New Force Commander

Christmas in UNFICYP

A runway too far
At the beginning of this new millennium, UN personnel, and soldiers and police officers serving under the flag of other organisations, are still deployed in many troubled areas worldwide. They serve the peace as best they can, by observing opposing forces, patrolling areas of operations and reporting violations. They serve the peace by giving people hope, simply by being there and showing that somebody cares. And they serve the peace by performing their duties impartially.

Many have spent the festive season away from their families, up in their sentry box or manning a radio in a faraway operations centre. Although we wished everybody all the best at the beginning of this new millennium, the UNFICYP personnel, so particularly some of the officers, will have completed the training courses, which began on 15 November 1999 and will end towards the end of February 2000. Because of limited resources, training was not possible for all UNFICYP personnel, so participants were selected by taking into account the type of work they were concerned with as well as their expected length of service with the mission.

All participants were invited to fill out a questionnaire at the end of the course, and their comments have so far been very positive. Christopher Geislother, Claims Assistant, says, “It was a pretty intensive course, especially for those who had never worked before with databases. I found the course...”

Craig Taylor, Pte, Lati troop: “I intend to write to my girlfriend more often.”

Antña Naka, Capt, HQ JOC: “There’s not enough space to describe all the things I would like to fill.”

Paul Mair, MSG, HQ Ops: “To visit my sister in the USA for the first time.”

Natalia Epsilon, Pte, Sector 1: “I’ll prepare to join the Army Academy in 2001 to become an engineer officer.”

John Harman, Cpl, Yeniburg: “It goes in good health after my tour of duty.”

Paul Nadeem, Chief Fire Officer: “I’ve got no new year’s resolution.”

The Blue Beret
General de Vergara said the fact that the country’s population is made up of immigrants from all over the world gave Argentinians a natural advantage in peacekeeping. "You can find all nationalities without exception in Argentina," he said. "Spanish, Italians, Austrians, Greeks, Turks, Arabs, Russians, Jews, Ukrainians, English, Irish, French, all of them are in Argentina. You only have to walk through Sector One and read the names and you will see the truth of it. We could be the reason why Argentinians are so tolerant," he added. "If we were not so tolerant, how could we live together?"

De Vergara also acknowledged the debt he owed to his great-great-grandmother. He explained that his great-great-grandmother, who was Dutch, while his wrestling instructor when he was growing up was Argentine. "I went to Dhekelia as well. Unfortunately, a few days after we arrived and started the exercise, there was civil strife here in Cyprus and the exercise was called off. And we cadets from Sandhurst were detailed to man certain areas in the south."

He remembers it as an initial "small taste" of peacekeeping. "In February 1965, I was coming to a place that was, in its own time, almost the centre of the world, to help those who had been living in war for the people. Because the people here have their own problems, their own feelings, their own wounds. And when you want to see solutions at once, you have much more to share than to disagree."

The first thing I told myself when I arrived was that I was going to promote understanding, trying to mediate, and not to promote tolerance, trying to maintain a healthy working environment. The welfare of the troops under my command will be paramount," he stressed. "As Force Commander, I must say that the safety of my troops comes first. But we must all expect the highest military and UN standards in terms of discipline, professionalism, dedication to duty, efficiency, and commitment." 

Rana, a veteran of two previous UN peacekeeping stints with UNIFIL in Lebanon - has already, in the month that he has been in Cyprus, had the opportunity to assess the quality of his colleagues at UNFICYP headquarters. He has been impressed by their caliber.

"I believe in leading by example. I expect to spend a lot of time visiting the various sectors we have here, getting to know the commanders and getting to know the problems they face.

Interview by Noel Evdokou

"In life, nothing is eternal. So the fact that the Cyprus problem has lasted so long means a solution is coming," said Major General Evdokou.

May 1967 this order was given to the 1st Battalion of the UNFICYP Commander, Major General Victor Rana, and the mission was directed to maintain a cease-fire in the rest of the island. This was the mandate we have. At my level, I will make sure that it is being followed to the letter," he says. Rana, a veteran of two previous UN peacekeeping stints with UNIFIL in Lebanon - has already, in the month that he has been in Cyprus, had the opportunity to assess the quality of his colleagues at UNFICYP headquarters. He has been impressed by their caliber.

