

# The Blue Beret

October 2007



Happy  
UN Day!

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## THE BLUE BERET

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## Editorial

For the first time since 1974, both communities are collaborating on a project to determine what plant and animal species are to be found in the UN-controlled buffer zone – a place that has become a virtual nature reserve in its 33-year existence.

Far from being the "dead zone" as the literal Greek translation suggests or the "space in between" as the Turkish implies, the buffer zone is alive with endemic Cypriot birds, animal and plants species. Because of its unique status, this stretch of land remains, if not exactly pristine, at least largely untouched by the urban development sprawl that has affected large swathes of land on the island.

This joint attempt by Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot experts to record, register and protect the island's rare and threatened plant and animal species within the buffer zone does much more than help preserve a shared environmental heritage. It also supports the development and strengthening of existing inter-communal partnerships at the academic, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local community levels, in promoting biodiversity conservation in Cyprus.

Other side benefits include the fact that the joint teams profiling this natural treasure trove have managed to identify sites and locations within the buffer zone used and favoured by illegal hunters and by bird trappers for their illegal activities.

The haunts of hunters who defy the ban on hunting in the buffer zone and persist in entering to illegally shoot the wild life sheltering within are also being mapped, thanks to the tell-tale signs of their discarded empty cartridge casings. So too, are the sites favoured by those engaged in illegal bird trapping.

This information has helped strengthen the campaign by UNPOL, Cyprus game wardens and police to take on the illegal, commercial trade involving the trapping and killing of hundreds of thousands of migrant birds, many of which are protected species.

To date, dozens of mist nests, lime stick and recorded birdsong devices have been confiscated. Numerous prosecutions are underway with suspects liable to sentences of up to three years and/or fines of as much as £10,000.

UNFICYP is fully committed to this campaign, just as it fully supports and applauds the biodiversity project in the buffer zone.

## Møller stresses Flexibility of 8 July Process at UN Day Event

SRSB Michael Møller told guests at this year's UN Day reception that the 8 July process is flexible and viable enough to accommodate both sides' concerns and needs and to help deliver a reunified Cyprus. More than 100 guests, including Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and House President Demetris Christofias, the Akel leader, attended UNFICYP's 43<sup>rd</sup> UN Day celebration.

Aphrodite's Band, a Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot group of

The world we live in today is more complex and more inter-dependent than that of 1945, but the promise and values of those early years in the UN's history remain as relevant as they were over 60 years ago. The SG, Møller pointed out, says the UN must rise and thrive in an environment of global challenges, challenges that do not respect borders, and which no country, rich or poor, weak or powerful, can resolve on its own.

In his UN Day message, Ban Ki-



world. Global problems demand global solutions. Going it alone is not a viable option.

Demands on the UN grow every day and, together with member states and civil society, we must strengthen the organisation's ability to play its role to the fullest extent in conflict prevention, peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building.

The SG has vowed to do all he can to galvanize global and decisive action on climate change. Protecting the climate for present and future generations is in the common interest of all. For people living on an island with water reservoirs reportedly at 21% of capacity, that is self-evident, Mr. Møller observed.

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AKEL leader Christofias with Turkish Cypriot leader Talat

musicians and singers who travelled from Australia, played traditional Cypriot melodies creating a warm atmosphere.

Welcoming his guests, SRSB Møller noted that this year's UN birthday was the first under the stewardship of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who, in his initial 10 months of office, has stressed repeatedly the inspiration he derives from the spirit and vision of the world leaders of 1945 as embodied in the UN Charter. For the SG, this pledge of trust and hope represents humankind's determination to move away from a world ravaged by war and unspeakable atrocities – to unite within a new association of nations guided by principles of justice, peace, equality and human rights.

moon said more people and Governments understand that multilateralism is the only path in an interdependent and globalizing



Guests listening to SRSB Møller's remarks

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**Front Cover: Happy UN Day!**  
**Back Cover: Teamwork on Staff Day**

Photo by Harun Uçar





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Security, development and human rights are three main pillars of the UN's work. The SG says he will work with Member States and civil society to translate the concept of the Responsibility to Protect from words to deeds, so as to ensure timely action when populations face genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity.

Finally, the SG's message speaks of the need to transform the UN itself so that it can adapt in order to meet new challenges, to ensure the highest standards of ethics, integrity and accountability. The UN, he notes, will be judged in the future on the actions we take today – on results. On this UN Day, the Chief of Mission noted, the SG has urged us to rededicate ourselves to achieving those goals, a message we should all take to heart.

Looking to the UNFICYP inter-communal survey conducted earlier this year, Mr. Møller observed how it showed some disillusionment about prospects for an early Cyprus settlement, underscoring the vital need to promote and encourage dialogue, debate and discussion between and among the island's communities on all the issues pertinent to the island's future.

The survey showed that a large majority in each community is willing to accept a federal settlement, but it also showed that misperceptions and misgivings exist within each community about the other's real intentions and/or preferences. Any attempt to reach an agreed federal settlement has to overcome this lack of trust and scepticism about prospects for a settlement, he said.

On 5 September, the leaders, H.E. Tassos Papadopoulos and H.E. Mehmet Ali Talat, pledged their continuing commitment to bi-communal dialogue and called for the earliest start to launching a comprehensive settlement. Each since met in New York with the SG, who urged both to show the political will and strength to move the vital process of reconciliation ahead.

"It is our firm conviction that the 8 July process is flexible and viable enough to accommodate the respective concerns and needs while enabling the long awaited, long elusive goal of re-uniting this beautiful island," SRSg Møller said.

