

BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Autumn 2017



Medal Parades, UN Day Reception

Women in conflict exhibition

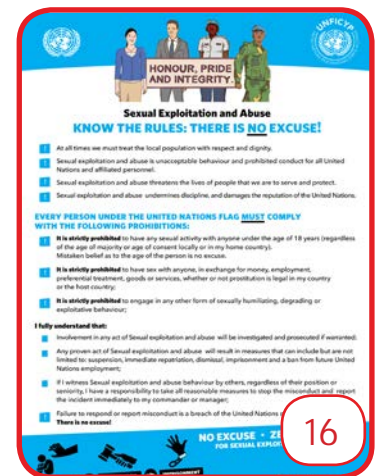
PLUS

'Together for Peace'

BLUE BERET

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Editorial

Welcome to this bumper edition of the Blue Beret magazine!

After a busy and challenging summer of negotiations and troop rotations, there has been no let-up in the Mission's activity levels this autumn, with the Mission undergoing a strategic review and changes in the leadership of UNPOL.

Following the inconclusive end of the negotiations in Crans-Montana in July, many Cypriots are still coming to terms with dashed hopes and uncertainty about the future; colleagues in the Good Offices and within UNFICYP share this disappointment, and continue to hope, in the recent words of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus and Head of Mission, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, at the UN Day reception, that "Cyprus will – one day soon – cross the Rubicon from division to unity".

"The people of this island can achieve unity and a better future if they invest in building a constituency for peace," she added. "Peace is indeed built from the ground up."

August saw the departure of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, marked by a reception at Ledra Palace Hotel attended by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, as well as high profile officials from government, the diplomatic community and civil society. In his final remarks, he noted that "the UN role is to be a facilitator, and we will always be at the disposal of the parties."

"The UN does not give up on Cyprus; it needs to know there is a process, which can only be owned by the Cypriots," he added. Mr. Eide returned to his native Norway, where he was elected as a Member of Parliament in September; we congratulate him and continue to wish him the best!

In June, as part of the Environment Committee's efforts to keep us all thinking green, marine biologist Dr. Burak Cicek visited UNFICYP HQ and gave a talk on the importance of preserving the island's marine biodiversity. At the end of June, more than 5,000 people attended the annual festival in Cyprus' only bi-communal village, Pyla, enjoying a smorgasbord of food, drink, entertainment and shopping; the UNFICYP-supported festival has grown from strength to strength, more than tripling attendance since it was first held in 2015.

August and September saw UNFICYP complete its bi-annual transfers of authority within the sectors under the expert guidance of Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir; you can meet some of the new faces of the Mission in this edition of the Blue Beret. Also in August, following an increase in the Slovak contingent last year, Sector 4 expanded the accommodation and catering capacities for troops deployed at the Command Post (CP)-10 base near Dheryneia, where the new team was assigned.

All Sectors held medal parades over the summer, while UNPOL held its last medal parade with outgoing Senior Police Advisor, Col. Andrii Sachavo, at the helm of UNFICYP's Police Component in October. Col. Sachavo returns to the Ukraine having made a significant contribution to the implementation of the Mission's mandate and to the cause of peace in Cyprus, notably on confidence building measures, working closely with both sides to establish and coordinate the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters and the Joint Communications Room, both of which have produced important results over the past few years. He will be greatly missed.

September saw UNFICYP join UN and civil society colleagues mark the International Day of Peace in solidarity with the millions around the world forced to flee their homes due to conflict, while a lively and well-attended reception on 24 October marked UN Day, this was the 72nd anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter. The reception was especially diverse this year, as the Mission made an effort to invite civil society from beyond Nicosia to the event; it also featured a photo exhibition and some impressive routines from a bi-communal traditional Cypriot dance troupe.

The Civil Affairs Section's efforts to promote understanding through intercommunal activities continued, with the Section supporting a bi-communal chess tournament at Ledra Palace Hotel in June, and continuing its work – with the strong support of SRSG Spehar – with the IMAGINE Project, which brings young people from both communities together to learn and play, to name just a couple of initiatives.

SRSG Spehar has continued to ensure gender remains on the Mission's radar, supporting a photo exhibition featuring haunting images of Cypriot women from across the island as part of a Cypriot-led 'Women in Conflict Zones' project. In October, she also supported the She-Experts Platform (www.sheexperts.com), a project supported by the U.S. State Department Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative; the project aims to enhance the visibility and impact of women in their professional capacity, especially across business, politics and industry. Still on gender, UNFICYP is proud to congratulate our trailblazing former Force Commander, Major General Kristin Lund – the first ever woman to head a UN peacekeeping operation – on her appointment as Head of the UN Truce Supervision Organisation. This November, our Mission also welcomed its first female Senior Police Advisor, Norway's Ann-Kristin Kvilekval, who joins the other formidable women who form part of UNFICYP's senior leadership. We join the Mission in warmly welcoming Assistant Superintendent Kvilekval to the Mission.

As we gear up for the winter months, we wish all those returning to their home countries the very best in their future professional





UN Day Reception

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) hosted a reception at Ledra Palace Hotel to mark UN Day on 24 October 2017, which marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945, the date the United Nations officially came into being.

The reception, attended by senior government officials, UN personnel, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society and members of the media from across Cyprus, also featured a bi-communal Cypriot troupe performing traditional dances, as well as a photo exhibition (see above) featuring the contribution of civil society to building a culture of peace on the island.

Speaking at the reception, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, said this year, UNFICYP had made a special effort to reach out to partners and associates residing and working in places beyond Nicosia, because after all, the UN is here for all of Cyprus.

“One of the Secretary-General’s key points in his message of today is that “We have to transcend our differences to transform our future”. I think we can all reflect on this message, which resonates deeply in this region, including Cyprus,” she said. “In the aftermath of Crans-Montana, the Secretary-General has called on the parties to the Cyprus problem to reflect on the outcome of the recent talks and on the possible way ahead. He has reiterated the UN’s readiness to assist the sides, should they jointly decide

to engage in such a process with the necessary political will. “We know that since the closure of the Conference on Cyprus a few months ago, many of you are still coming to terms with dashed hopes and uncertainty about the future. But we should not be discouraged. The people of this island can achieve unity and a better future if they invest in building a constituency for peace,” she added. “Peace is indeed built from the ground up, and the leaders need broad and consistent support from across civil society to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion. In this regard, I am encouraged by the efforts of so many on this island who are reaching across the divide, seeking to understand the other’s perspective, bridge differences and prove that what brings the communities of Cyprus together, vastly exceeds what separates them.”

