



**Military Skills
Tested**



**UNFICYP
Medal Parade
in Pyla**

THE BLUE BERET

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Public Information Office
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
HQ UNFICYP
PO Box 21642
1590 Nicosia
Cyprus
Tel: 2261-4550/4416/4408
Fax: 2261-4461
E-mail: unficyp-blue-beret@un.org
blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com
Website: www.unficyp.org

Editorial Team

Brian Kelly
Anne Bursey
Capt. Štefan Zemanovič
Miriam Taylor
Aldo Henríquez
Sgt. Adrián Artimovič (Photographer)

Unit Press Officers

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sector 1 | Capt. Bruno Varani |
| Sector 2/MFR | Capt. Anna Halloran |
| Sector 4 | MSgt. Silvia Lojanová Capt. Tibor Berecz |
| UNPOL | Sgt. Jim Flanagan |
| UN FIt | Lt. Wenceslao Bona |
| FMPU | Capt. Jozef Sventek |

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Building Tolerance

The month featured two significant international days. One, 16 November, is dedicated to promoting International (and communal) Tolerance. The second, 25 November, the day dedicated worldwide to the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

In his 16 November message, the Secretary-General notes that intolerance, a global issue, is on the increase in many parts of the world at local or national level. This is why efforts to promote global norms against intolerance need to be combined with local, national and especially individual measures.

Sadly, intolerance of "the other", whether based on race, ethnicity or creed, is all too pervasive in this day's world. Instead of celebrating and recognizing the diversity that so uniquely enriches the human condition, communities too often retreat into themselves behind barricades of fear and ignorance.

This fear of the unknown, of the "other", is rooted in ignorance, and leaves the community the victim of a hostile mindset that attacks what it does not know rather than explore what makes us different.

Building tolerance takes time and effort. It cannot be achieved overnight. Education is the key. The school system is where we inculcate the citizens of tomorrow with the values of tolerance, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Beyond the schools, we do well to remember that adults too can benefit from learning about the underpinnings of tolerance. As parents, lawmakers, and law-enforcers, for example, informed adult role models can be catalysts for progress and openness in multicultural communities.

The same is true when it comes to the drive to eliminate violence against women because on this issue there are no grounds for tolerance and not tolerable excuses.

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Front Cover: UNFICYP Medal Parade in Pyla

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Dag Hammarskjöld Centenary marked at Ledra Palace

On 22 November, UNFICYP and the Swedish Embassy in Cyprus co-hosted a special evening in Ledra Palace to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations second Secretary-General. Hammarskjöld served from 7 April 1953 until his death in a plane crash at Ndola, Zambia, on 18 September 1961, at the height of the Congo crisis. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously.

As UNFICYP Force Commander Hebert Figoli said in his welcoming address, Hammarskjöld was the father of UN peacekeeping, laying down many of the precepts that we now take for granted. UNEF, the UN's first peacekeeping force, was formed during his first term as SG as a result of the Suez crisis in 1956.

Dag Hammarskjöld was a diplomatic pioneer and pathfinder. He brought to the UN a combination of the self-effacing discipline of the career professional public civil servant and the aesthetic of the thoughtful visionary. He was fierce in his defence of the Secretariat's independence, resisting the Soviet Union's demand for his resignation in 1960 over the handling of the Congo crisis, and again, in 1961, famously arguing the case for an independent, international civil service.

Ambassador Ingemar Lindahl of Sweden pointed out how Hammarskjöld's legacy as Secretary-General was his inventive diplomacy, which extended the influence of the World Organisation on the basis of its charter, and his moral integrity as leader of the Organisation, which made it possible to successfully realize his diplomatic initiatives.

He also noted how Kofi Annan had once said there could be no better rule of thumb for a Secretary-General as he approaches each new challenge or crisis than to ask himself how Hammarskjöld would have handled this? How might Hammarskjöld have handled the Cyprus situation?



Ambassador Lindahl with Senior Adviser Susan Allee, Ambassador Falkman and Professor Wallensteen at the old Nicosia International Airport

IAEA Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

The 2005 Nobel peace prize has gone jointly to Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency he leads, the Nobel committee announced in Oslo on 7 October. ElBaradei was recently confirmed as IAEA director for a third term. The prize of 10 million Swedish

crowns (\$1.29m) will be presented in December in Oslo.

In keeping with tradition, it is awarded in the Norwegian capital, while the other Nobel prizes – for excellence in physics, chemistry, medicine and literature – are awarded in Stockholm.



Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld at a press conference in June 1961

Would he have been more successful than any of his five successors? "Despite all his diplomatic skills and inventiveness, I am not so sure that he would have been able to achieve much more than they managed, in close cooperation with the Security Council", Ambassador Lindahl concluded.

