

# The Blue Beret

## October 2004



UN Day  
at Ledra

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS  
UNFICYP

## THE BLUE BERET

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## Security Council Resolution 1568

"The Security Council,  
 "Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 24 September 2004 (S/2004/756) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,  
 "Reiterating its call to the parties to assess and address the humanitarian issue of missing persons with due urgency and seriousness, and welcoming in this regard the resumption of the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons since August 2004,  
 "Welcoming the Secretary-General's review of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP), pursuant to resolution 1548 (2004) of 11 June 2004,  
 "Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep UNFICYP beyond 15 December 2004,  
 "Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island has become increasingly benign over the last few years and that a recurrence of fighting in Cyprus is increasingly unlikely,  
 "Welcoming the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a further review on UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operation in advance of the next renewal of UNFICYP's mandate, continuing to take into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,  
 "Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP, and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations,  
 "Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,  
 "1. Reaffirms all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;  
 "2. Endorses the Secretary-General's recommendations for the amendment of the concept of operations and force level of UNFICYP, as outlined in his report of 24 September 2004;  
 "3. Decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 15 June 2005;  
 "4. Urges the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to rescind without delay all remaining restrictions on UNFICYP, and calls on them to restore in Strovolia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;  
 "5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution concurrent with the review provided for above;  
 "6. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

## Contents

Editorial/Contents .....	2
UNFICYP Family Celebrates UN Day/	
SG's UN Day Message .....	3
Report of the SG on UNFICYP .....	4/5/6/7
Cultural Heritage of Cyprus – Part XXVII:	
Amathus: Ancient City-Kingdom .....	8/9
Sector 2 News .....	10
Sector 1 News/	
Nobel Peace Prize 2004 .....	11
New Faces from .....	12
Visitors to UNFICYP from .....	13
Croatians Join the UNFICYP Family .....	14
Martial Arts Training/	
UK Air Cadets Pay a Flying Visit to UNFICYP ..	15

**Front and Back Covers:**  
**UNFICYP Celebrates the UN Birthday**

## UNFICYP Family Celebrates UN Day

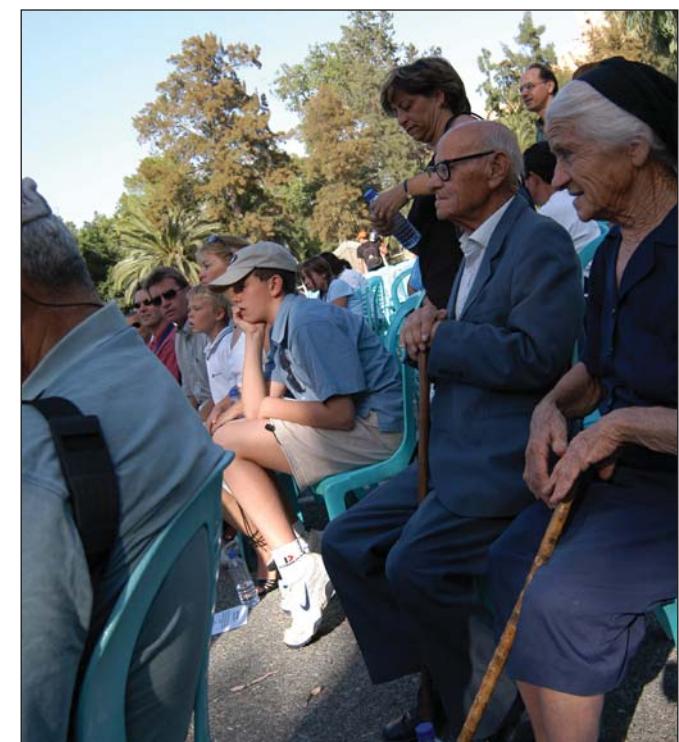
This year, for once, UNFICYP and the UN family in Cyprus celebrated UN Day on 24 October – the actual anniversary of the UN's Charter coming into effect in 1945. Usually, the UNFICYP Cyprus tradition of marking the event on the nearest Sunday has meant that we have been out of step with the rest of the UN world's celebrants! This year, happily, Sunday and 24 October fell on the same day!

Led by the Chief of Mission, more than 500 people turned out at the Ledra Palace for a wonderful UN Day concert, featuring the bicultural music making of the Cyprus Youth Music, appearing courtesy of the UNDP/USAID-funded Bi-communal Development Programme executed by UNOPS.

Under the inspiring baton of director Roland Mehlia, the young orchestra players joined forces with the brassy big band sound of the Foley School, another youth movement (from Limassol), and soon the Ledra grounds reverberated with the familiar sounds of a Glenn Miller standard. Then Maro Skordi directed the Polyphonia Vocal Group through a dizzying array of *a capella* harmonies, each more mellifluous than the



last. An undaunted Serdar Kavaz let rip with guitar and vocals in a solo set of pop and traditional arrangements to follow. Then, feet began to tap and hands began to clap as Vitral, the afternoon's featured quartet, took over the stage and won everyone's hearts with their infectious rhythms.



## Secretary-General's UN Day Message

Fifty-nine years ago, the United Nations was founded as an instrument of peace, human rights and development. The world is a better place because of the United Nations. But too many people are today the victims of violence, oppression, poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

We can and must do better. All people deserve to live free from fear and want. They must have hope that tomorrow will be better than today. Our common humanity requires it. Our common security demands it.

Each nation needs a government that truly serves its people. And we all need an effective United Nations

– one that reflects the world we live in today, and can meet the challenges we will face tomorrow.

I believe we can build a better United Nations. That's why I will soon be putting before world leaders a package of measures to renew the Organization. It will be up to your leaders to respond with vision and goodwill. They must find common ground at a historic meeting this time next year.

I ask you to encourage your leaders to give our world the United Nations it deserves. With your help, I know we can do it.

We are in a new era. We need a new United Nations. Let's make it happen.

# Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

## I. Introduction

1. In resolution 1548 (2004) the Security Council welcomed my intention to conduct a review of UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operation, and decided to consider my recommendations for adjustments or restructuring that may be required. It also requested a report on the implementation of this resolution.

2. Pursuant to this resolution, review teams were established in UNFICYP, led by the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Włosowicz, assisted by the Force Commander, Major General Hebert Figoli, and in the Secretariat, led by the Acting Director of the Europe and Latin America Division, Office of Operations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, respectively. The teams conducted an in-depth assessment of the developments on the ground and the evolving role of the different components of UNFICYP over the last years. The Secretariat team visited UNFICYP from 29 August to 5 September and jointly with the UNFICYP team sought the views of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides about the situation on the ground. In addition, the teams met with representatives of the diplomatic community and the UN family in Nicosia.

## II. General background

3. Since the resumption of the most recent effort of my mission of good offices in late 1999, the context in which UNFICYP operated was shaped primarily by the pace of the negotiations on a comprehensive settlement. Representatives of both communities met at various levels to discuss their common future in a reunited Cyprus. These efforts came to an end with the rejection of the proposed "Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem" by the Greek Cypriot side in the 24 April 2004 referendum (see S/2004/437). Throughout this period of intense negotiations, UNFICYP assisted in maintaining the calm along the ceasefire lines, ensuring conditions conducive for the talks.