"I am very lucky to find a very good team here. The Chief of Mission is a thorough gentleman, an excellent peacekeeper and a very experienced hand who knows the ins and outs of the problem that exists here. He places himself above both sides and tries to promote understanding, trying to mediate, and not to promote tolerance, trying to maintain a healthy working environment. The welfare of the troops under my command will be paramount," he stressed. "As Force Commander, I must say that the safety of my troops comes first. But we must all expect the highest military and UN standards in terms of discipline, professionalism, dedication to duty, efficiency, and commitment." 

Also, I feel that in an international setting such as UNFICYP, it is important that we blend our individual national cultures together so that they blend into a cohesive multinational entity which once again is directed towards a common goal, which is the fulfilment of our mandate. I firmly believe it is up to all of us in the highest echelons of this mission to set the example and motivate those under us towards the achievement of this very important goal that we have. The different cultures represented within UNFICYP should be used as a plus point. We must be open and must accept the cultures of the other nationalities that are involved here. We've got to be open-minded and learn to live together in the spirit of the UN reality."

While his appointment at UNFICYP is Rana's first as a UN force commander, it is not the first time he's been in Cyprus, nor even his first experience of the political and military issues facing the island. "In fact, the first time I was here was in 1967," he says. "In those days, I was an officer cadet at the Cyprus School of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in the UK. So we came here on a military exercise. In those days, at the end of each year, we had a final exercise abroad, which was called 'Battle Camp'. So in 1967 I had the opportunity to come here with the rest of the cadets. This exercise took place in the south, in the British sovereign base area, mainly in Episkopi, although if I remember correctly, we went to Dhokela as well. Unfortunately, a few days after we arrived and started the exercise, there was civil strife here in Cyprus and the exercise was called off. And we cadets from Sandhurst were detailed to man certain areas in the south."

He remembers it as an initial "small taste" of peacekeeping. "I believe in leading by example. I expect to spend a lot of time visiting the various sectors we have here, getting to know the commanders and getting to know the problems they face."

Interview by Noel Evdokou
T he Staffordshire Regiment, now stationed in Trentham, has its origins from four Regiments of Foot: the 38th, 80th, 84th and 98th. The senior of these regiments, the 84th, was formed in 1705. In 1881, the regiments became linked to the county of Staffordshire. The 83rd and 80th became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Staffordshire South Staffordshire Regiment and the 84th and 98th the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Prince of Wales’s (North Staffordshire) Regiment. This title was revoked in The Three Staffordshire Regiments (The Prince of Wales’s) in 1920. In 1958, the present-day Staffordshire Regiment was formed.

Throughout its history, soldiers of the regiment, in their various guises, have served in every corner of the globe. During the First World War, Staffordshire raised 25 battalions which fought in all the major battles. In the Second World War, South Staffords formed part of the Chindit forces and were selected as air landing troops seeing action in both Sicily and Arnhem. The North Stafford’s served in India, Burma, were at Dunkirk and took part in the Anzio landings. In the post-war years, the regiment served in Germany, Egypt, Palestine, Korea, Northern Ireland and the Gulf. Most recently the regi- ment was the personnel to garrison Hong Kong before the handover in 1997, and completed a six-month tour of West Beirut in 1998.

In keeping with the British Army tradition of animal mascots, The Staffordshire Regiment has a Staffordshire Bull Terrier. The first, ‘Bosey’, was with the South Staffords as they arrived in Egypt to relieve General Gough’s Division of the 60th (West Riding) Division in 1882. He unfortunately jumped from the train taking the troops south from Cairo but, after the 103rd Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion form the Dutch contribution to Sector 2. The 100-man strong unit will be arriving shortly, and joining with the forces in the western part of the Sector 2 area of responsibility. Fulfilling UNFICYP’s mission for a period of six months is completely different from their unit has been in its rich history.

“The regiment whose traditions we carry, the 4th Regiment Hosen van Borel, most recently served in Bosnia (1997),” says Squadron Commander, Major Robert Verburgh. “But our history goes back to 1813, when the regiment was founded. Our history is filled with battle honours during various actions. We fought Napoleon at Quatre Brus and Waterloo, joined the 10 Day Battle (10 Daugre Veldtch) during the Belgian uprising, defended the Netherlands against the German invasion and went on missions to Java and Sumatra.

“When our battalion was formed, during the Berlin crisis in 1961, we also received our battalion crest. It is a brandmark which was used in Prussia at the time the German ‘Trahlen’ stud farm. Therefore, our battalion is also known as the ‘Trahlen’ Battalion.

“Although we will surely miss Soosterberg, where my unit is located, we feel warmly welcomed under the wings of the 1st Ba The Staffordshire Regiment.” assures Major Verburgh.

