Mr James Holger, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission of UNFICYP, arrived in Cyprus on 13 October.
Mr Holger is no stranger to Cyprus. He served here from 1982-1988, first as Deputy to the Special Representative to the Secretary-General, and for four years as Acting Special Representative.
He has had a distinguished career in Chile's Foreign Service. From 1987-97, he was Chilean Ambassador to the Russian Federation, serving concurrently as Ambassador to Belarus, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine. From 1990-92 he was Chile's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
Mr Holger has wide experience of the United Nations. He served for three years as Senior Political Adviser to UNIFIL. He also spent a year in the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs at UN headquarters, and a year as Executive Assistant to the Rector of the UN University in Tokyo.
Before coming back to UNFICYP, he was Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Academy in Santiago.
He is married and has one son. His wife, Cecilia, is accompanying him to Cyprus.

UNFICYP'S ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS

The British Forces Cyprus annual Cyprus Walkabout is a gruelling competition, designed to provide a challenging test of physical endurance, mental stamina and team spirit, over routes that test competitors' map reading and route selection skills.
It is run over a two-day period. Day One sees teams moving from the Episkopi area to Troodos, then the second day they return to the Episkopi area. During each day, the teams pass through five checkpoints over a course of at least 45 km.
Such a description alone would put off most people. Knowing the sort of terrain that exists in the mountainous Troodos area would succeed in putting off most of the remainder. Personnel from Sector 2 and the MFR, however, decided that they were up to the challenge.

Three teams were fielded from the UN. Team A consisted of Sergeant Mansfield, Lance Bombardier Butler and Lance Bombardier Wijyas; Team B was Captain Iez Mawdley, Warrant Officer 2 (BSM) Groves and Bombardier White, and the mixed team was made up of Bombardier Smith, Gunner Shane Clush and Ms Diana Bridger.

Bombardier Smith won't forget the experience in a hurry. "Each day we were up at 04:30 am so the first team could leave at 06:30 am. Thirty-three teams started on the first day, setting off on what was to become a very real challenge. We covered ground varying from 550 feet up to 5,700 feet, on tracks and through wooded areas. It was quite hard going. I started getting cramped in my legs after a while which made running difficult, although being Commando-trained, I just gritted my teeth and carried on. Shane was having problems with his knee and we all developed blisters. Diana was a superb team captain. Her map-reading was really on the ball and she just kept egging us on when the going got tough."

"By the end of Day One, we came first in the mixed team category. Arriving at the camp at Troodos we felt mixed emotions. It was great to finish for the day, but knowing that you had to cover the same distance the following day was agony. We set off early on Day Two, but the team was dogged by cramp and blisters. The University mixed team raced by us and at each checkpoint we reached we learnt that they had increased their lead. By Checkpoint 4, they had a 50-minute lead on us."

"Thanks to Diana's superb map-reading and the sheer tenacity of the team, we started to claw back the gap and by Checkpoint 4, we were ahead again. One mile from the end they were right behind us. Pain was pushed to the rear of the mind and we sprinted for the finish line and just won the whole competition. The MFR teams of 20 Commando Battery clinched second and third places for the on-island team category."

Of the thirty teams that started, only twenty-two finished. Key to the UN's success? Hard work (two months' strenuous training), team spirit and high-mindness. They just weren't going to give up.

INSIDE: NEWS - REAL LIFE - PEOPLE - SPORT
Almost halfway through my UN tour in command of the Mobile Force Reserve, I have come to the conclusion that simply reading the press is not enough. It is important to appreciate the appropriateness to offer some thoughts on the nature of multinational operations. But first a little background.

The MFR was formed in 1997, partly as a result of the violent incidents in the Buffer Zone in 1996 when both peacekeepers and civilians were caught up in the internal violence that left two civilians dead and two soldiers severely injured in the UN required a reserve capable of operating anywhere in the Buffer Zone to UNCYPOL.

