UNFICYP Plants Trees in Buffer Zone
Christmas in Cyprus
The Changing Face of UNFICYP:
1992-2000
UNFICYP PLANTS TREES IN THE BUFFER ZONE

In mid January, UNFICYP personnel planted about 1,500 trees at various locations throughout the buffer zone - approximately one tree for each member of the Force (military, police and civilian).

The aim was to support environmental improvement and the repair of woodlands damaged over the years by fire and drought, and to contribute to conserving the natural beauty of Cyprus.

The plants included oleander, cypress, calitris, acacias, wild olives, and pines. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, Chief of Mission, Force Commander Maj Gen Victory Rana and UNFICYP civilians and soldiers from all contingents joined in the tree-planting event.
In most parts of the world, preparations for Christmas start well before 25 December. Homes, gardens and public areas are decorated with Christmas trees, coloured lights and nativity scenes. This year in Cyprus, the soldiers of UNFICYP were no different - they decorated camps and OPs all along the buffer zone, not only to brighten up the area, but also to remind them of their families back home.

Did you know that the star that is placed on the top of the Christmas tree, signifying the star of Bethlehem, appears every 974 years? The last time it was seen was in 1942, and it won’t appear again until the year 2916.
**Mouse in Cockpit: Cat Installed**

P - No. 2 propeller seeping prop fluid.
S - No. 2 propeller seepage normal - Nos. 1, and 2 propellers lack normal seepage.

P - Something loose in cockpit.
S - Something tightened in cockpit.

P - Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-fpm descent.
S - Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P - Evidence of leak on right skid.
S - Evidence removed.

P - Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S - That’s what they’re there for!

P - IFF inoperative.
S - IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P - Suspected crack in windshield.
S - Suspect you’re right.

P - Number 2 engine missing.
S - Engine found on right side after brief search.

P - Aircraft handles funny.
S - Aircraft warned to “Straighten up, Fly Right, and Be Serious.”

P - Mouse in cockpit.
S - Cat installed.

**Lt Col Salvador Ignacio Favolaro**

Lt Col Ignacio Favolaro is the new CO of UN Flight. He was born in Buenos Aires in February 1956. Having joined the Argentinian Air Force, he graduated from the Escuela de Aviación Militar (Military Air Force Academy) in 1979. In 1980 he attended and passed the Standardization and Procedures Course for Helicopter Pilots (CEPAH) as part of his initial training as a military pilot. He diversified into various tasks and held different commands related to his speciality at the VII Air Base, his first duty station until 1986, when he was assigned to the Military Air Force Academy.

There, he was an Instructor, being Head of Course and Head of the Squadron Instruction Programme until 1993. In 1994, he attended the Curso de Comando y Estado Mayor (the Command and High State Course) and in 1995, the Curso Superior de Estado Mayor (Senior High State Course).

In 1996 he was selected for the International Law for Armed Conflicts Course in San Remo, Italy. He is also a graduate of the I.A.A.F.A. (Inter-American Academy of the Air Force) Lackland, United States of America.

At present, Lt Col Favolaro is working for the Department of Policy and Plans at the Estado Mayor General de la Fuerza Aérea (Air Force General High State).

 Married to Ana, they have three daughters, Laura (17), Maria (15) and Alejandra (7).

**The Company of Integration**

The multinational company known as the Mobile Force Reserve, made up of Argentinians, British, Dutch and Hungarians, is the best place in UNFICYP to learn about other armies, cultures and customs. The variety of activities submerges its officers, NCOs and privates into the most exciting experience. The key is the language.

Despite the variety of activities, you can feel the environment, the friendship and cooperation in each task. Security, patrolling or stand-by duties - it doesn’t make any difference to us. We always do our best to face any challenge.

Our job is to constantly improve and show our professionalism. We have an amusing “filtering system”, which means that when the orders are given in English, they must be processed into other languages and given yet again in English over and over again. Thus, a simple phrase is converted into many languages.

Due to our mission, we not only carry out our duties, but we also face much more difficult tasks: to arrive in an unknown country, meet new people and - hardest of all - integrate. This doesn’t require any special ability, just the right attitude.