He appealed to all Cypriots to look to the future and think constructively and imaginatively about the shape of things to come, noting that an active and involved civil society is crucial to how that future is shaped.

"Let me repeat what I said earlier this year: Understanding and peace is best achieved by those who already know each other – it is seldom sustainable if imposed by outsiders. Clearly, as I have also said on earlier occasions, it is for the people of Cyprus to find a Cypriot solution to what is a Cypriot problem. The time is more than ripe for that to happen.

"We, the United Nations and the international community, are steadfast in our determination to help Cyprus more forward. Let us do so together – expeditiously and with determination."



Aphrodite's Band



UN Photo/Mark Garten

## UN Day – 24 October

UN Day was celebrated by the UN family in all missions and at Headquarters. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at the sixty-second United Nations Day Concert, which featured the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Chung Myung-Whun, at UN Headquarters in New York.

## Talat meets SG in NY

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, the Turkish Cypriot leader, on 16 October at UN headquarters in NY. They discussed the way forward on the Cyprus problem, including implementation of the 8 July 2006 Agreement and confidence-building measures.

Mr. Talat reassured the Secretary-General of the willingness of the Turkish Cypriot side to reach a comprehensive settlement under the Secretary-General's good offices.



UN Photo/Estimote Debebe

## Ledra Palace Upgrades Moving Ahead

Ledra Palace Hotel is currently undergoing major refurbishments to improve the health and safety standards of Sector 2.

The work scheduled to be completed by 31 December 2009 involves repairing the roof, the internal refurbishment of rooms on four floors as well as replacement and repair of wooden frames, doors and tiles, patching up of holes in the ceilings and replacing carpets with plastic flooring. The building will also be painted inside.

Balconies, parapets and insulations externally will be refurbished and repaired.

To date, major refurbishments have been conducted on the ground floor with the completion of the bi-communal rooms, UNPOL station, main kitchen, officers', sgts' and junior ranks' messes and the gym.

Significant progress has also been made with respect to the electrical system. The main power supply cables have been replaced and the electrical rewiring is now 85% completed. This task is on track for completion in December 2007. Works have also been finalised on the repair of balconies, while repair works on the parapets are currently underway.

At present, the main effort is the refurbishment of a previously condemned wing on the second floor to bring 12 rooms back into use – this will facilitate the emptying of the entire fourth floor to allow works to begin on the roof. This apparently simple task proved to be very problematic, and necessitated the retiling of the whole room.

Cyprus government efforts have been complimented by UNFICYP projects, principally the installation of a new fire alarm system throughout the hotel and the provision of air conditioning on the ground floor.

There is no doubt that a lot of work is still needed to bring the health and safety of Ledra Palace Hotel up to modern standards, particularly with respect to the sewerage system/en-suites and bedrooms, but noteworthy progress has been made.



Bicommunal Room



Renewing the pipework



Gym refurbishment



New Kitchen



UNPOL Station



# UN Staff Day



Backgammon competition



Boot toss



Chess tournament



Clowns with children



Pictionary



Tug-of-war

Highlights of staff day included tug of war, potted games and boot throwing, as well as pictionary and backgammon for the less physically inclined.

Pictionary referee and host for the day Anne Bursey from the PIO office said pictionary can be highly entertaining for both players and spectators. Last year's UN Staff Day pictionary tournament winners Team 1, led by Kyriakos and including Michelle, Derya and Ali, were beaten brazenly in the first round of the tournament by newcomers Team 2 – Netha, Juana and Miriam.

Magic marker tips were worn down as budding "Da Vinci's" drew clues so that their teammates could decode the answers to the pictionary quiz.

Team 2 went into the finals to face Team 3 from the UN Volunteers who had narrowly beaten Team 4 (Alan, Hasita and Alicia). In the finals, the UNVs just managed to beat Team 2 at the tie-break.... to take the pudding (sorry, prize).

Competitors were frothing at the mouth as teams closed in on the second round for the 6-5 win by the UNVs! Well done Niki, Alisa and Anita, and to everyone else who joined in on the action this UN day. Pictionary can be a hilarious, nail-biting spectator sport! "Too bad you never made it to the finals, Kyriakos. We'll be on the lookout for your return next year!", said Anne Bursey.

Catharine Finch from the Chief of Staff's office donned her clown suit for the day to entertain the children. Catharine said, "they say that

working with children can send you mad.... I agree, but no-one went mad on the day. All of these children were very happy and expertly entertained by the day's events.

A jumping castle was set up for the youngsters to expel their energy and give their parents a little respite while one of the highlights for the children was the face painting

"A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day. Anastasia, the face painter, deserves special praise since she stepped in at short notice to help paint the children's faces before the arrival of the clown," Catharine said.

Tavli competition host Miriam Pericleous from the PIO said it was an action-packed day with a total of 16 competitors vying for the title of Tavli Champion.

Chief of Mission Michael Møller gladly took up the challenge, facing competitors from as young as 15 (Liam Iacovou and Elias Al-Debyani) to the returning backgammon champion, George Stavrinou who pulled no punches and fought long and hard with his poker-faced, stealth tactics to eventually secure a draw for first place with Tony Pap. It was an intense and gruelling competition. George and Tony received prizes of hard cover coffee table books: "Life Magazine, 70 Years of Extraordinary Photography and "National Geographic, Greatest Photographs."

