

# The Blue Beret

## August/September 2009



**UNFICYP Helps sides  
build confidence**

## THE BLUE BERET

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## Editorial

Autumn is here, although one could be forgiven for not noticing, given the high temperatures. Notwithstanding the warmth, the pick-up in activity in UNFICYP and in relation to the peace process is a definite sign that summer is over.

Of course, not everything came to a halt in July and August. Among other things, UNFICYP's humanitarian activities continued, patrolling of the buffer zone went on uninterrupted, the force's engineers carried out essential maintenance and repairs on the road that will serve the future Limnitis/ Yeşilirmak crossing point, and work with the good offices mission facilitating the peace process took place, although at a slower pace.

This time of year is always a busy one, but especially so this time. There is much expectation regarding the peace process, which has now entered its second year. When it renewed UNFICYP's mandate in May this year, the Security Council asked the Secretary-General to report on "contingency planning in relation to the settlement, by 1 December 2009". In addition, UNFICYP will continue to work with the good offices mission in the United Nations integrated effort to help the Cyprus leaders reach a comprehensive settlement they can then put before their respective communities.

Much will be happening over the next few weeks in Cyprus and pretty soon the (relatively) lazy days of summer will be a very distant memory.

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**Front Cover: UNFICYP Helps sides build confidence**  
**Back Cover: UNFICYP Photo Exhibition**

# Limnitis opening a step closer

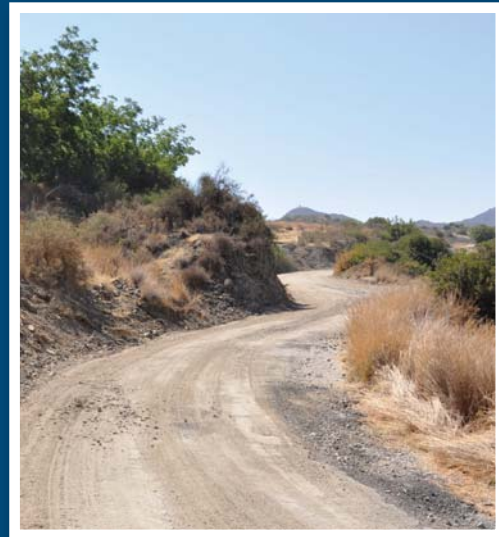
When the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and head of UNFICYP, Taya-Brook Zerihoun, announced last June that the leaders of Cyprus's main communities had agreed to proceed with the opening of a crossing point at Limnitis/Yeşilirmak, it marked the end of a long wait for the residents of the area and undoubtedly provided a boost to ongoing peace talks.

Indeed, the question of the opening of a crossing point at Limnitis/ Yeşilirmak had been on the agenda for years, at some points nearly becoming a "confidence destroying measure" rather than helping build trust between the two sides. The crossing point in the northwest of the country was traditionally linked to the opening of Ledra Street in the heart of the country's capital. When that historic event came to pass in April 2008, expectations were high that the Limnitis/ Yeşilirmak crossing point would soon follow. And hopes for a breakthrough were well founded. In the months weeks leading up to the Ledra opening (and subsequently), the two leaders clearly indicated that Limnitis/ Yeşilirmak was a priority.

In joint statements issued on 21 March, 23 May and 25 July the leaders instructed their representatives to take up the opening of Limnitis/Yeşilirmak "and other crossing points". In the end it took some time to actually ink an agreement on the opening. The two leaders decided on 26 June that the crossing point would operate under the rules governing other crossings and underscored the role that UNFICYP would play. Things were made somewhat more complicated by the fact that the Limnitis/Yeşilirmak crossing also entailed arranging for crossing into nearby Erenköy/Kokkina, an area that is under military control. The leaders decided to solve the issue by requesting UNFICYP to escort persons wishing to visit that area. The detailed accord provides that visits "will be made by minibuses on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Turkish Cypriot side may request UNFICYP escort for one or two extra minibus(es) a week".

Still, the actual opening will have to wait until a considerable amount of work is completed on the ground. UNFICYP's engineers set to work immediately after the agreement to conduct essential repairs and upkeep of the road through the crossing, but much more is needed.

The United Nations Development Programme's Partnership for the Future Programme, under the EU-funded "Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community", has awarded a contract to a joint venture between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot engineering companies to provide services for the "Survey, Investigation, Assessment and Project Designs for the improvement of the Kato Pyrgos/Asağı Pırgo -Limnitis/Yeşilirmak Road". The project involves the upgrading of the road, a section of 2.2 km located in the buffer zone and another section of about 4.5 km located in the northern part of the island.



According to UNDP-PFF, the feasibility study of the project focuses on the investigation, assessment and survey needed to prepare the road designs and the preparation of the tendering documents for the upgrading of the existing two sections of the road. The work will take eight weeks and result in the preparation of tender documents for the construction of a better link-age between the two sections.

So, the wait is not over for the people of the area. However, there is now for the first time actual work to make what some had begun to call a pipe dream a reality.



# UNFICYP Pho

**U**NFICYP's photographers down the years have captured for posterity the different aspects of the mission's work. They have documented its political efforts, but also the essential humanitarian role it has played in both communities. A selection of these photographs has been enlarged and prepared for an exhibition to be displayed in UNFICYP headquarters from October 2009, marking the nearly half a century it has been a force for peace in Cyprus.