Napoleon at Quatre Brus and Waterloo, joined the 10 Day Battle (10 Daugre Veldtch) during the Belgian uprising, defended the Netherlands against the German invasion and went on missions to Java and Sumatra.

Among the four regi- mental days the Staffordshire Regi- ment celebrates, Ferozashah-day is the most important. It commemorates the actions of Her Majesty’s 80th Regiment of Foot (Staffordshire Volunteers) during the Second Sikh War in 1845 and in particular, those of Colour Sergeant Matthew Kirkland.

In 1845, the British Govern- ment followed a campaign in the Scinde region of India and annexed it. This caused consterna- tion amongst the Sikh leaders, and for the next two years, there was much unrest. On 11 December 1845, the Sikh Army moved into the Sutlej region, and two days later, Britain declared war. Ferozashah was the second of three major battles fought by the British during the Sutlej campaign. The first, Moodkee on 18 December 1844, had seen the British victorious and with the Sikh army now split in two, the high command were keen to attack and attack the Sikh forces, estimat- ed at some 35,000, hastily fortify- ing the town of Ferozashah.

At 1600 hrs on 21 December, the British commanders were in a position to attack the Sikh entrencheds, with the 80th of Foot formed up on the right of the British line. The left of the line advanced first and the Sikh Army’s accurate artillery fire took a heavy toll. With the line disrupted and troops entirely exhausted, the order to retire was given. The right flank was ordered to advance and through shot and shell and smoke so thick the soldiers could hardly see the man standing next to him, they eventually reached the Sikh entrencheds. Quickly they were amongst the guns and furious hand-to-hand combat ensued.

Beyond the artillery the Sikh infantry lined up. Under a fierce volley and charge from the British troops, their lines broke. Suddenly, a group led by a soldier carrying a large black flag counter-attacked.

With Captain Best and Captain Scheberiass killed during this attack, it fell to Colour Sergeant Kirkland and Corporal Brown, aided by other comrades, to defeat the enemy. Amidst gunfire, slashing swords and stabbing bayonets, Colour Sergeant Matthew Kirk- land seized the Black Standard. Colour Sergeant Kirkland, who was severely wounded later that day, was rewarded with promotion to the commissioned rank of Ensign.

The Black Standard now hangs in the Regimental Chapel at Lichfield Cathedral. Each year the Regiment celebrates Ferozashah Day, with the colour being ceremoniously handed into the care of the Warrant Officers’, Colour Sergeants’ and Corporal Mess. They are returned to the Officers’ Mess after the Ferozashah dinner in the evening.

Ferozashah, Day, a regimental celebration

Introduction: Lieutenant Colonel Chris Hughes

Lieutenant Colonel CGS Hughes, Commanding Offi- cier 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales’s), was commissioned into the regiment in 1984 whilst the bat- talion was garrisoned in Colchester. After completing two years as a rifle Platoon Commander, he took command of the Reconnaissance Platoon serving in Germany. In 1988, he took over as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, deploying to the Gulf on Op Grizzly in 1990 in this appointment. On returning from the conflict, he attended Division II of the Army Command and Staff Course before returning to regimental duties with 1 Stafford, command- ing his company in England and Northern Ireland.

In January 1995, he was posted as Chief of Staff HQ 19 Mechanised Brigade serving a tour with UNPROFOR in Bosnia. In August 1996, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and took over the post of Military Assistant to the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland. In December 1997, he took command of 1 Stafford. He has com- manded the Battalion in Trentham, Shropshire, on operations in West Beirut and in Kenya on Exercise Grand Prix.

Lieutenant Colonel Hughes is married with two children, managing his company in England and Northern Ireland.

The Stafford Regiment has the Queen’s Colour and the Regi- mental Colour. Originally painted into battle to rally troops, they are still a symbol of pride. Embroidered on the colours are 75 of the 157 bat- talion honours won since 1701, the latter being the Gulf War.


British-Dutch teamwork in S2W After the Ferozashah dinner, the Colours are returned to the Officers’ Mess

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**by Capt Andreas Vax**

In early December, 16 members of the Austrian Spittal/Drau garrison visited Sector 4 to entertain the peacekeepers with evenings of traditional military and Carinthian songs. Five times in total and at different locations, the choir laid down a performance. This way each member of Sector 4 was able to visit, listen, and be in touch with home.

