The Blue Beret
August 2007

General Inspection
Argentinian Air Force Day

UN Flight celebrated Argentinian Air Force Day on 10 August with a military parade inspected by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni. The 28-member unit responsible for the mission’s two Hughes 500 and one Bell 212 also hosted a reception for their guests in honour of the day.

Editorial

The Blue Beret

Published monthly by:

Public Information Office

United Nations Force in Cyprus

HQ UNFICYP

PO Box 21842

1590 Nicosia

Cyprus

Tel: 2261-4550/4416/4408

Fax: 2261-4661

E-mail: unficyp-blue-beret@un.org

blueberet@cyprus@hotmail.com

Website: www.unficyp.org

Helping Change Climate Change

Investment of more than $200 billion will be needed by 2030 just to keep greenhouse emissions at today’s levels, according to a report by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNFCCC. One thousand representatives from over 150 governments, businesses and industries, environmental organisations and research institutions met under UNFCCC auspices in Vienna in late August. The reason for the gathering? To help prepare for the global summit being held later this year in Bali. There, the topic will be what must and should be done about climate issues come 2012, when the UN’s Kyoto Protocol expires.

In July, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the need for countries to agree to the terms of a pact designed to follow on the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, he said, the new pact should be ready for ratification three years before the current Protocol expires to allow signatory nations sufficient time to prepare the necessary legislation. The Vienna meeting was in two parts. The first dealt with cooperative actions designed specifically to address climate change. The second part focused exclusively on Kyoto Protocol-inspired negotiations.

The Blue Beret is UNFICYP’s in-house journal. Views expressed are of the authors concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy. Articles of general interest (plus photos with captions) are invited from all members of the Force. Copyright of all material is vested in UN publications, but may be reproduced with the Editor’s permission.

Contents

Editorial .............................................................. 2
MFR Medal Parade ........................................ 3
Climate Change .................................................. 4/S
Visit to Kokkina / Illegal Dumping in the BZ ............ 6
SG’s Message / Summer Camps .......................... 7
Golden Oldies Show the Way .............................. 8/9
Blood Donations in Sector 4 ................................. 10
Third Time Lucky / Bye, Bye, Miss American Pie! ... 11
Exercise Blue Drive .......................................... 12
Baghdad Bombing / EU Disaster Assessment ........ 12
Commendation ................................................. 13
General Inspection ............................................ 14
New Arrivals ................................................... 15
Front Cover: General Inspection
Back Cover: Uplifting Air Force Day

Dutch Medal Parade

The beautiful surroundings of the “Finnish Sauna”, near the UNPOL Club, formed the venue for the UNFICYP UPOL Medal Parade which took place on 23 July.

This medal presentation was unique because it involved only one contingent. As four Dutch police officers were scheduled to depart the mission in August, leaving UNFICYP between two major rotations, they would have been unable to receive their medal. Hence the four officers of the Netherlands were granted this special medal presentation.

And special it was! The Ambassador of The Netherlands to Cyprus, H.E. Mr. J. van den Berg, addressed the medalists and their guests initially in the Dutch language. As he was clearly “going Dutch”, the audience started to look somewhat bewildered, but fortunately, he then switched to English. Chief of Mission, Michael Moller, having addressed the medalists, invited the Netherlands Ambassador to join him in handing out the medals to the “happy few”: Senior Sergeants Nico Nuijen and Niels Polak and First Constables Arlette Kooiman and Jan Douma.

MFR Medal Parade

The MFR held a medal parade on the 19th July, where UNFICYP’s Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni decorated 50 personnel from this multi-national unit. The occasion was split into two parts. While the MFR personnel formed up on parade, the Force Commander was tested on his driving abilities over the cross-country circuit by 2 Platoon’s Sgt. Shane Watson.

In a Toyota Hilux patrol vehicle, the Force Commander had to negotiate his way around a tough course with a large open barrel of water secured to the back of the pick-up. He was competing head-to-head with his Military Assistant, Maj. Matt Walker. The aim of the competition was to complete the obstacle course whilst preventing the water from spilling out of the barrel. It was a close contest with a difference of only 1 cm of water, however the MA received a 2 cm penalty for not wearing his beret, leaving the Force Commander victorious!