**UNFICYP assists pilgrims on an annual celebration at the small chapel of Ayia Marina in the buffer zone village of Dherynia.**



**Irish UNFICYP soldiers escort Turkish Cypriots on 24 April 1964 from an area in Famagusta that had been under fire.**



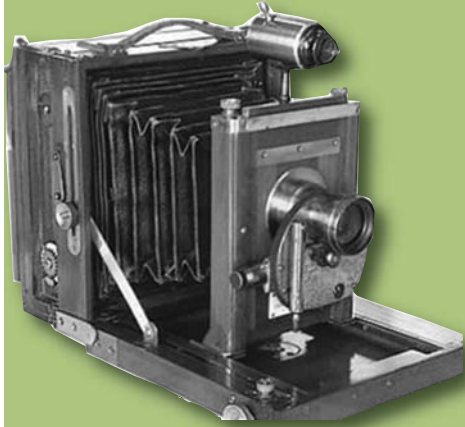
**UNFICYP Finnish soldiers in May 1964 cycling to Nicosia from Dhekelia, a distance of over 190 km.**



**Bullet-riddled Cyprus Airways Trident passenger plane, abandoned in 1974 at the old Nicosia International Airport.**



# to Exhibition



Peacekeepers talk to a resident of Asomatos village in the Karpas peninsula during a humanitarian visit.



Special Representative of the Secretary-General Taye-Brook Zerihoun receives Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and his delegation arriving for the Cyprus talks held in the UNPA.



A daily supply of water and food for the Observation Post being loaded on a donkey at Loutros village, Lefka District in April 1973.



Canadian peacekeeper of Nicosia's Sector 3 monitoring activities in the capital.



UN patrol base 18 in Sector 1, overlooking Morphou Bay.





# International Day of Peace

UNFICYP observed International Day of Peace with a candle vigil ceremony held in the buffer zone area outside Ledra Palace Hotel on 28 September 2009. Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi addressed the event, which was attended by Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the World War II Veterans Association, members of the diplomatic community and representatives of the two main communities on the island.

"The International Day of Peace is an occasion to take stock of efforts to promote peace and well being for all people everywhere". In his address the Force Commander said: "On this day we are called to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace among all nations. People around the world take this opportunity to assess what has been accomplished and renew their dedication to do all that remains to be done."

"On this day we celebrate peace, but war and armed conflict are still the daily lot of too many people on our planet," he continued.

"Meanwhile, persistent oppression, hunger and lack of shelter and education around the world are proof that the mere absence of war is not equal to peace."

Referring to the current efforts for peace in Cyprus, the Force Commander said, "We believe that prospects for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus are better now than they have been for a long time. Only a few weeks ago, we marked the anniversary of the start of full-fledged talks to bring lasting peace and reunification to the island."

He stressed that the veterans are the ultimate demonstration that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can unite for the greater good. "You, as Cypriots, helped bring peace to the world as you fought tyranny seven decades ago. This shared history has continued to bind you, even as your country was torn by tragic events. I thank you for being here today and share your hope that the light of the peace vigil candle will illuminate the path to an enduring peace in Cyprus." Cyprus World War II Veterans Association President

Loizos Demetriou in his address stressed that the message of the Secretary-General on the International Day of Peace is a call to all nations and all people to cease all hostilities for the entire day. To allow all those engaged in conflict to consider the wisdom of further violence. To give time to world leaders to listen to their peoples. Many of those peoples want an end to repression and intolerance. They want relief from poverty and despair.

"The Cypriot veterans of the Second World War, are well aware of the misery and destruction caused by wars and shall always be ready to take part in events such as the present in support of peace. We must all try hard to meet the call for building a better world in the 21st century", Demetriou said.

Closing the event the Force Commander lit a candle and passed on the light to those attending the ceremony before a minutes silence was held in honour of those who have fought for peace. The peace candle burned for 24 hours.



# Testing the MFR

**T**he Mobile Force Reserve and HQ UNFICYP Training Cell recently organised a joint training exercise designed to test the MFR in situations where Sectors request assistance to control public order within the buffer zone.

Exercise RAPID DEPLOYMENT began when the HQ JOC called the MFR to report civil unrest in Sector 1 near OP 22. OC MFR Maj. Justin Revell immediately despatched two platoons to the area in the MFR's TACTICA APCs, who first met with Sector 1's Liaison Officer before offering military support to the UNPOL forces already at the scene. When the crowd became more volatile, a trained

Public Order MFR platoon arrived to help clear the angry crowd.

A second "surprise" serial was when an MFR platoon was "ambushed" by a large crowd after one of the TACTICAs had "broken down" en route to another demonstration.

These cleverly constructed serials provided commanders with numerous unforeseen problems and were a real test for all concerned. The exercise was deemed a huge success, and the MTC now plans further joint training exercises, so watch this space!

Lt. J. O. Slatter



# VCCT first line of defence in



**D**PKO invited its HIV advisers, focal points and coordinators as well as partners from UN Cares, UNFPA and UNAIDS to participate in the sixth annual HIV workshop hosted in Stadtschlaining, Austria from 3-8 August.

UNFICYP was represented by its focal point Netha Kreouzos. The most important outcome of the workshop was that the DPKO HIV team has begun to assess how well the policy directive is being implemented across missions and has identified the need for greater monitoring and evaluation so that minimum standards apply in all missions by mainstreaming HIV awareness and prevention programmes.

Advisers and focal points acknowledged that a significant part of the prevention programme is the ability to offer a high standard of voluntary confidential counselling and testing to all personnel.

