

BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine

UN Police from
India and
El Salvador

**UNFICYP Celebrates
UN Day**

Running for forgotten victims

One man's solo attempt to ride
and cycle 3000kms

September-October 2012

**Slovak
Blue Helmets**

New Faces

Argentines, Slovaks,
Brits, Hungarians
and more!

BLUE BERET

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Front cover: SSgt Silvia Simová

Back cover: Cpl Armando Emilio Morales

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Public Information Office
United Nations Force in Cyprus
HQ UNFICYP
PO Box 21642
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Editorial Team

Executive Editor Michel Bonnardeaux
Managing Editor Rama Razy
Artistic Director Ersin Öztoycan
Sub Editor Neophytos Evdokiou
Military Public Information Officer
Capt Michal Harnadek
Force Photographer 1Sgt Martin Mruz

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1 Capt Augustin Savio
Sector 2 Capt Anthony Platt
Sector 4 Capt Mario Benca
MFR Capt Owen Richards
UNPOL Garda Sinead O'Hara
UN Flt Lt Francisco Cravero

Tel: 2261-4634/4416/4408 - Fax: 2261-4461
E-mail: razy@un.org; unficy-mil-pio@un.org

At the time of going to press, the UN was celebrating its 67th anniversary. On October 24, 1945, the United Nations (UN) came into being when the five permanent members of the Security Council ratified the charter that had been drawn up earlier that year. These members were France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Since 1948, the event's anniversary has been known as United Nations Day. It's an occasion to highlight, celebrate and reflect on the work of the UN and its family of specialized agencies. To mark this year's UN



Nations Charter and build a better world for all."

In Cyprus, the UN has played a prominent and direct role in the country ever since the establishment of the UN peacekeeping

India has been elected seven times to the UN Security Council. Only three non-permanent members of the Security Council have served longer (Japan, Brazil, and Argentina). India has been seeking a permanent seat on the Security Council along with other members of the G4, an organization composed of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan. According to their proposal, the UN Security Council should be expanded beyond the current fifteen members to include twenty-five members. If this happens, it would be the first time permanent Security Council status is extended to a South Asian nation and supporters of the

we should never forget the sacrifices of the **men and women who have laid down their lives for the UN in the cause of peace**

Day, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, stated: "We are living through a period of profound turmoil, transition and transformation. Insecurity, inequality and intolerance are spreading. Global and national institutions are being put to the test. With so much at stake, the UN must keep pace across the spectrum of its activities – peace, development, human rights, the rule of law, the empowerment of the world's women and youth."

Noting that there has been important progress on many fronts, with extreme poverty having been cut in half since the year 2000, democratic transitions taking place in many countries, and encouraging signs of economic growth across the developing world, the SG stressed: "Now is the time to raise our collective ambitions. The UN is not just a meeting place for diplomats. The UN is a peacekeeper disarming fighters, a health worker distributing medicine, a relief team aiding refugees, a human rights expert helping deliver justice. In carrying out this global mission we rely on countless friends and supporters. Non-governmental organizations, scientists, scholars, philanthropists, religious leaders, business executives and concerned citizens are critical to our success. No single leader, country or institution can do everything. But each of us, in our own way, can do something. On this UN Day, let us reaffirm our individual commitment and our collective resolve to live up to the ideals of the United

mission on March 6, 1964. The UN's work would not have been possible without the selfless participation of the force's contributing countries. In this issue, we also mark International Day of Peace with the Cyprus Veterans' Association.

In these relatively more peaceful times in Cyprus, we should never forget the sacrifices of the men and women who have laid down their lives for the UN in the cause of peace, nor lose sight of the important role still played by UNFICYP in maintaining peace on the island, and by the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices and the wider UN in general in assisting the sides to finally achieve a political settlement.

Slovakia is an important contributor of troops to the UN mission in Cyprus and is featured in this issue. Having gained independence only 19 years ago, this relatively small state has been steadily making its mark on the international scene, becoming a UN member in 1993 and joining both NATO and the EU in 2004.

Over 2,200 Slovak soldiers have served on this island since 2001. However, Slovakia's contribution to peace efforts has extended beyond troops. For the past 23 years, Slovak diplomacy has helped to bring Greek and Turkish Cypriots together in bi-communal events, as the current Slovak Ambassador explains in her interview with the Blue Beret.

G4 plan suggest that this will lead to greater representation of developing nations.

India makes a number of claims in its defence. It has the world's second largest population and is the world's largest liberal democracy. It is also the world's ninth largest economy and third largest in terms of purchasing power parity. Currently, India maintains the world's third largest armed force and is the third largest contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping missions after Bangladesh and Pakistan. In this addition, we look at India's contribution to the mission in Cyprus where it has provided three Force Commanders and a regular contingent of police officers.