The second event was slightly more demanding. In this, the Force Commander behind the wheel of the vehicle used by the MFR for crowd control within the buffer zone – the “Tactica” – Armoured Personnel Carrier. The Force Commander negotiated the circuit with ease and he seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience. He was then invited to take the “Tactica” on a drive around the UNPA airfield under the guidance of Sgt. Shane Watson. It was evident from the word go that he was either on a very tight schedule, or he had woken up that morning and put on a pair of lead diving boots, as there was no time wasted. Maj. Barni would have given the MacClaren F1 team a run for their money around the Airfield, much to Sgt. Watson’s delight.

On return, the Force Commander enjoyed refreshments whilst the medals were distributed. Also, that up to $210 billion was invested in international response to climate change. The study analyzed both existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to developing an integrated approach to the “huge global challenge” of climate change. The study found that the additional amount of investment and financial flows in 2030 would amount to between 1.1% and 1.7% of global investment. Also, that up to $210 billion was invested in international response to climate change. The study analyzed both existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to developing an integrated approach to the “huge global challenge” of climate change. The study found that the additional amount of investment and financial flows in 2030 would amount to between 1.1% and 1.7% of global investment. Also, that up to $210 billion was invested in international response to climate change. The study analyzed both existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to developing an integrated approach to the “huge global challenge” of climate change.

The Vienna meeting was in two parts. The first dealt with cooperative actions designed specifically to address climate change. The second part focused exclusively on Kyoto Protocol-inspired negotiations.

At the Conference emphasized the need for an integrated approach to the “huge global challenge” of climate change, noting that each year that passes without action, the consequences of climate change become more dire. The Vienna meeting was in two parts. The first dealt with cooperative actions designed specifically to address climate change. The second part focused exclusively on Kyoto Protocol-inspired negotiations.

The UNFCCC study analyzed both existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to developing an integrated approach to the “huge global challenge” of climate change. The study found that the additional amount of investment and financial flows in 2030 would amount to between 1.1% and 1.7% of global investment. Also, that up to $210 billion was invested in international response to climate change. The study analyzed both existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to developing an integrated approach to the “huge global challenge” of climate change.
Climate change refers to a change of climate directly or indirectly attributable to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere over time and above natural climate variability observed during comparable time periods.

The phrase ‘climate change’ is gaining usage in preference to ‘global warming’ because it connotes more than a simple rise in temperatures.

The earth’s climate system seems to have been remarkably stable for the past 10,000 years, varying by less than 1°C, allowing human civilization to thrive at what is essentially a constant temperature. Yet, special guests included scientists who were concerned to know how much CO₂ the US Secretary of Defence emits per day based on total electricity consumption. The conclusion: 43,300 kg of CO₂ per day. The US Secretary of Defence does not emit a very small amount of CO₂ into the atmosphere. To offset the accumulated CO₂, energy was devoted by the event, including air travel, a biomass fuel project was funded in Kenya to create new economic opportunities for local farmers. For further details, see: http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/followup/climatechange/carbonneutral.shtml

A new DPI web site, “Gateway to the US System’s Work on Climate Change”, has been launched to highlight the work of the United Nations system on climate change. This makes it easier for Internet users to find information on climate change from across the United Nations system.

The web site does more than bring Member States together to create common ground for addressing climate change at the international level. It also serves to assess the most up-to date science on climate change, develop projects to help people at grassroots level adapt to the consequences of climate change, and further develop creative solutions to reduce emissions of climate-changing gases.

So, if you want information on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an update on efforts to reach a new international agreement, or a listing of future climate events and projects, look no further than: http://www.un.org/climatechange.

## United Nations: Taking Action on Climate Change

### Finding the facts

The UN has assisted in bringing the best science, the likely impacts and the probable costs to the attention of governments and the general public through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

**‘Inequity’** is the word it now uses on the links between human activities — from burning fossil fuels to cutting of forests — and climate change.

### Assessing risks and impacts

The UN assesses the risks of extreme weather events from droughts and floods to rising sea levels. Other likely impacts include increased pressure on water and food supplies as the world’s population grows and there are continual changes in the patterns of disease and faster extinction of species.

### Taking action is affordable

Averting climate change will not “cost the earth” — perhaps as little as 0.1 per cent of average annual GDP growth over the next 50 years, if we act immediately.