Within this framework the results of the first DPKO training for mission-based HIV/AIDS officers and focal points in Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) for HIV that was held in Nairobi from 24-29 May 2009 were discussed. The training aimed at standardizing the competency, quality and coverage of VCCT services across peacekeeping missions. Focal points that attended the programme collectively agreed that this was a positive development and training needed to be extended further to include all personnel conducting VCCT in the field.

The training programme catered for all levels of experience from those who have no experience at all in VCCT to the very experienced incorporating the

different levels to the greatest advantage for all participants. Different mission experiences, needs, challenges and good practices were highlighted as well as hands-on learning of the latest VCCT methodologies and practice under the guidance of the VCCT expert consultant Francisco Ramirez and the DPKO HIV team from New York. Technical knowledge on HIV, its transmission and prevention was reinforced and updated through sessions and discussions.

Interactive exercises and role play on how to conduct pre and post test counselling sessions were held building the capacity of participants to carry out effective VCCT. Skills were developed on how to demonstrate high-quality, effective counselling and risk reduction techniques given challenging situations. Participants were shown how to interpret results of different HIV tests available as well as recognize differences between the various HIV tests in order to implement in their own missions. Participants were also taken to visit Kenyatta National Hospital's VCCT centre where they had the opportunity to meet with counsellors working there.

The UNFICYP HIV Focal Point Kreouzos and Deputy Focal Point Christine Iacovou expressed their satisfaction at the programme, noting that it was an intensive week that they gained much from in their efforts to establish VCCT for UNFICYP personnel.

Dr. Megh Gurung, HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser pointed out that the training was considered so valuable by the DPKO team in New York because VCCT and the knowledge and services that come from a peacekeeper's knowing his / her sero-status is personal and a powerful

behaviour and life changing experience. "Our genuine concern, involvement and empathy during the process is therefore of great importance and value."

Ramirez, the VCCT consultant said, "facilitating this



HIV advisers, focal points and coordinators as well as partners from UN Cares, UNFPA and UNAIDS participated in the sixth annual HIV workshop hosted in Stadtschlaining, Austria.



# HIV and AIDS response



HIV/AIDS officers and focal points participated in Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) training held in Nairobi.

training proved to be a truly great and memorable honour for me. I was most struck by the immeasurable dedication

that you all bring to the work that you do as Focal Points and Advisers.

I was genuinely impressed with your enthusiasm to share your experiences and support one another as well as your willingness to engage with the material even when doing so involved taking a risk. With the VCCT skills and framework we established during this training, as well as your energy and unquestionable good will, I am confident that we will all continue to make a positive impact in our response to HIV and AIDS. "

Participants that attended the training were equally impressed by the programme and the energy and commitment of the facilitators and their colleagues working in the field in often trying conditions.

UNAMI HIV Focal Point Victoria Hoburn said the training was an invaluable opportunity to meet and learn from one another, about an issue which touches the lives of everyone in some way.

Anne Murambi, Administrative Assistant/Counsellor serving with MONUC ( Congo) said, "the training has given me sufficient confidence to face my clients from a more informed position. I feel richer, reassured and more empowered."

Musumali Shindano from UNMIL (Liberia) said, "it was a unique and great opportunity to share with and learn from counterparts from the array of missions around the globe, from UNHQ and from our trainer, all of whom contributed in no small measure to the whole VCT Training experience in Nairobi."

Deborah A Nabwiso from the United Nations Observer

Mission in Georgia said the training was an eye-opener on how important VCCT is and how effectively it can impact and decelerate

the spread of HIV infections.

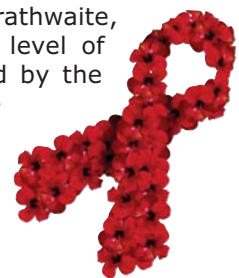
Dr. Thomas Kwasa, Chief Medical Officer in UNMIN (Nepal) said the interaction with colleagues working in the field of HIV/AIDS was invaluable while the practical hands on sessions were most beneficial, as was the visit to Kenyatta National Hospital's VCT centre.

Christine Iacovou: From feeling daunted and out of my depth on the first day, I ended the week having learnt so much my head was bursting; meeting each one of you and your willingness to share your stories and experiences; Francisco's knowledge, enthusiasm and humour; and the fact that you all really do care.

Maryann Smith from UNDOF (Syria) said as focal point this was her first experience of VCCT and she tried to absorb every bit of information that was forthcoming. "Overall my knowledge was increased greatly and confidence to conduct voluntary counselling and testing improved," she said.

HIV/AIDS Coordination Officer in New York, Semra Asefa commented that she was "struck by everybody's willingness to share their experiences and learn from each other..."

Programme Assistant Johann Brathwaite, said: "I was impressed with the level of commitment to learning displayed by the participants; it translated to confidence and belief in their newly acquired capacity by the end of the training."



## The Elders support Cyprus leaders

Two members of The Elders group, Gro Brundtland and Lakhdar Brahimi, visited Ankara, Athens and Cyprus from 8-11 September 2009. It was The Elders second visit to the region, having visited in October 2008 when the Cyprus talks opened. The Elders met with the political leadership of Turkey and Greece and in Cyprus with Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat

Following their four-day visit, the Elders said-, they are "...encouraged and truly inspired by these two courageous leaders who are trying to reunify Cyprus through a fair deal. The direction of the negotiations is positive and we very much hope that the process will now move at a faster pace."

However Dr Brundtland and Mr. Brahimi expressed concern and disappointment at the level of skepticism they have encountered at prospects for a successful

outcome. The Elders main conclusions are that: A Cyprus settlement is the best guarantee for stability, security and prosperity in Cyprus itself and in the wider region. The status quo is not peace and is not sustainable.

