

# The Blue Beret

## September 2006

**International  
Day of Peace**





## THE BLUE BERET

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Public Information Office  
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in  
Cyprus  
HQ UNFICYP  
PO Box 21642  
1590 Nicosia  
Cyprus  
Tel: 2261-4550/4416/4408  
Fax: 2261-4461  
E-mail: unficyp-blue-beret@un.org  
blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com  
Website: www.unficyp.org

### Editorial Team

Brian Kelly  
Anne Burse  
Capt. Štefan Zemanovič  
Miriam Taylor  
Netha Kreouzou  
Sgt. Jozef Kocka (Photographer)

### Unit Press Officers

<b>Sector 1</b>	Capt. Mauricio Silvestre
<b>Sector 2</b>	Capt. Ellie Haywood
<b>Sector 4</b>	Capt. Miloš Segeň
<b>MFR</b>	Lt. Tom Bell
<b>UNPOL</b>	Sgt.
<b>UN Fit</b>	Lt. Wenceslao Bona
<b>FMPU</b>	Capt. Miroslav Svorník

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## Editorial

Speaking at the Ledra Palace crossing ceremony to mark the International Day of Peace on 21 September, SRSG Moller pointed out that when the buffer zone became a fact of island life it was intended to offer a breathing space in which to try and nurture new beginnings. A ceasefire, he said, should be seen "as a springboard for peace-building, not just an end in itself."

In the case of Cyprus, the UN family's peace-building efforts serve one over-arching goal – support for a solution that speeds the day the island's division ends in a mutually agreed comprehensive settlement.

True, when it comes to managing the buffer zone, security considerations must always take priority. After all, UNFICYP's primary task is to prevent a recurrence of fighting between the opposing forces.

However, 32 years on, civil use of the buffer zone remains one of the mission's main day-to-day operational challenges. Why? Because it is part of our mandate to contribute to a return to normal conditions.

Yet, in our attempts to do so, we are reminded daily that the Cyprus of 2006 has a different view of what constitutes "normalization" than was the case back when the buffer zone was created as the outcome of the 1974 cease-fire.

The mission continues to put considerable effort into support for economic activities in and around the buffer zone. We try where possible to accommodate routine and population growth-driven expansion of buffer zone residential areas. We clear the way for crossing points and encourage and promote a range of related basic public service infrastructure and community health needs.

In all of this, we try to cater to reasoned and reasonable expectations, subject, of course, to the realities of the security situation. In striving to protect the civilian population in the buffer zone, we seek to balance principles of land ownership and convenience of access with the realities of security maintenance.

Sadly, when principles of land ownership conflict with security and other realities, people can and do lose out. For example, at today's land values, the urge to equate "normalization" with the right to develop buffer zone property into housing construction lots is obvious.

Yet the real bottom line is that until there is a comprehensive settlement, the buffer zone and the properties therein remain mortgaged to the resolution of the Cyprus problem.

# Inter-Pillar Study Day

UNFICYP has one single, over-riding goal – to support efforts to solve the Cyprus problem. To help attain this, the mission is divided into three distinct elements or "Pillars" – the military component, the Civil Affairs Branch and the United Nations Police (UNPOL). Historically, each branch has had responsibility for its own areas under the mandate.

The "Fresh Approach" campaign involves development of a plan or road map with realizable goals that it is hoped will focus all our efforts on the singular end goal of a settlement for this troubled island. Significantly, this road map draws the contributions of the three branches of UNFICYP together, maximizing the strengths and capabilities of each to generate coordinated, fully supportive activity throughout the mission. The hope is that this fusion of mission efforts has greater impact than the sum of its parts.

The Inter-Pillar Forum, which was hosted by Sector 2 on 6 September, was conceived as a first step towards full implementation of the campaign. The aim was to promote understanding of the campaign plan, develop our knowledge of the capabilities of each of the three pillars and, through shared study and discussion, learn how members of each of the departments approaches the problems we face on a daily basis in the buffer zone.

Since the Inter-Pillar Forum was as much about hearing one another's opinions, perspectives and ways of working, the remainder of this article features the views of the Forum participants, the members of UNPOL, the Civil Affairs Branch and the officers and soldiers who patrol the buffer zone.

## Planning and Preparations for the Inter-Pillar Study

Sector 2 was tasked by HQ UNFICYP with the preparation, organisation and execution of the Inter-Pillar Forum. In order to make it operationally relevant, it was proposed that some current unresolved issues should be used as case studies in order to stimulate debate and to determine some way forward to resolve them.

Unauthorised access to the buffer zone focused on the sub-issues of illegal hunting and dumping in the buffer zone, and the control of such activities. The Ledra Street Crossing raised many positive action points. Construction within the buffer zone elicited a lively debate on what constitutes "normalization" and what constitutes development for "financial gain", and whether they amount to the same thing. Each topic served purely as a case study. Throughout, it was emphasised that the aim was to stimulate cross-pillar discussion and find a route to best practice.

## Military Practitioner's Perspective

Sector 4's area of responsibility includes several farming communities, together with the complex village of Pyla. All lie inside the buffer zone, and all give rise to a number of incidents, sometimes involving civilians. Common incidents include unauthorised construction and intrusion. Experience and practice shows the best way of dealing with such incidents is through a coordinated response by all three pillars.

Usually, violations are observed by UN military personnel, since the military component has the most manpower in Sector 4. Where new (unauthorised) constructions start up within the buffer zone, Sector 4 is tasked to immediately stop any further work and to report them.