### Adapting to climate change

Even if greenhouse gas emissions were stopped today, some level of climate change is inevitable. The UN is stepping up assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable people so they can cope better with the speed and the scale of the climate changes likely to come.

### Creative answers—concrete solutions

The UN is helping to harness the power of the carbon markets, assisting to accelerate the take-up of clean and renewable energies and assessing the potential for forests to counter the climate change challenge.

### At the grassroots

Working with people in their communities, the UN has put on the ground initiatives that are opening new opportunities for people growth and development addresses climate change.

### Greening the UN

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for accelerating efforts to make the UN’s own operations climate-neutral, and to turn the soon to be retired UN headquarters into a globally-renowned landmark of energy efficiency.

### Finding common ground

The US System can assist to provide countries that needs a long-term global solution. The US is at the centre of broker- ing a fair, equitable and decisive climate change regime for a post-2012 world.

### Driving

- Surface transport is responsible for 25% emissions of CO₂. By 2020, traffic on the roads in Europe has more than doubled.
- Give your car a day off! Can you find a way to make your journey to work on foot, by bike or using public transport, for instance by car-pooling with colleagues?
- Keep your car tyres properly inflated. It’s estimated that it can increase fuel consumption, and therefore emissions, by 10%.
- Drive with the windows up. This reduces drag, thus increasing your car’s fuel efficiency and lowering your emissions.
- Dragan can also be lessened by removing heavy items and roof racks from the vehicle when you don’t need to carry them.
- Switch off the engine if you think you will be stationary for more than two minutes. Idling for this long burns more fuel than it takes to restart the engine.
- Avoid short car journeys. A cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel as a warmer one. Take a walk in the fresh air to the local shops instead — it’s good for you.
- Hire bicycles instead of a car if you are exploring locally. Not only will this save emissions, but some money too — and help burn off any holiday excess.

### Food and Drink

- Think before you buy. Demand local and organic and seasonal produce, and eat less meat — your right to it! Avoid all air-fried foods and if your shop cannot assure you of this then don’t buy. Getting rid of the batter means it means one less hot gas oven or even the world, as well as in the production of food and drink.
- Look from fresh. Avoiding processed and packaged foods reduces the emissions generated by transporting multiple ingredients and products round the country or even the world, as well as in the production of packaging. Fresh is also better for your health.
- Don’t boil water — especially the grill to make toast — it will use less energy.
- Recycle aluminium. The energy saved by recycling one aluminium drink can is enough to run a TV for three hours.
- Buy in bulk for everyday items. As well as saving money, this will avoid the emissions created when packaging individual items. If you don’t use large quantities but still want to take advantage of the savings, share an order with a friend, colleague or neighbour.

### At Home

- Reduce your energy consumption measures could substantially reduce the emissions from your home, and save you money as well. For instance,
  - In summer, does it need to be so cold? Turning the thermostat down by just one degree can save you up to $75 a year on your heating bill and make a real dent in your household’s emissions.
  - Set your timer efficiently. Avoid wasted energy by turning the heating on and off a few minutes before you leave the house, and come on again 30 minutes before you are due to get back.
  - Reflective radiator panels fit perfectly behind radiators. They are cheap to buy, easy to install and reflect back heat that would otherwise drift through the wall.
  - Draw your curtains at dusk. A thick pair of curtains can stop a huge amount of cool air or heat from escaping through your windows.
  - Put a lid on it. Saucepans with lids on heat much faster.

### YES, BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

- Don’t keep opening the oven to check whether your food is ready. This adds to the time needed to cook your meal and uses more energy. Switch it off a few minutes before your food is ready — the oven will stay hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- Turn lights off! Lighting an empty office overnight can waste the energy required to heat for 1,000 cups of coffee.
- Buy energy-saving light bulbs. Some can use less than a quarter of the electricity of their equivalents, and can last up to 12 times longer. One energy efficient light bulb can save you $20 a year on your electricity bill.
- Make the most of nature. Light-coloured walls, ceilings and floors, as well as mirrors, reflect daylight, making maximum use of natural light and reduce the need for artificial lighting.
- Use infrared. If you have exterior lights, ask your electrician to fit infrared sensors so that the lights only come on when you pass in front of them.
- Keep the doors closed when the a/c is turned on. It will stay hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- Only use a washing machine on full-load. Ninety percent of the energy that washing machines use goes toward heating the water, so switch to a cooler wash temperature. Washing machines that use less energy also use less water.
- Take a walk in the fresh air to the local shops instead — it’s good for you!
Illegal Dumping in the Buffer Zone

UNFICYP has advised the authorities that an illegal rubbish dump in the buffer zone area alongside the village of Peristerona, to the west of Nicosia, is believed to contain hazardous asbestos materials. UNFICYP peacekeepers have cordoned off the area, pending arrangements by the responsible authorities for the safe removal of the materials and for the site’s clearance and closure. The materials in question could pose a real danger to the health of anyone who comes in contact with them.