In his message for UN Day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted that the world faces many grave threats, adding that “we have the tools and wealth to overcome these challenges. All we need is the will.”

“When we achieve human rights and human dignity for all people – they will build a peaceful, sustainable and just world,” he added. “On United Nations Day, let us, ‘We the Peoples’, make this vision a reality.”

To read more about both the Secretary-General’s message and for the full remarks by SRSG Spehar, please visit: unficy.org/unmissions.org





Strong support for IMAGINE Project

As part of efforts to support peace building and peace education in Cyprus, on 2 October, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, attended a stakeholders' meeting on the IMAGINE Project, an initiative implemented by the Association for Historical Dialogue & Research (AHDR) and the Home For Cooperation.

Funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and supported by the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Education and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the IMAGINE Project is based on a holistic understanding of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, and aims to increase contact and cooperation between students of the two communities in Cyprus. Among other things, the Project aims to tackle racism, discrimination and xenophobia, while promoting equality and tolerance.

In attendance at the stakeholders' meeting, held at the Home for Cooperation in the buffer zone, were the Coordinators of the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Education, Mr. Michalinos Zembylas and Ms Meltem Onurkan Samani, the German Ambassador to Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Franz Josef Kremp, Mr. Loizos Loukaidis, coordinator of the IMAGINE Project, officials from AHDR, the Home for Cooperation, PeacePlayers International - Cyprus, UNFICYP and a number of education-focused trade unions from both communities.

In her remarks, SRSG Spehar congratulated the heads of the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Education for their commitment to the Project, as well as AHDR and the Home for Cooperation for implementing it and ensuring high-level support from both sides. She also expressed her appreciation to Germany



for its support of this important initiative.

SRSG Spehar further emphasized the importance UNFICYP places on the IMAGINE Project and committed the Mission's continued support for it.

"Education can be a real game changer in how young people perceive each other and their future," she added.

Other speakers highlighted the need for increased contact and cooperation between children from both communities, as well as the fact that developing the Project was not an easy task, but each step forward brought the island closer to an island-wide culture of peace and non-violence.

Conservation works on Martinengo Bastion & Walls between Arsenal and Seagate in Famagusta

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, the European Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Cyprus hosted an event on 11 September to mark the completion of conservation works on the Martinengo Bastion and the portion of the Venetian Walls between Arsenal and Seagate in Famagusta.

The project was funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage. In attendance at the event were, among others, Mr. Ali Tuncay and Mr. Takis Hadjidemetriou, the heads of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, Ms. Mary McCarthy, Director of the the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Service, Ms. Tiziana Zennaro, UNDP Programme Manager, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar.





UNFICYP's new Senior Police Advisor

On 1 November 2017, Assistant Chief of Police Ann-Kristin Kvilekval of Norway began her duties as UNFICYP's new Senior Police Advisor. She brings with her 26 years of policing experience and more than three years of UN peacekeeping mission experience with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Prior to joining UNFICYP, Assistant Chief of Police Kvilekval served as the National Police Directorate Liaison to the Norwegian Joint Headquarter (NJHQ) for the Armed Forces, with focus on the Emergency Response and Special Advisor to the General at the JFHQ.

Over the course of her police career, she has occupied various posts, including at the managerial level, such as International Civil Crisis management team leader of the Norwegian Police University College, Police Liaison Advisor

at National Police Directorate and Course Director at the Norwegian Police. Assistant Chief of Police Kvilekval graduated from the Norwegian Defence Command and Staff College, Oslo, and is also working on a Master's Degree in building a democratic society at the University of Bergen.

The appointment of another woman at senior level within the Mission – UNFICYP currently has a female Head of Mission, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, and, between 2014 and 2016, had the first ever female Force Commander of a UN peacekeeping operation, Major General Kristin Lund – is a reflection of the UN's commitment to identifying and recruiting highly qualified female experts for leadership positions in peacekeeping missions.

UNFICYP is grateful to our outgoing Senior Police Advisor, Col. Andrii Sachavo of the Ukraine, for his many years of diligent service, and warmly welcomes Assistant Chief of Police Kvilekval to UNPOL in Cyprus!

UNPOL Medal Parade



The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) held its bi-annual UNPOL Medal Parade on 20 October, with UN Police personnel receiving UN medals in the service of peace. It was also the last Medal Parade with Col. Andrii Sachavo (Ukraine) at the helm of UNPOL.

UNPOL has been an integral part of this Mission since its establishment in 1964, and is crucial to the effective implementation of our mandate. UNPOL contributes to the maintenance and restoration of law and order in the buffer zone and cooperates with UNFICYP's Military and the Civil Affairs components regarding civilian activity in the buffer zone, humanitarian matters and assisting a return to normal conditions within the buffer zone.

"To our medal recipients today, I want to say thank you. Yours is not an easy task, and has been even more challenging recently, with more demonstrations than usual in the buffer zone in relation to the political negotiations," the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, said at the event. "We are grateful for your continued professionalism, even as UNPOL's responsibilities have surged."

Bidding farewell to Col. Sachavo at the ceremony, attended by a number of Ambassadors, Cypriot officials and members of the UN family, SRSG Spehar thanked him for his "competent leadership, strong organizational skills and a high sense of dedication to duty".

"Andrii, I would like to personally thank you for your significant contribution to UNFICYP and to peace in Cyprus, and to wish you the very best as you return to Ukraine," she added. "I have no doubt you will continue to use your experience and professionalism to make positive contributions, be they in the national or international context. I know that I speak for many in the Mission when I say that you will be dearly missed."



In his remarks, Col. Sachavo thanked the UN for the opportunity to serve the UN and the cause of peace in Cyprus.

Col. Sachavo first joined UNFICYP as a Civil Affairs Police Liaison Officer, before briefly returning to his native Ukraine in 2012 and rejoining the Mission later that same year as Deputy Senior Police Advisor. In November 2014, he took up the position of Senior Police Advisor, a position he has held for the last three years.

Col. Sachavo will be replaced by Assistant Chief of Police . Ann-Kristin Kvilekval of Norway, who has been selected as the next Senior Police Advisor in UNFICYP, and begins her tenure on 1 November 2017.

SASG Eide bids farewell to Cyprus

The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, paid his last visit to the island in his official capacity in early August. Following separate meetings with the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mustafa Akıncı, SASG Eide hosted a farewell reception at the historic Ledra Palace Hotel on 3 August.