Peacekeeping comrades from other nations were invited to attend a performance in the all ranks canten at the UNPA. The prospect of a promising choir, led by choirmaster WO2 Horst Zacchi, the availability of glühwein and apple strudel and a comforting fire attracted many colleagues who got value for money. Especially since this event was free!

**..atmosphere**

**by Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers**

Christmas is an occasion you should celebrate at home with your family. But when this is not possible, you go for second best. Your comrades will be your family, the padre will host a service and the chefs will prepare a Christmas meal almost as good as mother would do. Christmas crackers and regimental place-mats, to be kept as a memento, help to deliver the finishing touch.

That's exactly what happened at Ypenburg. To allow each soldier of Sector 2 West to attend one Christmas lunch, there was one on Christmas Day and another one on Boxing Day. The Dutch soldiers, together with their British colleagues from Irish Bridge, enjoyed the three-course lunch, which could be washed down with a glass of wine. But only one, because duty still calls.

**..in bed**

**by Capt Zsolt Hatos**

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, members of UNIFIL/Peacekeepers, Sector 4 spent much of their time away from the green line, a moment to think about peace and family. Those lucky enough to be present appreciated forces, peace, our leaders and our families.

Each nationality performed in its mother tongue. Some even arranged musicians to support the singers. A guitarist and a tambourine port the singers. A guitarist and a tambourine even multi and Carinthian songs. Five times in total and at different locations, the choir laid down a performance. This way each member of Sector 4 was able to visit, listen, and be in touch with home.

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**..carols, prayers and blessings**

Father Umberto Barato’s beautiful Church of the Holy Cross, just inside Paphos Gate, accommodated delegations of the Force contributing countries on the occasion of the annual UNFICYP Christmas Carol Service on 11 December.

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**..atmosphere**

At Sector 1, the chief proved their skills by cooking many delicious dishes which crowned the dinner table. Several soldiers had their families on the island, and those who were absent were in our hearts. But we consider ourselves part of one big family, the ARGCON family.

Of course, for the little - and not so little - midnight brought the arrival of Papá Noel (Santa Claus) with his bag full of gifts. It was really very moving to see the children around him asking for their presents. This made us feel quite at home.

**..in Sector 1**

UNICIPOL members from Dhiena and Linou Stations were our guests. It was our pleasure to have them with us to share this important festivity.

All Sector 1 members wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the civilians, police and military in UNFICYP and hope that this new millennium will bring you and your families prosperity and happiness.
A Runway too Far

This is what you call an engineer’s challenge

Message from the Secretary-General

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I usually write to all of you at this time of year, looking back upon the year grown old and the year to come, and celebrated in joy and hope, but also on the renewal of hope. It has seen humankind pull together in the face of destruction and start building the defences of our species against the great enemy of human suffering and unfulfilled potential, but also a new era of human rights and humanitarian intervention. It has seen the birth of our United Nations, and of many new nations. Its history will be written in blood and tears, but also in the ink of our United Nations Charter.

This year, the 54th in the life of our Organization, it has put to new tests. We have worked together to take on tasks that were no longer familiar to us. We have come together to morn losses that have become far too familiar to us, the deaths of beloved colleagues. We have seen in our work a reflection of the complexity and drama of the world at the end of the 20th century. And we have seen where we can do better in the future, where we might break new ground, and, not least, some old habits worth breaking.

For me, as Secretary-General, the turn of the century also provides an occasion to give thanks: to the founders of the United Nations who gave us a vision which still guides us today; to the pioneers and predecessors who turned that vision into an indisputable Organization; and to most of all, you, my dear colleagues and friends. Because what has never failed us in the life of our United Nations is the commitment of men and women like you. We remain undefeated because you have continued trying.

That is something in which you can take great pride, as we start work afresh in the new century. I want you to remember that. To you and to those close to you, I wish a Very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,
Kofi A. Annan

Argentina ambassador visits UNIFCYP

Lt Col Héctor Ludueña, OC UN Flight

Lt Col Héctor Ludueña is the new OC of UN Flight.

He was born in Córdoba City in 1957, and was educated in the Escuela de Aviación Militar in the same city, graduating in pedagogy.

He joined the Air Force in 1975 and obtained his wings in 1979. In 1980, he became a helicopter pilot and in 1982, he participated in the South Atlantic Conflict, carrying out a number of successful missions. In 1993, he was promoted to the rank of major.

Lt Col Ludueña now has a total of 4,875 flying hours to his name. He is currently doing a course on human resources at Buenos Aires university.

He is married to Monica and has 22-year-old twin daughters, Laura and Paula.

