

# The Blue Beret

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**Austrians Hand Over**





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## editorial

In this issue we extend a special salute to Austria, one of the first countries to contribute troops to UNFICYP back in 1964. The June departure of the contingent from Sector 4 ends an historic 24-year association by Austrian peacekeepers with Famagusta.

We are glad to see that Austria will maintain its record of continuous service in UNFICYP because of the stalwarts who will remain to keep the flag flying here at Force HQ at least until 2004.

On 18 June, Lt. Col. Gunter Kienberger Austrian Contingent Commander handed over command of UNFICYP's Sector 4 to Lt. Col. Milan Kovac, Commanding Officer of the newly arrived Slovak Contingent.

At the same time, the small contingent of 29 Slovenian peacekeepers wrapped up its five-year stint in the sector.

The departure of the Austrians and Slovenians reflects a contemporary and pressing military and peacekeeping reality, the need to meet and sustain troop and resource commitments elsewhere.

In the case of Austria, this includes service with KFOR in the Balkans, and with UNDOF on the Golan Heights. Both Austrian and Slovenian assets are on call as well for the planned European Rapid Reaction Force.

Both have served Cyprus and UNFICYP well.

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**Front Cover:**  
Departure of Austria  
**Back Cover:**  
Departure of Slovenia

# Austria and Slovenia withdraw -- Slovakia takes over

A change of command ceremony held at 18.00 hours on 18 June 2001 in Famagusta marked the handing over of command of UNFICYP's Sector 4 by Austrian Contingent Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Gunter Kienberger, to Lt. Col. Milan Kovac, Commanding Officer of the recently arrived Slovak contingent. The handover ends 24 years of the Austrian peacekeepers' association with Famagusta.

Also leaving Sector 4 was the small Slovenian Contingent of 29. They had served in the same sector alongside 114 Hungarians and 245 Austrians since their arrival in 1997. The Hungarians remain on and will now work with the new Slovak Contingent, which assumed command of the sector with effect from 18 June.

UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz paid tribute to the departing contingents, thanking them for their contributions to the UN peacekeeping effort during their service in Cyprus.

UNFICYP Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana, the Austrian Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Horst Pleiner, and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Slovenia, Mr. Janko Dezelak, attended the ceremony. Austria's Ambassador to Greece and Cyprus, Dr. Rene Pollitzer, Slovenia's Ambassador to Greece and Cyprus, Mr. Borut Mahnic, the Slovak Ambassador to Cyprus, Mr. Dusan Rozbora, Hungary's Chargé d'Affairs and Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Laszlo Nikics, the British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Edward Clay CMG, and the British Defence Attaché, Col Crichton Wakelin were also present.

The downsizing and eventual withdrawal of the Austrian and Slovenian forces from service with UNFICYP is because of their need to meet and sustain troop and resource commitments elsewhere. In the case of Austria, this includes service with KFOR in the Balkans and with



*The Force Commander, Commander SLOVCON and Commander AUSCON during the handover ceremony*

UNDOF on the Golan Heights. Austrian and Slovenian assets are also on call for the planned European Union Rapid Reaction Force.

The Slovak Contingent with 280 troops takes over from the Austrians and Slovenians. Slovakia has considerable experience in international peacekeeping missions, having contributed troops and/or observers to missions in the Golan Heights, the former Yugoslavia, Eritrea, Iraq and East Timor.

Austria was among the very first countries to contribute to UNFICYP, deploying a field hospital with 54 soldiers in the Kokkino Trimithia area west of Nicosia in April 1964. In May 1972, an Austrian infantry battalion with 283 troops was sent to the island. The new battalion was deployed initially to the district of Paphos, but in 1973 moved to the district of Larnaca before moving on to Famagusta in 1977.

Since the inception of the mission, a total of 16,321 Austrian military - plus 276 UN civilian police -- have served in Cyprus. In that time, 15 have died -- three as the result of an air attack in 1974.

Thanks to the presence of a small number of personnel who will remain in the UN Headquarters of UNFICYP in Nicosia, Austria will maintain its record of continuous service in UNFICYP at least until 2004. The Slovenian engagement on the island ends this year.



*The outgoing Commanding Officer salutes his guests*



# Brigadier Batchelor Visits

1992, and that is when equal opportunities were finally offered to female soldiers. Then we (men and women) were in direct competition! Having said that, I must add that as far as my own career is concerned, aside from the initial frustrations of not being able to compete fairly with my male counterparts, I have been treated very well."

Following integration, Brig. Batchelor transferred into the Adjutant General's Corps. For her efforts during the amalgamation of the WRAC into the British Army, she was awarded the O.B.E., which she describes as the highlight of her career.

This was Brig. Batchelor's first visit to the SPS clerks of UNFICYP, which she has thoroughly enjoyed. She was also taken on a short tour of Sector 2 where she was extremely well hosted by 12 Regiment. "The boys in Sector 2 have a very difficult job to do here, and it has been a very informative visit for me. I now have a greater understanding of the pressures they are under and the conditions under which they work."

*LS & GC medal recipients pictured below were WO2 Paul Milton (left) and WO2 Val Ramsey of the British Contingent serving with UNFICYP*



Brigadier Val Batchelor is currently Director Staff and Personnel Support (Army), and the highest ranking female officer in the British Army.

