

The Blue Beret

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General
Inspection

THE BLUE BERET

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Helping Change Climate Change

Investment of more than \$200 billion will be needed by 2030 just to keep greenhouse emissions at today's levels, according to a report by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). One thousand representatives from over 150 governments, businesses and industries, environmental organisations and research institutions met under UNFCCC auspices in Vienna in late August. The reason for the gathering? To help prepare for the global summit being held later this year in Bali. There, the topic will be what must and should be done about climate issues come 2012, when the UN's Kyoto Protocol expires.

In July, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the need for countries to agree to the terms of a pact designed to follow on the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, he said, the new pact should be ready for ratification three years before the current Protocol expires to allow signatory nations sufficient time to prepare the necessary legislation.

The Vienna meeting was in two parts. The first dealt with cooperative actions designed specifically to address climate change. The second part focused exclusively on Kyoto Protocol-inspired negotiations.

Speakers at the Conference emphasized the need for an integrated approach to the "huge global challenge" of climate change, noting that each year that passes without measures to mitigate the situation drives up the human and financial costs of adapting to change.

The UNFCCC study analyzed both existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to developing an international response to climate change. The study found that the additional amount of investment and financial flows in 2030 would amount to between 1.1% and 1.7% of global investment. Also, that up to \$210 billion worth of additional investment and financial flows will be necessary to return greenhouse gas emissions to current levels.

If you want to see what you can do to help cut those emissions, check out the article on how climate change impacts on us all. On page 5, we list a series of simple, practical and responsible measures that we, as individuals, can take to help change or influence climate change.

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Argentinian Air Force Day

UN Flight celebrated Argentinian Air Force Day on 10 August with a military parade inspected by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni.

The 28-member unit responsible for the mission's two Hughes 500 and one Bell 212 hosted a reception for their guests in honour of the day.

MFR Medal Parade

The MFR held a medal parade on the 19 July, where UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni decorated 50 personnel from this multi-national unit.

The occasion was split into two parts. While the MFR personnel formed up on parade, the Force Commander was tested on his driving abilities over the cross-country circuit by 2 Platoon's Sgt. Shane Watson.

In a Toyota Hilux patrol vehicle, the Force Commander had to negotiate his way around a tough course with a large open barrel of water secured to the back of the pick-up. He was competing head-to-head with his Military Assistant, Maj. Matt Walker. The aim of the competition was to complete the obstacle course whilst preventing the water from spilling out of the barrel. It was a close contest with a difference of only 1 cm of water, however the MA received a 2 cm penalty for not wearing his beret, leaving the Force Commander victorious!

The second event was slightly more demanding. This had the Force Commander behind the wheel of the vehicle used by the MFR for crowd control within the buffer zone – the "Tactica", an Armoured Personnel Carrier. The Force Commander negotiated the circuit with ease and he seemed



to thoroughly enjoy the experience. He was then invited to take the Tactica on a drive around the UNPA airfield under the guidance of Sgt. Watson. It was evident from the word go that he was either on a very tight timeline, or he had woken up that morning and put on a pair of lead diving boots, as there was no time wasted. Maj. Gen. Barni would have given the MacClaren F1 team a run for their money around the Airfield, much to Sgt. Watson's delight.

On return, the Force Commander enjoyed refreshments whilst he was guided through 64 Fuel Squadron's photo album. The album was filled with photographs collected over the last five years in which time the name has changed from 64 Fuel Sqn to 64 Fuel Sqn.

The MFR personnel waited patiently as W02 (SSM) Mawby finally brought the MFR parade to attention. The Force Commander saluted each recipient as he presented the



medals. As the temperature rose, the Force Commander was interrupted during his speech by Pte. "Jordan" Barlow. The heat had got the better of her, so with wobbly legs, she made her way to the medical centre.

A heart-warming speech by the Force Commander added to the event. Remarks on the occasion with the emphasis on pride were especially appreciated by first-time recipients. After the ceremony, there was just enough time for the Force Commander to meet the soldiers and discuss the Op TOSCA tour to date. The medal parade was a complete success and enjoyed by all.

Sgt. Dave Dobson

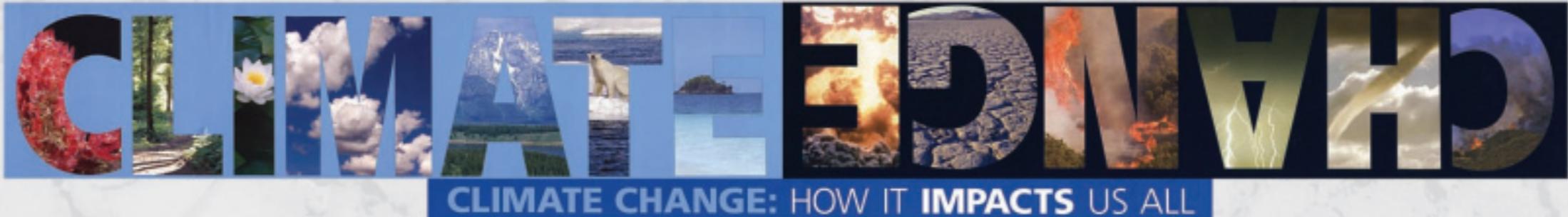
Dutch Medal Parade

The beautiful surroundings of the "Finnish Sauna", near the UNPOL Club, formed the venue for the UNFICYP UNPOL Medal Parade, which took place on 23 July.

This medal presentation was unique because it involved only one contingent. As four Dutch police officers were scheduled to depart the mission in August, leaving UNFICYP between two major rotations, they would have been unable to receive their medal. Hence the four officers of the Netherlands were granted this special medal presentation.