So far, only on the UN ‘Scout Car’ Squadron and the Permanent Reserve Platoon, the MFR was formed. Multinational from the outset, it has evolved into a company of three rifle platoons, an APC platoon and a Coy HQ. Based at the UNP, each rifle platoon conducts a nine-day rotation, consisting of three days on patrol in support of sector or Force tasks; three days of security duties on UNP; and three days of training, administration and standby. The coy provides a coy at six hours notice to move, with platoons at two, four and six hours’ notice to move respectively. The coy is fully capable of deploying to the lowest level, except for the APC Platoon which is Argentina run. It is therefore the least capable of deploying vehicles (the distinctive Tactacars), are Argentinians. The platoons are commanded respectively by Argentinian and Dutch officers with their nationality.

A total of 33 Argentinians, 29 British, 24 Dutch, 10 Austrians and nine Hungarians make up the section platoons and coy. 2 Coy Btch, which I normally command, makes up the UK element. The Dutch soldiers are for the 13 Btch, and the other nationalities are from all types of backgrounds. This creates tremendous diversity, and, coupled with the language and different training, makes for a challenging command. However, the soldiers tend to be some of the best and the officers and SNCOs are a highly capable bunch. With the help of professionalism, we hope to improve the image of soldiers, the job is not as hard as it seems.

The rotation of soldiers takes place throughout the tour. UK/Netherlands in November and December; Hungary in March and September; and Austria in January and November. Clearly, this means that we have to learn new about people and say goodbye to friends several times. It also means that the MFR gets frequent and regular injections of “new blood” which also stimulates the platoons into greater integration.

The MFR hints for anyone wishing to take on the challenge of working in a truly international environment are:
* Keep everything simple - clean, precise orders and instructions make the language problems easier to overcome.
* Use the strengths of each nation to the advantage of the mission. We don’t stick to one nation’s way of doing things, and, most importantly, we do not reserve national characteristics.
* Don’t treat everybody the same - different nationalities react to different stimuli.
* Accept limitations on the normal ways of doing things, but make use of what a combination of nations can offer.
* Keep a sense of humour.

In short, rely on the different nationalities to do what they normally do, and keep a sense of what a combination of nations can offer.

Major Tim Wood
Office Commander MFR
VALENTINE’S DAY

By Major Paul Kolken

Carolyn Valentine won’t see a lot of her husband during the first days of his holiday in Cyprus. Her husband will be very busy. Very busy.

“That’s because I’m involved in entertaining maybe 3,000 guests, hopefully from all over the island,” says Captain John Valentine, Quarter Master Sector 2.

Along with UN organisations throughout the world, UNFICYP celebrates UN Day on Sunday 24 October.

“So far, preparations haven’t been too much of a burden,” says John. “But as the days get closer it will take all our attention. I’m lucky to have a great team around me. RQMS Neil Calpin and his sister are great support in the day to day workload and in the organisation of UN Day as well.”

What’s the Open Day all about?

“The aim is to give information about UNFICYP, the UN, and about the force contributing nations. There will be tea and finger snacks from the various countries. There will be lots of music, sports demonstrations and children’s events.

“It should be an enjoyable afternoon out for families. And once it’s all set up, I hope I find some time to join Carolyn and our two children, Nicholas and Adina, and take part in the events.”

What preparations are you specifically responsible for?

“It’s my task to procure, collect and distribute all kinds of articles - food, drink, tents, tables, chairs, toilets, cups, plates and so on. And once the event is over, everything has to be cleaned and returned.”

So as you sit there enjoying your Wiener schnitzels and cakes, spare a thought for the Valentine family.

NEW SLOVENIAN CONTINGENT COMMANDER

By Captain Gregorji Hrustja

Captain Damir Cmbe is a young Slovenian officer, with lots of new ideas. He is also UNFICYP’s new Slovenian contingent commander. He is 26 years old, not married, and a member of the Slovenian 10th Battalion of the Battalion for International Cypriot, which provides all the members of UNFICYP’s Slovenian contingent.

Damir’s working day is much busier than other contingent members’ days. He is both contingent commander and Deputy Company Commander in Sector 4, 2nd Coy. This means he has to communicate between the UN Austrian/Hungarian/Slovenian Battalion and the Slovenian Army General Staff, and to take care of the SICON soldiers, NCOs and officers - on top of his normal UNFICYP duties.