4. Official contacts between leaders of both sides have ceased since the referenda, and signs of mutual distrust have reappeared. Presently, the position of the two sides on my mission of good offices remains as reported to the Council on 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437). Accordingly, I continue to see no basis for resuming my good offices as long as the impasse described in that report continues. While that impasse remains, my views as to the way forward may also be found in that report.

5. On 1 May 2004, Cyprus joined the European Union (EU). While the accession did not, as was hoped, provide the catalyst for a comprehensive settlement, the EU framework, if used wisely by all parties, does have the potential to improve the climate between Cyprus, as an EU member state, and Turkey, as a candidate for EU membership. It also has potential to help reduce the disparities between the two communities on the island, promote confidence between them, and build and sustain constituencies on each side in favour of reconciliation and reunification. In this context, intra-island trade of certain goods began in August pursuant to an EU regulation. The EU Commission also recommended to the European Council an aid package of 259 million Euros for the Turkish Cypriots and the opening of direct trade between the north of the island and the European Union.

6. However, key decisions on the EU's relations with Turkey and with the Turkish Cypriots have yet to be taken. This has led to considerable uncertainty on both sides of the

island. The Greek Cypriot side has opposed the Commission's recommendations on direct trade, and has proposed its own set of economic and confidence building measures. These have been largely dismissed by the Turkish Cypriot side, which has also expressed disappointment with what they regard as the slow pace of EU assistance.

7. Perhaps the single recent event to have the most impact on the relationship between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots was the opening of four crossing points through the Green Line in April 2003. Despite the current absence of direct relations at the official level, contacts between ordinary Cypriots have continued to grow. Since April 2003, there have been over four million crossings of the buffer zone without major incidents. The movement of people has been further facilitated by the Greek Cypriot side's willingness to accept entry to the south by EU nationals and Cyprus visa holders who entered the island through ports in the north. For their part, Turkish Cypriot authorities agreed that Greek Cypriots could show identity cards, rather than passports, when crossing the buffer zone to the north. People from all walks of life, including the public and private sectors, have continued to meet with their counterparts and participate in common events. Many such encounters have taken place at UN premises in the buffer zone with the assistance of UNFICYP.

8. In addition, proposals for confidence building measures were put forward by the Greek Cypriot side. In June, it proposed, through UNFICYP, the withdrawal of military equipment and un-manning of positions around the old town of Nicosia and in the Dherinya-Famagusta area, as well as a ban on military exercises and use of heavy equipment for two kilometers on both sides of the respective ceasefire lines. These proposals have yet to be taken up by the other side. Again in June, the Greek Cypriot side proposed through UNFICYP the opening of eight additional crossing points for people and goods. This proposal was welcomed in principle by the Turkish Cypriot side. UNFICYP is working with both sides to realize this objective. Crucial to this is ensuring safe passage through the buffer zone, which can only be achieved with the help of a comprehensive demining operation. UNFICYP, together with the Representation of the EU Commission in Cyprus and UNDP/UNOPS, has been working intensively with both sides to attain this goal.

9. As a goodwill gesture, the Greek Cypriot side, after a gap of five years, provided land passage to the Turkish Cypriots for the annual August visit to Kokkina, which was negotiated and facilitated by UNFICYP. In the same vein, in August, the Turkish Cypriot side decided to allow the opening of a secondary school in the Karpas for Greek Cypriot children and religious services in the St. Mamas church at Morphou, both for the first time since 1974. The service was attended by hundreds of Greek Cypriots and proceeded without incident. Again in August, the Turkish Cypriot side announced that Maronites could have access to their properties and could sell a limited amount of land to buyers other than Greek Cypriots. In addition, both sides are negotiating through UNFICYP direct fixed and mobile telephone links with each other. Further, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus resumed its meetings on 30 August 2004, following a hiatus of more than four years.

10. The number of Turkish troops on the island as well as the nature of their equipment remains at the same level as before, fueling a continued perception of threat in the south. In addition, the restrictions of movement imposed in July

2000 by the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces, notwithstanding their limited easing in May 2003, continue to hinder the operations of UNFICYP. The violation of the military status quo in Strovolia also persisted. There was also a worrying incident on 27 August when a bomb exploded at the St. Mamas church in Morphou, four days prior to the religious service by Greek Cypriots there (see para. 9 above).

## III. UNFICYP's mandate and tasks

11. Since its inception, the mandate of UNFICYP has remained unchanged. It was provided by the Security Council in resolution 186 (1964), which states in operative para. 5 that UNFICYP's functions "should be, in the interest of preserving international peace and security, to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions". The mandate has proven to be broad and flexible enough for the force to adjust its tasks in response to changes on the ground, particularly in the aftermath of the events of 1974.

12. UNFICYP is composed of three substantive components – political/civil affairs, civilian police and military. The political/civil affairs unit is engaged in aiding political as well as humanitarian, economic and bi-communal contacts; the civilian police component contributes to the maintenance of law and order, in particular in the buffer zone; and the military contingents are deployed to ensure, to the extent possible, the maintenance of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines. Over the years, the specific tasks and operational emphasis of the three components have adapted to the changed realities on the ground.

## IV. Political and Civil Affairs

13. UNFICYP is headed by the Chief of Mission who also acts as my Special Representative, assisted by a Senior Adviser and a Spokesperson. UNFICYP's civil affairs branch consists of two civil affairs officers, who are supported by a number of civil police and military personnel dedicated specifically to this task.

14. The Chief of Mission provides overall leadership to UNFICYP and serves as the prime UN interlocutor on the island with both sides. He and his office serve as a contact point, providing advice and assistance as needed. In the absence of a senior official dedicated to my good offices, the Chief of Mission ensures continuing contact at the highest levels with the two sides on the island.

15. Following the April referenda, the role of UNFICYP has again become particularly important since the mission remains the only UN political interface on the island. The sides regard UNFICYP's facilitator role as critical in the prevailing context.

16. The mission's political role has also grown in scope in view of the numerous confidence-building initiatives, the need to deal with the present uncertainty on key political questions and the concomitant potential for frictions on the island.

17. Until 1999, UNFICYP's civil affairs activities consisted mainly of support for farming and industry within the buffer zone and ensuring that the ceasefire lines did not disrupt the provision of utilities such as water, electricity and sewage services between the communities. Humanitarian assistance involved facilitating Greek Cypriot-sponsored supply convoys to the Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the north, disbursal of social welfare payments to the Greek Cypriots

in the north and assistance in securing temporary and permanent transfers of Greek Cypriots to the south. UNFICYP also regularly visited Turkish Cypriots living in the south.

18. While UNFICYP's civil affairs branch, supported by the police and military components of the mission, still carries out these activities, its tasks have grown qualitatively and quantitatively. Today, civil affairs officers intercede on behalf of members of one community on the other side to ease their situation, seek goodwill and concessions on issues ranging from visits, crossings, educational, cultural, religious and other rights; negotiate agreement by the sides to maximize opportunities for civil use of the buffer zone like reopening roads, sports fields, and economic enterprises such as dairies, stables, workshops etc.; and mediate on humanitarian and a range of other practical issues. Civil affairs officers also mediate between the sides on economic and legal issues in the mixed village of Pyla.

19. Civil affairs officers also serve as a source of advice to the civilian police component in cases of arrest, detention and trial on either side; and provide analysis and reporting on political developments. Goodwill from the two sides, combined with UNFICYP's impartial role, underpin these efforts promoting a return to normal conditions and the well-being of the population on both sides.