In attendance were the two leaders, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades and Mr. Mustafa Akıncı, Turkish Cypriot negotiator Mr. Ozdil Nami, Greek Cypriot negotiator Mr. Andreas Mavroyiannis, Deputy SASG Ms. Eizabeth Spehar, dignitaries and officials from across the island, civil society figures and members of the international community.

In his remarks, Mr. Eide expressed his disappointment that despite years of intense work by the leaders, their negotiators and a wide array of local and international supporters, a solution continues to elude the island.

He said over the 27 months of negotiations, he “learnt a lot, but probably not enough”.

“The UN role is to be a facilitator, and we will always be at the disposal of the parties. The UN does not give up on Cyprus, it needs to know there is a process, which can only be owned by the Cypriots,” SASG Eide said.

“I leave very, very confident that the best solution in Cyprus is a united federal Cyprus in line with European principles, bi-zonal bi-commal. These are the UN parameters, I believe in them, we in the UN at least believe in them,” he added.

On 4 August, Mr. Akıncı held a cocktail in honour of SASG Eide. On the SASG’s last day on the island, 5 August, he spent time with friends at the bi-communal Buyuk Han Coffee Club.

Mr. Eide has since returned to Norway, where he was elected as a Member of Parliament in September. UNFICYP and the Good Offices wish him all the very best in his new ventures.



UNFICYP congratulates General Lund

Continuing to blaze a trail for women in peacekeeping, former UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Kristin Lund - the first woman to serve as Force Commander in a United Nations Peacekeeping operation - was recently appointed as Head of Mission and Chief-of-Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). UNFICYP congratulates General Lund and wishes her success with her challenging new assignment.





Together for peace: UNFICYP joins global commemoration of the International Day of Peace

The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) this year marked the International Day of Peace at Force HQ in the buffer zone; the International Day of Peace is commemorated annually on 21 September, and is an opportunity for renewed determination to work for a future free of conflict, and a day to honour those who have fallen in war.

This year, the day was held under the theme: “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All,” which was initiated during the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. It honours the spirit of TOGETHER, a global, UN-led initiative that promotes respect, safety and dignity for anyone forced to flee their home in search of a better life.

Joining UNFICYP’s leadership and military, police and civilian staff to mark the event were, among others, Mr. Damtew Dessalegne, the Representative of UNHCR Cyprus, Ms. Salpy Eskidjian Weiderud and Ms. Linnéa Frändå of the The Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, and Ms. Stephanie Nicolas, programme coordinator of PeacePlayers International - Cyprus.

“The International Day of Peace is an opportunity to call for an end to the conflicts that continue to ravage the world, destroying families and nations,” the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, said in her remarks. “It is a day on which the United Nations calls for a 24-hour global ceasefire, with the hope that one day of peace can lead to another, and another, and ultimately to a stilling of the guns.”

“Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to those who have perished as a result of violence and strife across the world, including those who lost their lives in conflict on this island,” she added. “The best way we can honour them is to continue, and in fact, to rededicate ourselves to our work to end conflict and in turn, to end the suffering it wreaks on people who deserve to live, and to thrive.”

Also speaking at the event, UNHCR’s Mr. Damtew noted that

with 65.6 million people displaced globally, the world is witnessing the highest level of human suffering ever seen.

“Refugees are a symbol of our turbulent times. They bring home to us in the most visceral and compelling way what is happening in the world,” he said. “When we see these big numbers, we should not forget that behind each refugee or internally displaced person fleeing war or conflict there is a tragic individual story; a story of loss and suffering; of family separation. Many of them have seen their homes destroyed, members of their family killed, their communities bombarded.”

“This is therefore a time where refugees need us more than ever. Many people have opened their hearts to refugees. Others have perceived their arrival as a threat to their identity. Some of those who perceive them as a threat have probably never met a refugee,” he added. “There is a lot each of us can do to overcome indifference or fear and to counter narratives that would seek to exclude and marginalize refugees and other uprooted people.” Addressing the event, Ms. Nicolas from PeacePlayers Cyprus noted that young people were disproportionately affected by conflict and forced migration, and highlighted the important role team sports like basketball can play in bringing different communities together, building deep personal bonds and lasting friendships. The organisation also focuses on peace education, teaching young people the values of equality, dignity and leadership.

“All around the world, young people deserve the chance to live healthy lives, to go to school, to dream and to live out those dreams,” she said. “Young people deserve to hear the guns fall silent.”

The event concluded with a candle-lighting ceremony in honour of those who have died in conflict, and a minute’s silence led by UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir.

UNFICYP pays tribute to fallen Austrian comrades

On 14 August 1974, three Austrian peacekeepers serving with UNFICYP, 1/Lt. Johann Izay, MSgt. Paul Decombe and Cpl. August Isaak, lost their lives in an air attack in the vicinity of the small village of Koshi. Every year, the Mission pays tribute to these three fallen comrades; on 14 August this year, UNFICYP remembered their sacrifice during an event at a memorial constructed in their honour in Koshi. Austrian Ambassador to Cyprus Dr. Karl Mueller joined UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Chief of Mission Support, Mr. Joel Cohen, and members of the Austrian Contingent to honour their memories. Speaking during the event, General Humayun said: "President John F. Kennedy said, 'A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers'. This morning I am honored to be here to remember and honor the Austrian Heroes who sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of world peace and progress."

"We have all been touched by the ultimate sacrifice they have made to bring peace for others. May their souls rest in peace," he added. "I would also like to gratefully remember and pay special



tribute to the 186 personnel who have lost their lives in the service of peace on the island since 1964. We are forever in their debt."

UNMAS at work: Towards a mine-free Cyprus

Cyprus remains contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) as a result of inter-communal violence in 1963-64 and the events of 1974. The precise scope of contamination is unknown and further survey is needed to accurately define the problem. As of mid-November 2017, UNFICYP data indicates there are at least 54 "suspected hazardous areas" that require survey to assess whether clearance is needed; more than 2.6 million square meters (m²) of land may be contaminated with an estimate of more than 7,000 mines.

At the request of UNFICYP, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) initiated a new programme in Cyprus on 1 July 2016 to support UNFICYP activities. During its first year, UNMAS activities, which were implemented by a team from "Mines Advisory Group", focused primarily on technical surveys (TS) and clearance of minefields that were identified when President Anastasiades shared maps of 28 former National Guard (NG) minefields with the leader of the TkCyp community as part of a package of confidence building measures (CBMs) in May 2015. The UNMAS programme is continuing in 2017-18 to build upon the success achieved the first year.

