

The Blue Beret

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UN

MEDEVAC
Exercise



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Editorial

The Secretary-General's meeting with Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash on 6 September in Paris marks the beginning of a crucial stage in the quest for a lasting settlement in Cyprus. This is yet another attempt by the Secretary-General to encourage both sides to engage in serious negotiations and take advantage of the "window of opportunity" which still exists. Whether the two Cypriot leaders heed his call and move to a compromise solution depends entirely on their political goodwill and that of their allies. A just and lasting agreement, taking into account the concerns of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, is fully within reach according to the Secretary-General, and the Cypriots cannot afford to lose this opportunity.

The question we should ask ourselves is, what can UNFICYP do to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours. The answer seems clear. UNFICYP should redouble its efforts to ensure that the situation along the buffer zone remains stable and calm, and that nothing is allowed to upset the atmosphere of the talks. To this end, we must use our best diplomatic skills and continue to exercise vigilance and resolve on the line. Let's not take anything for granted, and contribute to resolving the Cyprus conflict by implementing our peacekeeping mandate as best we can.

Millennium Development Goals

As the world looks towards Johannesburg and the Earth Summit's sustainable development goals for our planet, here is a reminder of the Millennium Development Goals endorsed by all 189 United Nations Member States who have pledged to accomplish the following by 2015:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
- Achieve universal primary education**
 - Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
- Promote gender equality and empower women**
 - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
- Reduce child mortality**
 - Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five
- Improve maternal health**
 - Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
 - Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
 - Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability**
 - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
 - Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020
- Develop a global partnership for development**
 - Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty-reduction – nationally and internationally



- Address the least development countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more general official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies

For more information, see Road Map towards the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration at: www.un.org/millenniumgoals

Contents

Editorial/Contents	2
Millennium Development Goals/ Buckle Up – Or Pay Up	3
28 th Commemoration for the Fallen/ The Forgotten Cemeteries	4
Minden Day in the MFR/To The Rescue	5
Sector 1	6/7
Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part V: Kition – Ancestor to Larnaca	8/9
MEDEVAC Exercise/Foxtro's New Face	10
MFR Crowd Control Integration/ Marathasa Dam Opened	11
Rummaging Policemen	12
Sector 4	13
New COO in UNFICYP/Caption Competition	14
Sport	14/15
Remembering Goshi	16

Front Cover: MEDEVAC Exercise

Buckle Up – Or Pay Up

Did you know that as of August 2002, the use of seatbelts in the back of cars, as well as the front, is obligatory for all vehicles with a capacity of up to eight passengers, apart from the driver? A new law has been introduced with the following stipulations:

- In vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes and carrying over eight passengers, and in goods vehicles with a maximum mass of up to 3.5 tonnes, the use of seatbelts is obligatory only in the front seats.
- However, vehicles manufactured before July 1, 1988, are exempt of the obligation to install seatbelts in the back seats.

The driver is responsible for any passenger under 12 years of

age or under 1.50 m. tall not wearing a seatbelt, while passengers over 12 years old or taller than 1.50 m. will be responsible for themselves.

The fine for not installing seatbelts in the back seats of cars is either three-month imprisonment or £500. If an under-age passenger is not wearing a seatbelt, the fine is six months in prison or £1,000, and for adult passengers, the fine is three months in prison or £500.

Apart from these fines, the court may deprive a driver of his licence for a period of up to three months.

An out-of-court fine of £50 may also be imposed for all violations of the law and, if the offence takes place out of town, two penalty points can be added on the driving licence.



28th Commemoration for the Fallen

By WOII G. Sakoparnik

In the searing heat of 45 degrees, a commemoration service was held at the newly renovated memorial near Goshi village, built in honour of the three Austrian UN soldiers who were killed during an air raid in 1974. This was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony.

Padre James Aitchison held a moving Service of Remembrance. Present were the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, representatives of the Lion's Club and members of HUNCON

who provided the Guard of Honour.

Afterwards, all guests returned to Camp St. Istvan for refreshments. Austrian Contingent Commander Lt. Col. Helmut Brandtner, thanked soldiers of the Hungarian Contingent with a typical Austrian military presentation – a bayonet mounted on a wooden plaque. The Hungarian soldiers put in many hours of their own free time to help make the renovation work possible.



The Forgotten Cemeteries

Within Sector 2 West's area lie four cemeteries (Latin, Greek Orthodox, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Armenian). For the last 27 years, two of these cemeteries have remained largely untouched and unvisited. The years of neglect have taken their toll. As a result, graves were lost to the undergrowth. With

the help of Sector 2's Civil Affairs Team, gardeners from the Municipality of Ayios Dhometios and the two churches, all this was about to change.

The gardeners worked extremely hard and did a fantastic job reclaiming the cemeteries from the vast amount of vegetation that had consumed them over the years.

Although it took many weeks to clear, it was obvious that a lot more work was needed before any sort of service could be held.

