Deminers clear the way for the Astromeritis-Zodhia/Bostanci crossing.

SRSG Zbigniew Wlosowicz receives the European Commission’s Leopold Maurer at UNFICYP headquarters in the UNPA.
In this issue we feature DPKO USG Guéhenno’s report to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. He highlights three aspects of recent peacekeeping operations. Two attest to our capacity to adjust and move forward. One, sadly, casts a shadow over all peacekeepers and demands a drastic overhaul of our system of accountability and behaviour.

Today, DPKO manages 17 peace operations comprising more than 75,000 military, civilian police and civilian personnel, a 35% increase over the 55,000 deployed just one year ago. In 2004, a total of 120,000 military and civilian police personnel drawn from over 100 countries rotated through UN peacekeeping missions.

Despite these successes, there is a need to consolidate what we have over-achieved. In the first half of 2004 alone, DPKO had to launch three complex missions in quick succession - in Burundi, Haiti and Côte d’Ivoire, having just deployed its largest operation to Liberia at the end of 2003. In addition, there was the expansion and restructuring of MONUC in 2004, the evolution of launching new operations. However, USG Guéhenno reserves his strongest words for the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse arising from activities related to the behaviour of MONUC personnel. The problem has to be tackled as a matter of highest priority, he warns, since the damage to the image and reputation of UN peacekeeping, and to the UN, could be irreparable.

The SR’s October 2003 Bulletin on Special Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the UN Code of Conduct for Blue Helmets, and MONUC’s Code of Conduct are clear, he notes. Any exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, any type of sexual activity with persons under the age of 18 years is prohibited. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence or an excuse. Where substantiated, these acts warrant summary dismissal in the case of civilian staff, and repatriation and subsequent training. Where substantiated, these acts will be taken very seriously, he says; we simply cannot abide by the vulnerable being used by one even if that means exposing further weaknesses in the system in the short-term.

First, 91% of the allegations related to the behaviour of MONUC personnel are operating in volatile and precarious situations. They need to be supported, in order to achieve their mandated objectives. There are also many reforms that still need to be consolidated. And, there are some strategic differences on the part of the Member States on peacekeeping, and we should take responsibility for them.

Second, the Organisation will not be required to deploy any new peacekeeping operations in 2005, beyond what is already on our plate or in the pipeline.

Third, allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by MONUC personnel are a reflection of a systemic problem. Just as the catastrophic failure of any one operation could irreparably erode public confidence in UN peacekeeping, so, too, could a failure to address the whole problem has to be tackled collectively. He says we simply cannot abide by the vulnerable being used by even one peacekeeper sent to protect them. We need to do the right thing, even if that means exposing further weaknesses in the system in the short-term.

What were the most important developments in UN peacekeeping in 2004, and what might they imply for the year ahead? For me, three things stand out in particular, as follows:

• First, 91% of the allegations related to the behaviour of MONUC personnel are operating in volatile and precarious environments.

• Second, the Organisation will not be required to deploy any new peacekeeping operations in 2005, beyond what is already on our plate or in the pipeline.

• Third, allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by MONUC personnel are a reflection of a systemic problem. Just as the catastrophic failure of any one operation could irreparably erode public confidence in UN peacekeeping, so, too, could a failure to address the whole.

The reforms at Headquarters initiated in 2001 also are paying off in how we generate forces, deploy and sustain them. Today, the 17 UN peace operations managed by DPKO comprise over 75,000 military, civilian police and civilian personnel. In 2004, we transported 580,000 passengers and 470,000 metric tons of cargo – in over 90,000 flight hours. We currently operate 14 military hospitals and 120 clinics, operate over 4,000 generators with a total capacity of 300 MW, enough to supply power to 200,000 homes. Much of this activity was achieved in areas with little or no infrastructure at all. And we must prevent it from happening elsewhere. I will elaborate on each of these three points.