He pointed out that frustrating all UN initiatives is the fact that Cyprus, like some other regions in the world, lacks one of the prerequisite for conflict solution – a culture of compromise. This had been commented on by the first Swedish commander to serve with UNFICYP in 1964 and by the last in 1987. The same sentiment ran through the reports of Secretary-Generals Waldheim, Pérez de Cuellar and Boutros-Ghali to the Security Council.

The Ambassador quoted Pérez de Cuellar, who also served as Special Representative in Cyprus: "After my efforts during more than 12 years I would like to describe the Cyprus problem as a labyrinth from which every promising exit only leads back to the point of departure."

Lindahl pointed out how Sir Kieran Prendergast, "the latest UN envoy to Cyprus", had reported last June that there remained "a considerable gap" between the positions of the two parties, making it difficult to embark on a new UN initiative.

"Hammarskjöld believed that the UN must be an organic instrument, all the time developing new forms of dynamic action to solve long-standing conflicts. Hopefully, that kind of belief and determination will be shown in the case of Cyprus also by his successors – as well as by the local political leaders – resulting in a new forward-looking initiative for the reunification of the island. In his literary testament, *Waymarks* (Markings), Hammarskjöld says that 'only those who can look forward will be able to find the way'."

Later, two speakers from Sweden – Professor Peter Wallensteen, conflict resolution expert and holder of the Dag Hammarskjöld chair at Uppsala University, and Ambassador Kaj Falkman, writer, diplomat, author, President of the Swedish Haiku Society, and former special adviser on the Cyprus issue to the Swedish Foreign Minister – spoke respectively of Hammarskjöld's diplomatic achievements as Secretary-General and about his creative persona as writer, poet and philosopher.



Pyla's First Medal Parade – Chief of Mission's Last



“.... Pyla
is a village
we in the
UN hold in
special
regard”



As the sun disappeared over the top of the UNPOL Station, members of the UN Police Component of UNFICYP stood to receive their UN Medal from Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz. On 17 November, the UNPOL medal parade took place in the lovely village of Pyla.

It was the SRS's final medal parade as he nears the end of his assignment after five and a half years with UNFICYP. In his speech, he commended the medal recipients "who serve the community, both international and local, and in doing so, represent a fine example of diversity and multiculturalism at work". In all, there were 39 medal recipients from seven countries – Argentina, Australia, Bosnia, the

Netherlands, India, Ireland and Italy. The assembled police officers in their magnificent array of dress uniforms from four different continents presented a truly United Nations spectacle. A sense of duty and pride were clearly the order of the day.

Pyla, the only bi-communal village in the buffer zone, is home to one of UNPOL's 10 stations. It is under the command of Supt. Liam Mayock from Ireland. Supt. Mayock has been stationed there since February last. During this time, he and his colleagues have become friendly with the mayors, muhktars and the people of this and surrounding villages. Organising the UNPOL Medal Parade with Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris, Liam focused on a bi-communal

theme in a spirit of strengthening the link between the people of Pyla and UNPOL. This was achieved in no small measure.

Pyla residents, UNPOL officers and their families were joined by many guests including Irish Ambassador John Swift, Dutch Ambassador M.E.C. Gevers, Italian Ambassador Luigi Napolitano, Deputy Australian High Commissioner John Morrison, Papal Envoy Fr. Umberto Barato, and Indian High Commission Deputy Secretary Anil Kumba, as well as visiting Irish Assistant Commissioner of Police Noel Smyth.

Many thanks go to the members of the Royal Irish Regiment Band, under the baton of Capt. Alex Knox, who so skillfully played the national anthems of the

UNPOL contingents. The band also entertained the crowd with a repertoire of well-known tunes.

The UNPOL officers put a great deal of effort into preparing the village for the occasion. However the success was not theirs alone. Thanks are also due to SLOVCON Sector 4, who provided the catering, BRITCON, who provided logistical support, ARGCON, who helped with the driving, Sgt. John Henderson and his staff from the FMPU, Sgt. Lisa Coleman and Ms. Diana Bridger for helping prepare the special programme booklet, and, of course, Force Photographer Sgt. Adrián Artimović.

On behalf of the Senior Police Adviser, a big thank you to all.



Military Skills Competition

November 2005

The Blue Beret's Anne Bursey reviews the competition from a civilian competitor's perspective



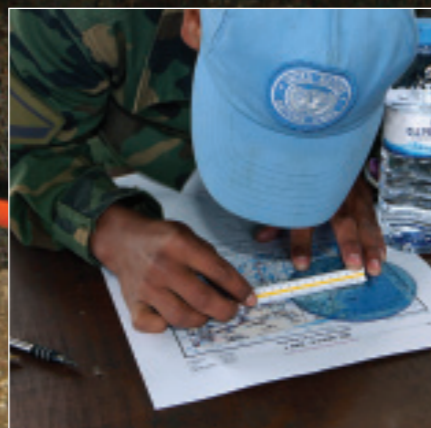
Team HQ UNFICYP's Maj. Varvölygi places third overall in the Weapon Run



Capt. Anna O'Halloran, team Sector 2A.



