

# BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine

May-June 2013

**Blue Helmets**  
from **Croatia**  
and **Serbia**

**Plus**

Peacekeepers Day  
Serbian police  
Summer Medal Parade  
FC inspections



**Special!**

*A look at the man  
who drew the  
green line*

**MFR mil skills  
champs once  
again!**

# BLUE BERET

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## Editor's Letter



This edition marks the first anniversary of the revamped Blue Beret and its renewed emphasis on the military and policing components of the mission. Over the past six editions, the Blue Beret has taken a special look at all the troop and police contributing countries represented in the mission. We have showcased their contribution to the mission, both past and present, their culture, where they work and who they are. The Blue Helmets and UNPOL sections have proven very popular and our office has become the site where enthusiastic soldiers gather for their photo shoots. A united nations indeed!

This year's International Day of UN Peacekeepers came with a timely reminder of how the UN is attempting to meet new global challenges. It's worth reiterating that UN peacekeeping does deliver the security, political and early peacebuilding support needed to help countries create the conditions for lasting peace. With a 65-year track record, UN peacekeeping continues to adapt to new threats and challenges to help people and countries overcome some of the world's most destructive conflicts. On July 1st, UN peacekeeping will grow by one more mission in Mali, West Africa bringing the total to 16 operations involving some 112,000 uniformed personnel and civilian staff.

Here in Cyprus, since a de facto ceasefire in August 1974, UNFICYP has supervised the ceasefire line and maintained peace and security in the buffer zone between the opposing forces. It was the now famous Green Line drawn with a green chinograph pencil that marked a de facto division of the capital Nicosia. In a special feature, a military historian from Sector 2, Captain Peter Singlehurst, recalls the remarkable story of the late Group Captain Mark Hobden: the man who drew the green line.

As one of the more recent additions to both our military and police components, we are proud to feature Serbia's contribution in this edition. Serbia is a country located at the crossroads of central and southeast Europe, covering the southern part of the Pannonian Plain and the central Balkans. The capital of Serbia, Belgrade, is among Europe's oldest cities, and one of the largest in south-east Europe. Serbia became a stand-alone sovereign republic in the summer of 2006 after Montenegro voted in a referendum for independence from the Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Serbia is featured both in our Blue Helmets and UNPOL segments this edition. Serbia shares some common traits with Cyprus, among them the Christian Orthodox faith practiced by many Cypriots.

We also revisit the stunning coastal country of Croatia in this edition, featuring two officers who form the Croatian military contingent. In an earlier edition of the Blue Beret, we had looked at Croatia's police contribution. The two officers hail from the Navy making them the first Croatian Navy personnel deployed to a peacekeeping operation.

May and June are traditionally quite active months in the mission. The lovely spring weather provides the perfect backdrop to the summer medal parade, the Force Commander's inspection of all the sectors and the gruelling military skills competition. After a somewhat tense ending where results were hotly contested, the men and women of the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) proudly took back their championship cup from the British forces. In a special spotlight segment, we take a look at three soldiers from the MFR; a Brit, an Argentine and a Slovak. The soldiers talk about their experience working in the only multinational, multi-skilled contingent within the mission.



Finally we bid farewell to the person who in tandem with the PIO team, brought you the "new and improved" Blue Beret. After a fruitful year in the Public Information office, Ms. Rama Razy is heading off to another island in the Pacific closer to her home in Australia. On behalf of the mission, I invite you to kindly join me in giving Rama a definite "thumbs up" for a job well done and we wish her all the successes she deserves in her new surroundings.

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

# "For UN Peacekeepers, new means for changing times"

## By Hervé Ladsous

The history of United Nations peacekeeping is one of innovation and adaptation. Until some twenty years ago, UN peacekeeping seemed a more straightforward affair. Blue Helmets were deployed to monitor ceasefires – usually between warring countries. Their role was clear: they observed, reported breaches and facilitated solutions.

Modern peacekeepers operate in much more complex terrain. They help bring peace to lands brutally affected by conflicts, often internal, and where agreements are fragile. Non-state actors, such as organized criminal groups, present additional challenges to peace.

To meet these challenges, UN peacekeeping has developed a multi-dimensional approach that brings together military, police and civilians working in various areas, including rule of law, human rights, protection of civilians. But, as we prepare to meet new demands – from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Mali, and possibly Somalia and Syria – peacekeeping will come face to face with two fundamental truths: First, UN peacekeeping cannot substitute for a political agreement. Peacekeeping interventions must be underpinned in a clear political frame. Second, UN peacekeeping needs more and better tools and skills. We must ensure our missions are given the resources they need to ensure full awareness of evolving situations and to respond appropriately.

The changing nature of armed conflicts demands changes

in the capabilities of UN peacekeeping. Increasingly, UN peacekeepers operate in high-risk environments, where the quest for peace and stability is elusive. But, as UN peacekeeping addresses the nature of 21st century conflict, adapting to these new contexts constitutes an evolution, not a revolution.

