

# BLUE BERET



## Shooting for the stars - UNFICYP troops battle it out in pistol shooting competition

At the recent UNFICYP Winter Medal Parade, Force Commander Major General Kristin Lund reiterated the need for the Mission's commanders to ensure regular basic skills training for their troops. One of the most fundamental of these is shooting, and UNFICYP held a number of shooting trainings and competitions in the last week of January.

Force Commander Lund was the first to take aim at the competition, displaying a level of skill that would have placed her in the top ranks of the contest.

Two days of practice preceded the shooting competition, with the Force Training Warrant Officer Neil Cogram in place for members of the HQ who wished to have some shooting practice and coaching before the competition.

The real firepower came on 27th January, with eight teams determined to prove they are the best. This year, a team of German soldiers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) based in Cyprus joined the competition, adding some excitement. All eight teams were tasked to shoot in different positions and

from different distances. The result was close, with Sector 2 Team A winning the competition just ten points ahead Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) Team A in second place and one point behind, Sector 4 Team A in the third place.

The following day, 28 January, a competition for senior officers started and the pressure was on as Maj Pavel Cieff sought to win the individual shooting competition for the third time in a row. From the outset, Chief Operation Officer Lt Colonel Fernando De La Vega managed to create a strong lead, with Slovak tandem Maj Cieff and Lt Colonel Pavol Kobik following closely behind as the day progressed. In the end, Lt Colonel De La Vega narrowly clinched first place with 126 points, while Maj Cieff finished a close second with 119 points and Lt Colonel Kobik took third place with 102 points.

Awarding the prizes at the weekly Friday briefing, Force Commander Lund expressed her satisfaction with the well prepared event, and offered her thanks to participants for a thrilling competition.

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