The demining team has worked carefully and diligently in the buffer zone and in the north since its arrival. Its work has made an important contribution to helping UNFICYP implement its mandate as well as assisted in making progress towards the shared goal for both communities of a mine-free Cyprus. Through UNMAS activities, the threat of mines and ERW was removed in areas where it conducted activities, living conditions were improved, and freedom of movement was made safer for UNFICYP, UN partners, and communities.

UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir told the Blue Beret: "UNMAS has supported key confidence building measures agreed during the 2015-2017 peace talks; the clearance of legacy minefield locations in the north and facilitating the opening of future crossings at Lefka and Dherynia,"

"I commend the excellent work of UNMAS for greatly contributing to the accomplishment of our mandated mission," he added.



Some of the team's noteworthy accomplishments during the past six months include:

- Supporting CBMs between the two communities by completing non-technical surveys of 25 minefields that were included in the list of 28 former NG minefields.
- Completing TSs of five minefields that were included in the list of 28 former NG minefields. In total, the team's work allowed the safe release of 173,026m² of land at four minefields in northern Cyprus and 1,666m² at one minefield in the buffer zone.
- Supported force protection by completing battle area clearance in the UN Protected Area adjacent to the runway at the Nicosia International Airport. The demining team released 100,225 m² of land adjacent to the UNFICYP flight operations area and declared it free from explosive hazards.
- UNMAS provided mine/ERW awareness training to 15 UN Police Officers and "training of trainers" to 26 UNFICYP officers to help raise their awareness of the threat of mines/ERW and how to operate safely in Cyprus.
- Technical guidance was provided to UNFICYP to help promote dialogue on demining with the two sides.
- Committee on Missing Persons (CMP): The CMP's vital work in support of reconciliation was facilitated through UNMAS' operational support at two field locations in northern Cyprus; training for its staff; and technical guidance during mission planning for operations at a new location near a minefield.



Women in Conflict exhibition

On 19th October, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, attended the opening of a photographic exhibition, “Women in Conflict Zones”, held at the Home for Cooperation in the buffer zone. This exhibition is the third part of an initiative that focuses directly on the issue of women’s rights and civic participation, and featured a powerful series of photographs by Cypriot photographer Petros Karadjias. The aim is to raise awareness of women’s often unrecognized civic contribution and to promote women activists whose strive towards transparency, justice and peace. The exhibition continues until 22 October 2017 from 17.00 to 21.00.





Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

KNOW THE RULES: THERE IS NO EXCUSE!

- ! At all times we must treat the local population with respect and dignity.
- ! Sexual exploitation and abuse is unacceptable behaviour and prohibited conduct for all United Nations and affiliated personnel.
- ! Sexual exploitation and abuse threatens the lives of people that we are to serve and protect.
- ! Sexual exploitation and abuse undermines discipline, and damages the reputation of the United Nations.

EVERY PERSON UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING PROHIBITIONS:

- ! **It is strictly prohibited** to have any sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18 years (regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally or in my home country). Mistaken belief as to the age of the person is no excuse.
- ! **It is strictly prohibited** to have sex with anyone, in exchange for money, employment, preferential treatment, goods or services, whether or not prostitution is legal in my country or the host country;
- ! **It is strictly prohibited** to engage in any other form of sexually humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour;

I fully understand that:

- Involvement in any act of Sexual exploitation and abuse will be investigated and prosecuted if warranted;
- Any proven act of Sexual exploitation and abuse will result in measures that can include but are not limited to: suspension, immediate repatriation, dismissal, imprisonment and a ban from future United Nations employment;
- If I witness Sexual exploitation and abuse behaviour by others, regardless of their position or seniority, I have a responsibility to take all reasonable measures to stop the misconduct and report the incident immediately to my commander or manager;
- ! Failure to respond or report misconduct is a breach of the United Nations standards of conduct.
There is no excuse!



EXPLOITATION



PROSECUTION



IMPRISONMENT

NO EXCUSE • ZERO TOLERANCE
FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

For further information see the
Mission Conduct and Discipline website: <https://conduct.unmissions.org>

Command Post-10 Expansion Completed

Following an increase in UNFICYP's Slovak contingent in September 2016 in line with Operation UNFICYP concept Force 888, the mission's Sector 4 embarked on not only fulfilling new operational tasks, but also expanding the accommodation and catering capacities for Slovak troops deployed at the Command Post (CP)-10 base near Dheryneia, where the new team was assigned.

The CP-10 expansion process has involved building a new kitchen-dining facility, relocation the helicopter landing system and rebuilding it for night use, as well as building another accommodation area. In addition, the mission has constructed parking lots, perimeter fencing and gates, landscaped the base and its surroundings with emphasis on flood protection measures, construction of infrastructure for new lighting and has installed backup electric generator and removed an unused water tower. Work commenced on 26 December 2016, and was completed at the end of July 2017; the new CP-10 facility becomes the most modern base in UNFICYP's area of operation.

On 16 August 2017, CP-10 was officially opened and presented to senior mission officials including Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Chief-of-Staff Colonel Tim Wildish and Deputy Chief Mission Support, Mr. Ivan Radev,



among others. The head of the Force Engineers, Lt. Col. Pavol Kobik conducted the tour of the new facilities.

In his remarks, General Humayun thanked to the Slovak engineers and the civilian engineers for their dedication as well as the high quality of their work in the implementation of the project.

Fresh faces as UN Flight completes scheduled rotation

Over the month of October, UNFICYP's flight unit – UN Flight - underwent its scheduled rotation, with nine pilots and technicians completing their mission and returning to Argentina. In turn, nine officers have joined UN Flight, most of whom have previously been deployed with UNFICYP and quickly took up the daily activities of the unit.

Some of the activities of the unit include aerial reconnaissance activities with Mobile Force Reserve staff and each of the sectors in which the buffer zone is divided, aero medical evacuation

exercises with Medical Centre staff, as well as new capabilities such as air cargo transfer.

Aerial photography missions are carried out by each sector of the buffer zone in order to ensure regularly updated images of all the areas of interest of UNFICYP.

In addition, the unit conducts night flights, which allow the crews to act quickly in response to each sector's needs.

UN Flight is currently under the command of Lt Col Hugo Alvarez of the Argentinian Air Force.



Transfer of Authority Ceremony at San Martin Camp



Through August and September, UNFICYP conducted its regular bi-annual rotation, during which the Force's troop contributing countries rotate their contingents in Cyprus.

On 23 August, Argentina-led Sector 1, held a Transfer of Authority Ceremony at San Martin Camp, Sector HQ, where Lt. Col. Juan Pablo de la Vega was formally replaced by Lt. Col. Diego Ignacio Berra. The handover was formalized with the delivery of the Argentinian national flag to the flagman of the 50th Argentinean Contingent.