Shane Smith from the Transport Unit provided non-stop music throughout the event and served as MC to keep everyone up-to-date with what was happening through-

UN Staff Day is a long-standing tradition associated with the UN birthday celebrations. Last year, the Chief of Mission introduced UNFICYP staff to the concept. This year's mix of al fresco lunch and open-air family events, ranging from sports and music to board games and tests of skill and strength, was a big hit all round.



Buffet lunch served by the Cafeteria

out the day and even managed to get a few volunteers up to sing karaoke!

Jonathan Vatikiotis and Liam Iacovou – two very talented musicians – got up on stage, sang some great songs and played a mean guitar. Watch out for them on MTV in the future!

Thanks go to John Messarities for setting up the sound system.

The day outdoors built up healthy appetites and staff were duly rewarded with a sumptuous BBQ prepared by the staff from the International cafeteria.



Fanos Andreou and Arif Mahmut

## Matchless Day of Matches

UN staff day would not be the same without the football tournament run by Rick Demetriou (Finance Section). His organisation of the event was no mean feat (or feet!), with 20 teams, each made up of seven members (five players and two substitutes), playing five minutes each way with a one-minute breather in between.

Fortunately, Rick was able to rope in the help of Sgt. Maj. Mick Ryan (MFR's RSM), and Sgt. Rob Whalley (Ops Info) who willingly assisted him with the refereeing.

As Rick says, "Playing five-a-side is far more tiring than a normal 11-a-side match. Played on a pitch just about half the normal size, the game is much faster. Therefore your reactions and acceleration have to be sharp as you are constantly on the go, regardless of the position you play. You simply have to be switched on and involved at all times. Accurate timing of runs and ball passing is absolutely imperative to the game and can be the difference between winners and losers".

Of the 20 teams, only one woman entered for her section – Dima Abdoul, playing for Civil Affairs. The team was knocked out in the first round by Sector 1's "UNPOL Warriors". However, it was a good match played fairly and squarely.

Spirits were running high throughout, with only a few yellow cards handed out (no red cards luckily!). Not bad for a 26-game tournament which started at 12.00 noon and ended just before 5.00 p.m.

Congratulations to the UN Day 2007 Football Championship Winners, 10 Regt A (Sector 2). The team fought to the very end against the very tough and strategic Slovak "Young Guns", who came so close to grabbing victory. The Slovaks' smooth passing and great determination was rewarded with an early goal in the first half. 10 Regt A (Sector 2) equalized late in the second half with a superb strike, after mounting pressure to make it 1:1.

The game was a heated affair. The finalists played 10 minutes each way and a great number of spectators nervously cheering on both sides. As legs tired, the game moved into extra time. Another energy-sapping five minutes each way and eventually, it came down to penalties with 10 Regt A emerging as 4:3 winners to lift the hard won trophy. Gold and silver medals were presented to the winners and runners-up by Spokesman Brian Kelly and by Rick, followed by a champagne celebration.

Special praise must also go to ALL participating teams, regardless of their placing. It was a great display, played in good spirit. Rick says, "That is what makes a competition so successful. For me, there is no 'player-of-the-day', as I sincerely believe everyone played with their heart in the right place and to the best of their ability, thus making them all special winners".



The winners – 10 Regiment A Team



# Protecting the Buffer Zone

## UNPOL Joins Hunt for Bird Trappers

UNPOL and Cyprus game wardens have begun a joint campaign to halt illegal bird trapping in the buffer zone that kills hundreds of thousands of migrant birds, many of which are protected species.

UNPOL, together with the game wardens and Cyprus police raided several identified trapping sites within the buffer zone in Dherynia, Troulli and Pyla during the September-October period confiscating dozens of mist nets, lime sticks, tape-machines and speakers connected to car batteries broadcasting recorded bird-song to draw the migrant birds.

The presence of this type of equipment adds to the seriousness of the offence committed and carries a penalty of up to three years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £10,000.

Game Warden Nikos Kassinis notes that every year, trappers kill around three million birds across the island.

Although the Game Fund has made progress in halting this illegal activity over the last five years, there are still those who continue to trap birds for their own consumption and sale to taverns that sell them to clients illegally.

Kassinis notes that cooperation with UNFICYP is important because the more sophisticated trappers who continue to ply their illegal trade are doing so at a more intensive rate in the buffer zone (BZ), as they feel they will not get caught or if they are, the only consequences to them will be that they are escorted out of the BZ and their equipment confiscated.

This, however, is not the case, as UNFICYP is cooperating with both the game wardens and the police who then proceed with prosecuting the offenders.

Traditionally, bird trapping in Cyprus was carried out by trappers driving the birds towards lime sticks and nets in the early morning by

shouting and throwing stones into the bushes to flush the birds out. In recent years, a new and more lethal method has been used which involves the use of recorded birdsong to attract the migrant birds to their "mist" nets, so-called because their



Lime-sticks found on a farm in the buffer zone

very fine mesh makes them difficult to discern. The use of such recordings is illegal but has become increasingly widespread. The trapped birds are usually killed, the exception being any particularly exotic species which may be retained alive for caged bird trade. Unwanted species are simply killed and discarded, the remainder killed and sold as "ambellopoulia", a highly priced delicacy on the island. Ampellopoulia are songbirds like Blackcaps, Warblers and European Robins. The tiny birds are pickled or grilled and sold in taverns for about £2.50 each or £30 a dozen. A diner will typically eat around a dozen or more ampellopoulia.