Miserable conditions on the Driving Course.



Sector 1 ticks the Map Reading exam.

The alarm went off. It was 4:30 a.m. – zero:dark-hundred. Threw on my uniform and took the dogs out for a quick trot around the block. The temp was nine degrees and not raining, a great relief. I had to meet my UNFICYP HQ teammates in 40 minutes to sign out weapons at the MFR. That day, 23 November, was the 10th UNFICYP Military Skills Competition (MSC) and so, eating my usually large breakfast was out of the question if I wanted to avoid cramps at the very first event of the day – a 5.5 km run with a rifle and 12 kilos on my back!

After three months of 6:00 a.m. runs, assault course bruising and a mere six hours of practice at the shooting range (never held a weapon in my life before that), the big day had finally arrived. At MSC

Excon in the centre of the UNPA, 10 teams of six queued up like sheep awaiting orders from WO2 Robert Pomfret for the weigh-in at 5:15 a.m. This MSC, each of the three sectors nominated two teams (A and B) while the UNPA had teams HQ, UNPOL, and a mixed team comprising MFR, Force Engineers, FMPU and UN Flight. Bergen and webbing were slung onto the scales. My kit was overweight by two kilos (too much extra warm clothing, I guess). After tipping out two bottles of water and re-weighing, WO2 Pomfret gave

his blessing with a "good-to-go Anne". By now, I had only 10 minutes to prepare for the Weapon Run and the sun was still hiding her warming rays.

Despite the cold darkness, I could tell the energy was high with



FC, COO, CO Sector 2 and Chief Controller Núñez join Sector 2's B winning members – Lt. Andy Greaves, WO2 Ian Battersby, Cpl. Rial Dastur, Bdr. Damien Winnard, LBdr. James Webster and Pte. Nina Qarau

most teams joking around while gearing up. Never having run with a rifle before (being a first-time civilian competitor), I struggled to get the sling organised while walking over to the race start, when suddenly, the Chief of Staff sounded the start horn at 6:00 a.m., and the race was underway.

I thought I had trained well and good enough for this moment, but what I discovered within the next five minutes taught me there is never enough TRAINING! The gun run course in the last competition consisted of a 5.9 km stretch along flat and paved roads. This year, the COS and Lt. Col. Núñez were clearly in cahoots with their brilliant concept to add a new twist. Why not make it a little more challenging? Nothing like carving out five treacherous burms; throw in several steep climbs and why not make it a bumpy and muddy cross-country trail? Brilliant! I had to slow down to a walk several times to catch my breath. To say the course was difficult would be a gross understatement! Despite my late crossing of the finish line, our

team placed third, thanks to the top guns on my HQ team.

The sun by this time was up and shining bright. Those who survived the gruelling test intact made me feel out of my league. The 12-hour day ahead was to take each team through eight stands. The UNFICYP questionnaire test included some hilarious multiple-choice answers: e.g. "In the Code of Conduct, what should a Peacekeeper refrain from doing?" Choice 3. Sunbathe).

We moved on to the Weapon Run; Cross Country Driving; Map Reading and Orienteering; Shooting; Incident Reaction; Patrol and



Team HQ UNFICYP struggles with the Jerry can on the Obstacle Course



Sector 2 deal with the "casualty" at the Incident Reaction stand.



SLOVCON fired it up at the Shooting stand



Sector 1 slugs it out in the Obstacle Course mud

Observation; ending up with the dreaded Obstacle Course. The best part of the day, aside from shuffling from stand to stand encouraged by my never-less-than-supportive team mates, was crossing paths with so many colleagues. This was unlike the races I had run previously, where you just don't get to share the moment with so many familiar faces.

My favourite stand was the Incident Reaction where theatrics were high. I found myself chuckling quite a bit – nerves, I hate to admit. As with all stands, before the start we were read a scenario of what we were about to enter. In this case, an accident had occurred in a minefield just ahead. Our team captain, Maj. Varvölygi, leads the way in. We approach the situation with caution, since we were advised there were "hunters in the buffer zone". We spread out, re-enacting a patrol, when suddenly, a "stranger" rushes over to us shouting hysterically. Maj. Varvölygi pulls him gently aside to calm the man and to probe for information about the situation. Maj. Wright hits the radio and begins to call out the signs to explain it all to the "JOC". The fictitious scenario opened out to a small clearing where a woman lay screaming, arms flailing, lying in a pool of "blood". I could see that she had lost a leg. Straight ahead there was a soldier and a man ran toward us (the accident victim's husband) while to our right, the referees watched carefully. The FMO followed our every step along the paved road jotting down notes on our moves. At first I was ordered to stand guard, then sent to talk to the screaming woman as we had to

MSC

keep her conscious until "medical help arrived via helicopter". However, I am warned not to enter the minefield where the "victim" lies. Helpless, I shouted to her, asked her name (Rebecca) and told her: "why the chicken crossed the road" jokes (she laughed). Suddenly, Rebecca stopped shouting. Before we could determine the designated safe way into the minefield (through a cement walkway), she stopped moving. Rebecca "died" on us! OK, so this stinks. We end up making our way into the minefield safely, and even though the victim has "stopped breathing", we applied first aid, tried to stop the "bleeding" and carried her out of the area to await the "helicopter". We lost several points for letting Rebecca "die", but overall, we did alright in my book.