Next up was Slovak-led Sector 4; after a year as Sector 4 Commander, Lt. Col. Rudolf Estok officially handed over command of the Sector to Lt. Col. Jaroslav Marko and Hungarian Deputy Sector Commander, Lt. Col. Ferenc Kozula at a ceremony at the Sector's headquarters, Camp General Stefanik, on 7 September. During the event, the new Sector Commander assured UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun

Kabir of his determination to ensure the continuity of the high peacekeeping standards maintained by the outgoing troops.

Finally, on 28 September, 7 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps – who were led by Lt. Col. Steven Cornell for the duration of their tour – handed over the command of British-led Sector 2 to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, headed by Sector Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Dom Coombes, during a ceremony at Ledra Palace Hotel.

General Humayun paid tribute to all departing contingents, thanking them for their contributions to UN peacekeeping efforts during their service in Cyprus, and wishing them success as they returned to their home countries. He also wished the new Sector Commanders and their troops patience and success as they dealt with the demanding operational environment of the UNFICYP mission.



Sector One Medal Parade

As the summer sun set on 2 August, troops from UNFICYP Sector One, in the west of the island, prepared to receive UN medals in the service of peace. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus and Head of Mission, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, and Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir presented medals to Sector One's peacekeepers.

"We are grateful for the continued support of dedicated Member States such as Argentina, as well as the other Sector One troop contributing countries – Brazil, Chile and Paraguay," SRSG Spehar said.

Sector One covers a distance of approximately 90 kilometers from Kokkina village on the western coast of Cyprus to the village of Mammari, west of Nicosia. It has been the responsibility of the Argentinean Contingent since 16 October 1993. Sector One Headquarters and Command Company are located in San Martin Camp, which is near Skouriotissa village.

The UNFICYP medal – awarded for three months of service with the mission - has three equal bars, one of white in the centre and two of UN blue at either end. The bars are separated by two narrow bands of dark blue, symbolizing the Mediterranean Sea.



Sector Two Medal Parade

3rd July 2017 marked a special day for 7 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps Op TOSCA Group, as they received their well-earned United Nations medals in the service of peace, presented by the Force Commander.

7 Regiment Group is supported by elements from a number of different British Military Regiments, including The Royal Army Medical Corps, The Royal Engineers, The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, The Adjutant General Corps, The Royal Air Force and various Royal Logistic Corps Regiments. The Regiment is commanded by Lt Col Steve Cornell.

Speaking at the event, held at Sector 2 HQ, Ledra Palace Hotel, UNFICYP Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir said: "Working within such a complex operational environment needs extraordinary professionalism by every peacekeeper."

"Today's medal recipients of Sector 2 have accomplished all the operational tasks with distinction. Besides operational tasks, the sector has also arranged numerous social and ceremonial events for the mission," he added. "There is no doubt that the contributions of Sector 2 have been very significant, and of great value to the mission. Very well done Sector 2, and thank you for your excellent performance."



Troops' service recognised in Sector 4 Medal Parade

On Monday 31 July, outgoing troops from the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine received medals in recognition of their professional service during their tenure with UNFICYP. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, and Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir presented medals to Sector Four's peacekeepers. "You dutifully represent the spirit of the United Nations, which has brought you here to serve together under the blue flag, in aid of peace, stability and a comprehensive, sustainable settlement in Cyprus. You contribute daily through your patrols, your liaison functions and your excellent cooperation with the other Mission sectors and components," SRSB Spehar said in her address to the troops at the Sector HQ, Camp General Stefanik. "To our Sector Four troops, I congratulate you and encourage you to continue your excellent work during your deployment with UNFICYP," she added.



Summer Medal Parade

On 10 July, under the setting Cyprus sun, 248 military personnel trooped across the UN flight hangar to receive awards in the service of peace. Officiating at the event were Head of Mission and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Force Commander Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir; in attendance were mission personnel and members of the diplomatic community in Cyprus.

This year's Summer Medal Parade marks the 53rd year of Peace Keeping Operations in Cyprus; more than 150,000 blue berets have received their UNFICYP medal since it was introduced in 1964 to recognize a minimum of 90 consecutive day's duty on operations in Cyprus.

"You face various hazards, and we appreciate the dedication you continue to show in carrying out your duties, including through this summer's blazing heat wave, through long and isolated stints at observation posts, and over a difficult terrain," SRSB Spehar said. "Your role on the island, as the keepers of, calm and stability in the buffer zone, and as liaisons between the sides, is now as critical as ever. Be certain that we are grateful for your contributions."

"I am particularly delighted to note the professionalism shown by the Sectors in manning all the sensitive positions along the Buffer Zone in respective Areas of Operation. In addition, I have noted with great interest your cooperation with other contingents and components in operational, training, and administrative



activities," Force Commander Humayun said at the event. "Let me emphasize that at this critical time of the political process, it is extremely crucial that we remain vigilant all the time and continue to remain focused on our mandated mission."

The parade involved soldiers from across all 3 Sectors, Force Headquarters and Force Troops Units. The formal element of the parade was concluded by some truly multinational hospitality, with soldiers and guests invited to enjoy some much-needed cold refreshments and taste the delicacies of the countries that continue to support this mission.

Sustainable fishing key to maintaining marine habitats



Do you ever wonder why do we have to eat frozen and imported seafood even though we live on an island? While we indulge ourselves in the crystal clear waters of the Eastern Mediterranean all summer, we need to start to spare a thought for the marine habitat.

This was the message of Dr. Burak Cicek, guest speaker at an event at UNFICYP HQ to mark World Environment Day. Upon the invitation of UNFICYP's Environment Committee, Dr. Cicek delivered a presentation on "Artificial Reefs and Sustainable Fisheries" on 7 June, highlighting the need for us to connect and give back for a win-win situation for both the fishermen and the environment.

In line with this year's World Environment Day theme – Connecting People to Nature – Dr. Cicek informed the audience, in a highly interactive presentation, that as we are all part of nature and are dependent on it for survival, we must also work to protect it and allow marine habitat to flourish.

Dr. Cicek is part of the EU-financed Artificial Reefs project, which aims at achieving effective integration of economic and social development for people in the region while conserving the environment and reducing the pressure put on the limited resources through the implementation of artificial reefs in the Iskele-Famagusta Bay. The pilot intends to broaden its geographical scope across the island in the future.