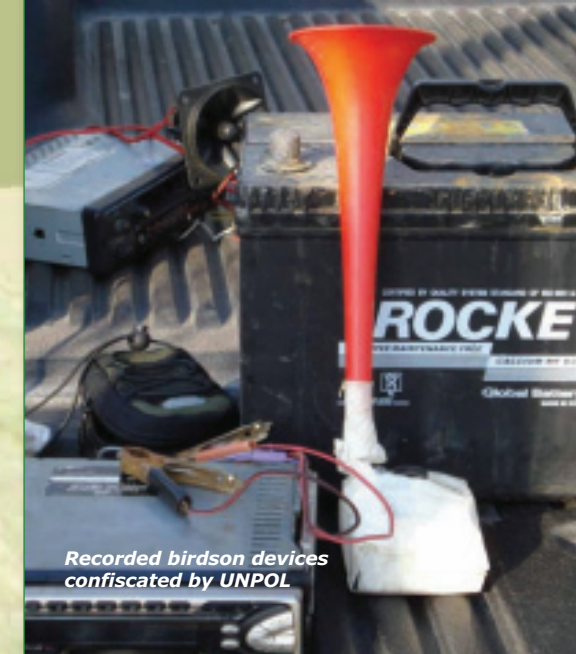
Most trapping takes place in the south-east of the island during the autumn migration, although trappers are also out during the spring migration, when the cull is particularly harmful as the birds have not had a chance to breed.

Lime sticks are twigs, about a

metre long, which are covered in an extremely sticky "glue", made by boiling up the fruit of the Syrian plum tree. These sticks are placed in bushes, or sometimes inserted into the ends of bamboo poles, to provide very inviting perches for birds. Any bird landing on a lime-stick becomes stuck, falls upside down, and as it flutters to free itself it becomes progressively more attached to the stick. The birds do not usually die quickly: this is a long, lingering death, which may only occur when the trapper arrives to cut their throats or crush their heads.

The manufacture, sale, ownership and use of lime sticks is illegal. The use of lime sticks for bird trapping goes back for centuries, and in the past was a means by which poor people supplemented a meagre diet.

Mist nets are very fine filament nets, up to 10 metres high which can be strung end-to-end to make invisible "walls of death" for the



Recorded birdson devices confiscated by UNPOL

birds. These nets may be stretched across watercourses, or between trees and bushes (which are often planted and irrigated solely for the purpose of attracting birds for trapping). The importation of mist nets into Cyprus is illegal, but thousands are smuggled into the country and acquired by the trappers. They cost about £80 each, an indication of how profitable their use is. Unlike the use of lime sticks, netting in Cyprus is not traditional.

## Pioneers in the Buffer Zone

For the first time since 1974, scientists from the two communities are collaborating on a bicomunal project to determine what plant and animal species are living in the buffer zone. This is especially important, given that the buffer zone (BZ) has become a virtual nature preserve in the 33 years it has existed.

The Fauna and Flora Biodiversity project sponsored by UNDP-ACT started in July 2007 with the first field visit by a team of nine Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists, including botanists, bird, reptile and other experts.



Reptile experts identify lizard species

Nicolas Jarraud, UNDP-ACT Environment Analyst coordinating the biodiversity project, explains that the team is facilitated by UNFICYP on the field trips into the BZ with peacekeepers escorting scientists to the chosen sites. Once they have arrived at the site each scientist looks for something different within their field of expertise. The team visits the same sites covering all three sectors in an effort to collect as much data as possible on the fauna and flora. Usually, there is one scientist in the escort vehicle who will signal where to stop. Then the peacekeepers scope the area before the scientists start their work.

Jarraud notes that a typical field excursion includes bird experts conducting bird counts, botanists searching for plant species and taking samples for further investigation, while the reptile experts look in rocky places for snakes and lizards. The team spends approximately one-and-a-half to two hours at each site. Trips may start from as early as 5:00 a.m. so that they are able to spot birds and moufflon and often end around 5:00-6:00 p.m. On certain occasions, there have also been night field trips in

order to determine what bat species can be found in the BZ.

Part of the field trips includes the setting of automatic cameras using bait to compile a photographic record of foxes and wild dogs. The team works with 14 camera traps, as well as a number of traps for rodents. These are set with bars of chocolate to catch the rodents in metal boxes without injuring them. The animals are released the following day. Plant data loggers are also used during the visits.

Jarraud notes that the moufflon and birds are usually spotted near the Ayios Nicolaos wetland. In Troulli, where the Ayios Neophytes church has been restored as part of a UNDP-ACT project, the surrounding farmland is ideal for bird-watchers. In Nicosia, the site selected is the Pedieos River Normandy Bridge area and the building known as "Millionaire's House", an abandoned house in the BZ where bats and owls have been spotted behind Ledra Palace.

In the Kaimakli area, a large number of stone curlews has been spotted, reportedly a rare resident of Cyprus although frequently seen during the migratory season outside the BZ. The project ornithologists believe that the large number of

birds spotted concentrated in the Kaimakli area may suggest it is a breeding ground for stone curlews, says Jarraud. If confirmed, this will be a significant find.

Another site is in the Astromeritis area between the two checkpoints on land belonging to the Morphou Bishopric. UNFICYP's Camp San Martín is the starting point to head towards the abandoned village of Varisha, an ideal site for spotting moufflon. Nearby, at the Limnitis river, eagles have been spotted. Jarraud notes that the possible sighting of a Bonelli's Eagle is this area would be a major discovery as these eagles are an endangered species. It is estimated that there are about 820-1,000 pairs in Europe as a whole. The Bonelli's Eagle is a rare resident of Cyprus with no more than 30 pairs on the island today.