After all the manual work was completed, the Sector 2 Civil Affairs Team began drafting an agreement that would allow both churches to visit the cemeteries, conduct regular services (12 each year) and maintain the cemeteries in a suitable condition by allowing a church-funded gardener to work in the BZ one day each week.

Most of the preparatory work completed, it was now time for the new S2 CAT from 16 Regt RA to get involved. This was to be our first real challenge since the handover/takeover from 32 Regt RA SCAT. After much discussion

with all parties concerned and a few letters later to the appropriate agencies, the way was clear for the first service to be held in the Latin cemetery for 27 years. Many people were involved, from the initial driving force of Maj. Jim Sibbald and his team (32 Regt RA) to the final push provided largely by Maj. "Ollie" Cromwell and SSgt. Dave Witter (16 Regt RA).

At 4.15 pm on 26 June, some 25 parishioners from the Holy Cross and Maronite churches, old and young alike, arrived by coach at the National Guard position on Foxtrot roundabout. Here they were met by an escort from S2 CAT and S2 West and taken to the Latin cemetery. A general service was given on arrival, followed by smaller family and individual services. All were very touching and poignant. For many in the congregation, it was the first time they had entered the BZ, let alone the cemetery.

We now hope that thanks to the efforts and hard work of so many people, some sort of normality, if only for limited periods, has now been restored in the cemeteries and that the churches will take full advantage of their rights under the agreement to maintain and visit the cemeteries regularly.

The whole event was a combined effort from S2 CAT, S2 West, UNCIVPOL and both churches. We hope that this will be the first of many successful services and future projects for S2 CAT.



Minden Day in the MFR

By Lt. J. Fields

On 1 August 1759 at 4.30 am on a cold and misty morning, the men of Captain Foy's light artillery brigade rode into an area to the north of a small town called Minden in Germany. Moving into position, the British troops picked wild roses from the hedgerows and placed them in their head-dress before they finally halted to the north of Minden heath. To the south, they faced some 60,000 French troops and 162 artillery pieces.

The men who took to the battlefield fought courageously and, despite being heavily outnumbered, carried the day. As night fell, some 7,000 French and 1,500 British lay dead, but the threat had gone. The men of Captain Foy's light artillery brigade had survived an artillery bombardment, cut down a cavalry regiment, and dispatched all the infantry thrown at them. The artillery brigades had displayed mobility and use of concentrated fire rarely seen before.

Some 243 years later, the Argentinian, Hungarian and Slovak soldiers of

the MFR joined the soldiers of 32 (Minden) Battery to remember the day when their predecessors fought so bravely. In a parade attended by all members of the MFR, the Minden poem was read, followed by a short service. The soldiers were then presented with roses which were placed in their berets, reminiscent of the day when the "mighty men of Minden" fought wearing wild roses.

The occasion was also to mark the presentation of the Queen's Jubilee Medal to British soldiers who have served over five years with the British Army.

In proper Minden tradition, the soldiers of the MFR celebrated in the evening with a party. The theme was Caribbean, and the party lasted well into the early hours.



To The Rescue

After a one-week course of intensive training, six military members of the UN gained their ticket to become professional lifeguards.

The course syllabus covered water skills (which included the rescuing of people, coping with spinal injuries and communication with the public), basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, swimming pool theory and an assessment test.

The lifeguard course took place at Ayios Nicolaos swimming pool (Dhekelia) between 5-12 July with nine students attend – three soldiers from 16 Regt RA (UNFICYP Roulement Regiment), three from UNPA MFR and three dependants. The instructor for the course was Amanda Smith from Ayios Nicolaos.

The students found the course work quite difficult, especially the theory, but they all agreed that it was fun to do and certainly worthwhile. All the students passed the assessment test and gained their Royal Life Saver's Society (RSSS) qualification which is valid for two years. The newly trained lifeguards are deployed to the UNPA and LPH swimming pools.



Top Row: Amanda Smith (Ayios Nicolaos instructor), LBdr. Andrew Blackmore (MFR), Cpl. Paul Sainsbury (LPH), Gnr. Daniel Nagre (MFR), Gnr. Thomas Keys (MFR), and SSgt. Steve Spiers (Assessor)
Bottom Row: Sgt. Stephen Dougherty (LPH), LCpl. Carl Downham (LPH), Jayne Bowen (Ayios Nicolaos), Hannah Smith (Ayios Nicolaos) and Kathryn McNamara (Ayios Nicolaos)

Medal Parade in Sector 1

An impressive ceremony took place on 22 August at San Martín Camp, Skouriotissa, when the soldiers of Sector 1 were presented with their UN medal. The Argentinian flag, along with those of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, flew proudly in the afternoon breeze next to the UN flag, adding a unique colour to the setting.

