

BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine



UK soldiers
in Cyprus

UNPOL Medal Parade
FC's Inspection

UN Police from
Italy & Montenegro

UNBEATABLE

**Brits win first *and*
second place in
military skills!**

November-December 2012

BLUE BERET

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Front cover from left: Pte Lli Raderuall, Pte Chris Allan, Tpr Callum Robson, WO2 SSM John Hughes, Fus Christopher Todd, Cfn Shane Pelchat, Pte Callum Arthur

Back cover: Members of the Mobile Force Reserve engaging in MFR exercises

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HQ UNFICYP
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Editorial Team

Executive Editor Michel Bonnardeaux
Managing Editor Rama Razy
Artistic Director Ersin Öztoycan
Sub Editor Neophytos Evdokiou
Military Public Information Officer
Capt Michal Harnadek
Force Photographer 1Sgt Martin Mruz

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1	Capt Augustin Savio
Sector 2	Capt Anthony Platt
Sector 4	Capt Mario Benca
MFR	Capt Owen Richards
UNPOL	Garda Sinead O'Hara
UN Flt	Lt Francisco Cravero

Tel: 2261-4634/4416/4408 - Fax: 2261-4461
E-mail: razy@un.org; unficyp-mil-pio@un.org



In this issue, we focus on the contributions of two countries with a long history in Cyprus: the United Kingdom and Italy. Obviously, the inhabitants of the Italian peninsula share the Mediterranean Sea with Cyprus and it is no surprise that their presence on the island dates back to times immemorial. In 58 BC Cyprus was annexed by the Roman Republic. As successors of the Greeks, the Romans certainly left their mark on Cyprus as evidenced in part by their elaborate constructions, for example, at Salamis. Later Italians came through the island seeking to secure lucrative trade routes as Cyprus was coveted by both the city-states of Genoa and Venice. The Venetians having ultimately won the contest built elaborate defenses and palaces on the island, particularly in Nicosia and Famagusta.

During the Victorian era, and as a result of the Treaty of Berlin in 1878, the United Kingdom received the island as a protectorate from the Ottoman Empire in exchange for support against possible attacks to Asian parts of the Ottoman Empire. British influence is evident throughout the island and Cypriots from both communities continue to have strong links with the UK. On 16 August 1960, Cyprus gained its independence from the United Kingdom and ceded two sovereign bases covering an area of 250 km² of Cyprus (120 at Akrotiri and 130 at Dhekelia), or some 3% of the territory. Including the United Kingdom's contribution to UNFICYP, some 3,000 British personnel are based on Cyprus.

As 2012 draws to a close, it's time to reflect on a job well done for UNFICYP. The mission carried out its mandate with the same troop and police numbers as in previous years but managed to reduce expenses by over 4%.

The year started with an ongoing occupation of the buffer zone at the Ledra street crossing which impeded the normal movement of patrols along the green line. The blue helmets of Sector 2 had to set up temporarily in Magic Mansion and spent many a cold night there in order to keep an eye on the protesters and their possible spill-over onto the patrol tracks. Thankfully, the rainy wintery weather and time took their toll on the Ledra crossing occupiers. UNFICYP was able to convince the last remaining protester to leave the area in May, just in time for the busy summer season. Our partners at UNDP did a fine job of restoring building facades and installed new decorative metal gates so that the area looks better now than at any time in the recent past.

Later in the year, UNFICYP was confronted with a barrage of regrettable negative publicity regarding the arrest of three Cyprus police officers in the Louroujina pocket. The instance demonstrated not only the porous nature of the buffer zone but the challenges faced by UNFICYP in monitoring the full length under current resources. The case also speaks to the need for the sides to show restraint in such incidents. In this regard, the transparent and swift

manner, in which the Turkish Cypriot side addressed the issue, allowed tensions within the Greek Cypriot community to subside. At the same time, a stray fishing boat was arraigned at the port of Famagusta. Once again a calm, professional attitude prevailed with all mission members involved and UNFICYP was

able to bring a mutually satisfactory end to both situations. Eventually, UNFICYP's positive and impartial contribution in resolving the issue was recognized by all those involved.

At year's end, we were confronted with another delicate situation in the buffer zone regarding the erection of a fence by armed Turkish soldiers near the Avlona village, with a view to preventing unauthorised civilian activity close to its ceasefire line, including illegal crossings. Protesting this unilateral action over the subsequent weeks, UNFICYP arrived at a solution, addressing those initial concerns, while at the same time, reaffirming UNFICYP's authority within the buffer zone. Once again, the professionalism of our troops enabled UNFICYP to show determination in our mandate to maintain the status quo in the buffer zone. These examples continue to demonstrate the usefulness of the peacekeeping force on the island, while political negotiations towards a solution persist.

This year was also one of renewal for UNFICYP. After 4 years of service, both the Military Chief of Staff and the Senior Police Adviser were replaced. UNFICYP's Civil Affairs component also witnessed a change of guard. All three components are now headed by recent arrivals whose fresh look is invigorating the mission's work.

In keeping with this renewal theme, the Blue Beret also underwent significant changes. A bold new look was introduced making way for an increased use of graphics and relevant, inspired pictures. In this age of internet technology and instant news reporting, the venerable Blue Beret had to re-invent itself to better serve the public information needs of the mission. We decided to focus on the activities of our military troops and police officers whose stories are seldom told despite the sacrifices they make for the cause of peace and security in Cyprus.