Then there is the Kokkina enclave, a western coastland site that the team hopes will provide noteworthy data on fauna and flora during the February-April wet season.

Once the project is completed, all data will be prepared and presented on-line so the public can access the information on the fauna and flora species of interest.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the bio-diversity team will be integrated into the Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum (CESF). This bicomunal, multi-disciplinary network of environmental stakeholders works together on common environmental priorities for which they advocate, both locally and at international environmental events.

Incorporating the biodiversity team into the CESF as a taskforce means the team can continue working under a broader umbrella and encourage Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists to share information and work together on environmental issues of concern.

A report is to be prepared with recommendations about how to manage the BZ and how to deal with issues like illegal hunting and bird trapping.

Depending on the findings, the team could make recommendations about possible micro-reserves for protected species like rare orchids. In doing so, it would engage local communities to protect and preserve these species. By adopting these micro-reserves, communities could develop and benefit from ecotourism.



Photo of possible Bonelli's eagle

Information collected will also be used to enhance and update official information on the flora and fauna of Cyprus which up to now has been unable to record what is living in the BZ.

Another spin-off of the project has been the discovery of many bullet shells discarded by hunters illegally hunting in the BZ as well as the identification of sites where illegal bird trapping is conducted. (See story above.)

Jarraud also notes that the team has flagged the problem of illegal incursions by shepherds into the BZ with their sheep. Sometimes, their flocks carry disease that the moufflon are susceptible to.



## Sector 2 – 10 Transport Regiment – The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

**10 Transport Regiment** was originally formed in 1952 to provide third line transport to 1 (BR) Corps in West Germany, a role it filled for 41 years, at one stage as the largest Regiment in the British Army. In September 1993, the Regiment redeployed to Colchester from Catterick Barracks as a third line transport regiment under command of the Combat Service Support Group (United Kingdom), the precursor to 101 Logistic Brigade. This is when 28 Squadron Queen’s Own Gurkha Transport Regiment became part of 10 Transport Regiment. The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment was formed in Malaya on 1st July 1958 as the Gurkha Army Service Corps. It was manned by Gurkha soldiers from the infantry battalions of the Brigade of Gurkhas, and British Officers and Senior Ranks seconded from the Royal Army Service Corps.

The Regiment provided transport support in Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong but also saw active service throughout the world including the 1958 Malayan Emergency, the 1962 Brunei Revolt and the 1963-67 Borneo/Indonesia conflict. On 1 November 1965, the Gurkha Army Service Corps was redesignated the Gurkha Transport Regiment (GTR). Then based in Hong Kong, the GTR also deployed elements to support the UN Military Armistice Commission on ceremonial duties at Panmunjom, South Korea.

In December 1990, 28 Squadron GTR deployed on Operation GRANBY in the first Gulf War as the Ambulance Squadron. A Squadron deployed to serve with UNFICYP in June 1991. In August 1992, the Regiment was awarded the prefix “Queen’s Own” to commemorate and reward 34 years’ loyal and dedicated service to the Crown.

In September 1993, 28 Squadron QOGTR redeployed from Hong Kong to Colchester as part of 10 Transport Regiment RLC and subsequently deployed to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia on three occasions in support of UN and NATO mandates.

In 2002, in recognition of the diversification of Gurkha soldier trades, the Regiment was redesignated the Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment.

In 2003, 10 Transport Regiment settled in its current home at New Normandy Barracks, Aldershot.

## Rotation in Sector 1

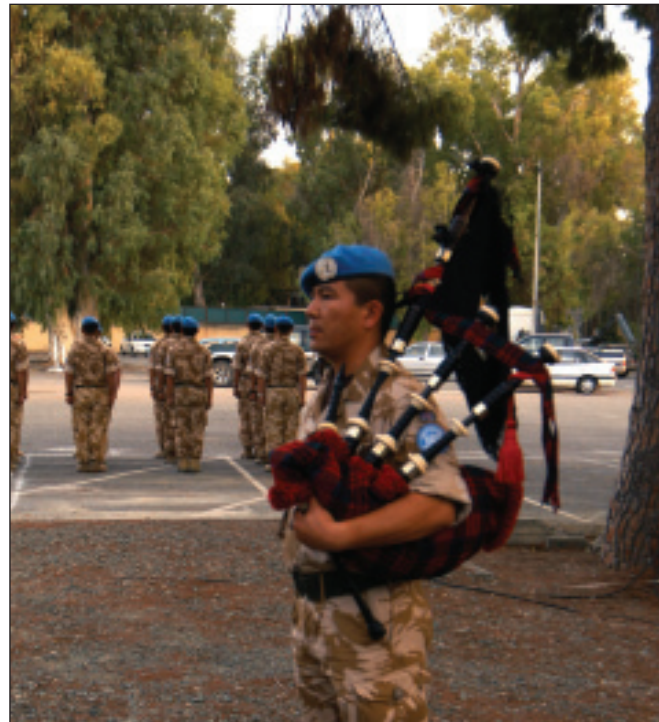
The successful rotation of Sector 1’s peacekeepers took place between 1 and 7 October. During this roulement, Lt. Col. Justo Francisco Treviranus handed over command to Lt. Col. Edgardo Calvi.

The latest handover marks 14 years of uninterrupted Argentinian presence in UNFICYP. The Contingent, integrated by three Armed Forces and partner countries, covers an 80-km long buffer zone in Sector One.