Poor productivity, low biodiversity and oligotrophy (nutrient deficiency), which is the result of the clear waters so celebrated by the tourism sector, all put unwanted pressure on the species such as the monk seals (*Monachus monachus*), sea turtles (*Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*) and dolphins.

The conundrum of preventing fishermen from fishing these species while continuing their activities is a difficult one to overcome. Following numerous meetings with the fishermen in the area, it was agreed that certain areas will be off-limits to fishermen, allowing nearly 2000 "artificial reefs" to be deployed with the goal of providing a habitat with a protected area for nesting, feeding and mating. In the meantime, in order to allow the fishermen to increase their earnings by removing the middlemen, the project supported the construction of a fish market that is now operational. In addition, the fishermen have now met under the umbrella of a cooperative to stand together to have a say in creating new legislation and, importantly, to establish an insurance mechanism to lower the burden of damages caused by storms in winter.

The scientific observation and research aspect of the project is still underway as Dr. Cicek and his team are producing academic work. But as he notes, there is still a long way to go on this research. In the meantime, as we enjoy fresh fish on the grill this summer, let's ensure we're protecting their habitat!

For further reading:

Artificial Reefs in Fisheries Management

Stephen A. Bortone, Frederico Pereira Brandini, Gianna Fabi, Shinya Otake

ISBN 9781439820070 - CAT# K11058

Artificial Reefs in Fisheries Management brings to the forefront the current state of knowledge regarding artificial reefs and their pragmatic application to furthering fisheries sustainability. It presents a timely compilation of research to increase options for the implementation of artificial reefs for fishery and natural resource managers. The book offers an inclusive and encompassing description of the field by chapter authors drawn from diverse geographical areas. This approach gives readers the broadest of perspectives and reflects regional interests and experience with artificial reefs in different parts of the world. Coming at an opportune time in the field of artificial reefs, *Artificial Reefs in Fisheries Management* aids researchers and natural resource managers more carefully consider the special features of artificial reefs in their application to resolving fisheries management problems. This book is an important step toward improving the prescribed use of artificial reefs as a viable option in many of the world's fisheries in the quest to make more of the world's fisheries sustainable.

ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



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SHINYA OTAKE

 **CRC Press**
Taylor & Francis Group

Annual Bi-communal Festival in Pyla

More than 5,000 people attended the annual festival in Cyprus' only bi-communal village, Pyla, on 30 June and 1 July, enjoying a smorgasbord of food, drink, entertainment and shopping. Supported by UNFICYP since its inception in 2015 and by the two local Mukhtars (leaders), Mr. Simon Mitides, the local leader of the Greek Cypriot community, and Mr Nejdet Enver, the local leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, the festival has grown from strength to strength, more than tripling its attendance in the three years of its existence.



New faces

SECTOR - 1



1st Lt. Maria Belen BARTOLELLI – Senior Medical Officer

1st Lt María Belén Bartolelli joined in the Argentinian Navy in 2015, graduating from the Naval Integration Course. Prior to that, she graduated from the School of Medicine of the University of Buenos Aires in 2013. 1st Lt Bartolelli participated as a doctor in the summer Antarctic campaign aboard on Argentine Navy ship. Her current base is the Naval Hospital: Cirujano Mayor Dr. Pedro Mallo in Buenos Aires. This is 1st Lt Bartolelli's first deployment with the United Nations, where she is serving as a Senior Medical Officer with Sector 1.



Lt. Col. Diego BERRA – Commanding Officer

Lt Col Diego Berra was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 28 April 1970. He graduated from the Army Academy on December 1991 as a Cavalry Officer. In 1994, he served in Croatia with UNPROFOR as a Mechanized Platoon Commander. In 2000, he successfully completed the ACCC (Armor Captains Career Course) in United States of America (Fort Knox, Kentucky), and served at the 1-8 Cav, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cav Div (Fort Hood – Texas) for 3 months. He is a Staff Officer who graduated from both the Superior Army War School and the Superior Joint War School in Argentina. He also is a Staff Officer graduated from the Brazilian Army War School (ECEME), gaining a Doctorate in Military Sciences. Lt Col Berra is happily married to Karina Elizabeth, who has accompanied him to Cyprus along with her son, Dante Cesar (15).



Lt. Col. Marcos COPERTINO – Deputy Commanding Officer

Lt Col Marcos Copertino was born in Cordoba, Argentina, on 15 February 1970. He graduated from the army academy in December 1993 as an infantry officer. As a subaltern official, he served in the Mechanized Infantry Regiment 4, at the school of specialties and services subsidiaries, at the antarctic command of army and in the superior school of war. In 2003, he served as Antarctic base chief "Belgrano 2", and in 2006, as 2nd chief of the Antarctic base "Hope". In addition, he has worked as an official of operations of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment 25, and was 2IC between 2014 and 2015.

Lt Col Copertino has a degree in Strategy and Organization and is a specialist in operational strategy and joint military planning. From December 2015, he was employed as deputy head of Mountain Infantry Detachment 22, before being posted to UNFICYP as Deputy CO, Sector 1.

Lt Col Copertino is married to Nora Silvana and has three children: Paula (20), Santiago (16) and Luciana (9).

SECTOR - 2



Lt. Col. DCD COOMBES - Commanding Officer

Lt Col Dom Coombes assumed command of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in January 2016. He was commissioned into 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) in 1998. Troop leading included a variety of armoured exercises as well as a secondment to the Australian Army as part of Ex LONG LOOK and an operational deployment to Kosovo. Training was also conducted in Norway, Brunei and Canada. After this he was posted to the AFV Gunnery School to oversee Armoured Reconnaissance gunnery training and then to HQ 4 Division as a staff officer. He returned to Regimental Duty as Adjutant, which included a deployment on Op TELIC 8. On promotion to Major, he attended the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) and the MSc-earning Battlespace Technology Course. His initial Grade 2 job was on the Land Threat Team, Defence Intelligence Staff. He was selected for sub-unit command with the 9/12L and deployed on Op HERRICK 14 as an adviser to the Afghan National Army. On completion of his sub-unit command tour, he returned to QDG as

Regimental 2IC. Following a busy training year in Bavaria and BATUS he deployed on Op HERRICK 20 as COS Afghan National Army Brigade Advisory Team.