Negotiations are going well but need to progress more quickly and need more domestic and international support. We very much hope that the people of Cyprus and the governments of Greece, Turkey, the EU and UN will redouble efforts and continue to work towards the goal of a comprehensive settlement for Cyprus.

The role of women in the peace process is limited. Women are keen to be more involved in the process so that gender issues will be taken into consideration in future structures.

Increased interaction between the two Cypriot communities, Turkey and Greece should be encouraged and supported to build understanding and trust.



Lakhdar Brahimi



Gro Brundtland

Photos: The Elders Group

## A more robust promotion of women's rights

On 14 September, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to set up a single agency after the proposal received unanimous support from UN Member States following years of discussions.

The new agency will represent the merging of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)

The new single entity to be headed by an under-secretary-general within the Organization will promote the rights and well-being of women worldwide and work towards gender equality.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was "particularly gratified" that the Assembly had accepted his proposal for "a more robust promotion" of women's rights under the new entity.

"An important step has been made in strengthening the United Nations' work in the area of gender equality and

empowerment of women, as well as in ensuring the effective delivery of its operational activities for development, which constitutes the other key components of the resolution," he noted.

The SG pointed out that he had appointed more women to senior posts than at any other time in the history of the UN, including nine women to the rank of under-secretary-general. The number of women in senior posts has increased by 40 per cent under his tenure.

The Assembly's resolution tasks Ban with providing Member States with a comprehensive proposal outlining the mission statement, structure, funding and oversight of the new entity so that it can be created as soon as possible.

The resolution also calls for greater measures to harmonize business practices within the UN development system, ways to improve the funding system for such activities, and other steps to streamline practices within the world body.

# Hello...

## Montenegro Joins UNPOL

The first ever Montenegrin officer joined the ranks of UNPOL in August this year. Senior Commissioner Valentin Danaj is from Rozhaje in the North part of Montenegro and has been in the police force for 15 years. He has studied internal affairs and attended law school as well as degree courses in criminal law and criminology. Valentin is married with two daughters aged 9 and 5. He hopes his family will be joining him soon. On Thursday 3 September, to celebrate his arrival in mis-



sion, a short ceremony was held to raise the Montenegrin flag for the very first time outside HQ UNFCYP. Valentin felt it was a great honour and great responsibility to be the "pioneer" officer from his country but since arriving he has not felt alone as UNFICYP has welcomed him and made him feel part of a new "family". Valentin is stationed at UNPOL Ledra Station and is looking forward being part of an international team and experiencing work in a peace keeping mission.



Raising of the Montenegrin flag in the UNPA.

# and Goodbye...

## Argentina says farewell

As UNFICYP welcomed the two eastern European countries into its police ranks, it said farewell to a contingent of law enforcement officers from Argentina. The *gendarmes* first arrived in Cyprus in 2005, an additional contribution by the South American country to the UN's efforts on the island. Speaking shortly before leaving Cyprus, the head of the Argentinean police contingent, Daniel Perrone, said he was proud to have contributed in his country's name to efforts to reunify the island. "What I'll treasure the most from this experience is having served as part of a great mission, a collective enterprise where everyone's contribution is recognized", he



said. Daniel also highlighted the good relationship he and his colleagues maintained with Cypriots, whom he called open and friendly.



The Argentine National Gendarmerie participates in peacekeeping missions abroad by offering humanitarian assistance and/or police monitoring required by international agencies and/or organizations. In this context, and in addition to Cyprus, it has participated in peacekeeping missions in Guatemala, the Former Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Angola, Lebanon, Rwanda, Haiti and Timor Leste.

# Blue Beret editor bids farewell after

**4**0 years! That's two generations! And that's how long I've been with UNFICYP. This is of course less a stretch of three years I spent back in the UK when my husband Pambos decided to do his second degree in aviation electronics.

So, let's go to the very beginning of my long service with this mission. At the age of 21, after meeting my future husband four years earlier, I arrived in Cyprus on 1 June 1969. Pambos and I celebrated our civil marriage at the Nicosia Town Hall on 19 June. One week earlier, as Miriam Taylor, I joined Personnel & Logistics Branch as a clerk. This was a real experience for me, as I do not come from an army family. Our church wedding was on 23 August in Nicosia (see photo ..., published in the Blue Beret ... 1969), which was the first time many of my then colleagues had been to an Orthodox wedding.

At that time, UNFICYP's headquarters was located inside the airport hangar beside the then quite modern Nicosia International Airport. The airport was initially built in the 1930s for the British Royal Air Force; however the RAF left in 1966 and the purpose-built passenger terminal that stands empty today was completed in 1968. I remember that it was one of the "in" places to visit, with a wonderful cafeteria and rooftop garden to view landing and departing aircraft.



Miriam (left) When she first arrived at UNFICYP in July 1969

Believe it or not, I remember the hangar as being quite a comfortable place to work in. In those days, there was no such thing as air conditioners or central heating in offices – fans and heaters were all we had, but they seemed sufficient to us at the time...

In 1972, the HQ moved to its present location, and me along with it. Then came the 1974 events. My eldest son Stephanos was only 10 weeks old when the coup took place and by that time, my husband had taken over the baby-sitting and I had returned to work. When the news broke out that there was trouble in Nicosia, I was in a very difficult

position. I was breastfeeding my baby and had to get home – and home was right next to the Presidential Palace, where the coup was focused. I shall never forget the convoy set up for me by my military colleagues – one UN vehicle in front and one behind my car as we travelled up the avenue leading to the Presidential Palace with canons pointing right at us. At any time I thought we could be blown to pieces! Nevertheless we managed to get to my home but I have no doubt that those UN soldiers risked their lives for me.

