NEW POLICE ARRIVALS

By Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers

Monday 16 August saw the arrival of a new team of UNICYPOL members consisting of one Irish and nine Australian police officers.

The new Australian contingent will be here for six months, whilst the new Irish officer has been posted in for 12 months.

One third of the new Australian contingent are female. Commander Graham Taylor, who selected all the incoming Australians, said that not a man - men and women - had been selected for their ability and skills. Although pleased to be doubling the number of female officers serving with UNICYP, he stressed that: "There was absolutely no move to employ women for the sake of employing women - everyone is here on his or her merit."

CIVILIAN POLICE RESTRUCTURED

By Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers

Until March 1999, both UNICYP’s civilian police contingents (a 15-strong group from Ireland and a 20-person team from Australia) operated as separate entities. They worked in different areas and there was little contact between the two, although both reported to one police commander, who in turn reported to the Force Commander.

This spring, however, the two were integrated into a single UN Civilian Police element. UNICYPOL commanders are taken alternately from Ireland and Australia, with each incoming commander serving a six-month term as deputy before taking charge. The commander now reports direct to the Chief of Mission.

The integration of the two contingents has meant both Irish and Australian police are deployed right along the Buffer Zone. Each UNICYPOL office is staffed by a combination of Australian and Irish personnel.

As part of the restructuring process, UNICYPOL last year carried out a meticulous assessment of its activities to establish where most of its work took place. As a result of this assessment, the police recommended to the Chief of Mission that they be stationed in the village of Linoi, at the UNPA (UNICYPOL’s headquarters), in the Ledra Palace Hotel, and in Athenous, Pyla, Dhenesia and Famagusta.

They also recommended that a new station be opened in the Buffer Zone village of Dhenia. This station, which opened on 1 September, is staffed by Sgt Bob Wynn and PO Trevor Graham.

Their task, like all other UNICYPOL members, will be to provide a first point of contact between civilians and UNICYP within the Buffer Zone. They will carry out community policing activities and patrols along an area that stretches from the UNPA to Astronomeris.

Having been stationed in the UNPA for so far, Bob and Trevor say they look forward to having their own show, but note that facilities in the brand-new station may be a little different from those at HQ.

UNCIVPOL ON PARADE

One third of the Australian Contingent: From the left: Kim, Jonelle and Michelle

On 18 August 1999, 29 police officers marched on parade at the Sergeant’s Mess, Ledra Palace Hotel, in the first medal parade ever held by an integrated UNICYPOL.

Police from both Ireland and Australia received their UN medals from the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, watched by approximately 300 guests. Commander Graham Taylor, Parade Commander and Commander of UNICYPOL, received an additional numeral for his third term as a member of the civilian police on Cyprus, while Sergeant Marianne Tully received an additional numeral for her second.

Entertainment after the parade was provided by Maria Rodriguez and WOS Retamara, two Argentinians who charmed the audience with several beautiful songs, sung in English. Dr Irene Cotter moved everyone with her renditions of traditional Irish airs, and UNICYPOL’s Police Officer John Monahan proved himself a talented guitarist.

On 15 August 1999, Assistant Commissioner Hugh Sreenan of An Garda Siochana (Irish Police Force) travelled to Cyprus on a courtesy visit and also to attend the medal parade for members of both the Australian and Irish Contingents.

Assistant Commissioner Sreenan is Director of the Garda Siochana Training College in Ireland, and has overseen the development of the college over the past number of years.

Trevor (left) and Bob outside their new base

INSIDE: NEWS - REAL LIFE - HISTORY - CLASSIFIED - SPORT
THE BLUE BERET

The newspaper for UNFYCP's civilian, military and police personnel

Published fortnightly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFYCP, PO Box 21642, Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel: (02) 8645506/8641684/86408
Fax: 864614641
E-mail: blueberetcypress@hotmail.com

Editorial Team
Sarah Russell (Editor)
Maj Paul Kolken
Miriam Taylor

Photography
Vesna Photo: Cpl Damian Faulkner
Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers
Sector One
Lt Gaspar Grasso
Sector Two
Cpt Vicki Walker
Sector Four
Cpt Andreas Vas
Cpt Georgiou Hvasia
Cpt Attilla Ribai
UNTZPOL
Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers
UN FI
Lts Pablo Ribnikar
MFR Coy
Capt Jeremy Mawdsley
FMPIU
Lt Stephanie Grais-Ficq
Civilian Admin
Cpl Michael Goff

Civies
Cpl Maj Mark Kingston

The Blue Beret is the in-house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. The views expressed are those of the authors concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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QUOTATIONS

Nor at all can tell Whether I mean this day to end myself
Or lead an ear to Plato where he says, That men like soldiers may not quit the Allotted by the Gods

Tennyson

RECTIFICATION

The Blue Beret editorial of 19 August 1999, carried an error, and we are publishing this note so that a complete overview of Cyprus' history can be found on page 6 of the same issue.