The ceremony started at 6.30 pm in the presence of the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, the Israel-based Argentinian Ambassador, Mr. Gregorio Dupont, and the Argentinian Military Attaché, Col. Roberto Daniel Parra, as well as civilian and military members of UNFICYP with their family and friends. Following a proficient display of marching skills, the traditional Argentinian dance that the children of Sector 1 personnel performed was the “icing on the cake”.



However the main attraction of this parade, and one which made this occasion very special, was when the Force Commander stood to attention and was presented with his UN medal by the Chief of Mission. Members of Sector 1 were honoured that the Force Commander had chosen to receive his medal along with the soldiers of ATF 19.



Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang receiving his UN medal

The reception that followed at the pool area was indeed beyond expectation. Soft music from the ARGCON band, excellent food, cheerful companions and friends mingling – what more could anyone expect? And yet there was another lovely and moving surprise – the fireworks display that followed, along with the song “Don’t Cry For Me, Argentina”!



Guests look on as the Force Commander gives permission for the parade to commence

The Force Commander Visits Sector 1

The Force Commander, accompanied by officers from HQ UNFICYP, recently made his official inspection of Sector 1. Starting on 19 June in Kokkina at OPs 02 and 03, the inspection continued along all observation posts belonging to Alfa Coy with a stop at OP 15 for lunch. That afternoon, the party continued on to OPs 17 and 18, where a helicopter was waiting to take the party back to Kokkina.

Then on 26 June, the second phase of the inspection began at OP 42, the UNCIVPOL station in Dhenia and Camp Brown. The day started off with a hearty breakfast. The party then visited all OPs of Bravo Coy and UNCIVPOL in the Linou area, ending up at San Martín Camp, Skouriotissa.

Given the short time that has elapsed since the present Sector 1 have taken over, the Force Commander congratulated all members on their excellent standards and high morale.



The Force Commander inspecting Sector 1 OPs

Living in "La Escuelita"



The soldiers living in “La Escuelita”

Next to the house of the Commanding Officer of ARGCON/Sector 1 is a small building, which is currently occupied by 13 soldiers (including myself). This building has been nicknamed “la escuela”, which means in English “the small school”.

Those of us living in “la escuela” come from a total of six different South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Although we all speak the same language, we come from very different backgrounds and cultures.

Nonetheless, this doesn’t prevent us from being friends. Not only do we work together during the week, but we also go out for drinks, dancing and chicas (girls!) on weekends – or whenever we are not on duty!

Sharing our life together can be fun, but at times it can be a little hectic, especially at dawn when we are all trying to get up and get ready on time. Actually, this is the funniest part of the whole day, as each of us has his own way of doing things: some have the radio alarm set on local stations, others have traditional alarm clocks that drive you crazy with their constant ringing. Music of all countries and types fills the air, along with the teasing and funny comments.

Of course, this NEVER happens on Saturday morning because we are all “dead” after a Friday night out on the town!

The soldiers on duty at OP 18 carry out their duty by patrolling, observing and reporting on all incidents occurring in their area of responsibility. In their spare time, they practise weight lifting – something that they take very seriously, as can be seen by the size of their muscles.

However they have another duty of equal importance, one of controlling traffic within their AOR. This applies especially to vehicles travelling along the Lefka Road linking the north and south checkpoints within the Sector.

Those members of UNFICYP who are unfamiliar with this area should be aware that this road can only take **one vehicle at a time**. This means that when someone is travelling in one direction, all others are obliged to wait at least 20 minutes before the coast is clear.

There are occasions when drivers tend to get impatient and blame the soldiers of OP 18 for not reaching their destination on time. So, the moral of this article is: leave a little earlier if you want to get from A to B on time. There is no other option.

And we wouldn’t want to upset the weight lifters of OP 18, would we?

Kindly Wait – Say The Weight Lifters



Celebrations in Sector 1

During the month of July, Sector 1 had two important days to celebrate.

The first was Argentina’s Independence Day, 9 July. It started with a huge breakfast celebration, followed by a sports tournament which included volleyball and swimming competitions, a tug-of-war and a 5-km marathon in the area of Skouriotissa. The events lasted until 8.00 pm, when Alfa Coy was declared the overall winner.

The second was the Military Engineer’s Day, celebrated on 31 July. It was particularly special for the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti, himself a military engineer, who joined in with the many other Sector 1 engineers presently serving with



The engineers of Sector 1

Argentine Task Force 19.

Sector 1 would like to thank all those who participated in these events for contributing towards the success of both fiestas!

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part V

Kition - Ancestor to Larnaca

When you stand on the streets of present-day Larnaca, you could well be standing over ruins that date back to 1300 BC. Known as Kition, this is the destination for the fifth in the Blue Beret's series examining the cultural heritage of Cyprus.

The modern layer of buildings in Larnaca has made excavations a challenge for archaeologists, but the areas that have been investigated provide much insight into the city's rich past as a prosperous industrial and commercial centre.