And special it was! The Ambassador of The Netherlands to Cyprus, H.E. Mr. J. van den Berg, addressed the medalists and their guests initially in the Dutch language. As he was clearly "going Dutch", the audience started to look somewhat bewildered, but fortunately, he then switched to English. Chief of Mission, Michael Møller, having addressed the medalists, invited the Netherlands Ambassador to join him in handing out the medals to the "happy few": Senior Sergeants Nico Nuijen and Niels Pouw and First Constables Arlette Kooiman and Jan Douma.





Climate change refers to a change of climate directly or indirectly attributable to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere over and above natural climate variability observed during comparable time periods.

The phrase "climate change" is gaining usage in preference to "global warming" because it connotes more than a simple rise in temperatures.

The earth's average temperature seems to have been remarkably stable for the past 10,000 years, varying by less than 1°C, allowing human civilization to thrive at what is today a comfortable 15°C. But the very success of our civilization risks disrupting the climate that has served us so well until now.

The "blanket" of greenhouse gases that occurs naturally in the troposphere — representing less than one percent of the entire atmosphere — serves the vital function of regulating the planet's climate. When solar energy in the form of visible light strikes the earth, it warms the surface. Being much cooler than the sun, the earth emits this energy back out to space in the form of infrared, or thermal, radiation. Greenhouse gases block the infrared radiation from escaping directly into space. The resulting "natural greenhouse effect" keeps the planet some 30°C warmer than it would otherwise be, which is essential for life as we know it.

The problem we now face is that since the start of the industrial revolution some 250 years ago, emissions of greenhouse gases have been making this blanket thicker at an unprecedented speed. This has caused the most dramatic change in the atmosphere's composition for at least 650,000 years. Unless we make significant efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the global climate will continue to warm rapidly over the coming decades and beyond.

From 31 July to 2 August, UNHQ hosted the first extended General Assembly informal thematic debate, "Climate Change as a Global Challenge". Given climate

change developments, the debate sought to promote a reduction in pollution and to raise overall awareness of the problem. Nearly 100 Member States were eager to discuss hot topics like carbon offsetting. So much so that the two-day seminar was extended to three to accommodate the demand.

The carbon neutral theme of the debate was put into perspective when the amount of CO₂ the panelists and special guests used to travel to the event was compared to how much CO₂ the UN Secretariat emits per day based on total electricity consumption. The conclusion: 43,300 kg of CO₂ was produced by the travelling panelists, while the Secretariat emits 52,890 kg of CO₂ daily. To offset the accumulated carbon dioxide emissions generated by the event, including air travel, a biomass fuel project was funded in Kenya to create new economic opportunities for local farmers. For further details, see:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/followup/climatechange/carbonneutral.shtml>

A new DPI web site, "Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change", has been launched to highlight the work of the United Nations system on climate change. This makes it easier for Internet users to find information on climate change from across the United Nations system.

The web site does more than bring Member States together to find common ground for addressing climate change at the international level. It also serves to assess the most up-to-date science on climate change, develop projects to help people at grassroots level adapt to the consequences of climate change and aims to develop creative solutions to reduce emissions of climate-changing gases.

So, if you want information on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an update on efforts to reach a new international climate change agreement, or a listing of future climate change events and projects, look no further than: <http://www.un.org/climatechange>.

United Nations: Taking Action on Climate Change

Finding out the facts

The UN has assisted in bringing the best science, the likely impacts and the probable costs to the attention of governments and the general public through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"Unequivocal" is the word it now uses on the links between human activities — from burning fossil fuels to cutting of forests — and climate change.

Assessing risks and impacts

Climate change is likely to bring more extreme weather events from droughts and floods to rising sea levels.

Other likely impacts include increased pressure on water and food supplies in many parts of the world, changes in the patterns of disease and faster extinction rates for plants and animals.

Taking action is affordable

Averting climate change will not "cost the earth" — perhaps as little as 0.1 per cent of average annual GDP growth over the next 30 years if we act immediately.

Adapting to climate change

Even if greenhouse gas emissions were stopped today, some level of climate change is inevitable. The UN is stepping up assistance to the poorest and most vulner-

able people so they can cope better with the speed and the scale of the climatic changes likely to come.

Creative answers-concrete solutions

The UN is helping to harness the power of the carbon markets, assisting to accelerate the take-up of clean and renewable energies and assessing the potential for forests to counter the climate change challenge.

At the grassroots

Working with people in their communities, the UN has on the ground initiatives that are opening new opportunities for people, growth and development with a lower carbon footprint.

Greening the UN

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for accelerating efforts to make the UN's own operations climate-neutral, and to turn the soon to be renovated UN Headquarters into a globally acclaimed landmark of energy efficiency.

Finding common ground

Climate change is a global problem that needs a long-term global solution. The UN is at the centre of brokering a fair, equitable and decisive climate change regime for a post-2012 world.

Driving

- Surface transport is responsible for 25% emissions of CO₂ and rising. In the past 30 years, traffic on the roads in Europe has more than doubled.
- Give your car a day off! Can you find a way to make your journey to work on foot, by bike or using public transport, for instance by car-pooling with colleagues?
- Keep your car tyres properly inflated. It's estimated that up to 80% of car tyres are under-inflated, which can increase fuel consumption, and therefore emissions, by up to 5%, as well as increasing wear and tear.
- Drive with the windows up. This reduces drag, thus increasing your fuel consumption efficiency and lowering your emissions.

YES, BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

Drag can also be lessened by removing heavy items and roof racks from the vehicle when you don't need to carry them.

- Switch off the engine if you think you will be stationary for more than two minutes. Idling for this long burns more fuel than it takes to restart the engine.
- Avoid short car journeys. A cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel as a warmer one. Take a walk in the fresh air to the local shops instead — it's good for you!
- Hire bicycles instead of a car if you are exploring locally. Not only will this save emissions, but some money too — and help burn off any holiday excess.

