

The Blue Beret



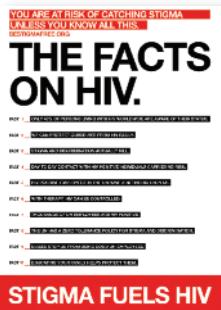
Summit in Geneva

The UNFICYP Magazine
June/July 2011

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Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

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Editorial

The UN-backed negotiations to reunify Cyprus will reach the three-year mark in September 2011 amid pledges to move more quickly towards a solution and with the United Nations poised to play an enhanced role, as needed, in the talks. By this date, the two sides will have met over 120 times, a clear sign of their commitment to reaching a solution to the long-standing Cyprus problem.

As in many peace processes, complex issues, political realities and a troubled history between the two communities make for difficult negotiations. The Cyprus reunification talks are no different. While the road has been fraught with uncertainty and hard choices, by mid-2011 convergences had been reached on a number of issues being discussed at the talks, notably in the areas of the economy, EU matters and governance and power-sharing.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has sought to use his personal "good offices" to accelerate progress in the talks, visiting the island and hosting several tripartite meetings with the two leaders outside of Cyprus. The most recent, held in Geneva on 7 July, led to renewed

commitments to reach a settlement as soon as possible (see page 5).

Following the meeting, Mr. Ban said that Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Dervish Eroglu had agreed to intensify their contacts in order to narrow all major differences by October 2011, a step that would pave the way for sealing an agreement in a final international conference. While the talks would remain a Cypriot-led process, Mr. Ban said the leaders had accepted an "enhanced" UN support – a phrase that seemed to signify a greater willingness of the parties for the world body to offer ideas for bridging the major differences.

As articulated by the Secretary-General and his envoys on the island, a comprehensive settlement would help unleash the considerable potential and capacity of the island and make it a stronger and more prosperous home for all its citizens. But while the Secretary-General and his team on the ground have repeatedly said "a solution is within reach" it remains uncertain what the Cyprus peace process will deliver in 2011.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Cyprus Leaders Mr. Demetris Christofias and Mr. Dervis Eroglu during the summit in Geneva, 7 July

Power outage follow lethal explosion

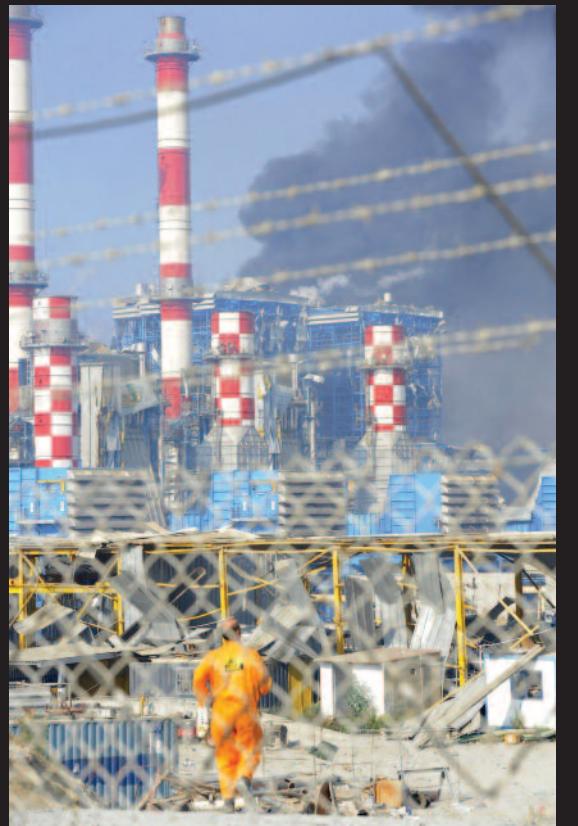
Everyone in UNFICYP was shocked and saddened by the lethal explosion at Vassiliko the Evangelos Florakis naval base next to the Mari electrical power station on 11 July.

SRSG Lisa M. Buttenheim spoke for all when she conveyed her sympathy and concern to President Christofias and, on behalf of the entire UN family in Cyprus, extended condolences to the families of the victims of the tragic incident. The Chief of Mission also told the President that UNFICYP stood ready to offer assistance.

Given the extensive damage to the power plant and the ensuing reduction in energy output and electricity supply, UNFICYP immediately introduced measures to reduce consumption of electricity and water.

When the Leaders subsequently met on 19 July, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Alexander Downer again conveyed the UN's condolences to the people of Cyprus for the loss of lives and the tragic circumstances surrounding the explosion.

He told members of the media after the meeting that the UN had welcomed the arrangements providing electricity from the north to the south. "We hope that people in Cyprus overall understand the positive message that that particular initiative sends", he said.



Engineering Section actions at time of crisis

With soaring temperatures in Cyprus surpassing 40 degrees Celsius, the Engineer Section has been working feverishly to meet the Mission's needs and contribute to the minimization of any negative matters that might arise at this time of crisis.

46 out of 87 generators of 5 to 500 KW have been producing electricity, saving the national grid 1.9 MW of power during peak times. The generators are primarily in support of the essential services of UNFICYP.

In addition, the Section has relocated 20 generators across the Mission, as the standby generators are now being used as the primary sources of power. The relocated generators are now serving as strategic reserves, in order to ensure that the essential facilities are maintained.

Measures to be undertaken by UNFICYP personnel during electricity power crises

Actions to be undertaken by all UNFICYP personnel in response to the current power crisis include the following taking into account whether it is during working days or weekend and silent hours:

Working days

Generators shall be operational from 8am to 8pm in all inhabited facilities and during normal working hours elsewhere. For now, these steps should be taken where adequate generator capacity exists:

Air Conditioning:

- Air conditioners in living accommodation buildings shall be turned off during normal working hours -- living accommodation of duty shift workers to be the only exception.
- Temperature should not be set lower than 24 degrees Celsius on any a/c unit since lower settings could lead to equipment failure. Operating a/c continuously on a 24-hour basis will also cause problems.
- When a/c is in use, all windows and external doors shall be

kept closed and internal doors should also be closed.

- For "window unit" (box type) a/c units, ensure temperature knob is at mid-point and not "maximum" setting. For "split unit" a/c units, use only "auto" mode – on older units, avoid "turbo" running mode.
- All office and work location a/c units to be turned off after normal working hours. Only exceptions - occupied offices; duty areas staffed on a 24-hour basis; and a/c equipment installed within Communications and Information Technology Services' rooms and shelters.

Electrical equipment:

- Washing machines, dryers and electric irons, should only be used after 10pm.
- When not in use, turn off IT and communications equipment (includes computers printers, scanners, photocopiers, shredders, etc). Other electrical equipment - microwave ovens, kettles, toasters, electric fans, coffee makers, plus TVs etc.