20. Because the Office of the Senior Adviser has no substantive support staff, and in the absence of a political office within UNFICYP, the civil affairs branch has assumed some functions normally carried out in a political section. It has become a de-facto extension of the Office of the Chief of Mission, regularly supporting that office's mediating efforts, negotiations and reporting. The Head of the civil affairs branch serves as the Senior Adviser's deputy.

21. In view of the growing workload and complexity of tasks in the area of political and civil affairs in recent times, the review team recommended a small increase in the staffing of the Office of the Chief of Mission and the civil affairs branch.

## V. Civilian Police

22. UNFICYP's civilian police officers, who live among the local community, are the first point of contact for the civilian population within the buffer zone. While the mandated strength of UNFICYP's civilian police component is 69 personnel, the actual strength is 44 personnel (see annex), deployed in seven stations, including major offices in Pyla and Nicosia and smaller offices in or near the buffer zone.

23. UNFICYP's civilian police perform a range of community and humanitarian tasks. These include contributing to the maintenance and restoration of law and order in the buffer zone; preserving its integrity from unauthorized entry or activities of civilians; and facilitating and monitoring investigations in the buffer zone by the Cyprus Police and the Turkish Cypriot Police Element. UNFICYP's civilian police are the only conduit for contacts between the two police forces on the island and they provide essential impartial liaison between the police in the north and the south in matters that cross community boundaries. UNFICYP's civilian police also play a major role in support of the civil affairs branch in their humanitarian activities, and of the military component in detecting intruders, and dealing with hunters and demonstrations in the buffer zone. In addition, civilian police officers work closely with the military Sector Civilian Affairs Teams in the three sectors.

*Continued overleaf*

# Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Continued from page 5

**24.** UNFICYP's police role in the mixed village of Pyla is especially significant, since it is directly responsible for the conduct of law enforcement by the two sides. Its presence has helped to reduce tensions and resolve disputes in the village on a number of sensitive issues.

**25.** Since April 2003, UNFICYP's civilian police have been increasingly involved in monitoring the crossing points as well as incidents on one side involving Cypriots from the other. Such incidents have been relatively few, compared to the number of crossings. Since the accession of Cyprus into the EU, there has been a substantial increase in the number of refugees or illegal immigrants crossing the buffer zone. This is expected to continue and will impact on the workload of UNFICYP's civilian police. In addition, with the commencement of de-mining activities in the buffer zone scheduled for later this year, there will be a significant rise in the requirement for community liaison. It is also envisaged that civilian police officers will take over regulating various civilian activities in the buffer zone from the military Sector Civil Affairs Teams.

**26.** The review team recommended that the present ceiling for UNFICYP's civilian police component be maintained at the level of 69, which is deemed sufficient for the time being to cover any additional tasks, since the current deployment is only 45.

## VI. Military

**27.** The current authorized strength of UNFICYP's military component is 1,230 all ranks (see annex), deployed in three sectors, which cover the 180km-long buffer zone. The force maintains 12 camps, 17 permanent observation posts and 21 patrol bases.

**28.** The force continues to perform its primary function of maintenance of the military status quo and prevention of a recurrence of fighting. To this end, it maintains constant surveillance using a combination of static observation posts and mobile patrols, in vehicles, on foot and by helicopters. It also investigates and acts upon violations of the ceasefire with the aim of restoring the status quo; defuses cases of tension, including through the deployment of troops; and maintains regular liaison and communications with the command level of the military forces on both sides.

**29.** The review team found that the security situation on the island has become increasingly benign over the last few years. There has been a steady reduction in the number of incidents and violations of the ceasefire by the opposing forces, which are, based on the figures for the first eight months of this year, projected to be a quarter of the level of 1999. Where the opposing forces are separated, the situation is usually quiet. The majority of incidents occur where the opposing forces are in close proximity, which is the case for about 11 kilometres of the ceasefire line, in particular in the city of Nicosia. Even there, the nature of the incidents remains minor. There have also been fewer and smaller demonstrations. The last major incident involving loss of life occurred in 1996.

**30.** Despite the absence of a formal agreement on the delineation of the ceasefire lines, the two sides have by now implicitly accepted UNFICYP's definition of the lines with very few exceptions. The reduction in moves forward in 2004 across the ceasefire lines into the buffer zone is in line with a downward trend in incidents. Indeed, since the re-deployment of UNFICYP following the events of 1974, no incursions, raids or patrols from one side to the other across

the buffer zone have occurred.

**31.** Since 2001, no major military exercises by either side have been undertaken and it is hoped that none will be held in 2004. There have been no deployments of forces from the Greek or Turkish mainland for exercises in Cyprus in recent years. Training activity on both sides remain at routine peacetime levels. There has been a noticeable reduction in the size and profile of military parades in both the north and south. In August 2003, the Greek Cypriot side announced a significant cut in defence spending. Last July, the Turkish Cypriot side made serious efforts to avoid air violations of the buffer zone in their annual parades. There have been rotations of troops and equipment in the north recently but it was assessed that they did not imply a reinforcement.

**32.** The opening of crossing points in 2003 has also led to a reduction in the military presence in the vicinity of the crossing points. The de-mining project also constitutes an important military confidence building measure. And while the referenda in April 2004 did not result in a settlement, the military situation has remained remarkably calm throughout the process.

**33.** Taking into account these positive trends while noting that at the same time considerable military capability still remains on the island, the review team assessed that a recurrence of fighting in Cyprus is increasingly unlikely, but that the potential for minor local violence and challenges to the cease-fire regime still exists. UNFICYP's military component still needs to carry out the whole range of tasks entrusted to it, but the emphasis is moving toward liaison, observation and mediation rather than the deployment of forces to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to maintain the status quo. In addition, some of the tasks performed by the military, such as police assistance and civil affairs responsibilities, may be carried out more efficiently by other components of the mission.

**34.** In light of this assessment, the review team concluded that adjustments could be made to the military concept of operations. Since 1990, the force has been configured for operations in a patrol base concept. Battalion-size sectors have been sub-divided into company areas of responsibility, which in turn have been divided into smaller platoon areas. The force has been dispersed in a framework of several camps and small patrol bases throughout the buffer zone. Each patrol base has its own operations room and in many cases its own quick reaction force. This concept was appropriate when the frequency and quantity of incidents warranted a permanent reactive presence everywhere. But as activity levels have declined, such a permanent presence is no longer required in all areas. By concentrating the force elements in fewer sector camps, operational efficiency could be improved and force protection could be enhanced. There could also be savings in personnel, logistics and administrative tasks. Fewer troops would be required to administer and guard camps, and to staff operations rooms. Reaction forces could be centralised. Command and control of the force would be streamlined and the logistic re-supply of patrol bases, often in difficult terrain, could be reduced.

**35.** The force could also adjust its concept of observation and surveillance. In the early years of the mission, the force surveillance plan was based upon static observation posts. As the situation settled, more mobile surveillance was conducted to allow more flexibility. The review team concluded that a further shift in emphasis from static to mobile surveillance would be appropriate at this stage, resulting in savings of personnel and resources. Better use of

technology could also improve the force's effectiveness, including closed circuit television and improvement in information technology. Additional helicopter hours would also be required.

**36.** This new concept of operation – which might be titled "concentration with mobility" – is intended to maintain the same level of mandate implementation, with a more efficient use of resources.