UNFICYP has worked closely with a number of local municipalities to remove waste from illegal dumping sites in the buffer zone. Anything from furniture to the carcasses of dead animals has been deposited in these dumps, which constitute both an environmental eyesore and a serious health hazard. Small acts by thoughtless individuals put communities, children especially, at risk.

UNFICYP has joined local authorities in repeatedly appealing to the public to avoid the practice of illegal dumping.

Once again, the mission urges people to be aware of the health risk consequences of unregulated dumping. There should be consideration for the wellbeing of the community at large.

UNFICYP also wishes to point out that the buffer zone is open only to authorised users.

Visit to Kokkina

UNFICYP’s three pillars once again worked together to facilitate a visit to the cemetery in Kokkina, where Turkish Cypriots hold an annual ceremony to honour their fallen.

On 8 August, approximately 30 peacekeepers from Sector 1, together with personnel from UN Flight, MFR and UNPOL, deployed 12 vehicles to escort approximately 640 people to Kokkina, which is located only 7 km away from the Kato Pyrgos checkpoint.

The peacekeepers met them at Kato Pyrgos and escorted them to OP 08, approximately 7 km east of the village, where they checked the attendance from lists. Eleven buses then started the 30-minute journey through the buffer zone to OP 03, approximately 1 km east of Kokkina.

They then continued on towards the deserted village of Kokkina where the ceremony was held. This was followed by a picnic and a walk through the deserted village where many of the Turkish Cypriots were born. Local Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot stations reported on the event.

At 1.00 p.m., the visitors slowly returned to OP 03, where they were met and escorted back through the buffer zone to Kato Pyrgos by UNFICYP’s peacekeepers, arriving at 2.30 p.m.

The whole operation, which took place without incident, was considered a success, and UNFICYP was warmly thanked for its efforts.

``Be Seen, Be Heard’’ – SG’s Message on International Youth Day

International Youth Day – 12 August – is an annual opportunity to recognise the world’s 1.2 billion young people, to celebrate their achievements, and to push for their participation in all areas of society.

This year’s commemoration – “Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development” – focused on the enormous contributions young women and men everywhere can and do make towards national uplift. As the SG said in his message for the day, young people are:

- valuable and committed partners in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty and hunger in half by 2015;
- remain at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS; and
- bring fresh, innovative thinking to longstanding development concerns.

At the approach of the midpoint of the race to achieve the MDGs, “we need their participation more than ever,” since their energy and idealism “can help make up for lost ground, and achieve our development goals in full and on time,” the SG said.

In turn, we must fulfil our obligations to youth. The World Programme of Action for Youth asks Governments to consider the contributions of young persons on all policies affecting them. Governments must honour this commitment. They must also increase the financial, educational and technical support made available to young people, and help them realize their potential.

Despite growing recognition of their needs, young people in many parts of the world continue to be marginalized and ignored. Their status as a group experiencing disproportionate levels of poverty and unemployment is frequently overlooked. The young are three times more likely than adults to lack jobs. Although they constitute one fourth of the world’s labour force, young people make up almost half of its unemployed.

It is high time that we stopped viewing our young people as part of the problem and started cultivating their promise and potential. On this International Youth Day, let us all resolve to invest in and protect our most valuable resource, and give young men and women a fair and full stake in our society, and in its success.”

Summer Camps

UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) is continuing its work on multicultural youth camps in order to help Cypriots, regardless of their ethnic, religious or linguistic background, to build a bright and prosperous future.

With the aid of the UNDP-ACT Programme, youth camps are organised by Cyprus organisations in order to foster long-lasting relationships built on common interests, friendship, cooperation, mutual understanding, and trust.

This summer, the UNDP-ACT Programme has helped to organise multicultural youth camps around the island. These camps have focused on various themes such as sport, the environment, volunteering, science, and fighting racism.

