

The Blue Beret

August 2004



Remembering
Baghdad



THE BLUE BERET

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A Call for Intergenerational Solidarity

A world where almost half the population is under 25 years of age celebrated International Youth Day on 12 August. Nice to be carefree and young – but think of this. By mid-century, those aged 60 and above will have tripled to nearly 1.9 billion (and that includes all now serving as UNFICYP peacekeepers!).

This is why the Secretary-General's message for the day underscored the theme of "Youth in an Intergenerational Society". He points out that if we are to prepare for the future, we should promote solidarity between generations today. That also means investing now in our youth to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to develop and to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead. Society is increasingly reliant for its future stability on the support dividend resulting from its investments in youth education and development. In 20 years time, the youth of today will be the "middle generation" responsible for supporting growing numbers of dependents – not just children, but parents as well. True, in most societies, older persons continue to contribute actively, yet the dependence between generations will grow ever larger. This is why the ageing of our world is an issue for young people, too.

This is why the General Assembly, for its part, will address the question next year, as part of its ten-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (adopted in 1995). As the SG says in his message: "let us celebrate generational interdependence, and recognize that all members of society have contributions to make and needs to fulfil. Intergenerational solidarity means they can do it together. Let us draw on the talents and wisdom of all people, and build societies for all ages."

Editorial

Contents

Editorial/Contents	2
Visit of Argentinian Minister of Defence/ Sector 1 Assists Kokkina Visitors	3
UN Family Commemorates the Baghdad Dead/ ..	4/5
Remembering Those who Died for Peace	5
United Nations Mission in Burundi – ONUB	6/7
Pyla's Safety Valve at Work	8/9
Taking Fire Seriously	10/11
New Faces	12
Orienteering – A Family Event for All Ages	13
City Troop go Rowing Mad/ Summertime Hygiene Measures	14
Rent-a-bikers Win Triathlon/ Gentlemanly Go-Karting	15

Front Cover: Remembering Baghdad

Back Cover: Goshi Memorial

Visit of Argentinian Minister of Defence

For the second year running, the Argentinian Minister of Defence, Mr Juan José Pampuro, paid a visit to the ARGCON.

Arriving yet again on 28 July, the Minister came to maintain personal contact with the troops deployed on the island, for an update of the situation, and to unveil a plaque commemorating 10 years of Argentinian peacekeeping in Cyprus.

Accompanied by the CO ARGCON, Lt. Col. Gustavo Motta, Minister Pampuro was received at the HQ by the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, where he was briefed about the current political situation on the island, especially developments since the 24 April referenda.



Minister Pampuro unveiling the plaque

Then, after visiting UN Flight, he headed to Camp San Martín, ARGCON HQ.

After a military parade with personnel from the three companies of Sector 1, plus the Argentinian personnel from the FMPU and MFR, the Defence Minister proceeded to the unveiling of the plaque.

That same day, the formation marked Peru's Independence Day. The two Peruvian soldiers currently serving in Sector 1 were saluted by the Minister.

Mr. Pampuro was then briefed by Lt. Col. Motta who explained the various activities carried out during the past year. After this, he visited UN OP 22, where he was received by the Paraguayan troops posted there, and where he observed the new installations being constructed in the area.

Minister Pampuro concluded his visit by attending a lunch with members of the ARGCON and the six other countries serving with Sector 1.



Minister Pampuro on a buffer zone tour in Sector 1

It continued busy for Sector 1 when on 8 August, the 40th anniversary of the Erenkoy Martyrs was marked.

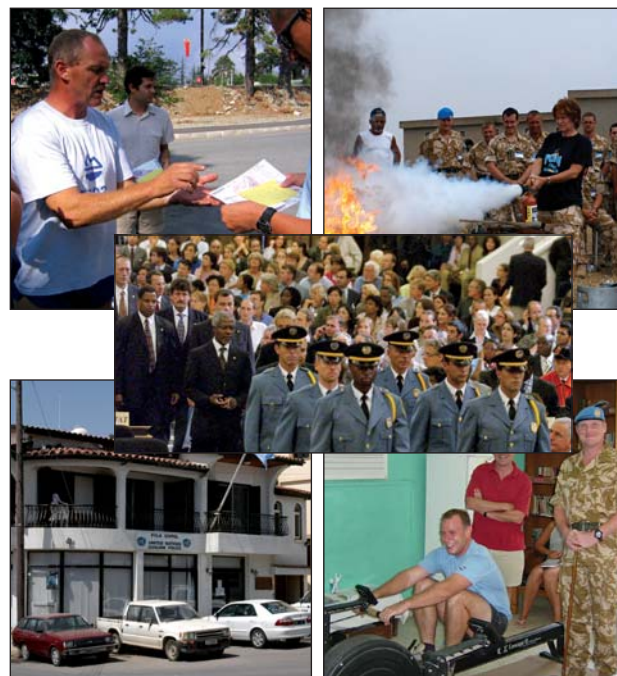
Assisted by UNCIVPOL and the FMPU, Sector 1 personnel escorted 33 buses, each carrying approximately 25 passengers, through their area of responsibility from the checkpoint at Gunebakan (Ammadies) to the Kokkina East gate, which had been especially opened for the occasion.

The first group of participants departed at 0600 hours. The buses were organised into three convoys which left at regular intervals, escorted by UNFICYP. Greek Cypriot media covered the arrival and departure of the convoys.

Following the ceremony, the Turkish Cypriots paid a visit to the nearby mosque. Then at 1240 hours, all 33 buses headed back to the north via the Gunebakan checkpoint.

