SLOW DOWN, SPEED KILLS

Working in a mission like UNFICYP certainly has its advantages. Cyprus has an important cultural heritage, a great climate and beautiful beaches to spend precious off-duty hours. But the ability to enjoy these benefits can vanish in a split second! Changing an audio-cassette while driving, being blinded by the sun, misjudging traffic or getting dizzy from dehydration.

Six UNFICYP personnel have been extremely lucky the last few weeks. After being involved in three separate serious road traffic accidents, they’re still alive.

Although the last two years’ road traffic accident statistics don’t – mercifully – show any fatalities, these recent accidents are a cause of major concern. What caused these accidents is still under investigation by the Force Military Police Unit.

Scanning early issues of The Blue Beret, there seems to have been a road accident almost every week. Many of these were fatal.

Of the 169 UNFICYP personnel who have died in Cyprus, 91 were killed on the roads. You might think that improved vehicles might reduce the number of accidents. But, sadly, there is nothing technology can do if drivers persist in overtaking carelessly, driving too fast, and drinking if they’ve been drinking.

In the editorial and the tips section of this issue, there’s a lot about safe driving. We hope this will help keep the UNFICYP traffic accident statistics down in 1999. There have already been eight injuries in four months. Last year there were ten in twelve months.

The brutal statistics of UNFICYP personnel and vehicles involved in road accidents

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT

INSIDE: BB TIPS - PEOPLE - REAL LIFE - CLASSIFIED - SPORT
The Blue Beret
The newspaper for UNIFCYP's civilian, police and military personnel

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EDITORIAL

The highest duty for any soldier is to be ready to die, defending ideals, values, homeland. The spiritual attitude is honourable, highly commendable, and deserves the full admiration of humankind, because there is no higher love than that which sacrifices one’s own life for one’s friends.

An accident involving soldiers generates a sad feeling among all of us, whether civilians, police or military, regardless of rank or nationality. We soldiers are ready to die for our home country if required, but it will always be difficult to accept a meaningless loss of lives.

Cyprus has one of the highest rates of road accidents in Europe. Moreover, vehicles drive on the left hand side of the road, and this can be confusing for those used to the opposite. Cyprus roads are often winding, narrow or slippery. Our patrol tracks are frequently the same.

Drive defensively: anticipate, observe, pay attention. Do not be part of the fatal statistics.

As Force Commander, I do my best to ensure that there are no meaningless losses of life. Contingent Commanders are directed that any contingent member who drinks and then drives will be sent home, and that any gross negligence while driving (meaning human life has been endangered) will also result in immediate replacement.

Drink + Driving = Sent Home

These very simple mathematical formulas are not negotiable. Your parents, spouse, children and relatives will be thankful that UNIFCYP is consistent and uncompromising in implementing them.

They want you back.

Evergisto de Vergara
Force Commander

The largest market for anything is going to be on peace-building - action to identify and support structures that will strengthen and stabilize peace.

Experience has shown that keeping peace in the sense of avoiding a military collapse into inertia is a necessary but not sufficient condition for establishing the foundations of an enduring and just peace. Further institution in the world has the experience, competence, capacity for logistic support, coordinating ability, and universality that the United Nations brings to these tasks.

Kuff Annan

QUOTATIONS

“The United Nations system as a whole is focusing as never before on peace-building — action to identify and support structures that will strengthen and stabilize peace.

Experience has shown that keeping peace in the sense of avoiding a military collapse into inertia is a necessary but not sufficient condition for establishing the foundations of an enduring and just peace. Further institution in the world has the experience, competence, capacity for logistic support, coordinating ability, and universality that the United Nations brings to these tasks.”

Kuff Annan

THE BLUE BERET

1. As general common sense, do:
   - make sure driver and passengers all wear safety-belts
   - keep within speed limit
   - look into mirrors frequently: keep an eye on what’s behind you
   - wear sunscreen when the sun shines
   - avoid getting dehydrated: it makes you sleepy
   - drink a lot of water before you drive and always carry plenty of drinking water in your vehicle
   - don’t drive when tired

2. On the patrol track, do:
   - put your vehicle in 4th gear drive
   - stick to the speed limit of 25 kph
   - make sure the driver drives, the passenger observes

3. Off duty:
   - do one of the following if you’re going out for the evening:
     - take a taxi
     - nominate a driver and make sure s/he doesn’t drive
     - stay overnight in a hotel

4. Don’t:
   - use mobile telephone while driving
   - change cassette yourself while driving - ask your passenger or stop the car
   - wear sunglasses on the dashboard - they’ll distract you when they fall off
   - play music too loud - you won’t hear what’s going on around you
   - take things out of the dashboard locker while driving
   - stay ALIVE and COME HOME SAFE!!