Facilities and Equipment that should not be turned off:

- medical units, operations centre, guardhouses at main gates, refrigerators/freezers, water pumps, reverse osmosis or ultra violet water sterilization equipment, security lighting, UPS units (should be left on to allow batteries to charge), fax machines (where "3-in-1" photocopiers/printers/fax machines are utilized as facsimile machines, they should be left on), network printers and digital senders should not be switched on and off on a daily basis since doing so reduces the heater element life expectancy, time stamps should be left on at all times

For further information check the Electric Authority of Cyprus' (EAC's) web site directly at www.eac.com.cy - the site also lists further energy conservation measures.

Geneva summit ushers in intensive negotiation phase

On 7 July, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met the Leaders in Geneva. He said Mr. Christofias and Mr. Eroglu had agreed to "an intensive period of negotiations on the core issues" once they returned to the island and that his expectation was that they would have reached "convergence" on the core issues by October. Following up on the Geneva summit, the Leaders convened in Nicosia on 19 July to discuss arrangements for the intensive phase. SG Special Adviser Alexander Downer announced afterwards that they had agreed to a total of 19 day-long, intensive negotiation sessions, starting 25 July and ending 21 October. These would cover "all of the chapters, all of the core issues". Meetings would take place on a twice-weekly basis, with a two-week break between 7-21 August and a



week-long break for the UN General Assembly's General Debate in September. The United Nations looks forward to "a very constructive period of negotiations", he added. On 25 July, the first of four meetings dealing with governance and power-sharing took place. SRSG Lisa M. Buttenheim told media afterwards that the Leaders had agreed that ensuring confidentiality was a prerequisite for progress during this intensified phase. On 27 July, after the subsequent meeting, reiterating the importance of confidentiality, the SRSG regretted that there had been "very unhelpful leaks". Not only do such leaks "go against the spirit" of the new phase, but, she said, "they are often taken out of context and sometimes simply inaccurate."

The SG's meeting with the Leaders



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with the two Leaders on 7 July in Geneva. He had met with them previously in New York in November, 2010, and in Geneva in January, this year.

Afterwards, the SG told the media that when he had spoken with Mr. Christofias and with Mr. Eroglu in April, "we decided it was best to take a little more time to advance the negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement before we met again."

Both sides had worked steadily to take the negotiations forward since the previous meeting in Geneva, but the SG felt "progress has been far too slow", with some important areas left "untouched".

The latest Geneva meeting had been "useful and productive", identifying some of the difficulties "standing in the way of reaching a comprehensive agreement". They had discussed "the need to significantly intensify the negotiations", the SG said.

The atmosphere had been "quite positive" and he had been impressed "with the commitment of both sides to agree on the details to create a united Cyprus." The leaders had made it clear that they are aiming to reach a comprehensive solution as soon as possible.

The SG said that while he agreed that the negotiations "must be Cypriot-led and Cypriot-owned", the leaders had accepted his offer of "an enhanced United Nations involvement, without prejudice to this central principle".

The leaders had agreed "to enter into an intensive period of negotiations on the core issues when they return to the island" and would focus "on finding a way through the difficult core issues", he added. He had every expectation that by October the leaders would be able to report "that they have reached convergence on all core issues", he said, "and we will meet that month in New York."

This would take the Cyprus negotiations "close to their conclusion", allowing the SG "to give a positive report" to the Security Council. It would also pave the way for him "to work with the parties towards convening a final, international conference."

He was also pleased to report that the leaders had agreed "that they must begin to build support for a comprehensive agreement", noting that the public on both sides had "become weary" and that there was need to renew hope and enthusiasm for a solution.

Both leaders had acknowledged "the need to begin to prepare their respective communities for the compromises required for a settlement and the prospect of living together in a united Cyprus", he said.

Completion of EU, UNDP-PFF urban upgrading project

More than 300 people took part in the project completion ceremony organized by the European Union and UNDP Partnership for the Future (UNDP-PFF) in the village of Louroukina (Lurucina) / Akincilar on 8 July.

The completed project was part of a series of pilot urban upgrading projects funded by the European Union under the "EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community" and implemented by UNDP-PFF to support the Turkish Cypriot community in preserving and rehabilitating their rich architectural and urban cultural heritage.

"Compared to other villages in the northern part of Cyprus, this village had a uniquely preserved urban and architectural heritage. Thus, the most significant challenge for us was how to preserve this distinctive character, while at the same time allowing for modernization and urban upgrading in the village," – said Ms. Tiziana Zennaro, UNDP-PFF.

Characterized by a traditional and unique urban pattern, this village, as many other rural villages in the northern part of Cyprus, was fighting against a massive migration of young people towards bigger towns, as well as for the preservation of its local identity.

The project aimed to prevent inappropriate urban interventions in the village and preserve its rich architectural value. All restoration and rehabilitation activities were planned and implemented through integrated modern and traditional conservative restoration principles.

UNDP-PFF and the EC commended the participatory approach adopted by the community living in the village which succeeded in drawing the attention of more and more residents to the concept of shared heritage and responsibility, giving input to new investments in the region and to the start up of new economic activities.

The ceremony took place only two weeks after the

Recently renovated old house in Louroukina (Lurucina)



celebration of the completion of another successful urban upgrading project in the nearby village of Tremetousia (Tremese)/ Erdemli.

Both events took place in the newly restored squares and public spaces and created an opportunity for these spaces to return to their original social functions thanks to playgrounds, shaded benches, and coffee shops.

The hospitality and enthusiasm of the residents contributed to re-create an authentic atmosphere in the village. Traditional home-made Cypriot food was prepared by the residents, and a photo exhibition was inaugurated, portraying the daily life of the village as it was in the past.

A strong sense of community was felt in both villages, leaving everyone who attended the ceremony with an important message of hope, for the future revitalization and rehabilitation of villages in Cyprus.

**By Martina Zaccaro
UNDP-PFF**

Cyprus UNDP Team wins Greening the Blue Photo Competition



Winning Photo: Cyprus Green Team

A team from Cyprus have been announced as the winners of 2011 Greening the Blue Photo Competition which has been run in collaboration with the UN Photographic Society to celebrate World Environment Day 2011.

The winning entry was submitted by Nicolas Jarraud in collaboration with colleagues from the UN Development Programme and the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"The winning photo's use of creativity and humour stood out," said Niclas Svensson, head of the Sustainable United Nations team and one of the competition's judges. "This picture reflects in an eye-catching way elements such as recycling, team work and staff engagement."

"In total, 377 photos from over 40 countries were submitted to the contest. More entries can be seen by visiting Greening the Blue's Facebook page."

Pilgrimage to Dherynia's Ayia Marina Church

July 17 is dedicated each year to the feast of Saint Marina who is reputed to have been martyred on this date in the year 289 AD for her Christian beliefs. Many children in Cyprus are named after this Saint in the form of Marina, Maria, Marious and she is a particular favourite of expectant mothers as she is affectionately known as "The Protector of Children".