Recently arrived Argentinian Task Force 30 is made up of 215 members, including, once again, two sections from Chile and Paraguay plus one officer from Brazil.

ATF 30 will serve in UNFICYP for the next six months until April 2008.

*Capt. G.R. Lareyna*



In July 2005, the Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment expanded further with the redesignation of 1 Engineer Support & Water Squadron RLC to 1 Transport Squadron QOGLR.

On 12 May 2006, 10 Transport Regiment The Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR), a significant day in the history of an extremely proud Regiment. The Regiment and its Squadrons have deployed on numerous operations in Kuwait, Cyprus, Bosnia, Kosovo and more recently Iraq. Today, 10 Transport Regiment QOGLR has a rich heritage deriving directly from the post Second World War Royal Army Service Corps and The Gurkha Army Service Corps, via 10 Transport Regiment and the Gurkha Transport Regiment.

10 Transport Regiment QOGLR is officially the only Gurkha transport regiment in the British Army. The Regiment, nonetheless, embodies soldiers from 16 different nationalities, making 10 Transport Regiment QOGLR one of the most diverse and unique regiments in the British Army. Operation TOSCA in Cyprus is the second operational commitment the Regiment has been involved in the past 12 months. Prior to this, two of the Squadrons from the Regiment deployed to Iraq on Operation TELIC 9 and returned in June 2007.

The Regiment looks forward to a successful UN tour here in Cyprus.



*Lt. Col. Treviranus (front, left) bids farewell to his soldiers*

## UNDP Film Festival for Young Cypriots’ Movies

Six young Cypriots were recognised for their contribution to advancing the social discourse on the island through film the weekend of 27 October. The accolades came at the premiere screening of 13 short films, produced as part of the Young Filmmakers project, organised by UNDP’s peacebuilding initiative in Cyprus, Action for Cooperation and Trust.

Prizes were presented at the film festival to those top films:

**First prize** – “Shushu”

by Diomedes Koufteros

**Second prize** – “Happy End”

by Şafak Güzoğlu, Filiz Bilen and Buğra Gülsoy

**Third prize** – “Utopia”

by Giorgos Georgiou

**Special Mention by the Jury** – “Home, Sweet Hope”

by Stella Karageorgi

A participation award was given by the Executive Producers to Filiz Bilen for her commitment during the project.

The films were watched by an audience of 400 people at Ledra Palace. The event marked the culmination of nine months of hard work by young people from across the island, who were selected as finalists in the Young Film Makers project. Launched in January 2007, the project invited young people to submit their ideas for films which they felt would reflect the concerns of Cypriot youth. A selection panel, made up of Cypriot educators and film critics chose the best ideas to be entered for the next phase



*Film festival finalists receiving a certificate for their participation in the competition*



*Prize winner of the competition, Diomedes Koufteros (second right), receiving his award from Jaco Cilliers, Programme Manager of UNDP-ACT, accompanied by the two Executive Producers of the project, Yeliz Shukri (second left) and Spyros Plati*

of the project. Many of those selected had no previous film making experience, and in March 2007 the selected finalists started an orientation course on film production. Over the next five months these young Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots worked together to develop their scripts and turn them into a series of short films. The project gave an opportunity for artistic expression, encouraged collaboration and intercommunal understanding and explored the dynamics of contemporary Cypriot society from a youth perspective.

According to Jaco Cilliers, UNDP-ACT Programme Manager, “This is a truly Cypriot venture – Cypriots selected the best film ideas, Cypriots worked together to create these high quality, thought-provoking productions and Cypriots selected the best films”.

The jury which decided the three winners comprised the accomplished Cypriot film makers, Dervis Zaim, Diomedes Nikitas, Elvan Levent and Aliki Danezi Knutsen.

The films shown covered a variety of themes which reflect the realities of the modern world and to which many people in Cyprus will be able to relate: Identity, returning home, friendship, death, chronic illness, conflict, disabilities, ethnic diversity and spirituality. Many of these films are courageous attempts by young Cypriots to carve out a youth voice on the pressing and important issues of the day.

Further information about the films and the filmmakers is available at [www.undp-act.org](http://www.undp-act.org).

## SG on World Food Day, 16 October 2007

The right to food is a human right. Yet 854 million people in the world suffer from chronic hunger, and the figure has been increasing since the beginning of the new Millennium. In a world of plenty, this situation is unacceptable.

That is why the Right to Food was chosen as the theme for this year’s World Food Day. We must make the voice of these 854 million people heard. We must work to uphold their fundamental human right. We must recognize the role of human rights in eradicating hunger and poverty, and the connection between development, human rights and security.

Enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the right to food has been strengthened through legislative measures at the

international and national levels. At the World Food Summit and in the Millennium Declaration, political pledges were made and reaffirmed at highest level. The Food and Agriculture Organisation has elaborated practical guidelines that provide coherent policy recommendations on how to bridge the gap between legal recognition and practice.

And yet, progress towards eradicating hunger is slow. We need to do far more to place the integrity and rights of every human being at the centre of all our efforts. We need to combine current efforts with stepped up measures to ensure participation and empowerment, accountability and transparency, human dignity and the rule of law.

The world has the resources, the knowledge and the tools to make the right to food a reality for all.



# UNPOL Visit Police Academies

After eight months of discussion between UNFICYP's Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris and the Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE) HQ, the UNPOL Training Officer and the UN Liaison Officer Police (UNLOP) visited the north's "police academy" on 27 September to brief TCPE recruits about UNPOL and UNFICYP and cooperation/liaison with the TCPE.