Dealing with the subject of the Blue Beret, I look back on a tour of peacekeeping duty that has been both interesting and challenging.

During my two years here I have witnessed close-up differences in the diplomatic activity to ensure that there is peace on the island of Cyprus and in the Mediterranean region. I also have seen an enormous amount of determination and dogged work by the military, civilian police, civil affairs, and civil administration to fulfill the UNFYCP mandate. The key element of that mandate is, of course, to maintain the line of fire between the opposing forces ranging along the ceasefire lines.

Working in an international peacekeeping mission is a rewarding experience, and it has been an honour to serve with UNFYCP as Chief of Staff. I can reflect with some satisfaction on the many long hours spent developing the ways we work together as an integrated team, blending different cultures and ideas to achieve the high standards needed to be successful "on the ground".

I would like to pay tribute to all the contingents and individuals who together have seized the opportunity to enhance UNFYCP's delivery of its mandate through a restructuring of the organisation with a greater focus on setting and achieving objectives.

I am acutely aware that in our mission, as with all organisations today, there are real pressures to achieve more with less. It is a real credit to everyone working with UNFYCP to see how well they have dealt with these constraints, whilst continuing to maintain the high standards expected of them.

UNFYCP's work is highly respected and deserves wide recognition. We are fortunate to be on this beautiful island, but we must not allow others to forget that our mission is a demanding one, undertaken in what can often be stressful and uncomfortable conditions.

I have very much enjoyed my time with UNFYCP, as has my family, whom I would like to thank for their unfailing support and understanding.

I leave behind many friends and colleagues and will always be very happy to return to Cyprus.

Thank you all for your cooperation and assistance, and I wish the mission every success in the future.

Colonel CMB Coats
Chief of Staff
TURTLES COME TO LIFE

By Major Paul Kolken

One minute our part of beach is flat and totally undisturbed. The next, a tiny creature has appeared. It’s a baby loggerhead turtle that’s crawled up out of the safety of its nest, a few feet below the ground. From here, it’s a long and dangerous journey to maturity. First it has to get from the nest to the sea. Then it has to avoid the predators that lurk in its depths. It is estimated that maybe only one turtle out of a thousand hatchlings will reach adulthood.

We’re lucky. Last night’s turtle watchers on Avdimou beach didn’t see any hatchlings. For my children, seeing this one little creature was enough to make the trip worthwhile. But by 11 pm, five more had appeared.

Ian Williamson runs the turtle project at the Western Sovereign Base Area, and is only too happy to share his enthusiasm and knowledge. “I’m particularly happy that this nest has hatched,” says Ian. “We used to take the nests from busy beaches like this one into the British Base and look after them there. But the essence of the project is to let nature go undisturbed and at the same time make the public aware of the uniqueness of turtles hatching almost in their backyards. So we left this one where it was. Most people think turtles can only be seen at the Lara beach project near Paphos or at the turtle beaches up in the north, near Apostolos Andreas monastery, but they do come in to nest here too.”

What does running this project involve?

“Well, it starts with patrolling the beaches from the beginning of June onwards, when the turtles come ashore to lay their eggs. Our volunteers look out for trails in the sand which show where the mothers have been to make their nests. To protect each nest against foxes or dogs, we put a cage over it. We also put up signs to tell tourists and the local population there’s a turtle nest and kindly ask them not to disturb it. Unfortunately, this particular nest was interfered with, probably by children playing. At about 49 days, the young turtles are ready to hatch. We monitor this and record the times and number of turtles reaching the sea safely.”

How do the turtles know what time to leave the nest?