In 2012, 111 peacekeepers lost their lives in the United Nations service. Many died in the line of duty. In April this year five peacekeepers were killed in South Sudan, when the civilian convoy they were escorting was attacked. In June last year, seven peacekeepers were killed in Côte d'Ivoire, when their patrol was attacked. We have also lost peacekeepers to attacks in Darfur, Abyei and the DR Congo in the past year.

As we pause on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29 May), to pay tribute to our fallen colleagues, we also pay tribute to the unique peacekeeping partnership – those who contribute the financial, human resource and material support. Thanks to this unique partnership, United Nations peacekeeping continues to evolve and remains a relevant tool to address modern conflict.

Despite the threats, old and new, UN peacekeepers continue to do what they do best: go where others cannot or will not go to help people and communities in conflict. We uphold, as ever, our solemn pledge to rise to this challenge.

*The author is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations*

# International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers



Derelict buildings along the green line on Ermou St now part of the buffer zone in old Nicosia.



Group Captain  
Mark Hobden  
OBE

# The man who drew the Green Line

By Capt Peter Singlehurst

The British Royal Air Force officer who drew the original Green Line in Nicosia, Group Captain Mark Hobden OBE has died. The Green Line is synonymous with the UN in Cyprus, but the officer who originally marked the line is not so well known.

On 23 December 1963, inter communal violence broke out between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in Nicosia. This followed an incident in the city two days previously, that led to three deaths, two Turkish Cypriot civilians and a Greek Cypriot policeman.

On Christmas day at RAF Akrotiri, Hobden who was in command of No 3 Wing, RAF Regiment, was serving Christmas dinner to his men when during the meal an order suddenly arrived stating that Hobden was to relocate immediately to his unit to Nicosia as a result of the escalating violence there.

This order had arrived following an agreement between the UK, Greece and Turkey to establish a Joint Truce Force to implement a ceasefire. The newly established JTF was to consist of some 7,800 troops from Britain (6,000), Greece (1,000), and Turkey (800) commanded by Major General Peter Young tasked with maintaining law and order.

The orders Hobden received directed him to separate the warring factions after first establishing his headquarters in Ledra Palace Hotel. Soon after their arrival, the 3 Wing began intensive patrols in Nicosia. It soon became clear that these patrols were not without danger as the two Cypriot communities were still exchanging occasional fire and paid little attention initially to the British military vehicles or their Union flags.

As the situation stabilised, Maj Gen Young called a meeting of his senior staff to review the situation and it was during this meeting that Hobden, who by now had personal experience of the centre of Nicosia, suggested where the division of the two communities in the city should be. Hobden took a green chinagraph pencil and on a large scale Joint Army-RAF map marked the division. Maj Gen Young agreed that it was a sensible and pragmatic solution and the so-called "Green Line" was established that we know today.

Even at the time it was recognised that the line was not ideal and would lead to problems. One of which soon became apparent when an angry Archbishop Makarios, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, complained that his Episcopal Palace was now in the Turkish area.

Hobden continued to play an active role in Nicosia until UNFICYP was established and able to take over from the British led JTF. In one notable incident reported widely in the UK press at the time, he was described as 'striding unarmed and accompanied by his Adjutant Flt Lt O'Dwyer-Russell, into a meat-factory in Nicosia, where armed Greek insurgents were preparing to massacre unarmed Turkish workers'. According to the Daily Mail, the only weapon between the officers was a Sterling sub-machine gun, carried by O'Dwyer-Russell. Hobden and his Adjutant stood between the two groups and thereby enabled the Turkish Cypriots to leave the factory.

Following the establishment of UNFICYP during 1964, the JTF was stood down and Hobden was able to move his HQ out of Ledra Palace Hotel and return to RAF Akrotiri. On his departure the hotel manager presented Hobden with a bill for £2.5 million. This he refused to pay and explained that as the President of Cyprus had requested the British intervention, the account should be sent to the Presidential Palace.

Prior to his service in Cyprus, Hobden had a distinguished war record. He joined the RAF just after his 18th birthday as a ground gunner and commissioned into the newly formed RAF Regiment on 5 February 1942. He saw service in North West Europe following the D Day landing and finished the war in Schleswig-Holstein taking the surrender of an SS Panzer battalion.

Post-war Hobden served in Iraq, the Canal Zone, and Germany before being posted to Cyprus. After his service in Cyprus, Hobden served in Aden, the British Ministry of Defence and the RAF's HQ in Germany, before retiring from the RAF in July 1972.

*Group Captain Mark Hobden died on the 7 April 2013.*



Coat of arms

# Serbia

## Serbian Armed Forces

The Republic of Serbia has had a long tradition of participating in UN missions, both as an independent nation and as part of the former Yugoslavia. Serbian Armed Forces are engaged in six UN missions and two EU missions with, in total, 118 personnel.

Currently, the largest deployment by the Serbian Armed Forces in the UN mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL), where 49 SAF personnel are engaged. From November, this will be increased until there are

200 Serbian Armed Forces personnel.

Serbian Armed Forces first came to the mission in Cyprus in October 2010 to join the Hungarian contingent. Initially one staff officer was placed in mission headquarters and six patrol members in Sector 4. From last September, the number of engaged personnel has increased to include one platoon and two MOLO officers based in Sector 4. Currently, 46 SAF personnel are engaged in UNFICYP.



