2016
ANNUAL REVIEW
Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia and British Forces Cyprus
2016
SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Substantial support to national and international Operations through Operation SHADER, the Regional Support Battalion, national contingency plans and our communication sites.

2. Significant investment in our people and infrastructure. £46M runway refurbishment; £5.5M physical security; £8M new crèches and an enhanced military overseas welfare offer.

3. Unprecedentedly good working relationship with the Republic of Cyprus through our non-military development agenda, blue light services co-operation and military collaboration.
People recognised at all levels, including the award of two MBEs, a CBE and an Overseas Territories Medal.

Visits by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, the Secretary of State for Defence, two Ministers of State, the Permanent Secretary, Chief of the Defence Staff and Chief of the Air Staff.

Successful onward movement of 115 migrants and closure of the migrant facility.
In the foreword to last year’s Review, Air Vice-Marshal Wigston anticipated that the high operational temp of 2015 would carry on into 2016 - he wasn’t wrong. Operations and critical support to operations, has featured at the very top of everyone’s agenda here in Cyprus.

This year’s review looks back at how BFC and the Sovereign Base Areas have worked with great energy, commitment and proficiency to deliver our operational objectives. At the same time the review captures the breadth of work undertaken by the many sections of our diverse whole force. It also celebrates the numerous achievements across our community.

Against the operational backdrop there has been an equally determined effort to administer sovereignty in this unique Overseas Territory fairly and respectfully, build upon our good relations with the people and leaders in the Republic of Cyprus, and pursue internally our wide-ranging modernisation programme. On all of these fronts I believe this Review demonstrates the great strides we have made.

‘British Forces Cyprus is Defence’s preferred and continually available platform to launch and support operations in the Middle East, the Levant, SE Europe and North Africa. We can support a Joint or Combined force to enable UK and coalition current and contingent operations with an understanding of the region underpinned by our enduring defence engagement with regional partners.

We also facilitate diverse combined, collective and specialist training in demanding terrain and environmental conditions. And we are a whole force committed to the delivery and maintenance of sovereignty’.

In this statement we have a great story to tell, and the work we are engaging upon as part of our Future Operating Model (Programme ANDROCLES) will allow us to continue to achieve success across all areas into the future – it is both an exciting and challenging time.

As I look forward to 2017 and into 2018, I see great opportunities to not only focus on the immediacy of current and contingent operations but also to develop all areas of our 2025 Vision for the Command and Administration.

Major General James Illingworth OBE
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INTRODUCTION

When Cyprus achieved independence in 1960, the United Kingdom retained sovereignty of 98 square miles of the island which are known as the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (or the SBA). The SBA is one of 14 independent British Overseas Territories. All of them, with the exception of the SBA, are administered through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; due to the unique nature of the SBA it is administered by the MOD.

**Land Ownership in the SBA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOD freehold</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOD leasehold</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown land</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private land</td>
<td>57%</td>
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The underlying principles on which the SBA was formed in 1960 were:

- Effective use of the SBA as military bases.
- Full co-operation with the Republic of Cyprus.
- Protection of the interests of those resident or working in the SBA.

These principles continue to guide the work of the SBA to the current day and form the basis of the chapters for this publication. The SBA Administration, under the guidance and direction of the Administrator and Chief Officer, provides the day-to-day functions of the civil government. The Administration delivers a broad range of public services directly through its own police force, customs and immigrations teams, courts and prison services. In parallel, the Republic of Cyprus undertake some services to the public under a legal delegation.

The UK military presence is coordinated by Headquarters British Forces Cyprus which oversees four main stations, Episkopi, RAF Akrotiri, Dhekelia and Ayios Nikolaos. There are also a small number of retained sites located within the Republic of Cyprus, such as Troodos station.

Around 8,000 UK military personnel, civil servants, contractors and their families, live and work alongside approximately 11,000 local Cypriot residents within the SBA.

People who work for the SBA Administration and British Forces Cyprus

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>3,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Servants</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locally Employed Staff</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractors</td>
<td>1,400</td>
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People who live in the SBA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Servants</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependents</td>
<td>3,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypriot nationals</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak season tourists per day</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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</table>

The Sovereign Base Areas are unique; a UK Overseas Territory working closely with the Republic of Cyprus to deliver public services to all those who live within it.