The archaeological site we know as Kition was established by indigenous Cypriots, reconstructed by Achaean Greek settlers, occupied by the Phoenicians for many centuries, dominated at various times by the Assyrians, Egyptians and Persians, liberated by Alexander the Great, abolished as a kingdom by the Egyptian Pharaoh in 312 BC, mentioned in the Bible as "Kittim" – and lives on today as the place we call Larnaca.

The entire city of Kition (Citium in Latin) lies beneath the modern city of Larnaca on the south-east coast of Cyprus. In its earliest form, in the 13th century BC, Kition was fortified by a mud-brick wall and reinforced by large rectangular towers. It boasted two temples and copper workshops, and archaeologists have found rich grave goods that include some imported artefacts, indicating an excellent state of trade relations with neighbouring countries.

This prosperity may have attracted Mycenaean merchants to Kition, who were followed by Achaean settlers fleeing the Dorian invasion of Greece at about the end of the 13th century BC.

The arrival of the Achaeans brought a new language and culture to Kition, and invigorated the city's industrial and commercial activity. Thanks to its port and its copper smelting workshops (where copper ores from nearby mines were brought by sea to be refined and exported in ingot form), Kition developed into an important trade centre.

The Achaeans also made significant changes to the city's architecture. They replaced the city wall with a stronger one of ashlar (finely cut stone) blocks, and changed the town plan. Although an earthquake destroyed the city around 1075 BC, it was rebuilt, lasting to about 1000 BC before being abandoned for a nearby site that was closer to the sea. This move may have been due to the silting over of the navigable channel linking the old site to the sea, or perhaps to the influence of the arriving Phoenicians. They took over the city in the middle of the 9th century BC, and Kition prospered enormously under their control. In fact, the Phoenicians gave the name "Kition" to the site (the names of the earlier Bronze Age and Achaean settlements aren't known).

Most of the information available about the city after 312 BC derives from literary sources and inscriptions. According to them, Kition possessed important architectural monuments, and the Kitians excelled in both the arts and the sciences. Zeno (335/3-236 BC), the founder of the stoic school of philosophy, was born here. (Stoicism was to enjoy much popularity, teaching that people could accept, but not necessarily control, what happened in their lives.)

Even after subsequent earthquakes diminished the city's significance, it remained an important site until the Middle Ages, when its harbour silted up and settlement again moved to another nearby site.

What You'll See Today

Because archaeologists were restricted to digging in non-built-up areas of Larnaca, the excavations so far cover a few specific areas. Area I is in Kimon Street; Area II is off Pampulas Street; Area III is in Chrysopolitissa Street and Area IV (which has been refilled) is in Kilkis Street. The probable port of Phoenician Kition lies inland from the present-day marina, in the backyard of the Larnaca District Archaeological Museum (which contains many finds from Kition).

Only Area II is open to the public, its entrance almost hidden behind houses. This site comprised the religious and industrial quarters of the city, with four temples, two holy precincts and three copper-smelting workshops. A fifth temple, from the 13th century BC, is only slightly visible.

Although the Area II complex constitutes one of the most spectacular architectural monuments of Cyprus from the late Bronze Age (which lasted until approximately 1000 BC), it can be a challenge to see the various buildings from the outlines of the low walls that remain. (The best view is from the raised wooden path that bisects the site, and a compass will help you to orient the various buildings: keep in mind that the custodian's hut is in the northwest corner of the site.) Extending 50 metres from east to west, the site's plan and execution demonstrate great technical skill in its architecture.

The proximity between the religious buildings and the copper-smelting workshops suggests the worshipping of a copper deity. This is supported by the finding of two 12th century BC bronze statuettes on ingot bases: the Enkomi Ingot God, and the Bromford "Astarte".

The Temples

All five temples were built on an east-west axis, and had a rectangular courtyard with the longer sides on the same east-west axis. The courtyards were divided into an open-air central aisle and two covered side porticos along the longer sides. Temples 1, 2, 3 and 5 had an adytum (the innermost part of a temple) at the western end of the courtyard, while Temple 4 had the adytum at the eastern end.

Temple 1

Built by the Achaeans, Temple 1 was the most magnificent of all. It had two monumental entrances to the courtyard. The adytum consisted of three small rooms, each with its own entrance from the courtyard. A walled corridor along the inside of the south wall was probably used for religious processions. Still visible on the outer façade of the south wall are very crude graffiti of various ships.

This shrine was reconstructed on the same foundations by the Phoenicians in the 9th century BC, this time as a huge and impressive temple of Astarte (the Phoenician equivalent of Aphrodite). The two porticos were supported on four rows of seven pillars, of which only the bases remain. The temple burned down in 800 BC, and was rebuilt with two rows of six pillars each. Benches along the inside of the north and south walls were built for the depositing of offerings.

Temple 2

Originally built in the 13th century BC, Temple 2 had a courtyard divided by two rows of three columns, of which only the rectangular bases remain. A hearth altar was located at the head of the aisle. This temple was rebuilt with ashlar blocks by the Achaeans, who retained only the northern portico. A southern entrance was added onto the street side in the south.