If civilians are involved, UNPOL are summoned immediately to the scene. If it is a new construction, Sector 4 calls in a SCAT 4 Team. They then take over. To summarize, Sector 4's task is to support UNPOL and SCAT 4 in civilian matters, a relatively new departure for the military side, since there were fewer such incidents in the past than there are today.



## Civil Affairs Branch View

The Inter-Pillar Forum session corroborated the assessment that monitoring the civil use of the buffer zone is one of UNFICYP's main challenges. When assessing applications, particular consideration should be given to sustained economic activity, normal village expansion due to population growth and basic public services infrastructure. The Inter-Pillar Forum determined that the magnitude of the tasks assigned to the Civil Affairs Branch, both at headquarters and sector levels, requires additional resources, including staff. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. While the Forum session ventured an assessment of the coordination between the Pillars, it determined that it was too early to evaluate the impact at this stage.

## UN Police Perspective

The role of Civilian Police within UNFICYP presents unique challenges and opportunities across all sectors and pillars of the mission.

UNPOL deal with all levels of the socio-economic strata of both communities, whether inside the buffer zone, in the local villages and towns, or in liaising with government and NGOs. The Inter-Pillar Forum highlighted the importance for all pillars to coordinate their responses and resources to ensure a seamless service delivery that fulfills the UNFICYP mandate. This can only be achieved by effective and fluid communication across all levels and pillars of the mission. This includes the need to share ideas and techniques across all sectors so that we deal in a uniform manner with similar issues.

The Inter-Pillar Forum highlighted the fact that no pillar can work in isolation and that each pillar, UN Police, Military and Civil Affairs, contribute a different perspective and skill-set, which, when combined, produce an effective and peaceful solution. Open dialogue, effective communication and knowledge transfer are paramount.

## What we learned

The Inter-Forum study was an unqualified success. Every participant commented on what they had learned, not just about buffer zone issues, but also of their increased awareness of other members of the mission and the broad scope of responses that may be employed. Indeed, one of the first lessons of the day was the need to organise similar events on a regular basis.

Other key lessons included the need to take time to reflect, to question the way we operate and to regularly review our "Road Map" so as to best support the Chief of Mission's strategic, political goal. UNFICYP is a team. One branch cannot act in isolation. If it does, it may have detrimental impact on the others. Together we have greater impact and generate better policy and plans, thereby strengthening our capacity to support the people of both communities in their efforts to provide a Cyprus solution to the Cyprus problem.

Maj. Matt Walker

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*In our last issue, in featuring a short item on the 27 July launch of the Global Compact for the Turkish Cypriot community, we omitted to mention that the project was the work of the EU-funded UNDP Partnership for the Future. We apologise.*

Front Cover: International Day of Peace

Back Cover: UNFICYP's Modest Hero





# Marking International Day of Peace

UNFICYP helped celebrate International Day of Peace on 21 September here in Cyprus with a special peace candle vigil ceremony hosted by SRSG Møller in the buffer zone between the Ledra Palace crossing points. Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the Cyprus World War II Veterans' Association, including former President Clerides, attended. Also present were Mayor Cemal Bulutoglulari of north Nicosia, members of the diplomatic community, bicomunal NGO representatives, and UNFICYP and UN system staff, plus peacekeepers from all three sectors.

Chief of Mission Møller hailed the veterans as direct representatives of the generation that founded the United Nations and said the UN was honoured by their presence at the event.

He explained that the lit candle by his side symbolized the International Peace Day global peace vigil being held by millions of people in support of a once-a-year, 24-hour worldwide ceasefire. He called on participants to support that aim and to help shine a message of peace and hope by lighting their own candles.

The International Day of Peace "is meant to get people not just thinking of peace, but doing something about it."

A 24-hour ceasefire could provide sufficient time for combatants and political leaders to take stock of the casualties and destruction caused by their actions and to consider the alternatives, he said.

He noted that when the buffer zone was drawn up in Cyprus, it was intended to offer the breathing space in which to try and nurture new beginnings. Many attending the Day of Peace ceremony would recall the sheer relief that came with knowing there was a ceasefire arrangement in place that signalled an end to conflict with realistic prospects of recovery and moving ahead.

More recently, the conflict in Lebanon and Israel had ended in a much sought after, but long-delayed ceasefire, the SRSG noted. Over a million people were displaced and almost a quarter sought shelter and safety elsewhere during the hostilities. Thousands passed through Cyprus. Yet, UNHCR figures indicate that within days of the 14 August cease-fire, up to 90% of the displaced had returned to their homes or nearby.

Since its establishment in 1964, UNFICYP has worked hard to ensure the future so that every day on this island is a day of non-violence. "But a ceasefire should be seen as a springboard for peacebuilding, not just an end in itself," SRSG Møller said.

"UNFICYP seeks to encourage the opposing forces on both sides to pull back from the buffer zone and to unman positions here in old Nicosia. UNDP/ACT, working closely with USAID, stands ready as before to serve as conduit and coordinator on environmental, education and public health issues affecting the two communities. UNDP/PFF, with EU funding and UNFICYP support, backstops the Mine Action Centre's ongoing removal of the minefield threat from the buffer zone."

Under-Secretary-General Gambari, Mr. Møller noted, had commented on how hard it is to envision a lasting and

sustainable settlement on this island in the absence of "a shared commitment to tearing down the barriers and barbed wire".

"That means moving forward, and it calls for a show of political will and determination by all Cypriots, to address what is, after all, a Cypriot problem with a Cypriot solution.

"We, the United Nations, remain committed to a comprehensive settlement. We await the leaders' response and the people's determination."