DPKO USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno
contribution of troops, civilian police, financial assistance and technical support from the Member States. In a world in which the commitment to work together for the common good is not always clear, your continued investment in UN peacekeeping represents not just a commitment to help people recover from war, that investment has been worth it. Millions of some of the world’s most vulnerable populations now have a real chance for a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive future.

Consolidating Success

The second point I want to stress is that we should now consolidate the successes and reforms, instead of growing too fast or spreading too thin.

Despite the good news, there should be no illusions. The road ahead in Afghanistan, Burundi, Liberia, Haiti, the DRC, and elsewhere, will be perilous. Political processes we are concurrently managing in Kosovo, Eritrea/ Ethiopia, and Georgia remain extremely complex and sensitive. And to all these very fluid cases, several other more predictable yet important operations, and the imminent deployment of a new operation to Sudan, Africa’s largest country. We will have our hands full.

Moreover, we are not resourced or structured to keep launching one new complex operation after another, without keeping the reform effort on track. During the deliberations on the Brahimi Report, we asked you how many new complex operations we should be prepared to launch in any given year. You indicated one. Yet, we had to launch three in quick succession – in Burundi, Haiti, and Côte d’Ivoire – in the first half of 2004. To date, we are operating in 17 of our largest operation to Liberia, at the end of 2003. The expansion and restructuring of MONUC in 2004 might be added to the list, involving a broad range of issues and requiring an intensive engagement in establishing a new operation.

The challenges are of an order of magnitude.  And, never before has the UN been so empowered to manage and to take calculated risks in the field. The Brahimi Report, we asked you how many new complex operations we should be prepared to launch in any given year. You indicated one. Yet, we had to launch three in quick succession – in Burundi, Haiti, and Côte d’Ivoire – in the first half of 2004. To date, we are operating in 17 of our largest operation to Liberia, at the end of 2003. The expansion and restructuring of MONUC in 2004 might be added to the list, involving a broad range of issues and requiring an intensive engagement in establishing a new operation.

The challenges are of an order of magnitude.  And, never before has the UN been so empowered to manage and to take calculated risks in the field. The Brahimi Report, 2005, is a very good year for peacekeeping, I sincerely meant it. In order for 2005 to even begin, we have to attend to unfinished business.  Prudence and patience will be our watchwords.  We should get the jobs done and invest in the future, before we take on more responsibilities. It will be up to the Security Council, of course, to determine if, in 2005 if it does offer.  The UN peacekeeping is not always the right solution for a post-conflict situation.  But, in order for UN peacekeeping to be a viable option, you need to consider the limits of what you can or cannot offer.  The USG welcomed new Military Adviser, Major-General Cornelius A. T. Chan of the United States.  The Blue Beret.

The Blue Beret

In conclusion, Mr. Guéhenno paid tribute to his senior management team, thanking Kiran Bedi for India for her contributions as DPKO Police Adviser and noting that the civil-military partnership that she had established with the civilian police officers to 15 missions during her two-year term. He also thanked Major-General Patrick Cammaert of the Netherlands for his role as the temporary Secretary for two warrant officers for their cooperation in the respect gender issues and the presumption of innocence.

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A Wood by any Other Name
Smells Twice as Sweet!

On 12 February, soldiers from Sector 2 assisted the local community and Cyprus Forestry Commission in planting approximately 200 trees in the buffer zone. The area chosen for the planting has long been known by the soldiers of Sector 2 as “Stinky Woods” because of the contamination by industrial waste. Saturday’s events heralded the completion of a rejuvenation programme designed to rid the soil of the waste.

Over 10 years ago, the Forest Department planted eucalyptus trees in the area to dry and purify the soil. These sturdy trees have served their purpose. The land was recently declared fit to replant with a mixed woodland habitat consistent with the remainder of the forest. With the eucalyptus trees cleared, Forest Department’s Garden Director Glafkos Kyriakou requested permission through Sector 2 SCAT to carry out the work.

On a cold Saturday morning, soldiers from Sector 2 and UNCIVPOL met and escorted Mayor Andreas Petrou of Aglantzia, representatives from the Forestry Department and a group of local schoolchildren into the buffer zone. The Blue Beret

Civilian Police
“Soldier On!”