While many churches on the island are dedicated to Ayia Marina, few are located inside the buffer zone. Such is the case with the small 12th century Byzantine style domed building nestled amongst almond trees, fig trees and vineyards and located on an isolated plain about three kilometres east of Dherynia in Sector 4. It is renowned as the oldest church in the Famagusta area and the local people of Dherynia were very grateful to the United Nations who undertook a restoration project of the building in the mid-1990s. Such was their appreciation that they placed a small plaque on an inner wall acknowledging the work and expressing their gratitude.

Each year on Ayia Marina's Feast Day, a pilgrimage and church service is held at this location to enable the local population to pay their respects to their beloved saint. Due to its unique location, it is inaccessible to non-authorised persons. To facilitate the event United Nations military personnel escort and convey the patrons to and from the event while UNFICYP police officers ensure that the event is coordinated and controlled from a health and safety perspective.

This year, on 17 July, just as the sun was rising over a glorious scarlet background and the moon was slowly fading in the sky, the annual pilgrimage got under way with the first patron arriving on location at 6 am sharp. From that time until midday, a steady stream of pilgrims comprising elderly persons, families and young children arrived at the cordoned waiting area. There they were conveyed in buses by UN military personnel from Sector 4 to the church grounds.

There are many dimensions to this pilgrimage. There is, of course, the church service and the prayers as well as lighting of candles and thoughtful meditation. There is also, located underneath the church, an



open cave with holy water springs where, it is said, parents would wash their sick children believing in the healing powers of the water itself. To the right hand side as one faces the main door, there is also a beautiful lush green tree or "palloura" known as "Ayia Marina's thorn bush". Here parents would hang items of their children's clothes beseeching Ayia Marina to cure their sick child while they in turn would devote prayers and good works to her memory.

One hundred and fifty metres to the left side of the church as one faces south there is a large embedded limestone rock guarded by a handrail. This rock shows what appears to be two footprints. Legend has it that Ayia Marina passed that way on one of her travels and left the indentations. Pilgrims like to place their bare feet in these prints and pray to Saint Marina for special favours. This is the reason given for the unusual location of the church nearby.

This year about 1,100 pilgrims made the pilgrimage to the church, offering up their prayers and thanksgiving in a respectful and dignified fashion. We as the UN personnel interacted with the patrons, and were grateful and proud to play our part at such a dignified event.

By UNPOL Officer Bernadette Gillespie

A family's visit to honour a dead son

During the Easter weekend, UNFICYP was visited by a family who in 1974 paid the ultimate sacrifice for anyone involved in Peacekeeping. Sgt Ian Donald Ward, having deployed to UNFICYP only days before, was tragically killed after the UN vehicle he was driving hit a landmine on 12 November 1974. He was a member of the 11th Australian Police Contingent to UNFICYP.

In April of this year, six members of Sgt. Ward's family, led by his father, Ken, made an emotional pilgrimage to the place where Ian served and died 37 years ago.

During their visit, the family was hosted by members of the current Australian UNPOL deployment to UNFICYP. The special programme drawn up for the Ward family included a meeting with Chief of Mission Lisa Buttinhheim and Senior Police Advisor John Farrelly. Both officials paid tribute to Sgt. Ward and sympathized with the family on their loss.

On Easter Sunday, the family was escorted to the

dedicated memorial for Ian that stands at Lefka. It was a poignant occasion, made all the more so because Australian UNPOL had made a tradition in years past of sending the family photos of Ian's memorial. The Ward family expressed their appreciation for the maintenance of the memorial, saying it was a touching tribute by those who had looked after its upkeep to the memory of Ian.

The Wards' visit to the island coincided with ANZAC Day and so the family were honoured guests at the solemn ANZAC dawn service in Waynes Keep on 25 April. Family members laid a wreath during the service to honour Ian. This was done on behalf of the New South Wales Police Service, the service that seconded Ian in order that he could serve in Cyprus.

After the ANZAC service, the Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Mr Evan Williams presented Ken Ward (OAM), with Ian's Police Overseas Medal. It was a heartfelt moment for all who witnessed Ken Ward accepting his son's posthumous medal award.

Summer Medal Parade - Sunset Ceremony

The UNFICYP Summer Medal Parade was held at the old international airport in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) close to UNFICYP's headquarters in Nicosia on 22 June. Some 244 soldiers from all three sectors were presented with United Nations Peacekeeping medals in the name of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at a sunset ceremony presided over by UNFICYP Chief of Mission SRSG Lisa M. Buttenheim and UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Chao Liu. Noting that the purpose of the medal awards was to recognize the recipients' contribution as peacekeepers and peacemakers during their service with UNFICYP, SRSG Buttenheim commended the assembled men and women for what they had done to help the United Nations' overall efforts to bridge the divides between the two communities and the mission's support and facilitation of the talks between the two sides.

There should be no misconception about the many challenges the peacekeepers face in their daily work, she said, adding that their activities are aimed "at bringing us closer to the day when all Cypriots share their island under peaceful and stable conditions."

Their work "improves the environment in which negotiations can take place: broadly by contributing to peace and stability; and specifically by ensuring that all practical arrangements – from security to logistics to facilitating media coverage – are carried out with the highest degree of dedication and professionalism."

Medals day is always an important event and this one did not disappoint either, attracting a large crowd of both civilian and military dignitaries. Guests included ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps, civilian and military personnel from UNFICYP and the UN agencies, and families and friends of the medal recipients.

Following the final march off with traditional eyes right, the festivities began with staff from each sector producing a selection of their favourite and most

popular national dishes, something special for the appreciative guests to savour and enjoy. This provided an ample opportunity to mingle amongst troops from the different sectors and a chance to discuss the tour so far.

The UNFICYP medal, introduced in 1964, is awarded to mark a minimum period of 90 days duty in Cyprus. To date, 176,518 medals have been awarded since the start of the mission. In total 590 medals were issued to peacekeepers (including police?) at all medal parades this summer whereas the 244 only to those issued at the integrated medal parade.

Me and my medal:

MCpl. Monika Zborovjanova

Being awarded the UN medal is a great honour and recognition of my three-month peace-keeping service in Cyprus. The fact that it is the first medal during my eight-year military service makes my satisfaction even stronger. I feel the UN medal is not only a reward for my hard work but also an encouragement and challenge to fulfill the role of the UNFICYP mandate in the island the best I can. I will remember forever this wonderful event, the way the British soldiers marched, and the splendid uniforms of the British military band.

Sgt. Rastislav Konecny

This was a great day. It is difficult for me to express all the pride and happiness I felt when I had this medal with blue stripes pinned on my chest. In my mind I saw everything I had experienced during these 90 days together with my colleagues here, in Cyprus, since the day we had donned the blue berets. I felt our work had been acknowledged and appreciated.



UNPOL Medal Parade - Recipient's view

The afternoon was, to put it in Oz terms, "stinking" hot. The wind had taken an un-timely break. The day had already peaked at 43 degrees but in the lazy hours of the afternoon one had an impression that the temperature was still going up. The waning sun was doing nothing to abate the heat rising from the tar beneath my feet. Indeed, I felt as if I was sinking into the tar. Being a short bloke, I started worrying that very soon the crowd would not see my head above the ground. My tunic felt as if it had just come out of the oven. I was melting.