Before our arrival, it would have been hard to imagine an Argentinian, a British or a Dutch soldier working together enjoying some “Taragii mate” (a traditional Argentinian drink). But it does happen - a piece of one culture was adopted by another. Simple yet amazing.

“I think it is very useful to work in a multinational force. We get to learn about different nationalities, countries, customs - and armies. We can exchange our knowledge and experiences and, after a short time, we get to learn and understand each other. This is very important if we want to serve together as peacekeepers”, says Cpl Czifra from Hungary.

“In the MFR, we get to work alongside other nationalities, which allows us to learn about their home countries - and a little of their languages”, says Gnr Gould from England.

“Looking back on my tour, I can say that everything worked very well. All five nationalities integrated in a short time and provided me with a good and hard working platoon. When the Dutch look back on their tour, they do it with a smile”, said 2/Lt Klapdor from Holland.
Between 30th December 2000 and 11th January 2001, Sector 1 had the pleasure of hosting the Army Senior Military Chaplain, Monsignor Mario Liborio De Leone, who arrived on the island to share the New Year celebrations with the Argentinean personnel of UNFYICYP.

During his visit, Monsignor De Leone visited all camps and OPs within the Sector, and held many masses, both in Sector 1 and the UNPA. One of the highlights of his visit was the mass at Camp San Martín on 31st December, dedicated to all Task Force personnel on the island. Monsignor De Leone then participated in the traditional New Year’s dinner and the New Millennium celebrations.

The ATR 16 members are very grateful to Monsignor De Leone for his visit, and hope that he will continue to maintain his enthusiasm and love towards all armed forces soldiers.

The many tasks of Sector 1 include observing, reporting and acting to correct violations of the cease fire. But these are not the only activities carried out by sector personnel. There are also the “silent” duties, which not many are aware of, yet are equally as important. One of these is the supply of water to OPs and PBs along the line. Although in most cases there is a regular water supply, there are some locations where offices/accommodation have to be supplied with water by trucks, and this is the task of WOII Miguel Adolfo Maita, who says: “Before arriving in Cyprus, my expectations were different. I was assigned to the Logistics Branch, so I thought my duties would be involved with paperwork. I have never participated in a peacekeeping mission before, but I had heard stories about patrols and reports. So when I arrived and learned that I was to drive a cistern truck, I was surprised!”

“Sometimes I wonder what would happen if I didn’t arrive at the OPs. It gets really hard in winter when it rains and the patrol track becomes very slippery. When I’m about to reach my destination, I whistle out loud so that the men waiting for me know I’m nearly there.” That’s how Miguel has earned the name of the “mountain wolf”.

By Lt Jorge Mobilia

ARGENTINIAN MARINES DAY

A special ceremony took place on 19th November at Admiral Brown Base. It commemorated the creation of the 121th Argentine Marine Corps. CO Sector 1, Lt Col Oswaldo Garcia, and a number of staff members attended the ceremony.

Following the flag presentation and our national anthem, 2/Lt Smoils, 60th Area 2IC and the youngest officer at Charlie Coy, read a message from the Chief of the Argentinean Marine Corps.

Following the parade, all marine troops and their guests enjoyed refreshments whilst the Sector 1 band, playing typical Argentinean songs, contributed to the national mood. In this way, a simple but emotional ceremony ended.

By Lt Jorge Mobilia
The New Argentinians

By Capt Darío Ochoa and Lt Jorge Mobilia

On 8th November, the new Argentinian Task Force (ATF 16) formally took control of Sector 1 at a ceremony presided over by the Force Commander, and in the presence of the former CO, Lt Col Abel Catuzzi and his replacement, Lt Col Osvaldo García.

The first members of the new Task Force arrived in Cyprus on 2nd November on the first of three flights from Argentina. The Task Force is made up of men and women from the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. It also boasts officers and NCOs from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The departing Task Force organised a series of classes to guide the new contingent through the administrative and operational procedures, before heading home to their respective units.

ATF 16 will remain in Cyprus until early May 2001.