The response to our new format is very encouraging. Our focus on troop and police contributing states allowed us to show the daily undertakings of UNFICYP's uniformed personnel. We would like to thank all of our readers and contributors for the positive responses. Perhaps the best demonstration of our peacekeepers interest in the new Blue Beret came from an unofficial contest in a military unit involving the payment of a round of drinks by the soldier whose image was featured in the magazine. Outside of the mission, we have so far received requests for the reproduction of articles and pictures from Australia and Argentina. We hope to wrap up our series on contributing countries in the New Year and focus on the various units within the mission. Stay tuned!

*Season's greetings to all and happy holidays from
the Blue Beret team!*

Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel



UNDAY RECEPTION



Michel
Bonnardeaux

Allen
Clough



Paulo Oliveira Martins

Juana Clough



Tim
Alchin



Hilmi Savasli



Colonel
Angus Loudon

Commander
Col Speedie

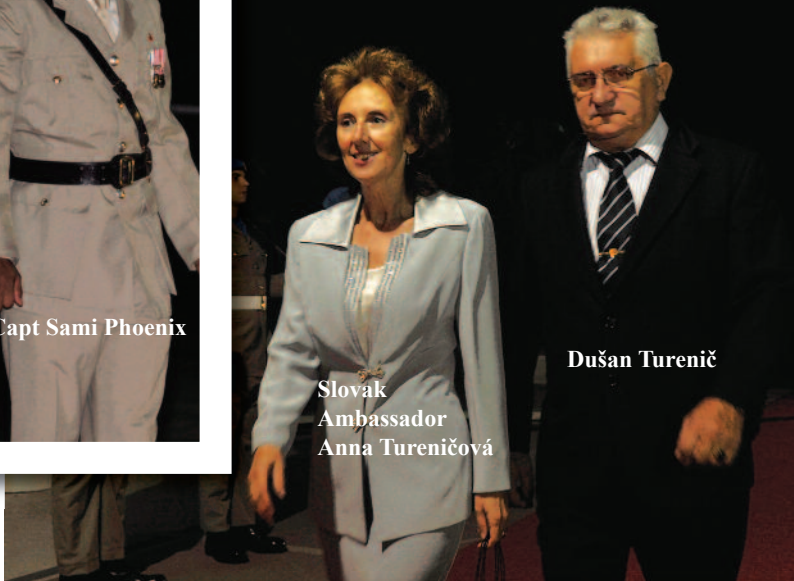
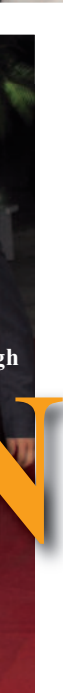
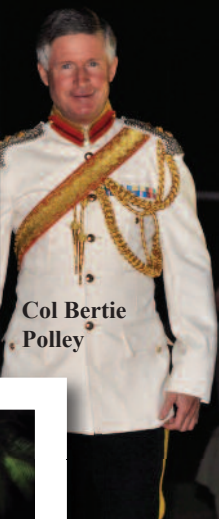


Mollie Ann Jackson

Maria Wilkins

Mary Groarke

From left: LtCol Adolf Uličný, Col Angus Loudon, Higher Inspector Dusko Simić, Chief Inspector Davide Ferri, LtCol Jaroslav Marko



United Kingdom

The British in Cyprus

Britain's modern-day involvement in Cyprus began in 1878 when in the aftermath of the Congress of Berlin, the island became a British protectorate while nominally remaining a part of the Ottoman Empire. From the outset of British rule, Greek Cypriots began agitating for union with Greece, known as "enosis". Britain annexed the island during World War I when Turkey sided with Germany.

Following World War II, when 30,000 Cypriots fought in the British army, Greek Cypriot calls for enosis became more strident and led to a violent campaign against colonial rule from 1955 to 1959 by a guerilla organization called EOKA. The Turkish Cypriot leadership's response to enosis demands was for the island to either revert in its entirety to Turkish sovereignty or be divided between Greece and Turkey. A Turkish Cypriot paramilitary group, TMT, was formed in 1958 to counter EOKA. NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, were increasingly drawn into the conflict on opposite sides while Britain began to come round to the idea that the retention of military bases – rather than control over the whole island – would best serve its strategic interests.

When Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios hinted in 1958 that independence rather than enosis might be an acceptable compromise, the Greek and Turkish governments joined in secret negotiations to achieve this in a way that would be acceptable to all parties concerned. This led to the London-Zurich agreements in 1959 whereby Cyprus was to become independent in 1960 along with constitutional guarantees for Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Britain secured two sovereign bases on the island and along with Greece and Turkey became a guarantor of Cyprus's independence. As part of the same agreements, a Greek contingent of 950 troops and a Turkish contingent of 650 troops were to be stationed on the island. As inter-communal strife erupted at the end of 1963 and given the rapidly-deteriorating situation, the Cypriot government accepted the offer of the guarantor powers to establish a joint peacemaking force to assist in restoring peace and order. However, in practice, the Greek and Turkish contingents acted in support of their respective communities, and it was British troops who were left to perform genuine peacekeeping duties, including the establishment of a neutral zone along the cease-fire line ("green line") between the two communities in Nicosia. Plans for a multinational peacekeeping force made up of NATO troops were rejected by President, Makarios, who insisted that any such force be placed under UN control.