Much has been heard and read about the downsizing of the military component of UNFICYP, with almost 400 soldiers being repatriated and not replaced in the Mission.

That is not the case with UNCIVPOL. They continue to “soldier on” and provide 45 Civilian Police to this mission. Hopefully, they will increase their numbers to 55 police in the near future to allow UNCIVPOL to take over Sector Civil Affairs Tasks (SCAT) from the military.

During February, 18 new officers joined UNFICYP on rotation. Nine from Australia and two from India arrived in mission on 5 February. Seven arrived from Ireland on 14 February. For most of these officers, this is their first UN posting, although Sqn. Sgt. Graham Leary (Austcivpol, Pyla) served for nine months in UNFICYP during 2000/2001.

The latest induction course from 14 to 18 February, introducing the 18 new police officers to the demands and subtleties of duty in UNFICYP. The Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and other HQ senior officers briefed the group.

The programme covered a wide range of subjects, including explanations about Civil Affairs duties, the PIO’s office, operational requirements, the role of the Mobile Force Reserve and the MPs, FMPU medical and hygiene requirements in the mission, communications, security issues, administrative matters within UNFICYP and the use of our interpreters. Sessions on gender and cultural sensitivities were also included. The new Civpol were introduced to the MOLO concept and their possible interaction with them. After last year’s tragic helicopter accident, special care was taken to include helicopter safety issues in the programme.

After the completion of the course, the new members took up their postings, spread across all seven UNCIVPOL stations, from Limassol in the west to Dherenia in the east. They are all looking forward to the challenges presented in Cyprus “in the service of peace”.

Ahmet’s Retirement

A farewell party was held on 18 February to bid farewell to a long-serving Turkish Cypriot colleague, Ahmet Niyazi. Ahmet joined the United Nations as a driver in July 1995, and continued in the mission’s service until February 2003 when he was involved in a serious car accident in Sector 1. His problems following the accident obliged Ahmet to retire early, and so his colleagues decided to send him off in style.

The CM, CAO, CISS and all transport staff members attended an excellent buffet lunch where Transport Unit Chief Andy Alleyne commended Ahmet for his excellent service with the mission before presenting him with a clock from his friends in Transport. In his response, Ahmet did not forget to pay tribute to our late colleague, Andreas Demetriou, who was also involved in the accident.

The CM reflected the CTU’s words and also personally thanked Ahmet for his support during the time he worked as the CM’s driver.

Ahmet is married to Celia, and they have two daughters, Lezana Ellen and Sara Ayse.

Happy retirement Ahmet!
The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus - Part XXIX
The Venetian Walled City of Nicosia

When the flag of Saint Mark was hoisted on Famagusta Castle on 13 March 1499, it marked the official transfer of power in Cyprus to Venice from the departing Queen Caterina Cornaro for Italy. She was the widow of James II (1460-1473), the last of the Lusignan royal family who reigned on the island from 1192. The Queen was herself a daughter of the Republic of Venice. On the death of James III (1473-84), their infant son, the Venetian influence in the royal court had become so pronounced that Cyprus had long become a Venetian protectorate before Caterina’s abdication in 1489 in favour of her mother country.

The Venetian presence on the island was long established. Venice’s resident merchants enjoyed special commercial privileges during the Lusignan period and even earlier when her ships were granted permission by the Byzantine emperors to use the island’s ports. Zealous to protect her various possessions in the Mediterranean from the Ottomans, Venice embarked on an immense programme of defensive constructions. The rapidly expanding Ottoman empire of the 16th century already reached beyond the Eastern Mediterranean to North Africa, the Balkans and other European countries. Others, like Lithuania-Poland, Austria and France paid protective tribute.

An outstanding example of the many impressive monuments reminiscent of Venice’s grandeur, military power and engineering ingenuity are the defensive walls of Nicosia, designed by the merchant state’s ablest military engineer, Giulio Savorgnano. On visiting Nicosia, he determined to demolish the old Frankish walls since they had been rendered obsolete by the advent of artillery. So big were they that they required a huge garrison force. Moreover, their proximity to the hills on the south-easterly side made the walls vulnerable to enemy cannon fire, as eventually proved to be the case.