Temple 4

Only the stone foundations (some of which were built out of anchor stones) remain of this Achaean temple. Two stone column bases can be found in the courtyard. The adytum comprises two small rooms, where many important finds were revealed – including ivory items such as a large plaque of the Egyptian god Bes, and a pipe for smoking opium. Some of the finds bear inscriptions in the as-yet-undeciphered Cypro-Minoan script. Following the earthquake, an altar was built in the centre of the courtyard.

Temple 5

Only the foundation walls of Temple 5 remain, dating to about 1200 BC. Its courtyard, with an altar, is divided by two rows of four stone-column bases. The entrance was in the south.

Temenos A

This sacred enclosure contained a rectangular altar of ashlar blocks to its west. At the base of the altar, there is a limestone block carved in the shape of consecration horns that are reminiscent of Mycenaean symbols. A low, round, cement altar nearby was probably used for animal sacrifices, since ashes and carbonised (burnt) bones were found on it.

Temenos B

This contains two stone capitals with stepped profiles and two column bases.

Copper Smelting Workshops

Three adjoining workshops are located west of Temenos A and north of the western half of Temple 1. They were large, unroofed, rectangular workshops that were designed so that the poisonous copper-smelting fumes could escape. For religious reasons, the workshops communicated with Temple 1 and Temenos A.

Kition

Crude graffiti of ships

Area II of Kition facing south-east



MEDEVAC Exercise in UNPA

By Capt. Enzo "Dolca" Bressano

The HQ UNFICYP Medical Centre helipad was a buzz of activity on 14 August when MEDEVAC training took place. The whole operation was a combination of efforts by UN Flight, the Medical Centre, Policy & Planning SO2, the Air Safety Officer and the Mobile Force Reserve.

The training was divided into two parts. The first was basically theoretical and consisted of demonstrating to the nurses how to signal to the pilots in order to land the helicopter safely onto a helipad, as well as how to approach the helicopter, open and close the doors and manoeuvre stretchers inside.

The second was the practical, and consisted of the pilot's familiarisation with the Medical Centre's helipad. The marshallers were shown how to guide the helicopter down with clear concise signals, and the nurses were shown how to handle the stretchers with a casualty (the casualties had to train as well!).

Then the exercise itself began. A MEDEVAC Air Task Request was received by the JOC. A flight was immediately ordered, the choppers took off, the ambulance delivered the casualties to the helipad and the nurses transferred the patients to the helicopter. It seems easy – but it definitely isn't!

Every time new personnel arrive in UNFICYP, it is vital that such training takes place. It is also advisable that exercises take place periodically. The aim of this exercise was successfully completed.

I would like to personally thank the staff who worked so well with me in this exercise for their seriousness and professionalism, and for their determination to carry out the task to the best of their ability. As a pilot with UN Flight, I feel proud to work with a group of people such as this.

Foxtrot's New Face

Some years ago, the suggestion was put forward to renovate and upgrade Foxtrot Gate (UN OP 207). Foxtrot Gate is the entrance to the UNPA from Nicosia. The idea was shelved, due to lack of funds. However, with the start of the talks between the two leaders on the island last December, the ideas surfaced again due to the number of traffic delays which occurred during these discussion periods. Then, as a matter of security following the tragic events in the USA on 11 September, the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, requested that plans be finalized and implemented.

The Chief Engineer's office took charge of the planning and supervision of the operation, which included renovating the hut and expanding the entrance to two lanes with one exit. The Force Engineer and his Slovakian engineering team took over the excavating and preparation of the area. In addition, new facilities were added to the hut overlooking Foxtrot Gate, i.e. male and female toilets, a small but modern kitchen, and overnight accommodation for duty personnel.

The new look Foxtrot Gate with its three lanes can be seen right.



MFR Crowd Control and Integration

By LBdr. Wayne Chant

From June to December 2002, 32 (Minden) Battery Royal Artillery will contribute to the multi-national UNFICYP MFR (Mobile Force Reserve), based at the UNPA (United Nations Protected Area) just outside Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus.

Our mission is to be prepared to conduct tasks as directed by the Force Commander, in order to provide the UNFICYP reserve.

Our main role is being able to deploy anywhere within the UN buffer zone at a moment's notice. One of our major tasks is crowd control, which we frequently practise within the UNPA.

As an integrated force, we work side by side with Hungarian, Argentinian and Slovakian soldiers. This can create a few difficulties, the main one being the language. The problem has been overcome by most of the other nations having a reasonably good grasp of English, although to start with, there were many hand signals and a lot of sentences finishing in "my friend".