NUEVA FUERZA DE TAREA EN EL SECTOR UNO

El día 8 de noviembre, se realizó en el Campo San Martín la ceremonia de la puesta en funciones del nuevo Jefe del Sector, la misma estuvo presidida por el Force Commander Maj Gen Victorio Rana y los Jefes saliente Tcnl Abel Raúl Catuzzi (FTA 15) y entrante Tcnl Osvaldo Daniel Garcia (FTA 16).

La Fuerza de Tareas saliente realizó una serie de clases con el fin de poder instruir al nuevo Contingente en todo lo referido al control administrativo y operacional en el Sector Uno, demostrando el alto grado de profesionalismo alcanzado durante su permanencia.

Al regreso al país la FTA 15, volverá a prestar servicio en sus respectivas Unidades y en cambio la FTA 16 que se quedaran hasta Mayo de 2001.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN VISIT UNFICYP SOLDIERS IN SECTOR 1

Just before Christmas, a group of primary school children from Astromeritis, escorted by teachers George Hadjoscosti and Margarita Yiannakou, visited Camp San Martin, headquarters of the Argentinian Contingent in Sector 1. The children were received by CO Sector 1, Lt Col García, sang traditional Christmas songs for the soldiers, and in return, the ARGCON military band played some typical Argentinian “misil criolla” folk music, as well as their interpretation of the tango.

Later, the children and their teachers were invited to the Officers’ Mess where refreshments were served and they were presented with souvenirs from Argentina.

New CO Sector One: Lt Col Osvaldo Daniel García

Lt Col Osvaldo Daniel García was born in 1955 in Buenos Aires. He was promoted from the Military Academy as a 2/Lt in the Infantry Branch in December 1975. His first posting as an officer was to 11th Infantry Regiment. He later joined the 17th Airborne Infantry Regiment, the Military Academy, the Army HQ and Army Training Institute. In 1988, he attended the course at the War College. In 1996, he attended the Master in Strategic Intelligence at the War College. In October 1994, he took over as Second in Command of the logistical support base “Río Gallegos” located in Santa Cruz.

Lt Col García is a ski instructor and a military parachutist. He is married to Alicia Elena Maradona, and they have five children.

New DCO Sector One: Lt Col Juan Carlos Asis

Lt Col Juan Carlos Asis was born on 25th August 1959 in Cordoba City, province of Cordoba.

After promotion to 2/Lt in the Engineer’s Branch in December 1979, his first posting was to 101 Engineer Combat Battalion as a Platoon Leader, and then to the 181st Engineer’s Combat Battalion as Coy Commander.

On promotion to the rank of Capt, Lt Col Asis was posted to the Army School of Engineers as Coy Commander. Then in 1990, he attended a course at the War School. He graduated in December 1990. In 1997, he was appointed CO-S1 (ATF 16).

Lt Col Asis is married to Maria Ines Vallilengua, and they have three children, Juan Pablo (16), Ignacio (14) and Federico (9).

ARGENTINIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS ARGCON

By Capt Darío Ochoa and Lt Jorge Mobilia

Sector 1 was recently honoured by a visit between 4-6 December from the Argentinian Ambassador, HE Mr Gregorio Dupont, currently based in Israel. Mr Dupont was briefed on the duties carried out by the personnel in Sector 1, and, accompanied by Lt Col Garcia, Commander Sector 1, he also visited camps and OPs along the line.

On his departure, Ambassador Dupont expressed his pride and admiration at the work carried out by the Argentinian soldiers, most of whom, although far from their homes and families, carry out their peacekeeping duties with dedication and devotion.

New CO Sector One: Lt Col Osvaldo Daniel García

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Lt Col García is a ski instructor and a military parachutist. He is married to Alicia Elena Maradona, and they have five children.
The Hunting Season

In Cyprus, the Big Game Hunting Season began on Sunday 12th November and finished on 13th January 2001. During this period, hunters were restricted to the shooting of partridges and hares on Wednesdays and Sundays. The role of UNCIVPOL during this hunting season is twofold: (a) to operate joint patrols of the Sector with military personnel and (b) when hunters fail to cooperate with members of the military or UNCIVPOL in leaving the buffer zone, to request the assistance of CYPOL in removing the offender(s).