Citing the UNESCO Director-General's Peace Day message that a culture of peace "requires a commitment to dialogue and to mutual knowledge and understanding between civilizations, cultures and peoples", Mr. Møller appealed to all to throw away old

prejudices and overcome historical mistrust and suspicions. He asked participants to observe one minute's silence in the name of peace and in remembrance of the victims of war and appealed that all present consider what more they could do to bring about lasting peace.

Veterans' Association President Loizos Demetriou noted that he and his comrades in arms were "well aware of the misery and destruction caused by wars" and were therefore all the more willing to do their bit to support activities aimed at promoting peace and security. "We are living in a region of the world where violence and wars are not unknown and our duty to work for peace is therefore greater", he said. "There is an urgent need for all people to work together for peace and to promote tolerance and understanding among nations. We must try hard to meet the call for building a better world in the 21st century."

Elsewhere, UNFICYP's Sectors 1 and 4 held brief ceremonies to honour the Day. In Sector 1's Camp San Martín, Contingent Chaplain Father Enrique Saguier Fonrouge offered prayers for peace and a minute's silence was observed by the Argentinian contingent during the morning flag-raising parade. Sector 4 held a brief religious observance as well, paying tribute during the minute's silence to the memory of Sgt. Miroslav Hruška, the young Slovak contingent member so tragically killed in a helicopter accident on 8 June 2004.

**"A ceasefire is a springboard for peacebuilding, not an end in itself" – SRSG Møller**

**World military expenditure reached \$1.1 trillion last year, whereas annual spending on UN peacekeeping is only \$5 billion. The lesson is clear: peace costs less than war. Today, states are paying more attention to preventive diplomacy. UN peacekeeping missions – and UN efforts to support democracy and promote human rights – are making a difference. Individual citizens everywhere, men and women in every society, are working to relieve suffering, and to build bridges between people of different faiths or cultures.**



For Kofi Annan, the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Peace marked the last time he would ring the Peace Bell at UN Headquarters as he enters his final months of office as Secretary-General. Far too many people in the world today "live in chains", in a climate of insecurity and fear, the SG said in his last Peace Day message.



Sectors 1 and 4 also marked the International Day of Peace





David Harland addresses staff members

## Busy Times at UNFICYP Town Hall

major problems experienced in missions is lack of continuity and handover. Another area identified as significant is the lack of communication between missions and the exchange of know-how between colleagues doing the same job in different missions."

The survey also highlighted the fact that knowledge is lost when staff move on, as there is no de-briefing process or institutional memory feedback that staff members can draw upon.

The survey spelled out the need for a highly professional UN peacekeeping institution capable of delivering standardised DDR (disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation), finance, administration practices, etc. "For example, by recording how the UN handles DDR, we are in a position to pass this knowledge along to those who train the next generation of DDR specialists", he said.

Secondly, the survey showed that people want better access to institutional knowledge. "So for us, the challenge was having captured this body of knowledge, how do we share it and how do people find it."

Thirdly, staff members were convinced there is need for a stronger UN peacekeeping community. Clearly, each mission is unique, but no mission is so unique that it cannot learn from another.

"We decided to write down everything we know about how UN peacekeeping works as a source for better guidance materials. The next challenge was to design a series of tools enabling us to share this knowledge – hence the soon-to-be-launched peacekeeping community intranet."

The idea has been to set up a very simple cycle of institutional learning whereby policy and doctrine would be laid out. This would be followed by training in the staff member's particular field. Once training has taken place, managing performance should be easy.

## Peacekeeping Operations

David Harland, Chief of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) at UN HQ visited UNFICYP in early September. He made a presentation to staff on the proposed "Operational Policy and Guidance Management System for UN Peace Operations".

DPKO has been working on a range of operational guidance and policy materials in consultation with field missions and practitioners, Mr. Harland told a 5 September UNFICYP Town Hall Meeting.

The work being done was part of the overall peacekeeping reform package. It includes a number of initiatives in the areas of personnel.

"We are trying to change the way we recruit and retain personnel. The package has an organisational aspect, how we structure missions, how we deploy them. It has a section on doctrine guidance, and this is roughly the work we are doing. The bottom line message is that traditionally, UN peacekeeping has operated without any doctrinal architecture. The good news is that this gives missions almost total freedom of action. The bad news is that the system is constantly having to rediscover what it's trying to do.

"We started about a year ago doing a survey of 1,000 randomly picked people. This indicated that one of the



## SG recommends 2,500-strong civilian core group for peacekeeping operations

To meet the human resources needs of UN peace operations in the twenty-first century, the Secretary-General has recommended that the General Assembly approve a framework of 2,500 career civilian positions in UN peace operations. The new approach would be funded against the approved budgets of authorised peacekeeping operations and special political missions, for the recruitment and management of staff dedicated to the support of UN peace operations.

Drawing on staffing requirements over the past 10 years and anticipated staffing needs for the medium term, the proposal is to establish a standing capacity of 2,500 civilian career positions in both the Field Service and Professional categories. These would include occupations in a range of administrative functions such as budget, finance, general administration, personnel, procurement, training and travel; logistics functions such as aviation safety, engineering, information technology, logistics management, supply (including warehousing) and transport management; and substantive functions ranging from Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs, Gender Affairs, HIV/AIDS and policing to Political Affairs, Public Information and Spokesperson.

Standing capacity would be supplemented by additional staff appointed specifically for service

limited to a particular mission and by staff on temporary assignment, loan or secondment from the Secretariat or the UN system.

In doing so, the GA is asked to take into account a series of recommendations the Joint Inspection Unit made about Field Service reform, notably the need for a category of highly mobile field specialists. This would help address challenges presented by a rapidly diminishing standing capacity of civilian peacekeepers, chronically high vacancy rates and high turnover of staff.