1. Como sentido común, en general:
   - asegúrate que el conductor y los pasajeros tengan el cinturón de seguridad colocado
   - mantente bajo las límites de velocidad
   - mira a través de los espejos frecuentemente, mira que hay detrás de Ud.
   - utilice antipatines de sol protegiéndose de los rayos del mismo, evítelo la deshidratación en que se sufra - beba abundante agua antes de maniatar y siempre lleve un bidón de esta líquida

2. Que hacer en los caminos de patrulla:
   - coloque su vehículo en tracción 4x4 WD
   - mantenga una velocidad de 25 kph
   - Asegúrese que el conductor maneje y los pasajeros observen

3. Libre de actividad, haga lo siguiente si va a salir por la noche:
   - tome un taxi
   - elija un conductor y asegúrese de que no beba
   - pase la noche en un hotel
   - si es posible, llame a un conductor de guardia

4. Lo que no debe hacer mientras conduce:
   - utilice el teléfono móvil
   - cambie la radio mientras conduce
   - descuide el tráfico de los indicadores, los rascaduras cuando se caigan
   - Tome la música muy fuerte, no podrá escuchar que está pasando a tu alrededor
   - manteine tus cosas de tu tablero de instrumentos

MANTÉNGASE CON VIDA, Y REGRESE SANO A CASA.

1. Beachen Sie grundsätzlich:
   - Stellen Sie sicher, dass alle Insassen angeschnallt sind
   - Vermeiden Sie es, im Dunkeln zu fahren
   - Bleiben Sie im Dämmerungslicht
   - Beobachten Sie, was Sie fahren

2. Umständen, in denen Sie nicht fahren sollten:
   - halten Sie sich an die Geschwindigkeitsbegrenzung von 25 km/h
   - ist es notwendig
   - ist es notwendig

3. In diesem Fall:
   - ruhen Sie sich aus
   - nehmen Sie Ruhe

4. In diesem Fall:
   - lassen Sie das Lenkrad los
   - halten Sie sich an die Geschwindigkeitsbegrenzung von 25 km/h

Bleiben Sie ALIVE und COME HOME SAFE!!
THE REAL MEANING OF A DUTCH TREAT

The Dutch Queen’s birthday – traditionally celebrated on 30 April – is one of the biggest celebrations of the year. Everyone has a day off and there are parades, street parties, markets, concerts and fireworks displays. There are orange flags and streamers everywhere (Holland is still ruled by the Royal House of Orange). Amsterdam is packed with people all ages from all over the country, and the festivities last from dawn till well into the night.

This year, the hundred or so Dutch tourists serving with UNIFCIP decided to take the opportunity to show some of their colleagues what a royal birthday party should look like. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see," Watson replied, "I see millions of stars." "What does that tell you," Holmes asked.

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astronomically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I judge that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke: "Watson, you fool. Someone has stolen our tent!"

All guests were issued with a royal orange baseball cap just his voice.

He imitated an old-fashioned steam locomotive and a modern intercity train, followed by a variety of aircraft and weapons systems. Ferraris raced across the stage before a duck-hunting sailor, armed with an M-16, tried to start his outboard motor. The latter ended up sucking his own boat.

Throughout the second half of the show, most of the crowd danced in front of the stage. Towards the end, Rumanian-born Claudia Streza climbed on stage and stunned everyone with her magnificent voice. Her renditions of Gloria Gaynor’s ‘I’ll be there’ and ‘I will survive’ left the audience speechless.

Everyone who went to the birthday party left in high spirits. Those who weren’t there missed out on the opportunity to sample a true Dutch treat.