I had a great time watching my team strut their stuff. It is all very exciting as a civilian to watch what the military are trained to do. The situation was quickly assessed, everyone had their orders and

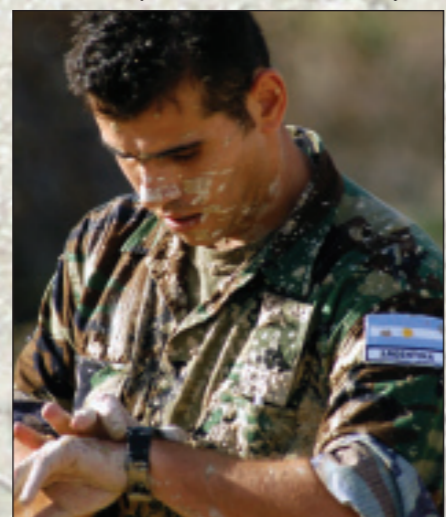
actions seemed to fall into place as standard procedure.

Last stand, the mother of all MSC events – the Obstacle Course. In summary – it was miserably wet and muddy, my heart was up in my throat the entire duration and I thought my arms were going to rip right off from carrying those wretched jerry cans. With friends and colleagues cheering along the sidelines the pressure was definitely on to move fast. No time to stop to rest the heavy weight on the ground. I was caked with mud and could barely grip the walls that I was being hurled over. Like clockwork we pushed on, whizzing over walls, under wires and through tunnels (except when I fell stepping through those miserable tyres!). I love that trick my teammate, Maj. Moon, so effortlessly pulls off – races up to a 12-foot concrete wall, propels off the face with one foot and rockets up over the top, grabbing the edge to pull himself over in one swoop. Easy (hmmf). The assault course is the ugliest and most exhilarating stand in the competition.

Crossing the finish was like nothing I had experienced before. The competition was finally over. I was on a high. ARGCON had brought along drummers who pounded out their war-path beats; SLOVCON, wearing black headbands and laughing so hard, rolled on the ground at the finish line chanting: "Ticky tick, ticky tick"(?); and UNPOL's team was all smiles, walking around like zombies, smeared with mud up to their earlobes. It was a terrific scene, imbued with the senses of accomplishment, relief and team spirit. I was glad to be there, even though my back was aching.

FC Maj. Gen. Figoli, like a proud father, handed out the day's awards. First place, Sector 2B,

second, Sector 1A; third, Sector 2A. Congratulations to all competitors for their pre-race training efforts, for waking up at 4:30 a.m. and laughing all the way to the finish. And a very special thanks to Sarah Staples for free delivery of



Dirty laundry for everyone..

flap jacks and tea; to the DS who commandeered each stand; to the umpires who made the tough calls and occasionally negotiated disputes; and especially to the Chief Controller, Lt. Col. Núñez, for his clever course design and for running the competition's seamless schedule.

My aching back will forever be grateful!

AB



Chief Controller Lt. Col. Núñez

Team Results

| Team | Place | Weapon Run | Driving | Question | Navex. | Shooting | Incident Reaction | Patrol Observe | Obstacle Course |
|----------|-------|------------|---------|----------|--------|----------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sect 2-B | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Sect 1-A | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| Sect 2-A | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| MFR | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 5 |
| Sect 1-B | 5 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| HQ | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| UN Mixed | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| Sect 4-A | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| UNPOL | 9 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| Sect 4-B | 10 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 10 |

Note: highest score 10, lowest score 1

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International Day of Tolerance

Fighting intolerance in all its forms has been fundamental to the work of the UN for 60 years. The International Day of Tolerance was celebrated on 16 November. In his message, the Secretary-General noted how mankind's acceptance of the diversity so characteristic of the human condition has been "painfully lacking", and why intolerance of the "other" remains a source of great and everyday human suffering.

To help observe the day, a set of guidelines has been put together to help stimulate creative thinking in municipalities and parliaments, schools and universities, clubs and associations, work places, non-governmental organisations, and the media.

Building tolerance and trust in diverse communities is not done overnight, but takes time and commitment. Building tolerance requires access to education. Intolerance is often rooted in ignorance and fear: fear of the unknown, of the "other", other cultures, religions and nations. Intolerance is also closely linked to an exaggerated sense of self-worth and pride: notions taught and learned at an early age. Therefore, there is a need to place greater emphasis on educating children about tolerance, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

However, education does not end in school. Adults – as individuals capable of committing acts of intolerance, but more importantly in their capacity as parents, law-makers and law-enforcement officials – also need to be considered a priority target of educational efforts.