Much to the credit of Sector 1, the operation was completed successfully and without incident.

Sector 1 Assists Kokkina Visitors



"We will long feel the pain...." – UN Family Commemorates the Baghdad Dead



Secretary-General Kofi Annan escorted by security officers at the memorial ceremony in Geneva

Led by the Secretary-General, UN staff gathered on 19 August in Geneva, New York and in Amman, Jordan, for simultaneous observances commemorating our 22 colleagues killed in the bombing of the UN's Baghdad headquarters a year previously.

In Geneva, the SG told hundreds of UN staff and some 80 survivors and family members at an hour-long ceremony that "we will long feel the pain, but our sense of mission is intact". Rula Al-Farra, whose Jordanian sister Reham was among UN staff killed, read a message from all families: "We say your sacrifice shall not be forgotten. In this era of blind terror, where innocent people pay a price every day, we shall not yield. We ask the Secretary-General not to turn the tragic page of the (UN headquarters at) Canal Hotel too soon".

In Baghdad, the UN staff memorial ceremony was held in the US-guarded Green Zone compound, where a US military chaplain, an imam and a priest read prayers. In NY, the UN Staff Union staged a silent march in front of the headquarters building during the ceremony "to demonstrate that security reform and other measures are needed without delay".

Here at UNFICYP, mission staff and UN family colleagues from UNDP/UNOPS, UNHCR, UNV as well as



Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his wife Nane at the Geneva ceremony

representatives from the UNMOVIC Larnaca office attended a simple ceremony presided over by Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz, who read a short message from the SG. Padre Jozef Paluba gave the prayer and a piper, Gnr. Dean Wallace, played the haunting lament, "Dark Island".

After a minute's silence, the attendance adjourned to view a special DPI/ NY video tribute to the Baghdad victims. The last sentences of that tribute video's narration bear repeating:

"The UN is the sum of its parts. On 19 August 2003, that value – that sum – was greatly diminished. Our friends and loved ones are indispensable. Our constant challenge in the years to come will be to live with the ever-present pain of their absence; to remember their inspiration, selflessness and friendship; and, through our actions, never to forget. May they rest in peace. And may we, like them, always find the strength to refuse to accept things as they are."

SG's address

In his Geneva address, the SG said:

"What happened in Baghdad a year ago today was a personal tragedy – above all for the families and loved ones of the 22 people who died and those who suffered severe injuries, be they physical, psychological or emotional. It was also a personal tragedy for each and every one of us, because of the dear friends and close colleagues we lost, and because of the direct attack against the blue flag and we who have devoted our lives to the United Nations.

"All of us have struggled, and are still struggling, to absorb that shock. I know that the past year has done little to relieve your heartbreak. Despite active efforts on our part, and despite the ongoing investigation by the United States, we are still waiting for answers. However long it takes, I pray that the perpetrators are held to account, and do not get away with this cold-blooded murder.

"To the families and loved ones of those who died; to the survivors; and to those injured on that awful day, let me say this: I would like to thank you for joining us today, especially those who travelled long distances to be with us today. I am deeply moved by your presence. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of you. I can only imagine the strength and courage you have had to muster to survive the past year. Yet I know that your ordeal continues, and that some of you may not recover fully. I and the United Nations family will stand by you, in your grief and in your suffering.

"And let me now speak to the larger United Nations family. We are no strangers to violence and intimidation. Over the years, we have mourned the loss of hundreds of colleagues and friends. Indeed, since the Baghdad attack, another 17 UN peacekeepers and civilian staff have lost their lives to hostile acts in the line of duty and in the service of peace. Their sacrifice, too, should be recognized today.

"But the attack on the Canal Hotel was a really unique blow for us as an organization. It brought us face to face with danger in a new and more intimidating form – the danger that we, servants of the United Nations, will no longer be victims simply by virtue of the times and places in which we are called upon to serve, but may have become

in ourselves one of the main targets of political violence.

"We are now wrestling with wrenching, fundamental questions:

"How do we improve security without unduly impeding our work and effectiveness? Our work is people. We must be able to get to them, and they must be able to get to us.

"How do we balance this need for openness with security in today's world?

"How do we operate in places like Iraq and some parts of Afghanistan, where many people want and expect us to help – and this includes the Security Council – but some are determined to block our work at any price?

"Are we witnessing a paradigm shift, or a tragic phase that will pass?

"We have been working hard to find answers, and to correct our own systemic weaknesses. Much has been done, but much more is still to be done. I assure you that I will always insist on the most stringent precautions for our staff, and do my utmost to keep any such tragedy from again befalling our precious family.

"I know that the past year has been a difficult one for each and every one of us. For me, the past year has been not only difficult, but has been deeply introspective. Earlier, we had to live through a war, a war that I genuinely thought could have been avoided. Then I lost 22 wonderful, talented and generous friends and colleagues whom I had sent to Iraq to help deal with the aftermath of



The UN flag on display in Geneva was retrieved from the Baghdad bomb site

that war, to help bring stability and peace – the greatest yearning of the average Iraqi. Their mission was cut short when they were brutally and viciously taken away from us.

"Their faces are constantly in my mind's eye. Precious memories mix with painful ones – none more painful than those conversa-

tions we had just before they left for Baghdad and during their stay there. You can imagine my agony, discouragement and deep sense of loss – not only as a friend, but also as the individual who is ultimately responsible for the welfare and security of United Nations staff. I don't think anyone could ever fully know the impact these tragic events had on me – except perhaps my wife, Nane. They touched me to the core.