“It’s all temperature-driven. After sundown, the temperature drops quickly. This tells them it’s safe to come up as their natural enemies can’t see them clearly because of darkness. Once they’ve reached the surface, their natural instinct is to head for light. This should be moonlight reflected by the sea. But you can imagine that bright lights of houses or discos on the shore can confuse them. That’s why we sometimes use torches to guide them to the sea. They’ll aim for the brightest light source around.”

Wouldn’t it be easier to pick them up and hand deliver them to the sea?

“Yes it would, but it’s very important they make the trip from the nest to the sea on their own. While doing so, they are thought to pick up chemical and perhaps magnetic information from the ground. This information stays with them all their life. By the time a female turtle comes to lay eggs herself, she’ll come back to the beach she was born on. The males will never come ashore again.”

How many turtles do each nest produce?

“Most loggerhead nests contain an average of 85 eggs. Not all of them will hatch. This particular nest this far produced 23 turtles, while there was a fair chance it wouldn’t produce any, because of the interference I mentioned before. This meant that the temperature dropped. But we hope some more will come out.”

The next day Ian decided to dig up the nest. He found 20 hatchlings trapped at the bottom. They all made it to the sea on their own.

There were also some hatchlings that were still too weak to make the journey out to sea, so Ian took them home and looked after them for a few days until they were strong enough to survive. Some eggs that he took home hatched out in his airing cupboard. These baby turtles were also released into the sea. Altogether the nest produced 66 hatchlings.

VISITS OFFICER LEAVES

By Major Paul Kolken

Visits Coordinator RSM Larry McGrath finished his tour of duty last week. A behind-the-scenes figure, Larry the sympathetic Irishman nevertheless was well-known to the protocol officers of every contingent.

No general, politician or UN-official embarked on an UNFICYP tour without McGrath arranging his or her visit.

Larry explains: “I started out as the Force Stationary Officer, but at the beginning of January, I was given the task of coordinating all the official visits to UNFICYP. To my mind, this job was far more interesting.”

In the past eight months, UNFICYP has hosted 83 official visits.

RSM Jimmy Kerrigan joins UNFICYP as RSM Larry McGrath leaves

Some visitors send in specifications of who they want to meet and what they want to see. Others leave it up to UNFICYP to work out the programme. And the visits coordinator has to make sure nothing goes wrong.

As Larry explained: “For each visitor I had to make a personalised programme and coordinate this with the sectors, the briefing officers, and the honour guard, as well as setting up office calls to top UNFICYP personnel. During the visit I had to monitor arrangements and inform the relevant personnel if there were last-minute changes in the itinerary.”

Which visit did you enjoy most?

“That was the visit of the Japanese journalists’ organised by New York HQ in February. The way they approached and their visit, the questions they asked, their enthusiasm, I enjoyed seeing that.”

Was it a good tour?

“Yes, I bring back very good memories and have made a lot of friends. If I accepted all the invitations to visit people I’ve met, I’d be travelling the world for more than a year. In fact I liked working in a multinational environment together with police and civilians so much that I am seriously considering leaving the Garda and joining the United Nations in an administrative job. My wife Maria says she’s happy to follow me wherever I go. And we certainly aren’t inclined to stay in Ireland for its climate. We both loved the Cyprus weather.”

Larry might have gone, but his replacement is already hard at work. RSM Jimmy Kerrigan arrived last week, bringing a lot of experience from previous missions.

“My first mission was actually in Cyprus as a rifleman, back in 1972. Since then I’ve served in Lebanon four times and once in Iran. My previous job was Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Irish Infantry Battalion in Galway. Then I currently have to deal with protocol and ceremonial tasks.”

What do you expect of your new job?

“It’s a new experience. I believe in making the most of all new experiences. And Cyprus is a good place to stay for my family. My wife Anne and three of my five sons will follow me after the first school semester. The boys can play football in the North. When I’m not fixing visits, I hope to enjoy my hobby of hill walking in Troodos.”
In a hotel, the better the view, the more expensive the room. If Sector I were a hotel, the Argentinian soldiers keeping the peace on OP 18 would have to pay a fortune. Not only do they have a perfect view of the Xeros Dam and the Mediterranean in the north, but in all other directions they see scenes taken straight from a nature magazine. To the south, for example, lie the reforested terraces of an old copper mine. To the east is the green valley that runs along the Leftka road.