El Salvador, which is Spanish for "the saviour" - or Jesus Christ - has been wracked by civil war and a succession of natural disasters. This pint-sized, but highly industrialised, country is the most densely-populated state on the mainland of the Americas. However, social inequality and a susceptibility to earthquakes have shaped much of modern El Salvador.

The smallest country in Central America, El Salvador punches above its weight by boasting the third largest economy in the region. In Cyprus, El Salvador has contributed a modest, but steady, number of police officers.

Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

UNFICYP

Celebrates UN day fo



for staff



Slovakia



Slovak Coat of Arms

Slovak Peacekeepers

The Slovak Republic was formed on 1 January 1993 after the peaceful division of the former Czechoslovak Republic. The first participation of the newly formed Slovakia in international peace support missions was with the UN mission in Iraq in 1993. Since then they have also contributed significantly to NATO and EU missions.

Today, Slovakia provides troops to the UN mission in Cyprus and observers for UNTSO, the UN observer mission based in Jerusalem. The Slovak Republic is also the lead nation in the Regional Coordination Centre for the EU mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA). For the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, Slovakia provides logistical support for the operational military liaison teams and a special forces' unit.



Slovak Air Force MiG-29AS NATO upgrade



5th Special Forces Regiment



Captain Štefan Varga

Military in Cyprus

159

Full contingent strength

98

Soldiers in Sector 4

37

Force engineers

10

Mobile Force Reserve

9

Military HQ personnel

5

Force Military Police



General Milan Rastislav Štefánik

Milan Rastislav Štefánik (1880-1919), together with Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, founded the modern Czechoslovak state. Štefánik was a war hero, accomplished diplomat, astronomer, art-connoisseur and some say legendary womanizer. He is revered by both Slovaks and Czechs alike. His short life was a screenplay of heroic exploits, diplomatic intrigue and passionate affairs.



Móríc Beňovský

One of the most colorful characters in Slovak history is Móríc Beňovský (1746-1786), a nobleman who during his relatively short life managed to be an adventurer, globetrotter, explorer, colonizer, writer, a French colonel, Polish military commander and an Austrian soldier. Above all, he managed to get himself elected as king of Madagascar (!) in 1776. His memoirs were a bestseller at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries and his life a source of inspiration for many writers, poets and composers.

Slovak Cuisine

The origins of traditional Slovak cuisine can be traced to times when the majority of the population lived in villages, in self-sustenance, with very limited food imports and exports and with no modern means of food preservation or processing. This gave rise to a cuisine heavily dependent on a number of staple foods that could stand the hot summers and cold winters, including wheat, potatoes, milk and milk products, pork meat, sauerkraut and onion. To a lesser degree beef, poultry, lamb and goat, eggs, a few other local vegetables, fruit and wild mushrooms were traditionally eaten.



Bryndzové halušky

One of the most traditional dishes is the bryndzové halušky (sheep cheese gnocchi). Sheep cheese gives a unique flavor to the meal by itself, but it is even more tasty with small pieces of bacon greaves and chives or dill. This national favorite is usually served with a glass of sour milk called žinčica.

Country Profile

Full name: Slovak Republic

Land area: 49,035 sq. km

Population: 5.5 million

Capital city: Bratislava

People: Slovak 85.8%, Hungarian 9.7%, Roma 1.7%, Ruthenian/Ukrainian 1%, other and unspecified 1.8%

Life expectancy: 80 years (women); 72 years (men)

Languages: Slovak (official) 83.9%, Hungarian 10.7%, Roma 1.8%, Ukrainian 1%, other or unspecified 2.6%

Religions: Roman Catholic 68.9%, Protestant 10.8%, Greek Catholic 4.1%, other or unspecified 3.2%, none 13%

Currency: Euro





Agia Marina Orthodox Church in the buffer zone near Deryneia.



Slovaks in Sector 4

The armed forces of Slovakia and Hungary have jointly contributed to Sector 4 of UNFICYP since 2001 when Slovakia assumed command of the sector from the Austrian contingent. In 2005, Sector 4 was strengthened by the addition of soldiers from Croatia, and more recently in 2010 with a contingent of soldiers from Serbia. The Sector 4 headquarters and main camp is Camp General Štefánik in Famagusta. Additionally, there are many patrol bases and observation posts in its area of responsibility within the eastern section of the buffer zone. Sector 4 is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Uličný.



The maritime security line along the coast of Famagusta Bay.



“Baywatch” observation post 146 along the coast of Famagusta Bay.

Faces of Slovakia

Cpl Monika Černáková



1Lt Padre Radoslav Takáč



Bottom: LtCol Jaroslav Marko
Centre: Cpl Marcel Richnavský



Lt Peter Rosolanka



Sgt Michaela Wozíková



Pfc Rastislav Migal'

Pfc Lukáš Vilhan



MSgt Lucia Čunderliková



Maj Padre Juraj Sitáš



MSgt Marcel Fraňo



ILt Stanislav Sikel





Interview

Slovak Ambassador

PhDr. Anna Tureničová

How important is Slovakia's peacekeeping presence in Cyprus?