**37.** In light of the foregoing, the review team recommended an adjustment of the military force. By adopting a more mobile concept of operations, combined with a rationalisation of infrastructure and command and control, the force could be reduced by about 30% to an overall strength of 860 military personnel, including a small military observer and liaison group (see para. 39 below). This would be achieved by troop reductions in all three sectors. A mobile force reserve, a small military helicopter unit, a platoon of force engineers and the military police unit would still be required in approximately current numbers. There would also be little change to the Headquarters military staff. It is to be noted, that any adjustment to the concept of operations and force levels implies some operational risk, but that this risk is assessed to be low.

**38.** The review team also considered thoroughly the option of transforming UNFICYP's military component into a military observer group. It came to the conclusion that further conditions would need to be met in order to proceed with this option, most importantly troop withdrawals and the disengagement of opposing forces in areas where they are in close proximity. The review team, therefore, considered this option as inappropriate at this stage. However, should the current trends continue and the situation on the island remain calm, this option should be re-visited.

**39.** The review team also concluded that a small observer and liaison group within UNFICYP could add a valuable capability, given the increased importance of the military component's liaison and mediation tasks. This military observer and liaison group would be specifically structured for UNFICYP. The officers would be part of the military contingents – as opposed to recruiting military observers in the traditional way – and drawn, to the extent possible, from the existing troop contributors. They would liaise with the military forces from both sides, to investigate major incidents and to solve problems through mediation and negotiation. The military observer and liaison group would be fully integrated into the existing chain of command. The review team believed that, at this stage, it would be appropriate to include in the overall strength of 860 troops up to 40 such military observers and liaison officers.

## VII. Financial Aspects

**40.** The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/301 of 18 June 2004, appropriated for UNFICYP an amount of \$51.9 million for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, including \$2.2 million for strengthening the security and safety of the staff and premises of the Force. In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary contribution of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to \$16.4 million from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million from the Government of Greece. Other countries and organizations might wish to do likewise, so as to lower the portion of UNFICYP's cost covered by assessed contributions.

**41.** Financial resources approved by the General Assembly for the 2004-2005 financial period provide for the maintenance of the Force at its currently authorized military

strength of 1,230 all ranks. While savings arising from the proposed amended concept of operations are to be expected, their magnitude will be determined at a later stage when a logistical support plan related to the reconfiguration of the military force is finalized. Such savings will be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the Force's budget performance report for the 2004-2005 period. **42.** As at 31 August 2004, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 15 December 2004 amounted to \$24.7 million. As at the same date, the total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to \$2,346.9 million.

## VIII. Observations

**43.** As stated in my previous report on UNFICYP (see S/2004/427, para. 18), I continue to believe that in the absence of a comprehensive settlement, the presence of UNFICYP on the island remains necessary for the maintenance of the ceasefire and to foster conditions conducive to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. The review conducted in pursuance of resolution 1548 (2004), found that this view is shared by both sides on the island, as well as by the guarantor powers, and other interested parties. Nevertheless, in view of the developments on the ground, and given that the last comprehensive review of UNFICYP took place in 1993 (see S/2677, 22 November 1993), a comprehensive review of UNFICYP's mandate, concept of operations and force levels had become necessary.

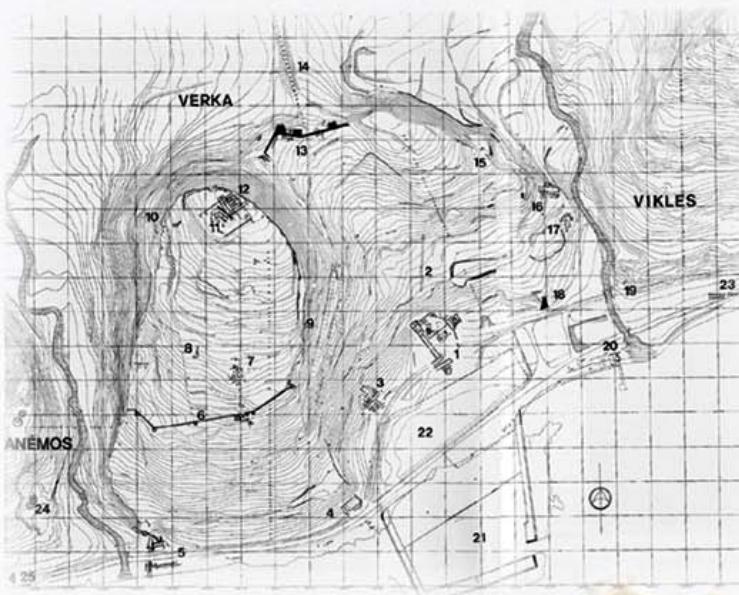
**44.** I concur with the findings of the review and I therefore recommend a reduction of the strength of UNFICYP's military component to 860 all ranks, including up to 40 military observers/liaison officers. The civilian police deployment would be increased while remaining within the current authorized strength. In addition, the mission's political and civil affairs component would be strengthened as envisaged in para. 21 above. These practical measures will allow UNFICYP to continue to carry out the whole range of its mandated tasks, while taking into account the changed environment, and achieving a more efficient utilization of resources. They will also provide the basis for a further transformation of the mission, as warranted by developments on the ground, after a further review which should take place before the end of the next mandate period, in mid-2005.

**45.** While the political developments may require the appointment of a full-time Special Adviser at some stage, I do not intend to make such an appointment now. Therefore, the Chief of Mission of UNFICYP will act as my Special Representative on the ground for continuous contact at the highest level with the two sides and other key players on the Cyprus question. In support of this expanded function, the capacity of UNFICYP for political analysis and reporting needs to be strengthened. In addition, I may consider designating, on an ad hoc basis, senior officials of the Secretariat to deal with any particular aspects of my good offices that might require special attention.

**46.** I would therefore recommend that the Council approve the amended concept of operations and force level of UNFICYP and extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further six-month period, starting 15 December 2004 and ending 15 June 2005. This would allow the restructuring to be implemented in a systematic fashion and provide sufficient time for experience with the new structure for a next review.