I thought of how my visiting family had so looked forward to experiencing the sun and heat in Cyprus. Now, seated among the audience, baking in the mid-afternoon sun and gulping down cold water, I was sure they were having second thoughts.

It was 6.30pm on Friday, 15 July, and here I was, lined up on parade in the grounds of the UNPOL Club at the UNPA in Nicosia -- me and 18 other UN Police Officers from around the world. The group included police from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Ireland and El Salvador, as well as four of my Australian compatriots. There we stood in the beating heat waiting to receive our UN medals for service to peacekeeping. After almost eight and a half months in UNFICYP, I was about to reach one of the most significant milestones of the mission that I have served with great pride while representing my country.

Glancing towards the crowd, I could see that every corner of the earth was represented by the guests and family members, by the police, military and civilian personnel from the mission and UN agency staff from Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, Spain, Peru, Switzerland, Poland, the United States, Jordan, Montenegro, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine and China.

The Deputy Senior Police Advisor, Higher Inspector Miroslav Milojevic from Bosnia called the parade to attention, and we turned to face the flags of all combined United Nations. The salute was called and the

Republic of Cyprus Police Band played the national anthems of the contingents on parade. While listening, we all thought of the tragic explosion at Zygí Naval Base only four days earlier and all the Cypriot people who lost their lives there.

The wind made a timely re-appearance, bringing some welcome and cooling relief. The flags fluttered gently in front of me. Again, we were called to attention on completion of the salute and anthems, and then we were awarded our UNFICYP medals. Speeches by the Senior Police Advisor Chief Superintendent John Farrelly, Australia's High Commissioner HE Mr. Evan Williams and Chief of UNFICYP Mission Ms. Lisa M. Buttenheim followed.

SPA Farrelly noted how each recipient "deserves this medal" for their efforts in the name of peace. "When you all arrived, you were asked to give your best. In line with the United Nations Mandate, you have done exactly that. By your efforts, you have maintained the status quo which has ensured peace and tranquility during your time here."

All three speeches paid tribute to the milestone reached by the UNPOL Australian Contingent this year with the arrival of the 100th rotation in June. Listening to their words, I was proud to stand there knowing that as an Australian I was part of that 45-year-long tradition of Australian Police deployment here in Cyprus.

Once the parade formalities were concluded with the call to attention and dismissal, I joined my parents and friends, their cameras full of great pictures, and we all headed to the UNPOL club for refreshments and a well deserved beer. The parade may have been over but like so many other unique experiences in UNFICYP it will remain forever in my memory.

**By S/SGT (F/A AFP) Josh Lloyd
UN FMPU & Ops Police Liaison Officer**



An Australian Anniversary to be proud of



Australian police officers have served continually as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964. They are the longest serving police force in the UN. In total, over 1,500 police officers from combined Australian Police Forces have stepped ashore on this island in the name of peace. Three of them have lost their lives on the island while serving under the flag of the United Nations. Currently, there are 15 Australian Federal Police officers serving with UNFICYP.



Raymond Wells Whitrod, the first Commissioner of the Commonwealth Police Force (now the Australian Federal Police) inspecting the 1st Contingent of Australian Police before their tour in Cyprus, Canberra Pde, 1964

March 1964 - Cyprus Government appeals to United Nations for assistance. A multinational UN Peacekeeping Force is established on the island. In previous UN operations, UN policing duties were undertaken by UN military policemen. For the Cyprus operation, however, it is considered easier for Cypriots to accept unarmed UN civilian policemen to help investigate the inevitable inter-communal civilian disputes and complaints. A strong 174-strong UNCIVPOL is therefore established, for which Australia provided 40 men, Austria - 34, Denmark - 40, New Zealand - 20 and Sweden - 40.

May 1964 - First Australian Police peacekeepers arrives in Nicosia. The contingent is led by the Commonwealth Police (Compol), the forerunner of the Australian Federal Police. Members from other state police are sworn in as special members of Compol before coming to Cyprus.

July 1969 - Sergeant Llewelyn John Thomas (11 April 1943 – 26 July 1969) is killed in traffic accident about 20 kilometres from Limassol on his way back from a water polo match. Sergeant Thomas had served in the South Australia Police but was sworn in as a Commonwealth Police officer for the duration of his service in Cyprus with the 6th Contingent.

August 1971 - Inspector Patrick Mark Hackett ((27 May 1940 – 29 August 1971) is killed in a car accident near Stroumbi when his vehicle left the road on a sharp

corner. Before coming to Cyprus he had served in the New South Wales Police but was sworn in as a Commonwealth Police officer when he went to serve in Cyprus with the 8th Contingent.

November 1974 - Sergeant Ian Donald Ward (12 April 1949 – 12 November 1974) is killed when his landrover was blown up by a landmine in an unmarked minefield near Lefka. Sergeant Ward had been a member of the New South Wales Police but was sworn in as a Commonwealth Police officer when he went to Cyprus with the 11th Contingent. At the time of his death he had only spent five days in Cyprus.

1976 - The Australian Contingent's size reduces to 20. Compol assumes sole responsibility of supplying members for deployment.

July 1977 - Since 1974, UNCIVPOL gradually changed, first to being UNFICYP's civil law enforcement agency within the UN buffer zone, and secondly to providing wide-ranging humanitarian services to Greek and Turkish Cypriots involving both sides of the buffer-zone. With UNCIVPOL's commitment thus reduced, the Danes and Austrians withdrew, leaving the policing to the 20 Australians (AUSTCIVPOL) and 16 Swedes (SWECIVPOL). New Zealand had withdrawn its men in June 1968.

1979 - AFP Officer Jack Thurgar is awarded the Star of Courage by the Australian Government after rescuing Greek Cypriot farmer Chrysos Seas seriously



Ian Hardy, 1st Australian Contingent, with Cypriot children along the Green Line, Nicosia, 1964-1965



Paul Roland and Clifford Cooke talking to an elderly Cypriot, 23rd Australian Contingent, 1985

injured in a minefield explosion. Thurgar risked his life by entering the minefield after seeing Chrysos' tractor explode.

1986 - Sergeants Mylett and Slater awarded UN awards and Commissioner's commendations for the rescue of an elderly woman during an armed confrontation.

May 1988 - Sergeant Kathy Burdett arrives to Cyprus as the first Australian woman to be deployed overseas. Later Sgt. Burdett is selected to represent the Cyprus AUSTCIVPOL when the UN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in international security.

October 1993 - The first Irish CIVPOL Contingent arrives in Cyprus to replace the Swedish Police

March 1999 - Australian and Irish contingents integrate into a single UNCIVPOL unit. UNCIVPOL commanders are taken alternately from Ireland and Australia, with each incoming commander serving a six-month term as a deputy before taking charge. The

commander now reports directly to the Chief of Mission (before to the Force Commander).