*January - Dr Philip Rushbrook, SBA Administration Chief Officer.*
British Forces Cyprus is a sovereign joint capability with an acute focus on the UK’s current and expected interests in the Levant and beyond. Throughout 2016 it continued to be pivotal in the delivery of operations in the region. Contractual arrangements with the deep water port of Limassol provides a sea port of departure and embarkation.

The Regional Standby Battalion has continued its role delivering force protection for Operation SHADER assets at RAF Akrotiri (see page 6), and maintaining an acclimatised force at very high readiness to respond to threats in the region. In this role 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment 2 PWRR delivered training to 215 Corps of the Afghanistan National Army during January and support to capacity building operations in Nigeria. 2 PWRR handed this commitment to 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment (1 LANCs) in May and are now focussing on conducting a move back to the UK, to be replaced by 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in summer 2017.

2016 was a positive year for anti-poaching operations (see page 13) with 2 PWRR supporting the SBA Police on three deliberate operations to detect, deter and disrupt illegal bird trapping activity.

British Forces Cyprus’ helicopter support squadron, 84 Squadron RAF, responded with four Search and Rescue (SAR) missions within the SBA whilst continuing to provide integrated and enduring SAR cover to the Republic of Cyprus through the Cyprus Joint Rescue Control Centre. Unusually dry conditions this year created a high fire hazard and BFC supported the Republic of Cyprus’ fire department on a regular basis. In July, 84 Squadrons ‘rainmaker’ water bucket provided assistance to a six-day multinational fire fighting operation in the Troodos mountains (see page 15).

A £5.5M project significantly increased security at RAF Akrotiri with enhanced infrastructure measures and technical surveillance capabilities. This included installing a Maritime Surveillance (MARSUR) capability which provides a live maritime picture in Operations rooms. The project has enabled a more intelligent and dynamic security posture at the station.

In 2016, the operational tempo was, and still remains, very high.
Support to Operations SHADER, TORAL and KIPION

The British contribution to the global coalition against Daesh is Operation SHADER, the backbone of which is 903 Expeditionary Air Wing (EAW) based at RAF Akrotiri. In 2016 the EAW delivered significant contributions to the coalition effort with its attack, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, air to air refueling and air transport capabilities.

I have been struck by the breadth of important roles fulfilled by our people, from our high readiness infantry battalion, to our peacekeepers on the green line and all those deployed on Op SHADER taking part in the fight against Daesh.

August – The Rt Hon Michael Penning, Minister for the Armed Forces.

2016 has witnessed a significant increase in air operations from RAF Akrotiri with a deliberate focus on support to the battles for Mosul and Raqqa from the summer onwards. December 2016 was the first anniversary of the 903 EAW Typhoon detachment in Cyprus and it has firmly cemented its role as an effective close air support platform, delivering precise and decisive effect on the ground whilst avoiding civilian casualties.

British Forces Cyprus also provided support to our coalition partners by providing an emergency diversion runway for the French Charles De Gaulle, and USS Eisenhower aircraft carriers in the region.

In August, aircraft from Cyprus also assisted in the search for missing Egypt Air flight 804.

The extent of this activity is made all the more impressive as it took place alongside a £46M project to resurface the runway and airfield operating surfaces and replace ground lighting. To provide support to Operation SHADER, British Forces Cyprus has augmented many of its standing capabilities from catering provision to engineering. In 2016 the RAF Akrotiri head count fluctuated about 650 personnel above its pre-SHADER level.

Contracted services at Limassol New Port and support to the Broader Middle East air-bridge contributed towards Operations TORAL and KIPION. Essential resupply of RN vessels on deployment and the movements support to the air bridge was instrumental in facilitating a smooth regional operational tempo.

Decompression for personnel returning from Afghanistan and Iraq continues to be provided in Cyprus with more than 1,840 taking advantage of the outstanding decompression facilities this year.

IN NUMBERS

| 2,335 | Tornado and Typhoon combat sorties |
| 120m | litres of aviation fuel used |
| 200 | tonnes of water on the Troodos fire |
| 9 | EOD call outs |
| 1,840 | personnel decompressed |
| 15,059 | RAF Akrotiri aircraft movements |

The Afghan National Army are conscious of the difficulties they face, we have managed to put them on a better footing to tackle their challenges.