Food and Drink

• Think before you buy. Demand local and organic and seasonal products and produce — it's your right to be choosy! Avoid all air-freighted foods and if your shop cannot assure you of this then don't buy. Getting produce out of season means either growing it using glasshouses or importing it, sometimes by air.

- Cook from fresh. Avoiding processed and packaged foods reduces the emissions generated by transporting multiple ingredients and products around the country or even the world, as well as in the production of packaging. Fresh is also better for your health.
- Use a toaster rather than the grill to make toast — it will use less energy.
- Recycle aluminium. The energy saved by recycling one aluminium drink can is enough to run a TV for three hours.
- Buy in bulk for everyday items. As well as saving money, this will avoid the emissions created when packaging individual items. If you don't use large quantities but still want to take advantage of the savings, share an order with a friend, colleague or neighbour.

At Home

Simple measures could substantially reduce the emissions from your home, and save you money as well. For instance,

- In summer, does it need to be so cold? Keep the a/c thermostat to 24°C.
- Keep the doors closed when the a/c is turned on. It doesn't make sense to let cold air out.
- In winter, does it need to be so hot? Turning the thermostat down by just one degree can save you up to \$75 a year on your heating bill and make a real dent in your household's emissions.

- Set your timer efficiently. Avoid wasted energy by timing your heating to go off 30 minutes before you leave the house, and to come on again 30 minutes before you are due to get back.
- Reflective radiator panels can fit perfectly behind radiators. They are cheap to buy, easy to install and reflect back heat that would otherwise drift through the wall.
- Draw your curtains at dusk. A thick pair of curtains can stop a huge amount of cool air or heat from escaping through your windows.
- Put a lid on it. Saucepans with lids on heat much quicker and use less energy.
- Don't keep opening the oven to check whether your food is ready — this adds to the time needed to cook your meal and uses more energy. Switch it off a few minutes before your food is ready — the oven will stay hot enough to finish cooking the food.

- Turn lights off! Lighting an empty office overnight can waste the energy required to heat water for 1,000 cups of coffee.
- Buy energy-saving light bulbs. Some can use less than a quarter of the electricity of their equivalents, and can last up to 12 times longer. One energy efficient light bulb can save you \$20 a year on your electricity bill.
- Make the most of nature. Light-coloured walls, ceilings and floors, as well as mirrors, reflect daylight, make maximum use of natural light and reduce the need for artificial lighting.
- Use infrared. If you have exterior lights, ask your electrician to fit infrared sensors so that the lights only come on when you pass in front of them.
- Resist standby — it's expensive! People pay millions of dollars every year for the electricity used in keeping their appliances on standby. That goes for PC screens too.
- Unplug equipment once fully charged. Mobile phones, shavers and electric toothbrushes keep drawing electricity even when the battery is full.
- Keep fridge and freezer doors closed. Each minute a fridge door is open it can take three energy-intensive minutes for it to cool down again.
- Keep your freezer full. It takes less energy to keep a full freezer cool than it does an empty one.
- Think how you cook. Pressure cookers and steamers both save energy; steamers are particularly easy to use and very healthy.
- Only use a washing machine on full-load. Ninety percent of the energy that washing machines use goes toward heating the water, so switch to a cooler wash temperature: using 40°C for all clothes can use a third less electricity per wash. Today's washing powders are just as effective on low temperature programmes, saving both energy and money.

At Work

- Reduce office paper consumption. One study says that office paper consumption is rising by 20% per year. On average each worker uses 50 sheets of A4 a day. Add the slogan "Think before you print" at the bottom of your emails. Print double-sided.
- Switch office equipment off at night. A photocopier left on overnight uses enough energy to make 1,500 photocopies.



Visit to Kokkina

UNFICYP's three pillars once again worked together to facilitate a visit to the cemetery in Kokkina, where Turkish Cypriots hold an annual ceremony to honour their fallen.

On 8 August, approximately 30 peacekeepers from Sector 1, together with personnel from UN Flight, MFR and UNPOL, deployed 12 vehicles to escort approximately 640 people to Kokkina, which is located only 7 km away from the Kato Pyrgos checkpoint.

The peacekeepers met them at Kato Pyrgos and escorted them to OP 08, approximately 7 km east of the village, where they checked the attendance from lists. Eleven buses then started the 30-minute journey through the buffer zone to OP 03, approximately 1 km east of Kokkina.

Illegal Dumping in the Buffer Zone

UNFICYP has advised the authorities that an illegal rubbish dump in the buffer zone area alongside the village of Peristerona, to the west of Nicosia, is believed to contain hazardous asbestos materials.