The participation of Slovak soldiers in solving conflicts

beyond the borders of our home country has become a tradition in Slovakia's modern history. Slovakia's active involvement in peacekeeping operations confirms that the maintenance of international peace is a priority of our foreign policy. Since it became a UN member in 1993, Slovakia has been among the leading contributors to UN peacekeeping operations. We do not want to overvalue our role but the positive response from our partners and the UN has proven that even a small country can contribute to the pursuit of global solutions. Slovak troops have been a part of the mission in Cyprus since 2001. More than 2,200 Slovak soldiers have served on the island and witnessed the on-going drama of Cyprus and its people. After more than 11 years, we consider it important to continue our presence in the mission and to be involved in conflict prevention measures.

In your view, has the significant presence of Slovaks on the island improved relations between the two nations?

I can proudly state that the relations between our two countries have reached a high level in many areas including bilateral political dialogue, economic cooperation, trade and tourism and our cooperation in the framework of the European Union. Slovakia welcomed the opening of the first Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Bratislava in 2010. It was proof of the excellent relations between our two countries and it contributed to an even closer and deeper cooperation. The presence of Slovak troops on the island is praised by the highest representatives of the country. There is however room for improvement. In order to define the scope for increasing mutual cooperation in economic areas and trade, we suggest the establishment of a coordinating body, such as a group of economic experts, or the creation of joint chambers of commerce.

Many nations are currently finding it difficult to contribute troops to peacekeeping missions. How have you managed to ensure Slovakia's continued support to the UN mission in Cyprus?

The British novelist Joyce Cary was once asked why he volunteered for the Balkan Wars of 1912. He replied that he had not wanted to miss the experience of war, for he had feared this would be the last of all wars. Unfortunately, Mr. Cary's haste was quite premature. As long as there are areas suffering from conflict, the envoys of peace and order are necessary. We are of the opinion that Slovakia's deployment in Cyprus shall continue since our services are useful, helpful and appreciated. It is also about our responsibility towards a country where our soldiers have worked hard and put all their efforts to maintaining peace.

The involvement of Slovak soldiers in international operations also allows them to gain vital field experiences. The improvement of operation planning and communication with other partner units in the mission is an important contribution to better interoperability. As Slovakia is the leading nation in Sector 4, Slovak commanding officers are in charge of the Slovak, Hungarian, Serbian and Croatian soldiers. I am sure their homelands must be proud of their achievements, their bravery and loyalty and of the excellent representation of all our countries. All these facts speak for a continued presence of Slovaks in Cyprus for as long as it is required.

Your office has been actively involved in bringing civil society and political parties from the north and the south together. What benefits do you think these bi-communal meetings have had?

The special position of Slovakia in Cyprus is determined also by its role as facilitator of the bi-communal dialogue between the leaders of the political parties from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. I am proud that my country stood at the birth of this initiative back in 1989, the ambition of which was to respond to the desire of the Cypriot people to bring stability, to return to normal life, to be secure in their country and to live in harmony.

This forum is the only communication channel of its kind and represents a unique opportunity for the participants to present their opinions on particular issues, but also to learn first-hand the reactions and positions of other parties. The fact that political party leaders from the two communities are able to sit around one table and listen to each other is considered by all to be an essential foundation for dialogue and a tangible demonstration of their willingness to seek a solution to their country's national issues.

The participants in these regular monthly meetings have offered not only their time but also their knowledge, their good will, their ability to find a compromise and their mutually beneficial ideas for the reconstruction of trust and faith for a common peaceful existence. The ambition of the leaders and representatives of the political parties in these meetings has been to focus on maintaining dialogue, on keeping and strengthening contacts and good relations between the two communities and on providing the right example. Community leaders thereby support the efforts of the highest leaders to negotiate and find a lasting, viable and just solution for Cyprus.

Slovak diplomacy has facilitated regular meetings at Ledra Palace in Nicosia for 23 years. Slovakia sees itself as an honest broker without any hidden agenda and is prepared to organize these meetings for as long as they are desired.

What other avenues of dialogue would you recommend to bring the two sides together?

These days when politicians including the UN SG call for confidence building measures between the two communities, bi-communal activities are of great significance. Recently, the political parties under the auspices of the Slovak Embassy increased their meetings by additional events which involve larger groups from the communities. These included visits to holy places of both communities, a tour of the buffer zone in Ledra Street to demonstrate their support for its opening, a cultural event for the young generation in Ledra Palace, a big bi-communal concert in Pyla, a bi-communal painting exhibition, a visit to bi-communal school, visits to hospitals on both sides of the divide, bi-communal football matches, initiatives for protection of cultural heritage, bi-communal public discussions on the role of media and education in the process of rapprochement, a common walk in historical Nicosia and a multicultural concert in the Maronite village of Kormakitis – just to mention a few of them. We are preparing more interacting opportunities of this kind. Many of them would not be possible without the excellent cooperation with the UN peacekeeping mission, UNFICYP.