While the problem of intolerance is global, in the sense that it is on the increase in many parts of the world, the manifestations of intolerance usually take on local or national forms. Thus, in order to be effective, global norms against intolerance need to be combined with local, national and not least individual measures.

The ideas below are a starting point for thinking about how to boost the promotion of tolerance.

1. Diversity in Your Community

Wherever you live, the wide diversity of your community will probably surprise you. It has been said that a culture is the sum total of all the influences that a region has undergone. Undertake an investigative project on cultural diversity in your town or community. Who lives there? How do they live? Articles, interviews, posters or displays can be designed to highlight the range of identities and cultures.

2. Human Rights

How are the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious, linguistic or other minorities guaranteed in your community, nation, region? How about indigenous people, migrant workers, asylum-seekers and refugees, disabled people? Are their rights promoted and protected? Are law-enforcement officials adequately educated about human rights? Can you improve attitudes or behaviour toward minorities?

3. Do-It-Yourself Tolerance Programme

Write your own tolerance curriculum or programme. This means deciding what the component parts of tolerance are, and how you think such values can best be transmitted. Scrutinise text books and TVs, newspapers and magazines for stereotyping, including gender typing, and assumptions about nationalities and ethnic groups. What are the tolerance priorities for your town, country or region?

4. No to Violence

How does violence enter a community, school or home, and how can it be stopped? Act out the dynamics of tolerance and intolerance through role playing, dialogue, dilemma solving. Organise public debates, take sides, then switch sides and speak for the opposite position. How do you imagine peaceful co-existence of diverse individuals and groups? What makes it work?

5. Ecological Diversity and Human Diversity

Every community is based on interdependence. Like the

plants and animals, we couldn't survive if we were all the same. Some examples of this truth drawn from daily life in your town? Concrete examples of how a culture of peace and tolerance can promote environmental preservation?

6. Religious Tolerance

Organise an event, with the participation of different religious and non-religious groups in the community, to discuss how tolerance is taught. How is tolerance taught by the different religions of the world, including the traditions of indigenous peoples? Each of them, in its own way, is founded on love and justice, and cannot be used to justify violence or war. Dialogue and discussion between representatives of many religious groups is a tradition that goes back centuries.

7. Current Events

Organise discussions about current events in relation to tolerance and intolerance. What are the fundamental rights and freedoms recognised by the international community? How do multi-cultural, multi-linguistic countries work? What are the common interests that diverse peoples share?

8. Sports and Tolerance

What are international sporting events, and what is their purpose? What are the possible links between sports and intolerance (such as exclusion of those unable to compete, competitive chauvinism and violence) and how may these be remedied?

9. Creativity at Work

Examine the work of an artist from another region of the world. What does it communicate to you? Create short stories, plays, poems, songs, articles, paintings, posters, photographs, or videos elucidating the themes of tolerance, and publish or distribute them.

10. International Link-ups

Start an international conversation or school-pairing project, by mail or computer.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

SG – 25 November 2005

Violence against women remains pervasive worldwide. It is the most atrocious manifestation of the systemic discrimination and inequality women continue to face, in law and in their everyday lives, around the world. It occurs in every region, country, and culture, regardless of income, class, race or ethnicity.

Gender-based violence is also damaging to society as a whole. It can prevent women from engaging in productive employment, and girls from attending school. It makes women more vulnerable to forced and unprotected sex, which plays a key role in the spread of HIV/AIDS. It takes a deep and enduring toll on the entire family, including and especially the next generation.

At the World Summit in September, leaders pledged to redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and the girl child. We know that this requires us to change the mindset, still all too common and deep-seated, that violence against women is acceptable. That means leadership in showing, by example, that when it comes to violence against women and girls, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses. On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us rededicate ourselves to that mission."

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UNPOL's Sgt. Janine Peck up to her earlobes in mud after the Obstacle Course.

Sector 2 News

The advance party from 12 Regt RA left from their home base in Paderborne, Germany, for Cyprus on 23 September and was welcomed by temperatures still in the high 30s. We were happy to take advantage of the last remaining warm weather before embarking on a crash course on the complexities of the unique environment that we are to work in for the next six months.

Time on the ground was the main aim for the troops, trying to learn in detail their areas of responsibility so that all had intimate knowledge of the opposing forces ceasefire lines, OPs and the main areas of concern. The first few weeks were somewhat of a patrol-dominated blur. As surmised, both OPFORS welcomed us with unexpected incidents designed to test our diplomacy!



12 Regt Fijians creating a warm atmosphere

The month of October was busy for Sector 2, presenting many more challenges than patrols and incident-reactions. For one thing, there was the Chief of Staff's inspection, devised to ensure operational effectiveness.