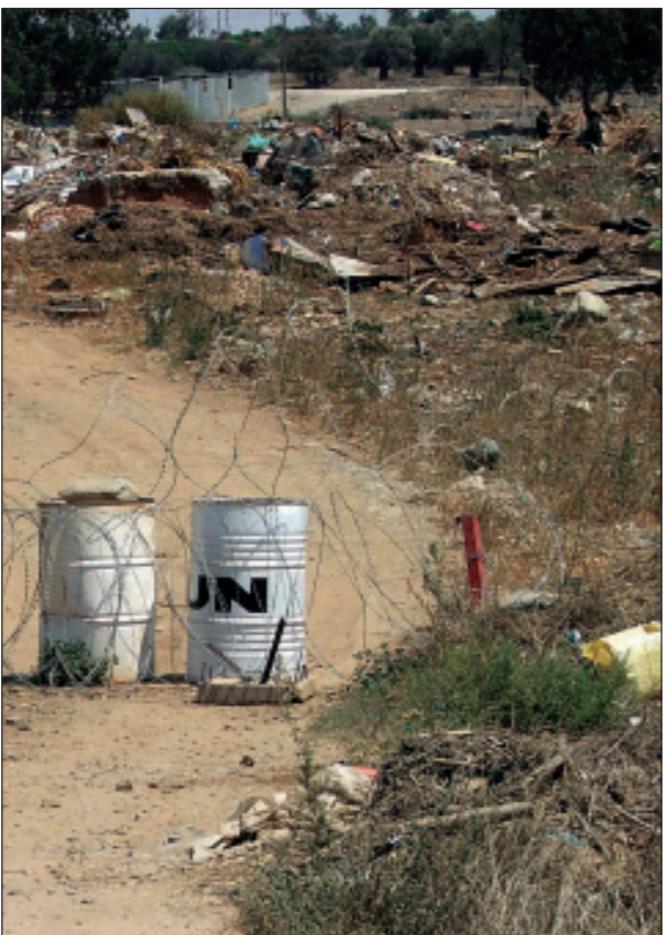
UNFICYP peacekeepers have cordoned off the area, pending arrangements by the responsible authorities for the safe removal of the materials and for the site's clearance and closure. The materials in question could pose a real danger to the health of anyone who comes in contact with them.

UNFICYP has worked closely with a number of local municipalities to remove waste from illegal dumping sites in the buffer zone. Anything from furniture to the carcasses of dead animals has been deposited in these dumps, which constitute both an environmental eyesore and a serious health hazard. Selfish acts by thoughtless individuals put communities, children especially, at real risk.

UNFICYP has joined local authorities in repeatedly appealing to the public to avoid the practice of illegal dumping.

Once again, the mission urges people to be aware of the health risk consequences of unregulated dumping. There should be consideration for the wellbeing of the community at large.

UNFICYP also wishes to point out that the buffer zone is open only to authorised users.



Capt. Guillermo Larreyna

They then continued on towards the deserted village of Kokkina where the ceremony was held.

This was followed by a picnic and a walk through the deserted village where many of the Turkish Cypriots were born. Local Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot stations reported on the event.

At 1.00 p.m., the visitors slowly returned to OP 03, where they were met and escorted back through the buffer zone to Kato Pyrgos by UNFICYP's peacekeepers, arriving at 2.30 p.m.

The whole operation, which took place without incident, was considered a success, and UNFICYP was warmly thanked for its efforts.

Capt. Guillermo Larreyna

"Be Seen, Be Heard" – SG's Message on International Youth Day

International Youth Day – 12 August – is an annual opportunity to recognise the world's 1.2 billion young people, to celebrate their achievements, and to push for their participation in all areas of society.

This year's commemoration – "Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development" – focused on the enormous contributions young women and men everywhere can and do make towards national uplift. As the SG said in his message for the day, young people are:

- valuable and committed partners in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty and hunger in half by 2015
- remain at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS; and
- bring fresh, innovative thinking to longstanding development concerns.

At the approach of the midpoint of the race to achieve the MDGs, "we need their participation more than ever," since their energy and idealism "can help make up for lost ground, and achieve our development goals in full and on time," the SG said.

"In turn, we must fulfil our obligations to youth. The World Programme of Action for Youth asks Governments to consider the contributions of young persons on all policies affecting them. Governments must honour this commitment. They must also increase the financial, education and technical support made available to young people, and help them realize their potential.

Despite growing recognition of their needs, young people in many parts of the world continue to be marginalized and ignored. Their status as a group experiencing disproportionate levels of poverty and unemployment is frequently overlooked. The young are three times more likely than adults to lack jobs. Although they constitute one fourth of the world's labour force, young people make up almost half of its unemployed.

It is high time that we stopped viewing our young people as part of the problem and started cultivating their promise and potential. On this International Youth Day, let us all resolve to invest in and protect our most valuable resource, and give young men and women a fair and full stake in our society, and in its success."

Summer Camps

UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) is continuing its work on multi-cultural youth camps in order to help Cypriots, regardless of their ethnic, religious or linguistic background, to build a bright and prosperous future.

With the aid of the UNDP-ACT Programme, youth camps are organised by Cypriot organisations in order to foster long-lasting relationships built on common interests, friendship, cooperation, mutual understanding, and trust.

This summer, the UNDP-ACT Programme has helped to organise eight different multi-cultural youth camps around the island. These camps have focused on various themes such as sport, the environment, volunteerism, science, and fighting racism.

About 450 youths participated in this year's summer camps this year. Moreover, a study conducted by an independent research firm on UNDP's behalf showed that most of the participants

have kept in contact since the camps finished, 79% exchanged contact information with other camp participants and about 88% have kept regular contact with members from the other community. These results are very promising and show the success of the camps, as well as the need to continue with the programme.



Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youths at the Doves Olympic Movement camp which took place between 18-25 July at the Agros Sports Centre in the Troodos mountain range

In addition to multi-cultural youth camps, UNDP-ACT also organises multi-cultural youth camp trainings. The aim of these trainings is to enhance the impact and sustainability of multicultural camps across the island, since they are one of the rare possibilities of creating substantial contact between the children and youth of both communities.

For more information on youth camps or up-coming events of the UNDP-ACT Programme, please look under www.undp-act.org or contact Eleni Sophocleous at eleni.sophocleous@undp.org.



Golden Oldies Show the Way

Just as football teams like to have a few veterans on the team to balance the talent and skills of the younger with the wisdom of experience, so too UNFICYP's peacekeeping team is lucky to be able to draw on the wisdom of a corps of veterans. UNFICYP's pool of wisdom and experience is drawn from all contingents on the island.