In early 1964, upon the request of the UK and Cyprus for urgent action, the Security Council on 4 March 1964, unanimously adopted resolution 186 noting that the situation in Cyprus was

likely to threaten international peace and security, and recommended the establishment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Upon the arrival of the Canadian contingent on 13 March, the Secretary-General reported that the force was in being. However, it did not become established operationally until 27 March, when sufficient troops were available in Cyprus to enable it to discharge its functions. The force now consisted of the Canadian and British contingents (the latter's incorporation in UNFICYP having been negotiated with the UK), and advance parties of Swedish, Irish and Finnish contingents. A Danish contingent of approximately 1,000 as well as an Austrian field hospital arrived in May, along with additional Swedish troops. Since 1993 and the withdrawal of Canadian troops, the British contingent, took over peacekeeping duties in Nicosia.

The Green Line

It was a British general who created the first "green line" in Cyprus in 1964. As the island's former colonial ruler from 1878 to 1960, Britain retained two sovereign bases, at Akrotiri and Dekleia, as part of the agreements that led to Cyprus's independence. Troops from these bases, under the command of Major-General Peter Young, were hastily employed when inter-communal violence erupted in Nicosia at the end of 1963, beginning of 1964. After stationing his troops in different areas of Nicosia to separate Greek and Turkish Cypriot neighbourhoods, the general drew a cease-fire line on a map of the capital with a dark green crayon and this line known as the "green line". This "green line" was extended across the island following the July 1974 Turkish intervention and for nearly 30 years, became impassable for the vast majority of Cypriots until the partial lifting of travel restrictions in 2003.

In numbers

British Military in Cyprus

252: Full contingent strength

186: Soldiers in Sector 2

54 : Mobile Force Reserve

12: Military HQ personnel



Country Profile

Full country name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Area: 242,514 sq km

Population: 62.4 million (2001 Census)

Capital city: London

Life expectancy: Women, 82 years; men, 78 years

People: English 83.6%, Scottish 8.6%, Welsh 4.9%, Northern Irish 2.9%, Black 2%, Indian 1.8%, Pakistani 1.3%, mixed 1.2%, other 1.6%

Language: Mainly English with Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Irish and other world languages

Main religion: Christian 59% (2011 Census)

Currency: Pound sterling



Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament

“Movember”

By Captain Owen Richards, Mobile Force Reserve

Every year during the month of November, a strange growth starts to creep over the upper lips of British soldiers. This fine fuzz, otherwise known as the moustache, is grown as part of a charity event to raise awareness of prostate cancer and other male cancer initiatives. The Brits (especially the Army) have always had a healthy relationship with their facial hair. The Queen’s Regulations, which govern all aspects of military life, have specific stipulations regarding the growing of a moustache and this month offers a chance for the follicly-challenged soldiers to indulge their inner dandy! The Mobile Force Reserve have so far raised €310 for charity which is being complemented by kind donations from across the BBC.



FLCpl M Corkhill, Capt O Richards, Kgn S Burke

Quirky facts!

The first fish and chips restaurant was opened in 1860 by a Jewish immigrant, Joseph Malin.

The shortest war against the UK was with Zanzibar in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.

Buckingham Palace was built in 1702 on the site of an infamous brothel!

In York, except on Sundays, it is perfectly legal to shoot a Scotsman with a bow and arrow.

The military salute comes from medieval knights raising their visors to see each other.



Interview

Commanding Officer Sector 2

Lieutenant Colonel J Heardman



Members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) are the technicians and mechanics that constantly repair and maintain the large array of equipment that the British Army has. They are the army elite and pride themselves on attracting the brightest minds the British army has to offer. For the first time since the UN mission in Cyprus was established, the British contingent is composed of a full REME regiment, headed by Commander Lieutenant Colonel Jim Heardman. The Blue Beret speaks to LtCol Heardman about the role of the REMEs, their work as peacekeepers and the challenges of having a diverse British contingent.

This contingent of British soldiers comes from the REME regiment and are not your average infantry soldiers. Do you think that such technically qualified soldiers make good peacekeepers?

I think they do, mainly because we have a lot of technical trades and they are required to be both soldiers and tradesmen and that's an analogy that holds out for the previous contingent who were logisticians. Of course, the difference in being quite a technical trade is that we recruit from the top quarter of the army in terms of intellect. So when a recruit comes through the door they go through a series of tests, almost an IQ test, and their scores will indicate whether they are suitable for their trades or not.

So what that means is that you've actually got some quite bright boys and girls and because they're engineers, they tend to be quite analytical. What this gives you in terms of a peacekeeper is someone who is able to see things in a slightly different light and think a bit more about what they do. For a peacekeeper, what we are not after is someone following very stern drills, but someone who is able to think through the implications of their actions.

How would you describe the REMEs?

At its core, the REMEs are enablers. We allow people to take various different courses of action. If we don't get our job right, then the commanders on the ground will be constrained by what they can do. By doing our job, we try and give them a full set of capabilities, and that can go right back to the lowest level of somebody maintaining a weapon, or fixing a truck. So we are about sustaining and maintaining combat effectiveness.

So would you call them the thinking man's regiment?

I think we like to think of ourselves as being that (*laughing*). We are generally brighter, but that doesn't make us necessarily smarter! Because with intellect you don't necessarily get common sense. Sometimes, I think we do a little too much thinking and get a little too complex when a simpler approach would work better. So, it's a double edged sword sometimes.