Back in our home countries, we all have their own way of operating. One example is during crowd control training where, if a shield is grabbed or taken by rioters, a British soldier is taught to release the shield to prevent him from being pulled into the crowd. However, the majority of the other nationals (some of whom are a great deal bigger and stronger) tend to put up a fight and try to hold onto the shield at all costs. If they do lose it, it has been known for some of the bigger more proud guys to go in to the crowd and try and retrieve it – a habit which has now been disposed of!



MFR practise crowd control techniques

For the first month on the island, the majority of our training was taken up with the crowd control. This culminated in the Force Commander's inspection at the beginning of July. During this inspection, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang was very impressed with the effort and determination that all nations showed during the mock rural and urban demonstrations that were carried out by UNFICYP soldiers.

But it's not all work and no play for the MFR, since we do have some excellent facilities which include the International Bar and the Dolphin swimming pool. This is where we get to know our fellow soldiers in a social environment, and a lot of fun has been had watching others try to communicate with a lot of hand-waving and funny faces being pulled.

Working with the other nationals of the MFR is easier than we had expected. Keen, hard working and enjoying what we do, we work well together and get on with the job in hand, despite the odd language barrier.

Marathasa Dam Opened

Photo and article by SSgt. George Cséfalvay

The contents of a soldier's water bottle can save his life. The situation is the same when it comes to dealing with Cyprus's familiar water shortage problem.

Good cooperation between representatives from the village of Lefka in the north, the SCAT team from Sector 1, UNCIVPOL at Linou Station and the water department in the south has resulted in the opening of the sluice gate of the Lefka-Setrakhos (Marathasa) Dam.

On 14 July, following negotiations between the two communities on the island which were co-ordinated by UNFICYP, water flowed from the dam in the south to the northern village of Lefka for the thirsty crops in that area.

The dam goes back to 1962, when it was built to serve villages in the area during times of drought. Once the dam is drained, water department officials plan to have the base cleaned thoroughly.





Hungarian soldiers preparing to depart

Rummaging Policemen

The following lists are published for guidance and are by no means exhaustive. Everyone should be guided by common sense and check with their superiors if any doubt exists. The FMPU's Special Investigation Section is always available for consultation, should the need arise.

Items not normally allowed in the individual's hold or cabin luggage

1. Ordnance and explosives (including war souvenirs and fragments).
2. Any item which would constitute a health hazard if its packaging is broken (combustibles, corrosives, bio-hazards, etc).
3. Unpackaged electrical batteries or other potential spark producing items.
4. Controlled drugs (heroin, cannabis, LSD, amphetamines, etc).
5. Offensive weapons, including knives over 7.5 cm in length, flick knives, lock knives, butterfly knives, knuckledusters, CS Gas, martial arts equipment.
6. Material of an indecent nature (including publications, images, films, CD/DVD, computer software, etc).
7. Unauthorised or unprocessed animals (whether alive or not), certain foodstuffs (dairy, meat and poultry products, fruit, etc), plants and unpasteurised soil/rocks.
8. "Pirated" goods (CD/DVD, video cassettes, software, etc).
9. Stolen or improperly acquired goods (archaeological artefacts, UNFICYP maps, stationery, stores, etc).

Items not allowed in hand luggage/cabin baggage

1. Toy or replica weapons (plastic or metal).
2. Sharp objects (household cutlery, knives, nail files, paper knives, razor blades, tools, darts, scissors, hypodermic syringes, corkscrews, knitting needles, etc).
3. Weapons/potential weapons of any kind (baseball bats, pool cues, catapults, etc).

Note: It may be possible to ship these items in hold luggage, but it will not be possible to do so in cabin luggage.

The FMPU looks forward to further reducing its customer base on the next rotation checks, and wishes bon voyage to all personnel returning to their home countries in autumn 2002.

Since October 2001 FMPU has been tasked to conduct a luggage check (Operation RUMMAGE) for each contingent rotation. These checks are conducted to ensure the safety of rotating UNFICYP personnel, to assist their smooth passage through Larnaca International Airport and to deter or detect the carriage of inappropriate cargo.

So, what procedures can the rotating unit expect? First, usually one to two days in advance of the rotation, a 100% hand search of all items of hold luggage and unit cargo is carried out, normally at the Unit HQ. The owner/person responsible for each item will be required to attend.

Checked luggage is sealed for transportation to Larnaca International Airport, where it is subjected to an X-Ray examination prior to being loaded. The focus of this hold luggage check is to detect dangerous air cargo, items prohibited at the receiving country, items whose export from Cyprus is not allowed and suspicious quantities of dutiable goods. On detection, these goods may be confiscated (or notified to customs authorities at the receiving country), and the person responsible required to account for same.

The next stage of the check is conducted on the day of the rotation at Larnaca International Airport. On arrival, passengers can expect to pass through the normal security checks, with a physical search of hand luggage where indicated by the X-Ray scan. In addition to the categories mentioned above, the priority for this phase of the search will be to detect dangerous items not allowed in the aircraft cabin, all of which will be confiscated.