Brig. Batchelor arrived at HQ UNFICYP to present Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, an honour one of her colleagues jokingly says is bestowed on personnel with "15 years of undetected crime to their name".

A quietly spoken woman with a gentle nature and no family military background, she joined the ranks at 17 years of age, first serving as a private. What made her choose the army as a career? "Well, I knew from a very early age that a 9-5 job was definitely not for me. I have an adventurous spirit and I wanted a career with a challenge -- and I certainly found that!" But why didn't she enlist directly as an officer? "I knew I wanted to spend a few years as an NCO -- just to have fun with no responsibility. And this experience came in very useful, since I learned how soldiers live and work."

Then three years later, she was promoted to the rank of Corporal in the WRAC. Asked how she felt, serving in a predominantly male environment, she replied: "It was definitely a man's world. I felt frustrated because there were things I wanted to do in the army which I was not allowed to -- for example, I was with the Intelligence Corps, but I could not progress in this field because, being a woman, the highest female rank I could reach was a Captain."

"However, integration of the WRAC into the British Army took place in

# 12 Regiment Royal Artillery

12 Regiment has deployed to Cyprus to take over from the Queen's Royal Lancers on completion of their six-month tour. The Regiment took over Sector 2 on 7 June, and will remain until 12 December, when it will be replaced by 32 Regiment Royal Artillery.

Also attached to the Regiment during the tour are 3/29 Battery from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery and a troop of Engineers from 9 Parachute Squadron in Aldershot.



## A Brief History

12 Regiment Royal Artillery is one of four Air Defence Regiments in the British Army and is the only Air Defence Regiment based in Germany. It was initially formed in 1942 as part of 15 Field Brigade and served in Iraq, then Persia, Syria and Italy during WWII. Then in June 1946, it was redesignated 15 Anti Tank Regiment.

From 1947-1951, the Regiment served in the Mediterranean and North Africa as 12 Anti-Tank Regiment. On redeployment to Celle, Germany, it was renamed 12 Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

The Regiment converted to Rapier in 1972 and then in 1996 to the High Velocity Missile (HVM) system. It has been based in a number of locations, both in the UK and in Germany, with tours being conducted all over the world including the Falklands, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Gulf and more recently Kosovo.

The Regiment is grouped into T(HQ) (Shah Sujah's Troop) Battery and three equipment batteries: 12 (Minden) Battery, 9 (Plassey) Battery



and 58 (Eyre's) Battery. Each Battery has a training affiliation with different Brigades. In addition there is a REME workshop and RLC stores section.

The Regiment has been located in Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager, Germany since moving from Dortmund in 1995.



## Regimental Information

**Captain General:** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

**Master Gunner General:** Sir Alex Harley KBE CB

**Motto of the Corps:** *Ubique* (Everywhere), *Quo Fas Gloria Ducunt* (Where Right and Glory Lead)

**Regimental March:** The Royal Artillery Slow March

**Patron Saint:** St Barbara

## COMMANDING OFFICER SECTOR 2 Lt Col IJ Ian Bayless

Lt. Col. Ian Bayless assumed command of 12 Regiment in November 1999. Prior to that he was a Staff Officer in the Directorate of Military Operations. His commissioned service began in J Battery, Royal Horse Artillery (RHA). He has since served in 40 Regt, 45 Regt, 307 Bty and was a Battery Commander in 1 RHA.

Lt. Col. Bayless attended the Army Staff College in 1991 and has experience in numerous staff posts, completing operational tours in Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

Lt. Col. Bayless is married to Wendy and they have two sons, George aged 7 and William aged 5. His interests include sailing and poultry.



*Lt. Col. Bayless (right) taking over command of Sector 2*



# TOP X TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING IN CYPRUS

By Sgt. Rick Whitehead

I arrived in Cyprus on 23 June 2001 for a six-month UN tour. Previously, I was a Unit Road Safety Officer at the Royal Military Police Training School in Chichester, England. Part of my job was the promotion of road safety awareness to young Royal Military Police recruits undergoing training, and also to more experienced NCOs attending the School for Advanced Training.

Prior to my arrival, the School averaged between seven and ten major accidents a year. I am glad to say that up until 23 June, only one blameworthy accident, and one unattributable accident were reported in a two-year period. Curiously, the one blameworthy accident involved a soldier from, would you believe it, Cyprus! Here are some basic tips for safe driving in Cyprus. If you follow them, I cannot guarantee that you will not be involved in an accident, but at least the chances will be reduced.

## I. Do not copy local driving habits

Local drivers are not inferior drivers, just different. If you try and copy their (sometimes) aggressive style of driving, you are more likely to be involved in an accident. This is because you will not be used to driving in this way (or at least you shouldn't).

## II. Drive defensively

Never assume that you know what the other driver is going to do. Just because they are indicating to turn left, does not always mean they will. We have all at some time forgotten to indicate, or forgotten to turn the signal off. Anticipate that the car emerging from the junction up ahead may not stop.

## III. Reduce your speed

Drivers in all countries must get bored with hearing this, but while drivers continue to speed, Police Forces will continue to remind them. It is a fact that slowing down reduces your chances of being involved in an accident. SLOW DOWN.