About 450 youths participated in this year’s summer camps this year. Moreover, a study conducted by an independent research firm on UNDP’s behalf showed that most of the participants have kept in contact since the camps finished, 79% exchanged contact information with other camp participants and about 88% have kept regular contact with members from the other community. These results are very promising and show the success of the camps, as well as the need to continue with the programme.

In addition to multi-cultural youth camps, UNDP-ACT also organises multicultural youth camp trainings. The aim of these trainings is to enhance the impact and sustainability of multicultural camps across the island, since they are one of the rare possibilities of creating substantial contact between the children and youth of both communities.

For more information on youth camps or up-coming events of the UNDP-ACT Programme, please look under www.undp-act.org or contact Eleni Sophocleous at eleni.sophocleous@undp.org.
Golden Oldies Show the Way

As the Force Commander Rafael Lopez has been heard to say anecdotally:

"What is the secret of your success? Two words – good decisions. How do you get good decisions? One word – experience. And how do you get experience? Two words – bad decisions."

Lopez says although his wife was not too pleased with him going on a third mission, he says “she is a real military wife, and has taken it in her stride”. He says working abroad in UN, NATO and other peacekeeping missions is good experience and he advises those soldiers who are bored in their jobs at home to go abroad, where they will gain knowledge and, most importantly, the skills to be able to survive missions with difficult conditions. This wealth of experience gained from working with different nations and armies creates a better understanding for those charged with leading others, he says.

His years as a peacekeeper have given him many friends in the Slovak and Argentine contingents as well as UN Flight, with whom he served when he was here in 1997. For many who are on their first tour in Cyprus, it is difficult initially to acclimate themselves. ‘To help ease them into their roles, he tries to group those on the first tour with soldiers who have been here before so they receive support and can look to the more experienced to help resolve any problems they may face.’

He says both his position as well as his age inspire confidence in the younger soldiers who feel comfortable coming to him to discuss personal and work-related problems they may be experiencing. ‘I am always happy to listen to them and advise them if I can’.

Lopez has four children. The eldest is Carlos (23), followed by Patricia (21), Jose (16), and Juan (15), so being a father figure comes naturally, he says smiling. He began his 33-year military career at the age of 16 and now has only two years until he retires at what will be a young 51 years of age. His only regret is he won’t be able to go on another mission before he has to leave the military.

Lopez says he would encourage young soldiers to become peacekeepers and serve in UN missions where they will be able to work with other forces and gain much knowledge and experience. For himself, he says it has been good to work with men and women from his neighboring countries like Paraguay and Argentina.

Netha Kreouzos
Blood Donations in Sector 4

Lt. Col. Andrej Harendarčík, Senior Medical Officer in Sector 4, has made several contacts with colleagues in the central north Nicosia Hospital during his tour:

There is a significant shortage of blood on the island, so with the support of Commander Sector 1 Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický, Lt. Col. Harendarčík and his contacts from Sector 4 arranged for the hospital to send a Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit to Camp General Štefánik. On 2 August, 33 Slovak peacekeepers, men and women, officers and soldiers, stood in line to donate a total of almost 20 litres of their precious, life-saving blood.

The activity started off with the basic medical check-up, including blood pressure. The staff of the Nicosia hospital's Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit then stood by to transfer the soldiers' blood into sterile packaging, ready for onward transmission to the nearby hospital.

Dr. Harendarčík said, “I am personally more than happy that our soldiers are so willing to help people in need, particularly those with rare diseases like thalassaemia. Chronic illnesses like this, coupled with everyday normal surgery, require more than 600 units of blood every month. This is a noble way of supporting the local community in a generous and humanitarian fashion. I am very proud of our soldiers, and I would like to thank them all.”

Since September 2006, three blood donating sessions have taken place in Sector 4. The Slovak and Hungarian peacekeepers are more than happy to help the local community in this charitable act, which will no doubt continue in the future.

As the saying goes, “It's just what the doctor ordered!”

Capt. Michal Harnadek

---

Town Hall Speakers

Three Town Hall Meetings took place in the Interna-
nional Cafeteria, UNPA, with visitors from NYHQ
briefing on a number of issues.