What can the soldier due for rotation do to avoid misunderstandings, confiscations of inappropriate cargo and consequent delays?



The 20 August is the national holiday of the Hungarian Republic, the day of St. István, first King of Hungary who founded the Christian state in the year 1,000. Hungarian soldiers serving with UNFICYP celebrated the event in Camp St. István this year in the presence

Annual Ayia Marina Church Service

Work within the buffer zone is generally quite varied, from daily routine to demo control. One of the more satisfying duties within Sector 4 is the annual Ayia Marina church service. The ceremony, organised and co-ordinated by Sector 4, took place this year on 17 July.

From early morning, the soldiers of Sector 4 were operationally and administratively ready to go. It is normal practice for worshippers to be escorted in and out of the buffer zone at pre-arranged times, and on this day, activities started at 6.00 am, ending at 12.00 noon. Some 925 worshippers attended the service. More than 40 members of 2 Coy were mainly responsible for the activities, with assistance from HQ Sector 4 which provided cars and drivers. Sector 4's Civil Affairs Team played a very important role in the overall coordination.

V4 Visit

On 26 July, representatives from Visegrad Four – the states of Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic – visited Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta.

These four states are currently working towards a joint entry into the European Union, and cooperate in the cultural, economical and political fields. They also work together in the military field. The main reason for this informal visit was to learn something about the living and working conditions concerning two of the V4 nations serving together in Sector 4.

V4 was represented by H.E. Tomasz Lis (Poland), H.E. Vera Jerabkova (the Czech Republic), H.E. Dusan Rozbora (Slovakia) and H.E. Laszlo Nikicser (Hungary).

CO Sector 4, Lt. Col Stefan Faix, briefed the dignitaries on the main tasks and responsibilities

Celebrating St. Istvan's Day in Sector 4

of the Hungarian Ambassador to Cyprus, H.E. László Nikicser, and Lt. Col Stefan Faix, CO Sector 4. In his speech, Commanding Officer of the Hungarian Contingent, Lt. Col Zoltán Horváth, reminded his listeners of the soldiers back home who could not share in the national celebration because they were hard at work, building dikes and laying sandbags to protect the land from flooding.

In Hungary, the Minister of Defence, Mr. Ferenc Juhász, speaking at the traditional swearing-in ceremony of military officers in front of the Parliament building, commended the soldiers for standing their ground, noting one could always rely on their assistance wherever the country faces disaster.



Worshippers entering the church of Ayia Marina

The assistance and support of Sector 4 is always appreciated by the believers, and is a humanitarian effort towards normalization of activities in the buffer zone.



in the sector, following which they were shown the living and working facilities in Camp General Stefanik.

Later, the dignitaries accepted the CO's invitation to dinner and spent an agreeable evening in the officers' club.

The post of Chief Operations Officer was recently vacated by Lt. Col. Helmut Brandtner, who returned from UNFICYP to the Ministry of Defence in Vienna.

In his place comes Lt. Col. Hans Tomaschitz. Having left college in 1976, Lt. Col. Tomaschitz attended the Military Academy and completed several training courses including the infantry officers' and the brigade staff courses.

His previous appointments include platoon leader, infantry coy commander, HQ Coy commander, battalion commander, Chief JOC/MOD and G3 Military District in Austria.

Born in 1955, Lt. Col. Tomaschitz has served in UNFICYP (1989), in Albania and Kosovo (1999), and in KFOR (1999-2000).

His hobbies include sports and music.

Lt. Col. Tomaschitz is married to Christa, and they have one daughter, Therese.

New COO in UNFICYP



From the left: Lt. Col. Brandtner, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang and Lt. Col. Tomaschitz

Biathlon in Sector 1

On 6 July, members of Sector 1 took part in a biathlon, organised by the Lefka Municipality at Karavostasi. The whole function was sponsored by Carlsberg Beer in the north.

It was a strenuous event with an 800-metre swimming com-

petition in open sea, followed by a 5-kilometre marathon.

Lt. Espanol, WOII Lafuente, Sgt. Calderon and Emiliano Curti (who is the son of Sector 1's 2i/c) won medals during the event. All can be seen in the photo to the right.



Caption Competition

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

23 September 2002



- . After the pedicure....
- . He's put his foot in it – again.
- . This little piggy went to market.
- . Footnote
- . Flat out
- . Toe-hold



From Bay to Shining Bay

40 swimmers started, 40 finished, medals were won and there were no shark attacks. Definitely a successful event.

The swimmers came from Sector 1, Sector 2 and UNCIVPOL, mixing and matching to produce 10 teams for this one-mile Bay-to-Bay Swim in Episkopi. Maj Graeme ("competitive dad") Ratcliffe was keen to ensure that the UN had a winning chance, so he persuaded Sgt Nye ("half man half fish") Konig of UNCIVPOL to train the less streamlined competitors.