First among the veterans is **Major Alan Halsall T.D.**, born on 1 March 1954, who is not only the oldest member of the British contingent, but of the UNFICYP peacekeepers currently on the island. He wears this title proudly, as he does the fact that he is from the Royal Logistics Corps – Territorial Army, and is the first to be deployed to Cyprus as such.

At UNFICYP, Halsall serves as a Military Observer Liaison Officer for Sector 2 where he is in contact with the opposing forces. His experience has shown him that personal contact always achieves more, and he finds his duties take him out of the office on a regular basis which he enjoys, along with the interaction with members of other contingents.

Extremely fit, Halsall trains hard five-to-seven days a week. He sets his younger colleagues – some of them half his age – a tough example, as he was the first to gain admission to the Scorpion 300 fitness club. His sporting achievements include winning the 10km veterans relay race for his sector, testament to his belief that age is a state of mind. Young at heart, he says he is able



to communicate with the younger soldiers in his regiment at their level. Although he is old enough to be a father to many of them, he feels he is more of a friend and can be seen regularly socialising with them.

Back home, Halsall served with the TA for well over 30 years, mainly in supply and logistics, as quartermaster and in liaison officer roles. Previous missions include "Iraqi Freedom" in 2003 as a liaison officer, and a second tour in Iraq in 2006 serving as Quartermaster and Camp Commandant of Sheiber Logbase.

The oldest Slovak peacekeeper is **Lance Corporal Peter Knizat** born 23 April 1954, a special mechanisms driver in the engineering unit. He served as a conscript between 1973-1975 and has been in the professional army of Slovakia since 1994 when he was posted to the UN mission in the former Yugoslavia. He also served in UNMEE in 2001 and 2002. He has had two postings to UNFICYP, from 2004-2006 and again from 2006-2007, both in Famagusta and HQ.



"Sometimes I feel like a father to the Slovak contingent, as many of the soldiers are younger than my children." He says he does not feel uncomfortable receiving orders from soldiers that are many years his junior, as he says, "In the army, an order is an order, no matter who it comes from." However both officers and soldiers frequently draw on his wealth of experience when it comes to finding solutions to problems they may face in their work or on the best way to get a job done.

Looking back at his career in peacekeeping, Knizat says the most dangerous situation he found himself in was while on mission in the former Yugoslavia where he was working 10-15 km behind the front line, very close to the fighting. They could hear the shelling and see the smoke from the explosions. Other hardships he has experienced include the difficult conditions of missions in Africa. There, he had to deal with the threat of diseases like malaria and living conditions far more basic than at UNFICYP.

Reflecting on his choice to go on peacekeeping missions, Knizat says, "This was a sacrifice by my wife, Erika and I that we chose to make for our children's futures." Knizat has two sons, Peer (26) and Yuraj (27). He says his wife is happy that he has the opportunity to work on UN missions, as the extra money he receives is helping to put his son through medical school.

However this is his last mission before he retires from the Slovakian army. When he returns, he will go back to the Air Defence Brigade as a driver, and will also prepare for another happy event – his son's wedding and then becoming a grandfather...

Hungarian Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Fülöp was born on 16 November 1955. As the SO2 Personnel in HQ UNFICYP, he is responsible for the forces military personnel strength, reporting monthly to New York. He assists the CPLO and sectors on personnel issues. In this capacity, his is the only military personnel position responsible for 860 military peacekeepers on the island. This involves liaison with the troop-contributing countries on issues ranging from allowances to rotations.



This is Fülöp's third mission in Cyprus, his first being in 1997 in Famagusta when he was attached to the Austrian contingent as ops assistant for one year. He then served in 2002 as HUNCON's Contingent Commander based in Sector 4.

Fülöp says the first time he came on mission to Cyprus was a challenge for him to see whether he would be able to work in an international environment. "Those who haven't tried have no idea," he says. For his second mission, he was asked at the last minute because the officer due to deploy was unable to do so and the authorities only had one week to find a replacement.

This September, Fülöp will have served 35 years in the military. He says, "Personally, I believe I have served too long and I would like to give the opportunity to younger officers to step in." Although he is the oldest member of his contingent, he says "I don't feel like I am over 50 years of age. Even though the other members of my contingent in many cases are much younger than I am, this is not an obstacle. We are all friends who work and socialise together." Fülöp concedes that he does get asked for advice on occasion.

Married with two children, a son Gyorgy (25) and a daughter Katalin (27), Fülöp says although his wife was not too pleased with him going on a third mission, he says "she is a real military wife, and has taken it in her stride".

He says working abroad in UN, NATO and other peacekeeping missions is good experience and he advises those soldiers who are bored in their jobs at home to go abroad, where they will gain knowledge and, most importantly, the skills to be able to survive missions with difficult conditions. This wealth of experience gained from working with different nations and armies creates a better understanding for those charged with leading others, he says.

His years as a peacekeeper have given him many friends in the Slovak and Argentinian Contingents as well as UN Flight, with whom he served when he was here in 2003. As he is close to retirement from the military, Fülöp says he would like to go join the UN as a civilian to continue working in peacekeeping.

Born 14 August 1957, the youngest of the veterans is WO1 **Carlos Maria Lopez**, the highest-ranking NCO, working directly with Commander Sector 1. New to peacekeeping, he says he is happy to be here

where he can interact with soldiers from other nations whom he may otherwise not have been able to. Although the type of work he does here and in Argentina is the same, the fact that they are far from home makes a difference. "My job is to try and keep morale among the soldiers high, and although the initial reactions when they first arrive are enthusiastic, as time goes by and the soldiers miss their families, they become more anxious to return home," he says. For many who are on their first tour in Cyprus, it is difficult initially to acclimatise themselves. To help ease them into their roles, he tries to group those on the first tour with soldiers who have been here before so they receive support and can look to the more experienced to help resolve any problems they may face.