August 2005 - UNCIVPOL (United Nations Civil Police) changes name to UNPOL (United Nations Police). By now, it comprises of Australians, Irish, Dutch, Indians and Croats, and expects Argentinian, Italian and Bosnian policemen to arrive within next couple of months. In September, UNPOL's tasks are expanded as it takes over Sector Civil Affairs Teams (SCAT) duties.

July 2011 - UNPOL comprises of 69 policemen and policewomen from Australia, Bosnia, Croatia, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Italy, Montenegro, the Netherlands, and the Ukraine. UNPOL officers are based in UNFICYP Headquarters at the UNPA (United Nations Protected Area) and at eight police stations located in the buffer zone. Fifteen UNPOL officers work directly with the Civil Affairs Branch, mainly to assist in the return to normal conditions within the buffer zone.



First Australian policewoman in Cyprus Kathleen Burdett receiving her UN medal. Burdett was a member of both 28th and 29th Contingents stationed on the island in 1988



Inspectors Bill Hansen, Mick Wright and Peter Berrill with Irish officers in Lefka, 1st Australian Contingent, 1964-1965



The current Australian UNPOL members at UNPOL Medal Parade, July 2011

Antonaki Peppis - "UN Tony" - retires after 71 years of service



Born in 1924, "UN Tony" (whose real name is Antonaki Peppis) has remained a friend of the British Army throughout his 71 years of service. In 1940, pretending that he was three years older than in reality, Tony gained his first job as a storeman to a contractor who supplied for the original Cyprus Regiment before moving to work in the NAAFI Club in Limassol in 1945.

Afterwards his lengthy career has taken him to various locations, including a posting as a NAAFI Manager to the NAAFI Clubs in the British Garrison in the Egyptian "Canal Zone" region of Tel El Kebir between 1950 and 1955 (which, at that time, supported five British Regiments), and in Tobruk, Libya between 1967 and 1970. Tony's tour in Egypt was particularly memorable as this is where he met

his future wife Helen whom he married in 1956.

-In 1970, Tony came back to Cyprus where he opened the New NAAFI Sovereign Club in Episkopi. The club's official opening was attended by the Duchess of Gloucester. Afterwards it was also visited by Princess Ann, Princess Margaret, Duchess of Kent and PM Ted Heath. Tony also met the Queen and Prince Philip.

Between 1980 and 1988, Tony worked at the PRI duty free shop in the old Nicosia Airport, known also Elizabethan Club. Later he relocated to the UN Mini Supermarket in Ledra Palace Hotel, supplying in house needs items for UN soldiers. He spent the next 23 years working there, in the same room, providing high quality service to each new UN Regiment that has called the Palace home.

In recognition of his unique contribution to the British Army, Tony was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) by Commander British Forces Cyprus, Maj Gen J P W Friedberger CB CBE in October 1990.

On 6 May 2011, Tony finally stepped down and said goodbye to his very last British customers from 3 Royal Anglian Group. They in turn thanked him and wished him all the very best in his well-earned retirement. At age 88, he says he does not have many plans, just a little gardening.

By Major C J Wright

It was 20 years ago today ...well, almost!

Twenty years on from having served as a Corporal Shift Commander in the then UN Military Police Company based in the UNPA, SSgt Watkins is back again, this time for a six-month tour as the Platoon Commander of FMPU.

Alert as ever and with a keen eye, he has noticed many changes in the intervening two decades, most notably the island's vastly improved infrastructure, especially roads and housing, and, of course, the size and deployment of UNFICYP. "During my last tour, the British maintained a full Ferret Scout Car Squadron (armoured reconnaissance vehicles) on the site where the squash courts are located today. Back then, the Canadian Sector patrolled in APCs! Nowadays, the 4x4 is the general patrol vehicle of choice in the buffer zone."

SSgt Watkins recalls how 20 years ago, the extent of the minefields posed a serious hazard. Also, there was



the added risk that the packs of wild dogs roaming the buffer zone occasionally strayed into the minefields detonating the mines.

"The job of the MPs back then included patrols to dispose of these animals with shot-guns. Much has changed in the intervening period, mostly for the better, a good example being the setting up of the Nicosia Dog Shelter for these poor unwanted animals."

Among the additional FMPU tasks that SSgt Watkins welcomes these days are the frequent

VIP escorts required during the Leaders' visits to meetings within the UNPA. He sees this as a "huge improvement compared to the apparent stalemate" of 20 years ago.

"It can only bode well for the future of this lovely island, which I hope to visit again in another two decades, but then strictly as a tourist - with even greyer hair than I have today!"

MFR receive their well-deserved UN medals



ordinary! In keeping with the artillery nature of the current MFR Company, O.C. Major Huw Gilbert decided to conduct a vehicle-mounted Royal Artillery style parade. This deviates from the usual marching up and down which regular parade guests are accustomed to.

The MFR APC Platoon provided Tactics to carry the soldiers while platoon commanders were driven on parade by their trusty sergeants in their platoon vehicles. This saved an awful lot of leg-work and meant that the "spectacle" was somehow more impressive. Our main concern was that a vehicle would not start or maybe stall in front of the Force Commander or even get a puncture during the drive-past but no. "Practice makes Perfect" and the parade went off like clockwork. But still we all breathed a sigh of relief, and made our collective way to the International Bar, to show-off our new medals and partake of an equally well-deserved beer, or two.

By Capt. Ali Hartwell

UN Medal Parade at San Martin Camp



On 8 July, as they approached the end of the fifth month of service in UNFICYP, the Argentinian Contingent (ARGCON) held its medal parade at San Martin Camp nestled on the slopes of the

Troodos mountains.

In recognition of their "service to peace", the UN medal was awarded to 97 peacekeepers. After the ceremony, peacekeepers and more than 150 guests enjoyed

traditional Argentinian hospitality, including a mouth-watering buffet, a scintillating display of tango and a folk music performance put on by soldiers of all ranks. The Argentine Republic took its place among UNFICYP peacekeepers on 17 October 1993, when ARGCON succeeded the Danish Contingent in control of Sector 1. Since then, more than 11,500 Argentinean soldiers have served with UNFICYP.

Sector 1 is responsible for the western part of the buffer zone. In addition to officers, NCOs and privates of the Argentinean Armed Forces, sector personnel include officers and NCOs from Brazil, Chile and Paraguay.

By Capt Marcelo Alejandro Quiroz

UN Medals awarded at Ledra Palace Hotel



The hard work and effort invested by the Third Royal Anglian Group paid off through a marked increase in positive relations between the Group and both OPFORs, a measured reduction in the number

of violations that have been recorded and application of some much needed TLC to the UN OPs located around the Sector 2 buffer zone.

Having now reached the 90-day requirement to be awarded the UN medal, the focus of attention turned to preparations for the Sector 2 medal parade, combined with some light verbal encouragement from the RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) and CSM (Company Sergeant Major).