Alf on duty

One of the two Austrians in the Force Police Police Unit is Alfried (Alf) Bratranek. He's the man ‘in disguise’, because if you meet him out of uniform, you would never believe he’s in the police force. He’s a policeman who can’t ski. So, if he is not a typical policeman, then he is not a typical Austrian, is he?

All is a millitary. This means he’s in the national guard, and during his conscription, he attended a number of flying courses and earned his licence.

At the age of 18, Alf became a corporant as an engineer. After he completed his national service, he studied history and political science at the university of Vienna and graduated in 1999.

While in the national reserve, he founded a unit which was of which the MPs the two years ago. This resulted in him being sent to Cyprus in March 1999.

Alf is much more than just an MP, he does go on patrol, but he is also the station commander, barman, entertainer, and always lends a friendly ear to his colleagues.

You’ll no doubt have an enjoyable time with Alf if you meet him or run into trouble, but beware of him if you’re caught speeding.

E18 de diciembre pasado el Embajador Argentino en Israel, Sr. Espeche Gil, informó a la prensa que el ejército de esa nación, bajo la palabra su Señora esposa y el Comandante de UNIFCYP, General De Vergara, uno quiere partir para el lindo y, Seforita calidad, el corazón del sector 1, asistir al un oficial religioso que las celebrarías para celebrar el día de la Independencia Argentina. Durante la misa, nuestro coro coro el primero vez un público entonando canciones y villancicos navideños.

Lucía Gil, esposa del embajador, almorzó junto a los oficiales del Campo y los jefes de Compañía.

Esta fue la tercera vez que nos visitó desde que asumió su actual cargo en Israel. Nos expresó estar orgullosos, como argentino, de nuestra presencia y buen trabajo en Chipre cumpliendo misiones de paz. Agregó además que el Campo San Martin se siente como en su propia casa ya que todos le dispensan un trato amable y afable. Nuestra respuesta a tan amables palabras fueron que esta es luna en que nosotros recibimos a todos nuestros invitados.

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By Corbin, Mark K. Peterson

Nowadays, Nicosia International Airport is a symbol of progress and development, and an example of how peace can be achieved. The airport is a symbol of the progress that has been made in Cyprus, and an example of how peace can be achieved. The airport is a symbol of the progress that has been made in Cyprus, and an example of how peace can be achieved.
accomplished, in that the election one of the toughest jobs I’ve ever
lia on 7 September 1999.

More investigating revealed the found friend with his tail wagging.

and brown bundle of fur. With a bit of skills, he discovered a small black
flowerpots, he noticed some move-

S

"Serving in that mission was

When Steve saw the oppor-
tuni-

ike many of his military and
police colleagues, for Superintendent Steve Polden, his mission with UNIFCYP is not the first
time he serves abroad. He was first in Cyprus during 1996-
1997 when he carried out the duties of Police Liaison Officer.

"No, this skid mark is too short for the millennium record."

one split second of losing
attention in Nicosia’s rush
city of work for members of the Force Military Police Unit, as when a force mem-
er reports a collision one dark
December Friday night.

"And were you wearing
your seat belt?"

Tip for good company

was left to fend for itself, just waiting
for a new “mum” to come along.

After giving the pup a hot bath
and a good feed, the UNIFCYP
members had a major duty… to think
of a name for the young German shepherd cross: what else could they
name their new pal, but “TIP”?

Unfortunately the accommo-
dation in Pyla does not allow for a 4-
week-old puppy, so the UNPA Dog
Shelter was contacted. After veteri-
nary checkups, it was found that Tip,
although very young, is in excellent

health.

No doubt Tip will be quick to find
a good home, and yes, the Pyla police
accommodation has some lovely
flowerpots full of blooming gerani-
ums!

Greek Cypriots at their beloved Apostolos Andreas

Police

1,719 pilgrims to Apostolos Andreas

It took 43 buses to
bring a total of 1,719 pilgrims to
visit the holy site of the Apostolos Andreas
monastery in the Karpas peninsula on
10 November. There were 200 pilgrims
more than last year. This high number
made it necessary to divide the total into six
groups. Each group had the opportunity to
visit the holy site of the

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Mulled wine and chips

On every Sunday during Advent, soldiers
of Sector 4 HQ Coy organised a
mulled wine stand after mass at CHL V in
Famagusta. A special mixture of red wine
spiced with cloves, cinnamon bark, sugar,
water, lemon and orange pieces was sold to
their guests.