What would you say are the challenges of commanding a contingent that has a mix of regular troops as well as reservists drawn

from over 20 different regiments?

At the lowest level, we try and encourage the soldiers to form small teams with local commands so they get to know each other really well. Unlike a battalion, where they all come from the same place and have a similar background, here, that's rather more difficult. You have to build that sense of team from the bottom up so that they form small cohesive units. The second level is getting the sub-units (the level down from the regimental level) to integrate in terms of how they depend on each other for their roles. So for example, not everybody in the support squadron is going to know in detail everybody in the operation squadron. But if they know what their role is and what they're trying to achieve, either side of that line, then when they come together to deliver something on the ground in support of the wider UN mission, it will generally mean that

everybody's heading in the right direction.

It's really about forming tight bonds in the lower levels, being cohesive and understanding what we are all

trying to achieve in the middle level and at the regimental level, creating a sense of belonging to this thing that is only going to last about eight months. Getting everyone to come together and to know each other was probably one of the biggest challenges. But if the little cogs in the machine don't work, then there's no hope of getting the big one to turn around.

Almost everyone that we've got has been to either Iraq or Afghanistan, and these are quite physical, high-threat environments. This is another of the big challenges we face- getting everyone to take the Afghan or Iraqi 'chip' out and put the Cyprus chip in- which is that it's a low threat environment but one where we need to engage our brain a little more. You need to soak up the history and the culture to understand why we are where we are and why things happen the way they do in Cyprus. Otherwise when we are working with the opposing forces, or trying to make a decision about how to deal with an incident, we could very easily make the wrong move if we don't have that understanding in our head.

How different is Cyprus to the missions in Afghanistan or Iraq?

One of the problems in Afghanistan is knowing who the enemy is- you know who the organisation is, but it's very hard to pin down who the enemy is on the ground because they blend too easily with the locals. Whereas here, it's the other way around because the

opposing forces are clearly defined. But here of course we are not targeting the opposing forces. We are just here to understand what is going on between the two sides.

We try to play the actions of each side against a set of rules (from the mandate) as opposed to against each other. And of course we have to maintain our impartiality. And this is absolutely different to what we did in Afghanistan and Iraq where there were very clearly a set of people very much against the regime post-Saddam or post-Taliban, and because they didn't want that to succeed, they

How is that you have so many different nationalities in the British contingent?

Well, clearly we have an imperial legacy. At various stages of the army's history, we have had different campaigns to allow people who are in the Commonwealth to join the British army because a lot of their forefathers did. Some countries that are still part of the Commonwealth who don't necessarily have defense forces of their own because they don't need one, are still quite keen to come and

At its core, the REMEs are enablers.

If we don't get our job right, then the commanders on the ground will be constrained by what they can do.

would be targeting us because we were there to make sure it succeeded. So there was very much a direct clash of wills between us in those countries which doesn't exist here. Here, we are trying to help them along their way. We, the opposing forces in the north and south and the UN, all know we are soldiers and are here to do a job. And even though the opposing forces have a difference of opinion, they all very much agree that we are all here on the island to make sure that things stay stable and relative peace remains in order for the politicians to their job.

serve in the British army even though they don't now have their own regiments. There weren't that many foreign soldiers when I joined the army in the early 90s. But during the last ten years, when we had an economic boom at home, not too many British school leavers were all that excited to join the army, but a lot of our friends in the Commonwealth were. So we took the opportunity to recruit from the Commonwealth when we were struggling to recruit from home.

101 Battalion REME Group

Sector 2 UNFICYP Roulement Regiment 1 October 2012 – 1 April 2013

The Battalion formed on 1 April 2008, with the integration of regular and reservist soldiers and officers based with 101 Bn REME (V). 101 Bn REME (V) was formed in 1992, and consisted of 119 Recovery, 126 Port and Reclamation and 127 Workshop Companies. In July 1999, the battalion was joined by the 153 Workshop Company. 101 Force Support Battalion REME transitioned into an integrated reserve and regular unit in April 2008. This change involved the re-subordination of 153 Workshop Company to 101 Battalion REME (V), the formation of 50 Off Platform Repair (OPR) Company in Fallingb., Germany and the re-subordination of 2 Close Support Company in Bielefeld, Germany to become 2 Field Company. The remaining reserve companies retained the volunteer (V) designation, with the workshops changing roles to field companies. In the United Kingdom, the Battalion is under the operational command of 102 Logistics Brigade but retains geographical links to 160 (Wales) Brigade. On this UN deployment are soldiers from a range of military backgrounds. In addition to specialist REME

tradesmen (vehicle mechanics, technicians, technical stores specialists, recovery mechanics, armourers, regimental specialists, metalsmiths), there are also chefs, drivers, heavy lift drivers, combat medical technicians, carpenters, joiners, plumbers, human resource specialists, communications specialists, combat engineers and infantry soldiers. The broad skills of the personnel within the 101 Bn REME Gp give it a very unique and diverse blend of experience and capability as the Sector 2 URR. In addition, the Force Commanders' Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) is provided by a core of officers and soldiers from 7 Regiment RLC augmented by a Platoon from 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancashire Regiment. Since its formation, 101 Force Support Battalion REME has been committed on Operations across the world and provided support to exercises in UK, Germany, Canada and Kenya. The Battalion continues to support a range of activities and in 2012 has had troops committed to the Olympic Games, Fuel Tanker Strikes, Afghanistan and Canada.