In designing the Nicosia walls, Savorgnano had aimed to keep the enemy as far as possible from the town and protect against a close-up full-scale assault. He tried to do so using the “fronte bastionato” to mount artillery designed to repel any would-be assailants who came within firing range of the bastion battery. In effect, he set out to transform Nicosia from a walled city to a Venetian fortress.

A schematic vertical section of the fortifications helps in better understanding Savorgnano’s engineering (Figure 3). The dotted horizontal line indicates the level of the fields round Nicosia before they were dug up for construction of the moat (ditch). The removed soil was used together with adobe to construct the earthwork of the walls. These were buttressed with stones while their upper surface remained uncovered to better withstand enemy artillery salvos, as Savorgnano explained in a letter to the Duke of Parma.

So old walls were pulled down along with a collection of monasteries, churches and houses, thus rendering the area of Nicosia 40% smaller. Beginning in 1567, the stones were recycled and used for con-truction of the new Venetian walls under Savorgnano’s direction. He was recalled to Venice eighteen months before Nicosia was besieged in the summer of 1570.

His work was continued by his assistant, Leonardo Roncone. It had long been computed when the Ottomans laid siege to the capital. Indeed, it was the Ottomans who eventually completed the walls after their conquest of the city on 9 September 1570. However, determines an unanswered question whether the Venetian failure in the defense of Nicosia was due to the unfinished walls, or to the military incompetence of Niccolò Dandolo, the man responsible for the city’s defence.

The area contained within the circular walls (excluding the bastions) is 1.41km² with a diameter of 1.40km, a circumference of 3,200m and a height of 12m. The total area including the bastion is 1.63 km². The moat (ditch) which surrounds the walls is 100m wide.

Each heart-shaped bastion has a perimeter of 347.45m with a bisection of average area and the bastions are not identical. The curtain wall that separates the bastion has a length of 2.75m. The distance from top to tip of opposite bastions is 1,600 m, while the ramparts have a width of 5.6m.

The bastions were named after the Venetian families who helped finance their construction and were later renamed by the Ottomans. With their corresponding Turkish names in brackets, starting clockwise from Porta Giuliana (see Figure 2):

“Porta Giuliana”, named after Giulio Savorgnano, was considered the most important gate since it led to Famagusta, Larnaca and Limassol. It has an arched passage, 12m long and 4m wide, the centre of which is a spherical dome 11m in diameter. The passage at both ends of the Gateway measures 3.12m wide and 5.34m high. Two latch windows on either side of the entrance embellish the façade of the inner side of the Porta Giuliana which now serves as a cultural centre of the Municipality of Nicosia.

The Italian fortified city of Palmanova, built in 1593, may be Giulio Savorgnano’s masterpiece, but Nicosia’s unfinished walls served him as a prototype for a bastioned fortification. What is more, they remained in use until the early 19th century (Figure 1).

Explanations to Figure 2
A: Porta Giuliana – Giulia’s Gate, in the east, now Famagusta Gate; 1: Podocataro (Sazli); 2: Costanzo (Bayraktar) Note: Here is the Bayraktar mosque; in 1769, replaced a monument to the bayraktar (ensign) who first planted the Turkish flag here on 9 September 1570; 3: D’Avila (Kara Ismail); 4: Tripoli (Degjumus); B: Porta di San Domenico – Saint Domenic’s Gate, in the north, now Famagusta Gate; C: Porta del Proveditore – Gate of the Military Governor, in the north, now Kyrenia Gate; 5: Rocca (Kairos); 6: Mula (Zahra); 7: Quirini (Jeb Khane); C: Porta del Proveditore-Gate of the Military Governor, in the north, now Kyrenia Gate; 8: Barbaro (Musalla); 9: Loredano (Pedrocchi); 10: Flauto (Seghuti) and 11: Caraffa (Altan).