Despite his early retirement, Nye began to enjoy the power and the BRITCON element were soon to suffer. Either the Aussie one cannot count, or he was blatantly lying when he said "only two more laps" when it was 10! Despite his attempts to break us, enthusiasm was growing and a visit to San Martín camp for a combined S1/S2 training session and a practice sea swim the following week rounded off the training package.

Finally, the event loomed and the teams arrived at Lemmings Beach for their first look at the course. Due to some skin-of-the-teeth timing, the look was very quick and after a mad dash and a short safety brief we were off. With over 250 people racing the start was chaotic, arms and legs

everywhere and no way of avoiding several mouthfuls of choke-inducing sea water. However, the swimmers were soon spread out and everyone settled into a rhythm of sorts.

It is fair to say that everyone was pleased to finish as, despite the calm seas, the markers did seem a long way away. (Some would like it pointed out that the inflatable giraffe that overtook them was wearing flippers!). However, for most it was a real achievement and one which they would like to repeat – but not just yet.

Notable results were Sgt. Konig finishing 10th overall and the UN A team consisting of Sgt. Konig and LCpl. Alford of Sector 2, Lt. Espanol and Lt. Calvorey of Sector 1 coming third overall.



The Force Commander (centre) with the Bay-to-Bay participants

Swimming at Ortona

By Cpl. Andrew Johnstone

There is no doubt that at this time of year, troop locations require a method of cooling down and relaxing when off duty.

As a result, Ortona Troop decided it was time to construct a swimming pool. A relatively simple task you would think? But as Ortona Troop soon discovered, it proved more difficult than anticipated with a burgeoning demand being made by the local community at the start of another hot and dry summer. However, through perseverance and a personal contribution from all members of the troop, Ortona have succeeded in providing for a four-metre pool.

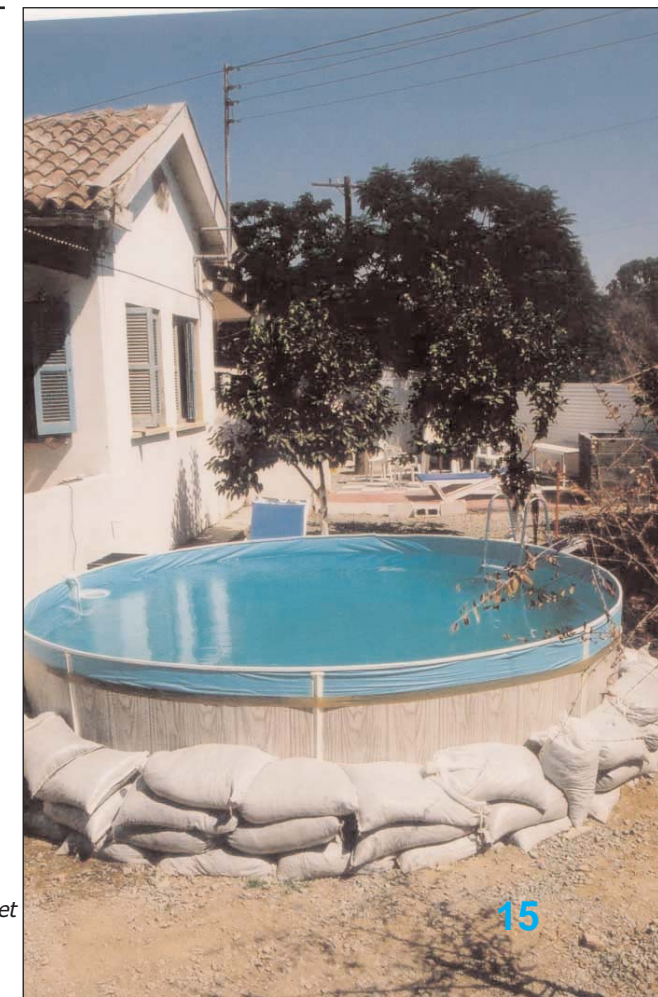
Morale soared, soldiers snorkelled, the pool collapsed! 8,000 litres of chlorinated water flooded Ortona's little garden while the surrounding mosquito population descended to maximise upon the

troop's misfortune. Fortunately, the supplier proved very helpful and within 24 hours, another pool was built without any additional cost.

This final pool, opened by Commander Sector 2 East, has proved more robust and the inaugural barbeque was a resounding success. The troop are in universal agreement that the small cost to each individual has bolstered an already popular Operational Welfare Package.

Due to the nature of the Operation within S2E, it is not always possible to use the swimming pool at UNPA or LPH and such self-help schemes provide a cheap alternative.

If other troop locations would like details concerning domestic pools, then contact Capt. C Good, Troop Commander Ortona Troop, S2E.





AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT

OBLT IZAY JOHANN
OBWM DECOMBE PAUL
KPL ISAK AUGUST



UNFICYP

GEFALLEN AM 14.8.1974
IM DIENSTE DES FRIEDENS

Remembering Goshi