101 Battalion REME Group

101 Force Support Battalion REME
1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
1st Battalion the Royal Scots
16 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC
7 Regiment RLC
Queens Own Yeomanry
Scottish Transport Regiment RLC (V)
6 Regt RLC
243 Fd Hosp (V)
16 Regt RA
38 Sig Regt (V)

3rd Battalion the Royal Welsh
104 Regiment Royal Artillery (V)
4th Battalion the Parachute Regiment (V)
37 Signals Regiment (V)
103 Battalion REME (V)
Royal Yeomanry (V)
28 Engr Regt
35 Engr Regt
335 MER (V)
Queen's Royal Lancers

A REME soldier in Cyprus

By Craftsman Priaulx, 1 Troop Sector 2 URR

Arriving in Cyprus and taking over the reins from our predecessors, the 29 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, the 101 Battalion REME Group had a swift transition into Op TOSCA. We moved straight into our role in Centre Troop, first starting on day patrols to get a feel for the buffer zone then night patrols, guard duty and providing a quick reaction force ready to move at a moment's notice. Patrols consist of two soldiers on foot, on bike or in a United Nations vehicle monitoring the buffer zone in what is one of the narrowest areas of operation, city east and city west. Barely wide enough for a vehicle in some parts this makes for some skilled driving which is even more necessary at night. This area of operation is the most densely populated with regards to the opposing forces so good people skills are essential when dealing with violations. So far, they have all seemed to be friendly and wel-

coming! Some areas have to be covered by foot, inside buildings, along roof-tops and narrow alley-ways although this is restricted at night due to lack of lighting. Guard duties consist of 24-hour shifts involving manning the main reception, front and side gates, as well as meeting and escorting different personnel and civilians in and out of Ledra Palace Hotel. There are also other duties to be carried out such as tidying specific areas, some small maintenance and Guard of Honour duties to provide a fitting reception for visiting VIPs. Accommodation in Ledra Palace Hotel can be a bit of a gamble as some rooms have been recently renovated, some are in the process of being renovated but with a little imagination and a quick sweep soon become your own. So far the experience and the settling in process has been enjoyable and morale is high with every one looking forward to the week-long adventure training.

The REME history

Maintaining and repairing the army's equipment has always played an important part in ensuring the fighting efficiency of the Service. Until the late 19th century, however, the relative simplicity of the equipment in use with the army made a specialist corps of tradesmen unnecessary. The soldier carried out minor repairs on his own equipment, assisted as necessary by the armourer, the regimental carrier, the carpenter and the leatherworker.

The early years of WWII brought the realisation that the existing repair system was not able to support the massive scale of equipment being deployed in every theatre. In 1941, the War Cabinet directed Sir William Beveridge to carry out an enquiry into the employment of technical manpower in the Services.

As a result of the recommendations of this enquiry, the Royal Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed on 1st October 1942. One of its first missions was the Battle of El Alamein, the British Army's first major operation after the Corps was formed. It has since evolved into a highly skilled and specialised Corps that is capable of meeting the toughest challenges anywhere in the world.

Over the past 60 years REME has played a vital role in all of the army's operations, being present in Palestine, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Suez, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Afghanistan and both Gulf wars. It has also been involved in peacekeeping duties all over the globe, from the Balkans to Sierra Leone. In the former Yugoslavia, REME has been present since 1992, often relying on its ingenuity rather than technology in the early years when conditions were more challenging.



Did you know...

The Corps has the rare distinction of being a 'Royal' Corps since the day of its formation.

It was a REME major who rebuilt the VW factory after World War II and secured the production of the first VW Beetle.

The REME motto is 'Arte et Marte' - *By Skill and by Fighting.*

Sector 2

Sector Two is the responsibility of the British Contingent, and has been since 1993 when the Canadian Contingent withdrew its major unit from UNFICYP. The responsibility of the unit is to patrol and monitor military activity over 30 kilometers along the buffer zone, beginning at the east end of Mammari village and ending at the village of Kaimakli to the east of Nicosia. The Sector's headquarters is located at Wolseley Barracks, inside the buffer zone near the western edge of the Venetian walls that surround Nicosia's old town. The oncesately Ledra Palace Hotel where sector two troops are stationed has been home to UNFICYP peacekeepers since 1974. One company-size unit is located on the ceasefire lines and patrols the buffer zone in this area.

Wolseley Barracks, Sector 2
Headquarters

Ledra Palace Hotel, base of the British Contingent

'Spear Alley' in old Nicosia, the narrowest
part of the buffer zone



Pte Thomas Lyons

Faces of the



From left: WO1 ASM Lenny Wild, WO2 SSM John Hughes, WO1 RSM Garry Fields



Cfn Abi Anderson



Cfn Stephen McConnell



Sgt Keith Coleman



2Lt Rose Billingham



SSgt Si Currie



Cfn John Wills



From left:
Maj Dave
Maj Ken

United Kingdom



SSgt Smiler Whitaker

Blewett



Cpl Ben Atuwu

Cpl Khindaraj Rai



Maj Helena Roberts



Maj Simon Davies



Left: Maj Tom McCluskey,
Maj Paul Taylor, Maj Wilson



Pte Angel Morgan-Valentine



Sgt Paul Grundy

Military Skills Competition

By Capt Michal Harnadek, Military Public Information Officer

On a cold winter's morning at the end of November, competitors from military and police groups gathered to compete in the final military skills competition for 2012. The reigning champions, soldiers from the multinational unit, the Mobile Force Reserve, were determined to hold onto their title. Nine teams were to compete: two teams from Sectors 1, 2 and 4; and one team each from HQ, the Mobile Force Reserve and the UN Police. In the lead up to the competition, nothing was left to chance. Each team had spent weeks training in activities designed to test their physical strength, military knowledge, mental endurance and team spirit.

