Military Skills Tested

UNFICYP Medal Parade in Pyla

The Blue Beret
November 2005
November 2005 - Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

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Building Tolerance
The month featured two significant international days. On 11 November, the day is dedicated to promoting international (and communal) Tolerance. The second, 25 November, is the day dedicated worldwide to the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

In his 16 November message, the Secretary-General notes that, in a global issue, is in the increase in many parts of the world at local or national level. This is why efforts to promote global understanding and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, beyond the schools, is where we inculcate the citizens of tomorrow. Education is the key. The school system is where we inculcate 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 this is the real empowering ground for tolerance and not tolerate excuses.

Dag Hammarskjöld/ Nobel Peace Prize awarded

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Dag Hammarskjöld

Journalist, author, diplomat, and former United Nations Secretary-General, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961 for his efforts towards peace and the development of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

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IAEA Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

The 2005 Nobel Peace Prize has gone to Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

ElBaradei/IAEA Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

In keeping with tradition, it is awarded in the Norwegian capital, while the Peace lectures are held at the University of Oslo. The award ceremony will be held in Oslo in December.
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. Pyla is a village in the buffer zone that is the location of 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. 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 Artimovic.

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

".... Pyla is a village we in the UN hold in special regard ...."
The Blue Beret's Anna Bursey reflects on this competition from a civilian competitor's perspective.

This morning went well. It was 6:30, the sun was just rising. I was up and ready to change my uniform and take the dogs out for a quick trot around the block. The temp was nine degrees and not raining, a great day to be working out in.

The day ahead was to take each team to the starting line of the Weapon Run course up in the hills. The sun by this time was up and shining bright. Those who survived the gruelling test intact made me question if I wanted to avoid the hotdesert! Despite my gross understatement! Despite my answer to catch my breath. To say the course was difficult would be a large understatement. There were several steep climbs and why not make it a little more challenging? Nothing like carving out five hours of running down a country trail? Brilliant! I could tell the energy was high with so many teams joking around while gearing up. Never having run with most teams joking around whilst getting ready, never having run with most teams joking around whilst getting ready, never having run with most teams joking around whilst getting ready, never having run with most teams joking around whilst getting ready. I thought I had trained well and after three months of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. training I thought I was ready, but this course was a whole new world.

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International Day of Tolerance

The International Day of Tolerance was established by the UN General Assembly on November 16, 2001 as “a day dedicated to disseminating education on the importance of promoting respect for diversity and of combating intolerance.”

The idea behind the day is to promote the idea of tolerance and to encourage people around the world to come together in order to combat intolerance and discrimination.

1. Diversity in Your Community
   - People are different in so many ways, and this diversity is what makes our community unique and special.
   - Encourage people to celebrate their differences and to learn about each other’s cultures and traditions.
   - Organize events that highlight the diversity in your community, such as cultural festivals or community gatherings.

2. Human Rights
   - Human rights are the fundamental rights and freedoms that are recognized by the international community.
   - These rights include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to a fair trial.
   - Promote human rights by raising awareness about the importance of these rights and by advocating for their protection.

3. Religious Tolerance
   - Religious tolerance is the principle of respecting and protecting the religious beliefs of all people, regardless of their faith.
   - Encourage people to learn about and respect different religious traditions.
   - Organize events that highlight the importance of religious tolerance, such as interfaith dialogues or religious festivals.

4. No to Violence
   - Violence is a form of intolerance and can have serious consequences for individuals and communities.
   - Promote non-violent solutions to conflicts and disputes.
   - Educate people about the negative effects of violence and the importance of finding peaceful resolutions.

5. International Sporting Events
   - International sporting events are opportunities to promote tolerance and understanding.
   - Encourage people to support and promote sports that emphasize fair play and respect for others.
   - Organize events that highlight the role of sports in promoting tolerance and understanding.

6. Cultural Diversity
   - Cultural diversity is the richness that comes from the variety of cultures and traditions that make up our world.
   - Encourage people to celebrate and learn about different cultures.
   - Organize events that showcase the cultural diversity of your community, such as multicultural festivals or art exhibitions.

7. Current Events
   - Current events can be used as a platform to promote tolerance and understanding.
   - Encourage people to discuss and learn about current events that affect people around the world.
   - Organize events that highlight the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding in response to current events.

8. Sports and Tolerance
   - Sports can be used to promote tolerance and understanding.
   - Encourage people to support and promote sports that emphasize fair play and respect for others.
   - Organize events that highlight the role of sports in promoting tolerance and understanding.

9. Creativity at Work
   - Creativity at work is an opportunity to promote tolerance and understanding.
   - Encourage people to support and promote creativity that is inclusive and respectful of different perspectives.
   - Organize events that highlight the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding in the workplace.

10. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
    - The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the issue of violence against women.
    - Encourage people to support and promote actions to prevent and address violence against women.
    - Organize events that highlight the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding in response to the issue of violence against women.

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Sector 2 News

The ad hoc party from 12 Regt RA left from their barracks in Limassol, Cyprus at 2100 on 23 September and was welcomed to temperature 30 degrees in the Ledra Palace Hotel. The welcome was helped by the 1900 cocktail party hosted by the German High Commissioner Peter Millett.