Slovenia is currently a member of the UN Security Council, and Damir believes that this is an additional reason why SICON must maintain the highest possible standards.

“We put units for this kind of mission together very carefully,” he explains. “We look at physical condition, the level of English, and prior military experience. When we’ve completed the unit, they spend about five weeks together, training on a programme specially designed for UNFICYP. This includes a lot of basic information about Cyprus and a final field exercise with all the tactical elements soldiers might meet in Cyprus.”

Slovenia also provides a military police unit in SFOR (Bosnia), supplies military observers to other UN missions, and is involved in multinational military exercises with NATO and the Partnership for Peace.

NEW HUNGARIAN CONTINGENT COMMANDER

By Maj Zsolt Hatos

On 21 September, Lieutenant Colonel Bela Cserenyecz arrived in Cyprus to serve as the Hungarian contingent commander.

We asked him to tell something about himself.

“Apart from the fact that I am a lieutenant colonel in the Hungarian army, I’m 50 years old. I’m married (my wife’s name is Katalin) and I have a 19-year-old son, Krisztian. My wife is a shop manager, my son is a student.”

Where have you worked before?

“Where have you ever been in other peacekeeping mission or foreign posting?”

“After I finished technical high school in 1986, I joined the Hungarian army and signed up at the Military College, Kossuth Lajos. I have qualified as both a military engineer and a civilian technical engineer. My first assignment was as an engineer platoon commander and later I worked as chief engineer for the infantry division.

“After some years, I changed tack and worked as Chief of the Adult Education Department in the Hungarian army. In 1991, I had to change my job again, because the Hungarian army was dramatically reduced. From this point, I was the senior officer to the Hungarian Land Forces Commander.

“Meanwhile I completed a ten-month intensive English language course at the Military Academy and in 1994, I graduated from the Foreign Trade College. In the same year I was nominated for a very interesting and useful UN mission at UNIKOM. Here I served as a military observer and later as a Patrol and Observation Base leader.

“When I returned to Hungary from UNIKOM, I was able to go back to my old job. Then, when Hungary joined NATO, I was posted again to different foreign military education institutes.

“Between 1995 and 1998, I completed my studies in Military Planning and Media at the Marshall Centre in Garnsh-Parkenkirchen (Germany), the Multinational Forces Course at NATO (SHAPE) in Oberammergau (Germany) and the NATO Leaders’ Course at the NATO Defence College in Rome.

“Now I’m here with UNFICYP as the Sector 4 DCO and as the Hungarian Contingent Commander.”

“What is your duty as a contingent commander?

“My duty as contingent commander is challenging, but I regard it as a privilege too. The most important thing for me is to help Lieutenant Colonel Pischneger and his soldiers and to look after the Hungarian contingent. I have to represent Hungary, and ensure that we Hungarians contribute to a friendly international atmosphere.”

Do Hungarian soldiers like to come to Cyprus and work with the UN?

“They certainly do! We regard the UNFICYP mission as a big challenge for all soldiers who want to prove their military professionalism. We’ve been here since 1993, and from the beginning, UNFICYP has provided an opportunity for Hungarian soldiers to improve their professional skills, their own personal qualities, and to learn to work in an international environment under the UNFICYP umbrella - as well as contributing to the peacekeeping mission.”

How do you spend your free time in Cyprus?

“If I ever have any spare time, I would like to spend it with my family in Cyprus. I would like to learn about the island’s culture, history and famous places. Otherwise, I like taking photos and video films and reading. I like sports a lot. Basketball’s my favourite, but I’d like to take up tennis too.”

“And, if you’ll allow me, I’d like to pass on the Hungarian contingent’s best wishes to all those serving in UNFICYP, now and in the future.”

Capt John Valentine working on his check-list
REAL LIFE

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING WATER

By Captain Andreas Vas

Looking at figures for the volume of water leaving the Phrenaros water supply and coming into Famagusta, UNFICYP found out that between August 1998 and August 1999 the amount of missing water had risen from 2,500 cubic metres to 14,000 cubic metres per month.

Now, losing 14,000 litres of water on an island as dry as Cyprus is no joke. Particularly if you’re losing it every month.