## IV. NEVER drink and drive

If you are driving a UN vehicle, you must not have any alcohol in your body. Remember that drink from the previous night's merriment may still be in your system. It takes a good eight hours for all the alcohol in your system to be removed (good value!). If in doubt, don't drive. It is FMPU policy that all persons involved in a traffic accident will be breathalised regardless of who is at fault. If you are driving in the north of the island, remember that the drink/drive limit is considerably less than in the south. Nil alcohol is by far the safest bet.



## V. Always wear your seatbelt

Yes, it's a fact that they make you hot and sweaty, and that they are sometimes uncomfortable, but if you don't wear a seatbelt and you are involved in a crash, your car might stop suddenly, but you will not!

## VI. Be patient

Plan your journeys so that you do not have to rush to your destination. It is better to get there late, than not at all.

## VII. Junctions and roundabouts

Some drivers take amazing risks trying to join the flow of traffic at junctions, and especially at roundabouts. A suitable gap in the traffic will appear, do not force your way in. Remember that at the junction of a roundabout, you must give way to the vehicle approaching from your right. If you are already on the roundabout, vehicles at junctions to your left should give way to you, but beware in case they don't!

## VIII. Drive on the left

Remember - left is the correct side of the road. Even when you think you are used to a change in driving habits, such as driving on the "wrong" side of the road, it is easy to forget, and suddenly find yourself driving on the right. (Probably cursing the "idiot" coming towards you on the (supposed) wrong side of the road!). Driving on the left is second nature for the Brits, the Irish and the Australians, but may take some other nations some time to get used to. Beware.

## IX. Roadworthiness

Make sure your vehicle is mechanically fit to be on the road. Remember that due to the high temperatures, extra wear and tear is exerted on the vehicle, particularly the cooling system and tyres. Tyres will normally need to be checked more regularly for their pressures, which may be abnormally high due to the outside temperature. If in doubt, refer to your owners' manual or dealer for further information.

## X. The best way to avoid a car accident

Leave the car at home and walk instead!

**Have a safe and happy journey!**

# CROWD CONTROL TRAINING



The summer months are hot in Cyprus - not only in terms of temperature, but also in terms of temperament. Past experience has shown that whenever demonstrations take place, it is usually during the scorching months of July and August.

Of course, it is military custom to keep soldiers fit and ready for action, whatever the circumstances. With these factors in mind, riot and crowd control practice took place in the UNPA on 5 and 6 July. Members of the multinational MFR were split into two divisions. One took the role of UNFICYP peacekeepers, and the other acted as demonstrators. To help out and add to the authenticity of the scenario, members of the Public Information Office and Civil Affairs took the part of TV/media representatives.

Although only a practice run, the scene was very lifelike - with "agitators" attempting to push their way through human barricades and enter the buffer zone.

The simulation drew on activities which have taken place in the past in order that the MFR and UNFICYP are ready and able to deal with any incident that might occur again.

Most of the rehearsals took place on 5 July, with a final practice the following day, which was attended by the Chief of Mission and Force Commander.

The whole event was considered a success and valuable lessons were learnt. Of course, the hope is that UNFICYP will not have to put these measures into effect.





## How the world can win its battle against AIDS

**There are two wrong approaches to the global threat of HIV/AIDS.** One is to underestimate or ignore it. The other is to despair. The first can only be described as irresponsible. The second is unjustified.

No continent, no society, and no social group is immune from this scourge. Twenty-two million people have already died - and last year's total of three million was the highest yet. Adolescents and children are dying every day, and in every country. So are their parents - young adults in what should be the prime of their lives.

In some African countries today one quarter of the population is infected; the workforce is being decimated; and decades of progress in raising living standards and life expectancy are being wiped out. The same will soon happen to countries in other parts of the world - Asia, eastern Europe, the Caribbean - unless they take drastic action now.

But action is possible. Despair is not justified, for we are not powerless against this epidemic.

Even poor and middle-income countries can protect themselves by combining prevention and treatment - as Brazil, Senegal and Thailand have shown. Even the worst affected countries can confront the disease and contain its spread, as Uganda has shown.

In the last few months, the world has at last woken up. International drug companies, responding to world public opinion and to competition from generic manufacturers, have slashed the price of antiretrovirals and other AIDS-related medicines in the poorest countries. Providing treatment to infected people in those countries is no longer an impossible dream.

In Africa political leaders, too, have faced up to the problem as never before.

Two months ago, at the African summit in Abuja, Nigeria, I sensed a new spirit of urgency. All the nations represented there undertook to increase the share of resources they devote to health, and to HIV/AIDS in particular.

At Abuja, I laid out five key objectives for the world-wide struggle:

First we have to prevent the disease spreading further, above all by teaching young people how to avoid it.

Second, we must stop the cruellest infection of all -- those from mother to child.

Third, we must bring care and treatment within reach of all those infected. This is not an alternative to prevention, but an essential complement to it, since people are more willing to take HIV tests when they know there is the hope of treatment.

Fourth, we must step up the scientific search, both for a vaccine and for a cure.

And fifth, we must protect those whom AIDS has left most vulnerable - starting with the orphans.