The situation worsened when the Turkish Forces arrived. Men were called to arms, and my husband, being an official of a semi-governmental organization, was called to his place of work. As a foreigner with a three-month-old baby, I decided that the best thing for me to do was to go to my office, as I thought that whatever the political situation may be, surely nobody was "after" the UN. So, carrycot in the back of my car, off I went to UNFICYP HQ with my son. After one day of constant bombing, the then Force Commander, General Prem Chand, informed us that a convoy was set up for anyone wishing to seek refuge in the British Bases, and he recommended that women and children specifically join this convoy.

So off we went again, this time to Alexander Barracks in Dhekelia. I had the option to accept an offer of evacuation to England by the Royal Air Force, but I preferred to stay in Cyprus near my home. So, we stayed in the British Bases for 10 days until the so-called cease fire was signed when I returned with my baby to Nicosia. A few days later, I went back to work.

However the situation on the island appeared to be worsening, so finally I accepted the offer of the RAF and flew to London. When my husband told me that from the looks of things, he did not see any likelihood of change for a while, I returned to Cyprus. That was 35 years ago, so his prediction was pretty accurate!

In 1975, I resigned from the UN as we left Cyprus so Pambos could do his masters degree in the UK. In December 1977 we returned, this time with two sons since Alexander was born in London in August. In May 1978, I re-joined the UN family, this time in Operations Branch, where I stayed until 1991 when a post opened in the Public Information Office as the Assistant Editor of the UNFICYP magazine, the Blue Beret. I decided it was time to change so I applied and luckily I was accepted.

At that time, the office was run by an Irish Commandant and the magazine was basically military. In fact, I was told that the more military equipment shown in the photographs (trucks, guns, rifles, etc.), the better! At that time, articles were received from Sectors / Units and individuals, and my job was to edit them and, together with photographs, take them to a printing company which would create the design and layout and then print.

In 1995, among many other changes in UNFICYP computers were introduced. In 1998, desk-top publishing software was installed on my computer and I began to design the magazine myself. Over the years,

# four decades in UNFICYP

the Blue Beret, which started in 1964 as a weekly publication, evolved to a monthly magazine. Then in 1999, it changed for the first time to a tabloid and was published every two weeks and was seen more as an administrative tool. In 2000, it reverted to a monthly glossy and that was when the Blue Beret went on line, joining the UNFICYP website.

No longer was there the necessity to spend long hours at the printers in town, correcting and re-correcting what others had done. Now I could do it myself. As time went by, the software increased with the addition of Adobe Photoshop and then the world was my oyster!

Over the years, Spokespersons came and went – the first (for me) was Waldemar Rokosewski, who reigned for 11 years. Charles Gaulkin, well-known in Cyprus not only by the media, but also by the island's musicians for his accomplished clarinet playing, and who had previously served with this mission from September 1985 to August 1991, only stayed for an interim period until the first female Spokesperson arrived, Sarah Russell. How Sarah managed the section so efficiently, coping with the daily pressures always present in the Public Information Office, overseeing the work on the Blue Beret and at the same time expecting twins never failed to amaze me. On Sarah's departure, Brian Kelly arrived – only for a few months (he said), but he finally stayed for seven years... Brian, a legend before, during and after his departure, has currently decided to adopt this island and now resides in Nicosia, although I believe Brian will never "retire"! We now have José Díaz, who came to us from the UN in Geneva and who never loses his cool – difficult, but true!

I've met so many people during my time with this mission, and my cabinet at home is filled with mementos from anywhere and everywhere, so much so that I could never forget this place!

But it is not only the mementos that will remind me of HQ UNFICYP. The friends I have made are priceless. My family (we are now five!) and I have invitations stretching from troop contributing countries in Europe to the other end of the globe. I feel I could go almost anywhere and have a place to stay.

Although I am looking forward to my retirement and spending more time with my family, I am sure that at least to begin with, I shall miss the day-to-day routine I have shared with my colleagues for years. Spending eight hours a day, five days a week with the same people, you certainly get to know each other pretty well. And I feel fortunate to have shared the office with Netha and Ersin, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot who are sisters in life and whom I now consider to be part of my extended family. If these two were in charge of the Cyprus problem, there would be no Cyprus problem!

During my service, I've had the pleasure of meeting two Secretaries-General, Kurt Waldheim and Kofi Annan, and on 10 December 1988, I, together with all current staff, was presented with the Alfred Nobel peace prize in recognition of service. This award I had framed and it now hangs proudly on the wall of my

office at home, yet another reminder of my times with this mission. I could write so much more, but I have to stop somewhere...

I have been called many things in the past, including "institutional memory". After that comment, I decided it really was time to go! I hope and pray for a solution to the Cyprus problem, and until then, I wish that all my friends and colleagues pass as wonderful a time with this UN family as I have done.

**Miriam**



Miriam (Second left) Charles Gaulkin (left) Waldemar Rokosewski (Second right) at a media reception at Ledra Palace 1997



Miriam (Second left) with the PIO staff in 1999 when Sarah Russell (Third right) headed the branch



Miriam with Charles Gaulkin (Left) and Brian Kelly

# Time to Remember

On the morning of the 14 Aug 09 CO AUSCON LtCol B. Theissel laid a wreath at a deserted monument for the three Austrian Soldiers killed during an air raid in the vicinity of the small village of Goshi near Larnaca in 1974. Traditionally on 14 August every year the Austrian Contingent pays tribute to their three fallen comrades.