He says both his position as well as his age inspire confidence in the younger soldiers who feel comfortable coming to him to discuss personal and work-related problems they may be experiencing. "I am always happy to listen to them and advise them if I can".

Lopez has four children. The eldest is Carlos (23), followed by Patricia (21), José (16), and Juan (15), so being a father figure comes naturally, he says smiling.

He began his 33-year military career at the age of 16 and now has only two years until he retires at what will be a young 51 years of age. His only regret is he won't be able to go on another mission before he has to leave the military.

Lopez says he would encourage young soldiers to become peacekeepers and serve in UN missions where they will be able to work with other forces and gain much knowledge and experience. For himself, he says it has been good to work with men and women from his neighbouring countries like Paraguay and Chile.

Netha Kreouzos



Blood Donations in Sector 4

Lt. Col. Andrej Harendarčík M.D., Senior Medical Officer in Sector 4, has made several contacts with colleagues in the central north Nicosia Hospital during his tour.

There is a significant shortage of blood on the island, so with the support of Commander Sector 1 Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický, Lt. Col. Harendarčík and his contacts from Sector 4 arranged for the hospital to send a Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit to Camp General Štefánik. On 2 August, 33 Slovak peacekeepers, men and women, officers and soldiers, stood in line to donate a total of almost 20 litres of their precious, life-saving blood.

The activity started off with the basic medical check-up, including blood pressure. The staff of the Nicosia hospital's Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit then stood by to transfer the soldiers' blood into sterile packaging, ready for onward transmission to the nearby hospital.

Dr. Harendarčík said, "I am personally more than happy that our soldiers are so willing to help people in need, particularly those with rare diseases like thalassaemia. Chronic illnesses like this, coupled with everyday normal surgery, require more than 600 units of blood every month. This is a noble way of supporting



Personnel from the Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit in north Nicosia collecting blood from Sector 4 peacekeepers

the local community in a generous and humanitarian fashion. I am very proud of our soldiers, and I would like to thank them all."

Since September 2006, three blood donating sessions have taken place in Sector 4. The Slovak and Hungarian peacekeepers are more than happy to help the local community in this charitable act, which will no doubt continue in the future.

As the saying goes, "It's just what the doctor ordered!"

Capt. Michal Harnadek

Town Hall Speakers



Ron Hall, President of the Field Staff Union



Alicia Bárcena, Under Secretary-General for the Department of Management, and Jan Beagle, Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Human Resources



Donna-Marie Maxfield, Chief, PMSS

Three Town Hall Meetings took place in the International Cafeteria, UNPA, with visitors from NYHQ briefing staff on a number of issues.

27 June: Alicia Bárcena briefed on current challenges of peacekeeping operations, including the integration of civilians, police and military, the UN as a framework for negotiations on climate change, and also poverty-related Millennium Development Goals. **Jan Beagle** then spoke about the new integrated package of reforms, which looks at a set of policies and procedures with regard to recruitment, contractual arrangements and conditions of service, career development and improved mobility within the system.

5 July: Donna-Marie Maxfield, Chief of Personnel Management and Support Services, outlined upcoming changes in the department as regards human resource management; and

11 July 2007, Ron Hall ran through the decisions taken at the recent Staff Management Coordination Committee meeting.

The meetings were an excellent opportunity for staff members to ask questions and exchange thoughts on a wide range of subjects. Follow-up questions can be sent to the speakers at:

barcena@un.org, beagle@un.org,
maxfield@un.org, hallr@un.org



Third Time Lucky for Lovestruck Couple

LCpl. Doak (néé Bishoprick) said: "The first time we tried to get married in Greece, but then he got called up to Iraq, and the second time we were planning for County Durham in the UK, but we were both on exercises for operations and it was impossible to organise.

"Then we were going to try again in the UK but Lloyd was warned off for Afghanistan in October, just when I am supposed to get back from Cyprus and it was all very tight."

Help came though in the form of UNFICYP Sector 2 Padre Roy Burley, who reminded the then LCpl. Bishoprick that Cyprus was, of course, the island of love.

He said: "Her then fiancé was due to deploy to Herrick on a date to be confirmed in October, so I suggested why not use the R&R we get on operations here as it is the only two weeks over the next 12 months they could guarantee being together.

"Then it was just a matter of finding a location and my wife and I were honoured to be asked to attend as witnesses to the ceremony. If you look at any of the pictures, you can see what it meant to them."

And one of the bonuses of marriage during R&R was that the soldiers were already guaranteed a honeymoon.

The new Mrs. Doak said: "We had a combined holiday of a week on a cruise looking at the Pyramids and Sphinx in Egypt, which my husband is really interested in, followed by a week on the beach at Protaras – that was for me!

"The honeymoon was awesome and he was ecstatic, even happier than me I think, because now he knows that he has finally caught me in his trap!", said Val.

Possibly even better news for the couple is that Cpl. Doak has been told just recently that he may not be required for the October deployment to Afghanistan, meaning an extended period of time together.

If that's the case, then the love struck soldiers intend to conduct a church service and blessing on Mrs. Doak's return back to the UK in Catterick.

Capt. Gary Allen

Two, love struck soldiers finally found fortune and tied the knot in marriage in Cyprus last week, after three years of trying.

LCpl. Valerie Bishoprick, from 8 Transport Regiment RLC, and Cpl. Lloyd Doak, who is in the QRL, have had to cancel twice due to operational commitments before finally taking the opportunity to wed while LCpl. Bishoprick is on tour with the United Nations in Nicosia.

The Catterick Garrison based soldiers, who have been together five years, were married in a small civil ceremony in Yeroskipou, near Paphos, in what was admittedly not their first choice of location.