The 3 November cocktail party was a great opportunity to invite guests from all over the island, including SRSG Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz,



The Royal Irish Band

Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli and British High Commissioner Peter Millett. The preparation for this began long before the event. The Ledra Palace Hotel facelift, particularly the gardens, was acclaimed by many. The evening was a great success. Guests and members of Sector 2 enjoyed drinks, nibbles and good conversation near the swimming pool. Musical entertainment included the Royal Irish Band, the Regiment's Fijians and also a local group.



Stepping out at a successful reception

On the sporting front...

The Regimental rugby team, otherwise known as the "Nicosia Stormers", has had noticeable success to date, winning all four of its games against local teams. Most convincing was the 71-0 defeat of Limassol!

Turning to the "beautiful game", sad to say that despite training hard under the watchful eyes of Capt. Anton Johnson, the football team has yet to match the guys with the oval ball. On their first outing, they lost 6-1 to MFR (first match nerves, no doubt!)

The Regiment also entered three teams in the Dhekelia Dash, an event consisting of a 15-mile route completed by 15 individuals, each running a mile. Of 20+ teams, the Regiment finished second, beaten only by the resident battalion.

Right: Bdr. Lee Pearn chases tough competition at the Dhekelia Dash



Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 13 November, more than 300 people gathered to remember the victims of war at the BRITCON Remembrance Service led by the padre, Rev. Stephen Hancock.

The service took place in Wayne's Keep cemetery in the buffer zone, an appropriate and scenic location. With the Kyrenia mountains as a backdrop, worshippers sat among the headstones of the fallen under the watchful eye of the Turkish OPs.

The two-minute silence commenced with the firing of a 12-pound field gun provided by 12 Regt RA. The commitment and hard work of the Regiment helped ensure a poignant service. Afterwards, the Regiment catered for the Royal British Legion lunch in the Ledra Palace.

Representatives from many countries within UNFICYP attended and 23 wreaths were laid under the direction of the BRITCON, SO2 Maj. Mark Grieveson. Music was provided by members of the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment. Padre Hancock noted the significance of the occasion, saying it was "good, right, and a privilege to be present at such a service". He reminded the attendance that those who fell in war had paid the ultimate sacrifice and that, through our efforts, their sacrifice need not be in vain as we strive for peace among nations.

In conclusion he said: "With God's help and regardless of nation, 'we will remember them'."



Bonfire Night

The annual Bonfire Night, 5 November, took place in the area behind UNDP's offices. The traditional event was formally opened this year by the Force Commander's wife, Nelida Scarone, who lit the bonfire. The event started at 6.00 p.m., and by 6.30 p.m., the place was packed!

The organising committee's efforts to encourage more families to attend paid off. Over 700 civilian, military and police members arrived, many with dependents and friends, so much so that the evening recorded the best attendance in years.

An excellent array of food was prepared by HUNCON and UN Flight. However, so great was the turnout that the 600 catered for was exceeded. Meal tickets had to be refunded at the end of the evening. Many apologies to those who did not eat!

However, no one starved. There were sausage stands, sweet corn and candy floss run by local stall holders. There was also a beer tent and a children's entertainment area run by BRITCON.



One of the main attractions was the HIVE tent, with lots of competitions for the children including painting (all age groups), a lucky dip and the "best guy for the bonfire". Fund-raising activities included a sale of home-baked cakes (thanks to BRITCON wives) and a sale of old library books. Raffle prizes were donated by the local hotel and tourist industry, and the NAAFI provided the star prize of a colour TV.



The most popular stall was the tombola. It attracted a huge and continuous stream of visitors with a selection of prizes donated by individuals and outside organisations – from bottles of spirits to weekends away, etc.

Nothing, however, could outshine the star event – the fireworks display. A local company, M.J.D. Pyrgos Fireworks Ltd. of Larnaca, provided an impressive show of dazzling pyrotechnics which lit up the night skies, giving all present 15 minutes of spectacular entertainment.

Many thanks to all who provided individual support to the stands for their enthusiasm in making the event so memorable, particularly for the children; to Maj. Fred Reid as overall coordinator for the event; to the small band of women from the HIVE; and all those who joined in. Hopefully you will all be with us next year for an even more memorable event.

Alex Boyd, Chairman, Welfare Committee

Keeping up with the Training

Exercise "MOLO Neophyte" Sector 1 helps train new MOLOs

As part of the third MOLO course, which took place in the UNPA 3-14 October, Sector 1 MOLOs organised the Confirmatory Exercise, suitably christened "MOLO Neophyte". Sector 1 devised and conducted this exercise so as to include most of the contingencies/incidents that MOLOs might have to face, assess, advise about and/or resolve.

The exercise was divided in two circuits. One was on foot over 4.8 km of broken terrain, including a taxing climb up "Heartbreak Ridge", a 436 metres-high hill. The other, by vehicle, ran for 55 km over roads, routes and different parts of Sector 1 patrol track. In different situations, MOLO students had to confront irate OPFOR commanders (and solicitous but rather inept interpreters), change flat tyres and deal with intruders, among other incidents.