On 14 August 1974, four Austrian soldiers were on a patrol in the vicinity of Goshi. They were trying to avoid further hostilities between Greek and Turkish ethnic groups by attempting to negotiate an agreement. After the talks, at around 1520 hours, they stepped into their Land Rover in order to leave Goshi. Once in the vehicle the soldiers were surprised by a Turkish airstrike. The soldiers had no time to take any self defensive measures; and they were convinced of being protected by the obvious visible UN-signs on their car.

During the second air attack, however, they were fired at by the aircraft, which set their vehicle on fire. As the soldiers were not badly injured following this attack they attempted to seek cover in the open country. A third attack, with napalm, immediately followed which killed three of the soldiers instantly. The driver of the vehicle, Lance Corporal Franz Sattlecker, was fortunate enough to escape without injury. The Austrian soldiers killed during that incident were 1st Lt Johann Izay, Sgt Paul Decombe, LCpl August Isak.

Austria strongly protested the incident, with the Austrian Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Haymerle, immediately summoning the Turkish Ambassador.

After emphatic protests by the then UN Secretary General Dr. Kurt WALDHEIM, the Turkish Prime Minister expressed his regrets about the incident, and in particular the deaths of the Austrian UN-



soldiers, and expressed his condolences to the United Nations.

Thirty five years ago, these three Austrian soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is our commitment to honour them and the families from whom they were taken.



## UNPOL Medal Parade

**UNFICYP's UN Police** hosted a Medal Presentation on 30 July for contingent members from El Salvador, Italy and the Netherlands who were soon to depart the mission.

The Cyprus Police Band, under the direction of Inspector George Adamou, were there to play the contingents' national anthems and to provide some musical entertainment for the guests who

included both the Special Advisor of the Secretary General, Mr. Alexander Downer and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General /Chief of Mission Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun and a number of senior officials from the Dutch National Police Force who had flown over especially for the event. Guests afterwards enjoyed a reception in the UNPOL Club.



## Sector 1 Medal Parade

During the afternoon of 28 August, soldiers from Argentina, Chile and Paraguay who had completed 90 days of duty were decorated with the UN medal "in the service of peace".

Families, friends and special guests were seated in the square of San Martin Camp when the parade kicked off with a march past of the troops saluting Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi. The Force Commander thanked the military of Sector 1, the MFR and UN Flight for their valuable contribution during their tour. Peacekeepers were then

decorated with their medals by the Force Commander, Chief of Staff Col. Gerard Hughes and Commanding Officer Sector 1 Lt. Col. Raul Fajoo.

Following the parade, the medal recipients and guests moved to the pool area where they enjoyed refreshments to the sounds of popular Argentinian music.

The Argentine Republic has been represented within UNFICYP since 25 September 1993 when ARGCON took over control of Sector 1.



# New Faces

## CO SECTOR 1

**L**t. Col. Carlos Maria Michel arrived in UNFICYP on 19 September 2009 to take up the post of Commanding Officer Sector 1.

He was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 02 August 1963. He graduated from the Argentinian Military Academy in 1984 and during his career he has served in a number of appointments: 10 Cavalry Tank Regiment as Tank Platoon Leader, 1st Cavalry Regiment "Granaderos a Caballo del General SAN MARTIN" (Argentine Presidential Escort) as Mounted Platoon Leader, Argentine Military Academy as officer cadets instructor, 4 Cavalry Mountain Regiment as Squadron Commander, S4 Officer, S3 Officer and later as Deputy



Commanding Officer, Army General Staff as Chief of Bilateral Conferences Division and finally 15 Cavalry Reconnaissance Regiment where he served as Commanding Officer. During 1995 he served in UNFICYP as SECTOR 1 ALFA Coy Commander.

A Staff Officer graduate, he has a university degree in Strategy and Organization and he has the Special Aptitude "Mountain Troops".

He has been married with Maria Teresa Warckmeister for 23 years and they have four daughters, Maria Jesus (21), Maria Florencia, (19) Luz Maria (12), and Maria Milagros (18months). His interests include playing polo, tennis, soccer and skiing.

## SO2 Ops HQ UNFICYP

**M**aj. Anthony C Brotherton joined the British Army in 1999 and has served in 4 different artillery units as Command Post Officer, Forward Observation Officer, Operations Officer and Adjutant. He has deployed on operations in Kosovo and Iraq and was based in Germany for 3 years. Maj. Brotherton trained extensively in the UK, Germany, Poland, Oman, Canada and Belize and spent a year as a Troop



Commander at a Training College.

He recently completed the British Intermediate Command and Staff Course. Maj. Brotherton is married to Sarah and they have three children, Luke, Lewis and Olivia who are with him on tour here in Cyprus. In his free time he enjoys running, swimming, cycling and field hockey and scuba diving which he plans to indulge in the New Year as well as introducing his sons to skiing in the Troodos.

## SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER

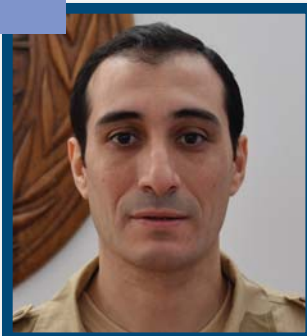
**C**apt. Horacio Gonzalez Martin arrived in UNFICYP on 11 September 2009 to take up the post of Senior Medical Officer. He studied medicine in the Universidad de Buenos Aires and after completing his degree spent a year in surgery before entering the Navy in 2004. As a doctor he works in Mar del Plata in the School for Submarines and Diving, doing



hyperbaric and diving medicine. He has also served in Antarctica for a year in 2005 (Base Orcadas, Laurie island) and again in November 2008 for 5 months for the Combined Antarctica Naval Patrol in the Aviso Suboficial Castillo with the Chilean Navy. Capt Martin is also a diver and enjoys soccer and meeting other people and cultures. He is married to Silvina Mayola, and they have a 1 year old daughter Oriana.

## AIR SAFETY OFFICER

**M**aj. Fabricio Javier Tejada Yúdice, took over the post of Air Safety Officer HQ UNFICYP on September 22nd 2009. He was born on 19 October 1968 in San Juan, Argentina. He graduated from the Argentinian Air Force Academy in 1990 and attended the Military Aviator Course from 1991-1992. He was then appointed to the VII Air Brigade where he became a helicopter pilot in 1995. He has flown helicopters such as the Hughes 500 and Bell 212. He has had several tours of duty in Cyprus the first in 1996,



followed by 2000 and 2004. Maj. Yúdice. He also served as a Military Instructor at the Air Force Academy before returning to the VII Air Brigade until the end of 2004. After leaving his duty as Squadron Leader, he served in the Air Academy in the Cadets Corps. He has attended many aviation and joint operations courses.

Fabricio is married to Mónica and they have six children, Ezequiel (14), Gabriel (11), Francisco (8), María del Rocío (6), María Guadalupe (6) and Nicolás (4).

Fabricio's hobbies include reading, listening to disco music and swimming.



# Slovak State Secretary visits UNFICYP

Slovak State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Mrs Oľga Algayerová, paid an official visit to Cyprus from 15 to 17 September.

Her first stop was UNFICYP HQ, where she arrived on the morning of 15 September.

UNFICYP Chief of Staff Colonel Gerard Hughes gave the Slovak State Secretary a general overview of the operations conducted in UNFICYP.

Following this she visited Camp Tatra and was welcomed by Force Engineer Major Kamil Bilek, who heads the Slovak Engineers platoon. After a short walk around the camp a presentation was given by LtC Lubomir Kochansky, CO Sector 4 concerning the tasks undertaken by the Slovak contingent in Cyprus. Her visit also included a tour of Nicosia International Airport, which has remained frozen in time since 16 August 1974. Here the State Secretary was able to see the stark reality of the division of Cyprus.



## New Faces

### 2iC – MFR

Capt. Ramiro Piorno arrived in Cyprus on 11 September 2009 to take up the post of 2iC MFR

He was born in Rosario de la Frontera, Salta in 1977 and is a captain in the Engineers corps of the Argentinian Army and I belong to the Engineer's Corp. He served in Cyprus as the Engineer Platoon Commander of Sector One from May 1999 - May 2000, and enjoyed the experience of working on the track.

Before coming to Cyprus he served in the Engineer's Battalion Nro 5 "Grl Div Enrique Mosconi". Prior to that he served in the Engineer's School, as a student, then



in the Engineer's Battalion Nro 5 "Grl Div Enrique Mosconi", then in the Military Academy "Grl Julio Argentino Roca" located in the Argentinian Patagonia before returning to the Engineer's Battalion Nro 5.

He is currently studying at the Catholic University for a degree in Hygiene and Safety. Capt. Piorno is married to Lorena, who is a dentist and they have a son Bautista who is 5 years old. He is interested in horses, loves dogs and

plays soccer. He is looking forward to the arrival of his family in Cyprus.



## Sector 2 roundup

In a busy couple of months, members of 23 Pioneer Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, received recognition for their peacekeeping efforts at the UNFICYP summer Medal Parade. The bi-annual ceremony was presided over by Chief of Mission Taye-Brook Zerihoun, who congratulated all military components of the mission on their success.

Meanwhile, 18 plucky members of the Regiment conducted a sea to sea bike ride from Paphos Harbour in the South West to the Karpas Peninsula in North East taking in the Troodos Mountains en route. The three-day slog, organised by Lt. James Hamilton, aimed at raising money for Forces' charity, Help for Heroes, and has currently totted up 6,100 GBP.

If you wish to donate, please visit our sponsorship website [www.justgiving.com/h4hc2ccyprus](http://www.justgiving.com/h4hc2ccyprus).

## Shakespeare House ABF function



On 29 May, 23 Pnr Regt RLC Officers' Mess turned out in force at the annual Cyprus Army Benevolent Fund concert held in the British High Commissioner's former residence, Shakespeare House. Bedecked in dinner jackets and cocktail dresses and seated in a specially created outdoors Officers' Mess, the panache and sartorial elegance of the Regiment was in plain view.



## Out with the old in with the new

Slovak peacekeepers are handing in their old uniforms for more modern fatigues. In the new digital battleground every soldier must not only have state of the art equipment but a uniform that is more suited for actual combat in modern conditions.



## Sport

# Victoria captains the Cyprus Under 18 Hockey Team

While Lt. Col. Willy Edelmann spent his year in Cyprus toiling away as UNFICYP's Air Safety Officer, his 14-year-old daughter Victoria, who is a keen and talented hockey player, spent many hours training and playing hockey with the Cyprus Under-18 Hockey Team. The team has recently returned from Prague where they played in the European Youth Nations Challenge.