Warrant Officer James Cox, 2PWRR.
2016 saw a 20% increase in organisations visiting British Forces Cyprus compared to 2015 with a total of 3,609 personnel undertaking training. The array of unique opportunities available in Cyprus attracted regular and reserve units from across all three Services from cadet forces to formation headquarters.

Additionally 36 sports teams trained in Cyprus and support was provided to 39 adventure training expeditions.

The Resident Infantry Battalions, whilst maximising the training opportunities on Cyprus, also participated in overseas training exercises in Jordan, Estonia, the UK and Kenya honing the skills required to maintain their high readiness capability as the Regional Standby Battalion.

The ability to train my personnel in such a challenging environment is invaluable.

October - Capt Danny O’Reilly, 3 Regt Royal Military Police.

Providing an effective, co-ordinated and appropriate response to emergency situations is a cornerstone feature of the SBA blue light services and British Forces Cyprus. This capability was developed during the year with a demanding series of command based exercises. These culminated in November with a complex counter terrorism scenario which confirmed the maturity of our multi-agency response capability.

The Defence Equipment and Support organisation choose Cyprus again as their preferred trial location on several occasions including trials on the thermal capabilities of the new SA80 A3 rifle.

The bespoke command training facility in Cyprus and their outstanding support added significantly to the readiness of the Standing Joint Force Headquarters Group.

November - Maj Gen Stuart Skeates, Standing Joint Force Commander.

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>223</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,609</td>
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<td>39</td>
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This year has seen an expansion of British Forces Cyprus’s Defence Engagement activity in the region with a deliberate program of visits, meetings and joint exercises. These included exercises with the Lebanese and Israeli Defence Forces.

On-island the relationship with the Republic of Cyprus defence community was given a significant boost in 2016 by the signing of the first Bilateral Defence Cooperation Programme between the UK and Cyprus in February.

British Forces Cyprus provided directing and planning staff on the Cypriot led Exercises ARGONAUT and NEMESIS. This close co-operation at a multinational level further cemented an already strong bond and developed mutual understanding in the areas of Search and Rescue, crisis response and counter terrorism.

Our existing relationships with the Cyprus Naval Command and the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre were bolstered by proactive and regular engagement.

At the senior political level a strong relationship between the UK Defence Advisor, the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British Forces Cyprus senior leadership team has been effective in swiftly resolving issues before they escalated.

"The partnership that we are building, step by step, is based on common principles and concerns about the future of the region."

August - Christoforos Fokaides Cyprus Defence Minister.

In Numbers:
- 17 defence engagement opportunities
- 7 different nations engaged
- 4 missions with the Republic of Cyprus
- 18 different countries on Ex ARGONAUT 16
- 12 official engagement visits to BFC

It is important to be able to develop these close working relationships.

June - Lt Cdr Christodoulou, International and European Office of Navy Command in Cyprus.
The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has continued to sustain, repair and upgrade the estate in Cyprus through their partner contractors who employ over 1,400 staff on a daily basis. The total DIO spend in Cyprus for 2016 was £98M.

A major £46M project to refurbish the airfield at Akrotiri dominated activity throughout the year. The runway was resurfaced in 70 metre sections during seven hour shifts each night, leaving it ready for operational flying every morning. In addition, all operating surfaces were also replaced as was the ground lighting system.

Work commenced on four new LIBOR funded crèche facilities across the estate to provide places for 300 children.

Over £2.9M was spent upgrading service families accommodation, installing double glazing, replacing white goods and removing asbestos. Play parks in Dhekelia and Episkopi stations were also upgraded to provide a safe space for children to play.

A major £2.2M investment, double the spend in 2015, replaced the poorest quality furniture in families accommodation and offices.

DIO supplied over 3,000 tonnes of fresh water each day in 2016, managed the drains and sewage and accounted for a £14M electricity bill. They worked successfully with stations and users to encourage energy saving.

DIO Soft Facilities Management catering staff served over 1.2 million meals, supported by 21 military chefs, and cleaned over 750,000 meters square of buildings every week. They also served over one million shoppers at their eight Costcutter stores.