In true Mediterranean style, the weather provided the backdrop to the event with a large evening sun that cast itself over the parade square.

Medals' Day is an important event, even more so with over 100 UN peacekeepers standing tall and proud knowing what they had achieved in such a short period of time despite both personal and collective hardships.

As the Defence Advisor to the British High Commiss-

sion, Colonel Robert Polly, and the Commanding Officer of Sector Two, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Lyne, approached, the Regimental Sergeant Major brought the parade to attention after which individual medals were presented to members from both Operations and Support Company.

Colonel Lyne then commended the Regiment for the hard work that had been invested by all and the good reputation that had been established throughout the United Nations community.

As this is the last Territorial Army unit to undertake the UNFICYP mission posting, high expectations were set prior to deployment and all have been exceeded.

In his closing remarks the Colonel, paid particular attention to the future actions required by all and he said he had no doubts that the Third Anglian Group would be up to any tasks that might come.

After dismissing the parade there were congratulations all round and numerous group photographs with friends and colleagues. Friends and family were soon bombarded with pictures of UN soldiers proudly displaying their newly earned medals. Some were already thinking of the next challenges ahead.

By WO2 (CSM) Brett Thompson

Sgt Hruska remembered



Staff Sergeant Miroslav Hruška

On 8 June, soldiers of the Slovak contingent in Camp General Stefanik attended a commemorative service for Sergeant Miroslav Hruska, who was tragically killed seven years ago at the camp heliport in Famagusta when hit by the rear propeller of the helicopter he was disembarking from.

Slovcon Padre, 1st Lt Jan Cupalka, officiated at the ceremony. He recalled the tragic accident "that deeply affected us all". He spoke of the memorial plaque that had been placed at the accident site and how, to this day, he still remembered the soldiers' eyes filled with tears at the loss of their friend and colleague, Mirko.

"Time may have dried the tears, but the pain of losing a friend will always be here", he concluded.

Volleyball tournament in memory of Staff Sergeant Miroslav Hruska

On 9 July, a unique beach volleyball tournament was held by members of Sector 4 on the court in Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta. It was held in memory of deceased SLOVCON member, Staff Sergeant Miroslav Hruska, who, as noted above, died in an accident on 8 June 2004.

Following team registration at 9 am, the tournament commenced at 10 am with four three-person teams : "Logistics", "Alcatraz", "Incredibels" and "Winners". Many fans of this summer sport turned out to spectate and cheer on their colleagues.

The summer sun blazed down on the sand on the court so strongly that participants were hard pushed towards the tournament end. The physical pain caused by the burning sand, in many ways reminded the players of the pain caused by the loss of a man, even though they had not known him personally. The only female player, 1st Lt Zuzana Vivodikova, a member of the "Incredibels" Team, deserves a special mention for her contribution to the dramatic climax of tournament with her dedication. The unexpected winners of the tournament was the "Logistics" Team, headed by Captain Martin Antolik (MTO Sector4).

By 1st Lt Josef Zimmermann

Sector 4 Tennis Tournament



On 11 June, Sector 4 held their Tennis Tournament on the court in Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta. In the finals, top seed Sgt Mario Macko was defeated by the 2IC of 3rd Platoon, while 3rd place went to SSgt Robert Hložka.



Force Commander's first visit to FMPU

Force Commander Maj Gen Chao Liu (FC) and his team visited the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) on 16 June. This was the first Force Commander's visit to the FMPU Station. Force Provost Marshal, Maj Charvat, briefed the Force Commander about all aspects of the FMPU, covering its main tasks, responsibilities and Area of Responsibility (AOR), as well as a rundown of all personnel serving in the FMPU.

The FC was introduced to the Platoon Commander, SSgt Watkins, who then described how various section personnel were tasked and their duties. Next, WO2 Adamecz and Sgt Kapusta gave a practical demonstration of a patrol vehicle and its equipment. This included use of the hand-held vehicle speed meter.

Maj Chai, the Aide de Camp to the FC, proved so adept at using the speed meter that he insisted on monitoring passing traffic for a further 10 minutes. Single-handedly, you might say, he managed to bring traffic to a crawl as vehicles slowed down to pass the police station! With this part of the practical display finally out of the way, SSgt Brown and SSgt Hubbuck were able to proceed with an Special Investigation Section(SIS) and Crime Scene overview. They briefed the FC about their area of specialization and about the SIS databases and the outputs, statistics and charts produced by the FMPU to help the FC maintain overall discipline within the Force.

The FC wrapped up his visit with an informal Q&A in the FMPU courtyard, where he and members of the FMPU relaxed over refreshments and discussed topics of the day.

UNFICYP do well at the 2011 Cyprus Services Orienteering Championships

UNFICYP fielded a strong team of 18 runners in the 2011 Cyprus Services Orienteering Championships held in May. The team, which included military personnel from 3 Royal Anglian Regiment in Sector Two and civilian staff members, came home with an impressive overall haul of 12 trophies.

Day One was the individual event held on the steep slopes of Mount Olympus. The A course was won by UNFICYP's Miss Tekle Gvildyte with Sgt Rooney and Sgt Kelson managing 4th and 5th places. The first five runners home on the B Course were all from UNFICYP. This was won by UNPOL's Miss Diana Bridger with veteran Mr Gustavsson 2nd, newly arrived Major Andy Lukes from Ops Info in 3rd place, and Private Williams and Lance Corporal Stanbridge in 4th and 5th places. It should be mentioned that both the civilian ladies won their courses by respectable margins and beat all the military men on their respective courses which caused quite a few mutters!

In the relay event on Day Two held at Paramali, UNFICYP came runners up behind the HQ BFC Team. UNFICYP also collected numerous League prizes and



finished the season in 2nd place overall behind the 2 Royal Anglian team from Dhekelia.

The orienteering season now breaks for the summer although some training events are planned before the league restarts again in September. All standards are welcome.

Nine MFR soldiers raise 400 euro for charity

On 2 July at 4am members of 3 Platoon MFR took part in a marathon tab in order to raise money for the Charlotte Hartey Foundation.

Nine MFR soldiers run the distance from the UNPA, through the buffer zone, to Ledra Palace (LPH) and back four times, and completed the task in six hours and 50 minutes.

The tab started in perfect weather conditions, with nice cool air and no sun, however that all changed when the participants were half way through. The weather got warmer and people started to fatigue and cramp.

Still none of the lads gave in, and they all pushed themselves to the limit, even though they were completing this kind of distance for the first time in their life. They only stopped off at LPH for a few bacon butties, which lifted their spirit, and then started off again around 9.15am.

The soldiers returned to the UNPA around 10.25am. Not bad timing considering they were covering a distance of 5 miles at the peak of the heat. But this in

not the only outcome of the tab. The lads also raised 400 euro that was forwarded to the Charlotte Hartey Foundation in the UK together with all the photos taken during the marathon.