Bye Bye, Miss American Pie!

Marlette Miltiadous, the American from New Jersey who made everyone feel very much "at home" in the UNPA's CESSAC, spent her last day on the job on 14 August after three years with the organisation.

Donna Zalabras, CESSAC's Nicosia Manager, organised a surprise get-together of Marlette's best customers to bid her a fond farewell. How Donna managed to keep this from Marlette is to her credit, since on the day, it was obvious to all present that Marlette had no idea what was planned. The CESSAC "girls" even got her to prepare some of the snacks for a supposed customer's birthday party!

Regina Potter, CESSAC's Regional Manager, travelled from Episkopi for the event, and presented Marlette with gifts from the organisation and also from Marlette's "customers" in appreciation of her efforts over the years.



From the left: Gina, Donna, Marlette, Aysen and Danielle

Marlette is going on to better things – debt collecting! After a short while, she is planning to open up her own business. We wish her well in her endeavours.

Exercise Blue Drive

UNFICYP is committed to the improvement of driving standards and a reduction in the number of Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) in the mission. In recognition of the statistics which demonstrate that road traffic collisions remain the greatest cause of accidental death and serious injury in the mission, it is considered paramount that a proactive approach be taken to reduce the RTAs.

Exercise Blue Drive (2) is part of this initiative, and was designed to test those areas of driving which contribute to the most prevalent traffic accidents/incidents. It also aims to develop individual and collective driving skills, as well as promoting safety awareness throughout the mission.

All teams prepared for the competition with a very enthusiastic and determined approach, and it was encouraging to see teams practising prior to the event. In fact, all departments and sectors are urged to adopt this approach and use some of the driving stands as a tool for continuation of developing and increasing driver skills. The practice of driving skills is essential to maintain a high standard within the mission.

During the Exercise, it was evident that drivers were serious about achieving a high score, both for their team and for their own personal satisfaction. Many of the teams said that the newly introduced Large Goods Vehicle Manoeuvring stand tested their practical driving skills. With limited vision from an enclosed cab, using the mirrors was the key to negotiating the course. The Blind Manoeuvring stand offered not only a challenge to the driver; it was designed to test the leadership skills of verbal instruction from a commander of the vehicle while the driver was blindfolded. A test in itself was the multi-



national teams; communication is the vital link to any successful operation, even in this simple form of driving at slow speed...

With every competition, there is usually one individual who has a degree of talent and shines above the rest. This was certainly the case with 1st Constable Jan Douma, who was presented with the "Best Driver" award. He has a driving standard that was a credit to himself, but he also showed extremely good teamwork. Throughout he was constantly encouraging his team, and

also proved his worth on the theory side of road safety and basic maintenance.

Overall, the teams who participated gained a wealth of driving experience. Credit and thanks must go to the Directing Staff who put together interesting and diversely challenging stands on a successful two-day event.

Finally, congratulations go to the winners, Sector 2 (A). They have clearly laid the gauntlet for the next Exercise Blue Drive.

Overall results of the top three teams are as follows:
1st - Sector 2 (A)
2nd - Sector 1 (B)
3rd - Sector 2 (B)
Best Driver: - 1st Constable Jan Douma (UNPOL)

**WO2 Stephen Goldsmith
UNFICYP Master Driver**



The winning team, Sector 2(A)

August 2007 - The Blue Beret

Baghdad Bombing Commemoration

Four years on and the bombing of the Canal Hotel on 19 August 2003 remains one of the UN's darkest days. Despite having lost colleagues before in the line of duty, this was the first time the United Nations was deliberately targeted on such a massive scale.

Speaking at a commemoration ceremony at UN headquarters on 17 August, SG Ban Ki-moon said: "The bomb detonated at our Baghdad headquarters robbed us of our best and brightest and injured many more, but it also shattered any illusion that the UN's ideals and impartiality permitted us to operate above the fray in Iraq. The bombers shook us to the very core, yet they could not shake our ideals: our values, our commitment, our resolve; these are all unchanged.

"Today, those very ideals, that same resolve, guide our work for peace, whether in Darfur or Dili,

in Beirut or Baghdad. This work is our ultimate and lasting tribute to our fallen friends. It is how we honour their memory every day, wherever a blue flag flies."

Noting the Security Council's recent decision to renew and strengthen UNAMI's mandate, the SG assured staff that their fears and concerns about any expansion were a matter of concern to him as well. "That is why I affirm to you today that any such measure remains strictly subject to conditions on the ground – your safety is and always will be a paramount concern. At the same time, the terrorists who struck so cruelly in Baghdad must, one day, be brought to justice. There can be no impunity for such murderers."

On 17 August, UNFICYP staff observed a minute's silence at midday in memory of those who died in the Baghdad bombing.

EU Disaster Assessment

Fifteen experts from the European Community Mechanism for Civil Protection conducted an exercise based on possible quake scenarios on the island, and to train resident specialists for any possible future disaster. An exercise scenario was based on an earth and/or earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale. The destruction from the quakes was on the southern coast of the island, and the experts had to survey the scene and assess the situation for the European Search and Rescue Teams in Cyprus.

One task involved a reconnaissance of the Old Nicosia Airport inside the UNPA. UNFICYP's Chief Security Officer, Air Safety Officer, Property Manager and Civilian Affairs Military Liaison Officer participated.



Croatian Commendation

On rare occasions, the Force Commander has the discretion to present outstanding peacekeepers with his special commendation at the end of their tour.

Such was the case on 19 July, when Capt. Stjepan Torkonjak, a Military Observer Liaison Officer and a member of the Croatian Contingent stationed in Sector 4, arrived at Maj. Gen. Barni's office in HQ UNFICYP to receive his award.