Those five objectives were chosen after wide consultation among all those involved in fighting AIDS. They form the nucleus of a strategy on which all can agree. And they are achievable.

All this can be done, in the whole of the developing world, for an annual expenditure of \$7 to \$10 billion, provided it is sustained for the long term.

That represents a five-fold increase on what is now being spent. But it is only a quarter of New York City's budget. The world can surely find this amount.

Some of it will be found within developing countries. But clearly international solidarity is needed. And I believe the public in developed countries is now ready to show it. They understand that it is in their self-interest to do so, since no country can be unaffected by a global disaster of this magnitude.

Governments, foundations, commercial companies, private individuals - all have been coming forward in the past few months, wanting to play their part in the global effort.

Some already know how they want to spend their money, and to whom they should give it. But others want to contribute to a global fund, which can make sure all five priorities are addressed, and can simplify the application procedures for countries that need assistance.

Every day lost is a day when over ten thousand more people become infected with HIV, and many millions of people living with AIDS suffer unnecessarily.

We can beat this disease. And we must. But the longer we delay, the higher the cost will be.

## ¿Cómo Puede El Mundo Ganar La Batalla Contra El SIDA?

**Ante la amenaza mundial que representa el VIH/SIDA se pueden cometer dos errores.** Uno es subestimarla o hacer caso omiso de ella. El otro es ceder a la desesperación. El primero sólo puede calificarse de irresponsable.

Ningún continente, ninguna sociedad y ningún grupo social es inmune a este flagelo. Ya han muerto 22 millones de personas y la cifra de 3 millones del año pasado fue la más alta hasta el momento. Día a día y en todos los países mueren adolescentes y niños. También mueren sus padres, adultos jóvenes en lo que debería haber sido lo mejor de la vida.

En algunos países africanos actualmente está infectada la cuarta parte de la población; la epidemia está diezmando la fuerza de trabajo y los avances de décadas de aumento sostenido de los niveles de vida y la esperanza de vida se están perdiendo rápidamente. Lo mismo ocurrirá pronto en países de otras partes del mundo (Asia, Europa Oriental y el Caribe), a menos que adopten de inmediato medidas drásticas.

Sin embargo se puede hacer algo. No tiene sentido ceder a la desesperación porque no somos impotentes ante esta epidemia.

Incluso los países pobres y de ingresos medios se pueden proteger mediante una combinación de prevención y tratamiento, como han demostrado Brasil, Senegal y Tailandia. Hasta los países más gravemente afectados pueden hacer frente a la enfermedad y contener su difusión, como demostró Uganda.

En los últimos meses, el mundo por fin ha reaccionado.

Las empresas farmacéuticas internacionales, respondiendo a la opinión pública mundial y a la competencia de los fabricantes de productos genéricos, han reducido drásticamente el precio de los medicamentos antirretrovirus y otros medicamentos para tratar el SIDA en los países más pobres. Ofrecer tratamiento médico a las personas infectadas en esos países ya no es un sueño imposible.

En África los dirigentes políticos han encarado el problema como nunca lo habían hecho hasta ahora.

Hace dos meses, en la cumbre de países africanos celebrada en Abuja, Nigeria, percibí un nuevo espíritu de urgencia. Todos los países representados se comprometieron a aumentar la proporción de recursos que dedicaban a la salud en general y al VIH/SIDA en particular.

En Abuja, enuncié cinco objetivos fundamentales para la lucha mundial:

Primero, tenemos que evitar que la enfermedad se siga difundiendo, sobre todo enseñando a los jóvenes a prevenirla.

Segundo, debemos detener la más cruel de las infecciones, la que se transmite de la madre al niño.

Tercero, debemos poner la atención y el tratamiento al alcance de todas las personas infectadas. Esto no es una alternativa sino un complemento esencial de la prevención, ya que la gente está más dispuesta a hacerse la prueba del SIDA si sabe que hay posibilidades de tratamiento.

Cuarto, debemos intensificar la investigación científica, tanto orientada a encontrar una vacuna como a encontrar una cura.

Y quinto, debemos proteger a los que el SIDA ha dejado en una situación vulnerable, empezando por los huérfanos.

Esos cinco objetivos, que se adoptaron tras amplias consultas entre todos los que participan en la lucha contra el SIDA, constituyen el núcleo de una estrategia en la cual todos podemos estar de acuerdo. Y son alcanzables.

Todo esto se puede hacer en todo el mundo en desarrollo con un gasto anual de 7.000 a 10.000 millones de dólares, siempre que se trate de una inversión sostenida a largo plazo.

Esta cifra es cinco veces más de lo que se gasta actualmente, pero sólo la cuarta parte del presupuesto de la ciudad de Nueva York. Sin duda el mundo puede encontrar esta cantidad de dinero.

Parte de la suma se encontrará en los países en desarrollo. Pero evidentemente se necesita la solidaridad internacional. Y creo que el público de los países en desarrollo está dispuesto a dar muestras de ella. Este público entiende que le conviene hacerlo, puesto que ningún país puede sustraerse a un desastre mundial de esta magnitud.

Gobiernos, fundaciones, empresas comerciales y particulares han venido manifestando en los últimos meses su voluntad de aportar su contribución a esta empresa mundial.