# Country Profile

**Official country name:** Republic of Serbia

**Area:** 88,361 sq km (includes Kosovo)

**Population:** 9.9 million (UN, 2011, includes Kosovo; UN mission estimates Kosovo population as circa 2 million)

**Capital city:** Belgrade

**Life expectancy:** 77 years (women), 72 years (men)

**Major language:** Serbian

**Major religion:** Christianity

**Currency:** Serbian Dinar



## Exit music festival

Exit (also known as State of Exit) is an annual summer music festival in the Petrovaradin Fortress of Novi Sad, Vojvodina, Serbia. The festival was founded in 2000 by three university students from Novi Sad as a student protest against the government.

From its grass roots political beginnings, over to occasional problems with financing, Exit tries to stick to its initial goal to provide relevant entertainment to Serbian youth while also bringing pertinent social topics to the fore. It has fast developed into a favourite European music festival as well as an organisation with a powerful social platform.

Exit has been visited by over two million people in more than 60 countries. CNN, The New York Times, and many others have on numerous occasions proclaimed Exit among the top ten world festival destinations. This ranking was profoundly influenced by the festival's unique location, the hospitality of locals, affordable prices and an attractive programme.

Exit takes place at the picturesque Petrovaradin Fortress, located on the right bank of the river Danube in Novi Sad. The cornerstone of the present-day southern part of the fortress was laid on October 18, 1692, by Charles Eugène de Croÿ. Petrovaradin Fortress has many underground tunnels as well. Its unique location splices up the festival's atmosphere while the engineering offers superb acoustics, allowing different events and gigs to take place without sound interference. After centuries of turbulent history, today the Fortress is on the list of protected monuments, being the historical, cultural and artistic center of Novi Sad.

## The Drina Canyon

The Drina Canyon, known as a traditional rafting route, is one of the deepest canyons in the world, in some places delving 1,000 metres. Less known is that it is a haven for rare and ancient plant species, many of which prosper in the hidden, tranquil Drina Canyon tributaries.

In addition to the Serbian spruce, which has found a perfect "survival tactic" on the steep slopes of the canyon and has become the empress of all endemic species of Europe, there are also other prehistoric relic species such as the European holly, black hornbeam, black pine and Centaurea and Dobrunski knapweed. While the dense jungle-style forest is well known, a less known fact is that such forests also exist on the edges of the Drina Canyon, such as the Topli (Warm) Do, as well as the beech forest of the Raca Canyon.

The Drina Canyon is also a permanent habitat of the brown bears native to eastern Bosnia and western Serbia. Perućica Lake, formed with the construction of the hydroelectric dam at Bajina Bašta, boasts beautiful beaches that beckon visitors to swim, fish, sail, canoe or take to a pedal. Beside the settlement of Perućica runs the river Vrelo (hot spring), which at only 365 metres long, is probably the shortest river in the world!

# Faces of Serbia



SSgt Parezanović Igor  
and 1MSgt Kovačević Miroslav

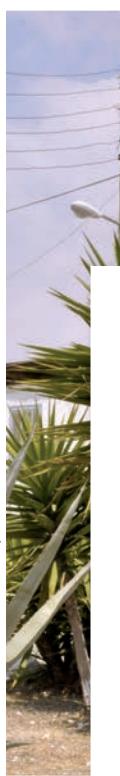


1MSgt Gligorijević Goran



Pvt Gilić Sunčica  
and Pvt Mladenović Ivana





# Croatia

The beautiful coastal town of Split (pictured) is the second largest city in Croatia. A regional transport hub, the city is a link to numerous Adriatic islands and the Apennine peninsula, and is a popular tourist destination.

The Republic of Croatia is currently contributing military personnel to five UN peacekeeping missions (India and Pakistan, Cyprus, Western Sahara, Liberia and Lebanon), two NATO missions (ISAF in Afghanistan and KFOR in Kosovo) and one EU mission, ATALANTA (the participation of Croatian navy personnel in peacekeeping operations of the European Union, 'EU NAVFOR Somalia – Atalanta', began in April 2009 in the Gulf of Aden). The Croatian participation in UN peacekeeping missions began in 1999 when ten members of the armed forces were sent to the UN mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to act as military observers. In Cyprus, Croatian military have served as part of the Slovak/Hungarian contingents based in Sector 4 of the buffer zone since September 2004.



**Major Davor Gardun**  
(LtCom in the Croatian Navy)

In his second peacekeeping tour-of-duty, Maj Gardun came to the UN mission in Cyprus in September 2012 and is the senior duty officer in Sector 4. This is Maj Gardun's second peacekeeping mission; he had previously served with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Maj Gardun joined the Croatian Navy in 1991 and completed his degree in ship-mechanical engineering in 1996 at the faculty of maritime studies, University of Split. In the navy, he worked for two years in submarines and ten years on fast patrol ships. Today, he works at the navy headquarters in Split, his home-town, as an officer for surface warfare at sea. He has a passion for diving and spearfishing and hopes one day, to teach his six-year old daughter, Stella, the mysteries of the marine world.