So everybody started looking for the missing water.

At the end of these checks, no leakages or illegal syphoning offfs were found. This meant the missing water must be somewhere. UNFICYP seemed to have found the answer when it looked at the water meter in Varossa. This proved to be very old, and there was a strong possibility it wasn’t working properly.

On 24 September, Sector 4’s Civil Affairs Team arranged a meeting between the Water Development Department of Nicosia and the Water Board of Famagusta at UN OP 142 to discuss the issue face to face.

At the meeting, both sides agreed to install a new meter on the Turkish Cypriot side, somewhere beyond the end of the UNBZ. The Greek Cypriot side will provide the new meter and the Turkish Cypriot side will install it.

UNFICYP is looking forward to seeing this happen, and hopes that this will solve the problem. If not, the search will be resumed.

ROAD SAFETY BULLETIN

By Warrant Officer 2 Gorman, Master Driver

Summer is pretty well over and winter is on its way. This means the weather will become increasingly unpredictable, and severe rain is likely to make driving conditions difficult and dangerous.

Over the past year, drivers of UN vehicles were involved in 59 road accidents. Sector 1 logged ten accidents; Sector 2, 16; and Sector 4, 24. Personnel serving elsewhere in UNFICYP were involved in nine accidents. These statistics do not include accidents in which UN drivers were involved as the third party, nor accidents in privately owned cars.

Some of the accidents were serious, some of them minor, but all of them cost money.

On average, the UN spends around $180,000 per annum on vehicle repairs and replacement parts. The money that is spent on vehicle repairs could be better spent on your accommodation.

Every bent front bumper costs $360 to fix — not including labour costs. For two bent bumpers, it could cost over $1,000.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS: 01 SEP 98 - 01 SEP 99

TOTAL RTAs: 59

UNFICYP could buy an air conditioning unit.

So, to save money for yourself and the UN, the message is simple: Drive defensively and slow down.

For more information on Road Safety or motoring matters, please call 02-864452.

GETTING TO KNOW THE MPs

By Lieutenant Stephanie Gras-Ficq

We in the military police know that most people love policemen and are really keen to be our friends, but that they find this difficult because they don’t know what we’re like as people.

To help get over this hurdle and to give you an idea why people become MPs, we are introducing a series of seven profiles of military police officers of all nationalities.

We’re starting with Slovenia. For those who don’t know much about Slovenia, it’s a small but strategically important country bordered by Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Italy. It became independent on 8 October 1991 and gained international recognition in January 1992. In June that year, Slovenia joined the UN.

Only one Slovenian serves with the MPs, and until recently, this has been Staff Sergeant Danijel Kovac. Born in 1972 in the city of Maribor, Danijel studied engineering at high school before serving as a conscript for seven months. He enjoyed this so much that he decided to apply to be a professional soldier with the special forces.

But then he realised that the army could offer him more than simply military career options. He started work as a military policeman in his hometown, where he worked as a patrol man. He then did courses in jurisdiction and to become an NCO.

He dives, parachutes, and climbs — and is a lively, friendly, and totally professional military police officer. Sadly for us, he has just left the island. But his replacement is here already. Staff Sergeant Fraznik is big, strong, and as soon as we’ve got to know him, we’ll let you know how friendly he is.
PEOPLE

DRIVER TURNS AIDWORKER

By Major Paul Kolken

Private first class Annet Rook is actually a driver/medic, attached to the Ledra Palace medical centre. But today she's helping Sergeant Linda de Jager, driving a truck with humanitarian goods. Linda is a member of Sector 2's Civil Affairs Team. She explains what they're doing.

"Every second Tuesday UNFICYP sends some trucks to the Cyprus' government stores. There we take crates of vegetables, bottled gas, and bottled drinking water aboard, and sometimes some medicines. Then we cross at the Ledra Palace Checkpoint and deliver the articles in the Maronite communities, north of the buffer zone."

Annet makes sure she keeps her position in the middle of the convoy. North of Nicosia, the white vehicles turn westwards. The first stop is at Asomatos. The bent backs of the local population show their age clearly. All the inhabitants are well over 70 years old - many are over 80.