Explanations to Figure 3
1: External fields; 2: Protective wall to the side opposite the fortification wall; 3: Dry moat (external ring); 4: Moat with water; 5: Protective earthwork; 6: Dry moat (wallsite part of the moat); 7: Fire range; 8: Lower patrol passage; 9: Upper protective earthwork; 10: Service passage for repairs; 11: Top of the fortification; 12: Upper patrol passage; 13: Covered internal safety passage; 14: Internal part of the outer earthwork; 15: Town’s road level; 16: Tunnel for explosives.
Australian High Commissioner visits Pyla

Australian High Commissioner Garth Hunt visited Pyla on 28 January and met with the two village leaders and other local officials. UNCIVPOL members Garda Chris Brosnan, Sgt. Luke Banwell, Sgt. Ann McKenna and I escorted the High Commissioner on a walking tour around the village.

Unfortunately, the Turkish Cypriot primary school was closed for the winter break. However, Mr. Hunt did drop by the Greek Cypriot primary school where he was received by the Principal and spoke with the students.

The party also visited the Pyla Cultural Museum, Pyla Mosque, Pyla Tower and Pyla Square.

Supt. Eamon Lynch, Sgt. Phil Maree and Garda Brosnan subsequently joined the High Commissioner and his party for lunch at a local restaurant.

CO Sector 2’s Trophy

The third CO’s challenge for Sector 2 took place close to home this time, a proper endurance run testing everyone’s physical ability. A five-mile route was set out through the buffer zone. Starting from the FMPU station in the UNPA, the course ran along the patrol tracks to Ledra Palace Hotel. Five teams of 20 from S2 and the MFR battled it out to see who was the fittest in a test requiring them to tackle a Bergen rucksack run, a log run and a stretcher run.

On 13 February, after milling around weighing Bergens at the FMPU station, the teams set off one by one. They were all accompanied by a Physical Training Instructor to make sure nobody was slacking or cheating. The conditions in the morning were perfect, and everyone got stuck in, some more than others. Not being the sort of people to miss a physical challenge, both the CO and the RSM put their Bergens on and joined each team for a section of the route.

At the end of the event, the MFR team was declared the fastest team and they were awarded a fantastic trophy.

Cocktails and Gulyás

Friday 18 February was the date set for a fancy dress cocktail party held at the Hungarian bar in the UNPA. Traditional Hungarian hospitality meant there was good food to get everyone going. Using a well-stoked fire, pots of steaming, spicy gulyás was served up by SSgt. Sándor Juhász. A tasty meal to get everyone through the night.

Also on offer was a free drink to anyone who turned up in fancy dress. The MFR did not intend to let their side down. There was a huge selection of costumes with a lot of variety. Some skimpy outfits left little to the imagination!

MCpl. Zsolt Nádasdi from the MFR, the DJ for the evening, got most people grooving by mixing good party tunes, including some crazy break dancing. The fun was helped along with superb cocktails, shaken (not stirred) by MSgt. Tamás Kajdi. The party lasted well into the early hours of the morning.
**New Babies**

L to R: 1. Alexander is the fourth child of Maria and Scott, born on 25 September. His birth was an important milestone for the family.

2. Adorable Alex is Michelle Kourea’s son. Integrated Services.

3. Kathleen was born on 25 September, two days before her mother’s birthday. With her sparkling eyes and a smile that lights up the room, she is the latest addition to the family.

4. Niklas was born in Austria on 15 April. He is eagerly looking forward to his first Christmas in March.

5. Juergen Leitner’s two children, 6½ years old. The picture taken shows them all ready for the Christmas holidays.

**Back to the Future**

Information Technology & Communications

Robert Walker (Scotland)

Robert Walker returns for his fourth assignment with UNFICYP. This time around, he is the new Chief ITC Section. UNFICYP was Bob’s first UN assignment after an induction at UNTSO in Jerusalem, where he joined the organisation in 1975. This time he is accompanied by his wife Lola. They met while he was serving with UNOMIG in Georgia.