LtCol Deni Dumanic and Major Davor Gardun represent the Croatian military presence in the UN mission in Cyprus. Both men are proudly pictured in their navy uniform as this the first time that the Croatian peacekeepers have been drawn from the Croatian Navy.



**LtCol Deni Dumanic**  
(Commander in the Croatian Navy)

LtCol Dumanic joined the UN mission in Cyprus in March and acts as a Military Liaison Officer with the 4th infantry regiment of the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces. LtCol Dumanic joined the Croatian Army in 1991 in antiaircraft defence and joined the Croatian Navy in 1993. He holds a MA in mechanical engineering and graduated from the Naval Staff College, NWC in Newport, Rhode Island, USA in 1999. Between 2002 and 2004, he was the commander of a company for the maintenance of missile armaments in

Žrnovnica. For the past ten years, he has taught aerodynamics and anti-ship missiles at the Croatian Military College in Split, his home town. LtCol Dumanic is a keen sportsman, particularly in triathlons and long distance running- he has even finished the Ironman distance and participated in more than 20 marathons. He is married and has three daughters, Daniela, Ivana, Antonia.

# Serbian Police



**Police Officer First Class Aleksandar Horvat**

**P**olice Officer First Class Aleksandar Horvat attended police school from 1988-1992 in Sremska Kamenica, a small town near the city of Novi Sad. After graduating, he joined the police force in the town of Sremska Mitrovica located on the west side of Serbia and stayed there until 1995 when he was transferred to the police force in his home town of Subotica. In Subotica, officer Horvat works in the first police detachment and is a patrol officer within the security sector. He also works as reinforcement for police in criminal matters.



**Serbian Contingent Commander Major Milorad Ašćerić**

**M**ajor Milorad Ašćerić finished police high school in Sremska Kamenica, a small town near the city of Novi Sad, from 1993 to 1997. From 1998 to 2000, he worked as a member of the Special Forces, and in 2000 became the Gendarmerie shooting and SWAT instructor, a position he still holds today. Major Ašćerić has been repeatedly awarded by the President of Serbia and Minister of Police. He is married to Zeljka and is the proud father of three sons: Rodoljuba, Strahinje and Vuka. Major Ašćerić arrived in Cyprus to work as part of the UN police in November 2012.

## Serbian Special Forces

**T**he Gendarmerie are the special forces of the Serbian police. They are responsible for fighting terrorists and organized crime, giving protection to VIPs, providing assistance in disasters such as floods or fires, breaking up riots and securing large public gatherings among other duties. To be a member of the Gendarmerie is not easy. A police officer must pass demanding drills to be accepted into the Gendarmerie. The drill is followed by an intensive 45 day course with Gendarmerie instructors in camps within the Serb mountains that are cut off from outside communication. Training is conducted every day and night and under every possible condition to prepare the officers for any scenario. These include fighting in the jungle, close combat battle, fighting on land and in water, using land mines, diving and parachuting. From an average of 100 candidates that apply, only 10 will finish the drill and undergo further rigorous training to become part of the Gendarmerie.

# Mobile Force Reserve champion

**A**s dawn was breaking at the start of a hot summer at the end of May, UN peacekeepers in Cyprus gathered at the starting line to compete in the first military skills competition for 2013. The sound of the foghorn cut the air as Force Commander MajGen Chao Liu officially opened the competition. The first test, the endurance run, was greeted by the shouts and cheers of supports standing in the sidelines. For the rest of the day, soldiers were tested in their driving range skills, their ability to perform command tasks blindfolded, their ability to react to incidents, read maps, shoot, patrol and their powers of observation. Soldiers tried to score as many points in each activity. Training for this intense competition had started weeks before with soldiers from all contingents practising and honing their endurance skills, physical fitness and military knowledge. They also had to prepare for the heat as temperatures were fast rising. In their preparation nothing was left aside and as the date approached, they trained even harder. There were eight teams competing, consisting of two teams from each sector, one team from headquar-