Blue Beret Favourites
This issue’s candidate for the Blue Beret Favourites quiz is the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus. Her favourites are:

- Colour: Red
- Food: My husband’s Chinese cooking
- Place: Home
- Hero: Olaf Palme

1. Aller voraan takole:
- voetstuk in appelbol ná soppeltje vannige pot
- appelsap omwikkeld bries
- rode herfstjasmijn gelegenheid: opzien, kijk nog even bij
- kader van een bloemenstuk voor de gelegenheid: bij
- speeltuin bij gelegenheid: bij

2. Na patroonlijn strek je:
- tekenen op sinterklaasdag
- brieven naar de poezen
- het brieven naar de poezen
- het brieven naar de poezen
- het brieven naar de poezen

3. Ko imas protios cas, izberi eno od moznosti:
- narek taki, ali
- izberi vognika, ki ne bo poveljal, ali
- izberi vognika, ki ne bo poveljal, ali
- izberi izbrot z potovanje

4. Nikolice:
- telefonska licenca
- vognika, ki ne bo poveljal, ali
- izberi vognika, ki ne bo poveljal, ali
- izberi vognika, ki ne bo poveljal, ali

OSTANI ZIV IN SE VRNI DOMOV VARNO!

1. In the algemeen:
- Laat alle immitaties veiligheidsgevals gebruiken
- Hou je aan de maximale snelheid
- Hou die open deur dicht als het gaat
- Drink voldoende water voor je vertrekt en neem voldoende water mee voor onderweg.

2. Op het ‘patrol track’:
- Gebruik de 4-wieler aandrijving
- Rijd niet onder dertig km/u
- De chauffeur rijdt, de bijrijder observeert

3. Wanneer je dienstgast gaat stappen:
- Neem dat een tas
- Of sprekt af wie alcoholvrij rijdt
- Of bespreek een hotel
- Of, indien mogelijk, vraag of de ‘duty driver’ je rijdt

4. Wat je niet moet doen, is:
- Een mobiele telefoon gebruiken als je achter het stuur zit
- Een muziekcassette verwisselen. Vraag dat aan de bijrijder of stop even
- Iets op het dashboard plaatsen. Wanneer het eraf valt wat is al afgedaan
- Luidere muziek spelen, je hoort dan niet wat er in het verkeer gebeurt
- Dingen uit het handboekentasje pakken terwijl je rijdt

BLIJF LEVEN EN KOM VEILIG THUIS!
REAL LIFE
TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

Military people have to be prepared to set up a working place at the weirdest locations. Sometimes this is the back of a Landrover, a barn in a field or a tent. Major Julio Franco set up office in a coffee shop in Peristerona. Julio uses the coffee shop as a meeting point with all the farmers he does business with.

“It all has to do with my job. I have been the Sector One Civil Affairs Officer for the past five months. Part of my job is issuing job passes and farming permits. The three hundred and five farmers in our sector need to renew their farming permits every six months. Instead of them having to go to our Headquarters at Skouriotissa, I come to Peristerona."

“Of course the farmers need water for their crops When Sector One personnel notice a blockage of the ditches during a patrol, they report it to me. I coordinate between the farmers and the Water Department, who then come to clean the ditches to ensure that farmers on both sides get enough water for irrigation. But it sometimes happens that there is an emergency. In that case we remove the blockage ourselves.”

Julio sips his coffee before he continues. “It’s not only farmers I deal with. I also meet a lot of bee keepers. About 20 of these bee keepers have placed 2,000 beehives in Sector One’s area of the Buffer Zone. It is up to the United Nations to issue permits and to negotiate suitable locations. Especially during springtime, when there are a lot of flowers and all the trees are in blossom, there are millions of worker bees, collecting honey throughout and beyond the Buffer Zone.

Is there anything special that happened during his stay with UNFICYP which Julio will not forget? “Yes, the role I had to play after a dead body was found in the Buffer Zone is one of the things I will remember. Another is the medical evacuation from the Kokkinia pocket of a Turkish Cypriot who had a heart attack. Especially in the latter case, it made me feel good to be able to help.”

New farmers park their tractors under the trees and approach Major Franco. He greets them with his Latino charm, has coffee with them and listens to their problems. Another day in the coffee shop.

MINES, BE AWARE!!

Canadian Captain Rob Cooper is the Force Minefield Recording Officer. He is working on an update of the UNFICYP records and on a database concerning mines and minefields. Part of this update involves a visit to Sector Four.

“Once it’s finished, this project will contribute to the safety of all personnel. It will also ensure the availability of transparent knowledge that can be passed to incoming personnel,” says Rob. “That’s why I contacted Sector Four’s Minefield Recording Officer, Major Horst Ehling from Austria, and asked him to escort me through the sector. Together we try to establish the status quo.”