27 June: Alicia Bárcena briefed on current challenges of peacekeeping operations, including the intergration of civilians, police and military, the UN as a framework for negotiations on climate change, and also poverty-
related Millennium Development Goals. Jan Beaghe then spoke about new initiatives and packages of reforms, which looks at a set of policies and procedures with regard to recruitment, contractual arrangements and conditions, service, career development and improved mobility within the system.

5 July: Donna-Marie Maxfield, Chief of Personnel Management and Support Services, outlined upcoming briefings on how the Department as regards human resource management; and

11 July 2007, Ron Hall ran through the decisions taken at the recent Staff Management Coordination Committee meeting.

The meetings were an excellent opportunity for staff members to ask questions and exchange thoughts on a wide range of subjects. Follow-up questions can be sent to the speakers at:

Alicia Bárcena: Under Secretary-General for the Office of Human Resources

Donna-Marie Maxfield: Chief, PMSS

---

Bye Bye, Miss American Pie!

Marlette Miltiadous, the American from New Jersey who made everyone feel very much “at home” in the UNPA’s CESSAC, spent her last day on the job on 14 August after three years with the organisation.

Donna Zalabras, CESSAC’s Nicosia Manager, organised a surprise get-together of Marlette’s best custo-
mers to bid her a fond farewell. How Donna managed to keep this from Marlette is to her credit, since on the day, it was obvious to all present that Marlette had no idea what was planned. The CESSAC “girls” even got her to prepare some of the snacks for a supposed customer’s birthday party!

Regina Potter, CESSAC’s Regional Manager, travelled from Episkopi for the event, and presented Marlette with gifts from the organisation and also from Mar-
lette’s “customers” in appreciation of her efforts over the years.

---

Third Time Lucky for Lovestruck Couple

LCpl. Doak (nee Bishoprick) said: “The first time we tried to get married in Greece, but then he got called up to Iraq, and the second time we were planning for County Durham in the UK, but we were both on exer-
cises for operations and it was impossible to organise.

“Then we were going to try again in the UK but Lloyd was warned off for Afghanistan in October, just when I
am supposed to get back from Cyprus and it was all very
tight.”

Help came through in the form of UNFICYP Sector 2 Padre Roy Burley, who reminded the then LCpl. Bishop-
rick that Cyprus was, of course, the island of love.

He said: “Her then fiancé was due to deploy to Herrick on a date to be confirmed in October, so I suggested why not use the R&R we get on operations here as it is the only two weeks over the next 12 months they could guarantee being together.

“Then it was just a matter of finding a location and my wife and I were honoured to be asked to attend as witnesses to the ceremony. If you look at any of the pictures, you can see what it meant to them.”

And one of the bonuses of marriage during R&R was that the soldiers were already guaranteed a honey-
moon.

The new Mrs. Doak said: “We had a combined holi-
day of a week on a cruise looking at the Pyramids and Sphinx in Egypt, which my husband is really interested in, followed by a week on the beach at Protaras – that was for me!”

“The honeymoon was awesome and he was ecstatic,
even happier than me! I think, because now he knows that he has finally caught me in his trap”, said Val.

Possibly even better news for the couple is that Cpl.
Doak has been told just recently that he may not be
required for the October deployment to Afghanistan, meaning an extended period of time together.

If that’s the case, then the love struck soldiers intend to conduct a church service and blessing on Mrs.
Doak’s return back to the UK in Catterick.

---

From the left: Gina, Donna, Marlette, Aysen and Danielle

Capt. Gary Allen
the driver was blindfolded. A test in itself was the multi-verbal instruction from a commander of the vehicle while the driver; it was designed to test the leadership skills of the driver. Maneuvering stand offered not only a challenge to the driver but also proved his worth on the theoretical side of road safety and basic maintenance. Overall, the teams who participated gained a wealth of driving experience. Credit and thanks must go to the Directing Staff who put together interesting and diversely challenging stands on a successful two-day event.

Finally, congratulations go to the winners, Sector 2 (A). They have clearly laid the gauntlet for the next Exercise Blue Drive. With the top three teams as follows:

1st - Sector 2 (A) 
2nd - Sector 2 (B) 
3rd - Sector 2 (B) 
Best Driver: - 1st Constable Jan Douma (UNPOL)

EU Disaster Assessment

On rare occasions, the Force Commander has the discretion to present outstanding peacekeepers with his special commendation at the end of their tour.