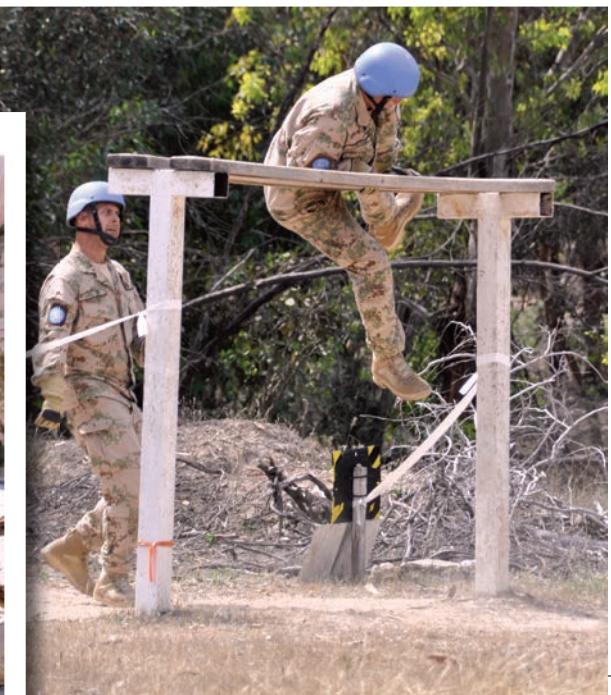
ters and one from the Mobile Force Reserve. "This is what it's all about," said Chief of Staff Col Angus Loudon. "Who has the strength to endure the pace of physical challenge, the mental agility to think clearly and act calmly when under pressure, and the willingness to work as a member of a team towards a common aim? These tests bring out the best in our military men and women, while having a bit of fun in a friendly, competitive way." Ten hours of gruelling activity, the day was over and all points tallied. The results: soldiers from the Mobile Force Reserve in first place, Sector 2 (team A) in second place and Sector 1 (team A) in third place. The MFR had reclaimed their title as mil skills champions after losing it to Sector 2 in the last mil skills competition. "The day was challenging and cost a lot of effort from not only all who participated, but also from those who prepared and organized the military skills event," said MajGen Chao Liu. "I would like to thank all who participated and all those who came to show their support. You have all made me very proud."

*By Capt Tomas Ciampor*





# eserve reclaim on's title



# Spotlight MFR



### 2Lt Mark Jones

“I am part of the British contingent and I work as a platoon commander for the B troop within the Mobile Force Reserve. Working within the only multinational military contingent in the mission comes with obvious challenges and benefits.

Language, of course, will always be the main challenge, particularly when our main role here is public order. A public order situation can often be a bit chaotic with a lot of confusion and noise and the language barrier can magnify this stressful environment. To overcome this, the MFR emphasise constant training and practice to make sure the language used is consistent and understood by all. One thing I

didn't anticipate was the challenge of training and the difference in training methods between the different contingents. For example, the British soldiers put a great focus on endurance training and running where as the Slovak soldiers prefer to focus on training that builds their strength. Often times, things that appear simple enough can become much more difficult than you first think, and these little difficulties compound into much larger ones that highlight the particular challenges of working with a multinational team. However, despite this, I really believe there are massive benefits to be gained from learning from each other and working together and that these benefits easily outweigh whatever costs there are.”

### Cpl Santiago Bueno

“I am part of the Argentinian contingent and have been attached to the MFR since 5 March. My role is primarily as a rifleman with the A troop. I'm extremely happy to work and share experiences with three different contingents and I find the different ways of working very interesting. Although language is obviously a barrier, I am still able to understand the intentions and tasks placed on me. This is my first peacekeeping mission and it is giving me a great opportunity to grow and develop myself both professionally and personally. I am extremely proud to be a part of the MFR team and I am certain that I have made friends here that I will have with me for life.”



### Msgt Rastislav Matija



“My professional career with the Slovak Air Forces started in 1997 when I graduated from the Military High School in Liptovský Mikuláš. Back in Slovakia, I work at the helicopter wing in Prešov. UNFICYP is my first experience in a peacekeeping operation and I have been here since September 2012. I am glad to say that I got an opportunity to join a mission because it is great experience to work in an international team that includes soldiers from the UK, Argentina, Hungary and Slovakia. I believe that joining a peacekeeping operation will help me to improve my professional life and this was an important reason why I wanted to join. The other very valuable reason is that I knew it would improve my language skills. Working for the MFR is exciting and challenging. Every day is a different day and a chance to do new things. For example, participating in the mission's military skills competition showed that a multinational team could successfully accomplish the difficult tasks if they really work as one team. The result: the MFR won 1st place! During the next three months, I would like to share all that I have learned in peacekeeping operations to the new soldiers and to finish my mission with the feeling that I have completed it successfully.”

# Preparing for the worst



**Ricardo Garcia, Chief Aviation Safety Officer and Martin Lopez, Regional Aviation Safety Officer, from the UN Global Service Centre based in Brindisi, Italy visited UNFICYP in May for the 'Helicrash' exercise. They spoke to the Blue Beret about the importance of aviation safety preparedness.**

“ Our mandate is to provide aviation safety services to the missions in the Middle East region (Iraq, Lebanon and Cyprus).

For this reason we need to come here at least three times a year to carry out aviation service programme activities. We carry out different activities, such as emergency aviation response, inspecting the aircrafts, hangars and the safety of the facilities and assessing the helicopter landing site.

The mission should have at least three exercises a year: a communication exercise which verifies where people are supposed to be and how contactable they are; a table top exercise which is going through emergency plans; and a real time exercise where a scenario is simulated and the activities and response are carried out in real time, both in the field and in headquarters. This is the most complex of the exercises. The mission must practice these exercises in accordance with the UN aviation safety manual.

However, even though it's a requirement, it makes real sense that any mission that has aircraft operations has an emergency response system. A crisis can bring a mission to a grinding halt if the

mission is not able to properly manage the aftermath of the crisis. An accident may have many implications, from bad publicity, to liability, to family complaints, so it is imperative that all missions have a mechanism in place to properly manage the situation and to keep the mission functioning.