Regimental Sergeant Major G SMITH - Warrant Officer Class 1

Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) Gary Smith enlisted into The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in 1996. Early service saw him deploy to Bosnia and Kosovo. In 2003, he deployed to Iraq on Op TELIC 1. On return, he was promoted to Cpl and passed his Close Recce Commanders course. In 2007, he deployed on Op TELIC 7, and on completion of that tour, was promoted to Sgt and posted to the AFV Gunnery School as a Challenger 2 Tank Gunnery Instructor. On return to regimental duty, he deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 14 as an advisor to the Afghan National Army. Since then, he has completed the following roles: Regimental Gunnery Staff Sergeant, Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant and B Sqn SSM. He was promoted on October 15 to WO1 and appointed RSM SCOTS DG. December will see him commission and promote to Capt to take on the role of Training Officer, SCOTS DG.

WO1 Smith is married to Sarah and has a daughter, Kirsty, and two step-sons, Aaron and Luke. His interests include outdoor pursuits and spending time with his family.



Major JE STONE - Deputy Commander, Chief MOLO

Maj Stone commissioned into The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in December 2001. Posted to Fallingbowl, early service at Regimental Duty saw him troop lead on Op TELIC 1 before a spell as Intelligence Officer and subsequently as the Operations Officer for the SCOTS DG BG on Op TELIC 7 in Al Amarah. Prior to ICSC(L) he also served as Adjutant of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry. For his initial Grade 2 post, Maj Stone served in PJHQ J7, designing and delivering exercises for the JFHQ, after which he returned to SCOTS DG as a Squadron Leader, deploying to BATUS as the last SCOTS DG CR2 Squadron Leader. His tour as a sub-unit commander concluded with Op HERRICK 19 in Kabul as OC of the Souther Force Protection Squadron.

His subsequent SO2 post was as SO2 O&D in HQ 51 Infantry Brigade during the transition from Regional Brigade HQ and delivery of military support to the Commonwealth Games. Maj Stone

returned to SCOTS DG as 2IC in July 2016. Married to Sarah, they have two children aged 6 and 4. Out of work time, he enjoys field sports, particularly shooting and stalking and, when the opportunity arises, sailing. He also maintains an interest in military history.

SECTOR - 4



Lt. Col. Ferenc KOZULA - Deputy Commanding Officer

Lt Col Ferenc Kozula was born on 31st July 1958, in Székesfehérvár, Hungary. He joined the Hungarian Army in 1976, when he started to study at Military Technical College in Budapest-Hungary. In 1980 he graduated as air-defence engineer as a lieutenant.

He served for a number of years in an Home Air-Defence Missile unit as maintenance engineer, com battery and TOC duty officer, before attending the Home Air-Defence Commander University in Tver in 1988. He was then appointed as Commander of Air-Defence Missile (ADM) the Battalion in Alcsutdoboz, Hungary, in 1992. He has also served in a number of different military headquarters, including HQ AD Corps, HQ Air Force and GenS. He was later deployed to NATO HQ in HQ JFC Brunsum, the Netherlands, between 2011 and 2014. This was followed by a three-year stint with HQ JFC Székesfehérvár, Hungary.



Capt. Miroslava KUBUŠOVÁ - Duty Officer

Capt Kubusova was born on 26th December 1982, in Brezno, Slovakia. She began her professional military career in September 2007 by joining the Slovak Armed Forces after graduating from the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. Capt Kubusova commissioned into the Multifunctional Battalion in Hlohovec, Slovakia, in 2008 as an Evacuation Platoon Leader. Her next posting led her to the Air Surveillance Battalion in Zvolen, Slovakia, as a Signal Officer. Capt Kubusova changed her branch to Logistics in 2006 and started working for the General Surgeon's Office as a Senior Logistics Officer at ROLE 2E in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. This is Capt Kubusova's first deployment with the United Nations, where she conducts her service as a Duty Officer in Sector 4, Famagusta. Capt Kubusova is single and enjoys sports, particularly hiking and running.



Lt. Col. Jaroslav MARKO - Commanding Officer

Lt Col Jaroslav Marko was born on 15th May 1969 in Detva, Slovakia. He graduated from the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra, Slovakia in 1991, earning Master's degree in agricultural production. He joined the Slovak Armed Forces in 1992 and has held numerous positions including Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Chief of Logistics at the 3rd Logistic Battalion in garrison Zvolen, Slovakia, the Chief of Staff of the Logistic Battalion at Airbase Sliač, Slovakia, Chief of Logistics Support Section at the Slovak Air Force Headquarters to the most recent one, the Director of the Specialized Training Department at the Training Center in MTA Lešť, Slovakia. His career has seen him being deployed to UNFICYP twice, first from 2006 - 2007 in Sector 4 as Chief of Logistics and again from 2011 - 2013 as Force Engineer at HQ.

Lt Col Marko is married to Jana and they have two children – Richard (18) and Jaroslav (24). He is keen on working out in the gym, swimming and cycling.



Capt. Soo CHOI – HQ Ops Info Officer

Captain Soo Choi was born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario. She joined the Canadian Armed Forces in June 2006 as an Engineer under the Regular Officer Training Plan. She graduated from Royal Military College of Canada in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. Following completion of Basic Engineer Officer training in Gagetown, New Brunswick, she was posted to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in August 2011. During this posting, she was employed as the EOD Troop Commander, Squadron Operations Officer, and Squadron Second in Command, and completed the Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Operator Course, NATO CIED Staff Officer Awareness Course and various other EOD and combat engineer related courses. Capt Choi deployed in Op ATTENTION Roto 3 as an ANA Mentor at the Kabul Military Training Centre in June 2013. Upon her return, she was posted to Real Properties Operations Unit West. She worked as the Infrastructure Plans Officer for capital infrastructure in Western Canada. In June 2016, Capt Choi completed Army Operations Course and was posted back to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment as the Regimental Operations Officer. During this time, she participated in NATO and US exercises, prior to being posted to Cyprus as HQ Ops Info Officer.



Lt. Col. Tamino EDER - Liaison Officer to the National Guard

Lt Col Tamino Eder joined the Austrian Armed Forces in October 1994 for Basic Military Officers Training in Upper Austria. This was followed by specialization in military nuclear, biological and chemical defense at Military NBC Command in Vienna. His first appointment was as NBC Reserve Officer for the 14th Tank Battalion in Wels. During this time, he studied Geographic and Applied Geospatial Science specialized in GIS and landscape ecology at the University of Salzburg, from which he graduated with a Master's degree in 2001. After completing his academic studies, he got an appointment at the Institute for Military Geography responsible for R&D. Involved in different projects implementing methods and techniques for an improved "Recognized Environmental Picture" (REP) in military operations, he had the chance to start with his dissertation in natural science. Upon completion of his doctoral thesis in 2006, he graduated from the University of Salzburg with Doctorate in Natural Sciences focused on geo- and eco-systems. Lt Col Eder finished the Basic Officers Training for Higher Duty at the National Defense Academy in Vienna, after which he was appointed to the Logistics Support Division in the Austrian Ministry of Defense in 2013. He then started working as deputy chief in the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Branch, focused on environmental management on training areas, implementation of energy efficiency applications and waste management in the Austrian Armed Forces. In 2016, he became a member of the Office for Innovation in the Cabinet of the Defense Minister. He has accomplished two UNDOF missions: one as a Platoon Commander stationed in Syria in 2006, and one as a Liaison Officer to the Israeli Defense Forces in Israel in 2010, where he learned to work in a multi-national environment.