Algunos ya saben a qué quieren destinar el dinero y a quién se lo deben dar. Pero otros quieren contribuir a un fondo mundial, que les dé seguridades de que se atenderá a las cinco prioridades indicadas y que simplifique los procedimientos de solicitud para los países que necesitan asistencia.

Cada día perdido es un día en que más de 10.000 personas contraen el VIH y muchos millones de personas que tienen SIDA sufren sin necesidad. Podemos derrotar esta enfermedad y debemos hacerlo. Pero cuanto más tardemos, más altos serán los costos.

## Kofi Annan Accepts Second Term

I am deeply honoured by the decision you have just taken, and I thank all of you for the great honour you have done me.

When your predecessors reappointed Dag Hammarskjöld to a second term in 1957, he said that no one could accept the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations -- "knowing what it means" -- except from a sense of duty. He immediately added, however, that no one could serve in that capacity "without a sense of gratitude for a task as deeply rewarding as it is exacting; as perennially inspiring as, sometimes, it may seem discouraging".

After four and a half years in the job, I can only echo both halves of his statement.

I labour under a constant sense of

obligation - to you, the Member States of the Organisation; to all the world's peoples, whom you represent; and in particular to my fellow Africans, whom you have honoured in my person today.

But at the same time I am sustained by a profound feeling of gratitude for the confidence you have placed in me, and for the encouragement and support I have received from so many quarters. I am well aware that, on my own, I could never have won that confidence, or earned that support.

Wherever I have travelled in these past four years, and whatever issues I have tackled, I have been inspired by the sacrifices that the staff of the United

Nations make, every day, on behalf of the peoples we serve.

In peacekeeping operations, in refugee camps, and in countless other missions of mercy and of hope, their dedication to the service of mankind is constant and unswerving.

Whatever I have achieved, I owe to their commitment and support, both in the field and at Headquarters.

It has been my privilege to serve as Secretary-General at a time of sweeping change and great challenges. My aims, I hope, have been clear.

I have sought to equip this indispensable institution so that it can adjust to change, rise to new challenges, and serve,

its Member States and their peoples more effectively, while remaining true to the principles of the Charter.

I have sought to turn an unflinching eye on the failures of our recent past, in order to assess more clearly what it will take for us to succeed in the future.

I have sought to speak out in defence of those who cannot speak for themselves - for the right of the poorest to development, and the right of the weakest and most vulnerable to protection.

And I have sought to make universal human rights the touchstone of my work, in all their aspects, because I believe they belong to every faith, every culture, and every people.

Whether, or how far, I have succeeded in these aims is not for me to judge. I do know, however, that the task is far from done.

We have recently taken the measure of one particular challenge, which 20 years ago we could not have imagined: the global scourge of HIV/AIDS.

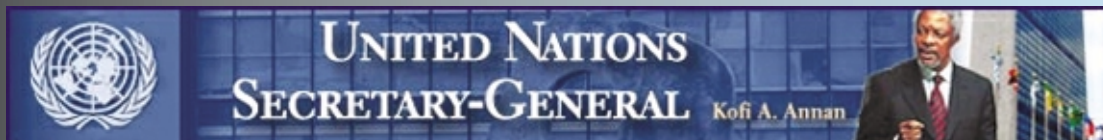
As you know, I have made that issue a personal priority, and I am now convinced that the battle can be won. Thanks to this week's work, and the long months of preparation that preceded it, we at last have an agreed, comprehensive strategy. Now we must put it into action.

There are many other challenges, but I do not need to list them now. Your Heads

of State and Government have given us our marching orders, in the Millennium Declaration they adopted last September. And next September, at the start of your 56th Session, I will put before you a programme for carrying out those orders, over the next five years.

For now, let me simply renew my oath of office:

*I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty/discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Organisation.*





# Two Dates To Remember

By Maj. Alejandro Alvarez

On 25 and 29 May, Argentinians everywhere celebrated the 191<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our first national government and the anniversary of our Army respectively.

In 1810 Argentina was part of the larger "Virreynato del Río de la Plata", and as such was under the authority of the Spanish King Fernando VII.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL CORNELIO SAAVEDRA

An important figure during the revolution of 1810 was Brig. Gen. don Cornelio de Saavedra.

As Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, "Patricios", Saavedra counted on the loyalty of his troops and the recognition of the citizens of Buenos Aires, helping, with his



support, to determine the destiny of the first national government.

With the establishment of the first junta, he was appointed the first president to general approval.

His patriotism, prudence and authority helped securely lay down the first steps of the revolutionary movement.

However, when Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain, subsequently crowning his brother José as Spanish King, Buenos Aires did not recognise his authority.

Thus, the citizens of Buenos Aires together with the military and the Church, decided to replace the Viceroy's authority with a patriotic junta. By doing so, the first national government came into existence on 25 May 1810. Still, the junta was nominally under the authority of the deposed King Fernando VII.

The call of freedom spread soon to neighbouring countries such as Paraguay and Uruguay, and served as a basis for our future declaration of independence on 9 July 1816.

On 29 May 1810, the new national government called upon militias and loyal regiments in order to establish a national army with the aim of defending and consolidating the security and freedom of the newborn country.