You have different levels of emergency response. If you are in the field, you will be among the first to respond, or if you are in the medical or fire units in headquarters, you will need to mobilise quickly to the field. Then there will be secondary response to support the initial responders; then you have the management group who are responsible for the overall response. So you have different levels of actors who are involved in the response, all with an important role to play.

Training is of the utmost importance. You can plan as much as you like, but if you don't carry out the plans in regular simulations, then it is very hard to respond correctly in the case of a real emergency. The more we train and the more we practice, the better we are able to respond to a situation.”

## Major Adrian Ferrari, Military Aviation Safety Officer

“ In June, the mission in Cyprus underwent a real-time simulation of a crisis together with the aviation crisis management team. The scenario started with an earthquake involving at least one aircraft accident with injured people and fatalities and the mission had to bring the injured to safety and the deceased to the morgue.

The day began with a simulated earthquake on the island of Cyprus so the hospitals outside Nicosia and the other major cities were very busy. In this scenario, a large part of Camp Roca in Sector 1 was badly damaged. Two helicopters were dispatched: one flight was sent to Famagusta area and the other to Sector 1.

One of the helicopters lost contact with flight control and the other helicopter, along with sector patrols, was dispatched to start a search and rescue operation. The first helicopter found the crash site and alerted all the response systems. The personnel branch

took the emergency, as was planned, and the accident was confirmed and the aviation safety management team was called into action to manage the crisis.

I think the response was quite good- we had different scenarios and different emergencies including the helicopter crash, and together these formed a challenging simulation for the operations branch. We were able to validate the plan and the response by the sectors.

There were obviously some areas that we need to improve and we will use the feedback from this simulation to update the emergency response plans.”



# Summer medal dusk at the old a



**A**t dusk on 4 June, soldiers from all sectors gathered at the old Nicosia airport to be awarded their UN medal for service under the blue flag. This was the first medal for UN peacekeepers who had started their tour of duty in March. Peacekeepers drawn from all over the world proudly marched on the abandoned airstrip of the old airport, flagged on both sides by the Mobile Force Reserve Tactica vehicles and the Argentine Hughes helicopter. As the sun set on the horizon, the soldiers received their medals from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission, Lisa Buttenheim, and Force Commander Major General Chao Liu. With the last medal pinned, the sounds of drums, trumpets and pipes from the Royal Air Force band filled the air.

*By Capt Tomas Ciampor*



# parade airport



# Force Commander 'victim' in crisis simulation

In the first of the bi-annual Force Commander's Inspections for 2013, the Mobile Force Reserve and UN flight joined forces to create a real-time crisis situation to demonstrate their preparedness to respond to a real emergency.

The simulated demonstration was based on a plausible incident in the buffer zone, specifically at the Derinia crossing which is a focus of historical tension. Given that the soldiers of the Mobile Force Reserve are the mission's rapid response team, they envisioned a scenario based around a growing disconnect among the Greek Cypriot community given the economic situation in Cyprus, which degenerated into an demonstration serious enough to be dealt with by the MFR.

Throughout the exercise, the MFR were 'crashed out' – deployed in laymen's terms- to contain the demonstration and prevent further deterioration. Force Commander MajGen Chao Liu played a civilian who was injured during the demonstration.

"We wanted to be able to demonstrate a 'CASEVAC' extraction," said Lt Lloyd Watts from the MFR. "This basically means a casualty extraction. How would we deal with an injured person, how would we safely move them to the nearest medical facility, what are the procedures that need to be followed, how would we coordinate with the other parts of the mission such as UN police, UN Flight, sector commanders and headquarters. I think we showed that we are quite ready to deal with any such incident."

UN Flight provided the logistic support to move the injured demonstrator to the Nicosia hospital.

"I think the soldiers did a great job," said MajGen Chao Liu. "I am confident that the mission has the capacity to deal professionally with public order incidents in the buffer zone and to provide the necessary help to any person injured during such an event."

MFR

Sector 4





Sector 4



Sector 4

Sector 2



Sector 2



Sector 4



**In 2012, UNFICYP recycled:**  
**240,000 litres of paper and cardboard**  
**10,800 litres of plastics**  
**15,600 litres of glass**  
**5,000 litres of cooking oil**



## UNFICYP opens 'Green Park' on World Environment Day

The UN mission in Cyprus celebrated World Environment Day (5 June) with the opening of a 'Green Park,' the mission's first centralized recycling collection point. "The Green Park will help us meet our recycling objectives" said Paul Kilmartin, Environmental Focal Point. "Last year, the mission generated a staggering 9,266,400 litres of general waste, and despite our efforts we only managed to recycle 4% of this. This Green Park will help us to recycle much more with an aim to reach 20% recycling of all waste by 2020." The opening of the park was preceded by a tree planting ceremony by members of the senior management group and followed by a clean-up effort of the Blue Beret camp and other sites within the UN protected area.