Another recommendation focuses on career development and mobility and requests that Field Service category training programmes be developed to address the shortage of managerial, supervisory and specialized training skills among Field Service Officers. Mobility and rotation policies would be aligned across the board and adjusted to reflect hardship and security factors.

The SG also proposes steps to harmonize conditions of service in the field with those of the UN system, for the concept of a parent duty station to be revisited, the designation of duty stations as family and non-family to be revised, and for measures to alleviate the strain of Field Service life on individual staff members and their families.

## Avian Flu Update

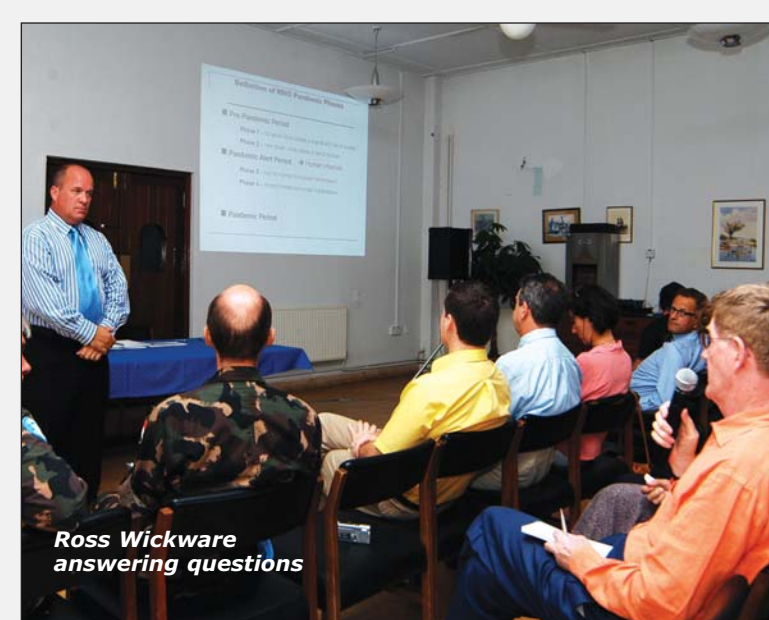
On 13 September, the second Town Hall Meeting of the month took place, when Field Security Officer Ross Wickware briefed staff on contingency plans for dealing with a possible avian flu pandemic.

His presentation covered the current global situation and the UN's state of readiness. The need for a viable contingency plan to deal with a possible pandemic is because no-one can predict whether, where or when an outbreak of the deadly virus could occur and mutate into a pathogen which could then spread from human to human.

According to WHO, we are in a global state of pandemic alert. This means there have been human infections, but no cases that have been spread human-to-human to date. Under current contingency plans, crisis management teams have been set up and medical supplies stockpiled for all staff and authorised dependants. An awareness campaign has been launched for UN-system staff, and in the event of a worst case scenario, alternate work arrangements are being planned.

In addition, the UN is now in a position to assist in national preparedness planning. UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) has set up a disease control centre to coordinate and assist the responsible authorities to set up their own emergency contingency planning, including how to track early warning systems.

Ross Wickware systematically outlined the steps taken in the six stages from the pre-pandemic to the actual pandemic period. He said, "We are taking huge steps to prepare for a pandemic and lessen the impact on our staff and operations. The emphasis on preparing for the possible impact on United Nations personnel and operations is almost complete. The focus has shifted to supporting



Ross Wickware answering questions

national preparations and plans – we have prepared ourselves, now we help prepare the countries where we operate."

In the event of a pandemic, contingency plans include possible closure of offices, maintenance of essential services, plus stay-at-home instructions including possible relocation.

To those who want to know what they can or should be doing at this time, check out the personal protection guidelines to be found on [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) and/or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). You might also want to re-visit the Avian Flu – Risk Assessment article in the *Blue Beret* January 2006 issue (page 7), posted on the UNFICYP website [www.unficy.org](http://www.unficy.org). Information is also available for staff members on the L drive, Health Related Issues, Global Pandemic.

### Helpful health habits

**Avoid close contact** with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

**If possible, stay home** from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

**Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.** Germs are spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

### General Hygienic Restrictions to Safer Food

#### 1. Keep clean

- Wash hands before handling food and often during food preparation
- Wash hands after going to the toilet
- Use disinfectant soap for handwashing
- Wash and sanitize all surfaces and equipment used for food preparation

#### 2. Separate raw and cooked

- Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods
- Use separate equipment and utensils such as knives and cutting boards for handling raw foods
- Store food in containers to avoid contact between raw and prepared food

#### 3. Cook thoroughly (Minimum 70°C)

- Cook food thoroughly, especially meat, poultry, eggs and seafood – make sure that they have reached 70°C
- Eggs should not be consumed raw or partially cooked (runny yolk). Pasteurization or cooking of eggs will also significantly decrease the potential for transmission of other infections, e.g. salmonellosis
- Normal cooking (temperatures at or above 70°C) will de-activate the virus.
- Reheat cooked food thoroughly