Not only mulled wine was on sale, but also
chips and macarons. Guests even had
the opportunity to buy a special Christmas
1999 mug for CTP2.

All money raised during the four Advent
Sundays will be donated. A local charity is
soon in for a nice surprise.

Tip in the arms of Sgt Jonny
Lancashire
Tip in the arms of Sgt Jonny
Lancashire

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Hercules in UNFICYP

Charlie Coy in ARCON has recently been despatched to Camp Brown with the "heavy artillery". This does not refer to any kind of munition, but rather to an Argentine navy marine who goes by the name of 1Cpl Roberto Magno Conkendorf, Sector One’s "Hercules".

Roberto has been practising body building since the age of 16, but it was only two years ago that he finally decided to take part in competitions. Then last May, he achieved second place in the Latvian Championship (up to 80 kilos) which took place in Buenos Aires. Although this is an active sport, it is still necessary to train regularly and keep strictly to a special diet. This is hard to achieve when serving in the marines, however, Roberto, who is a devoted family man, manages to do just this, still studying for a degree in English, certainly leading the proverb “a healthy body leads to a healthy mind.”

For sure we’ll see more attempts to dive around the court, both teams won all of their matches. There were complaints to stray out of their lane. This time it was the turn of the Marines MFR 7:4.

No revenge

The first incidents occurred during the foot ball match with numerous intrusions onto the pitch by spectators eager to support their teams. This was firmly but fairly stamped out by the referees, who would not tolerate such action. However, the number of incidents increased as the first teams were knocked out of the league and the semi-finals kicked off. There were complaints of over-manning in the goalmouth, and a number of minor casualities as the teams strove for a place in the final. A demonstration against a goal that had been awarded was heard from all their locations, as well as representatives from the MFR.

Violations at Camp Brown!

by Lt Richard Hoy

Thursday 9 December saw what is probably a record number of incidents and violations against elements of the UN in Camp Brown, Sector 1. The incidents included over-manning, intrusion, moves forward, threats to the UN, photography, demonstrations, and UN casualties.

What is more shocking is that all these violations were committed by serving soldiers of the UN, against fellow UN members. Fortunately for the new Force Commander, it was all in the name of sport, and not an internal breakdown of discipline. For Sector 1 had staged an intercompany volleyball and tug-of-war competition with teams attending from all of their company locations, as well as representatives from the MFR.

The first incidents occurred during the football match with numerous intrusions onto the pitch by spectators eager to support their teams. This was firmly but fairly stamped out by the referees, who would not tolerate such action. However, the number of incidents increased as the first teams were knocked out of the league and the semi-finals kicked off. There were complaints of over-manning in the goalmouth, and a number of minor casualities as the teams strove for a place in the final. A demonstration against a goal that had been awarded was heard from all their locations, as well as representatives from the MFR.

With it all resting on the third, and the teams tiring, no one was expecting the umpire to call a re-pull after the MFR strayed out of their lane. This time it was the turn of the Marines to stray out of their lane. Both sides petitioned as suggestions of a re-match or a call for a draw were discussed. In the spirit of the UN and sport, a draw was declared with a sigh of relief coming from both teams, who could now indulge the abrasions on their arms and aching muscles.

The whole day was approached with great enthusiasm and goodwill by everybody. The Marines from Camp Brown were perennial hosts, which only added to the success of the whole day.

12 Signal Unit walk down on competition

Three teams from UNFICYP took part in the 12 Signal Unit Walkdown, with participants free to choose whether they would run or walk the course.

This event, which took place on 4 December, started in Flatters (in the Troodos mountain range) and finished in Episkopi, a distance of just over 32km. 60 teams of three started off, each with one novice, one female and one expert map reader. All carried a back pack containing a first aid kit, a torch, water, some clothes and a whistle.

With it all resting on the third, and the teams tiring, no one was expecting the umpire to call a re-pull after the MFR strayed out of their lane. This time it was the turn of the Marines to stray out of their lane. Both sides petitioned as suggestions of a re-match or a call for a draw were discussed. In the spirit of the UN and sport, a draw was declared with a sigh of relief coming from both teams, who could now indulge the abrasions on their arms and aching muscles.

The whole day was approached with great enthusiasm and goodwill by everybody. The Marines from Camp Brown were perennial hosts, which only added to the success of the whole day.
Always try to solve problems at the lowest possible level by using your negotiating skills. But at the same time, be prepared to deal with tense situations. Practise your military and police techniques to maintain your level of professionalism.