

During 2011, 179 fire calls were received from which 131 fires had the potential to threaten property or life. As part of fire safety management, 818 UN personnel have so far received fire training.







Coming in the next issue of the Blue Beret  
**Focus on Hungarian blue helmets  
and UN police from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia**

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