#### 4. Keep food at safe temperature

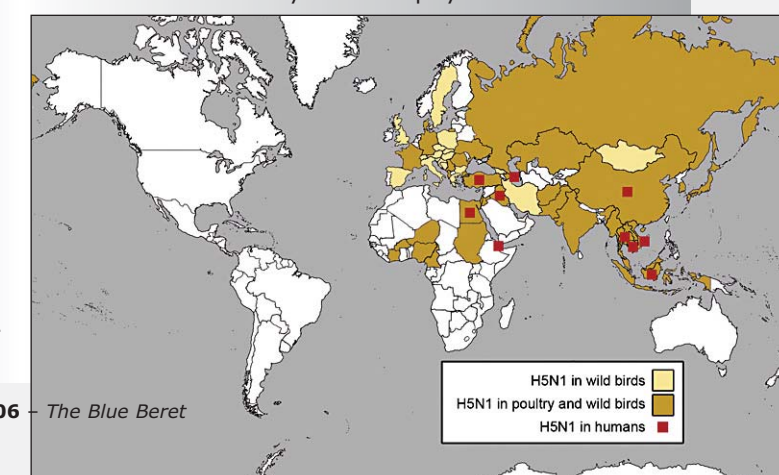
- Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for more than two hours

- Refrigerate all cooked and perishable food promptly (preferably below 5°C)
- Keep cooked food piping hot (more than 60°C) prior to serving

- Do not store food too long even in the refrigerator
- Do not thaw frozen food at room temperature

#### 5. Use safe water and raw materials

- Use safe water or treat it to make it safe
- Select fresh and wholesome foods
- Choose foods processed for safety, such as pasteurized milk
- Wash fruits and vegetables, especially if eaten raw
- Do not use food beyond its expiry date





# Heroics of a Modest Man

Sgt. Ariel Ismael Sajama is the medical assistant at the Medical Centre in Roca Camp, Sector 1. He assists the (military) doctor with the general health control of the Unit members. Fortunately, there are not too many emergencies.

This is Ariel's second tour with UNFICYP. The first was back in September 1993, when he arrived with the very first Argentinian Contingent. Again he was a medical assistant, but then he held the rank of sergeant.

Ariel took up medical studies after he joined the Argentinian Army. As a young boy, he wanted to be a doctor, but his father died when Ariel was only 14 years of age. As the eldest of five boys, he naturally assumed the position of head of the family.

Clearly, he was unable to take on the expenses and complications of medical studies, so for Ariel, studying within the army confines was the answer to what he considered to be his vocation.

Towards the end of March 1994, when Ariel's first tour was nearing its end, he went for a walk along the coastal road in Gemikonagi, a small village in the Xeros district. Suddenly, a young woman came screaming out of a house in a state of panic. She could only speak Turkish, and Ariel could only speak Spanish, nevertheless she took him into the house where he saw a man lying motionless on the bathroom floor. A quick examination showed no pulse.

There was no way of knowing how long the man had been in this state, so Ariel immediately started CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) in an effort to revive him. He later learned he was Katriye (the girl's) father, Erol Tuncel.

As a general rule in the medical world, if there is no reaction to CPR after 15 minutes, the patient is considered beyond help. However Ariel did not stop. He continued applying the procedures for another five minutes, when he suddenly noticed some pulse reaction. This gave Ariel the courage to continue this arduous and stressful course of action for a further few minutes.

It was freezing in that bathroom. There was no

heating and the winter weather did not help. So Ariel gently lifted the man, who was almost naked, and carried him to the sitting room. He was about to wrap him in a blanket to try and increase his body temperature. It was only then that Ariel managed - with sign language - to ask Katriye to call an ambulance.

Ariel then realized that the man had suffered a second heart attack. The pulse rate had again disappeared. He immediately restarted CPR, and in two to three minutes, he could feel a pulse once more. Ariel then wrapped Erol in the blanket and monitored his pulse rate for another 30 minutes until the ambulance arrived to take him to hospital.

Two weeks later, Ariel returned to the house to find that Erol had been discharged and was back home with his family. Ariel was treated no less than a hero! Just before he left the island, he was presented with a gift (a bed cover and two cushions in traditional Cypriot style) and a promise was made to stay in touch.

In April 1994, on his arrival back in his beautiful home town of Salta in the north west of Argentina, Ariel sent a postcard to the family. He never received any news from them. When he returned to the island for his second tour, he decided to look them up.

When he called at the house, Safiye (Katriye's mother) was overjoyed to see him. By this time, she had learned a little English, and Ariel could understand more too. Safiye told him that they had lost his address in Argentina, and that was why he had not heard from them.

Safiye told Ariel that Erol had died of a heart attack in 2002. His daughter, Katriye, had married and moved to Nicosia. Erol's son, Ediz, who was away studying at the time of the incident, had returned to Cyprus. He is currently a professor at the Cyprus University in Nicosia.

Safiye invited Ariel to dinner. The whole family was present, and Ariel was the guest of honour. Ediz was particularly keen to learn from Ariel the details of the event, since his mother and sister were in a state of shock at the time.

During the evening, Ediz learned that Ariel had never reported the incident to his Unit when he returned to Sector 1. Ediz, now in full possession of the facts, decided it was time UNFICYP learned of the unforgettable kindness Ariel had shown to the Tuncel family. So on 23 September, he wrote a letter to Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni, expressing his gratitude and that of his whole family for the unpretentious, humble Argentinian NCO who had stepped in and saved his father's life. Had Ariel not intervened and rendered first aid, his father would have died long before the ambulance arrived.

As Ariel said, "Helping people in trouble is my vocation in life. I never thought of telling anyone about it, and I certainly did not expect a reward. It is my job, my duty. This letter is much more than I ever expected."

Back in Argentina, Ariel has saved many lives in the course of his service. He has always done his best for those in trouble. However, after a car accident for example, legal procedures and court cases normally follow. Having to attend these are both time-consuming and stressful. Hence the advice Ariel's wife Sonia gave him "not to get involved unless it is absolutely necessary!"

But for Ariel, it is always necessary. "When you are trained to save lives, you cannot avoid the responsibility of doing everything you can to help your fellow human being. It is everyone's duty to help anyone we can, any time", he says.