Such was the case on 19 July, when Capt. Stjepan Torkonjak, a Military Observer Liaison Officer and a member of the Croatian Contingent stationed in Sector 4, arrived at Maj. Gen. Barn’s office in HQ UNFICYP to receive his award.

Capt. Torkonjak was recommended by Commander Sector 4, Lt. Col. Jaroslav Scholovicky, for his outstanding performance as a MOLO. Throughout his tour, Capt. Torkonjak improved the three-pillar cooperation at Sector level, dealing with operational tasks at a very high level. His approach to his work and the diplomacy he used were valuable and constructive, particularly when it came to keeping the situation calm in Sector 4’s area of responsibility. This included dealing not only with military personnel, but civilian matters as well. His efforts were commendable, and he proved to be an example to other MOLO colleagues on how to react in changing conditions using liaison and negotiation skills, even in highly dangerous situations.

Capt. Torkonjak has acted in an exemplary fashion, both as a military officer, and as an ambassador of his country.
Late August saw an all-star general inspection when UNFICYP warmly welcomed Gen. Lubomír Bulík, the Chief of General Staff of the Slovak Republic’s Armed Forces, and Gen. András Havril, Chief of General Staff of the Hungarian Republic. The two arrived for an official visit to the mission from 22 to 24 August.

Our own general, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael J. Barni, joined by Senior Adviser Wlodek Cibor, greeted the visiting CGSs on arrival at UNFICYP Headquarters. Gen. Barni then briefed his fellow generals on the mission status, with specific emphasis on the role and contribution of the Slovak and Hungarian Contingents. Afterwards, the CGSs stopped off to meet with national staff stationed in the Headquarters. Gen. Bulík visited Engineer Camp Tatry, while Gen. Havril dropped by the Hungarian national club. A helicopter flight over the buffer zone followed, bringing the two generals to HQ Sector 4, Camp General Štefaník, in Famagusta. On arrival, CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický and the SOO, Capt Miloš Segén, briefed the CGSs on the operational structure, the tasks and the position of SLOVCON and HUNCON respectively. The generals then took the opportunity to mingle with Slovak and Hungarian soldiers, as well as to meet members of Sector 4’s Croatian Contingent. A trip to OP 129 and PB 126 (Alcatraz) in Pyla, where they were briefed on everyday routine and given an orientation overview by Post Commanders. The Hungarian delegation also called in on the HUNCON troops of 1st Platoon at Camp Szent István in Athienou village and D, which borders with Sector 2’s AOR.

Wrapping up and before heading to Larnaca Airport, the two CGSs thanked the Force Commander for his help and support in making their visit so satisfying. 

Late August saw an all-star general inspection when UNFICYP warmly welcomed Gen. Lubomír Bulík, the Chief of General Staff of the Slovak Republic’s Armed Forces, and Gen. András Havril, Chief of General Staff of the Hungarian Republic. The two arrived for an official visit to the mission from 22 to 24 August.

Our own general, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael J. Barni, joined by Senior Adviser Wlodek Cibor, greeted the visiting CGSs on arrival at UNFICYP Headquarters. Gen. Barni then briefed his fellow generals on the mission status, with specific emphasis on the role and contribution of the Slovak and Hungarian Contingents. Afterwards, the CGSs stopped off to meet with national staff stationed in the Headquarters. Gen. Bulík visited Engineer Camp Tatry, while Gen. Havril dropped by the Hungarian national club. A helicopter flight over the buffer zone followed, bringing the two generals to HQ Sector 4, Camp General Štefaník, in Famagusta. On arrival, CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický and the SOO, Capt Miloš Segén, briefed the CGSs on the operational structure, the tasks and the position of SLOVCON and HUNCON respectively. The generals then took the opportunity to mingle with Slovak and Hungarian soldiers, as well as to meet members of Sector 4’s Croatian Contingent. A trip to OP 129 and PB 126 (Alcatraz) in Pyla, where they were briefed on everyday routine and given an orientation overview by Post Commanders. The Hungarian delegation also called in on the HUNCON troops of 1st Platoon at Camp Szent István in Athienou village and D, which borders with Sector 2’s AOR.

Wrapping up and before heading to Larnaca Airport, the two CGSs thanked the Force Commander for his help and support in making their visit so satisfying.
Uplifting
Air Force Day