After 10 hours, the tired MOLOs started working on their reports and minutes, which were handed over early next day.

Thus, Sector 1 and its experienced MOLOs contributed to train UNFICYP's newest batch of MOLOs. Congratulations to all in Sector 1 who helped.



FMPU Induction Course



Following every rotation, the Force Military Police Unit carries out induction training for its new personnel. So, between 17 and 19 October, six Argentinians, two Hungarians and four Slovaks were introduced to the FMPU's role within UNFICYP.

The training commenced with an introduction to the Force Provost Marshal, Maj. John Watson, and to the FMPU team, station and rules of discipline within the unit. It incorporated theoretical training, carried out in the International Police Club, and practical drills in and around the UNPA. These included two days of shooting exercises, fire-fighting, speed check/speed



meter training, crime scene preservation, road traffic accidental initial procedure, recording photographs and sketch plans. The training and "secrets" of military police work were very interesting, particularly for the Argentinian and Hungarian newcomers. Back home, they have no such thing as a Military Police Unit, and their military occupations had no connection with police work. The lessons they were given and skills they gained will be put into practice by the new policemen during the unit's annual training programme.

Three of these new and motivated officers are keen on sports activities, and represented the FMPU in the Military Skills Competition. Good luck in your tour!

New CPO

The new CPO, Hasita Wimalachandra, arrived on island on 2 October, initially for a two-year tour. Hasita was born in Colombo, Ceylon, and is now a resident of New Zealand.

Hasita has had much UN experience in the past. Having joined in April 1997, he served as a trainee until July 1997 in the HQ UN Procurement Division. In August 1997, he was posted to UNMIBH (Sarajevo),

again in the procurement division, where he stayed until May 2000. During this tour, he spent from June to August 1999 in the Skopje Liaison Office as an Associate Procurement Officer, assisting in the start-up of UNMIK mission.

From June 2000 to January 2003, Hasita served in UNIFIL, Naqoura, as a Procurement Officer. Then in February 2003, he moved to UNMOGIP, Rawalpindi, as the Chief Procurement Officer, serving there until September 2005. He took a brief time out from May to June 2005 to serve as the Chief Procurement Officer in MINUSTAH, Port-au-Prince.

Hasita is accompanied by his wife, Prini. His main



CM Wlosowicz welcomed by the CPO

On 19 October, the new Procurement Chief hosted a breakfast in his department – an excellent way to meet up with his new colleagues in the UNPA.

A small feast was organised by his staff and most of us had added quite a few calories by the end of this event! Perhaps he is setting a trend?



(and only) hobby is cars – classic cars in particular, but ALL cars – a true petrol head!

Jennifer Wright joins CMP

Jennifer Wright arrived in Cyprus on 1 November to take up the post of assistant to the Third Member of the Committee on Missing Persons.

Jennifer studied first at Bristol University in the UK, where she gained a BA in Modern Languages. She continued her studies at Dublin City University where she graduated with an MA in International Relations.

Jennifer started her career teaching English in 1992. She then worked in the car industry for two

years before joining the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva in 1995. She was sent on her first mission to Bosnia, after which she was posted to Colombia. In June 2000, Jennifer went to Rwanda, which was followed by a spell in Jerusalem, after which she was designated as Head of the Latin America Desk, Central Tracing Agency & Protection Division, Geneva in 2002. She held this post until 2004.

Jennifer has a lot of experience in problem-solving and manage-



ment. She speaks several languages and her hobbies include hiking, skiing, music and reading.

UN Flight Depart – Plus One!



On 24 November, 10 departing members of UN Fit, along with friends and colleagues, gathered together in the International Cafeteria for the last time this tour.

On this occasion, Capt. Adriano Ferrari was "mugged out" by his CO, Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi. This was the fifth time Adriano – famed throughout this mission for his tango lessons – had served with UNFICYP. On the first three occasions he returned home alone.

On his last tour, he returned with his wife – and this time they are three! Little Agustin, their first born son, accompanies them. Who knows what any future tours may hold?!



Adriano and Agustin



De-Mining Update

capability to ensure that mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) are removed in a safe, time-efficient and cost-effective manner in accordance with international mine action standards.

Launched in November 2002, the Mine Action Centre completed Phase I of its project in July 2005, with 13 National Guard minefields cleared in the buffer zone. Phase II was launched on 12 August 2005 with the cooperation of the Turkish Forces (TF). So far, three TF minefields in Nicosia city area have been cleared.

Under its new slogan "A step to the future", the renamed Mine Action Centre in Cyprus (MACC) has cleared 591,306 square metres of land in the buffer zone to date, and has detonated a total of 2,242 mines.



Press Conference on 2006 – Mine Action Projects

While landmines and other explosive remnants of war continued to kill and maim thousands of people every year, the number of new victims had been steadily decreasing since the treaty banning anti-personnel mines went into effect six years ago.