"Let me conclude by sharing something from my culture. We Akans believe that death does not separate us from good family members. Rather, their spirit is not only with us constantly, but so alive that we feel their presence and can even talk to them from time to time. That is why we seek their help and guidance on important occasions – in victory and in defeat, in happiness and in sorrow.

"We will long feel the pain of the trauma we have all been through. But our belief in the cause of peace is undiminished, our sense of mission is intact, and our work goes on. And every day we work to further the cause of peace, we feel beside us those we have loved and lost, and we pay tribute to the cherished memory of those who perished a year ago."



The piper at UNFICYP's ceremony

Remembering Those Who Died for Peace

By MSgt. Guido Abl

The Force Commander, Maj. Gen. H.J. Figoli, the Austrian Contingent Commander Lt. Col. Hans Tomaschitz, National Contingent Commanders, Sector Commanders, Commanders UNCIVPOL, Defence Attachés of the United States and Bulgaria, the Military Adviser of Germany, assembled at a deserted memorial between yesterday and today to remember sad happenings almost forgotten.

The Izay Patrol, consisting of four Austrians, was attacked by the Turkish air force in the vicinity of the small village of Goshi. They tried to prevent an attack by NG Forces on the village, where several Turkish Cypriot soldiers were holding their positions. Three of the patrol died in this air attack only two days before implementation of the cease-fire arrangements.

Thirty years ago, these three Austrian soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. They gave their lives for peace so that others might live – an act that deserves to be remembered. It is our commitment to honour them and the families from whom they were taken.

The Goshi commemoration was helped by the outstanding support of Sector 4 personnel, the

Argentinian Band of Sector 1 which played a moving Last Post, and Padre Bob Halshaw, who conducted the remembrance service.

Also present was Mr. Vassos Spyrou, whose father was among those killed in the Goshi attack.



United Nations Mission in Burundi – ONUB

By Lt. Col. Chris Kilmister

It all happened very quickly. On the Wednesday night, the Chief of Staff rang me to ask if I was interested in going to Burundi to help set up the new mission there.

I jumped at the chance to see another UN mission in another continent. I had to rush home to do two things: the first was to tell my wife that the COS had ordered me to go to Africa! And the second thing was to find out exactly where Burundi was!! Thursday night – and confirmation that I was off to Africa early the next day.

For those of you who, like me, are a bit hazy on the exact location of Burundi, it is a landlocked country immediately south of Rwanda, east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and west of Tanzania.

The main towns are the capital, Bujumbura, on the north eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika and Gitega located in the centre of the country. The country was a Belgian colony until 1 July 1962 when it was granted independence. The official languages are French and Kirundi.

The population of approximately 6.5 million is broken down into 85% Hutu, 14% Tutsi and 1% Pygmy. There are about 5,000 Europeans and Asians. The main religions are Christianity 67%, indigenous beliefs 23% and Muslim 10%.



The estimates are that up to 250,000 Burundians have been killed in widespread ethnic violence between Hutu and Tutsi since 1993, and hundreds of thousands have been internally displaced or have become refugees. Burundian troops seeking to secure their border intervened in the DRC in 1998. More recently, there have been periodic upsurges in rebel activity in Burundi. In December 2002 the Arusha Agreement was signed, a cease-fire agreement between three of the four main Hutu rebel groups. The fourth group still refuses to sign.

The African Union sent a force known as the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) and consisting of troops from Republic of South Africa (RSA), Mozambique and Ethiopia. This was to help ensure the ceasefire was maintained. On 1 June 2004, UN Resolution 1545 was passed, authorising a UN operation in Burundi for an initial mandate period of six months. The military strength of the mission will be 5,650 including 125 staff officers and 200 military observers. There will be 125 UNCIVPOL and the appropriate level of substantive and local civilian staff.

The military force is to consist of infantry battalions of approximately 800+ each from the Republic of South Africa, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Nepal; engineers from Pakistan (250); aviation from Pakistan (at least four helicopters); a maritime unit from Republic of South Africa; and level 2 (field hospitals) from Pakistan and Jordan.

The only forces in place when I arrived were those from AMIB. While I was there, the Pakistan engineers arrived to begin setting up battalion sites and other installations.

The main challenges to the set-up organisation were initially finding

somewhere to work – whether in the same room or the same building. To begin with, there were 16 logisticians/engineers working in a small room with only seven desks and computers. After 10 days, the logistics staff moved to a part of an old gold processing factory. Unfortunately, all the gold had long since disappeared. The building was an open warehouse type structure but at least there could be more coordination between the Force and us. What was noticeable was the upbeat attitude and high morale of the small group of international, national and military staff. Everyone was determined to find a solution to the myriad of problems they faced.

To start with, a key challenge was to organise the reception of the remainder of the force, both personnel and equipment. This was not so easy. The nearest port was Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and the air-bridge

recess to find sites for battalion defensive positions and field hospitals. This gave me the chance to see some of the countryside to the north and east of the capital. It really is beautiful with banana, coffee and tea plantations covering the hills and mountains that rise up from the lakeshore.



The last major task I was given in my short 3½ weeks with ONUB was to design an area where the Joint Operations Centre and a Joint Logistics Centre (JLOC) could work side-by-side within the same building. The JLOC was a new concept to me but an excellent idea. The centre was commanded by the Deputy CISS (UN international staff member) and had Log Plans, Log Ops, Joint Movement Control Cell, UNOE and COE unit and Air operations all represented. All requests for logistic support from the battalions and units were to be channelled through this centre. This would give the JLOC excellent visibility over the entire logistic area and provide a more coordinated and efficient product.