Horst adds: “Another problem is that some of the minefields were laid in a hurry. Sometimes, minefields are marked in a very exact manner and the files are complete, but sometimes there are almost no records. Although the patrol tracks within Sector Four’s area of responsibility are well marked and follow routes that are known to be safe, a mistake in map reading could easily endanger lives.”

“The first step to update minefield records is to make sure headquarters and the sectors have the same level of information,” Captain Cooper states.

When you see a mine, don’t touch it. Just record the location and report it through the chain of command.

“Visits like the one I’m making to Sector Four today enable us to exchange a lot of valuable information and ensure our records are kept right up to date.”

Says Chief of Staff, Colonel Chris Coats: “Military personnel are trained in mine awareness before deployment to Cyprus. They, in addition, attend two awareness training sessions every six months.” He adds: “All other UNFICYP personnel who might have to work in the vicinity of minefields must also take part in the regular training sessions. And, last but not least, personnel must obey the rules written down in the UNFICYP Mines Aide Memoire at all times.”
LIFE IN THE CM’S OFFICE

There seem to be two common perceptions of life in the Chief of Mission’s Office – either that it is a “cushy number” or that it is incredibly stressful. The two most frequent questions asked of me are “What on earth do you do exactly?” or “How do you cope?”. The answer to both is “I have no idea! I just do it.”

No two days are alike. The Chief of Mission is a dynamic individual who could not be accused of dragging her staff through boring, monotonous days. Merely attempting to keep up with her is an exciting and challenging task.

Being a personal assistant (PA) to a senior executive, while not exactly rocket science, has its own challenges. In these days of garbage collectors being named “refuse technicians”, please know I am happy to bear the title of Personal Assistant. I see my role as the PA to the Chief of Mission basically as a cross between a Pretorian Guard and a Maître d’ in its simplest definition, it is my job to make the Chief of Mission’s day in the office easier. That includes fielding the huge number of telephone calls, sorting reams of paperwork and allocating her time. It calls for some pretty tangible traits – mind reading, diplomacy and juggling a full and ever-fluid diary! So, it’s not the job which leads to success in popularity contests!

Where does one get the training or experience for this type of work? Marriage for one (negotiation skills); raising a rambunctious son (power-based unilateral decision-making). I did well on this one, my 18 year old being safely tucked away in a military college in the United States; three tours of duty in the "Field" – six years in Jerusalem, and three years in a previous existence in UNFICYP, and three years in the Executive Office of the Secretary General at UN Headquarters, New York, commonly referred to as "the 38th Floor".

Our office comprises Senior Adviser Peter Schmitz and his PA Denise Glasser whose noisy, but friendly banter honed my refereeing skills!

And there is also Angela Milne, the newest arrival. It’s a pretty good team here.

SECTOR-4 BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

After a month of intense training in Sector-4, all personnel including all newcomers have studied the ins and outs of the Buffer Zone, the situation around the British Sovereign Base Areas and Corridor Road. They have also practised basic military skills as well as safety emergency drills.

"Fire! Fire! Leave the observation post immediately!" OP 152 in Vahla is conducting an emergency escape exercise. But how do you leave your OP when the stairs are on fire and there’s no helicopter available? For the Assistants that’s no problem. Most of them are experienced in Alpine techniques. Just give them a rope and they’ll come down safely. Unless of course you’re unconscious... Then one of your buddies will have to carry you. The good thing about being unconscious is that you don’t notice the massive drop down from the 12th floor. You need a bit of courage to start descending, but with comrades standing by to applaud you when you finish, everybody manages to get down.

INTENZÍV KIKÉPZÉS

Az ilyen a lóvészet volt, Mindenki eredményesen végrehajtotta mind a pisztoly, mind pedig a géppisztoly lóvészetet.

A következő /a legnépszerűbb/ „Crowd Control” gyakorlása volt: A tüntetőket a szép emberi állomány alakkolta, az újak pedig a „Line”ban álltak. Nem mondhatnám, hogy a tölt sok barátság született.

Ezután a Buffer Zóna gyalogos bejárása következett. Az 1. szakasz újoncik az UN-92 bázistól az UN-OPT-97-ig vezetett utat tett két meg.

A többi újonc az UN-OPT-118-tól indulva alig 2 óra Sperr alt térkézt az UN-10 bázisra.

Végül, de nem utolsó sorban, pedig a „Checkpoint” gyakorlása volt megtartva. Mindenki megtanulta, hogy és mit kell tenni ezen a helyen.