UN Flight

Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi (Argentina)

Lt. Col. Albanesi was born in Mendota, Argentina, on 31 January 1957. After completing high school, he entered the Argentine Air Force Academy. Four years later, he graduated as a military pilot and was commissioned into the VII Air Brigade. Later, he graduated as a military pilot and was commissioned into the VII Air Brigade. In 1982, Osvaldo attended and passed the helicopter pilot’s course. Since then, he has flown helicopters and airplanes. In 1985, he was commissioned into the IV Air Brigade to fly with the Search and Rescue Squadron in the high mountains, with the “Cordillera de los Andes” on the border to Chile. He took part in many search and rescue tasks, flying approximately 2,600 hours with the squadron. His highest altitude landing was at 18,700 feet. During this period, he was appointed pilot instructor and also served as chief of the squadron for six years. He served as UNFICYP’s Air Safety Officer from October 2002 to October 2003. Osvaldo is married to Myriam Sabatini, and they have three children, Federico Agustin, Federico Pia (17), and Martin Exequiel (14). Osvaldo enjoys his free time with his family and friends.

New Faces

Public Information

Anne Barney (Canada)

Before joining the UN in 2002, Anne enjoyed a 15-year career in advertising. She managed major retail, food and beverage accounts in Toronto and Montreal. More recently, from 2002 to 2004, Anne served at UNMIIK’s DPI in Kosovo. Her husband Scott is currently in Afghanistan with UNAMA. Between the PIO and getting established in Cyprus, Anne has been quite busy. She might not have time to miss Canada quite yet; but if asked, she is sure to reply that what she misses most (after Scott) is her dog Juma. He arrives from home next month to keep her company. “I will also miss living in our century-old farm house just outside the capital of Canada, Ottawa,” says Anne, “and yet, I am quite happy to be leaving behind those sub-zero temps and long winters we get at home.” Just a few of her many interests include running, reading, painting, and designing jewelry.

As UNFICYP Information Officer, Anne will be supporting the Spokesperson in media monitoring, press services and media relations.

Electronic Services

Charalampos Charalambous (Cyprus)

After four months as an Individual Contract, Charalampos “Bob” Charalambous is now an official UNFICYP Staff member in Electronic Services. Bob is an Electrical Engineer with a Masters in Communications and Signal Processing. When asked what is involved in the daily work of a Radio Technician, Bob explains “anything and everything that has to do with telecommunications: Telephone, Data, Radio…” Bob also has previous mission experience. Working at UNMIIK, he was in charge of the Satellite Unit. In UNMEE he served as a Senior Radio Technician in charge of all communications projects. Before joining the UN, Bob worked for Lucent Technologies in the US. Now Bob lives in Limassol.

Procurement

Stacey Worthington (United Kingdom)

Limassol resident, Stacey Worthington, joins UNFICYP as Procurement Assistant. Stacey is originally from Newcastle, England, but has resided in Cyprus for the last 12 years. “I moved to Cyprus with my family in 1992, direct from Newcastle. My parents had visited Cyprus previously and really liked the country. Since my father is in the merchant navy, it was not really necessary to live in England. They thought moving to Cyprus would be an interesting change for the family, which it was, as we are all still here and enjoying it,” says Stacey.

Previously, Stacey worked as sales executive for Demorphos Ltd., a medical products manufacturer. In 2000, Stacey spent six months on a working holiday in New Zealand. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis, cycling, and going to the health club. “I also like live musical or theatrical events,” she adds with enthusiasm.

Finance

Maria Savvidou (Cyprus)

Nicosia native Maria Savvidou joins the mission as a Finance Assistant in the ISS Unit. Having obtained her BA in Accounting and Finance at Manchester Metropolitan University, she returned to Cyprus for her ACCA professional qualification. Maria is also a member of the Institute of Certified Accountants in Cyprus. Before joining UNFICYP, she worked as an industry accountant for two years and then, over a period of five years, as a senior auditor for various firms. Maria will be monitoring, reviewing and auditing budgetary activity within ISS for the supply, engineering, transport, and CITS cost units. Outside of work, Maria is particularly interested in photography and seems to keep quite busy. “At the moment I attend classes for photography, I have also attended music classes for nine years” says Maria.