I was struck by the enormity of the airfield infrastructure project and highly impressed with the team getting the job done.

November - Air Mshl Dick Garwood, Director General Defence Safety Authority.

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<tr>
<td>£43K</td>
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<td>£47M</td>
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<td>£3M</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2M</td>
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<td>3000</td>
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savings from the new solar farm in Episkopi
maintaining and upgrading the estate
Service Families Accommodation upgrades
playgrounds refurbished
meals served
tonnes of fresh water produced every day
One of the main principles of the SBA is that they will be governed in full cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus. Nowhere is this truer than in the delivery of public services. The SBA Administration directly delivers key public services from customs and border controls to fire services. However, beyond these a wide range of additional public services are delivered directly to members of the public by the Republic of Cyprus, including schools, social services, and revenue collection. It is only through constant communication and collaborative working that both sides can work alongside of each other to efficiently deliver these services for our communities.

Development within the SBA.

Signed in 2014, the Non-military Development arrangement is an agreement between the UK and the Republic of Cyprus to lift the restrictions on building and development that have applied within the SBA since their inception in 1960. This has been a long term aspiration of the Cypriot communities living inside the SBA.

During 2016, the SBA Administration worked closely with the Department of Town Planning and Housing and other Republic of Cyprus ministries to develop the policy, processes and zoning maps that will govern how development in the SBA can take place.

In conjunction with the Republic of Cyprus, the SBA Administration carefully assessed the proposals and development requests from individual communities by comparing them to similar development practices within the Republic of Cyprus. This is slow work but vital to ensure that any agreed development does not affect the essential military and security work undertaken within the SBA.

This work is now nearing its completion; a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment will follow in 2017 prior to the launch of the new planning regime.

We are fully committed to provide all those living within the SBA the opportunity to develop their land and property along similar lines to those in the Republic of Cyprus.

April - Dr Philip Rushbrook, Chief Officer, Sovereign Base Area Administration.

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<td>28</td>
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<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>295</td>
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<tr>
<td>109</td>
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<td>400</td>
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The 2016 budget for the SBA Administration and British Forces Cyprus was £132M. When budgets from other MOD departments are added to this sum the total island spend reached £295M, with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation being the second biggest budget holder, spending approximately 33% of the £295M. The organisation has risen to the challenge of identifying major efficiency savings in support of the 2015 Spending Review with vigour and understanding.

One efficiency measure has been the decision to centralise overseas finance teams, including the team in Cyprus, back to the UK. A small residual staff will be retained on island to undertake tasks not achievable from UK such as assessing damage claims from exercising troops.

In 2016, the commercial team placed or renewed 40 new contracts to the value of £33.7M. Of the 40 new contracts 84% by number and 83% by value were placed with Cypriot companies representing a considerable investment in the Cypriot economy. The total value of all the contracts held in year was £73.7M

A notable new contract was the innovative Logistics Movement Support Contract with CPPC Logistics Group Ltd to the value of £14.8M which will achieve significant efficiency savings over the next five years. In November, CPPC also became the first overseas company to win a silver award from the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme.

We have tightened out belt this year and spent much time working out how we can pull it even tighter next year.

December - Sharon Barry, Head of British Forces Cyprus Finance.
The SBA Police keep the communities of the SBA safe and bring offenders to justice. They do this in close co-operation with the Cyprus Joint Police Unit and their partner agencies in the Republic of Cyprus. The force has 235 officers recruited from both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities who are all trained and accredited to UK operational standards. The newly appointed Chief Constable is also the Superintendent of Her Majesty’s Prison Dhekelia.

The service operates an intelligence-led, community based model of policing supported by a wide range of specialist capabilities that can deal with issues associated with organised crime, maritime security, firearms operations and counter terrorism.

Cyprus ranks in the bottom third of European road traffic statistics. During 2016 a total of 1,777 fixed penalty notices were issued in a consolidated road traffic campaign targeting offenders who transgressed the ‘fatal five’ causes of accidents.

In a crackdown against organised crime the force raided a total of six illegal casinos resulting in 17 arrests and the confiscation over £170,000 of gambling paraphernalia which was publically destroyed before the media.