The first test of the day, the endurance stand, started at 6am. Teams then underwent a driving range across a minefield, command tasks carried out blindfolded, incident reaction tests, map reading, shooting, patrolling and observation skills activities and the assault course.

Ten hours later, the day of grueling tests ended and all points were tallied. The tallies between the top teams were so close that the final results were only determined by the last test, the assault course. The winners: the British men and women from Sector 2 who consolidated their victory by not only winning first place (team A), but taking second place as well (team B). The Argentines from Sector 1 took third place.

"The day was challenging and cost a lot of effort from all the participants as well as from those who prepared and organized the competition," said Chief of Staff Col Laudon amid the cheers and beats from the Argentine drums. "It was a day that made me proud to be a soldier because you gave everything you had. I saw a lot of determination, imagination, leadership and above all guts and courage."



MCpl Norma Beatriz Pogonza

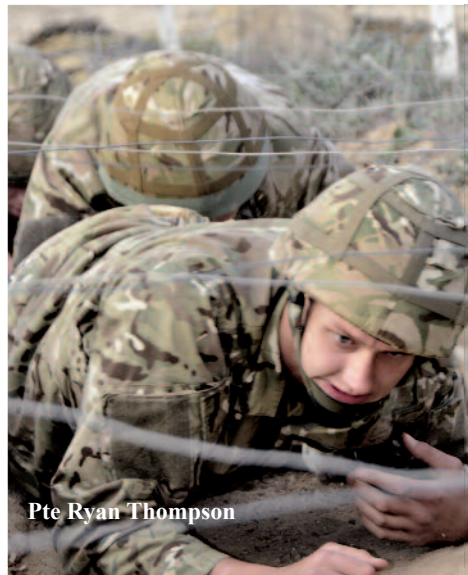
Feature



From left: DetGda Tom Power, Insp Emdio Di Mitri, Gda Senan Behan



LCpl Natalie Harwood



Pte Ryan Thompson



Sgt Gergely Zámbo



MCpl Jose Diaz Ojeda



Sgt Marek Lipka



Capt Sami Phoenix



Italy

The ancient corps of the Royal Carabinieri



The ancient corps of the Royal Carabinieri was instituted in Turin by the King of Sardinia, Vittorio Emanuel I, in 1814. It was given the dual function of national defence and policing with special powers and prerogatives. Today, the Carabinieri force is linked to the Ministry of Defence but retains its autonomy in its role of armed force, military police force, and has the responsibility for public order and security. The force depends functionally on the Ministry of Internal Affairs for public order and security. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the Carabinieri force has been involved in overseas operations, assisting in the reconstruction of the forces of law and order and in associated training programmes. From 1950 to the present day, Italy has contributed its officers to the UN as well as to NATO, EU and OSCE peace support missions.



Country Profile

Full country name: Italian Republic
Area: 301,338 sq km
Population: 60.8 million
Capital city: Rome
Life expectancy: Women, 85 years; men, 79 years
People: Italian (includes small clusters of German, French, and Slovene-Italians in the north and Albanian-Italians and Greek-Italians in the south)
Language: Italian
Religion: Christianity
Currency: Euro



Twenty-eight
 Carabinieri officers
 have served with the
 UN mission in Cyprus
 since July 2005.

Originally, the Carabinieri force was issued with a distinctive uniform in dark blue with silver braid around the collar and cuffs and edges trimmed in scarlet and epaulets in silver. The characteristic hat with two points was popularly known as the "lucerna". A version of this uniform is still used today for important ceremonies.

Italy's enduring artistic legacy

Italian art has influenced major aesthetic movements throughout the centuries and many of the world's great artists have hailed from the Italian peninsula.



Painting by Leonardo da Vinci



Sculpture by Venetian artist, Antonio Canova

Venetian cultural heritage in Cyprus

The ancestors of modern-day Italians have been involved in the trade and politics of Cyprus since 58 BC when the island became a Roman province. The Genoese and Venetians also made their mark, occupying parts or all of the island at different times during the last few centuries of the middle ages. The presence of the Venetians, who ruled Cyprus from 1489-1571, is evident in the many buildings and bridges still standing all over the island. The largest of the Venetian constructions are the fortification walls built with massive earthworks and cased with stone that form a ring around the cities of Nicosia and Famagusta.

Famagusta Gate (pictured) is the largest and most impressive of the three gates of the walls of Nicosia. Built in 1567 by the Venetians, and originally called the Porta Giuliani after its designer, it served travellers entering and leaving the city from the east of the island. During the

early Ottoman period, only Turks were allowed to pass through the gate on horseback, while Christians and other foreigners were obliged to walk. The gate was locked at sunset and reopened at sunrise and remained closed on Fridays, the Muslim holy day, to allow the guards time to pray.