The hunting operation overall has been a success. ARGCON and UNCIVPOL have an excellent personal and working relationship. The numbers of hunters in Sector 1 have been lower than the authorities predicted. Each day without fail, UNCIVPOL and ARGCON have had to deal with numerous incursions into the buffer zone by Greek Cypriot hunters. It’s the same offenders each week. Areas known as the “Greens” (situated between OP 15 and OP 17) and the “Valle de la Cazador” (Valley of the Hunters) are popular gaming grounds for these hunters. Armed with this knowledge, UNCIVPOL patrolled these areas for the duration of each hunting day. Due to the professionalism and the interpersonal skills of ARGCON and UNCIVPOL, these incursions have been dealt with amicably, without requiring the assistance of CYPOL.

The usual suspects kept returning to the buffer zone, but with no dramas. Despite the long hours, it’s been an enjoyable few weeks.

So, on 2nd November, the big day arrived when we landed in Cyprus and met our fellow Argentinians who would hand over their duties to us. Even though everything was very new to most of us, the entire task was carried out smoothly in a very professional and harmonious manner. Now the responsibility is ours, and as time goes by, we put into practice what we learned during those first days of training. The men and women in the army, navy and air force of Task Force 16 are happy and proud that our sense of discipline, responsibility and professionalism, which are reflected in our daily tasks, go a long way to keeping the peace.

Brass Band in Sector 4

During the festive period, a group of 12 Austrian musicians playing the “Jagdhorn” (bugle) arrived on the island to visit the Austrian soldiers serving in UNFICYP. They played not only for the soldiers, but also gave concerts for the public. These concerts took place at St Paul’s Cathedral in Nicosia on 12 December, and at the Famagusta Hall, Dherinia on 14 December. Judging by the number in attendance and the response of the audience, the Austrian musicians were a great success.

Pre-Cyprus Training

The enlistment of troops for the 16th Argentinian Task Force in Cyprus began in the first days of October 2000. At that time, most of us knew very little of the mission we were about to join.

There was a certain amount of apprehension when talking about hunters, demonstrations, medevacs, over-manning, patrol tracks, BZ - all new terms that confused us, but which we had to learn. In the Argentinian Centre of Combined Training for Peace Operations, we eagerly received our first instructions, stimulated by the tales and adventures of those who had already participated in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kuwait.

The Blue Beret
THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS

The Queen's Royal Lancers (QRL) was formed on 25th June 1993 following the amalgamation of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers (16/5L) and the 17th/21st Lancers (17/21L). Her Majesty The Queen is Colonel in Chief of QRL and Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, The Hon Mrs Ogilvy-Green, is the Deputy Colonel in Chief.

The original four regiments had a long and distinguished history. 16/5L celebrated the 150th anniversary of the amalgamation of the Royal Netherlands Army, which is responsible for Sector 2 in the UNFICYP. 17/21L is made up of one officer and 26 soldiers from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery. In addition to the QRL, the Sector 2 forces include 12 AD Platoon of the Royal Netherlands Army, which is responsible for Sector 2 in the UNFICYP. 12 AD Platoon is under operational command for the duration of this tour. The whole Dutch unit is called 1 (NL) UN Coy UNFICYP.

The motto of 12AD is the Coyote with “seek and destroy” beneath. 12AD Battery consists, in peacetime, of two Air Defence Platoons, a Logistic Section and a Battery HQ. Each AD platoon consists of three sections, three Stinger sections and a command section equipped with the VPR765. The Coyote is a highly sophisticated armoured air defence system, firing 35mm rounds at a speed of 1,100 rounds a minute. The Stinger is a shoulder launched, fire and forget, air defence system, with a range of approximately 5km. The VPR is an Armoured Personnel Carrier based on the American M-113.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QRE) were formed on 28th September 1948, although there have been Gurkha Engineers in the British Army since the 19th Century. 69 Gurkha Field Squadron forms one of two Gurkha squadrons, the other being 45th Gurkha Engineers. Both squadrons are part of 36 Engineer Regiment and are stationed at Maidstone, Kent. The tour is supported by each of their three squadrons’ and HQ Squadron, in rotation.