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation was set up by family members of Charlotte who tragically passed away on 31 July 2009 at the age of 16 as a result of complications arising from a misdiagnosis of swine flu by a local doctor, over the telephone. The registered foundation provides local financial resources in the form of gifts to youth clubs, schools and organisations and provides funding for structured and purposeful projects and ventures, giving youths the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Charlotte Hartey Foundation is supported wholly by generous public donations and fund raising activities.

By Fusilier Ben Richards

Sector 4 visit Buffavento Castle

On 10 July, a trip to Buffavento Castle was organised by 1st Lt Zuzana Vivodikova for the members of Sector 4. A total of nineteen members and their families climbed the 600 or more stairs to reach the castle which lies atop the Kyrenia range at a summit 950 meters from sea level.

The castle consists of two sections: the lower castle built in the 11th century by the Byzantines and the higher section which was extended by the Lusignans in the 14th century who referred to it as the "Lion Castle". During this period the



castle was not only used as a lookout but as a prison. The name 'Buffavento' means 'Defier of the Wind'.

According to the visitors from Sector 4, it was well worth overcoming all those stairs in the hot summer weather, due to the wonderful views across to the Troodos mountains and the beautiful scenery which can be seen from the top of Buffavento Castle.

By Sgt. Judit Halaszova

New faces

Commanding Officer S2



Lieutenant Colonel Richard Lyne joined the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1987 and completed a variety of appointments at Regimental Duty including Rifle & Renaissance Platoon Commander, Battalion Adjutant and Company Commander. As a staff officer he has completed tours as a Captain in the G5 Branch of HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) and as a Major as Coordination Officer to the Chief of the General Staff and as a G3/5 Future Operations planner again at HQ ARRC. He has completed operational duty in Northern Ireland (1989, 1992, 2001), The Gulf (1991), Bosnia (1994), Kosovo (1999) and Afghanistan (2003, 2006 and 2009). In addition he spent six months in the Republic of South Africa with the British Military Advisory Training Team responsible for the integration of ex non-statutory force members into the South African Army. Prior to assuming command of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in summer 2010, Richard was posted to the UK 1st Armoured Division as the

SO1 G3 where, amongst other things, he was responsible for the re-writing of the Mission Specific Training package for the UK's Helmand Task Force. A graduate of the UK Joint Advanced Command and Staff Course, Richard is married to Tara and has two young children along with the obligatory black Labrador. He enjoys military history, most sports, is a relatively talented mountain-biker and past-over hockey player.

1st Platoon Commander MFR



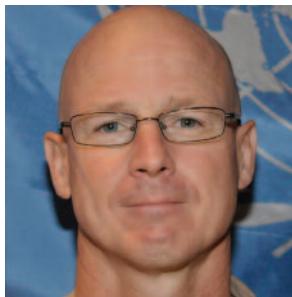
Captain Ali Hartwell, quite fittingly, assumed command of 1 Platoon of the MFR Company on April 1st. Prior to this he had been 2iC of a TA infantry company in Wales. He was commissioned in 1994; just in time to join the Support Battalion of HQ ARRC before deploying to Sarajevo in December 1995. Ali spent a very enjoyable 12 months in Bosnia, and was lucky enough to lead both Russian and Polish Mechanised Infantry soldiers in the defence of the ARRC's mobile TAC HQ. Bored by subsequent Regimental Duties in Rheindahlen, he opted to join the German Army and became a "Professional Development Trainer" in 7th Panzer Division, otherwise known as 'Seventh Panzer'. This division is sadly now disbanded; although Ali still claims no responsibility for their demise. Upon returning to the UK he worked in the black art of Management Consultancy; until even his conscience got the better of him. He now deploys with the TA for a living and spends the rest of his time with his beloved wife Charlotte and their two beautiful daughters, Imogen and Sophie.

HQ JOC Duty Officer



Captain Juan ACOSTA took over the post of HQ JOC Duty Officer 3 on 1 July 2011. Born on 9 February 1976 in Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1998 as Midshipman and posted to an Auxiliary Class Ship in Base Naval Puerto Belgrano. Since then, he has served in many different ships and units including Commander of a patrol ship class, Second in Command of an Auxiliary class and just before UNFICYP a chief Operation Officer of a Logistic Class. He has taken part in many multinational operations in the Atlantic sea, among them UNITAS, ACRUX, ATLASSUR, FRATERNO, CEIBO with American, European and African Nations. This is his first UN tour. Captain ACOSTA is a communications and electronic warfare specialist. He is married to Valeria Mino, and they have two daughters, Lara (3) and Abril (1). His interests include football and water sports.

SO3 Operations/Information-Analyst



Captain Graham White enrolled in the Canadian Forces in January 1987 as an Artillery Officer. After completing his initial training he was posted to the First Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Lahr, Germany. While there he served in A Battery as a Section Leader, Gun Position Officer and Troop Commander. On his return to Canada, Captain White was posted to Northern Ontario District Headquarters as the District Training Officer and later joined the 49th Field Regiment as the Operations Officer. In 1994 Captain White was deployed to UNPROFOR as a Forward Air Controller and the Tactical Air Control Party Operations Officer. From 1995 to 2011 Capt. White has been employed in staff positions at the Army Central Region, the Canadian Forces College and the Canadian Forces Recruiting Group. Captain White is married to Carrie and has two children, Natalie and Colin; his family has remained in Canada. He enjoys riding all sorts of motorcycles and is an avid snowmobile enthusiast ... a pastime that he will not be pursuing in Cyprus.

New faces

Civil Affairs Officer



Hiroko Mosko took up the post of Civil Affairs Officer at UNFICYP Civil Affairs Branch in June 2011. Hiroko is Japanese and holds a bachelors degree in Natural Resources from University of Michigan in the US and Master's degree in International Relations from J.F. Oberin University in Tokyo, Japan. Hiroko started her career as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the US Army (civilian post), and then moved on to take up a Junior Programme Officer position with UN Environment Programme in Geneva in 2001 for two years, and with the UN Children's Fund in New York in 2003 for one year. In 2004, she joined the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) where as Environment and Natural Resources Advisor to the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General she worked on the resolution of resource-based conflict. Three years later, she moved to Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Recovery (RRR) Office as UNMIL's Civil Affairs Officer. In 2008, Hiroko joined the African Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, Sudan (UNAMID) and spent three years in El Fasher as a Civil Affairs Officer. In Darfur, in addition to her role as the head of the Natural Resources and Environment Management Cell within the Section, she took the lead in organisation and coordination of the Civil Society Track of the Doha Peace Process, she managed to facilitate over 600 Darfurians to join the discussion in Doha. Hiroko enjoys reading and travelling, and is planning to visit as many places as possible in and near Cyprus.

New York to Nicosia charity event

Sector 2 soldiers are keen to help the communities in which they both live and work as UN soldiers. They plan to row 9000 kilometres from New York, the home of the UN, to Nicosia, the home of UNFICYP, to raise money for charity. The aim is to get there in one week!