Capt. Torkonjak was recommended by Commander Sector 4, Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický, for his outstanding performance as a MOLO. Throughout his tour, Capt. Torkonjak improved the three-pillar cooperation at Sector level, dealing with operational tasks at a very high level. His approach to his work and the diplomacy he used were valuable and constructive, particularly when it came to keeping the situation calm in Sector 4's area of responsibility. This included dealing not only with military personnel, but civilian matters as well. His efforts were commendable, and he proved to be a example to other MOLO colleagues on how to react in changing conditions using liaison and negotiation skills, even in highly dangerous situations.

Capt. Torkonjak has acted in an exemplary fashion, both as a military officer, and as an ambassador of his country.



Force Commander congratulates Capt. Torkonjak for his excellent performance during his tour

July 2007 - The Blue Beret

General Inspection



Late August saw an all-star general inspection when UNFICYP warmly welcomed Gen. Ľubomír Bulík, the Chief of General Staff of the Slovak Republic's Armed Forces, and Gen. András Havril, Chief of General Staff of the Hungarian Republic. The two arrived for an official visit to the mission from 22 to 24 August.

Our own general, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael J. Barni, joined by Senior Adviser Wlodek Cibor, greeted the visiting CGSs on arrival at UNFICYP Headquarters. Gen. Barni then briefed his fellow generals on the mission status, with specific emphasis on the role and contribution of the Slovak and Hungarian Contingents. Afterwards, the CGSs stopped off to meet with national staff stationed in the Headquarters. Gen. Bulík visited Engineer Camp Tatry, while Gen. Havril dropped by the Hungarian national club.

A helicopter flight over the buffer zone followed, bringing the two generals to HQ Sector 4, Camp General Štefánik, in Famagusta. On arrival, CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický and the SOO, Capt Miloš Segén, briefed the CGSs on the operational structure, the tasks and the position of SLOVCON and HUNCON respectively. The generals then took the opportunity to mingle with Slovak and Hungarian soldiers, as well as to meet members of Sector 4's Croatian Contingent.

A trip to CP 10 and OP 146 ("Baywatch") at the far eastern end of Sector 4's buffer zone area of responsibility followed. Subsequently, the visitors proceeded to

OP 129 and PB 126 (Alcatraz) in Pyla, where they were briefed on everyday routine and given an orientation overview by Post Commanders. The Hungarian delegation also called in on the HUNCON troops of 1st Platoon at Camp Szent Istvan in Athienou village and PB 9, which borders with Sector 2's AOR.

Wrapping up and before heading to Larnaca Airport, the two CGSs thanked the Force Commander for his help and support in making their visit so satisfying.



New Arrivals

Officer Commanding Mobile Force Reserve



Maj. Kevin Dodgson arrived in UNFICYP on 29 July to take up the position of Officer Commanding Mobile Force Reserve, replacing Maj. Steve Hanson-Church.

Kevin, who is from Leeds, England, was commissioned into the British Army in 1992 and has served in Northern Ireland, Germany and completed four tours in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Most recently he has served in the Multinational 3* HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and a Territorial Reserve unit where he

was the Training Major, Regimental 2IC, Ops Officer, Budget Manager and odd-job man!

Kevin is single and his hobbies include travel, golf, football and cricket. He is due to leave UNFICYP on 2 October 2007 – a short tour due to Kevin's posting cycle – when he will return to command his Squadron in Gutersloh, Germany.

He is very much looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that this mission and Squadron command will no doubt provide.

Administrative Assistant to the CAO



Mary Groarke arrived in Cyprus on 5 August to take up the position of Administrative Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer, UNFICYP.

A U.S. national, born to Irish parents, Mary joined UN Headquarters as a staff member in OHRM on 1 March 1989. Since then, she has held various posts in MINURSO, UNPROFOR, UNTSO and UNMIK.

It was during her first field

assignment to MINURSO that Mary met Paul Fennelly, a Field Service Officer who currently holds the post of UNFICYP Supply Officer. They married in Venice in 1995, and currently have their home in Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

Her hobbies include reading, travelling and sailing. In fact, she would love to start up a book club, so if anyone is interested, please contact Mary on Ext. 4411, or 99-345236.

UNFICYP Archive Assistant



Renalyn Natural arrived in UNFICYP on 17 August to take up the position of UNFICYP's Archive Assistant with the Public Information Office.

Renalyn is from Manila, Philippines, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service, majoring in International Relations from the Lyceum of the Philippines.

She joined the United Nations in 2000 as a UNV for five

years and has so far worked for UNTAET, UNMISSET, UNOTIL and UNMIS, prior to joining UNFICYP.

Renalyn is married to Jimmy Clavesillas, who accompanied her to Cyprus for a brief visit. Jimmy is currently working as Logistics Assistant/Contingent-Owned Equipment Inspector in UNMIS.

Renalyn is joined by her five-year-old son, Rian. Her hobbies include karaoke, cooking and travelling.

SO2 Ops/Information



Maj. Kathryn Heppinstall arrived in UNFICYP on 22 August to take up the position of SO2 Ops/Information.

Kathryn, who comes from England, is a graduate from The University of Reading where she studied for a BSc (Hons) in Food Manufacture, Marketing and Management. Before she joined the Army she worked as a Kit Kat taster for Nestle and as a Food Technologist for Marks & Spencer.

Kathryn joined the Army in 1998. Commissioned into The Royal Logistic Corps, she has completed tours of Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iraq. Within her logistic trade she has served in transportation, combat operations and supply. She has recently completed the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land).

Kathryn's hobbies include downhill skiing, trekking, wine tasting, travelling and cooking.

Uplifting Air Force Day