I strongly believe that personal contacts, small gestures, common initiatives, co-organized events and spreading peaceful thoughts can be viewed as little steps forward. They are of crucial importance and provide a good starting point for gradually finding a common path.



Slovcon Rotation

The month of September brings the annual rotations of the military contingents in UNFICYP. The Blue Beret speaks to outgoing Commanding Officer of S4 LtCol Jozef Paňko about his time in Cyprus and meets S4's new Commanding Officer LtCol Adolf Uličný.

Outgoing CO, Sector 4, Lieutenant Colonel Jozef Paňko

LtCol Jozef Paňko, how do you evaluate your time in UNFICYP?

As the Commanding Officer of Sector 4 and at the same time the Commanding Officer of SLOVCON (Slovak contingent), I can honestly say that last year tested me beyond what I have previously experienced. And this is despite the fact that I have had much experience commanding during many operational deployments. So I evaluate last year as one of the hardest and most challenging years of my 26-year long military career. I feel great satisfaction when I hear the evaluation of my work from UNFICYP colleagues. **What are the challenges of commanding a contingent within this mission?** One of most significant tasks for the commanding officer of any of the sectors in the buffer zone is to be able to establish common understanding within the multinational environment whilst respecting the different national identities. To maintain good levels

of communication and confidence building with OPFORs is vital for the future. This significantly contributes to fulfilling operational tasks and also provides better operational security for our soldiers. **Any thoughts for your successor?** Firstly I would like to wish him and his colleagues the "military good luck" where there is no need to "risk soldiers lives with the weapon in the hand." I would hope that he and his contingent have a successful year, that they adapt well to the multinational environment and that they are able to leave their service with satisfaction. Personally, I wish LtCol Adolf Uličný success as the representative of SLOVCON and the commanding officer of Sector 4. I am confident that he will have the full support of his team and that he in turn will be a strong source of support for them.

New CO, Sector 4, Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Uličný

"I plan to focus my efforts on reducing the incidents that happen in Sector 4 of the buffer zone. This task will require the greatest effort from all military stationed there, starting with the patrol sections up to the MOLOs. It will be hard, but we know this is possible. We have to accept the fact that we are only guests in a country that has a long-term dispute between its two major communities. Based on UNFICYP's mandate, our aim is to

contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and subsequently separate both OPFORs that are present on the island. In line with UNFICYP's mandate, all our efforts are aimed to return conditions back to normal in the areas of the buffer zone that are civil use areas. There are villages in the buffer zone that have about 10,000 inhabitants."

LtCol Adolf Uličný joined the Czechoslovakian Army in 1985 and graduated from the University of Aviation in Košice in 1989. After the division of the former Czechoslovakia, he started to serve with the Slovak Armed Forces as a fighter controller and then later as a Chief of Ground Control Intercept. In 2005, he graduated from the Higher Officer Staff Course and was appointed as a Deputy Commander of the Command, Control and Surveillance Brigade. Later, he held an appointment in NATO as Section Head of Reporting at

the HQ Air Command in Germany. He spent some time with the International Security Afghan Force (ISAF) as the Senior Officer in the Stability Division, in charge of airspace over Afghanistan. Before being appointed the Commanding Officer of Sector 4, he was posted as the Deputy Branch Head of Operations of the Slovak HQ Air Force. LtCol Uličný is married to Katarina, and has one son Ondrej, and one daughter Martina.

India

India was a founding member of the United Nations, joining in October 1945, two years prior to Independence. In 1953, the chief delegate of India, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, was elected the first woman president of the UN General Assembly.

As a prominent member of the non-aligned movement that started in 1955, India represented the interests of developing nations and supported the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. It also supported the struggle for global disarmament and the ending of the arms race, and the struggle towards the creation of a more equitable international economic order.

India is one of the largest contributors of military and police personnel to UN missions. So far, India has taken part in 43 peace-keeping missions, providing thousands of troops and police as well as thirteen force commanders!



Country Profile

Full name: Republic of India

Land area: 3,287,623 sq. km; coastline 7,000 km

Border countries: Bangladesh 4,053 km, Bhutan 605 km, Burma 1,463 km, China 3,380 km, Nepal 1,690 km, Pakistan 2,912 km

Population: 1.2 billion

Capital city: New Delhi

People: Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3%

Life expectancy: 68 years (women); 66 years (men)

Languages: Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9%. **Note:** English enjoys the status of subsidiary official language but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication.

Religions: Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%

Currency: Indian Rupee



India's diverse and rich cultural heritage dates back 5000 years.

Indian peacekeeping leaders in Cyprus



Three Indian Force Commanders led the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus between the critical years of 1964 to 1975.