In January operations began to disrupt illegal bird trapping. (see page 13). Throughout the hunting season a dedicated team of 11 officers successfully deterred significant illegal bird hunting activity.

The Force took the lead in a series of counter terrorism exercises with the military, the SBA Administration and the Republic of Cyprus. Based on scenarios similar to those seen in Europe and Africa this practiced and confirmed the ability of the SBA Police to lead a multi-agency response to such incidents.

As well as remaining on the front line with law enforcement, the force spearheaded public engagement activities and remain the single greatest interface between the MOD community and the 11,000 Cypriots living inside the SBA. A demonstration of this is the 2,500 spectators who turned out for Police’s youth academies football tournament to highlight the problem of violence at sporting events.

**IN NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Reduction in recorded crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Crime detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6kg</td>
<td>Cocaine largest single drugs haul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Anti-bird poaching operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>Fixed penalty notices issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>Confiscated bird hunting items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I want to make a difference to society, that’s why I wanted to become an SBA police officer.”

New recruit and political science student, Eva Andreou sworn in, in April.

“Practicing our joint procedures is one of the most important things we can do if we are going to provide an effective joint response.”

May - Chief Inspector Andreas Aggelidis, Cyprus Police.
THE ENVIRONMENT

Illegal Bird Trapping.

The ranges at Cape Pyla were again a focal point for illegal poachers who exploit this sanctuary for migrating birds. Trappers set their nets amidst purposely planted fast-growing acacia bushes to capture the birds for a black market culinary industry worth considerable sums of money. The animals suffer greatly.

2016 represented the most comprehensive effort to date to combat trapping resulting in an estimated 250,000 birds saved from capture and almost 3,000 birds actually released from nets.

A dedicated SBA Police anti-hunting team took the lead. Collaborative efforts with BirdLife Cyprus, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the military disrupted hunting activity and led to 64 arrests. Over 2016, the Administration continued to build on previous efforts to remove acacia in the SBA, and a total of 61 acres has now been removed since November 2014 at a cost of over €330,000. In 2016, a total of 833 mist nets were confiscated alongside £61,000 worth of trapping paraphernalia.

However this success came at a price and strained relations with pro-hunting communities. In August, protesting hunters blocked the exit route for military vehicles following an exercise to remove acacia.

This problem will not go away whilst there is a market for birds and hunters will attempt to catch them wherever they concentrate. However, the Administration is determined to continue in their efforts to thwart the trappers.

The lack of historic development within the SBA has left many areas of outstanding natural beauty and environmental importance. 2016 was the first full year in which 45% of SBA land was registered as Special Areas of Conservation. This allowed the environmental team to focus on safeguarding and sustaining the many internationally important habitats and species.

Project work began on the restoration of the Akrotiri marshland in conjunction with Birdlife Cyprus, the RSPB, and the Akrotiri Community. This included dredging trenches and the creation of pools to attract endangered waterfowl. The marshland was also fenced to allow livestock owned by the local community to graze freely and help promote sustainable reed growth.

A dedicated environmental warden was also appointed to tackle the growing problem of foxes digging up and eating eggs from the many turtles that choose SBA unspoilt beaches to nest.

In August injured Forces personnel also returned to RAF Akrotiri to take part in an archaeological dig programme designed to aid their rehabilitation.

To cap an important year, the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre was selected as the runner-up in the 2016 MOD Sanctuary Environmental Project Award.

IN NUMBERS

| 200 | school visits to the environmental center |
| 172 | turtle nesting sites recorded |
| 2,000 | flamingos on Akrotiri salt lake |
| 5 | traditional skills events |
| 11,000 | visitors to the environmental center |
| £10,800 | fines to bird trappers |
Illegal immigrant landings.

By the start of 2016, the SBA had established a mature, but temporary, facility to accommodate the 115 migrants that were intercepted as they approached the shores of RAF Akrotiri in October the previous year. In a clear demonstration to migrants that landing on the SBA was not a ‘back door to the UK’ fiscal and customs staff set about the substantial and complex task of individually processing each migrant in accordance with UK policy. In collaboration with the Republic of Cyprus, as well as close cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and governments from countries of origin, the last of the migrants were removed in May and the migrant facility was closed and dismantled.