There was still much to do to get all the procedures and infrastructure up and running when I had to leave to return to Cyprus. There will be a lot of work to be done to win over the confidence of the various rebel groups and in particular to get the final rebel group (FNL) to accept the ceasefire and start the process of disarming, demobilisation and reintegration. After all they have been through over the last decade, the people and the country deserve the opportunity.



provided by either UN contractors or TCCs was very expensive. It was frustrating that the TCCs did not tell the staff at ONUB that a certain flight was to arrive on a certain day. We muddled through. The ongoing transfer of the AMIB to UN rules, regulations and operating procedures seemed to proceed relatively smoothly. The AMIB were better off with some aspects of this transfer to the UN but lost out on other aspects.

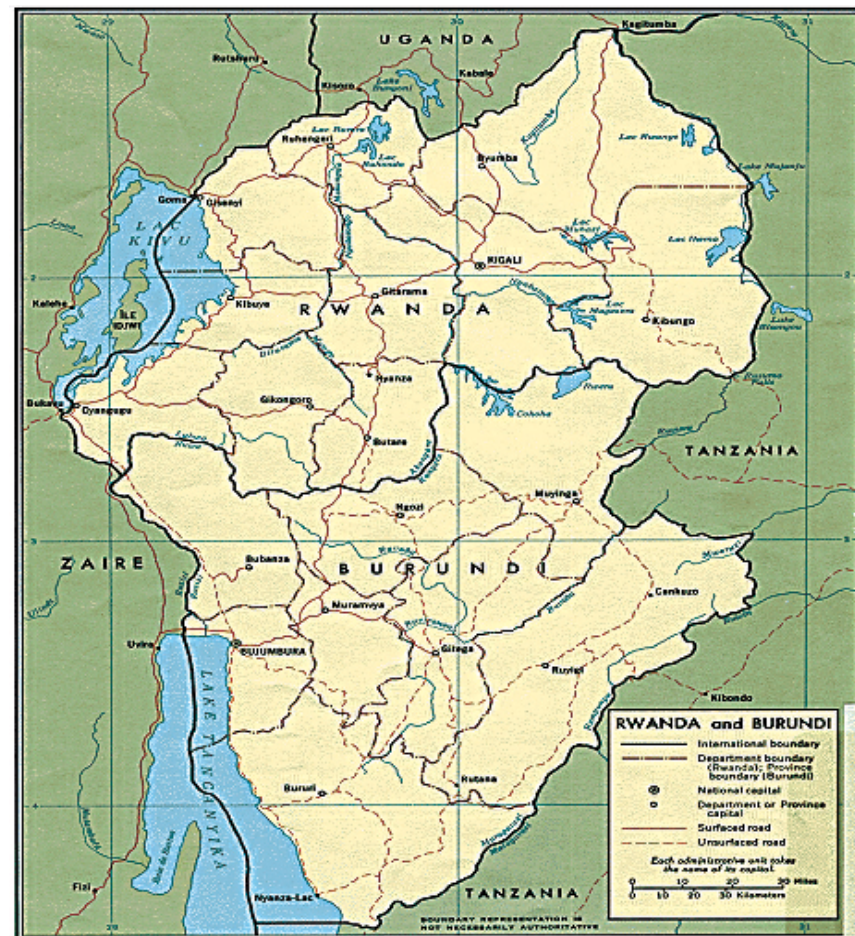
I was lucky enough to be involved in a number of

SG condemns massacre at Gatumba camp

On the night of 13 August 2004, the Gatumba refugee camp in Burundi was attacked and more than 160 innocent civilians, mostly women and children, were brutally murdered, and over 100 others injured.

The Secretary-General expressed shock and outrage at the massacre. He called for an immediate investigation so that those responsible could be identified, apprehended and brought to justice. He urged the Transitional Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi and the Government of Rwanda to exercise restraint and to take the steps necessary to prevent a further deterioration of the situation in the region. He also called on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to urgently establish a joint verification mechanism, with the participation of Uganda and Burundi, to help curb the actions of armed groups operating in the border areas.

The SG offered all support to these governments to help them to restore peace and stability and to put an end to the tensions that have caused so much suffering to innocent people in the region. He extended his deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible tragedy at the Gatumba refugee camp.





Pyla's Safety Valve at Work

By Supt. Eamon Lynch

Pyla is the only bicommunal village in the buffer zone. In fact, it is the only truly bicommunal village on the island because of its population – two thirds Greek Cypriots and a third Turkish Cypriots. Both communities have lived in harmony during the turbulent periods of the island's history.

This does not mean, however, that differences or disagreements do not crop up at times. UNCIVPOL's presence, mediation and intervention have been beneficial helping both communities to maintain their unique relationship.

In recent times, this harmony was strained due to events in the aftermath of the Greek Cypriot celebrations of Greece's historic Euro 2004 football win. Firecrackers and shots in Pyla Square celebrated the win. Firecrackers set off directly outside the house frightened Ahmet Sakalli (the Turkish Cypriot mukhtar)'s grandchildren, and his son asked Greek Cypriots celebrating



The FC with Turkish Cypriot mukhtar Ahmet Sakalli

in the coffee shop to control those setting off the firecrackers. A dispute arose with Mr. Christakis Antoniou (the Greek Cypriot mukhtar) who was present. Events took a sinister turn later that night. A shotgun blast was put through the window of Mr. Sakalli's office. This led to a breakdown in the strongest and most productive relationship in Pyla – that between the two mukhtars.