1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regt "Patricios"

## Brazilian Soldiers in ARGCON

By Capt. Jomar Barros de Andrade

Sector 1 does not consist solely of Argentinians. There is a small but very active team of South Americans, two of whom are especially different because they are not from a Spanish-speaking country: Brazil. Maybe Capt. Jomar and WOII Genildo are the only ones in the whole of UNFICYP who think in Portuguese, speak all day long in Spanish and, when they have to answer a phone call, instantly switch to English.

The Brazilian personnel of Sector 1 are based in the Operations Branch of the Argentinian Task Force where they serve as the current Operations Officer and auxiliary. It's a very important mission in Sector 1, because the team has responsibility for controlling all incidents that take place in the Sector's area of responsibility.

The history of Brazilian participation in ARGCON began in 1995, when the Brazilian and Argentinian Army Commanders reached an agreement to send one officer and one non-commissioned officer to peacekeeping missions being



Photo: Capt. Jomar (ATF 17), Capt. Lima (ATF 16), WO II Genildo (ATF 17) and WO II Valter (ATF 16)

carried out by each country at the time. So, in August 1995, Capt. Spinola and WOII Teixeira were part of ATF 5 in UNFICYP, while two Argentinian soldiers were based with the Brazilian Battalion in UNAVEM III, Angola.

Today, a lieutenant and a warrant officer from Argentina serve with the Brazilian Contingent in East Timor, while Capt. Jomar and WOII Genildo are here in Cyprus, keeping alive the traditions of the Brazilian contribution to UNFICYP.

## 67th Australian Police Contingent Arrives

The latest Australian Civilian Police Contingent landed in Cyprus on 14 May 2001. Members of the 67<sup>th</sup> Australian CIVPOL Contingent arrived in the country weary but excited about the prospects of serving in what is UNCIVPOL's longest running contribution to a mission under the auspices of the UN.

The 67<sup>th</sup> Contingent represents Australian Federal Police Offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. The group brings a total of 105 years of policing experience and a good diversity of personal and professional life skills.

Whilst the majority of the 67<sup>th</sup> are newcomers to the UN system, three contingent members have previously served with the UN -- Sgt. Costa/East Timor, Sgt. Smith/Bosnia, and Supt. Gyergyak/East Timor. The newcomers look forward to donning the blue beret for their first UN mission.

The 67<sup>th</sup> have taken over the duties of the 65<sup>th</sup> contingent, who were fondly farewelled, and look forward to working with the 66<sup>th</sup> contingent, their Irish CIVPOL colleagues, the rest of the United Nations family in UNFICYP and the people of Cyprus.



Members of the 67<sup>th</sup> prior to departure from Canberra. Back row (from left): Sgt. Patrizia Costa, Sgt. John Collins, Sgt. Mark Laing, Stn. Sgt. Ian Smith, and Sgt. Sandy Allan. Front row: Stn. Sgt. Bill McGeachie, Supt. Romi Gyergyak, and F/A Craig Sheehan, the Cyprus Case Officer for the Australians, sits on the right

## A PYCALO is not just an instrument



Mr. George Petrou, a Greek Cypriot farmer, with Mr. Suleiman Jelal, a Turkish Cypriot, the owner of a field where crop damage was caused by UN vehicles. Mr. Petrou, who rents the field from Mr. Jelal, was recently compensated for damage resulting from Sector 4 SCAT UNFICYP patrol activity in the area.

The piccolo is a small but persistent instrument in most orchestral scores. It could be said that the same key role is played by UNFICYP's PYCALO. Sgt. Tom Croke took up the Pyla Civil Affairs Liaison Officer (PYCALO) post on 15 February 2001. Having spent nine months as Operations Sergeant in Sector 2 at the

Ledra Palace Hotel, the appointment represents a total change of pace for Tom. The PYCALO is based at the UNCIVPOL station in Pyla and acts as a single point of contact for village residents regarding problem resolution and issue of permits, among other matters.

According to Tom, the most pleasant feature of his challenging post as PYCALO is the constant contact with people in the village. "One of my best duties to date was the visit I paid to the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot children's schools in Pyla on 16 March 2001. Because St. Patrick's Day was the following day, as well as speaking to the children about UNFICYP, I also talked to them about different aspects of Ireland

and showed them a short video of how we celebrate our National Day at home. The children and staff in each school were very welcoming and interested in the presentation - it was a very pleasant experience."

Tom is married to Eva and they have three children. Sarah and Dáire both work in Ireland, and Emma is currently studying computer networking at college in Ireland. Tom is studying for a B.Sc. (European Studies) course with the Open University at the moment. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, running and hill walking.



# UNFICYP lends a hand to students who lend a hand

**T**wentyeight students from 18 countries joined together from 16 June to 7 July on the United World Colleges Short Course 2001. The course on conflict resolution sought to bring a group of teenagers together, including Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. It marked the second time that this type of event has taken place with the support of UNFICYP.

Students from as far away as Canada, Iceland, Wales and Belarus were housed in the old St. Michael's School in the United Nations Protected Area. Edward Vernon from Malta said: "The facilities were great, but it was so hot that some of us moved our beds out to the balcony for the night."