However, the management of the migrants was not without its difficulty. Despite best efforts, the process was slow and migrants frequently vented their frustration with violence, protests and anti-social behaviour, on one occasion setting fire to the camp. Many lessons were learned and now the SBA Administration has a robust and practiced contingency plan in place should such a situation arise again.

In response to the migrant issue and to develop and practice the lessons identified, fiscal and customs staff took the lead in an exercise in June which simulated the landing of a migrant boat on the SBA shores. With over 100 participants, the exercise confirmed that a multi-agency response was ready for any such event in the future and developed the theme of migrant security issues as well as dealing with cultural sensitivities and welfare considerations.

The integrity and safety of our borders was again the main focus for customs and immigration staff, in particular at the two border crossing points the SBA shares with Northern Cyprus. Over 1,350 people were refused entry in 2016; whilst on most occasions this was for routine reasons, there were several interceptions of individuals attempting to gain illegal access. These included an attempt by a French driver to smuggle a hidden Turkish national through a checkpoint. Both were sentenced in the SBA court, one with a custodial sentence.

IN NUMBERS

| 1,353 | people refused entry |
| 60,740 | air passengers processed |
| £166,000 | duties & VAT to the ROC |

Seized

- 14 offensive weapons
- 81,313 cigarettes
- 70 vehicles
- 66 tonnes of potatoes
- 100 kg snails
- 900 kg fish

We have a vital role in ensuring the integrity and security of our external borders and checkpoints, with counter-terrorism at the forefront.

May - Gill Deane, Head of Fiscal and Customs.
The Troodos fire.

In July, one of the largest wildfires in Cypriot modern history gripped over 18 square kilometres in the Solea region of the Troodos Mountains. BFC fire fighters joined an international effort involving 300 fire fighters and 56 vehicles to tackle the blaze which destroyed woodland and villages and claimed the lives of two Republic of Cyprus fire fighters. Two 84 Squadron helicopters from RAF Akrotiri joined 12 aircraft from Greece, Cyprus and Israel in dangerously congested airspace with limited visibility which presented extremely demanding flying conditions. 84 Squadron dropped over 170 ‘rainmaker’ buckets of water and flew a total of 48 hours during 20 missions over 5 days in support of the fire fight. DFRMO deployed aircraft coordinator officers to provide advice and assistance during this period. The fire was finally extinguished after six days of intense flying and fire fighting. After the event the President of Cyprus wrote to the British Prime Minister thanking him for the assistance offered by British Forces Cyprus.

The Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation in Cyprus has 5 fire stations, 172 personnel and more than 30 emergency response vehicles. It is responsible for providing a fire and rescue capability, including airfield fire and rescue, across the SBA.

On behalf of the government and the people of Cyprus I wish to convey our sincere gratitude for your country’s immediate response.

June - The President of Cyprus in a letter to the British Prime Minister following the Troodos fire.

By way of a reciprocal agreement the responsibility of DFRMO also extends into the Republic of Cyprus where they were called to assist on 82 occasions in 2016. The fire services also play a vital role for 26 Cypriot villages at the top of the Troodos mountain where they are the only fire service present for six months of the year.

In the summer, fire service personnel bolstered their relationship with the Republic of Cyprus Fire service by taking part in joint fire awareness activity including public demonstrations promoting fire safety. Internally, fire managers delivered over 25 formal courses and more than 190 fire awareness events across the SBA.

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<td>200</td>
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<td>82</td>
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The appointment of three new associate judges for 2016 has enabled both SBA courts to operate concurrently and significantly improve efficiency. A total of 400 cases were heard in-year. Modernisation continues to be a focus of the SBA courts and live video technology was used for the first time during 2016. Three members of the SBA court team received training during work placements with both the Magistrates and Crown Court in UK. The Resident Judge, acting in his role as the SBA Coroner, also took responsibility for the new SBA mortuary which opened in November.

“Justice should be swift, independent but fair.”

November – Resident Judge Raymond Naqvi.

The Attorney General and Legal Adviser continued to handle litigation and to introduce new legislation in the SBA. Notable legislation included work which modernised criminal procedure in the SBA and legislation which ensures that all major programmes undertaken within the Administration are subject to a strategic environmental impact assessment.