Into this breach strode Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, UNFICYP Force Commander, who hosted a round table conference in Pyla. He skillfully provided a forum through which both mukhtars could reach out to each other and his charming mixture of scene setting, chairing, prompts and compliments were the exact recipe required. Mr. Antoniou generously assured Mr. Sakalli that he had always seen him as a brother and wanted that to continue, that the incidents that had happened to Mr. Sakalli were deeply regrettable and that the priority now was to calm things down in Pyla and to resume their

former relationship. Mr Sakalli responded magnanimously and at the end of the meeting, both mukhtars left the UNCIVPOL station with their arms around each other's shoulder. UN peacekeeping at its most effective, thanks to General Figoli! A week later, he hosted a lunch for the mukhtars at Camp Pyla and beamed at what he found – a community restored to calm, and mukhtars engaging with each other, politically and personally.

UNFICYP in Pyla acts as an important and essential safety valve. A complaint made to the UN of a flag flying in breach of an agreement is responded to immediately and the flag is taken down – not always immediately! The key aspect is that a forum of complaint, mediation and resolution is provided and that grievances are not permitted to mount, to fester and to strengthen. General Figoli's expertise and success at relieving the pressure in Pyla is a perfect example of the importance of the UN mission in Cyprus.



UNCIVPOL station in Pyla



In front of the castle

The castle in Pyla was built for military purposes by the Venetians in the 14th century. The UNOPS/EU-funded Partnership for the Future programme undertook to restore the castle. UNFICYP facilitated agreement between the two village leaders for the project.

With an outlay of some £80,000, eight Pyla workers from both communities and technical experts have been involved in the restoration work since spring. The work is expected to finish in September.



The FC greeting the Greek Cypriot mukhtar, Christakis Antoniou

With the hot, dry, Cyprus summer, there is always the constant, hazardous threat of fire breaking out island-wide. The buffer zone is no exception. Throughout the year, the UNFICYP Engineering Section/Fire Headquarters carries out regular fire-fighting courses to combat these perils and educate mission members on how to deal with what could be life-threatening situations.

These courses run at four different levels. **Level 1 (basic)** is for prevention. On this course, attendees are instructed how to increase fire safety in their area of responsibility by checking fire equipment including extinguishers, fire blankets, hoses, emergency water supplies, protective clothing, fire/smoke alarms, etc. Fire hazards are also covered, such as electrical connections, the lighting of cigarettes, hazardous materials in the area (e.g. fuel, dry grass, chemicals, etc). In addition, attendees are instructed how to respond to fire-related emergencies. This includes situations such as possible bomb blasts/threats, nuclear/biological/chemical threats, earthquakes, air/ground attacks, vehicle/air crashes, etc. This is a one-day course and is offered to all UNFICYP staff on arrival.

Level 2 is for fire fighting and deals with fire-related emergencies, such as the saving of life and property and extinguishing the fire. This is a three-day course offered to designated military personnel but can be carried out for civilians on special request. Training includes saving life and property by using the resources available. The course covers fire fighting and rescue equipment, e.g. the different types of fire extinguishers, fire/crash suits, breathing apparatus, fire blankets, hydraulic jacks and cutters, etc.

Level 3 is an NCO course to educate attendees to a level where they themselves can carry out training, exercises and drills for personnel in their area of responsibility. They also receive training on basic crowd control related to fires. This is also a three-day course which is completed by selected members of Sectors 1, 2 and 4, the MFR, UN Flight, UNCIVPOL, FMPU and the Engineering Section. It helps spread the word to as many unit personnel as possible on how to deal with fire and fire-related emergencies.

Level 4 or "Higher Level Fire NCO's Course" is a three-day theoretical course for selected MFR personnel. Training is carried out on how investigations are made into fire and fire-related incidents, followed by observations and recommendations. In this way, mistakes are discussed and analyzed to make room for improvements. Attendees are also familiarized with the UNFICYP Fire Standing Orders. *[The UNFICYP Fire Standing Orders can be found on the L Drive, Library, UNFICYP Fire Standing Orders. All staff are recommended to familiarize themselves with this document.]*

As readers will understand, a lot of time and effort is put into instruction of fire prevention, safety and fire-fighting. Senior Fire Officer Paul Nadeem Qadir, who runs these courses, is a familiar face around the UNPA.

During 2003, Engineering Section/Fire HQ received 125 fire calls – 64 fire calls were tackled, 28 calls were for small fires with no action needed and 33 were fire alarm system calls. A total of 1,017 UN personnel received fire training at different levels. With summer leaving and winter lying ahead, let us not get complacent. There's a lot of dry kindling out there just waiting for the right spark!

Please remember – all fires can be prevented.
Any enquiries relating to fire training or safety should be directed to him via the Engineering Section/Fire HQ, Extension, 4453/4
The UNFICYP emergency number is 22-86-4777

Taking Fire Seriously



Level 1: Air crash safety briefing



Level 2: Domestic fire training



Level 3: Air crash and fuel fires



Level 4: Investigating/commanding a fire incident

Fire Rages in Sector 1



On 29 June, a fire started at 1430 hours to the north of San Martín Camp. Sector 1 personnel were informed and immediately went to the scene. The fire slowly continued to spread with the help of northerly winds in the direction of Sector 1's OPT 20. Two hours later, it had almost reached OPT 20 and three fire trucks from the south were in position, ready to take action.