For soldier Juan Echkaft, this place, 13,000 kilometres from Argentina, is home for six months. His colleagues are, in a sense, his family. They have to take care of each other. And they do.

Today, 1st Corporal Cristian Correal is on "Maria-duty". This means he is cook of the day. Staying inside is proving a tarefaful business, for Cristian is chopping onions. For a while, even he has got to go outside to relieve his eyes.

According to 1st Corporal Carlos Navalles, Cristian’s pretty gifted when it comes to cooking.

"I've never had any training," says Cristian. "But I used to cook at home whenever I wasn’t on exercise or in the barracks. That way, my wife could have a break from daily business. Now she has to cope with everything by herself. The only time I’ve cooked for her recently, was when I was on leave. I went back to Argentina to see her and my son Lucas Ivan. And to see my daughter Flavia Esther being born. We’re a good team at OP 18, but I miss my real family.

Can they all cook?

"Yes, but there’s one of us who’s only allowed to make hamburgers or hot dogs.

Cooking isn’t the only ‘Maria-duty’. Another detail on the roster is washing the dishes or cleaning the buildings. "All the things your mother used to do at home are equally divided between all seven members of our team," says Carlos. "For me, this is my first mission. I only finished the three years of education at the military school in November last year. Almost immediately afterwards I was sent to Cyprus. I was used to being away from home already, and I think the fact that I am single makes it a bit easier. Still, I miss the atmosphere of Argentina."
S 2 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Captain Vicki Walker

The bright lights came to Sector 2 last week in the guise of the Welsh media, all geared up to report on how the boys and girls from the valleys were doing on their latest operational tour. We had a TV crew from HTV Wales and press representatives from North and South Wales. All of a sudden soldiers were walking around trying their best to look macho every time they saw anything vaguely resembling a camera. There was a distinct odour of fake tan as efforts were made to turn white bodies into bronzed Adonis — unfortunately working hard makes it well nigh impossible to get a decent suntan.

It is easy to think that all types of reporter can be lumped together soon learnt, however, that television requires totally different things to written press. Interviews with the troops were done swiftly and the soldiers from the regional areas concerned had their pictures taken within minutes, all grinning at cameras and trying to flex their muscles. Meanwhile, we were on Take Four of "Welsh Gunsers patrols past disused building" and still had another five angles to take of the same shot.

The team traipsed down to our adventure-training set-up on the Sunday to film and photograph off-duty soldiers sailing, windsurfing and throwing themselves off cliffs. Guns Eric Tudor put everyone to shame jumping time and time again from 15 metres up into crystal clear water. HTV reporter Craig Hooper thought that this would be an excellent opportunity for a "lease" shot. Craig was filming, putting on a suitably nervous look for the camera, while Eric told him what to do. Eric made a demo jump up a silver screen career. "Well, I would definitely do it again."

S 1 DESPIDE AL CHIEF OF STAFF

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

El día miércoles 18 de agosto se realizó una ceremonia donde el personal del Sector 1, encabezado por el CO Sector, Teniente Coronel Sergio Mujica, reemplazado el Jefe del Estado Mayor de UNFICYP Coronel Coats con motivo de su pronta partida de la Isla de Chipre.

Luego de pasar revista a las tropas formadas, el Coronel Coats, agradeció la calida bienvenida que le brindó el Sector 1. También, durante sus palabras, deseó que el regreso de todos los que integran el contingente, haya cumplido con su tarea de soldados mantenedores de la paz, y no hayan sufrido novedades de importancia.

Para finalizar, se ejecutó una danza de gloria para desechar un feliz regreso y pequeño futuro a quien durante este ciclo supo mantener las buenas relaciones entre su Estado Mayor y el Argos.

Luego del desfile militar que borrió al Coronel Coats, se realizó un pequeño apasajo en el Casino de Oficiales, para compartir su regalo, como unos regalos y palabras del homenajeado.

Sector 1 le desea lo mejor en su regreso y augura para el año 2000 le brinde al él y a su familia, los éxitos que se merecen. Buen Viaje!

CM HERCUS MEETS MINISTER FASSLABEND

By Captain Andreas Vas

Am 18 August hat der Bundesminister für Landesverteidigung, Dr. Werner Fasslabend, im Rahmen seines Besuches anlässlich der Jahresfeier für die gefallenen österreichischen Soldaten von Gosh, auch den CM Dinner Aston Villa und der FC Generalmajor Evergasto der Vergara im Hauptquartier von Nicolás der UNPA besucht.