It's not only the foodstuffs they're grateful for. It's also for the physical strength; the visiting soldiers offer. Any job that's peanuts for a young soldier, but too much for elderly people, will be done during the convoy's short stop. This time recent rains had caused some rubble to block a track. With help of two British soldiers, the problem is easily solved.

Dutch Annet picks up one of the boxes and goes to ask one of the Maronite women where to take it. The woman points uphill. Annet drops the box off at the end of a dirt track, well before the woman has struggled home.

Invitations to accept a cup of coffee have to be waved away. There are more villages waiting for the convoy. Next stop is Karpassia. Quickly all boxes are given to the right villagers. Instead of the pick-up trucks you see everywhere in the south, here donkeys, tractors and plums are used as means of transport.

Afterwards Linda has to complete some paperwork. The wife of the local mayor signs a receipt while Linda writes down her remarks and notes a few shortages. All convoy members enjoy the hospitality in the mayor's house, and drink a glass of lemonade before they drive on to their main destination: Kormakiti.

On the village square, a group of about 50 villagers gather to receive the fortnightly delivery of domestic supplies. The UNFICYP soldiers help unloading, while one of the villagers reads out the names of the recipients. Each time the named person replies and receives his or her crate, he carefully marks the name on his list: goods delivered.

Wiping the sweat from her forehead, Gunner Laura Jones comments on the scene in front of her.

"This can't be compared to what I've experienced during an earlier mission in Northern Ireland. It's completely different and very rewarding to see the gratitude of these people."

Sergeant Simon Forrester adds: "That's why we always have different drivers on this patrol. It gives them an opportunity to see another environment, and it's good to see your work being appreciated."

IMAGES WITH A MESSAGE

Images with a message might be a good title for a series of photographs taken by Captain Gregorij Hvastaja since he arrived in Cyprus.

Gregorij joined UNFICYP in March, and the 29-year-old Slovenian, who has been a keen photographer since the age of 16, has been putting his Nikon F30 - a gift from his parents - to frequent use ever since.

He has been particularly busy taking pictures of children on both sides of the Buffer Zone, and this culminated in an exhibition of his work - entitled Children of Cyprus - at the village of Vouni last month as part of a village open day organised by the Cyprus Donkey Sanctuary.

But Gregorij was not solely interested in capturing beautiful images. As he explains: "When I was walking around, looking at children, I thought how helpless they are. They have no choice where they're born."

One feature of his exhibition was that his photographs were randomly placed. He didn't divide them into Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sections. He then asked three of his Greek Cypriot friends at the exhibition to tell them apart, a task that proved too difficult.

One politician who attended the exhibition told Gregorij that history would have to be changed to bring about true reconciliation.

But Gregorij is adamant: "You don't need to change history. You can't. But I personally believe you do need to have the goal that nowhere in the world should children be brought up to hate each other."

At his exhibition which, Gregorij says, was attended by around 3,000 people, he also put up an unconventional mirror made out of silver foil with an epigram attached to it.

As people looked at their reflections, they saw a message exhorting them to encourage all children to grow up to like one another.

In the meantime, Blue Beret readers will have a chance to see the photos exhibited at the UN Day celebrations at the Ledra Palace on 24 October.
**NEWS**

**SECTOR 2 MEDAL PARADE**

On a balmy Thursday 23 September, the 2nd Regiment group Royal Artillery, the Sector 2 Roullement Regiment, held its medal parade at the Lefka Base.

The atmosphere was tense as the soldiers waited away from the parade ground for the CO to arrive. The drum and the RSM's first words of command. Finally, the time came, and as the drum beat, the men stood to their feet, a lone figure marched on to the square. Then came the regular sound of boots sounding out in unison as troops marched across the square to take up their places for the rest of the parade.

The Force Commander inspected the parade. He then presented medals, along with the British High Commission, the Commander British Forces Cyprus and the Commander 13 Mech Brigade. Gunner Karen Brooks was on her first parade, presenting out of basic training. "I felt quite tense before marching on," she said, "but when we crossed the square I felt proud to be part of it all. It took a lot of preparation to get ready; I spent a whole night preparing my boots!"