UNPOL's visit to the CYPOL Academy



UNPOL with TCPE recruits

The presentation was well received. So much so, in fact, that now, there are plans to incorporate UNPOL presentations into future TCPE recruit courses.

Next day on 28 September, 24 newly arrived UNPOL members, accompanied by the UNLOP and UNPOL Training Officer, visited the Cyprus Police (CYPOL) Academy. They were given a briefing by CYPOL and a tour of the Academy. During the visit, the UNFICYP Training Officer and UNLOP raised the possibility with CYPOL Academy staff of an UNPOL briefing for CYPOL recruits during their induction course. These discussions are ongoing.

## Civil Society Directory

The production of a comprehensive directory of Cypriot Civil Society organisations marks a giant step in the work of such organisations on the island. The Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot directories together represent a body of knowledge and

information which will have a lasting impact on the development of Cyprus' culture of democracy and active citizen participation for years to come.

Cypriot Civil Society requires reliable signposts for the future development of a vibrant and

courageous activism, which can engage with all sectors of society across the island. This directory marks one of the major milestones in this pursuit.

Free copies of the Directory are available from:

Intercollege Limassol Campus  
Email: consultancy@lim.intercollege.ac.cy  
Tel: +357 25 337060;  
Fax: +357 25 335995  
Address: 92 Ayios Phylaxeos St, P.O. Box 51604, CY-3507, Limassol

Christopher Louise  
Practice Leader  
United Nations Development Programme, Action for Cooperation and Trust, Cyprus  
E-mail: christopher.louise@undp.org  
Tel: + 357 22 874 777  
+ 357 22 874 792 (direct)  
Fax: + 357 22 359 066

The Management Centre  
Email: tcemal@mc-med.org (REF: Request a free copy of the Directory)  
Tel: +90 392 2277234  
Fax: +90 392 2277226  
Address: Osman Paşa Cad., No 31/4, Köşklüçiftlik, Lefkoşa

## World Toilet Summit

UN-Habitat, WHO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNICEF, took part in the World Toilet Summit, which opened on 31 October in New Delhi, India. Most are fortunate enough to take toilets for granted, yet more than 2.6 billion people, or 40% of the planet's

population, have no access to them.

In a message to the event, UN-Habitat's Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka notes that the correlation between urban poverty and poor health is largely a result of inadequate sanitation facilities, combined with inadequate or unsafe water

supply. She urged national Governments to adopt low-cost technology that would allow expanded coverage to broad segments of society.

Improvement in global sanitation and access to clean drinking water is one of the key UN Millennium Development Goals.

# On Your Bike, Brian!

UNFICYP Spokesperson Brian Kelly's farewell lunch, which took place on 23 October in HQ UNFICYP's central courtyard, was a rare occasion. Approximately 90 fellow colleagues arriving at midday found an impressive luncheon laid on, organised by the very capable Michael Charalambous, Manager of UNFICYP's International Cafeteria.

Once lunch was over, CM Møller was the first to bid farewell to Brian, presenting him with a decorative UN plate, one which Brian has admired for some time! Then came CAO Frank Clancy, who handed Brian a framed collection of medals from all missions he had served with during his UN service. Anne Bursey, Brian's deputy, rounded up the speeches



and presented Brian with personal gifts of a painting she had created, as well as a framed photo of him eating his favourite luncheon dish at CESSAC (egg, mashed potato and onion!). She also surprised him with a special edition of the UNFICYP magazine entitled "Brian's Blue Beret", courtesy of the PIO, and



last but not least, UNFICYP's collective farewell gift of a red bicycle, tastefully decorated with a UN flag, a hooter, two fans and other bits and pieces to distinguish it from other bicycles in town!

Coffee, accompanied by a farewell cake with a colourful photo of Brian as decoration, ended the event which, although joyful, was a



sad occasion as it meant the end of the six-and-a-half year Brian Kelly era, one which will be very difficult for his successor to follow.

Brian plans to settle on the island for the foreseeable future, and we all hope to see him pedalling his bicycle up to HQ for his favourite CESSAC lunch!



## Sport 13 – Unlucky for Some

On 17 October, a selection of players from the Sector Civil Affairs Team (SCAT) and UNPOL provided stiff opposition for the ASPIS Pyla soccer club!

The ASPIS Pyla soccer team, made up of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot players, play in the fourth division of the Football League in Cyprus.

The gulf in class was evident from the start with ASPIS Pyla going close on numerous occasions, before breaking the deadlock after 20 minutes. The goal signalled the end of the resistance and inevitably, the floodgates opened with a further five goals conceded before half time.

Despite many words of encouragement from Caretaker Manager Inspector Gerry Coonan, it was hard to pick the players up at half time. More goals followed in the second half, despite stalwart performances by Charlie Gallagher at the back, Tony Tighe, midfield, and Ollie McHale up front.

A consolation goal from a dubious decision penalty awarded to and scored by Paddy Guinan raised one of the few cheers from UNPOL/SCAT members who had assembled to support their

team. The final score was ASPIS Pyla 12, UNPOL/SCAT 1.

Presentations were made to ASPIS Pyla by Garda Paddy Guinan, while UNPOL team captain Sgt. Gerry Brennan accepted a presentation on behalf of the UNPOL/SCAT team.

Many thanks go to all who supported the match on the night.



Aspis Pyla and UNPOL SCAT team players



# New Faces

## CO Sector 2

Lt. Col. Tony Duncan took over as Commander Sector 2 from Lt. Col. Keith Robinson on 1 October.