Bei dem einstimmigem Besuch unterstrich der Minister die Wichtigkeit des Regimes wo beide für den Südosten Europas entscheidende. Bevölkerungsgruppen, Türken und Griechen, direkt und indirekt, auf die Lebensqualität der bei der Stabilität des Balkanraumes und somit auf die gesamte Stabilität der EU. Womit sich der Kreis für Österreich, an der EU Außengrenze, wieder schließt.

Der BM Dr. Fasslabend hat Zypern nach mehreren Gesprächen mit den hier eingesetzten österreichischen Soldaten am 18.08.1999 um 17.30 Uhr wieder verlassen.

HUNGARIANS CELEBRATE NATIONAL DAY

By Captain Attila Rábai

Our national day falls on 23 August. It celebrates our first king, Saint Steven, and the foundation of Hungary. Steven was crowned 999 years ago by Pope Sylvester II, bringing Hungary into the family of Roman Catholic countries.

Saint Steven devoted his entire life to integrating Hungary and the Hungarians into Europe. He had to fight hard to achieve this noble objective, but by the end of his reign, he had turned Hungary into a well-organised, civilised European country with a good international reputation and culture.

Nearly a thousand years later, Hungary is in much the same state that it was at the beginning of Saint Steven's reign. Then, as now, the doors to the east were closing and we were trying to open the doors to the west. These days we don't have to fight for survival, but we do have to prevent ourselves from lagging behind others, so the strong will of the Hungarian people is being put to the test.

To mark our national day, Hungarian contingent commander, Lieutenant Colonel Pállai, gave a reception for all the Hungarians in Camp Izray. First we commemorated Saint Steven, and then the contingent commander thanked everybody for the work they are doing in the mission. At the end of the celebration, Lieutenant Colonel Pállai and Major Turi rewarded ten soldiers for their excellent work.

11.

Istvan kitalaj napja

Saint Steven
led records found around the barracks complex reveal that in 1906, one Reverend Canon Frank Curvall Newham bought 11 acres of land near the Pedieos River to build a school. He paid a thousand pounds. Ninety-nine years on, some of this land and buildings which once housed the English College of Nicosia, are used by the Nicosia Law Courts. The rest are used by UNFICYP's Sector 2.

In the 1930s, Cyprus experienced a period of unrest which resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency and a reinforcement of the British garrison. In 1934-5, the British army took over the English College as its headquarters and named the area Wolseley Barracks after Field Marshal Sir Garnet Wolseley, who had been Governor of Cyprus. The buildings were used to house the headquarters, and tent lines were set up stretching out towards the Pedieos.

The British army remained at the Barracks until 1959 when the garrison was withdrawn to the Sovereign Base Areas in Akrotiri and Dhekelia. Control of the buildings then passed to the Cyprus government.

11 years later, UNFICYP's Canadian contingent moved its headquarters to the buildings when its area of responsibility changed from Kyrenia to Nicosia.

Each of the major buildings in the barracks area has its own history.

Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess

This building was built in 1902 for the headmaster of the English College. The British army took it over in 1934 and added the dining room in 1952. Between 1959 and 1964, it was home to the Vice President of Cyprus, Dr Fazl Kutchuk. The building became the Canadian Officers' Mess in 1970. In 1993, the British returned - this time as members of UNFICYP. They too have used the building as an officers' mess.

The Joint Operations Centre

This building was constructed by the British in 1934. It is not known what it was used for originally, but in 1974 it became the headquarters for 1 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Based on an article by Supt Peter Lawler

The Ledra Palace opened in 1949. While it was being constructed, builders found a small carved stone depicting a griffin which became the hotel's emblem. Renowned as one of the most glamorous hotels in the Mediterranean, it was a favoured haunt of the rich, famous, and infamous. It is said that the brandy sour was invented in the Ledra bar to satisfy King Farouk's appetite for cocktails that didn't look alcoholic. Ironically, the hotel's north wing was completed in summer 1974; the only resident it has ever known have been UNFICYP soldiers.

When Turkish troops landed on the island on 20 July 1974, the National Guard deployed a platoon in the hotel - to protect the 380 occupants. At this time (as during the troubles of 1963-4) the Ledra was packed out with international journalists. One possibly apocryphal story claims that the English was known to file media reports on behalf of journalists who had imbibed too many of his concoctions and become incapable of sending bulletins home.