In Camp Izay, further to the west, the Hungarian soldiers who arrived in September show the newcomers how to practise crowd riot control. The participants all take the training very seriously. One of them was heard saying: "Not too many friendships were born during this exercise." Live firing, a 12-kilometre Buffer Zone march and erecting and operating a temporary checkpoint are other elements of the introduction period, which ended with a "line diploma" test. According to Slovenian Corporal Punjagar: "The first month meant absorbing a lot of information, especially in the beginning. As the days were passing, we were better able to do the job on our own. The ‘line diploma’ test increased the motivation to study. It’s obvious, though, that UN soldiers must know their responsibilities to do the job well.”
SECTOR ONE MEDAL PARADE, A LATIN EXPERIENCE

Representatives from the different sectors and from UNFICYP headquarters travelled to Skouriotissa on Tuesday 4 May to join the Argentinian, Bolivian, Brazilian, Paraguayan and Uruguayan soldiers, men and women, of Sector One, in their celebration of receiving the United Nations medal for peacekeeping. The many children playing around and other family members present underlined the Latin atmosphere of the event, ARGCON even dedicated an area left of the stands for the smaller children.

As a clear sign of integration, all the national anthems of the nationalities receiving medals were played. Chief Administrative Officer, Clemens Adams, assisted Force Commander Major General Evergisto de Vergara, Chief of Staff Colonel Chris Coats and Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Rodolfo Mujica in presenting the medals to the proud soldiers.

After the ceremony, a selection of Sector One personnel gave a drill demonstration without commands. Their weapons went from feet to shoulders and back again in smooth movements. Nobody needed to explain that only soldiers with a lot of practice can achieve that. As a grand finale, all fired a blank, disturbing the serene surroundings of San Martin Camp. End of the official part, start of a great reception - or maybe “party” is a better word.

All guests found their way easily to the drinks and snacks on the tables which were spread around the grass terraces. Soon the hosts unveiled their vocal and musical skills; dances circled around each other and the audience was challenged to take part. Latinos certainly know how to celebrate and how to involve everybody in a day that, for the decorated soldier, is the jewel in the crown of his tour of duty.

A lively reception with songs and dances

NEW UN FLIGHT COMMANDER

During the change of command ceremony on Thursday 29 April (above), Major Hector Angel Panighi assumed command over UN Flight. In the same rotation, three pilots and nine NCOs arrived in Cyprus, after they participated in a fire fighting mission in the southern part of Argentina.

Departing Commander Lieutenant Colonel Julio Cesar Sorgenti, together with the pilots and NCOs, have returned to Argentina after six months of hard work.

FREEDOM IS SOMETHING YOU MAKE TOGETHER

Eight o’clock. Sunset. The Dutch flag is flying at half mast. It is 4 May. The Dutch UN peacekeepers salute. One of the five musicians of the Parachute Regiment blows the last post, after which there is two minutes of silence. Silence on and around the square of Wolsley barracks, where the derelict buildings remind people of a past war. There is silence on hundreds of locations in The Netherlands or in other locations where Dutch are present. Not only in Cyprus, but also in Bosnia, Albania and Italy. Only the birds can be heard.

Two minutes to think about the horrors of the Second World War, the five years of occupation of The Netherlands. Two minutes to think about people who were killed because they didn’t fit in with the ideas of Hitler. Because they were Jews or gypsies or homosexuals. Or people who got killed because they stood up to fight the regime they disagreed with, because they helped people in need.

Two minutes, also to think about the situation at the end of this millennium. About what is happening in Kosovo, Tajikistan, Libya, and about the role of a peacekeeper.

Then the five musicians play the Dutch national anthem and the national flag is lowered.

On 5 May 1945, the German regime signed the capitulation and The Netherlands were liberated. Liberated mainly by foreign soldiers, Polish, Canadian, British and American. Every year since then, the Dutch celebrate their liberation on 5 May and commemorate their dead the day before. Festivities are all based on a national theme. This year’s theme is: “Freedom is something you make together,” to his speech, Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende.

"I hope that the theme and the role of a soldier on the line. May God bless our efforts."
TRAVEL TIPS
A Brief View of Jordan
Jordan is a land of ancient history, a country of contrast as time itself. The country, also known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is a 45-minute flight away and yet full of stark differences.