Born in Edinburgh on 30 August 1965, he grew up in Dundee. He joined the British Army in 1985 and was commissioned into the RCT in April 1987.

Lt. Col. Duncan spent his early years stationed in Germany, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. He left his appointment as SO3 G4 at HQ 4 Armd Bde in 1996 to attend Staff College during which time he obtained a Master's Degree. Lt. Col.



Duncan then commanded 28 Sqn QOGLR before joining 12 Mech Bde as the Deputy Chief of Staff. A three-year tour at the Army Personnel Centre followed before he assumed his current appointment as CO 10 Tpt Regt QOGLR. Lt. Col. Duncan has served on operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and now Cyprus.

Lt. Col. Duncan is married to Morna and they have three daughters: Rosemary (16), Elizabeth (14) and Catherine (11). His interests include rugby, football, golf, skiing, rock music and playing guitar.

## CO Sector 1

Lt. Col. Edgardo Calvi was born on 19 November 1961 in La Plata city. He was assigned as the new CO Sector 1 on 5 October.

Lt. Col. Calvi graduated from the Officers' Academy in December 1983 as a 2/Lt in the Armour branch. He is an experienced paratrooper, commando and mountain troop specialist.

During his career, Lt. Col. Calvi served in different combat units including the 4th Mountain Cavalry Regiment, the NCOs' Academy and 601 Commando Company, as well as the 8th Cavalry Regiment and the Officers' Academy. He attended the



Argentinian Staff College in 1997 and 1998.

In 1995, Lt. Col. Calvi completed a tour with UNPROFOR, and in 2000/2001, he attended the Staff College in France.

Prior to his appointment as CO Sector 1, he held the post of CO 10th Tank Regiment for the past two years. His qualifications include a BA in Strategy and Organisation, an MA in Strategic Management and an MA in Strategy and Geopolitics.

Lt. Col. Calvi is married to Maria Rosana and they have three children, Santiago (12), Pablo (10) and Marcos (seven).

## ASO

Lt. Col. Alberto Sabbatini, Air Safety Officer HQ UNFICYP, was born on 22 October 1963. He comes from Buenos Aires.

He graduated from the "Escuela de Aviación Militar" (Argentinian Air Academy) in 1986. In 1987, he attended the Military Aviator Course and then served with VII Air Brigade where he took the helicopter pilot's course, flying the Hughes 500, Bell UH-1H and Bell 212.

In 1992, he attended the Air Acci-



dents Investigation and Prevention Course. A presidential pilot, he also flew the Sikorsky S-76 and Sikorsky S-70, and was Squadron Leader for two years.

This is not Alberto's first tour with UNFICYP. He served in UN Flight in 1997 and 1999.

Alberto is married to Janna and they have two children, Lucia (seven) and Vito (three). His hobbies include playing football, watching sports and films, and listening to rock music.

## OC MFR

Maj. Emma Dick arrived in Cyprus on 29 September to take up the post of Officer Commanding, Mobile Force Reserve.

Following a degree in Anthropology from Durham University and a short spell in newspaper sales, she began her Army career at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in May 1997. Her first posting after commissioning was as a Transport Troop Commander in 10 Transport Regiment where she deployed as part of the NATO force in Bosnia.

Emma has completed various specialist logistic training whilst in the Army and in 2001 completed an MSc in Food Logistics



Management, carrying out her dissertation whilst deployed on Exercise SAIF SAREEA in the Omani desert. After attending Army Junior Division in 2003, Emma served as an Adjutant in 7 Transport Regiment and immediately deployed on Operation TELIC 1 to Iraq. Since then she has served as a Staff Officer within the Army's Personnel Centre managing over 3,000 soldiers' careers. More recently, she worked within the Directorate of the Royal Logistic Corps.

Emma is married to Ewan, a fellow Royal Logistic Corps officer, and they have two sons, Lewis (three) and Marcus (16 months). Emma is a keen mountain biker and also enjoys hiking, camping and reading.

# Visitors

UNFICYP extended the usual courtesies when the Chief of Mission, Force Commander and Senior Adviser received the following visitors during this month:



2 October: Egyptian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Ragheb with CM Møller



4 October: Ms. Aiko Yasuhara, Political Officer, Embassy of Japan with Senior Adviser Wlodek Cibor



4 October: Students from the Socialist Youth Party, Hanover, Germany



10 October: Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, Dr. Katalin Szili at the Hungarian Club, HQ UNFICYP



16 October: Danish Minister of Education, Mr. Bertel Haarder with FC Maj.Gen. Barni



19 October: Maj. Gen. Barni with General Director of European Affairs, Foreign Ministry of Mexico, Mr. José Ignacio Madrazo

## FHO

Maj. Sándor Szabó took over the position of Force Hygiene Officer on 20 September.

Born in Hungary in 1966, Maj. Szabó has taken several courses in Budapest and gained diplomas in sociology, mental health and as a Public Health Inspector.

He joined the Hungarian Defence Forces in 1985, and has served in various units as a Health Supply NCO, a Health Supply Officer, a Health Promoter and



lately as a sociologist. He has participated in several training courses and specialises in alcohol abuse and drug prevention.

This is Maj. Szabó's second tour as Force Hygiene Officer, the first being in 2001-2002.

Maj. Szabó is married to Edit, and they have a 10-year-old son, Bence. Maj. Szabó's hobbies include fishing, painting and reading.



# Teamwork on Staff Day