When the fire was only 50 m from the buffer zone, Sector 1 established contact with the authorities in the north, requesting permission to allow the Greek Cypriot helicopters to attack the fire. An affirmative response was received minutes later, but by then the fire had already entered the buffer zone traveling south.

The UNFICYP fire crew, with help from fire fighters both north and south, brought the situation under control by 2100 hours. Overall, the fire covered an area of 4,000 x 2,000 m. Thankfully, there was no injury to UN personnel or to personnel from either side, nor was property damaged.



Basic Precautions Against Buffer Zone Grass/Forest Fires

The biggest fire hazard facing UNFICYP at this time of the year is dry grass and vegetation. Your precautions and attention can prevent fires in the long-term. Following some simple rules can help prevent a fire which can rapidly get out of control and threaten life and property.

Don't.....

- throw away lit cigarettes/matches;
- smoke in offices and accommodation buildings – use designated areas;
- use plastic bins in your smoking areas, even if ashtrays are provided;
- throw away glass materials such as empty bottles or broken mirrors;
- park your car near any grass or vegetation – the hot engine of your vehicle can cause a disaster;
- leave your vehicle engine running – always switch it off;
- have a barbecue anywhere other than in designated areas;
- leave your barbecue unattended – when finished, use water or sand/soil to damp down the fire;
- do any confidential material burning. For burning of sensitive material, contact the UNFICYP Fire HQ, UNPA, Ext 4453/4;
- use water if electricity poles are involved in the fire, especially near UNFICYP OPs – use fire beaters or green tree branches;
- start your patrol without having at least four fire beaters in your patrol vehicle. Also check your 500/700 grams dry powder fire extinguisher and medical kit;
- risk your life to fight a fire. Your life comes first. If it is safe, then take all safety measures, otherwise wait for the fire crew;
- fight buffer zone grass/forest fires alone – always attack the fire in groups;
- fight buffer zone grass fires up- or down-wind – always from a cross-wind direction;
- forget when fighting fires that mines are present in the buffer zone;
- spread buffer zone grass/forest fires with your boots – always wash them as you leave the area;
- forget the fire/emergency telephone numbers.

UNPA – 22 864777
Call signs 9-India, 9-X-ray/9-Zulu on channel 14
Sector 1 – 22 864764/5
Sector 2 – 22 864760/1
Sector 4 – 22 864757/8
South – 112
North – 199

New Faces

The Blue Beret caught up with Maj. Neil Wright, new Military Assistant to FC Figoli, on his fourth workday at UNFICYP:

BB: What are your initial observations about Cyprus?
NW: It's a place that we are very much looking forward to living in. I moved here with my wife. I've been in Iraq for the last six months and I got married several days before I went to Iraq with my battalion.

BB: In what capacity were you working in Iraq?

NW: I was training the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps, working under operational control of a Danish battalion to the north of Basra. It was quite challenging because it was learning on the job. I was responsible for instructing a battalion of 896 men. I had a team working for me who assisted in the training of the companies and I trained the battalion commander and his staff at his headquarters. It was a very rewarding opportunity to work with the Iraqis and start off with effectively nothing, and at the end of six months have an internal security battalion trained and ready for operations.

BB: What were you doing before you left to work in Iraq?

NW: I was Infantry Company Commander for two years in the British Army Air Assault Brigade working as part of the training staff. Before that, I was involved in training in England. Eight years ago I worked as the ADC to a general in Scotland. So I've had some experience in working in this kind of setup before. My previous military deployments on peacekeeping duties include Kosovo.

BB: How is your Spanish?

NW: Not good but it's going to get better. So I can communicate bilingually with my boss. (Maj. Wright will be working with FC Figoli, a national of Uruguay).



New SO2 or a British Indiana Jones?

The new SO2 HQ Britcon is Maj. Mark Grieveson. This much-travelled Englishman has a great interest in history and an appreciation for antiquities that was triggered by a childhood visit to Cairo when he was 10 years old. Born in Tanzania, he also lived in Kenya and the Seychelles while growing up.

During his 25 years service, Maj. Grieveson has been previously stationed in Germany, Belize, and Australia. His experience with jungle training in Central American rainforests, scuba diving in the Red Sea, and daredevil skiing in the Rockies and the Pyrenees raises the question: does every Brit have a bit of James Bond in him? There's definitely something about him that speaks strongly of his pride in queen and country.

As a member of the Royal Logistic Corps, Maj. Grieveson has also put in time back home. Before joining UNFICYP, he was at the UK Defence Logistic Organisation. As the new SO2 Britcon, Maj. Grieveson's responsibilities include providing support to the COS on Britcon matters and HQ British Forces in Cyprus (Akrotiri). Although Maj. Grieveson already has international experience, he considers UNFICYP will be a good opportunity to work with a variety of nationalities at once.



Skis with gun

Finnish Lt. Col. Hongisto Jouko is the new UNFICYP Liaison Officer assigned to work with the Turkish Forces. In Finland, he served as the Senior Staff Officer and Chief of Sector Ops Division in the army's West Command HQ. From 1989 to 1990, he served with the UN in the Middle East as a military observer for the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO).

"I've been in the military for 25 years and I find that it's always challenging because of all the different kinds of work that there is to do. For me, the army is good because I have always been athletic and in the military, you have to keep fit in order to train the reservists or

conscripts. Peacekeeping is similar, except that you do it in multinational surroundings", explained the Lt. Col.