# Fire season

By Fire Officer Nadeem Paul Qadir

**D**uring the year 2012, UNFICYP Engineering Section Fire HQ received 219 fire emergency calls within, close to and around the buffer zone of which 186 fires were where UN property or the buffer zone area were under direct fire threat. This should serve as a reminder to all UNFICYP personnel about the dangers of fires.

UNFICYP Security Section / Fire Unit has the responsibility of the mission's fire safety and prevention and are responsible for prevention inspections, risk assessment, maintaining the fire fighting equipment, fire trainings at different levels, fire drills and exercises and the distribution of general fire related information.

During the same period, 664 UN personnel received fire training at different levels, ranging from the complete 'Train the Trainer Fire NCO's' course to the 'Emergency Evacuation Practical Briefing.'

UNFICYP Security Section / Fire Unit have always Priority for

fire safety in their mission goals manual. Training at different levels is a first part to prepare personnel not only for fire prevention but to deal with fire related emergencies followed by exercises and drills.

The first lesson to be given is prevention, then to be careful and prevent careless behaviour to reduce the accidents. Later comes the real tough fire situation, but there is only one thing to say that there is no luck or common sense during fire fighting. There is only one thing "you know or you don't know". So get your fire-training course as early as possible. Investigation follows by observation and recommendation, to learn from mistakes and make room for improvement. Security Section/Fire Unit runs fire courses all year around. Last courses were on 9,10,11 April and 8 May, 2013. These basic fire fighting/ safety / prevention / familiarization NCO's courses are designed to suit UNFICYP high fire safety standards.

## Basic precautions against buffer zone/grass/forest fires

*The biggest fire hazard within UNFICYP during summer is dry grass and vegetation.*

*Following some simple rules can help prevent a life and property- threatening fire.*

### Don't

- \* throw away lit cigarettes/matches.
- \* smoke in offices and accommodation buildings.
- \* throw away glass materials such as empty bottles or broken mirrors.
- \* park your car near any grass or vegetation.
- \* leave your vehicle engine running.
- \* have a barbecue anywhere other than in designated places.
- \* leave your barbecue unattended and when finished, use water or sand/soil to damp down the fire.
- \* burn confidential material (for all burning of sensitive material contact UNFICYP security section/ fire unit).
- \* use water if electricity poles are involved in the fire (use fire beaters or green tree branches).
- \* start your patrol without having at least four fire beaters in your patrol vehicle (also check your dry powder fire extinguisher and medical kit in your vehicle).
- \* risk your life to fight a fire.
- \* fight buffer zone/grass/forest fires alone- always attack the fire in groups.
- \* fight buffer zone/grass fire up or down wind (always from a cross wind direction).
- \* forget when fighting fires that mines are present in the buffer zone.
- \* spread buffer zone/grass/forest fire with your boots/shoes; wash them as you leave the area.



**UNFICYP fire/emergency tel. 22-61-4777; call signs 9- india / 9-x-ray / 9-zolo on channel 14 UNPA;  
Cyprus Emergency number-112 and northern Cyprus Emergency number-199**

# Unicorns triumph over Pumas



**U**n a warm sunny afternoon, the UNFICYP Unicorns, the mission's rugby team gathered at the Mustapha Baglar Stadium on the edge of Kyrenia, to play the local Kyrenia Pumas.

The game started evenly with both teams taking time to settle down. The first try was scored by the Unicorns before the Pumas replied with a sweeping passing move down the right side. However, as the game progressed the experience of the Unicorns began to tell and in the second half several more tries were run in.

The Pumas did not give in and continued to make attacking breaks with a sure try being saved by a last gasp tackle by Maj Octavio Peluffo. The game finished with a flourish with outside half, Sgt Maj Geryn Jones passing to scrum half, Sgt Paul Harvey, who touched down for the try. This was then converted by the CO S2 Lt Col Rob Askew playing at full back.

The game was played before a small but enthusiastic crowd, in a competitive but friendly spirit, and was enjoyed by all. After the game both teams were able to enjoy a social evening together where the finer points of the game were discussed at length.

The Unicorns were made up mainly of British players from Sector 2, but also included a sprinkling of Argentine players from Sector 1. The Kyrenia Pumas are a local team formed from players living in the north of the island and now has a very multinational feel to it with a large number of African students, some ex-pat British and French players and also some Turkish Cypriots playing.

The club used to play in the mainland Turkish league but had to pull out due to the cost and so now regularly plays against the Unicorns along with other teams that visit the island.

By Capt Peter Singlehurst

## UK chef sweetest of all

**C**hefs from all three Sectors gathered in the UNFICYP cafeteria in early June to compete in the military catering competition, *Exercise Unified Caterer*. Each team comprised of two chefs who were given one hour to prepare a three course meal for ten diners using only food that could be provided by the UN. These dishes were then judged by a panel of judges from seven different nations led by the Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim and the Force Commander Major General Chao Liu. To ensure a fair competition, the identity of the chefs behind each course was kept secret.