Speaking on the release of the new report Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2006, Dermont Carty, Landmines Coordinator, Landmines and Small Arms Team of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) told a press conference at UN HQ earlier this month that the decrease in the human toll of landmines could be attributed to the international communities' concerted effort to clear mined land, teach people how to avoid danger, and destroy stockpiled mines. He added that the goal of achieving a world free of landmines could be reached in a matter of years.

"It will require sustained effort by mine-affected countries themselves, non-governmental organisations and the 14 United Nations agencies and programmes involved in mine action", Mr. Carty said.

The 2006 Projects, sponsored by UNICEF, featured 350 mine action project proposals for a total of 30 countries and three territories, Mr. Carty said. Currently, there was a \$391 million shortfall in funding for the projects.

Notices

UNFICYP Health and Safety Committee

UNFICYP Health and Safety Steering Committee would like to remind all staff that UNFICYP personnel have the facility to pass on any concerns and observations or requests for information with regard to health and safety matters in their particular area of work. Please include as much detail as possible.

The point of contact for such inquiries is Jeremy Ashcroft, Chairperson, Health and Safety Steering Committee, and he can be contacted as follows:

Telephone: 22-614452
Mobile: 99-516734
E Mail: ashcroftj@un.org
Lotus Notes: Jeremy Ashcroft/ UNFICYP

Christmas Services in St. Columba's Church, UNPA

Advent Sunday Services: 10.00 am
Christmas starts here ...
Second Sunday in Advent - 4 December
Third Sunday in Advent - 11 December
Fourth Sunday in Advent - 18 December
Christmas Morning Family Service - 25 December

Other Services

UN Carol Service - 15 December: 5.30 pm
BRITCON Carol Service - 20 December: 5.00 pm
Christmas Eve Sector 2 Carol Service:
24 December: 5.00 pm, LPH
Christmas Eve Midnight Carols and Prayers -
24 December: 11.45 pm

Sporting Features

Re-match Ends in Tie!

The wait was finally over. The rematch between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot soccer teams from the village of Pyla was played in the Aydan Karahan stadium on 22 October.

Although the sun was shining, there was a hefty breeze blowing around the soccer grounds. The atmosphere gradually rew much warmer as a crowd of 80 to 100 people gathered to cheer on their teams.

However, because of a slight confusion in timings, the match, due to start at 3.00 p.m., didn't kick off until one hour later. We were entertained, though, by Insp. Denis Hilliard displaying his amazing goal-keeping skills as he played football with some of the local children. Denis was later to be seen stumbling around, looking for an oxygen tent and a rub-down from a team physio!!

There was a great turn-out by members of UNPOL from Sectors 1, 2 and 4. At 4.00 p.m., Capt. Sikel, a member of SLOVCON who was the match referee, accompanied by two colleagues who were acting as linesmen, walked onto the pitch together with both teams. After the captains had exchanged team pendants, the game kicked off. The first half was an evenly matched affair with a few close misses by the Turkish Cypriot side.

At half time, refreshments were provided for all spectators consisting of juices, pastries and beers. Sgt. Peter McConnon was warned that he would be given a yellow



Capt. Sikel, match referee, with the two team captains

card if there was any more pushing and shoving around the refreshments table!!

During the second half, the wind picked up even more and our friends from Northern Ireland who were visiting Cyprus with the Border Horizons Initiative started

her canine companion, Buddy, had got to a few of the half-time beers and was eyeing up one of the corner flags as a good watering spot!! Sally Anne was last seen being dragged off by Buddy at high speed after a passing beer delivery truck. So, Lt. Col. Bačko stepped in and made a presentation of a trophy, as did Supt. Liam Mayock.

The Turkish Cypriot side got their revenge for their 2-1 defeat after the first match on 17 July. The combined scores for both games ended with an even score of 2-2. The matches proved a great success and once again showed how peace and friendship can be achieved through sport. Hopefully, these matches will continue for many years to come.

... Pyla matches proved a great success once again...

Paul Curran

Marathon Major Runs for South Asia Earthquake

On Sunday 6 November, Maj. Neil Wright, MA to the Force Commander, ran the 2005 Athens Classic Marathon to raise money for the victims of the South Asia earthquake.

Starting in Marathon, to the northeast of Athens, and finishing in the city centre, the 42 km route follows that of the first marathon ever run, 2,500 years ago. Legend has it that, in 490 BC, Pheidippides ran from Marathon to Athens carrying a message to his fellow Athenians announcing a great victory over the Persian forces on the plain of Marathon.

Much of the route is uphill, climbing from the coastal plain of Marathon, over a range of steep hills and then descending into Athens' spectacular Panathinaic Stadium. Despite hills, hot sun and competition from approximately 3,000 other runners, Neil completed the course in 3 hours and 43 minutes.

Running to raise money for victims of the South Asia earthquake, Neil has achieved a total of over €800, thanks to support from members of UNFICYP, family and friends.



A big thank you to all who sponsored him!