Within hours, fighting erupted in Nicosia. Canadian UN personnel, based next door at Wolseley, tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a ceasefire to evacuate civilians. By late afternoon, UNFICYP had also deployed a platoon within the hotel.

The next day, the hotel was damaged by small arms, mortar, and rocket fire. Food and water and food supplies would not last long, and the UN resumed negotiations to have the civilian guests evacuated. By midday they had succeeded. UN personnel drove armoured vehicles to the rear of the hotel, filled them with hotel guests, and drove them away.

UNFICYP also persuaded the National Guard to withdraw its platoon, on condition that the UN would occupy the building and prevent either of the opposing forces from taking it over.

The UN has been there ever since. Canadian peacekeepers lived there for 19 years, until 1993. Since then, it has accommodated members of the British contingent, who have now been joined by members of the Dutch contingent, as well as a small group of Australian and Irish UN civilian police officers.

Because of its location in the Buffer Zone, in central Nicosia, the Ledra has provided the venue for a number of bi-communal events - some organised by the UN, some by other organisations and institutions. The most recent large-scale bi-communal meeting was a pan-Cyprus trades union conference held at the end of April.

In the 1960s, a Cyprus travel brochure described the Ledra as "Nicosia's most distinctive hotel - the meeting place for travellers from all parts of the world". It can only be hoped that one day, the hotel will be able to resume its former glory.

Hq Sector 2 East

The old headquarters for the British Commander of Nicosia is currently occupied by Sector 2's Civil Affairs Team and Quartermaster. At various points, the Canadian contingent used it as a JOC, Ops office, civilian police office, and signals office.

Congreve House

Until 1974, Congreve House (formerly known as "La Casa") served as the residence of the brigadier commanding the British contingent. It was evacuated in 1974 because it lay between the opposing forces. Canadian Private J.L. G Perron was killed near its front gate on 6 August 1974 (a monument to the 20
ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE
Matzda 323 Familia, white, 1300cc, r/c, new exhaust, df fridge, 35,000 miles, Salzberger, Tel: (02)8120670 or (02)562253 (h).
Opel Ascona 1.6 RH 1985; 4-door, a/c, r/c, good condition £750. Tel: (02) 579113 (o) or (02)526223 (h).
Ford Escort 1.3, 1993 saloon, 75,000 km, diesel, white, df, £1,300. Tel: Lit Hitz on (02) 822670 or (09)541409.
Toyota Corolla 1.6, white, 1992, low mileage 44,233 km, excellent shape inside and out, £2,000 d/f. Will consider payment by instalments. Tel: Chief of Mission's office on (02) 864402.
Mitsubishi Lancer, 1994, a/c, £1,400 d/f. Contact Sggt Kovac (02) 866466.
Ford Cortina, '80 good condition, £250. Call Peter (UNCIVPOL) on (03) 730717, Michael, 3900; GLS, 2800 Turbo Intercooler, green silver, SWB, 3-doors, 1995, r/b, 50,000 km, £7,500 d/f. Call Andrea: (02) 664362.
BMW 520 Sedan, 1986, 5-speed, a/c, radio/cassette, inspected on 14 April 2000, 2 new tyres, new battery and recently serviced, £750 d/f. Tel Sgt Aitken or D Thompson.
Mercedes 200, 1985, one owner, full service record, h/d, 199,000 km, £1,000. Tel: (02) 9246250.
Honda Prelude Sports, EXM 27, identical to new, 20,000 km, new tyres, only 37,000 km, £1,990. Tel: (02) 864681.
Mazda 323, blue, 1990 cc, 1990 £1,100 ONO. Tel: (02) 314439 (o) or (02) 3181162 (p).

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE
THREE-PIECE SUIT
Bluish-grey, in good condition, German-made. Any reasonable offer. Contact Tel: (02) 866451 or (04) 646364.
Washing machine & dryer, German: top loading, excellent condition, £230 the pair. Phone CM's office at (02) 864402.
Tomy AFX Scollectic Road Racing Set. 62 ft of track, 2 cars, controllers, transformers and all other accessories. Excellent condition and boxed as new. Contact T Barry (02) 359001 (b), 864510 (c).
Cannondale racing bike, size 56, down-it-ace gear, suspended seat, £600. Tel: Lit Hitz on (02) 822670 or (09) 451409.
Large, natural pine double bed - mattress £120. Tel: (02) 492650.