After all nine courses had been tried, each judge was asked to vote for the menu that they thought was the best based on the taste and presentation of each course. With a large majority of the vote the winners were Sector 2 who prepared a waldorf salad starter, a herb crusted lamb loin on a sweet potato puree for the main course and a lemon cheesecake with Chantilly cream and a red berry coulis for dessert.

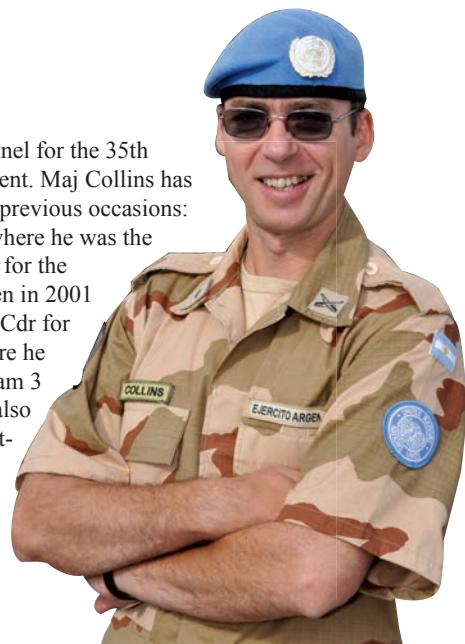
By Captain Adam Harrison

# New Faces

## Major Roberto J. Collins, Chief Military Training Cell

Major Roberto J. Collins joined the Argentine Army in 1987 at the age of 18 as a private in the 3rd Armoured Infantry Regiment. In 1989, he joined the National Military Academy as cadet in the 1st Infantry Company. After four years in the Military Academy, he was promoted to 2nd Lt in Dec 1993. Between 1994/1997, Maj Collins served as Platoon Commander for the 1st Infantry Regiment "Patricios". Following this, he was appointed Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, Company Commander and G2 Intelligence for the 12th Armoured Infantry Regiment until 2002. Between 2003-2008, he was the Company Commander and G2 Intelligence for the 5th Armour Infantry Regiment. Taking a break from active duty, Maj Collins studied at the War College for Senior Command and HQ Staff Officers between 2009-2010 and obtained the Advanced Intelligence Staff Officer grade. Since 2011,

he has been the G1 Personnel for the 35th Armoured Infantry Regiment. Maj Collins has served in Cyprus on three previous occasions: first between 1998/1999 where he was the APC Platoon Commander for the Mobile Force Reserve; then in 2001 where he was the Area 10 Cdr for Sector 1; and in 2007 where he was part of the MOLO Team 3 for Sector 1. Maj Collins also served in the Argentine battalion as G3 Ops Staff for the UN mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in 2006.



## Maj Song ZHANG, ADC to the Force Commander

Maj Song Zhang arrived in UNFICYP in February 2013 to take up the post of ADC to the Force Commander. Before he joined UNFICYP, he was a planning officer in the Army Combined Training Center, Neimenggu Province, China. Maj ZHANG was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant in 2001 upon graduating from the Nanjing Normal University, Jiangsu, China. He served in a variety of command and staff positions throughout his 12-year military career including: rifle platoon

leader (2001-2002); deputy infantry company commander (2002-2004); and infantry company commander (2005-2008). His staff assignments included: assistant logistics officer (2004-2005); brigade operation officer (2009-2011); and planning officer for the army combined training center (2011-2013). His military education includes: infantry officer basic course and army company commander career course, Army Officer College; combined arms and services staff course, Army Staff Academy; and counter-terrorism and media course, NATO Centre of Excellence-Defense Against Terrorism, Ankara, Turkey. Prior to his appointment in UNFICYP, Maj Zhang served as a military observer in the UN mission in Liberia (UNMIL) between 2008-2009. He holds a Bachelor of Science in History from Nanjing Normal University and a Masters of Arts in International Relations, National Defense University. Maj Zhang is married to Nina, they have a three-year old daughter named Jiahe.



## Maj Joanna Ramsumair, SO2 Operations

Maj Joanna Ramsumair joined the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) in 2002 after commissioning from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Prior to joining the armed forces she read for a degree in Pharmacology at the University College in London. On commissioning, her early regimental service included 5 General Support Medical Regiment, and in 2003 she deployed as the medical evacuation troop commander providing immediate response to British Forces within Basra, Iraq. Following this, Maj Ramsumair served with the 8 Transport Regiment RLC as a tank transporter troop commander and squadron second in command and was deployed on a subsequent tour to Iraq in 2004. In 2007 she deployed as the SO3 Surface Movement to Joint Force Support (Afghanistan), where her main role was ensuring the smooth movement of key military equipment through Pakistan into Kabul and Kandahar. Following this tour, Maj Ramsumair assumed the role of the regimental signals officer within 24 Regiment RLC

based in Bielefeld, Germany. Maj Ramsumair's last appointment was the SO3 J1 within HQ 104 Logistic Support Brigade based in Cirencester, UK, prior to attending the Intermediate Command and Staff Course in September 2012. Her main interests include travelling, competing in triathlons, running and cycling.



Coming in the next issue of the Blue Beret  
**Focus on Camps Roca and San Martin  
and the UN police station in Dhenia**



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