“The MACE team add another means of upholding law and order within the SBA.”

June – Paul Newbegin, SBA Policy Secretary.

In a demonstration of the Administration’s determination to cut crime and anti-social behaviour it established a Multi-Agency Civil Enforcement (MACE) team. The team began work to streamline enforcement activities in areas such as health & safety and environmental protection with a particular eye on the local community and the 47 kilometres of coastline in the SBA.

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<td>400 cases heard</td>
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<td>6 cases per day</td>
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<td>95% cases non MOD persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 items of legislation made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 private restaurants inspected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The people objective for the SBA and British Forces Cyprus reflects a shared approach to the management and development of our people which includes a large and diverse locally recruited workforce of 1,319 civilians. A total of 190 vacancies attracted 3500 applications averaging just under 20 applications per vacancy showing a healthy interest from Cypriot Nationals and UK dependants alike.

An in-year manpower review revealed how legacy issues have resulted in varied pay scales and terms and conditions. To provide equality across all employment groups new terms and conditions were developed and implemented for all new recruits in 2016. These included alignment of pay and grading.

2016 also saw a change to working hours for military and civilian personnel alike. Historically, the working times in British Forces Cyprus differed to the UK requiring individuals to regularly work extended hours to engage with counterparts in the UK outside of the Cyprus working day. The change has enabled employees to take control of their working day by working flexibly around core hours that are better aligned with the UK working day and MOD business requirements. Despite initial concerns about a disruption of established work / life patterns the offer of flexible working and a better understanding of its benefits overcame the majority of concerns.

### IN NUMBERS

- 137 dependants recruited
- 39% female locally employed staff
- 3,500 job applications received
- 113 Turkish Cypriots employed
- 190 vacancies advertised.
- 73 Akrotiri residents employed in SBA

Our biggest challenge this year has without a doubt been the change of our working hours.

April - Trudi Roberts HR manager,
For the 11,000 Cypriots who live inside the SBA the two Area Offices are the coalface of community relations. From issuing event licenses to allaying concerns regarding military activity, the Area Offices are instrumental in maintaining good relations.

As the conversations and policy decisions regarding non-military development (see page 10) progressed throughout the year the Area Offices played a crucial role in representing the views and concerns of the community.

Bi-communal activity was high with representatives from both the Administration and British Forces Cyprus attending a wide range of local community events. By way of reciprocating this warmth, almost all of the SBA sporting and social events were open to the local community. Proactive efforts were undertaken to invite numerous community groups ‘behind the wire’ to strengthen bonds and provide transparency on issues of concern. These included local schools, media, land owners and community leaders.

The Administration also donated over £50,000 to 118 local community organisations to support worthy causes, and the riding for the disabled charity, based at the Episkopi saddle club, offered over 1,500 riding opportunities to disadvantaged people in 2016. Troops from the 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment also completed a project to help renovate a care home in the Troodos mountain village of Foini.

“We are grateful for the opportunity and power to manage Curium beach to the benefit of both our community and the general public.”

October – Pavlos Pouris, chairman of the Episkopi community council.

IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>118</th>
<th>beneficiaries of community funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Cypriot swimmers in the bay to bay race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1596</td>
<td>individual RDA rides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>landowners attend farmer’s lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>local vendors at the Episkopi fete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£50,000</td>
<td>to local communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“ My deepest appreciation to the SBA for their financial assistance to our school. ”

September – Andreas Matsangos Headmaster, Xyloymbou school.
2016 has seen adult education go from strength to strength with over 900 learners engaged in a variety of programmes including apprenticeships, functional skills, project management and languages. A refreshed Community Learning Programme delivered over 190 courses across three terms in four separate locations. Over 156 soldiers completed their Command Leadership and Management training, whilst a spouse employment support trial assisted 137 individuals to develop the skills required to compete in the jobs market or succeed in the workplace. Allied to this 150 personnel were engaged in transition activities as they plan to leave the military.