Lt. Col. Jouko keeps fit by participating in the biathlon – a competition that combines skiing and shooting with a small rifle. He is the Team Leader of the Finnish Defence Forces Biathlon and Skiing Team, as well as a Referee for the International Biathlon Union. In Cyprus, the Lt. Col. intends to stay fit by jogging and running.



New in transport

Our latest civilian recruit is Gary Mitchell. Until 17 July, Gary had been working with UNFICYP as an individual contract driver. Last year he worked with UNOHCI in Larnaca before it became UNAMI and moved to Amman.

Gary is originally from Birmingham, England, his wife is from the Phillipines, and he has an 11-year-old son from a previous marriage. Needless to say, Mr. Mitchell feels at home working with the UN.

"All my life, whatever job I've done, I've put 110% into it. This is the one I've enjoyed the most so far. I'm

always happy. That's my nature," says Gary. His positive outlook is probably due to the fact that he keeps fit. "I don't drink or smoke," explains Gary who competes in the Nicosia Grand Prix Body Building Competition. So far he has taken second and third places. Maybe next April he will come in first.



Orienteering – A Family Event for All Ages

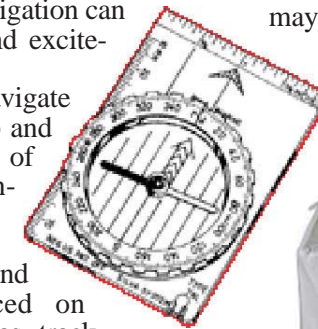
By Diana Bridger

Orienteering is not lost but is alive and well in Cyprus. As you will see from the photo of those who took part in a recent event in Troodos, orienteering is not just for fit roughly-toughy military blokes but can be enjoyed by the whole family as well. It can be for all ages and degrees of fitness, and this competitive form of land navigation can provide the suspense and excitement of a treasure hunt.

The object is to navigate yourself by using a map and compass round a course of checkpoints called controls. The course is marked on a map provided by the organisers, and the controls are placed on definite features such as track junctions, fence corners or a distinctive boulder. The site is marked with an orange and white three-dimensional control kite which has a punch attached. You use this punch to mark a control card you carry to show you have been there, (though most top events nowadays feature hi-tech computer chip swipe cards that can be downloaded at the finish giving split times, etc).

The organisers will also provide you with a set of control descriptions,

sometimes inappropriately called "clues". The skill in orienteering is choosing the best route between controls – while beginners' courses may not offer choice, as you progress you will learn to decide between options – perhaps



The Silva type compass



The control kite

over a hill or a longer route which goes around it.

The accurate "tortoise" is usually quicker than the "hare" who darts off and makes mistakes in navigation.



Tony explains the map



Orienteering group at Troodos

Orienteering claims its roots in 19th century Scandinavia and was primarily a military event. It was not until 1919 that the modern version as a competitive sport began, and in the early 1930s, the sport received a technical boost with the invention of a new compass, more precise and faster to use. It is a modern version of this SILVA type compass that is used today. Orienteering challenges both the mind and body, however, the competitor's ability to think under pressure and make wise route choice decisions is often more important than speed or endurance.

In Cyprus, both I, working from my UNPA base, and Maj. Tony Farrow, the Chairman of Cyprus Services Orienteering who is based in Dhekelia Garrison, try to provide a range of courses to cater for all participants. Shorter courses for beginners and younger people follow "handrail features". Those designed to appeal to fit and navigationally experienced competitors use more contour features. Thus a special environment is created, in that the same event caters for all ages, for social and recreational participants as well as the more competitive. This means families can all go to the same event. If you want, you can do the course in pairs or in a small group. Another attraction is that every course is different.

To start orienteering, all you need is a sense of adventure, a pair of trainers or outdoor shoes and outdoor clothes. A compass is not a compulsory piece of kit when starting out on the shorter courses! Thanks to Maj. Farrow, most of the orienteering areas in Cyprus (including the UNPA) have now been updated and re-mapped ready for the new season. So look out for the posters and contact either me at UNCIVPOL HQ, tel 22864756, or Maj. Tony Farrow in HQ Dhekelia Garrison, tel 24744807 for more details.

City Troop Go Rowing Mad

By LBdr. C. Hunneybell

In a moment of madness, City Troop from Sector 2 East decided that it would be a good idea to hold a charity event to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund and the "Make a Wish" Foundation. The Army Benevolent Fund provides assistance to serving and former members of the British Army, including their dependants. The Make a Wish Foundation funds visits and excursions for terminally ill children to a variety of locations throughout the world.

Bdr. Saint and LBdr. Hunneybell were tasked with formulating the fund-raiser and they eventually decided on a sponsored row, covering the distance from Nicosia to Rome (1,960 km) within a seven-day period. It was calculated that to reach this target, each individual rower had to cover a minimum set distance of 11.6

kph stag. On paper, the troop had 25 personnel to continually maintain this rowing schedule. However, annual leave and adventure training courses restricted these numbers, which meant that several rowers had to complete extra shifts throughout the day.

The event started at 1200 hours on 7 August with Troop Commander Lt. Davis taking the maiden leg and establishing a flying start, completing 14.25 km in the first hour. The troop as a whole threw themselves into the endeavour. It proved to be an extremely gruelling task, especially when during the long night shifts, rowers were required to take on multiple shifts. The troop was aided by a handful of guest rowers from the Sector, who came down to Maple House to row a single stint and record some respectable distances.