For more details please contact event organiser: Major Mark J. Bevin, OC Ops Coy, 3 Royal Anglian Group, Sector 2, UNFICYP e-mail: unficyp-sector2-oc@un.orgtel: (+357) 2261 4240 mob: (+357) 9951 6647

Visits



UK General Officer Commanding 5 Division Major M J Rutledge OBE visited UNFICYP on 3 June 2011, where he met with Chief of Staff Colonel Gerard Hughes.



Netherlands Ambassador to Cyprus Mr. Jan Van Den Berg, visited UNFICYP on 17 June 2011, where he met with Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



Portuguese Ambassador to Cyprus Mr. Antonio Jorge Jacob de Carvalho visited UNFICYP on 7 June 2011, where he met with Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



Force Commander Major General Chao Liu welcomes UNIFIL Force Commander Major General AA Cuevas at UNFICYP HQ. The UNIFIL FC also met with Chief of Mission Lisa M. Buttenheim, 1 July 2011.



UK Command Secretary Mr. David Lincoln visited UNFICYP 20 June 2011, where he met with Chief of Staff Colonel Gerard Hughes.



Chief of Staff Colonel Gerard Hughes greets the UK Deputy Commander of Army Reserves Major General Grosvenor the Duke of Westminster at UNFICYP HQ on 26 June 2011.



Rear Admiral AG Lonzieme from Argentina visited UNFICYP HQ where he met with Force Commander Major General Chao Liu, 28 June 2011.

UNFICYP joins "Stigma Fuels HIV" campaign

At the beginning of June, UNFICYP joined two UN interagency programmes, UN Cares and UN Plus, and other UN missions around the world, in launching a UN-system-wide, anti-stigma campaign to make our workplace a safer environment for all personnel living with – or affected by HIV.

The campaign's main objective is both to strengthen the organisation's support network allowing persons living with HIV work in a stigma-free environment as well as to increase the knowledge of UN staff and their families on how to access information, prevention, treatment and care services related to HIV.

The "Stigma Fuels HIV" campaign is an effort to practice within our own organisation what we consistently ask of others," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "I encourage everyone to join so that we can free our workplaces – and our lives – of the prejudice that has been such an obstacle in the global response to AIDS. Making a difference starts with us – today."

His remarks were further developed by Laurie Newell, UN Cares Global Coordinator, who said: "I have been repeatedly surprised and moved by the stories I continue to hear about HIV-related stigma in our UN system workplace – and the effect this has on our colleagues. This includes colleagues who are still dying of HIV-related causes because they are afraid to come forward to seek treatment. It includes a woman who quit her job and left the United Nations when her status was disclosed. And it includes many colleagues

who have endured – silently or not – thoughtless, hurtful comments from those around them. We must do better than this. The organisation setting HIV-related standards for governments and employers around the world, as the organisation that champions human rights for all, we must take up the challenge. As the Secretary-General has said, we should be 'a model workplace when it comes to HIV'. It's time for zero tolerance."

In Cyprus, UNFICYP personnel supported the campaign by displaying informative posters and leaflets in all units and office areas. A message about the campaign, directing personnel to the website www.bestigmafree.org for more information and encouraging them to interact with the campaign through its Facebook and Twitter accounts, was also posted on the UNFICYP intranet.

For more information, please see the back cover of this issue of Blue Beret, and research the related websites: www.unaids.org and www.uncares.org

Nine graduates from HIV/Aids Peer Education Training

Nine participants successfully completed the fifth HIV/AIDS Peer Education Training Workshop held in UNFICYP between 27 June to 1 July.

As dedicated peer educators they are now fully equipped to develop and deliver HIV/AIDS information sessions to their peers; including how HIV is spread and the protective measures that can be taken to prevent transmission of the virus. What is more, their role as peer educators does not have to stop when their tour of duty with the UN ends. They can take their knowledge back to their regiments and continue to spread the message of prevention at home.

MCpl Zuzana Lacikova (Sector 4, Famagusta) found the workshop demanding but at the same time very enlightening. Reflecting the general impressions of the rest of the group, she said: "The week spent on the course gave me a lot, not only regarding the issue of AIDS and STIs (sexually transmitted infections) but I met many interesting people. We exchanged information and experience and we had lots of fun. I hope that the knowledge learned on the course will be of use on my return to Slovakia. It was a very pleasant week. I enjoyed it."

The five-day workshop was conducted by two trainers from UNIFIL: Stephen Talugende, Chief HIV/AIDS Unit, and Annet Kyazike, HIV Prevention and Training Officer.

Both trainers were impressed by the rapport between the participants and the effective contribution each made to the programme resulting in a successful week and a strong team of educators.

Under the DPKO/DFS Policy Directive, UNFICYP is

EPIDEMIC ALERT: STIGMA (ST2011)

WHAT IS IT?
STIGMA is a highly contagious negative perception. It is best seen as a disease that spreads from one person to another, and from one culture to another. It is not a disease that can be cured, but it can be treated.

WHO GETS HIT?
HIV-positive people are usually the easiest targets for stigma carriers. So they are often afraid to disclose their status and may feel like they are being treated differently or even discriminated against.

TREATMENT FOR STIGMA
June 2011: UNAIDS is launching a campaign against stigma carriers. So they are often afraid to disclose their status and may feel like they are being treated differently or even discriminated against.

STIGMA FUELS HIV



PET's graduates with their certificates.

required to conduct an HIV awareness and prevention programme which currently includes mandatory briefings for all civilian and uniformed personnel and, in addition, Peer Education Training (PET) which extends the network of HIV information across the mission.

The next Peer Education course is scheduled for November 2011 and interested staff members who are expected to be in the mission for at least six months after the training can contact HIV Deputy Focal Point Christine Iacovou to register.

**By Christine Iacovou
Deputy Focal Point HIV/AIDS Unit**

**YOU ARE AT RISK OF CATCHING STIGMA
UNLESS YOU KNOW ALL THIS.**

BESTIGMAFREE.ORG

THE FACTS ON HIV.

FACT 1 **ONLY 40% OF PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV WORLDWIDE ARE AWARE OF THEIR STATUS.**

FACT 2 **WE CAN PROTECT OURSELVES FROM HIV EASILY.**

FACT 3 **STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION ACTUALLY KILL.**

FACT 4 **DAY TO DAY CONTACT WITH HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS CARRIES NO RISK.**

FACT 5 **HIV POSITIVE EMPLOYEES IN THE UN HAVE A NETWORK: UN PLUS.**

FACT 6 **WITH THERAPY, HIV CAN BE CONTROLLED.**

FACT 7 **THOUSANDS OF UN EMPLOYEES ARE HIV POSITIVE.**

FACT 8 **THE UN HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION.**

FACT 9 **BIASES STOP US FROM BEING GOOD UN EMPLOYEES.**

FACT 10 **EDUCATING YOUR FAMILY HELPS PROTECT THEM.**

STIGMA FUELS HIV