Our young people have thrived across the six British Forces Cyprus schools with an impressive 84% achieving GCSE A*-C in their five best subjects, 15% greater than the UK national average. ‘A’ level results were also excellent with all students securing places at their first choice of university. Ayios Nikolaos primary received an outstanding grade for their foundation stage in November and Episkopi primary retained its overall outstanding grading. Work commenced on four brand new crèche facilities at a cost of £8M.

“The level of achievement of our spouses in the Employment Support Trial shows that being overseas is not a barrier to improving career skills.”

August – Lt Col Jonny Taffs, Head of Education Services in British Forces Cyprus.

Outside of school the youth and community team has delivered a huge range of development activities to over 1,000 young people.

The coveted ‘gold’ quality marks for science, history and geography reflect the commitment to provide the highest quality, rich and engaging curriculum.

September – Carole Yates, Head Mistress Episkopi Primary School.

**IN NUMBERS**

- 137 spouses on employment support trial
- 168 language learners, 99 in Greek
- 156 Command Leadership and Management students
- 741 adults on the Community Learning Programme
- 47 life in the UK Citizenship assessments
- 150 military assisted with transition
A strong theme of celebrating diversity has accompanied many of the community events and activities in 2016. The 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment celebrated the Fijian Independence Day in October and 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment held a families diversity day recognising the 40 soldiers and their families from 17 different countries in their number. British Forces Cyprus also played host to the first same sex marriage in an Overseas Territory with a wedding ceremony conducted by Commander British Forces.

British Forces Cyprus also undertook a comprehensive community educational campaign regarding awareness and response to possible security threats. This included a multi layered communication package capitalising on social media to bring the message home with considerable success.

As well as having the great honour of being able to serve in an Infantry Battalion it’s also an honour to be able to commit myself to my husband with the full backing and support of the British Army.

Sergeant Alastair Smith, 2PWR

More than 400 community events or activities punctuated the SBA calendar from the major occasions such as the Armed Forces Day Party in the Park to the lower profile individual fêtes and fairs. Many of these were designed to raise funds and in 2016 a staggering £400,500 was raised for charity from across the MOD community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN NUMBERS</th>
<th>Raised for Charity</th>
<th>£400,700</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>clubs and societies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>people at the Episkopi fête</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>plus community events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83,000</td>
<td>passes issued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£31,700</td>
<td>in welfare grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be able to celebrate the day with the whole Battalion shows that we are all together as one single unit.

Lance Corporal Waisea Lagilevu, 1LANCS on Fijian Independence Day.
In 2016, British Forces Cyprus offered a multitude of sporting opportunities for personnel based on the island and a saw marked increase in participation at the high profile events. These included the 56 kilometre ‘Mountain to Sea’ mountain bike race from the top of Mount Troodos to sea level, and the one nautical mile ‘Bay to Bay’ open water sea swim.

In addition, the Cyprus Walkdown Challenge saw 272 people navigating from Troodos station to Episkopi over 40 kilometres of undulating, testing terrain. All of these challenging events and many others attracted entrants from service personnel, dependants, locally employed civilians, members of the Cypriot National Guard and our local communities.

This year the island has also seen an increase in non-Cyprus based military personnel conducting sports visits and training camps. Teams this year included the RAF judo squad, Army cycling, swimming and triathlon teams as well as a combined visit from a Cambridge University and Army Modern Pentathlon Association.

RAF Akrotiri hosted 13 teams for the 31st international rugby 10’s which was won again by Army Medical services. The highly successful, but gruelling, K1 half Ironman event attracted 140 competitors of which 25% were from the local community. It was won by an international Romanian athlete in a time of 4hrs 32mins.

Alongside these events our schools, clubs and associations reached out into the local community with numerous fixtures from horse trials and football matches to dragon boat racing.

IN NUMBERS

13 teams entered the rugby 10s
2h 13m ‘Mountain to Sea’ winning time
202 entries into the ‘Bay to Bay’ swim
272 Walkdown competitors
300 Gym to Gym half marathon runners
25% local entrants to the K1 Ironman
36 visiting sports team

Sporting opportunities remain second to none, this is such an attractive part of a tour here.

June - Cpl Peter Todd Physical Education Flight Akrotiri.

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Highlights of the VIP visits to SBA and British Forces Cyprus in 2016

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Media and Communications

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