During their stay, the students participated in community service. Here they had a choice -- to work in kindergartens, a library, a home for mentally and physically disabled children or in an old people's home. So every morning, they divided up into their groups and travelled north or south. At the kindergartens (two south and one north), some of the youths gave a fresh coat of paint to the garden fence, some looked after the kids, some cooked (and ate), some weeded the garden, some cleaned windows and repaired toys, and some spent their time entertaining the children. At the old people's home in the south, the students helped varnish the furniture. Having already taken some lessons in Greek and Turkish, they also had the opportunity to practise their conversational skills with the old people.

One group of students went to a library in the north -- the Ataturk Cultural Centre -- where they cleaned windows shelves and dusted books. Jussi Salo from Finland's group visited a home for mentally and physically disabled children, where he helped decorate

rooms by painting cartoons on the walls to stimulate the kids. Oana Georgescu from Romania commented: "The experience was great. Students from all over the world have come together during our free time -- we haven't wasted our time, we've done something useful in community services."

At the weekends, the nine Greek Cypriots hosted the international students in their homes. Time was spent shopping in the mornings, in cafés and clubs during the evenings and on the beach on Sundays.

It wasn't possible for Turkish Cypriots to stay in the UNPA or cross to the south, but the Greek Cypriot students met up with them at the north Ledra checkpoint when the group as a whole travelled to Kyrenia and Salamis. For some Greek Cypriots, it was their first visit to the north. Xenia Economidou says: "I saw it as a lifetime chance because this experience will stay forever -- we had the opportunity to be with teenagers of our age for three weeks and share and become friends. We all intend to keep in contact by e-mail and the Turkish Cypriots will participate in this. A journal will be produced about what we did and our opinion about the course."

"We also had the chance to see how community service is -- to give without expecting anything in return. And we were able to visit the north -- the places we hear about every day from our parents and teachers."

The course culminated on the evening of 6 July with dancing, recitals, performances and speeches at the Ledra Palace before an audience of parents and friends which included the Chief of Mission, the British High Commissioner and others.

The UWC students were selected to participate in the course by national committees in their respective countries. Some had to pay their own airfares -- some were sponsored. Asked if they would recommend this course to fellow students, Oana answered: "Of course we would! It has been very enlightening -- we've learned to be open to new things. We've learned to act and react in different situations, how to help solve conflicts, and we've also learned a lot about ourselves and about each other. This course would be good for anyone."

**"We haven't wasted our time, we've done something useful in community services."**



*New experiences -- new friends*

## How to avoid grass and forest fires in the Buffer Zone

*By Paul Nadeem Qadir*

**The biggest fire hazard within UNFICYP** at this time of the year is dry grass and vegetation. Your simple care and attention can prevent fires and save lives.

Below are some simple rules that 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 with plastic bins, even if you have ash trays;
- Throw away glass materials such as empty bottles or broken mirrors;
- Park your car near any grass or vegetation. Your vehicle's hot engine can cause a disaster;
- Leave your vehicle engine running. Always switch it off;
- Have a barbecue anywhere else than in designated places;
- Leave your barbecue unattended. When finished, use water or sand/soil to damp down the fire;

- Burn any sensitive material. For disposal such material, contact the UNFICYP Fire HQ, Ext 4453/4;
- Use water if electricity poles are involved in a fire. Always use fire beaters or green tree branches, especially if near UNFICYP OPs;
- Start your patrol without having at least four fire beaters in your patrol vehicle;
- Risk your life to fight a fire. Your life comes first. If it is safe, then take all appropriate measures, otherwise wait for the fire crew;
- Fight buffer zone/grass/forest fires alone; always attack the fire in groups;
- Fight buffer zone/grass fire up or down wind, but always from a cross wind direction;
- Forget when fighting fires that mines are present in the buffer zone;
- Spread buffer zone/grass/forest fire with your boots. Always wash them as you leave the area;
- Forget the fire/emergency telephone no. 02-86-4777 (UNFICYP JOC HQ).

## Swedish pop group ESKOBAR donates money to charities



**"Into Space"** is the title of a music video which was shot at the old Nicosia Airport in mid-June. The group Eskobar came from Sweden, and consisted of three young men (two, as can be seen from the photo, with very dark hair indeed). It's the trio's first music video. They hope it will lead them to fame back home in Sweden and abroad.

For two full days they took over the old runway with all their filming and music equipment. And for

passers-by, it was actually quite entertaining to watch as they not only played music, but also rode their motorcycles and drove about in an old red antique car for the benefit of the video as well.

The really good part about this video shoot was that the group agreed to donate a fee to UNFICYP for subsequent donation to local Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot charities. This has been done.

## Argentinian Ambassador visits

*By Maj. Alejandro Alvarez*

**S**ector 1 welcomed the Argentinian Ambassador to Israel, His Excellency Mr Gregorio Dupont, and Military Attachés Col Daniel Parra and Vice Commodore Eduardo Tunez, who began a two-day visit to the mission on 5 June.

The Ambassador's first call was to the UNPA, where he was introduced to the Force Commander and then greeted by the Chief of Staff. He subsequently visited Argentinian members of the MFR before moving on to UN Flight.

Next he went to Sector 1 for a line tour. This finished at San

Martín Camp at midday, where a parade was held to receive him.