The evening was a great success. Guests were entertained by the Royal Irish Band, the entertainment included the Royal Irish Band, the 12 Regt RA Band and the Master of Ceremonies. The event was hosted by the German High Commission.

The main event was the cocktail party. The guests were welcomed with drinks and nibbles by the Royal Irish Band. The evening was a great success. The guests enjoyed the cocktails and the music.

The cocktail party was a great opportunity for the guests to meet and mingle. The guests were impressed by the Royal Irish Band and the 12 Regt RA Band. The evening was a great success.

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 6.30 p.m., and by 6.50 p.m., the bonfire was well alight. The bonfire burned for several hours, and by the end of the evening, the bonfire was completely burned out.

The bonfire was a huge success. The guests were impressed by the fire and the music. The guests enjoyed the bonfire and the music.

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 20+ teams, the Regiment finished second, despite training hard under the watchful eyes of Capt. Anton Johnson, the football team has yet to score a goal, but has continued to improve.

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Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 13 November, more than 300 people gathered to remember the Nicosians of the 12 Regt RA and the Nicosians of the British Forces together with their families. The service took place in the Ledra Palace Hotel. The service was attended by the Force Commander and British Armed Forces personnel.

The service was a great success. The guests were impressed by the service and the music. The guests enjoyed the service and the music.

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Keeping up with the Training

FMPU Induction Course

FMPU Induction Course

Exercise “MOLO Neophyte” Sector 1 helps train new MOLOs

A part of the third MOLO course, which took place in the UNPA 3-10 October, Sector 1 MOLOs organized the Confirmatory Exercise, initially referred to as MOLO Neophyte. This exercise will be used to include most of the contingencies/incidents that MOLOs might face, assess, advise and/or resolve.

The exercise was planned in two circuits. One part was in the area of Sector 1 patrol track, including a taxing climb up “Heartbreak Ridge”, a 430-meter-high hill. The other, by vehicle, ran for 55 km over roads, routes and different parts of Sector 1 patrol track. In different areas, MOLOs were trained in ODFORP commanders (and solicitors but better interest representatives), change flat tires and deal with intruders, among other incidents.

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

Thus, Sector 1 helps train new MOLOs organized the Confirmatory Exercise “MOLO Neophyte”, suitably christened “MOLO Neophyte”. Sector 1 devised and conducted this exercise so as to include most of the contingencies/incidents that MOLOs might face, assess, advise and/or resolve.

FMPU Induction Course

FMPU Induction Course

New CPO

On 1 November to take up the post of assistant to the Third Member, the Committee of Management, Jennifer Wright arrived in Colombo and is now a resident of New Zealand.

Jennifer Wright is a member of the British Overseas Police Force. She joined the BOPF in 1989 and has served with the section on Central Tracing Agency & Protection since 1993.

She began her career as asten 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 selected for her first mission as the ICRC Liaison Officer to the United Nations Mission in 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, Genova, Italy in 2001. She held this post until 2004.

Jennifer has a wide experience of problem-solving and management, and has a good understanding of the full spectrum of international humanitarian law.

UN Flight Depart – Plus One!

On 19 October, the new Force Chief Procurement Officer arrived at his new posting at the UN Flight Department. What a way to meet up with his new colleagues in the UNPA.

The new CPO, Hasita Wimaladharma, arrived on 1 November to take up the post of assistant to the Third Member of the Committee of Management. 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, she served as a trainer with the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Public Information Office (PIO). In August 2002, she was posted to UNMIBH (Sarajevo), where she stayed until May 2005, having served there as the Chief Procurement Officer, a position she held from June to August 2004 to serve as the Chief Procurement Officer in HOMBAT. From then in February 2003, he moved to UNPROFOR, serving as the Force Chief Procurement Officer, a position he held from April 1999 to August 2000 before taking over the staff post time out from May to June 2000 to serve as the Chief Procurement Officer in HOMBAT.

Jennifer Wright joins CMP

Jennifer was posted to the Force Military Police section on 1 November to take up the post of assistant to the Third Member of the Committee of Management. 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.

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De-Mining Update

Capability to ensure that mines and unexploded ordnance (UNDO) are removed in a safe, time- and cost-efficient manner is critical to meeting national mine action standards.

Launched in November 2003, the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) is an EU/UN project that has committed 4.0 million euros for de-mining operations in Cyprus between 2004 and 2006. The project is implemented with the technical assistance of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and with full support from UNFICYP.

The MACC manages and supports mine clearance and mine-risk-reduction activities in the buffer zone. It provides a planning, coordination and monitoring function.


The Mine Action Centre Cyprus discharged its first device in a mock de-mining operation on 18 August 2005. The first device was detonated on 12 August 2005, with the cooperation of the Turkish Forces (TF).

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus, and P.P.M. of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, opened the de-mining operation.

Under its new slogan “A step to the future”, the Mine Action Centre’s first de-mining operation aimed to remove a total of 2,242 mines.

Press Conference on 2006 – Mine Action Projects

The MACC manages and supports mine clearance and mine-risk-reduction activities in the buffer zone.

The MACC is committed to clean the buffer zone to the south of Nicosia, 2,242 mines.

The project was launched on 12 August 2005 with the cooperation of the Turkish Forces (TF). So far, 354 mines in Nicosia city area have been cleared.

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