WANTED
WANTED items for a bargain, to be sold in Sept. In Sep, raise money for abandoned donkeys. Anything saleable accepted - please drop off at CM's office.

ITEMS FOR HIRE
HIVE ITEMS FOR HIRE
The NICOSIA HIVE operates a comprehensive self serve store.

ITEMS AVAILABLE: VAX machine and child's car seat, pushchairs, back packs, high chair, travel cot, children's toys, games (e.g. board games, video games, ball games, golf clubs, radio/cassette players, BB guns, etc. Call 02/864402 for Hive availability.

DISCO FOR HIRE
The UNPA WOs' & Sgts' Mess (The Vic Club) has upgraded its disco equipment to a high standard. This is available for hire for functions etc. The cost of hire is now £50.00 per event. Two DJs are also available and arrangements should be made with either DJ regarding fees.

HAVING A PARTY?
The Youth Club is now available for hire. Many facilities including new disco equipment and lights, barbeque and plenty of seating. Contact Pat on (02) 359112 for more details.

PROPERTY TO LET
3-bedroom ground floor house, with a yard in Ayios Pavlos (close to UNPA). Solar water heater and c/h. Tel: (02) 774783.

Two minutes walk to the beach.

AMATHUS (Limassol) area, one-bedroom flat, fully furnished with TV, covered parking, common gardens, tennis court and swimming pool. £15 per day. Only serious enquiries. Call between 15:00-19:00 hrs. No agents for the disco should be made through the PMC, WO2 Miller on (02) 359760 ext 126 (W) at least seven days in advance.

HAVING A PARTY?
The Youth Club is now available for hire. Many facilities including new disco equipment and lights, barbeque and plenty of seating. Contact Pat on (02) 359112 for more details.

EVENING, BABYSITTING AND ANOTHER SERVICES
Lady available for evening baby-sitting and assisting at drinks/parties dinner. Tel: Marion (02) 330296 after 1600 hrs.
MATURE BABYSITTER Reliable, lady available for evening babysitting. Tel: (02) 623850 after 1600 hrs.
SEAMSTRESS Available for alterations, zip replacements, dressing, costume, etc. Specialise in beautiful creative house fabric decoration, contact Stella on (02) 491840.
JOB WANTED: Woman is looking for houses, offices and staircases in Nicotia + area to clean. Has 12 years experience. Call (02) 392500.
British trained seamstress specialises in dressmaking for formal occasions, ball gowns, wedding dresses, etc., also alterations and repairs. Mrs Chris Broad. The BRATON Youth Club, Limassol, (02) 359122, near Asira garage. Tel: (02) 771206.

MICHELINNEOUS
BRATCON YOUTH CLUB
If you are aged between 8-16, and want to have some fun, BRATCON is the place to be seen. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30-8.30 pm at St Michael's School in the UNPA. Our club is run by the students and is made up of new friends. For further information contact Pam Kingston on (02) 359112, or any one of the nights that we are open. Memberships is £1.50 per term or £4 annually. Nightly subs - 75c for members and 75c for visitors.

Volunteers urgently needed.
The BRATCON Youth Club urgently needs new volunteers to help us out at our twice-weekly sessions. If you have some time and would like to work with a bunch of happy kids come along and join us. Contact Pam on (02) 359112 for further information. Don't delay - pick up the phone and come along.

KEEP US INFORMED
The YMCA now stocks a range of aromatherapy products from Applewoods of England for men and women

For Sep and Oct, everyone purchasing Applewoods products goes into a draw for a free aromatherapy treatment. We also have a wider range of photo albums and frames.

CHURCH SERVICES

YMCA NEWSFLASH!
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Reduction in Telephone Rates
CYTA has reduced telephone user charge rates to five countries for calls made from fixed and mobile telephones, as well as public payphones.

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<tr>
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12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RUNNING CONTEST OF AGROS
Sunday 12 Sept 1999 43km run and 10km Fun Run with start/finish at the Rodon Hotel in Agros. 3,000 m and 7,000m runs. Participation free of charge. Awards will take place at 1300 hrs. For more information, contact (02) 356552 or (09) 411411.