Transport

Sam Al-Debyani (Lebanon)

Mr. Khalid “Sam” Al-Debyani is our latest locally-recruited staff member. Mr. Al-Debyani says “I’m looking for someone to introduce me to all UNFICYP staff members and show me around the island.” Sam is actually everyone’s best friend and we would all like to congratulate him on his new contract. After nine years with UNFICYP as an individual contract (SSA) driver and as a mission-replacement driver, Sam received a regular post. Sam knows his way around better than most and has met just about everyone. He even worked with the 5G when he visited the island.

Sam arrived from Lebanon 20 years ago. He married Valentine and has two sons, Joseph and Elias. His new contract began on Valentine’s Day so he had to work and was not able to take Valentina out as he had planned. Congratulations Sam!
**Hockey Hunks!**

On 22 January, a hockey tournament took place in Camp General Štefaník, thanks mainly to the efforts of M/Sgt. Michal Pjecha and M/Sgt. Anton Sufa. The morning was a little cold, but players and specta-tors alike were full of hope for their team. Referree M/Sgt. Rastislav Ochotnický and CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Martin Bažko got the first match underway at 0900 hours. The court surface was a little slippery, but the presence of Dr. (Capt.) Ivana Lakotová was very reassuring.

The teams were made up of warrant officers, officers and men. Team names drew their inspiration from a number of sources. For example, who was to know that E-55 derived its name from a highway known to service more than motor cars! Other names included the Eagles Fama, the Old Devils (a nice way to address officers!), and HÚNCON’s Colorado team.

While we scoped out the talent of their rivals, it soon became apparent that hockey is the national Slovak game. They showed little mercy in despatching their Sector 4 HÚNCON colleagues! First place went to E-55, with Eagle Fama second and Old Devils in third. Colorado took last place, but their struggle was great. CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bažko and his deputy, Lt. Col. Csaba Csoorba also took part.

**Sector 1, Ahoy!**

A ccustomed to plunging along waving decks and gray bulkheads amidst air loaded with sea salt, it is quite a change to find oneself dressed in camou-flage, crossing terra firma in a bouncing pick-up, and sharing one’s daily working hours with comrades from the armies of Argentina and other South American countries.

This is the case of Captain (in the Navy “Lieutenant”, as he usually clarifies) Diego Sanchez, Sector 1’s Public Information Officer. Although troops of the Marine Corps (a Force that is part of the Navy) constitute one third of the Argentine Contingent, he is only the second “Surface Officer” ever appointed to this peacekeeping mission since the Argentinians took over the Sector from Danish hands in 1993. Whenever he explains his particular situation to any interested party, he proudly shows his brevet, which, in a warship’s silhouette, is clearly discernable, surrounded by an Argentinian roundel.

“You may always miss the sea,” he says, “but even in the Navy, one can also be assigned to a post on land. Besides, I enjoy my current work very much. Moreover, this experience enriches me professionally as well as personally. I have made lots of new friends, from Argentina and many other countries, and am sure that in the future, having been part of UNFICYP will be one of my most valued memories”.

**Carrot Cake!**

It takes two, plus more, to Tango!

Adriano Ferrari is the man at the front of the scene! Not only is he a qualified pilot and 2i/c of UN Flight, but also an excellent tango/salsa instructor! Adriano holds lessons once a week on the UN Flight’s Bandido Club premises where, usually on Thursdays the court surface is a little slippery, approximately 25 UN and embassy officers are led through the basic tango and salsa steps.

WO Éva Zsuzsanna Rácz, a Hungarian colleague from Sector 4, is Adriano’s able assistant. Together, they combine to get the best out of the attendees. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the tango lessons. After about an hour, there is a short break, when light refreshments are offered to participants by kind permission of UN Flight Commander Lt. Col. Osvaldo Alvanesi. Then come the salsa steps.