On 17 January 1964, India's Lieutenant-General PS Gyani was appointed the first Force Commander of the 6,400 troops deployed in the UN mission in Cyprus. He was succeeded by General KS Thimayya in June 1964 who remained in command until his untimely death in 1965. In December 1969, Major General Dewan Prem Chand was appointed as the Force Commander and held this post for six years. He helped organise the escape of the president of the fledgling republic, Archbishop Makarios, during the 1974 coup that overthrew him.

Under Chand's command, the force assisted in the humanitarian relief effort required to resettle hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, and established the current buffer zone. This included the successful creation of a UN Protected Area around the former Nicosia International Airport despite fierce fighting in the area at the time.



DepSupt Narendranath Chama



Sgt Panna Ram



Insp Charanjiv Lamba



DeptSupt and Contingent
Commander Thakur Chandra
Sheel

The Cyprus Team



Insp Ravindranath Reddy
Pochanna



Insp Rajesh Kumar Lohan



DeptSupt Sudarshan Rayappagari



Insp Karma Denzongapa Bhutia



Lt General PS Gyani



General KS Thimayya



Maj General Dewan Prem Chand

El Salvador

In the 1980s, El Salvador was ravaged by a bitter civil war stoked by gross inequality between a small and wealthy elite, which dominated the government and the economy, and the overwhelming majority of the population, many of whom lived in abject squalor. In 1989, the UN began assisting in talks aimed at ending the civil war and the first major accord was achieved in 1990 when the parties agreed to ensure respect for human rights. To verify this and future agreements, the Security Council established in 1991 the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

In one of the most comprehensive operations in UN history, ONUSAL monitored the accords and verified the demobilization of combatants, their reintegration into society and the respect by both parties of their human rights commitments. ONUSAL also assisted

in bringing about reforms needed to tackle the root causes of the civil war such as judicial reform, the phasing out of the national police, the training of the new civilian police and transfer of land to former combatants and landholders. These negotiations culminated in the peace agreements of January 1992, ending a conflict that had claimed some 75,000 lives.

Thirty-two police officers from El Salvador have served in the UN mission in Cyprus since 2005.



Spotlight

Agente Rosendo Lopez

A police officer for 14 years, Agt Lopez graduated university as an industrial engineer. A seasoned member of the Salvadoran police force, he worked in the special 'CAT' unit that worked with the FBI to investigate criminal cases involving both the United States and El Salvador.

Agt Lopez started his tour of duty with the UN mission in Cyprus in April 2011 as a patrol officer in the bi-communal village of Pyla and is now the team leader for the sector civil affairs team in Dhenia. Agt Lopez is currently the only Salvadoran police officer serving with the UN police in Cyprus.

Country Profile

Full name: Republic of El Salvador

Land area: 21,041 sq. km

Population: 6.2 million

Capital city: San Salvador

People: Mestizo 90% (mixed Amerindian and Spanish/European), white 9%, Amerindian 1%

Life expectancy: 77 years (women); 70 years (men)

Languages: Spanish (official), Nahuatl (among some Amerindians)

Religions: Roman Catholic 57.1%, Protestant 21.2%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.9%, Mormon 0.7%, other religions 2.3%, none 16.8%

Currency: US dollar and Salvadoran Colon





Candle vigil for International Day of Peace

“On this day we pay special tribute to the members of the Cyprus World War II Veterans’ Association. You are the direct representatives of the generation that founded the United Nations and you do us great honour by your presence here.

As we mark this year’s Peace Day, we also pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. As the Second World War came to a close, the founders of the United Nations gathered halfway around the world in San Francisco. There, they began the work of writing the United Nations Charter. You know its noble purpose as well as I: “To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

The candle beside me symbolizes the worldwide peace vigil held by millions of people to mark this very special day. By lighting our own candles we shine a message of peace and hope for all those in despair around the globe.

For the United Nations family here in Cyprus, a comprehensive settlement remains our overarching goal. We remain committed to assisting the two sides in achieving this long-awaited – and in our view attainable – objective. The Cyprus World War II veterans understand the meaning of working together for the greater good. Their example should inspire all Cypriots – Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots – to renew their commitment.”

Excerpt of speech by Ms. Lisa Buitenhuis, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission of UNFICYP on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2012.



Cyprus cycle cha



The stillness of the water belied the nervous excitement in the air. Eleven soldiers waited on the shores of Escape Beach on the northern coast of Cyprus for the 6am bell. At its toll, the soldiers started a tour that would have them cycle a staggering 732km round the circumference of this Mediterranean island. The punishing pace meant that they finished the tour in just five days. The eleven-strong riding team were from the British contingent of the peackeping force in Cyprus. Its aim: to raise £2500 for the British Army Benevolent Fund. The result: £4000!

"It's unbelievable how much we were able to raise," said SSgt Ben Cannon. "We didn't expect it and we're so pleased."

The route started on Escape Beach in Kyrenia, took them 153km up the northern coast to the Karpaz Peninsula, down 176km to Dhekelia on the southern coast, west 152km to Episkopi, north-west 109km to Polis and east 142km back to Kyrenia.