Ultimate respect must be awarded to the troop however, who maintained a fearsome pace over the week and had surpassed the initial target by the final Friday night. The decision to continue until the midday deadline on the following day was taken, in part,



Lt. P. Davis at the "oars", under the watchful eyes of Lt. Col. R.E. Nugee and WO1 RSM A. Hough

because of one sponsor's pledge to pay a pound for each additional km completed.

The event culminated with the 1100-1200 shift on 14 August, completed by Bdr. Saint. CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. R.E. Nugee MBE RA, and Lt. Col. (Retd) G. Fryatt MBE, Chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund Cyprus, were there for the finish and observed Bdr. Saint record an admirable distance of 14.2 km, cementing his position as the rower with the greatest accumulative distance. He beat the Troop Commander by some 4 km.

The overall distance attained by the troop was established at 2,206 km, raising a total of C£1,223. Lt. Col. Nugee commended the troop on their efforts and on a superb result, as he reached for his cheque-book to pay for the additional 243 km completed.

The funds raised will be equally split between the two charities and will be presented to the HQs of both institutions in London on the Regiment's return to the UK.

Summertime Hygiene Measures

By Maj Kiss, MD

In the hot, humid summer season, the following measures are recommended to all UNFICYP personnel in office and camp accommodation:

- Careful handwashing after each visit to the toilet.
- Careful handwashing before a meal, drink or smoke.
- All food areas to be closed to animals.
- Checks to be made to ensure all food areas are insect-free.
- All fruit and vegetables to be carefully washed before being eaten or served.
- All hygienic rules to be followed: no unauthorised personnel to be allowed in the camp kitchen areas.
- All WCs/bath/shower areas to be cleaned daily.
- All cat and dog owners to comply with UNFICYP SOPs, with attention paid to the reporting of any stray animals.
- Any kind of abdominal problem to be reported to Medical Centres immediately.

Rent-a-bikers win Triathlon

By Capt. J. Southall

The UNFICYP triathlon took place on 30 July. It began at 0615 hours to avoid problems with the intense heat of a Cypriot midsummer's day.

The MFR team were confident of success. They had prepared well and, thanks to a good idea from the OC MFR, were employing a secret weapon in the form of six hired racing bikes. These sleek machines were vastly superior to the rather clunky mountain bikes used by the other teams, and though a few complaints were voiced, they evaporated when it was pointed out that the rules stated "bicycle", not "mountain bike". If nobody else was bright enough to take advantage, then that was their hard luck!!!

Training for an event such as the triathlon is essential since each of the three sports involved make great demands on different muscle groups. If the body is unprepared, the resulting "jelly leg" feeling can be extremely unpleasant and make a huge impact upon the performance of the individual. The MFR squad trained under the direction of WO2 Jason Bingley, and team selection was based on a time trial.

The MFR team, made up of Lt. Diego Cordoba (Argentina), Bdr. Don "Old but trying" Campbell (Scotland), Gnr. Tom "Whippet" Grant (Scotland), Pte. Jesus Madrid and Sgt. Nestor Maciel de Avila (both Argentina) and MCpl. Kormos (Slovakia), tried their best in the pool, but would never be mistaken for fish. This meant that they started the cycling leg in only a reasonable position. Gnr. Grant, the quickest member of



Those "clunky" mountain bikes!

the MFR, employed a somewhat unique swimming stroke (a combination of front crawl, doggy paddle and the infrequently seen "slow drown" stroke) which put paid to his time, despite frankly astonishing performances on the bike and during the run.

However, those racing bikes and all that training paid off. By the time 10 km had been completed, the MFR held positions 1 to 6 and there was clear air between them and their nearest rivals.

There was never much doubt about the run. The gap was too large (despite the presence of a few "racing snakes" from the other teams), and the MFR team won the competition by some 20 clear minutes from the guys from Sector 2. No individual medals were awarded.

Gentlemanly Go-Karting

By Capt. J. Southall

Located in north Nicosia, "Zet International Karting" is a beautifully designed miniature version of a real racing track. It has a central control tower, capable of providing each kart accurate lap times, sponsorship hoardings all over the place, gravel run-off areas (well used by certain people, LBdr. Stobbs), twin-engined karts and excellent bar and café facilities.

1 Platoon had been planning to enjoy an afternoon of gentlemanly racing for some time, and our Bernie Ecclestone, Bdr. Don Campbell, had been frustrated on many occasions by tasks that cropped up out of the blue to foil our plans.

Eventually, we managed to free the time to get there. The platoon piled aboard the bus, OC MFR came along too and we all set off for what was sure to be a memorable afternoon. A 45-minute drive through the sweltering heat saw us arrive to bolted gates and a kart track that was definitely "Closed on Mondays". The platoon were, of course, extremely forgiving of Bdr. Campbell. There was absolutely no mickey-taking and no need for him to pull his t-shirt over his head to hide the shame.

A new time was arranged. Bdr. Campbell phoned ahead to make sure that the next day was not Pancake Tuesday (take a bow, Sgt. Col Taylor) and that the track would be open; racing commenced 24 hours later.

It was a truly brilliant afternoon, with the author achieving the fastest time of the day in qualification



On the right track!

(1.09:94) before being given "kart with caravan" for the final. Sgt. Klic of Slovakia went on to take the honours. Special mention must go to Pte. "Chukky" Caklos of Slovakia for completing less than one complete lap in two whole six-lap qualification sessions – he seemed to have trouble with difficult concepts like "braking", "corners" and "steering". LBdr. Stobbs managed to hit the same gravel trap every lap for 12 laps. Bdr. Campbell did well to let frustration get the better of him, causing him to crash. A lot.

Goshi Memorial