During the parade he addressed the troops, praising the good performance he observed on the line and highlighting the importance Argentina places on peace-keeping missions.

After the parade, Sector 1 CO Lt. Col. García briefed the Ambassador and his party over the general situation on the island as well as in the Sector 1 area of responsibility.

A lunch was served at the Officers' Mess to conclude the short visit.





# Too hot to run? ☀️ Not for this bunch!

## RUNNERS' FIESTA

By Maj. Alvarez and 1/Lt Lucarino



The 8 km "Runner's Fiesta" race, organised by the Cyprus Health Runners' Club at the Strovolos Municipal grounds of Nicosia, took place this year on 26 May. Having been on the island for only one month, the 22 Sector 1 competitors were not yet acclimatized to the heat.

Soon after the 6 p.m. start, the field was spread out, thanks to the fast pace set by the front runners in the few first kilometres.

Sector 1 personnel put in a very good performance, with WO Rodolfo Moyano in first position in the male age group 40/49, and Pte. Nicolas Queupo second in the men's 19/29 category.

## Nicosia 7 km ☀️ road race

By Sgt. L. Bunch

The heat was a factor again on 17 June when 15 members of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery and eight from 9 Para Engr. Sqn. entered the Nicosia 7km Road Race. Most of the runners had only been on the island for one week and were still acclimatizing.

The route was two 3½ km loops through the town centre with a total of 130 runners taking part. Four trophies were won as follows: LCpl. Walker, 9 Para Engr. Sqn., fifth place overall; Spr. Shepherd, second in the under 19 age group; Cfn. Barnes, third in the under 19 age group; and Sgt. (SI) Bunch, third in the female category. All of the other runners finished with respectable times and represented the Regiment to a high standard.



Back (from left): Bdr. Greaves, LBdr. Harrison, Sgt. Bunch, Sgt. Lamb, Sgt. Griffiths, Capt. Whiteside. Middle: Bdr. Brannon, Cfn. Barnes. Front: Capt. Robinson

## Plassey Day ☀️ 23 July 2001

The weather conditions were ideal for the soldiers of 9 (Plassey) Battery Royal Artillery -- currently the troops of UNFICYP's Sector 2 East -- to celebrate the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Plassey. The honour title dates from the day in 1757 when 1<sup>st</sup> Company Bengal Artillery won the day for a British force of 3,200 men by holding off the massed horsemen of Nawab Suran-ud-Dowlah's army, numbering over 70,000 outside the town of Plassey in Bengal.

The day started with much the same weather as a Cyprus summer -- hot and dry. Half way through the battle, an unexpected rain storm soaked the battlefield, leaving the Nawab's force with wet powder and unable to fire. Assuming the British artillery to be in the same position, the Nawab ordered his cavalry to charge. But the British-trained Bengal Artillery had protected their powder from the rain. Their concentrated and accurate fire shattered the Nawab's cavalry charge. Seeing this, one of the most important Indian commanders defected with his troops, and the course of the battle was changed.

The Battery traditionally celebrates 23 July with sports competitions being held between the troops



and a party for all ranks late into the night. While the operational tour prevented a large party, the sports did go ahead. The troops competed at volleyball, tug-of-war and played various water-sports in the Ledra Palace swimming pool. An excellent day was rounded off by a barbecue before the troops returned to their places in the Buffer Zone.

## Ayia Varvara to Mathiatis 5km road race ☀️

By Sgt. L. Bunch

In soaring temperatures, Sector 2's personnel decided to enter the Ayia Varvara Road Race on 18 June. Imagine their surprise when what was supposed to be a 5km trek turned out to be a 6.4km uphill trudge to the finish line along streets lined with spectators.

Happily, they persevered and, as these results show, did well with Sgt. Thornton, third in the 30/39 age group; Spr. Shepherd, second in the under 19 age group and Sgt. Bunch, first the female category.

The local community was extremely friendly and invited everyone in at the end for a cold drink and some cake. The entertainment included singing and dancing. The organising committee truly know how to run (or trudge) an event.



## 12th Olympic day run ☀️

By Maj. Alvarez and 1/Lt. Lucarino

Thirty-one members of the Argentinian Contingent participated in the 16 June 2001 12<sup>th</sup> Olympic day run. The main event was the 7.5 km race and was organized by the Cyprus Olympic Committee and the Nicosia Municipality with the support of the Cyprus Health Runners' Club.

To avoid the heat of the day,

the race started at 7.00 pm. After a hard fought competition, three Argentinians finished in the top three in their respective age groups: Pte. Javier Ollarce, first in the male age group 20/29; Pte. Nicolas Queupo, third in the same group; and WO Rodolfo Moyano, second in the age group 40/49.



## Caption Competition

Major Simon Butt, Ops Branch, is the winner of last month's caption competition. UNCIVPOL took much pleasure in selecting Simon's caption from a number of entries, and wonders if this makes Simon the Joker of all Butts?

Will Simon please come to the Public Information Office for his prize.



*Good on ya mate - makes the eyes go funny first time, but keep going and all your hair will fall out -- the boss has been doing it for years.*



The best caption for the above photograph will receive a prize -- to be decided.... All entries should be submitted to the Public Information Office by

20 August 2001