Organiser and rider 2Lt Elysia Ridley explained some of the challenges on the route. "The terrain was undulating most of the way, we had a few off-road bits towards the Karpaz Peninsula which were very challenging and slowed us down quite a bit. The last few days were really mountainous; the longest was 30km which was quite a difficult uphill ride!"

The cycling team were SSgt Ben Cannon, Pte Ash Davies, Capt Claire Sapwell, LCpl Shaun Dawson, 2Lt Elysia Ridley, Pte Phillip Jones, Maj Verity Crompton, WO2 Billy Webb, SSgt Jed Arthur, Capt Jenny Long and WO2 Macca Mchugh. The team were supported by Cpl Manny Dlamini (masseuse), LCpl Paddy Patterson (chef), LCpl Kam Ramrous (medic) and Pte Alby Hall (driver).



challenge



From left: SSgt Ben Cannon, Pte Ash Davies, Capt Claire Sapwell, LCpl Shaun Dawson, 2Lt Elysia Ridley, Pte Phillip Jones, Maj Verity Crompton, WO2 Billy Webb, SSgt Jed Arthur.



WO 2 Billy Webb

Running for forgotten victims

A Southampton soldier has undertaken a solo endurance charity event that will see him complete 3,346km while deployed on United Nations duties. Warrant Officer Class 2 Billy Webb (33), who serves with the 29 Regt Royal Logistic Corp, arrived in Cyprus on 24 March 2012 with the grueling task of running 109km a week for a total of 28 weeks to help raise money for the Forces Children's Trust.

"When I started out I thought it was going to be a breeze—it's just a number, I told myself, nothing is impossible," said Webb. "How wrong I was. This is the hardest challenge I have ever taken on. To complete 20km a day, six days a week takes its toll on the body especially when you introduce the scorching heat of the Cyprus sun, sore legs and my busy day job."

WO2 Webb committed himself to running the equivalent distance from Nicosia to Dover (3,002km) over the length of his tour, dedicating 5km to each of the 425 British service personnel that have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives since 2002.

In addition, he will cycle 344km from Dover to South Cerney upon his return to the UK. This will take him along the South Coast and up through Royal Wootton Bassett where he will lay a wreath in the memory of the fallen soldiers.

"Having a young family has forced me to face up to the fact that I may not come home from a tour in the future," said Webb. "If the worst was to happen I would like to know that both my wife and young son would be looked after and supported by people that care, understand and listen to the problems they may face."

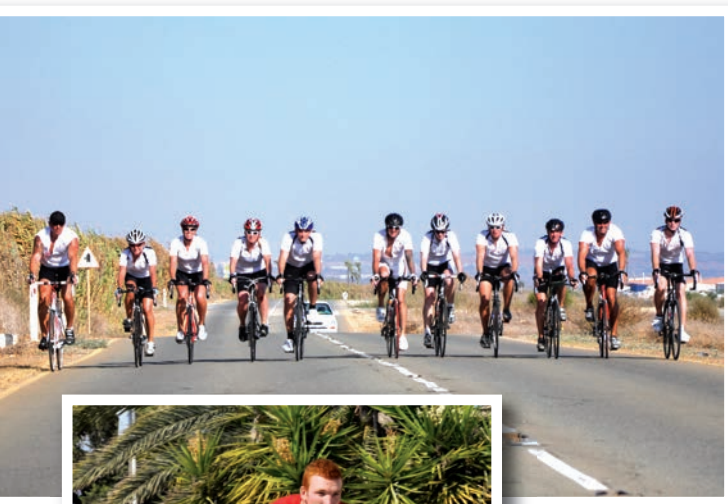
To date, WO2 Webb has run 1910.49km, cycled 1092.51km and has completed his goal of running 5km for each of the 425 fallen service men and women. He has raised £1,050 of the £3,500 target he set himself on his solo-charity tour. He is shortly due to return home to the UK where he will complete the last 344km from Dover to South Cerney, the home of the 29 Regt RLC.

Follow WO2 Webb's progress on

www.facebook.com/groups/runningforforgottenvictims

Donations can be made to

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/billywebb1978>





Lieutenant Colonel Jose Luis Arrechea Commanding Officer Sector 1

Lieutenant Colonel Jose Luis Arrechea took over the post of Sector 1 Commanding Officer on 4 September. Born in Argentina, the LtCol graduated from the Argentine Military College as Second Lieutenant of the Artillery Branch in 1987. During his career he worked in the 101 Artillery Group, Argentine Military College and the 1st Artillery Group. Between 2006 and 2007, LtCol Arrechea was designated as chief of the Basic Grouping in the Argentine Military College, as a Course and Doctrine Division Chief for the Argentine Army Artillery School and then continued as a Commanding Officer of the 7th Artillery Group up to August 2012. The Lt Col graduated as a staff officer from both the Argentine and Brazilian army and holds a University degree in strategy and organization. He is married to Josefina Caviglione Fraga and has three children, Maria Martina, Mariano and Santiago.