When not serving as a medical assistant, Ariel is a busy man. His hobbies include football and chess. In Argentina, he supports "Boca Juniors". But Ariel also likes playing football, and he is a member of the Lefke Football Club! Team members, usually his friend Osman, collect him after duty from Roca Camp almost every day, and bring him back again after practice. He is now an honorary member and plays midfield - a true privilege for Ariel, as he is the only non-Turkish Cypriot in the team!

But he doesn't only have Turkish Cypriot friends. Ariel is also a keen chess player. Back in Argentina, he is in the top league and has twice won the open Army Chess Championships (1999 and 2000). Here in Cyprus, he belongs to the Nicosia Chess Association, but the distance between Roca Camp and the UNPA is prohibitive, so he only plays occasionally. Whenever he can, he joins his Greek Cypriot friends to keep in practice.

It's not only chess which keeps Ariel's mind active. Apart from spending time with his son and four daughters (between 17 and four years of age), he is taking a degree in



Above: SSgt. Ariel Ismael Sajama today



Right: Sgt. Ariel Ismael Sajama in 1993

technology and hopes to complete his studies in 18 months. He is currently qualified to teach secondary school students.

A quiet, unassuming man, Ariel's many talents make him an excellent ambassador for Argentina.

MP



Ariel with Safiye and Ediz



Keeping in practice with ..... chess .....



..... and football



# Visitors to UNFICYP

UNFICYP extended the usual courtesies when the Chief of Mission and/or the Force Commander greeted an array of distinguished visitors in the course of the month including:



Argentinian Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. N. H. Perez Vovard (centre) with the FC and SRSG – 23 August



New Irish Ambassador, H.E. Thomas Brady meets the SRSG – 30 August



GOC1 UK Armd Division, Maj. Gen. J. Cooper, DSO, MBE – 19 September



Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram – 30 September



Garda Siochana Assistant Commissioner Pat Crummey (left) paid a visit to UNFICYP between 26 and 29 September. He met with Irish UNPOL members and visited locations where members of that contingent are based.

By coincidence, Mr. Crummey's son, Brian, currently serves with UNPOL as a patrol officer based at Ledra. He has been a policeman in Dublin for eight years.

Assistant Commissioner Crummey has 40 years service, in keeping with the family tradition of police service. His father was also a member of An Garda Siochana, going back to the foundation of the Irish State in 1922.

Mr. Crummey is seen (left) together with his son during his visit to HQ UNFICYP.



## Visit of Danish Prime Minister

Denmark's Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen visited UNFICYP Headquarters in Nicosia on 5 September. The Secretary-General's Special Representative, UNFICYP Chief of Mission Michael Møller, and UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael J. Barni greeted the Prime Minister on arrival.

After a 45-minute meeting, SRSG Møller, the Force Commander and peacekeepers from UNFICYP's Sector 2 escorted the Prime Minister and members of his delegation on a brief tour of the Nicosia area buffer zone that lies between the two ceasefire lines.



An UNFICYP peacekeeper briefs Denmark's Prime Minister about the Nicosia buffer zone area while SRSG Michael Møller looks on

Below with the Chief of Mission, Force Commander and Denmark's Ambassador to Cyprus, Mr. Svend Waever



## Farewell Maida

Chief of Mission Michael Møller and Senior Adviser Wlodek Cibor joined UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Branch on 30 August to bid farewell to Maida Megerditchian after 31 years of service with the mission.

CCAO Kyoko Shiotani extolled and summarised Maida's varied career. She joined the Canadian Contingent's Humanitarian Branch, based at the Ledra Palace, back in 1975. Then in 1995, when administration of the national civilian staff changed from the British Bases in Episkopi to United Nations Headquarters in New York, Maida was transferred to the Camp Command office in the UNPA. A further move took place in 1999 when Maida joined the Civil Affairs Branch at HQ UNFICYP.

Maida's friendly and helpful attitude will be sorely missed. Civil Affairs wishes her the best of luck in her retirement.



## Dutch Foreign Minister's Visit



Mr. Rudolph Bernard Bot, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, with Force Commander Maj. Gen. Barni (left), and with UNPOL Dutch contingent member Insp. Hans Timmermans during briefings in the course of his visit to UNFICYP on 6 September.



# End of Tour Approaches

At 7.30 p.m. on 25 August, 166 peacekeepers stood to attention on the parade ground in San Martín Camp to receive their United Nations medal.

The ceremony started with the presentation of troops to Chief of Mission Michael Møller. Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni saluted the Argentinian Contingent. Following the national anthem, CO Sector 1 Lt. Col. Claudio Javier Piedra-Buena and the CM addressed the parade. Mr. Møller thanked all medal recipients for their dedication and, noting that many were in the final month of their tour, he wished them a safe return to Argentina and a happy reunion with their families.

Officers, NCOs and privates of the Argentinian Armed Forces make up the majority of Sector 1. However the Sector is augmented by officers and NCOs from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru, who were also awarded the UN medal.

After the ceremony, guests and soldiers moved down to the reception area of San Martín Camp. There, amid the tasteful decorations, refreshments and drinks were offered to all. The evening was enlivened by a solo rendition of popular songs by the 2ic of the Mobile Force Reserve, Capt. Federico Torres. Then came a display by Argentinian soldiers of how the tango should be danced, followed by a rooftop medley of popular music played on drums.

During the month, the Sector also celebrated the 184<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brazilian Independence (7 September), and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Argentine Infantry (13 September).

A number of the Argentinian peacekeepers are attached to UNFICYP Headquarters, the Force Military Police Unit, the Mobile Force Reserve and UN Flight. All of them are part of the Argentinian Contingent, making its 294 members UNFICYP's largest unit.