Adrián is very professional in his approach and is promoting the activity to everyone to pick up to the difficult and intricate steps. As he says, “the woman has the more dramatic role to play - she has to learn to follow the man, look into his eyes and show the beauty of the dance. Although from the photos it appears there are only men present, in fact, ladies outnumber the men. Indeed, this is the ideal opportunity for those who have always wanted to tango or salsa to participate and avail of some excellent teaching in a very pleasant atmosphere. All UNFICYP personnel, civilian, military and police, with or without partners, are invited to give it a try. Call 22864610 for details.

This is Adriano’s fourth tour with UNFICYP. During his second in 2000/01, he also conducted lessons at UN Flight, and it was then that he met Ramona and whisked her back to Argentina as his wife. She accompanies him on this tour, and they are expecting their first child in September.

**Carrot Cake!**

Traditionally, the Hungarian Army has only taken part in military operations with the essential support of trained cooks. Even today, Sector 4 ensures the culinary delights of such cuisine are not lost on the many visitors and military residents of Camp Berger. Such magic is not attributed to the camp’s cooks alone.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of one of the camp’s kitchen hands, many visitors have enjoyed more than a mere sample of the tarts-nz, and justly famous, carrot cake. Affectionately referred to by Hun-garian soldiers as “Papa”, Joséz Feri started work in the kitchen back in 1987. Joséz’s cheerful demeanour and enthusiasm toward his vocation is evident when he serves the camp’s residents with the presentation of his delicious carrot cake. A recipe he was shrewd enough to fil away in his recipe book from a Canadian soldier as far back as 1988.

Josuz’s apparent sixth sense has left him with the uncanny ability of putting a spark into the sometimes repetitve existence of some very grateful soldiers. In addition to his carrot cakes, Papa’s many other contributions are far from lost on the Hungarian soldiers. Thanks Papa!

1/Lt. Csaba Csoorba

**Common Sense Practices**

As in any part of the world, it is always advisable to take sensible and rational precautions when out of a familiar environment. Now that the Cyprus winter is almost over and the good weather will soon be with us, it is perhaps time to reflect on how recreation time will be spent on this beautiful island in the Mediterranean.

The following points are therefore put forward in order to avoid misunderstandings and to safeguard against any misconduct:

- If withdrawing money from a cash point machine, ensure that the slot for inserting your cash card is always flush (level) with the face of the machine. If possible, use a dispensing machine inside a bank. If you are unsure, check with the bank staff.

- If hiring equipment or renting holiday homes, ensure you have a written contract that you can understand, setting out clearly the terms and conditions, including cancellation penalties. Always obtain a receipt for any monies paid and pay the minimum deposit only.

- Do not lend money to strangers.

- Do not accept any offer of credit. Make it a rule to pay as you go.

- Keep in mind that clubs are a lucrative source of income. Remember that one a drink is ordered, you are legally bound to pay.

If you are in need of advice, please contact the FMPU on 22-864628/4668 (22-864666 out of working hours) who will do their best to assist.

**Canadian Carrot Cake Creation**

**Method**

1. Whisk 1 and 2 together until light and fluffy. Then stir in 3, 4, 5, and 6 until thoroughly mixed. 8 and 9, 10, 11, and 12 together in 7, and fold into mixture.

2. Pour into a greased and floured baking cake tin and cook in a medium oven for 1½-1½ hours until a knife comes out clean.

3. Decorate according to taste. Options: a. Plain icing sugar sprinkled on top b. Chocolate coating c. Cream cheese mixed with butter and icing sugar

**Canadian Carrot Cake Ingredients**

1. 4 eggs
2. 2 glasses sugar
3. 1 glass cooking oil
4. 3 carrots (medium size, grated)
5. 2 glasses ground almonds
6. 1 glass sultanas (optional)
7. 1 glass grapefruit
8. 3 glasses flour
9. 2 teaspoons baking powder
10. 2 packets vanilla sugar
11. ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
12. ¼ teaspoon ground cloves (optional)