THE BEST FILMS CAN NOW BE SEEN AT THE UNPA
Every Sunday evening at 18,000 ONO. In Michaele School. You’re too late for “Blade” and “Emmy of the State” but there will be more high quality digital films. Read the notices in the International Cafe for an evening of good entertainment. Also shown in the Ledra Palace Hotel.
GET WET, GO CANYONING

By Lieutenant Martin Lehner

Ers ist flächertlieb heiß in Famagusta. Klimaanlagen sind gut, aber leider nicht sehr verbreitet. Was kann man also tun, um der Hitze zu entfliehen? Haben Sie schon einmal etwas über Canyoning gehört? - Noch nie? - Gut, hier eine kurze Erklärung:
Canyoning ist eine relativ junge Form der Freizeitaktivität, eine Sportart, die hauptsächlich in den Alpen betrieben wird und sich dort wachsender Beliebtheit erfreut.


Experten raten an einen Taucherausflug anzustreben und einen Helm zu tragen. Leutnant Martin Lehner, Duty Officer Sector 4, kann weitere Informationen geben.

FORMULA ONE MAYHEM AT UNPA

What better way could there be to spend a late afternoon than speeding around the UNPA, immune from the dreaded UN Military Police? Well, there are probably lots; but for nine members of 42 Alem Haemmerly RA, a couple of hours of karting on the course up at the UNPA airfield was an exciting enough way to finish off a hectic day at the office.

On our arrival at the airfield we were met by Staff Sergeant Patterson and his wife who run UNPA’s mini Silverstone. After a quick but thorough safety brief, we were let loose on the track. With a few practice laps under our belts we got straight down to the racing. There were four competitors in each race and there were to be four heats before the knockout stage began.

Things started off quite smooth and relaxed. It was not long, though, before tensions rose as, impelled by a desperate urge to win, drivers began blocking and ramming other karts off the road. Chief culprit to this was Captain “Schmacher, out of my way!” Wood who was (much as it pains me to admit it) the fastest and most skillful driver of the afternoon. After successfully cutting up his battery Commander, Major Simon Collins, on a hellish bend and leaving him for dust, Captain Wood stormed away for his first win.

Meanwhile, Corporal Clive Cooper and Lance Bombardier Steve Long clearly showed that before joining the army, they had both been truly ‘boy racers’. All their races were close-run contests of excitement and daring which they dominated masterfully - apart from the odd 360-degree spin.

At the other end of the skill ladder came myself, some of the battery’s SNCOs, and Gunner Paul Marsh. Sergeant Paul Middleton worked his way around the track efficiently, but was unable to keep pace with the lightning speeds of the top three. Meanwhile, Sergeant Steve Magee and Sergeant Adrian Kirkby must have just been given a slow kart each, as they spent all their races trying ignominiously for third place, although they did this in great style.

Time for the semi-finals arrived and the battery commander departed (an urgent meeting apparently). After two incident-packed races, four drivers were left for what was to end up as a very controversial final. Captain Wood held pole position, followed by Corporal Cooper, Lance Bombardier Long and the author. How I made it to the finals was a mystery to me as much as to anybody. Four were soon to become three, however as one of the karts developed axle trouble. The solution to this was to kick out your correspondent, who clearly didn’t deserve to be there anyway.

The atmosphere was tense as the three finalists sat at the grid waiting for the green light. Once away, Corporal Cooper took an early lead whilst Captain Wood held a respectable third place. After the first lap and still at the rear he decided that enough was enough in true “ginger” style. His first victim was Lance Bombardier Long who was mercilessly shunted off the track and who was never able to get back into the running. Corporal Cooper was dispatched next via with similar tactics. Once he’d got to the front, there was no beating Captain Wood.

One final note - while we were helping put the karts back into the garages Lance Bombardier Long eventually limped across the finish line.

We all had a great afternoon, and our thanks go to Staff Sergeant Patterson and his wife for hosting us.

THE KART CLUB PRESENTS:
INTERNATIONAL CHARITY GRAND PRIX

Enjoy the joys and spills of a rally car. There’ll be a paintball range, a bouncy castle, prizes to be won at the raffle, a cash bar and lots of burgers and hot dogs. Fun for all the family. Don’t miss it.

10 September 1999, 16.00 hrs till late at the International Airport.