Finally, the Regiment, as ever, is well supported by members of The Adjutant General's Corps, The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and The Royal Army Medical Corps. The Queen’s Royal Lancers took over in Sector 2 on 7th June 1993 and will remain until 7th June 2001. We shall be replaced by 12 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery.


Lt Col James Everard was born at home in Leicester on 23rd September 1962. He was educated at Upminster. Following an extended gap year, Lt Col Everard attended the RMA Sandhurst in 1982, and was commissioned into the 17th/21st Lancers in 1983. He joined the Regiment in Munster, Germany, spending six years on regimental duty as a Troop Leader, Reconnaissance Troop Leader and Regimental Signal Officer. In 1989, Lt Col Everard was posted to the USA as the UK Special Projects Officer at the US Army National Training Centre, Fort Irwin, California. On completion of this tour, he was posted to the MOD as the Assistant Military Advisor to the Assistant Chief of the General Staff. In 1993, he returned to the UK as a Sqn Ldr at Tidworth before attending Division II of the Army Staff Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He returned to regimental duty in 1995 as the Assistant Adjutant General of 16/5L and in 1997 was appointed COS, 4th Armoured Brigade. During this time, the Brigade deployed initially as UNPROFOR HQ, Sector West, before redeploying to Kasar in accordance with the leading UK element of the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR). Returning to operational duty he took command of B Squadron, deploying to Canada to form the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). Opposing Force (OFOR). His Squadron returned to BATUS, his eleventh Medicine Man exercise, the following year as part of the 1st Battalion The Green Howard Battlegroup. On promotion, Lt Col Everard was posted to the Ops Requirements Branch, MOD, as the SO1 Policy. Two weeks into the appointment he was taken prisoner by the MAO of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). A day after his arrival at HQ ARRC, it fully deployed to FYROM and his post was specified as re-designated Military Assistant to Commander Kosovo Force. It was as a result of his performance in Kosovo that he was awarded an OBE.

Lt Col Everard took over command of The Queen’s Royal Lancers in September 2000. The OBE awarded on 23rd September 1993 was the first of his career. Lieutenant Colonel James Everard is married to Caroline, and they have three children: Samuel, Matilda and Caroline. He is a keen skier, a bad shot, and collects corkscrews.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL J R EVERARD OBE

Sector 2

The UNPA was a hive of activity then, with Prince William, Jubilee, St David’s and Blue Beret companies of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps. As ever, is well supported by members of The Queen’s Royal Lancers and headquarters. The UN Flight, provided by the British Army Air Corps, was active then, with Prince William, Jubilee, St David’s and Blue Beret companies of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps. As ever, is well supported by members of The Queen’s Royal Lancers and headquarters. The UN Flight, provided by the British Army Air Corps, was active then, with Prince William, Jubilee, St David’s and Blue Beret companies of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps. As ever, is well supported by members of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps. As ever, is well supported by members of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps. As ever, is well supported by members of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps. As ever, is well supported by members of The Adjutant General’s Corps, 36 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Logistics Corps.
THE 12 SIGNAL UNIT WALKDOWN 2000 REPORT

By Diana Bridger

UNFICYP entered a record 14 teams to the millenium 12SU Walkdown from Platres to Episkopi.

For the uninitiated, this 30-kilometre event, for teams of three, is designed to bring more people into the sport of long distance orienteering. Every team has to have a novice and a female, along with a competent map reader.

Over the last couple of years though, an “all female” category has been added and this year, due to the increase in “girl power”, an “all female” category was also included. Teams must navigate their own way from start to finish via three checkpoints en-route and carry basic safety and survival equipment - water bottle, whistle, waterproofs, first aid kid and torch.

A group of intrepid UNFICYP members began training back in October and every Sunday, come rain or shine, the civilian entrants trained alongside their military counterparts. Prospective contestants soon discovered that it was not going to be downhill all the way.

With less than 48 hours to go, UNFICYP’s top team was devastated by the news that their “flying female”, Madeline Garlick, would not be returning in time from talks in Athens to compete in the competition, 13 teams returning in time from talks in Athens.