Lieutenant Colonel J Heardman Commanding Officer Sector 2

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Heardman was commissioned in 1994 having previously studied electrical engineering at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Having attended the Junior Command and Staff Course he became the EME with 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, deploying to Kosovo in the armoured role. A two year tour as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Reconnaissance Brigade saw a deployment to Afghanistan as the SO2 J35 Plans in HQ Regional Command (South). He took command of 3 Armoured Company on Op TELIC 10, supporting the 1st Mechanised Brigade in Iraq. He joined the Directing Staff of the Army Division at the Staff College later that year and became the Chief Instructor prior to assuming command of 101 Force Support Battalion REME in January 2012. Lieutenant Colonel Heardman is married to Sarah and they have one daughter, Emily (10), and one son, Charlie (8). He enjoys most ball sports, including football, squash and golf. He supports Nottingham Forest FC and Gloucester RFC.

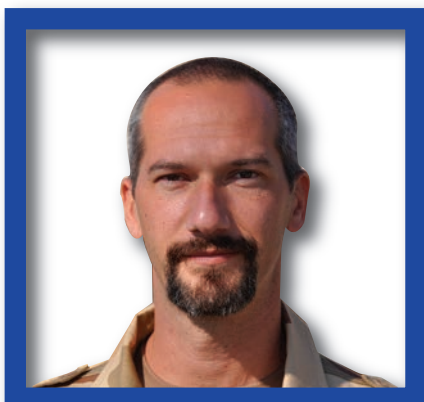


Chief of Civil Affairs section

Born in Australia, Faylene Woolley joined the mission in Cyprus in September as the Chief of Civil Affairs. She has spent 20 years in the international arena including 12 years working for UN peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, Nepal and Liberia. Faylene started her career in education and later transitioned into governance and public administration. She spent seven years in Kosovo supporting central, regional and local governance, one year in Nepal where she ran the civil affairs component of a regional office and four years in Liberia where, amongst other duties, she coordinated civil affairs work in 15 field offices. She holds a MA in public administration, in addition to education qualifications, and completed her MA thesis on the impact of decentralisation in Kosovo on inter-ethnic conflict. Faylene is a keen photographer and has indulged her love of travelling by visiting over 60 countries.

OC MFR

Major Steve Mellor was commissioned into the British army in December 1992. He has served on NATO operations in Kosovo and on numerous coalition missions in both Afghanistan and Iraq, most recently as part of the British Peace Support Team in Kenya. He has aided training to UN missions in both Sudan and Somalia. As an RLC officer, he served with both the navy and Royal Air Force as a Command Logistics Officer and as an Air Dispatcher. Major Mellor enjoys skiing, running, hiking and traveling. His current on-going project is the laborious renovation of a house in the Slovak UNESCO-listed town of Levoca.



Senior Medical Officer

Captain Horacio Gonzalez Martin is the mission's new Senior Medical Officer and is on his second tour in UNFICYP. He graduated from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and joined the navy in 2004, specializing in occupational medicine. Capt Martin spent 14 months in Antarctica in the South Orkneys Island and did two tours in the Antarctic waters with the PANC (Naval Combined Antarctic Patrol) with the Chilean Navy. He completed a diving medical officer course in 2007, specialising in diving and hyperbaric medicine. Following this, he completed a deep diving course for physicians and a combat casualty care course in the US in 2006. He received a postgraduate degree in occupational medicine in 2012. Capt Martin and his wife Silvina have a four-year-old daughter, Oriana.