During British Colonial times, the spacious rooms of the gate served as a warehouse for fuel and other materials. Even though a gradual process of preservation was carried out from 1934 to 1981, humidity problems prevailed, and the gate fell into disuse. In 1980, the Municipal Council of Nicosia decided to restore the gate and re-use it as a cultural centre. Restoration was completed in 1981, and since then, the Famagusta Gate has become a busy venue for exhibitions, helping regenerate this area of old Nicosia.



Four Carabinieri officers are currently serving with the UN mission in Cyprus. From left: Contingent Commander Chief Inspector Davide Ferri, Inspector Vito Marcello Agliano, Inspector Emidio di Mitri, Junior Inspector Sergio Giacoponi



Country Profile

Montenegro, which means "Black Mountain", borders Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Serbia's breakaway province of Kosovo and Albania. About half of it is covered in thick forest. The small republic encompasses an Adriatic coastline, lowlands and high mountain ranges. The Tara River canyon is the deepest and longest in Europe.



Full country name: Republic of Montenegro

Area: 13,812 sq km

Population: 632,000

Administrative capital: Podgorica

Life expectancy: Women, 77 years; men, 73 years

People: Montenegrin 43%, Serbian 32%, Bosniak 8%, Albanian 5%, other (Muslims, Croats, Roma) 12%

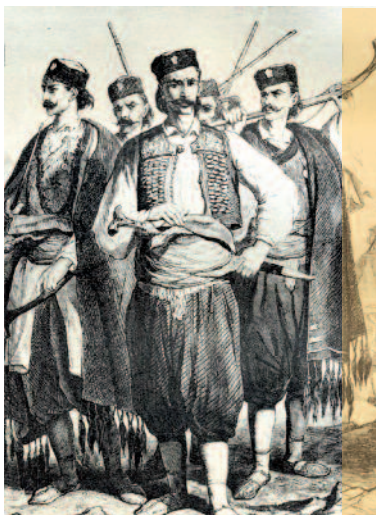
Languages: Serbian, Montenegrin

Religions: Christianity, Islam

Currency: Euro

Independence after 90 years!

Montenegro last experienced independence nearly 90 years ago before it was absorbed into the newly-formed Yugoslavia at the end of World War I. Montenegro emerged as a sovereign state after just over 55% of the population opted for independence in a May 2006 referendum. The vote heralded the end of the former Union of Serbia and Montenegro - itself created only three years earlier out of the remnant of the former Yugoslavia. The EU-brokered deal it was intended to stabilise the region by settling Montenegrin demands for independence from Serbia and preventing further changes to Balkan borders. The same deal also contained the seeds of the union's dissolution. It stipulated that after three years, the two republics could hold referendums on whether to keep or scrap it. Montenegro opted for the latter.



Local law enforcement

Montenegro has one of the oldest police forces in Europe. The first police force in terms of purely repressive organs of executive power, were the panache (pictured). Today, law enforcement in Montenegro is the responsibility of the Police Directorate. Headquartered in the Montenegrin capital Podgorica, the Police Directorate has a strength of 5,250 officers who provide security and enforce the law across the country.

Montenegrin police world champions at indoor soccer

The Montenegrin police team were this year's winner of the world championship indoor soccer for police teams held in October in the Netherlands. The 30-year-old LoJack World Police Indoor Soccer Tournament is the only world championship indoor soccer (futsal) event exclusively for police teams. Over 50 countries participated in this year's event.





Montenegro has both a picturesque coast and a mountainous northern region. The country was a well-known tourist spot in the 1980s, but the Yugoslav wars that were fought in neighbouring countries during the 1990s crippled the tourist industry. The tourism industry has, since 2000, restarted and this small Mediterranean country has been heavily promoted in global travel magazines. Indeed, National Geographic Traveller (edited once in a decade) features Montenegro among the "50 Places of a Lifetime", and Montenegrin seaside Sveti Stefan was used as the cover for the magazine. In January 2010, The New York Times ranked the Ulcinj South Coast region of Montenegro, including Velika Plaza, and the Hotel Mediteran of Ulcinj, as among the top 31 places to go in 2010 as part of a worldwide ranking of tourism destinations. Montenegro was also listed in 10 top hot spots of 2009 to visit by Yahoo Travel, describing it as "currently ranked as the second fastest growing tourism market in the world (falling just behind China)". It is listed every year by prestigious tourism guides like Lonely Planet as top touristic destination along with Greece, Spain and other world touristic places.

Higher Police Commissioner (First Class) Milutin Vasiljević started his career in the army in commanding positions, and as an instructor at the military academy, before joining the police force in 2000. He worked as a commander of the police squad before being promoted to Higher Commissioner in charge of intelligence at the border police command. Higher Commissioner Vasiljević has completed several international trainings and is a licensed

instructor for the CIA (Criminal Intelligence Analysis). He has also guest lectured in the field of intelligence for the police academy. Whilst in Cyprus, Higher Commissioner Vasiljević has worked as a patrol officer, team leader and is currently the officer in charge of Pyla, Sector 4. His wife Irene and daughter Elena provide him with much support in Cyprus.



Higher Police Commissioner (First Class) and Contingent Commander Nebojša Mrvaljević has been a police officer for 12 years, specializing in strategic analysis for border security. Prior to this, he served for ten years with the army. Higher Commissioner Mrvaljević has been in Cyprus for 22 months, during which time he has worked as a patrol officer, team leader and police patrol coordinator. He is married to Zeljka and father to Petar (19) and twins Pavle and Jovana (16).