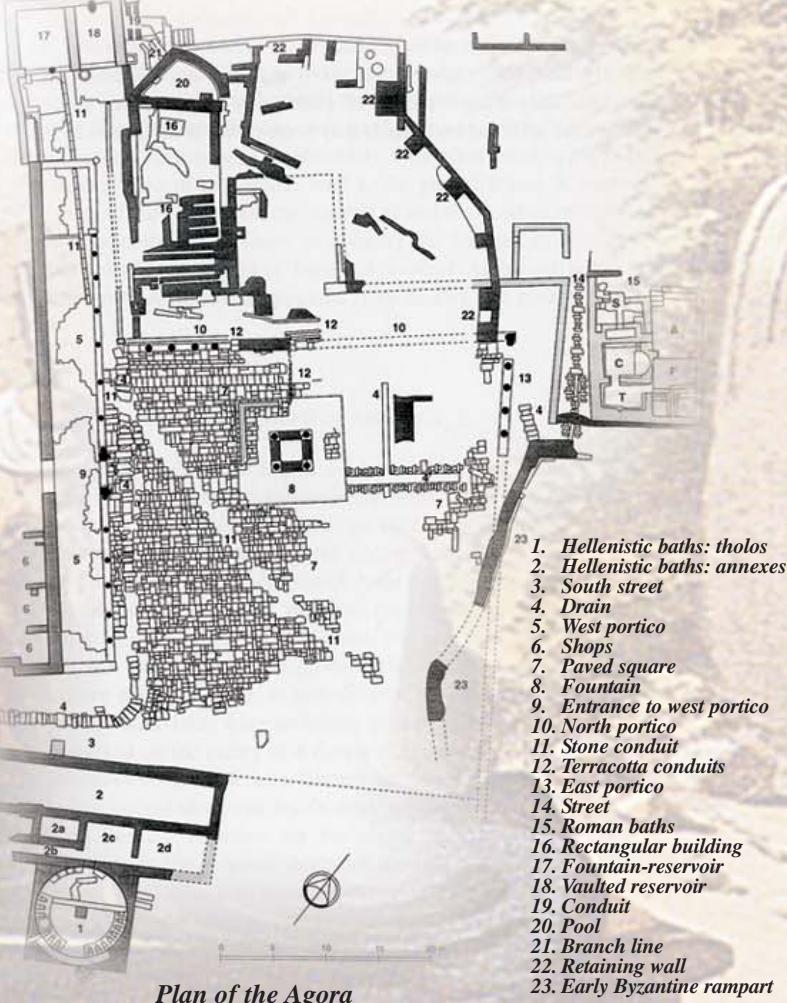
# The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus – Part XXVII

## Amathus: Ancient City-Kingdom



Plan of Amathus

1. Agora
2. Subterranean cult place
3. Complex west of the agora
4. Southwest basilica
5. Southwest wall and west gate
6. Central wall of Acropolis
7. Palace
8. Archaic habitation
9. Stairway of Kallinikos
10. West wall
11. Sanctuary of Aphrodite
12. Basilica on the Acropolis summit
13. North wall
14. Aqueduct
15. East wall
16. Church of Saint Tychonas
17. Eastern suburb
18. East gate
19. Mausoleum
20. Southeast basilica
21. Outer harbour
22. Inner harbour
23. East cemetery and basilica of Saint Varvara
24. Rock-cut tomb
25. West cemetery and tomb of the Amathus Beach Hotel



Plan of the Agora

*South of Saint Tychon(as) – Limassol's eastern suburb – lies the once important ancient site of Amathus, one of the island's oldest city-kingdoms. Here, on an uphill area north of the coastal road, archaeologists are still in the process of unravelling the site's mysteries and revealing its past.*

Already, however, architectural ruins that spread over an area of about five square kilometres supply enough material to show how Amathus might have looked during the various phases of its long history, spanning from the last years of the 2nd millennium BC to the end of the 7th century AD.

According to mythology, the name of the city comes from Amathus, the son of Aeria, King of Paphos, and grandson of Herakles. In other stories, the name derives from Amathusa, the mother of King Kinyras of Paphos.

In efforts to reveal the history behind the mythology, excavations using proper scientific methods were carried out by the legendary Swedish Cyprus Expedition in 1930, and later by the Department of Antiquities and the French School (of Archaeology) in Athens.

The finds surrendered by the excavations so far show that the extended area around Amathus had been inhabited as early as the aceramic Neolithic period (approximately 8000-7500 BC). The earliest pottery deposit at Amathus itself, however, dates much later, to about 1100 BC. This indicates that people lived in the area long before the city-kingdom was founded in the 8th century BC.

It is easy to understand why the site of Amathus was chosen: it had natural defences; was close to forested areas and water supplies; the sea allowed for a double harbour; and there were copper mines nearby. Indeed, all that was needed for a safe and prosperous life was easily accessible.

In 499/8 BC, during the Greco-Persian war, the king of Amathus fought on the side of the Persians – who then controlled the island – against his fellow kings, such as the king of Salamis. Later, under Roman rule, Amathus became the capital of one of the four Roman districts on the island. Arab raids in the 7th century AD, however, and the silting-up of the harbour, led to the city's gradual decline.

The result is extensive ruins that include the defensive walls and gates, along with public buildings such as a palace, agora, acropolis, temples (which were turned into churches with the arrival of Christianity), aqueducts, cemeteries and individual tombs, as well as an inner and an outer harbour.

### The Ruins of Amathus

Founded in the 8th century BC and reconstructed various times until the 7th century AD, Amathus had a defensive system that included the Southwest Wall and Gate (5), the Central Wall of the Acropolis (6), the West Wall (10), the North Wall (13), the East Wall (15), and the East Gate (18).

The complex of the Agora (market place) (1) includes a large paved square with porticos, Roman and Hellenistic baths, a Nymphaeum, shops and a drainage system.

North of the Agora is a Subterranean Cult Place (2), while in the west, a Complex of Buildings (3) is arranged on three levels. At the foot of the Acropolis is a small Basilica Church (4).

At the Palace (7), the high quality of the workmanship and the finding of clay seals, bronze styli, and many large storage jars suggest an important administrative and economic centre. Built in the middle of the 8th century BC and reconstructed later around 500 BC, the Palace was partially destroyed many centuries later.

The Archaic and Hellenistic homes (8) are found some 50 metres west of the Palace.

The Stairway of Kallinikos (9) was a gift by L.V. Kallinikos, a Greek who became a Roman citizen.

The Sanctuary of Aphrodite (11) began functioning in the 8th century BC. Although very little remains of this period, religious vestiges found here indicate Greek, Eastern and Egyptian influences. In the courtyard there were two colossal monolith vases of the 7th century BC: fragments of one remain in place, while the other was taken to the Louvre in 1865. This vase weighs about 13 tons and measures almost 2 metres high and more than 3 metres in diameter.

An inscription on the bull under one of the handles, written in the Cypriot Syllabary, reads “*a-na*”. This word means nothing in Greek, and in fact belongs to the Eteocypriot language. The term “Eteocypriot” was coined by scholars in the 19th century to denote the indigenous population of Cyprus before the arrival of the Greeks and the Phoenicians in the 13th and 9th centuries BC respectively. (Eteocypriot skeletons showed great similarities to the Aegean Middle Bronze population.) Greek and Eteocypriot were the two official languages of the kingdom until the fourth century BC. The large Temple of Aphrodite was constructed in 70-100 AD under Roman rule. Later in the 6th and 7th centuries, stones from the temple were used to construct a Church (12) measuring 32 by 15 metres, which was the last monument built here.

An aqueduct (14), probably Hellenistic, traverses the cemetery outside the north wall in a NNE-SSW direction.

The Church of Saint Tychon(as) (16) is dedicated to the first Bishop of Amathus. Nothing remains of the first (4th century) and the second (5th century) phase of the building. Only the third and final Frankish construction (14th-15th centuries) remains – a small building of 26 by 7 metres.

Southeast of Saint Tychon Church lies the Hellenistic Eastern Suburb (17), with a paved and centrally drained road connecting them.

Remains of the podium of a Mausoleum (19) were found in the cemetery outside of the city in the east.

The Great Southeast Basilica (20) is a huge church, originally 70 metres in length. This three-aisled basilica of the 6th century lost its southern half to the sea.

The Outer Harbour (21), constructed at the end of the 4th century BC, measured 180 by 100 metres. It silted up quite soon after its construction, but its submerged jetties can be seen through the water.

The Inner Harbour (22) occupied the sandy depression between the ticket office and the modern coastal road. As the outer harbour silted up and access between the two harbours was hampered, it was gradually abandoned.