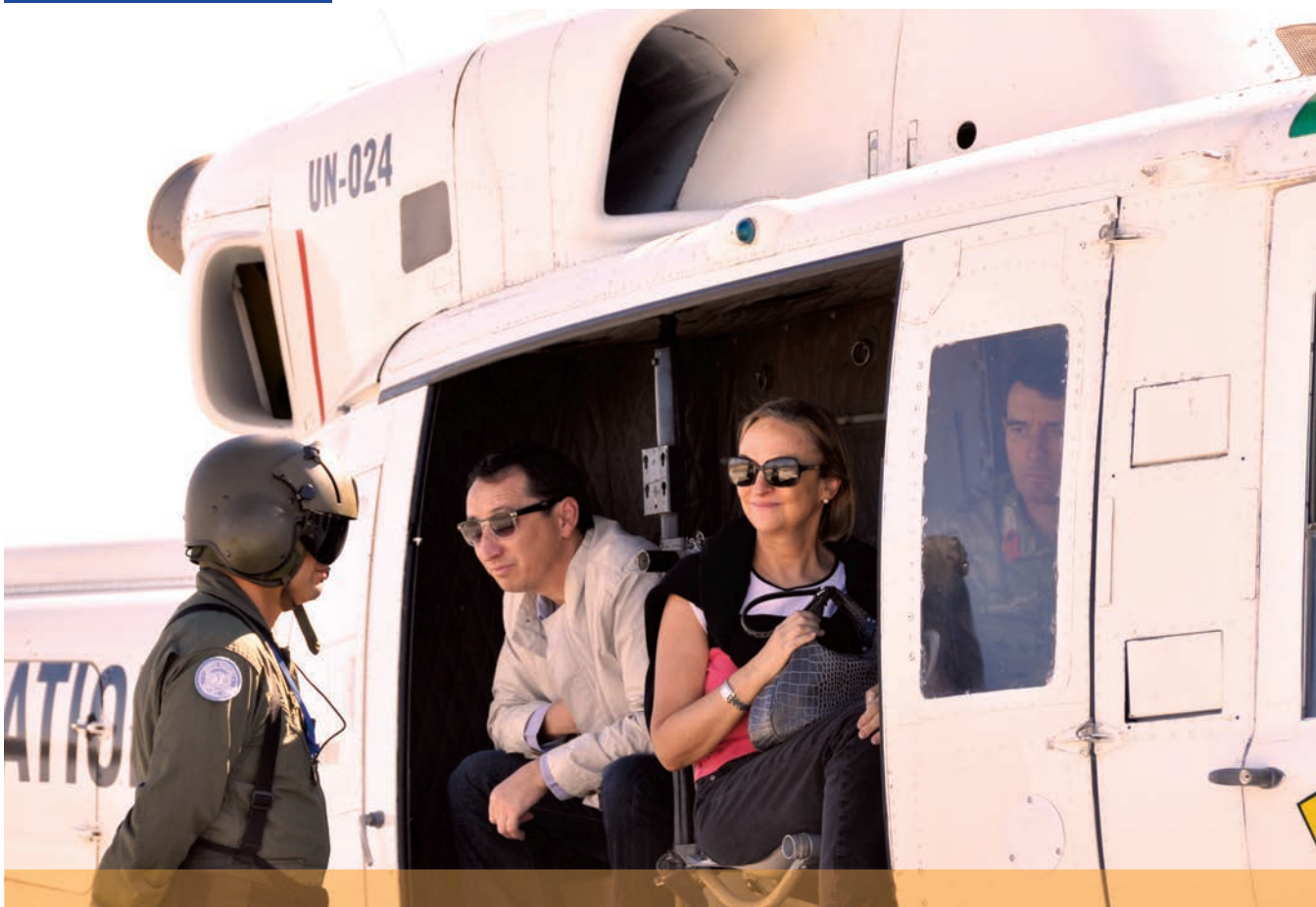
Senior Officer 2 Plans

Major Milos Sopoliga was appointed to UNFICYP JLOC as SO2 Plans. After graduating from the military academy in 1998, he was posted to the mechanized infantry training base in Martin, Slovakia. There he served as Supply and Maintenance Officer and later as an Ammunitions Officer until 2004. During 2004-2006, Major Sopoliga was deployed with UNTSO in Israel, Lebanon and Syria. On return to Slovakia he was appointed to the Training and Support Command in Trencin, where he spent time as the Materiel Management Senior Officer. In 2009, he deployed to ISAF Afghanistan as the Ground Movement Chief in Regional Command South in Kandahar. From 2010 he commanded the transportation company and NSE for NRF in Hlohovec. Prior to his deployment in Cyprus, Major Sopoliga was posted to the general staff of the Armed Forces in Bratislava. Major Sopoliga is married and has two daughters.



Force Hygiene Officer

Captain Andrea Kelemen is UNFICYP's new Force Hygiene Officer. Between 1994-2000, Cpt Kelemen studied labour diagnostics, tropical medicine and medicine for ambulances at the Medical University in Szeged, Hungary. After graduation, she completed her residency at the Main Health Care Centre of Hungary (2006-2010), specializing in anesthesiology and intensive care medicine. Along side this, Cpt Kelemen served in the KFOR (2002) mission in Kosovo and in the EUFOR (2007) mission in Sarajevo as the national contingent doctor. She also served with ISAF (2004) in Afghanistan, MFO (2008-2010) in Egypt. During 2010-2011, Cpt Kelemen worked as a staff officer for the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine in Budapest, Hungary.



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission Lisa Bутtenheim with Political Affairs Officer Timothy Alchin and Chief of Staff Col Angus Loudon during their visit to Argentine soldiers in Sector 1, located in the western part of the buffer zone.





UNFICYP HQ engineers demolishing a dangerous, crumbling wall in old Nicosia located in the buffer zone. The wall posed a risk to UNFICYP patrols. The demolition was done with the assistance of the Nicosia municipality and UNFICYPs Civil Affairs Military Liaison Officers.



UNFICYP Fire Officer Nadeem Paul Qadir giving instructions at the biannual emergency evacuation drill held by the Fire Unit of the Security Section.



Argentine peacekeeper in full military regalia.



Coming in the next issue of the Blue Beret
**Focus on British blue helmets
and UN police from Italy and Montenegro**

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