Totally unfazed by being the only girl on the team, Victoria soon made many friends and had the lads won over with her capable passes. As the Edelmann family are due to return to Argentina shortly, Cyprus Hockey members gathered for a special farewell match for Victoria on 23 August at the English School pitch in Nicosia. Victoria was not only presented with a Cyprus Hockey cap, pin and tee shirts by Under-18



Captain Nicholas Pastellopoulos but she was also given the honour of wearing the Captain's arm band for the afternoon.

Victoria will surely return to her hockey club in Buenos Aires

with quite a few local e-mail addresses and many fond memories of her time with the Cyprus Under 18 Hockey Team.

## UNPOL team win orienteering competition

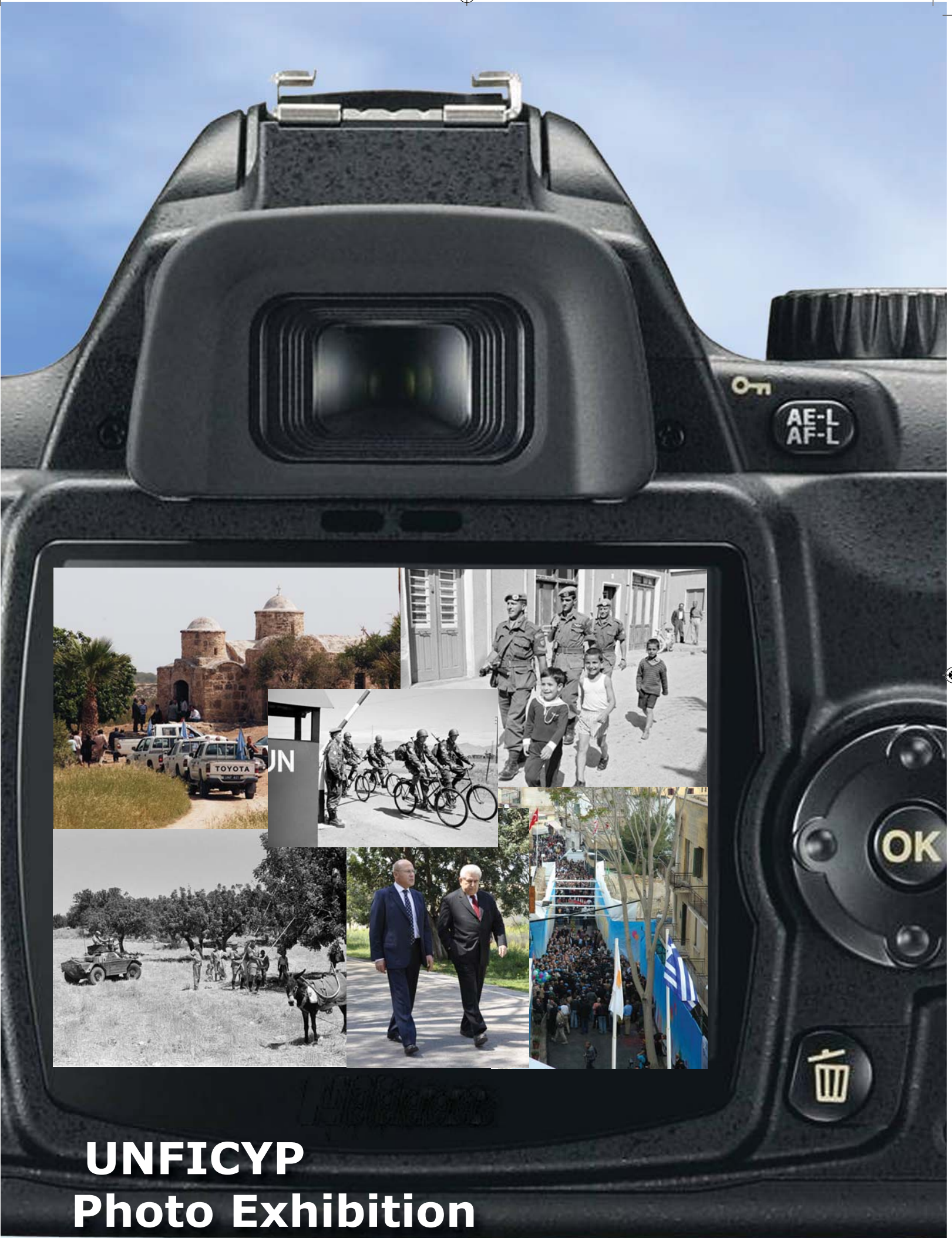
MR hosted an orienteering competition for all of UNFICYP entitled "Exercise Pioneer Dash" on 3 August, with courses expertly set by Cpl. Dale.

The event was held in the UNPA. Teams from UNFICYP military and UNPOL navigated round the courses as individuals and in a relay event. There were plenty of challenging route choices and options to test the skills of the competitors and the team leaders. Much to the delight of the Senior Police Adviser, Chief Superintendent John Farrelly, the UNPOL Team, which included local staff members, came away with the Team Trophy as well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Veteran category and 3rd in the Over 25 class.

UNFICYP Chief of Staff Colonel Gerard Hughes presented the winners with their trophies.



Left toRight: Insp Patrick Lopes Cardozo, Mr. Kyriakos Michaelides, COS Col. Gerard Hughes OBE, Ms. Diana Bridger, SPA Ch. Supt. John Farrelly and Mrs. Kirsi Mantovani



# UNFICYP Photo Exhibition