Lt. Col. Lucas Jose FILIPPI – Chief, Military Training Cell

Lt Col Lucas Jose Filippi joined the Argentinian army in 1991 and was commissioned as Infantry 2nd Lieutenant in December 1994. He was posted to the 21st Mountain Infantry Regiment as Platoon Commander, and then to the 10th Mountain Infantry Regiment as Company Commander, Mountain Military School, Mountain Special Ops "Cazadores" Company. From 2007 to 2010, he was assigned to the historical 1st Infantry Regiment "PATRICIOS", the first ever military Regiment to be created in the Argentinian Army, in 1806. From January 2011 to January 2012, he served in MINURSO, Western Sahara, as a Military Observer, then between 2012 and 2014, was posted with the 6th Mountain Brigade Command. Throughout his military career, he has pursued a number of courses, including: Mountain Golden Aptitude, Mountain Special Ops "CAZADORES", Military Ski Instructor, Military Climbing Instructor and Mountain Special Ops "CAZADORES" Instructor. He was appointed as the Chief of UNFICYP's Military Training Cell on 8th of June following his appointment as 2iC of the 21st Mountain Infantry Regiment since December 2014. This is his second tour of duty in Cyprus: from April 2005 to April 2006, served as 2iC Mobile Force Reserve with UNFICYP. Lt Col Filippi is married to Patricia and has two children, Agustina and Ignacio.



Major Alexander MARJORIBANKS – Officer in Command, Mobile Force Reserve

Major Alexander MARJORIBANKS (pronounced ‘march-banks’) was born in 1981 in South Africa. He attended Glenalmond Collage in Scotland, and, disdaining higher education, joined the British Army in 2001. He attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (SCOTS DG), then equipped with the Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank. His first deployment was as an Armoured Troop Leader in Iraq in 2003. Since then, he has deployed on a number of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has held roles including Recce Troop Leader, Squadron 2IC, Arms Inspector at the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG), Unit Operations Officer, SO3 Armoured at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada and SO2 Plans at Field Training Unit in the UK. His most recent role was as OC A Squadron SCOTS DG, which included a month-long training exercise across the mountains and deserts of the UAE (Ex DESERT FALCON). Alex is married

to Charlotte and has three boys, aged 11 and 8. He is an amateur of velocipedes (bicycles), and enjoys road cycling above all other passions, to the mingled relief and dismay of his family.



Capt. Jonathas SERPA - SO3 Future Plans

Capt Jonathas Serpa joined the Brazilian Army in January 2001 and commissioned into the Military Academy. His first post saw him move to Manaus to be a Jungle Platoon Commander. During this time, he completed the Jungle Expert Course and the Navy Jungle Expert Course. He later deployed to Haiti in 2008 as a Platoon Commander.

In 2009, he served in the Brazilian Military Academy as a Cadet Instructor, then in 2011 decided to attempt the Brazilian Parachute Course, Commando Course and Special Forces Course, all of which he passed (a period he describes as “hell year”). Thereafter he was deployed with the Brazilian Special Forces Command in Goiania. In 2015, he was a Special Forces Company Commander and participated in a number of missions in the Amazon and inside the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. In 2016, during the Olympic Games, he was responsible for Task Force “Skull”, and participated in the prevention and fight against terrorism.



Lt. Col. Angel Adolfo THOMPSON – Force Signals Officer

Lt. Col. Angel Adolfo Thomas was born in Chaco, Argentina in July 1969; in 1994, he graduated from the Air Force Academy as an Air Force Officer, receiving his specialty in Communications in 1998. He served for 10 years in the 2nd Signals Regiment of the Air Force, where he became an expert in Air Traffic Control Communications Systems, taking part in many national and international operational exercises. In 2004, he obtained his degree as a Telecommunications Engineer. In 2009, he graduated from the Air War College as a Command and Staff Officer, and in 2010, graduated from the Joint Armed Forces War College as a Joint Command and Staff Officer. He has served in two previous UN Missions: in 2007, he served in MINUSTAH-Haiti as a Signals Officer and Deputy Operations Officer in the Level II Argentinian Military Hospital, in 2014 as a UN Military Observer in UNTSO, where he was posted in Observer Group Golan Tiberias (Israel–Syria border) and was in charge of a complete CCTV and Alarm Systems project in OP 54 and OP73 (located on the Syrian side). Before joining UNFICYP, he

served as Chief of Communications for the Navigation and Surveillance Department of the Air Traffic Services Command, posted in the Northern Region of Argentina. He used to be a football player, but nowadays he just enjoys watching his favorite team Boca Juniors and of course the Argentinian National team. Lt. Col. Thomas travelled to Cyprus alone; he family eagerly awaits his return home.



Capt. Pamela Carolina TROSSERO – 2IC, Mobile Force Reserve

Capt Pamela Carolina Trossero was born on 18th October 1984 in Entre Rios in eastern Argentina. She joined the Army in 2003 and graduated from the Military Academy in 2006 as a 2nd Lt of the Engineer Branch. Over the course of her career, she has served with the 121st Amphibious Engineer Battalion in 2006; as Company Commander with the Army Diver's Coy (2011); Instructor at the Military Academy (2012-2015) and Personnel & Administration Officer at the 8th Mountain Engineer Battalion (2016-2017). After graduating from the Military Academy, she attended the Army Diving Course (2008), the Instructor's Army Diver Course (2009) and the Parachuting Army Course (2011). She graduated with a Degree in Administration from the MAZA University in Mendoza (Argentina). This is her first experience as a UN peacekeeper; she joined UNFICYP as Second in Command MFR 25th August 2017. Capt Trossero is married to Nicolas Javier Paron and they have one child, Guillermina Lujan (2). She enjoys swimming,

scuba diving, volleyball and parachuting.



Members of the Inside the Blue team, who conducted the Mission's first-ever #Respect Campaign in November 2017

BLUE BERET



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