East Cemetery and Basilica of Saint Barbara (23). A number of important rock-cut tombs were found in this cemetery. To its west, excavations brought to light a grotto chapel of Saint Barbara.

A Rock-cut Tomb (24) with a central and three subsidiary funerary chambers at the end of a long dromos was found west of Amathus.

The West Cemetery and the Tomb of the Amathus Beach Hotel (25). Vases, figurines, jewellery and other finds of this cemetery from the Geometric through to the Roman period are in the Limassol Museum.



Top of a column in the form of Hathor (Egyptian goddess) found at Amathus



Marble head from the Sanctuary of Aphrodite



Stone vase transferred to the Louvre in 1865

# 26 Regt. RA take over Sector 2

It's a case of history repeating itself. Almost exactly one year ago, 26th Regiment Royal Artillery took over from 40th Regiment Royal Artillery in Southern Iraq for OP TELIC 3. Twelve months later, the Regiment found itself in a very different yet eerily similar situation in Cyprus.

26th Regiment Royal Artillery was formed as a distinct unit in only relatively modern times, its antecedents dating back to 24 October 1899. It was not until 1947 that 26th Regiment was formed from 4th Field Artillery Brigade, reuniting batteries which had served together in various forms and under various titles for many years.

26th Regiment is, in fact, unique in the Gunners for being the only Regiment to have kept its three original gun batteries (17, 16 and 159). Since 1947, either all, or large elements of 26th Regiment, have served in Egypt, Cyprus, Hong Kong, the UK, Northern Ireland, Belize, Germany, the Falkland Islands, the Gulf, Bosnia and Kosovo.

## The Queen's Royal Hussars

The Queen's Royal Hussars was formed in 1993 by the amalgamation of the Queen's Own Hussars and the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, themselves formed from four regiments in 1958.

Although the history of the Regiment begins with the famous cavalry regiments of the line over 300 years ago, today, the Queen's Royal Hussars is equipped with Challenger 2, one of the most potent main battle tanks in the world. Since its formation, the Regiment has undertaken operational tours, both mounted in its tanks and in the dismounted role in theatres as diverse as Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Kosovo, and most recently in Iraq.

In the last two years, A Squadron has provided emergency cover for the British firemen's strikes, undertaken armoured battle group exercises in Canada, and its soldiers enforced the peace in southern Iraq. The squadron was disbanded as a sub-unit for the tour of Iraq, but since coming back together in April 2004, we have fired tank ranges in Germany prior to changing back to the light role for Cyprus.



The Regiment's modern history is just as varied. The Regiment converted from M109 to AS90 in 1994. Since 1990, it has deployed on operations in the Gulf (1991), Northern Ireland (1994), Bosnia (1996 and 1998) and Kosovo in 1999.

2003 found the Regiment deploying with 3 RHA on OP TELIC 1, where the guns were used extensively throughout the conflict. After briefly returning to Guttersloh, the Regiment then went back to Iraq on OP TELIC 3 as an Infantry battle group. Another quick turn around in Germany and now the Regiment is in Cyprus.



In preparation for our deployment to Cyprus as part of the 26 Regiment Royal Artillery Group, we have concentrated our training on the skills required to handle situations which might arise in Cyprus, situations which are so different to those we became accustomed to in Iraq.

This is the first United Nations tour for many of our soldiers, and facing the challenges of working in such a different environment is proving to be very satisfying and enjoyable.

## CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. Julian Free, MBE

The Regiment is commanded by Lt. Col. Julian Free, MBE.

Born in Plymouth, Julian Free was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1986. Prior to this, he read Physical Education and Mathematics at St. Luke's College, Exeter University.

Following Sandhurst, he was posted to 1 Regiment Royal Artillery in Hohne in 1987. On return to the UK, he joined 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery.

After two years at the Army Staff College (1994-1995), he was posted to Headquarters Quartermaster General as the SO2 responsible for staffing and costing the support strategies for all new artillery, surveillance and target acquisition equipment and



ammunition to the Equipment Approval Committee.

In 1998, he returned to 7th Parachute Regiment as Battery Commander of G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop).

During his tour, the Battery deployed with 1 Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, for the entry into Kosovo and the subsequent occupation of Pristina and initial insertion into Sierra Leone.

Following this excitement, he was posted back to Andover in 2001 (via a six-month tour as Military Assistant to the Chief Of Staff KFOR) as the Military Assistant to the Quartermaster General. He took command of 26 Regiment Royal Artillery in June 2003.

Colonel Julian is married to Babs and they have a daughter, Lottie, and a son, Tristan. A keen sportsman, he enjoys chasing balls of all sorts, and casting flies whilst furthering his arboreal knowledge.



## Sector 1 Rotation

Every six months, a rotation of the majority of Sector 1 personnel takes place. This time, the rotation was completed on 7 October and coincided with the rotation of the Commanding Officer, a one-year post. Thus, Lt. Col. Federico Sidders assumed command of the Sector.

## CO Sector 1, Lt. Col. Federico Sidders

Lt. Col. Federico Sidders was born on 8 May 1959 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He completed high school studies in 1976, joining the Argentine Army the following year as a cadet of the Military Academy.

He graduated as a Second Lieutenant of the Cavalry Corps four years later in 1980, and was appointed to the 4th Cavalry Mountain Regiment.

As a junior officer, he also served in the 3rd Cavalry Explorer Armoured Squadron, School of Cavalry, 161 Cavalry Explorer Armoured Detachment and Cavalry Grenadiers "General San Martín" Regiment.



After completion of the Staff Officer's Course at the Superior War School in 1994, he was appointed to the 7th Cavalry Tank "Cuirassiers Coronel Estomba" Regiment, where

The rotation took place in three phases with troops travelling to and from Buenos Aires on an Argentine Air Force Boeing 707, more than 15,000 km away from Cyprus. In this way, almost 375 men and women of Task Force 23 returned home and left their posts in their comrades' hands.

There were only a few soldiers who had served with UNFICYP before. The newcomers therefore assumed their duties with trepidation, curiosity and even a little astonishment... Cyprus is a completely new experience to them as regards culture, history, religion and language - quite a different place to the one they left behind in South America.

However, all this has been happening regularly for over 11 years when Argentinian troops were first deployed to Cyprus and gave birth to Task Force No. 1, taking over Sector 1

from the Danish Contingent in September 1993.

ARGCON is a "Joint and Combined Contingent". Active duty personnel come from the Argentinian Army, Navy, and Air Force. Since their arrival, Sector 1 has incorporated soldiers from other South American countries, including one platoon from Chile, a second one from Paraguay, and a third from Peru, and officers and non-commissioned officers from Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay.

he served as Operations Officer and afterwards as Second in Command from 1997 to 1999.

He was then assigned to the Operations Department at the Army's General Staff Headquarters.

In 2003, he assumed command of the 11th Cavalry Tank "Defenders of National Honor" Regiment, the unit where he served until his latest assignment as CO Sector 1.

Lt. Col. Sidders is married to María Teresa Casanova, and they have three children, Federico (15), María Mercedes (14) and Lucía (9).

Lt. Col. Sidders enjoys his free time with his family, and his hobbies include horse riding and polo.