The Argentine Republic has been represented within UNFICYP since 25 September 1993, the day it took over control of Sector 1 from the Danish Contingent. Since then, over 10,000 Argentinian soldiers have served with UNFICYP.



## The Sound of Sirens

On 12 September, UNFICYP's routine was disrupted by the sound of sirens announcing an emergency security exercise triggered by a simulated threat to the mission. Such emergency scenario practice runs are a sad but necessary consequence of the global environment the UN now operates in.

The UNFICYP scenario was that a suspicious vehicle had gained entry into the UNPA and was parked outside the main headquarters building. Although a handful of personnel had been pre-informed of such a scenario, none knew precisely when it would be put into effect. Even the Chief of Mission was taken by surprise, and he was not alone! Still, this was essential since the aim was to pinpoint weaknesses in how we respond to such emergencies.

Next day, by way of follow-up, UNFICYP Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell addressed a meeting in the International Cafeteria about the shortfalls and the invaluable lessons learned from the exercise. Admitting that

not all had been plain sailing the previous day, he allowed that staff and key players would need to become more familiar with emergency procedures and evacuation routines. Tellingly, he noted there is no predicting when, where or how a threat to the mission's security will arise. Security personnel across the board need to be alert and prepared for such eventualities. Scenarios such as the one used in the exercise serve to help improve awareness of organisational tasks and responsibilities including chain of command, as well as preparing staff in general about procedures to follow in the event of a crisis.

The Chief of Staff apologised for disrupting the work day, but noted that, overall, it had been a useful experience. There would be more unannounced exercises, he warned, just to keep us all on our toes. In the ensuing question and answer session, he thanked staff for their input and welcomed any comments or suggestions which, he assured, would be taken into consideration in future planning.

## WFP Thank-You

The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, James T. Morris, thanked the Republic of Cyprus for its consistent, timely and generous assistance to WFP's emergency operations in the region.

Morris arrived in Cyprus on 7 September after a two-day trip to Lebanon, where he visited WFP's food aid programmes, and met with communities who have started to rebuild their lives.

Morris said he came "to express the profound thanks and gratitude of the WFP, the UN humanitarian community, for the really extraordinary remarkable support we had from Cyprus."

In addition to serving as a logistics hub for all UN humanitarian aid coordinated by WFP for movement into

Lebanon by air and sea, the Republic of Cyprus also had a crucial role during the Iraq crisis in 2004, when all of WFP's operations were outposted to Larnaca.

"The Government of Cyprus has been a strong partner in WFP's major emergency operations, most recently in Lebanon and in Iraq. We remain grateful for the generous support that Cyprus frequently offers to our most difficult operations," said Morris.

"It is our hope that every country WFP assists can follow in the footsteps of a country like Cyprus, which has very practical knowledge and experience of assisting people in difficult times, and which has become an active member of the international humanitarian community," added Morris, paying tribute to its record as a WFP donor.



## Cypriot appointed Head of UNMEE

UN staff member Joseph Stephanides, lawyer, former diplomat and a Cypriot, was appointed head of the Addis Ababa office of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea in mid-August.

In June 2000, after two years of fighting in a border dispute, Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a cessation of hostilities agreement.

In July, the Security Council set up the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). In September 2000, the Council authorised deployment within UNMEE of up to 4,200 military personnel to monitor the cessation of hostilities and to help ensure the observance of security commitments.



# New Faces



## DCO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Zoltán Hegymegi

Lt. Col. Zoltán Hegymegi, Deputy CO Sector 4, graduated from the Hungarian military college as an engineer in 1989. His specialisation was bridge and road construction.

From 1990 to 1995, he was concerned with the runway maintenance of military airfields. From 1995 to 1996, he undertook an engineer application course in France. Then in 1997, he was posted to SFOR (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as the Operations and Liaison Officer. From 1997 to 2000, he was the Chief Engineer of the Hungarian Air Force HQ, and from 2000 to 2006, he held the post of Force Protection Officer, again at the Hungarian Air Force HQ.

Lt. Col. Hegymegi is married with one daughter. His hobbies include swimming, cycling and gardening.



## SO2 Personnel, Lt. Col. Dénes Fülöp

HQ UNFICYP's new SO2 Personnel Officer Lt. Col. Dénes Fülöp arrived on 19 September.

Lt. Col. Fülöp graduated from the Military Academy in 1984. In 1990 he joined a brand new organisation of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence, the Arms Control Agency.

He is not a newcomer to UNFICYP, having served from September 1997 to September 1998 as Ops Assistant Sector 4, then from September 2002 to September 2003 as DCO Sector 4.

Lt. Col. Fülöp is married to Ilona and they have two children, son (György, 27) and daughter (Katalin, 25).



## Air Safety Officer, Maj. Fernando Giudice

Maj. Fernando Giudice, the Air Safety Officer, was born in Buenos Aires.

He graduated from the Argentinian Air Academy in 1986. In 1987, he attended the Military Aviator's Course and then served in VII Air Brigade where he took the helicopter pilot's course. Later on at IV Air Brigade, he flew in the third Search and Rescue Sqn for 10 years. After that he returned to VII Air Brigade where he flew Bell UH-1H helicopters. In 1998, he completed the Air Accidents Investigation and Prevention Course, and two courses in the RAF Inspectorate of Flight Safety.

This is Maj. Giudice's second tour with UNFICYP, the first being from November 1999 to November 2000.

Maj. Fernando Giudice is married to Norma and they have one son, Federico and two daughters, Maria Florencia and Maria Milagros.