The Blue Beret

It was obvious to everyone that training had been well worthwhile - the first to admit this were the few that hadn’t trained. Several teams took it seriously and ran most of the way, others ran only the downhill parts and the rest walked or marched the whole distance. BSM Steve Henderson stood out as he led his “Hermuda Triangles” team, attired in kit, dinner jacket and bow tie, carrying a bottle of port in his back pack. Mrs “Jackie Onassis” Forrest of “Forest, Gump & Co Mark II” was actually witnessed running at various points and the “UNFICYP Pacekeepers” - top-corner PAs Ann Artis and Chamuri with Caroline Gent made an amazingly determined final push in the last kilometre to pip a few of the other walking teams to the finish line.

The MFR had set up a very welcome barbecue at the finish, on the side of the Albatross Club. With all the teams safely home, there was time to party prior to the prize-giving.

Lt Col Paul Lane, Lt Andy Howell and Capt Jeremy Carter of “Sixteen and Medical” were the top team to finish. Capt Annie Hairsine, Hardwick, aka the “UNFICYP Pacekeepers”, was third overall. Howells and Capt Jeremy Carter of “Forrest, Gump & Co Mark II” was actually witnessed running at various points and the “UNFICYP Pacekeepers” - top-corner PAs Ann Artis and Chamuri with Caroline Gent made an amazingly determined final push in the last kilometre to pip a few of the other walking teams to the finish line.

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Don’t let this be you

THE ROYAL MARECHAUSSEE

Since June 1998, three members of the Netherlands Royal Marechaussee have served in the Force Military Police Unit. The last three Dutchmen to take up posts arrived as the 21st FMPU, the Detachment Commander Dherinia and the SIS Investigator.

The Royal Marechaussee has a long history dating back to 26th October 1814, when the ruling monarch, later to become King Willem I, signed the decree to establish a Marechaussee corps.

What does Marechaussee mean?

The Royal Marechaussee can best be described as a police organisation with military status. Its Commander in Chief is a Major General who commands an organisation comprising 5,200 men and women. The Commander in Chief of the Royal Marechaussee comes directly under the Minister of Defence, but other ministries are also closely involved with the task of the Marechaussee.

The execution of tasks, as described in the 1993 Police Act, the Marechaussee is on a par with the civil police. It provides a combination of civil and military support. Over the past few years, many new tasks have been assigned, notably in the sphere of civil (police) tasks. Examples of tasks are shown below:

Civil Tasks
- providing protection for members of the Royal Household;
- carrying out police and security tasks at the national airport Schiphol;
- assisting the civil police in maintaining public order.

Military Tasks
- upholding legislation in respect of aliens. This includes control of the external borders of the Schengen area and the Mobile Monitoring of Aliens;
- carrying out the police task for the Dutch armed forces, as well as for foreign armies, forces and international headquarters based in the Netherlands;
- carrying out police tasks at locations which fall under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

For the Marechaussee to carry out its police task properly, it must have investigative powers. The Code of Criminal Procedure gives this authority to officers and NCOs. And provided they hold specific managerial functions, they are also Assistant Public Prosecutor, should the need arise.

Driving on the Patrol Track

In the year 2000, four L200s were written off in patrol track accidents. Fortunately no one was badly injured, but someone could easily have been killed.

Many patrol tracks are cut into the edge of hillsides and consequently have steep slopes off to one side. Driving too close to the edge of the track risks dropping off the edge and losing control of the vehicle. Tracks can be very narrow with a loose gravel surface. This also makes for dangerous driving conditions, particularly at night.

Despite the hazards of the terrain, it is actually excessive speed that has resulted in most of the serious patrol track accidents. The speed limit on patrol tracks is 25 kph. Most of the serious accidents on the track have involved much greater speeds. At 25 kph a driver can observe the track well ahead, anticipate problems and choose the best path through pitted surfaces. At higher speeds, problems arise too quickly for drivers to react in time.