## Nobel Peace Prize 2004

The Secretary-General was delighted to learn of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2004 to Wangari Maathai, which shows that the Nobel Committee shares his view on the need for a broad vision of human security, in which the connections between peace, development and responsible stewardship of the environment are clearly understood.



Maathai has also played an important role at UN conferences such as the Earth Summit, making an imprint on the global quest for sustainable development. She has had a long and fruitful relationship

with the United Nations, including membership on various UN advisory boards and juries. Selfless and steadfast, Ms. Maathai has been a champion of the environment, of women, of Africa, and of anyone concerned about our future security.

As a fellow African, as well as in his official capacity, the Secretary-General warmly congratulated Ms. Maathai on the richly earned recognition, and hoped the timely award would bring new urgency to the causes to which she has devoted her life.

New York, 8 October 2004

# New Faces from.....

## The Netherlands



**UNCIVPOL Commander Carla van Maris** is from Arnhem, The Netherlands.

After studies in Sociology and the Police Academy, Commander van Maris worked in four different police forces in The Netherlands and at the Ministry for the Interior, Public Order

and Safety Department. She was deployed in Community Policing, Criminal Investigation (vice squad), Mounted Police and Police National Training.

In 1994 she joined UNOSOM II in Somalia where she served for 15 months as sector commander in Kismayo. "The toughest mission so far for me," says Commander van Maris.

She was later promoted Commissioner of Police and became District Commander in the Rotterdam Police Force. From 1996 to 1997, the Dutch Government sent her on special assignment to Eritrea and Ethiopia to conduct an analysis of the police.

She then served at UN HQ NY from 1998 to 1999 as coordinator of the African peacekeeping missions for

CIVPOL for 15 months and was deployed to Angola (MONUA), Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and to the Central African Republic (MINURCA). Then from 2002 to 2004, she worked at the UNHCR HQ in Geneva as Chief of Field Staff Safety.

As a guest lecturer for the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden on Policing and Human Rights, Commander van Maris has lectured in Vietnam for the Vietnamese Police. She has also held the post of vice-president of the European Network for Policewomen, and has lectured on equal opportunities/ethnic minorities in the UK, USA and Belgium.

An avid reader, she also studies Hindi, and frequently travels to India to study the culture.

## The UK



**Our new Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer** is Lt. Col. Alex Thomas Boyd.

Lt. Col. Boyd's previous peacekeeping work includes a posting as Chief Logistics Officer at UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone and various positions at UNIKOM in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Boyd was raised in Glasgow and describes himself as being "of pure Scottish stock".

"My wife Christine joins me in early November," he explains joyfully, "and we look forward to exploring Cyprus and the Middle East together

during this tour. I do speak poor Arabic, and can order a beer in many other languages.

"No doubt my daughter Sophie, who is a holistic therapist and world traveller, will join us at the earliest opportunity. On the other hand, my son Ross may find it difficult to visit extensively, as he is currently going through his officer training at Sandhurst and will have little free time this year".

Lt. Col. Boyd plans to continue studying after he retires from the military.

## Hungary



**Sector 4's new Deputy Commanding Officer**, Lt. Col. Csaba Csorba, was commissioned into the Hungarian Air Defence in 1984.

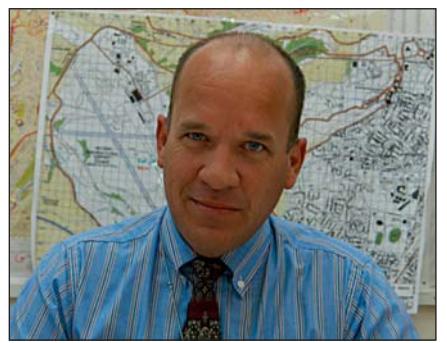
He served in 14<sup>th</sup> Air Defence Regiment as Platoon Leader and Deputy Battery Commander. Then in 1989, he was posted to 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade as Battery Commander. After attending a Staff Officer's course, he was appointed Operations Officer at brigade level. In 1994, he was posted to 5<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade as Chief

of the Air Defence Branch.

After graduating from the Hungarian Defence University in military management, he was posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mechanized Division as Acting Deputy Chief of the Air Defence Branch. He presently holds the position of Chief of Staff, 5<sup>th</sup> Air Defence Missile Regiment.

Lt. Col. Csorba is married to Katalin and they have a son (17). His interests include travelling and history.

## Canada



**Ross Wickware** is our new Field Security Officer.

Originally from Calgary, Canada, Ross is a former military peacekeeper. His first tour was in Bosnia in 1994. Then in 2002, he worked as Field Security Adviser, Northern Region, for the World Food Programme in Afghanistan, and in 2004, he set up the Security Programme for 10 international NGOs in the province of Balochistan, Pakistan.

"I was in Quetta, Pakistan, when the opportunity to work for UNFI-

CYP arose, and I jumped at the opportunity. I was in the process of hiring national staff when this position was offered, so I hired a replacement for me as well," explains Ross.

"A bit of a cultural shock, from the dust of south central Asia, to the beauty of a Mediterranean island. Regrettably, the world has become a very dangerous environment, but I am pleased to be a part of this mission, and look forward to assisting all staff in making this a safer and more secure operational area."

# Visitors to UNFICYP from ..... ..... Austria

The Austrian Federal Minister of the Interior, Dr. T. E. Strasser, together with members of his ministry, paid an official visit to Cyprus on 7 and 8 October.

On 8 October, Mr. Strasser visited HQ UNFICYP. He was welcomed by an honour guard, following which he and his entourage were greeted by the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli.

After the welcome, the Senior Adviser, Mr. Wlodek Cibor, gave a short briefing to the Minister on the current situation in Cyprus.

The Austrian Minister did not leave without meeting with the Austrian personnel (military and civilian) currently serving with HQ UNFICYP. This meeting took place at the UNOPS offices where veterinary specialist Dr. Gerhart Zechner gave a short briefing on the work of UNOPS.

Soon after, Mr. Strasser and his entourage left the island for the next stage of their tour – Italy.



Dr. Strasser (right) in conversation with the Senior Adviser (left) and the Force Commander

## ..... Slovakia

State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Slovakia, Mr. Martin Fedor, along with the Director of his office, paid a visit to UNFICYP on 7 and 8 October.

UNFICYP Senior Adviser, Mr. Wlodek Cibor, welcomed the Slovak visitors to the HQ on 7 October and briefed them on the political situation in Cyprus.

Then the State Secretary and the Slovak Ambassador were escorted to the old Nicosia International Airport for a further briefing. Afterwards, State Secretary Fedor met with Slovak peacekeepers serving at the Headquarters to discuss various issues concerning their tours.

The next day, the State Secretary, accompanied by CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko, went on a tour of the buffer zone to see Slovak soldiers on duty close up. In Famagusta's General Štefánik Camp, the State Secretary met with senior military personnel and also took the opportunity to visit the liaison post in the Karpas.



Mr. Fedor on his visit to OP 139, Camp Triglav

## Buffer Zone Run

During the month of October, three cheques totalling €1,066 were presented to three charities in Cyprus: "Help Those With Cancer" (north Cyprus); "Cans for Kids" (south Cyprus); and the Kyrenia Leonard Cheshire Home. The money was raised by SSgt. Lee Crawford and MSgt. Guido Abl from HQ UNFICYP when they ran 100 km through the buffer zone from UN OP 8 (Sector 1) to the Ledra Palace Hotel.