Many hours of preparation and practice had been put in by the regiment. Sector 2 is by now famous for its medal parade rehearsals, and Captain Richard Hayhurst had spent many long hours on sword drill. Additional duties, however, still had to be covered. Gunner Brooks had come straight off her night shift, into her best uniform and onto the COS's rehearsal. But the hard work certainly paid off, and the behind-the-scenes stress was reflected everything was all right on the day.

Even the now infamous Myfanwy played her part. An illness during the week meant her uniform had left the goat feeling decidedly under the weather, and the RSM wondering which Gunner to step in as replacement, cunningly disguised. Fortunately, she recovered in time and took her place with pride.

The parade and the reception afterwards was an important milestone for Sector 2, as it marked the halfway point in the tour, and for some on the parade, their first coveted UN medal.

The Force Commander pinning the UN medal on Sector Two soldiers

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**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHARLIE COY**

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Sector 1's Charlie Coy soldiers like being in Cyprus: "All our work is härard work, but we're happy to be part of UNFICYP. We'd like to work in other UN peacekeeping missions."

What do they like most about working here? Corporal Sanchez says: "The chance to work somewhere where there are so many demands and where the situation is real. Another thing: dusk here is wonderful. There's a cool breeze and a beautiful view."

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**Admiral visits Sector 1**

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Last week, the General Chief of Staff of the Argentine Navy, Admiral Carlos Alberto Marron, paid a three-day visit to Cyprus. He was welcomed by the Force Commander, CO Sector 1, and the Senior Argentinian naval officer serving with UNFICYP, Captain Richard Hayhurst. While he was here, he was able to get to know the Argentinian contingent's installations and installations and to meet the naval component of our contingent.

The visit to Sector 1 began with a parade in Santa Marta Camp. The Admiral said he was happy to visit the Argentinians who work for peace. Following a briefing by the CO and officers, he went on to Roca Camp. He went along the Lefka road, and heard about the main missions that occurred here some years ago.

He then headed for the Box Factory, where Charlie Coy Commander, TNIM Héctor Daniel Payero, explained what the Coy does. The Coy met with all the members of the Argentine Navy serving with UNFICYP, and told them how proud he was of them for the work they were doing here in Cyprus.

Overall, his presence here was a great enrichment to the Contingent, and we are both happy and proud that he paid us this visit.

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Admiral Carlos Alberto Marron during a Sector 1 briefing
THE GLOBETROTTER

By Captain Andreas Vass

Sector 4’s Master Sergeant Gerald Hat has seen quite a lot of our small planet in his 40 years. He visited South America for 14 months and has spent 6 months in Asia and Australia. He’s also spent a fair amount of time with the UN, clocking up nine missions on the Golan Heights. This is his first mission with UNIFICYP.

He’s always enjoyed reading, and has kept it up on all his UN missions. He’s done the CanLog4Log four times, entered and won the FirstPatrol twice, and come first once and second twice in the Mount Hermon Run. Right now, he’s training for the Boston marathon, to be run in the USA on 17 April 2000.

On 1 October he won the 10 km Cyprus Independence Day run in Nicosia. His next challenge will be the Kolossi marathon on 5 December - he wants to run this under three hours and beat his own personal record.

For the record: two other Australians starred at the 1 October event. WO II Dockner won the 20-30 age group, and WO II Feller came second in the 40-50 group.

THE MARTIAL ARTS SUPREMO

By Major Roberto Paleto

El contingente ARGCON tiene una cantidad avalancha de hombres y mujeres que se destacan por sus cualidades o por sus capacidades para diferentes tareas. Alguno de ellos son buenos en música, otros en idiomas, pero nuestra principal fuerza son los Deportes. Tenemos grandes jugadores de fútbol, profesionales y eximios corredores de maratón y un experto en Artes Marciales.

El mes pasado tuvo su aparición en la revista Blue Beret, en un artículo junto al CO Sector 1, Tenel. Rodolfo Munjca, como un reconocible y dividiendo panamá-dista. Pueden recordarlo? Sí, seguro que pueden, es el Escudero del contingente ARGCON del Sector 1, Suboficial Mayor Carlos Alberto Aguilera. Tiene 47 años de edad y está casado con Nélida Estela. Su familia esta compuesta por sus dos hijos, Erika (22) y Pablo (18).