Watch your speed and pay attention to the track surface and you will avoid a catastrophe. Remember, speed kills; don’t let it be you or your colleagues!
10,5 km FAMAGUSTA OLD CITY RUN

On 25 November, the traditional 10.5 km Famagusta Old City Run (Sports Competition) around the Old City Wall of Famagusta was held. The competition was organised by UN soldiers from Sector 4 serving in Famagusta, and, like last year, the competition was won by three Turkish Cypriots.

A total of 74 competed in this race from Cyprus, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Great Britain, Argentina, Finland and the Netherlands.

UN Soldiers from Sector 4 win the DHEKELIA DASH 2000

It was a team of Austrian and Slovenian soldiers of Sector 4 who won the category “Military” of the Dhckelia Dash 2000, organised on 28th October by the Eastern SBA of the British Forces in Cyprus. The “Dash” was a 30km, 15 leg relay road race around Dhckelia Garrison, each leg being a 2km lap. The Charity Fun Run was open to runners of all ages island-wide competing in eight categories: Military, Open, Veterans, Youth, Primary, Ladies, Fancy Dress and Family Team.

Congratulations to the successful UN team: Capt Ing. Goi, WOs I Wohlkonig (also winner of last year’s SBA Swimming Competition) and Korosec, WO II Steiner, Sgt Remler and Cpl Bartf, Cizely, Drüngere, Kovacec, Plossing, Rinesch, Romanesco, Unterholzer, Vogel and Würzlhuber.

FAMAGUSTA, PAPHOS AND KOLOSSI RUNS

During November and December, personnel from Sector 1 participated in running events at three different locations around the island.

On Saturday 25th November, the traditional 10.5km Famagusta Run around the old city walls was held and three participants from Sector 1 were in attendance.

Paphos was the location the following day, Sunday 26th November, for the Paphos 21km run, in which a total of 11 from Sector 1 participated.

On 3rd December, the 2000 Kolossi Half Marathon took place, and each competitor received a T-shirt and medal on completion.

Hitting Hard with the Unicorns

With the official handover of Sector 2 and elements of the MFR to the Queen’s Royal Lancers on 7th December 2000, the all new Unicorns (United Nations rugby team) had their first match on 16th December at Akrotiri. With a little training and a large amount of spirit, all ranks from QRL were joined by a handful of Royal Artillery and Dutch Cavalry to defeat the Akrotiri second string in fine barbarian style.

The UN victory over the British side saw a surge in interest and a decent turnout at following training sessions held in the UNPA. As a result of this increased commitment, the team, which took the field on 30th December 2000 against Ayios Nikolaos, was far stronger and better drilled. In a match that saw a number of injuries on both sides, our backs ran riot over the opposition in the first half, resulting in a 30 point lead at half time. The loss of a couple of players through injury, and the team’s lack of match experience, gave the opposition some breathing space, allowing them to claw back 21 quick points. Inevitably, however, the Unicorns triumphed with a devastating back move, leaving no one in any doubt who wanted to win more.

Climb, Run and Walk

By Capt Tanja Pecnik

It was back at the beginning of October when C/S Mick O’Neill announced casually: “It’s time to start planning for the Caledonian Climb. Now there are three women working here in Ops, we should enter a female team.”

I’m not quite sure why we fell for the idea, but we did. And on 2nd November 2000, Lt Kinga Király, WO2 Val Ramsey and I found ourselves staggering around the Troodos Mountains, engaged in this annual British Forces-organised event, whose motto is: “The only way is up!”

This, we discovered, was very appropriate. The race is only eight kilometres, run mainly over tracks and roads in the Troodos area, but it takes you 600 metres uphill. It starts near the Platres trout farm and finishes at Troodos Station, and the only way is almost straight up.

We were allowed two hours to finish the climb. The first competitor reached the finishing line after 16 minutes and the last was there in 82 minutes, so we all finished well inside the time limit.

There were 136 participants, 19 from UN. As well as the now famous women’s team, UNFICYP HQ Ops Branch entered a team of veterans - Maj Gyula Macsotai, Maj William Style and C/S Mick O’Neill. The veterans came first in their category.
Christmas in Cyprus

A unique setting for a formal portrait:
Members of the Mobile Force Reserve