Seen right is Lee presenting one of the cheques to Raziyeh Kocaismail of the Help Those With Cancer association. Raziyeh said "I am very happy to receive this donation on behalf of the association, as it will allow 10 cancer patients to be flown overseas for treatment."

Lee intends to run the entire length of the buffer zone from UN OP 8 to UN OP 146 (Baywatch – Sector 4) in March 2005 for the same charities.



# Croatians Join the UNFICYP Family

For the first time in UNFICYP history, the Croatian flag was hoisted on 4 October in Camp General Štefánik to mark the beginning of the Croatian contribution to Sector 4.

Two Croatian officers, Capt. Vera Musil and Capt. Danijel Macanga, arrived during the last rotation to serve as medical and duty officers respectively with the SLOHUN contingent.

The flag parade was held early in the morning, starting with the CO's inspection of a battalion line up and a guard of honour. In his welcoming speech, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko stated that the arrival of the Croatian officers would strengthen the multinational unit's tradition of cooperation and service, as symbolized by "the UN flag which links the nations of the world in the work for peace".

Following the speech, the CO gave permission for the hoisting of the new flag. The Croatian national anthem played as the two new officers raised and saluted their flag. Capt. Macanga expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and all the support received from members of the SLOHUN contingent. Both officers are very proud and honoured to be the first Croatian peace-keepers to serve with UNFICYP.



## Introducing...



**Name:** Danijel Macanga, Captain and Commander of the Croatian Contingent.

**Status:** Married to Mirta; they have a nine-year-old daughter, Anamarija.

**Place of Birth:** Djakovo (near Osijek and Vukovar in the Slavonia district).

**Education:** 1997 graduate and 2001 post-graduate of the Faculty of Management and Computer Science in Varaždin.

**Military Experience:** Joined the Croatian army in 1996 after 10 months' service as a conscript.

**Previous Appointment:** Chief of IT Section of the operational branch in the general staff of Croatian Armed Forces.

Peacekeeping Training: military observation in Zagreb, Croatia and peacekeeping in Nitra, Slovakia.

**UNFICYP Assignment:** Duty Officer, Sector 4.

**Interests:** Free time spent in gym keeping fit and playing various sports. Interested in computers and sometimes plays chess. At Camp General Štefánik, he won all the games he played.

*Capt. Macanga is proud to be the first Croatian soldier to serve with UNFICYP, and hopes more Croatian soldiers will serve in Cyprus under the UN flag in the future.*

**Name:** Vera Musil, Captain, Doctor

**Status:** Single

**Place of Birth:** Slavonski Brod

**Education:** 1994 graduate of the Medical School of Zagreb University.

**Military Experience:** Joined the Croatian army in 1998. Served in 33 Engineer Brigade as leader of a medical platoon.

**Previous Appointment:** Medical training officer in IMOC Croatia, also for the Slovak Armed Forces.

**Peacekeeping Training:** Military Observer Course (UNMOC); she also completed pre-deployment training at the Slovak Armed Forces' UN training base in Nitra.

**UNFICYP Assignment:** Medical Officer, Sector 4

**Interests:** Fills her free time with sports like swimming and jogging. Enjoys reading literature. Also fluent in English and German, Dr. Musil was able to work in Internal Medicine Education Military Hospital in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany for two years. She maintains excellent relations and communications with – Croatian, Hungarian and Slovak – members of Sector 4.



While the helicopters are taking a rest from their daily flight duties, some of the UN Flight personnel dedicate their spare time to the practice of Taekwondo.

This recreational activity was initiated last August. It helps the students – in this case our UNFICYP pilots and technicians – not only to learn about this martial art, but also to contribute to the improvement of their physical and mental state of health. A bonus is that the instruction takes place in a relaxed atmosphere of friendship, and strengthens the bond between the group members.

The brain behind this activity is the instructor, WO3 Roberto Maldonado, who graduated as a Black Belt, IV Dan. Roberto, who has been practising this art for 17 years and teaching it for 14 years, directs a school of TKD back home in Argentina.

Asked "What is Taekwondo?", Roberto replied: TKD is a martial art of Korean origin created by General Choi Hoi Hong Hi, where the body, mainly the arms and legs, are used as tool primarily for self-defence, but also for attack.

Literally translated, Taekwondo means:

**Tae (foot):** to fly or to jump, to strike or to destroy with the foot;

**Kwon (hand):** mainly to strike or to destroy with the hand;

**Do (way):** or the correct way, established by the wise elders of the past.

This art is not only a method or system of self-defence, but also an approach to living. It is the way in which the lessons of General Choi, his philosophy and principles,

# Martial Arts Training

and the experiences we gain which cause us to adopt the same philosophy and principles, will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

It is an art that does not have an equal, either in power or technique. As a martial art, its discipline, technical and mental training are mortars to construct a pillar of justice, humanity and resolution.

### What is the objective of these six months of training?

The supreme objective of TKD is to eliminate the idea that the strong always beat the weak, whether it be on the basis of humility, justice, wisdom, morality or faith.

This practice aims to elevate the human spirit to the highest level; to have the will to progress, even though this may be arduous; and to do what is worth doing, no matter how many difficulties arise.

To be gentle with people; to be a teacher who can guide anyone, regardless of race, religion or ideology; to teach by attitude and ability, not only with words; to be an eternal teacher, who teaches with the body when young and with words when old.

The hours used in training and physical exercises are not wasted hours, given the personal satisfaction.

Although TKD is practised solely for the exercise, the benefits are commensurate with the amount of time put into it. The exercise benefits are the same for children and women as for young or adult men.

### What can be said about the classes?

At first we started classes in the UNPA's gym, but soon, with the increase of students, we had to move to the hangar at UN Flight.

We meet three times a week, always trying to fix a day and time that does not interfere with everyday duties. Each class lasts one to two hours, depending on the theme of the day. Basically, a class is divided into the following: warm-up and stretching, basic techniques, free attacks, sport combat, self-defence, and basic forms (TULS).

As a greater knowledge and technique is obtained, theoretical and practical examinations are taken to evaluate the students.

The classes were very well attended and today, after only two months, we have 13 students, some of whom have taken the first examination with very good results.

# UK Air Cadets Pay a Flying Visit to UNFICYP

On 19 October, UNFICYP hosted a party of air cadets and their instructors visiting Cyprus from the UK. The purpose of the day was to give them an insight into the history of Cyprus and the reason for the presence of UNFICYP.

The first port of call was Nicosia Airport, where the party was hosted by RSM Doherty from Ireland. The visit started with a briefing in the shade of the former control tower building, which coincided with the departure of one of the ARGAIR UN Flight helicopters on a local mission. The party then split into two groups and toured the airport facilities where they were shown the area formally used by the Royal Air Force, the terminal building and the hulk of a Cyprus Airways Trident 3.

After a packed lunch, the group transferred to Wolseley Barracks,

where 2 Regt, Royal Artillery attached to UNFICYP, played host.

Following a briefing on the role carried out by Sector 2, the instructors were given a fascinating tour of the Green Line through central Nicosia.

The Air Cadet Organisation is funded by the British Ministry of

Defence. Its aims are to develop citizenship skills in young people between the ages of 13 and 22 by providing opportunities for them to participate in flying, gliding, adventure training and the opportunity to acquire educational qualifications through a Vocational Training Scheme.