Main Places to Visit:
- The Nabatean City of Petra (2-3 hours from Amman) is the most famous sights and an experience not to be forgotten. The city is hewn from solid pink rock.
- The Dead Sea at Aqaba.
- Jerash (½ hour from Amman) is an ancient Roman City that has survived an incredible 2,500 years.
- The Crusader Castles
- Madaba and Mount Nebo offer panoramic views over to the Promised Land and is also buried.
- The Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth.
- Wadi Rum, the largest and most magnificent of Jordan’s desert areas (where the famous Lawrence of Arabia was filmed).

Transport: Local transport is cheap. Yellow government taxis are reliable and run on a meter. Public transport is not recommended as buses do not have set schedules. If you hire a car (right-hand drive required), you must have a valid driver’s license and preferably a green card. It is very easy to drive from Amman to Petra.

Where to Stay: Hotels in Jordan vary from 5-star to budget. Breakfast at most hotels is included. One way to save on food is to order from £1 to £40 with breakfast. "Travel Tips" prepared by Penny of Chronos Travel.
BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Parachute jumping used to be something that only appealed to daredevils. Nowadays, it attracts a wider clientele.

The technical development of the parachute itself and the chance to receive a video with documentary evidence afterwards made this sport attractive for nearly everybody. During the last rotation, Sector Four was reinforced by some soldiers who really like jumping out of planes.

One of them is Clerk Corporal Leder, WO1 Pachfischer, SGM of 2nd Coy, is another. The latter is very experienced. He’s made more than 650 jumps, and is a qualified parachute jumping instructor. The number of soldiers who start parachuting here is increasing steadily.

In their spare time, they go to Kingsfield. Dhekelia, where there is a parachute jumper’s club. After two days’ training, the participants are ready to jump out of a plane which is flying at an altitude of 1,300 metres.

Some of them are a little bit nervous at first, but that’s not unusual. However, everyone we spoke to said the experience was well worth it.

RENTERS ON HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Like a spider on the wall, Dutch lieutenant Stijn Renders, troop commander of Liri troop, moves to the ceiling of the gym. Carefully he stretches out to reach one of the tiny ridges, screwed on the overhanging wall. For him, this training track doesn’t have any surprises any more.

“Still it is very important to keep practising,” Stijn comments, “if only to exercise the hand muscles. In the Royal Netherlands Army, climbing is used to overcome fears, to learn to trust the equipment and, most important of all, to learn to trust your buddy. He or she is the one who safeguards the climber.”

After covering his finger tips with magnesium powder he places his toes on a tiny shape and gives another demonstration. Once down again: “During my leave period in April I first visited the gym I normally train at in the Netherlands. After that, I visited my family. I’ve also spent some time in France with my climbing friends to train on rock, the real thing. In Cyprus I was lucky enough to find a gym near by my troop location, east of Nicosia. I guess you could say I’m at least a bit addicted to this beautiful sport. It’s getting high in a healthy way!”

And up he goes again, concentrating and with smooth movements.

KEEPING COOL AT THE POOL

The Dolphin Swimming Pool opened in the UNPA last Sunday, 2 May. Olympic length (but not quite in width), it features a fully shaded children’s pool, a reserved 50-metre training lane and, for those under 18, an excellent inflatable spaceship.

Naturally, the first thing to be considered before opening was the training of pool life guards. As in the past, troops from the Mobile Force Reserve volunteered to undertake this task. Under the supervision of fully qualified instructors from the Eastern Sovereign Base Areas (Dhekelia Garrison), 22 members of the MFR will finally take home with them diplomas from the Royal Life-Saving Society (RLSS) which they can present anywhere in the world.

The four-day instruction course includes practical water rescue, resuscitation and first aid.

The picture below shows training on the specialised vice grip for rescuing someone with a suspected spinal injury.

All personnel within UNIFCYP, civilian, military, police and their families are invited to become members. Pool users are reminded that the Dolphin Pool is not a free facility. It operates as a club, open only to members who have bought a ticket. There is a strict code of conduct, and unacceptable behaviour will lead to the removal of individuals from the pool.

OPENING HOURS:
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat and Sun: 0900 hrs - 1800 hrs
Tue and Thu: 0900 hrs - 2000 hrs

SWIMMING POOL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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</tr>
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For enquiries, tel (02) 864412
To arrange membership, tel (02) 864695

Want to take up diving for a hobby? Joanne has a ladies’ (Martin) medium size diving suit with jacket for sale. As new. Half price at £55.

Phone (02) 864485