Senior Officer (First Class) Slaviša Kotlaja has been a police officer since 2000, when he was the deputy head of the border police outpost for border crossings in Pljevlja. Senior Officer Kotlaja started his career in the navy in 1995 as a non-commissioned officer. After graduating from the College for Operational Management, he completed a course training for EU/UN police-keeping operations. He then joined UNFICYP in February 2011 and has worked as a patrol officer in Sector 1, aa team leader for the Dhenia sector civil affairs team (SCAT), as the deputy SCAT coordinator and since May 2012 as the SCAT Coordinator in mission HQ. Senior Officer Kotlaja is married to Sonja, and is the proud father of Andjela (10) and Tatjana (8). He is a big fan of 80's movies and music, and very much looks forward to the UNPOL club social events where he undertakes his role as club secretary with much enthusiasm!



UNPOL Medal Parade



From back: DepSupt Narendranath Chama, Sgt Panna RamInsp Rajesh Kumar Lohan



Commander Colin Speedie



LtCol Ruslan Borovskiy

Snr Sgt Silvija Paškvan



From left: Insp Emidio di Mitri, Jnr Insp Sergio Giacoponi and LtCol Viktor Drobotenko



Hr Comm Nebojša Mrvaljević



Snr Insp Vesna Stevanović



Gda Cheryl Kelly

Gda Sinead O'Hara



Thomas O'Reilly

Sgt Karina Parker



Maj Serhii Tarabanovskiy

Sgt Paul McEwan

Force Commander's inspection

Force Commander Major General Chao Liu carries out inspections twice a year after the new contingents arrive to serve with the mission in Cyprus. Inspections were carried out in Sector 1, under the Argentine command, Sector 2, under British command, Sector 4, under Slovak command, the Mobile Force Reserve, Force Engineers, Force Military Police Unit and UN Flight.





From left: Sgt Karina Parker, Snr Sgt Silvija Paškvan, Maj Tetiana Kachan, SrLt Lidiia Tkachenko, Snr Insp Marijana Todoric, SRSg Lisa Buttenheim, Snr Insp Vesna Stevanović, Gđa Cheryl Kelly, Gđa Sinead O'Hara, SrLt Tatiana Mykulets, Sgt Diana Evans

Women peacekeepers

A recent lunch brought together the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim with the mission's eleven women police officers who come from Australia, Bosnia, Croatia, Ireland and Ukraine. During the lunch, the women talked in depth about the reasons that brought them to the mission and the cultural and professional barriers to women serving abroad. A common issue faced by the women was the lack of recognition their mission experiences gives them when they returned home. "We all came to the conclusion that serving in a UN mission is an invaluable experience and that it has provided us

with a special kind of strength, feeling of achievement and a sense of being a part of something bigger than yourself," said Senior Police Inspector Marijana Todoric, the gender focal point for the UN Police in Cyprus. "However we would hope that the UN would continue to encourage countries to send more women police officers and at the same time suggest to the police contributing countries that they make mission duty more accessible and desirable for female officers."

The Blue Beret will feature women police officers in a special piece in the new year.

Avoiding traffic accidents during winter

By Maj Milan Cerovsky

UNFICYP's Force Military Police Unit has an island-wide mandate for investigating all traffic accidents and offences involving UN or private vehicles driven by UN personnel, and road traffic collision prevention is one of FMPU's main goals. FMPU provides speed, safety, traffic and contraband check patrols in order to ensure that traffic remains safe.

Longer periods of darkness and weather adversity caused by rain and low temperatures during the winter months means that extra precaution must be taken. Wet and slippery roads create hazardous conditions which can lead to road traffic collisions. Because preventing and anticipating problems is much better than recovery, FMPU have prepared some basic guidelines for safe driving in the upcoming months.

Be a good driver: an ordinary driver reacts to road situations and a good driver anticipates problems.

Go slow: posted speed limits are for ideal driving conditions so reduced speed is the best precautionary measure against any misfortune whilst driving.

Keep a safe distance: safe distance allows you to slow down and stop when necessary, especially when weather conditions are bad.

Be careful while driving in rain: reduced ability to see greatly increases the distance required to slow down and stop. Normal breaking distance is increased on wet roads. Anticipate aquaplaning if there is water on road.

Avoid skidding: the danger of skidding is greater when you are taken by surprise. Be aware if you accelerate, brake or turn sharply as these can cause you to skid. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brakes.

Be seen to be safe: use your headlights at all times in order to increase your visibility.



New Face

Major Milan Cerovsky, Force Military Police Unit

Major Milan Cerovsky joined UNFICYP in September this year. Maj Cerovsky graduated from the police academy in Bratislava and has a master's degree in social sciences from UKF in Nitra, Slovakia. His military police tour started in 1995 as a crime scene technician, followed by assignments as a crime scene investigator, a leading senior officer and chief of a military police branch at a unit level. He then worked at the military police directorate directly as a leading senior officer in the law enforcement branch, followed by work in the operational department and the investigation analysis and crime prevention department. Major Cerovsky has completed the Military Police Basic Officer Leadership Course in Missouri, USA and Defence Against IED course in Ankara, Turkey. He has participated in NATO military police panel meetings within military police doctrine development in 2009-2012. Maj Cerovsky is married and has two daughters and a son. He enjoys water sports, fitness and skiing.







Coming in the next issue of the Blue Beret
**Focus on blue helmets from Austria, Canada and China
and UN police from Ireland**

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