Nos explica: “Practicar Artes Marciales es muy importante para aquellos que lo consideran saludable para la vida profesional y personal. Cuando tenía 22 años comencé a practicar Karate (Do) y 11 años después me integre en el Instituto Argentino de Artes Marciales, en la sección de estilo libre. Tienen las Artes Marciales alguna similitud con las actividades militares? Nos respondió, “Personalmente considero que las Artes Marciales y la vida militar tienen muchas cosas en común, por ejemplo el entrenamiento físico, el aislamiento, el carácter y la seguridad para resolver situaciones diversas en la vida real. Esta actividad no la valoran indudablemente, una conducta de vida.”

Se entrena aquí en Chipre?, “Sí, por supuesto, pero no es fácil seguir un programa. Entreno tres veces a la semana, durante una hora, realizando movimientos sincronizados con o sin armas, tratando de encontrar los lugares apropiados para las rutinas. Además estoy entrenando un grupo de soldados UN, del Sector 1, que quieren iniciarse en este deporte. Es grandioso poder seguir dando clases y sobre todo aquí, en Chipre.”

En su familia, existe alguien más que practique este deporte?, nos contó, “Sí, mi hija Erika está a cargo de las clases en Argentina. Ella ha practicado desde que tiene 6 años, y esta muy contenta de entrenar y participar en los torneos. En este momento tiene Cinchuray Negro y es Primer Dan. También mi hijo Pablo practica en la Categoría Junior y progresa rápidamente.”

Al finalizar nuestra charla concluyó, “Estoy muy orgulloso de haber tenido la oportunidad de servir en esta relevante misión, por el bien de la Paz. Estas oportunidades no se deben desaprovechar, por lo tanto estoy dando lo mejor de mí. Estoy seguro de que nuestra misión será cumplida con el mayor de los éxitos y es mi deseo, que una solución pacífica sea pronto aprobada, para el bienestar de esta bella Isla.”

TUG O’WAR

By Warrant Officer 2 (RQMS) Neil Calvin

The British Army’s Royal Artillery has always had a great Tug O’War tradition. The late 1980s and early 1990s were a glorious time for 22 Regt RA’s strongmen, but in recent years, enthusiasm for the sport has declined. Last year saw a brief attempt to revive interest, and this year there is a full-blown effort to win back our laurels. Our goal is to be British Army champions in at least one weight within two years.

We have started training slowly, teaching the basics to novices and less-experienced team members. We are entering a team in the UN Open Day Tug O’War competition, but need some stiff opposition for training. If you think you can provide this, come along to training and get a team together to enter the competition. For training times, contact the RQMS at Sector 2, Ext 175.

HERE WE GO!

By Captain Hugo Ulloque

6261 sounds like a phone number. It isn’t. It’s the scores from the Argentinian soccer team’s first round of the UNIFICYP World Championship Tournament.

After defeating the Dutch 6:2, ARGCON faced England. The sky that day was light blue and white - our national colours - which proved to be a heavenly unity. Partly thanks to this, and to the many beautiful angels watching in the stands, ARGCON adopted what I can only describe as a faultless technique. The team followed a very aggressive strategy that enabled them to take over the middle field and show off its complete mastery of the ball. We won 6:1.

The defeat of the Dutch!

VISIT FROM UNIFIL

A visiting team from the Irish Battalion in the Lebanon (UNIFIL) arrived for a visit to Cyprus on 3-5 October to take part in a tournament against the major contingents of UNIFICYP.

This has been an annual event for a number of years. As well as being a football tournament, it is an opportunity for the Irish soldiers to come to Cyprus and meet the soldiers of other nationalities here in UNIFICYP. In addition, it is also a welcome break for Irish soldiers from their duties in south Lebanon.

The final result was that the Irish team from the Lebanon were the outright victors winning all three games with a spectacular display of skill. They returned to the Lebanon with fond memories of Cyprus - and a trophy to prove it.

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