## Force Hygiene Officer, Maj. Zsolt Fejes

The new Force Hygiene Officer, Maj. Dr. Zsolt Fejes, arrived in UNFICYP on 26 September.

He graduated from the Semmelweis Medical University in 1996. He began his career in the Health Protection Institute's Ear, Nose and Throat section. In 1997, he was posted to the Hungarian Army's Central Military Hospital, and specialised in ENT in 2001. He also graduated in Disaster Medicine in 2006. Maj. Fejes is not new to UNFICYP. He arrived in March 2004 in the same post and stayed for 18 months. Apart from his mother tongue, he speaks English and Russian.

Zsolt is married to Judith, and they have a nine-year-old daughter, Csenge. His hobbies include his family, travelling, photography and his antique medical books collection.



## Force Medical Officer, Maj. Róbert Balázs

Maj Róbert Balázs, the new Force Medical Officer, graduated from Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest in 1997.

He started his career as a flight surgeon. In September 2000, he was deployed to UNFICYP as the Sector 4 Medical Officer in Famagusta for a year. After his return to Hungary, he was promoted to the rank of captain.

In 2004, he attended the Medical Career Course at Fort Sam Houston in US Army Medical School, Texas. In 2005, he successfully completed the Joint Medical Planner Course at NATO School Oberammergau, Germany. His medical specialties are Occupational Health and Disaster Medicine.

Maj. Balázs is married to Anita and they have three daughters Dorottya, Luca and Sonja.

His hobbies include playing squash and running.

## Transport – Changes at the Wheel!

Joining the Transport Unit we have a first this month – Efi Angeli, from Dhali, Nicosia, originally from Birmingham, UK.

Since leaving school 20 years ago, Efi has been working as a freelance translator for various TV stations (10 years with Sigma). About three months ago, she saw an advert in the local press. UNFICYP needed a driver, and Efi needed a change. So along with 64 applicants, she put her name down – and was accepted.

Before she could take up the job in the Transport Unit, however, the Lebanon war started. Efi was asked to assist in transporting evacuees to and from Larnaca's sea and air ports. "Quite an experience, and definitely a change," said Efi.

## Efi Samali

This is not the only time that Efi has opted to broaden her horizons. Back in 1999, she again felt she needed to do something different in her life. So she took herself off to England, where she did a year's (diploma) course at Norwich University in psychology.

A single parent of two boys, she took them too! She chose Norwich not only because she liked the course curriculum, but also because it's on the coast. Her children, Kyriakos (now 20) and 13-year-old Alexander, got the benefit of a healthy environment and also learned the English language fluently during that year in the UK.

Efi is also a rock climber. She climbs in Cyprus. She's a member of "Korfes", the Nicosia Rock Climbers' Committee. Apart from climbing herself, she helps visitors with routes, etc. To date she has reached intermediate level. "It's amazing what you learn at the club, apart from



rock climbing – what to eat, what you can throw away and how to appreciate the eco system, says Efi.

Although this is Efi's first job as a driver, she hasn't found it tiring, even though some of her trips are fairly lengthy. At present she's qualified as a "B" driver, but she will soon take the test for heavy-duty vehicles (trucks).

Efi is the first female driver ever to join the transport unit, and she finds the guys – her fellow drivers – great. They've accepted her unconditionally.

Her sons too love the fact that their Mum is a driver.

Paul Cartwright and his friend Sharon arrived in Cyprus for a holiday in November 2000 and immediately fell in love with the island. They returned in October 2001 and were married in St. Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia. The couple emigrated to Cyprus in March 2006.

A Londoner by birth, Paul worked for the AA in the UK as a patrol mechanic. When he saw UNFICYP's advertisement for a driver, Paul immediately applied, and on 26 July, he joined the Transport Unit.

His daily tasks include delivery of food and water to the OPs all along the buffer zone and up to the communities in Rizokarpasso and surrounding areas. Due to his experience as a car mechanic, he is also called upon to assist in vehicle breakdown and recovery. Paul came just at the right time to assist at Larnaca Port with the resupply of the diesel fuel, food, water, etc. for Lebanon.

## Paul Cartwright

Paul's life revolves around vehicles. Back in the UK in 1995, Paul founded the "North London Barmy Army", a club which collects, restores, displays and plays with ex-military vehicles, from motor cycles to battle tanks. At present, there are about 65 men and women and 85 vehicles in the club, which helps schools, museums, veterans' associations, etc. raise funds by attending their functions. In Cyprus, Paul continues his contribution to



Paul with one of his tanks

the club by issuing a monthly newsletter. Check [www.nlba.co.uk](http://www.nlba.co.uk).

Paul and Sharon's love for Cyprus is apparently contagious! Sharon's father came for the wedding and returned in October 2003 accompanied by his sister (with her husband) and his brother (with his wife). All decided to emigrate to Cyprus, and now all live in the Larnaca area.



## 2ic, FMPU, Capt. Miroslav Svorník

The new 2IC Force Military Police Unit and Deputy Force Provost Marshal, Capt. Miroslav Svorník, SLOVCON, arrived in UNFICYP on 19 September, replacing Capt. Jozef Sventek.

After leaving Military High School, Miroslav enlisted in the former Czechoslovak Army in 1980. He joined the Military Police in 1991 and served in numerous specialist appointments in the

Slovak Armed Forces.

This is Miroslav's second posting to UNFICYP. He first served in this mission in 2004 as a Sector 4 duty officer.

Miroslav is married to Alena, who is back home in Slovakia with their three children, Radovan (25) Lucia (20) and Ondrej (18).

His hobbies include cooking, reading and travelling.





**UNFICYP's  
Modest Hero**