

The Blue Beret

Volume 36 - December 2000-January 2001

UNFICYP Plants Trees in Buffer Zone
Christmas in Cyprus
The Changing Face of UNFICYP:
1992-2000



Published monthly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 21642, Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel: (02) 864550/864416/864408
Fax: (02) 864461
E-mail: blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com

Editorial Team

Charles Gaulkin
Maj Dezső Kiss
Miriam Taylor

Photography

Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

- Sector 1** Lt Jorge Mobilia
- Sector 2** Lt Alex Martin
- Sector 4** Capt Andreas Scherer
Capt Béla András
Capt Tanja Pecnik
- UNCIVPOL** Garda Kevin Keys
Sgt Mike McKay
- UN Flt** Lt Mariano Garbini
- MFR** Capt Martin Estrada
- FMPU** 1/Lt Gerard Verhulst
- Civil Adm** Mike Brown

The Blue Beret is the in-house journal of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. The views expressed are those of the authors concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications. Any article or illustration may be reproduced with the written permission of the Editor.

editorial

TREES...

The task set out by the Force Commander to all sectors was an unusual one: head out to the fields with shovels, dig holes and plant 1,500 trees and shrubs - one for each of the approximately 1,500 military, police and civilian personnel of UNFICYP. The saplings were tenderly planted by all contingents at dozens of locations throughout the buffer zone - with the Chief of Mission and Force Commander also wielding the shovels.

The "operation" was conceived as a contribution to improving the environment in Cyprus, and personnel who took part were glad to do the job, in the same spirit as those who participated in the "World Clean-Up Day" last year. We hope the plants (chosen for hardiness) will thrive and live on long after UNFICYP folds its tents, as symbols of UNFICYP's work for the people of Cyprus.

GOODBYE AND HELLO...

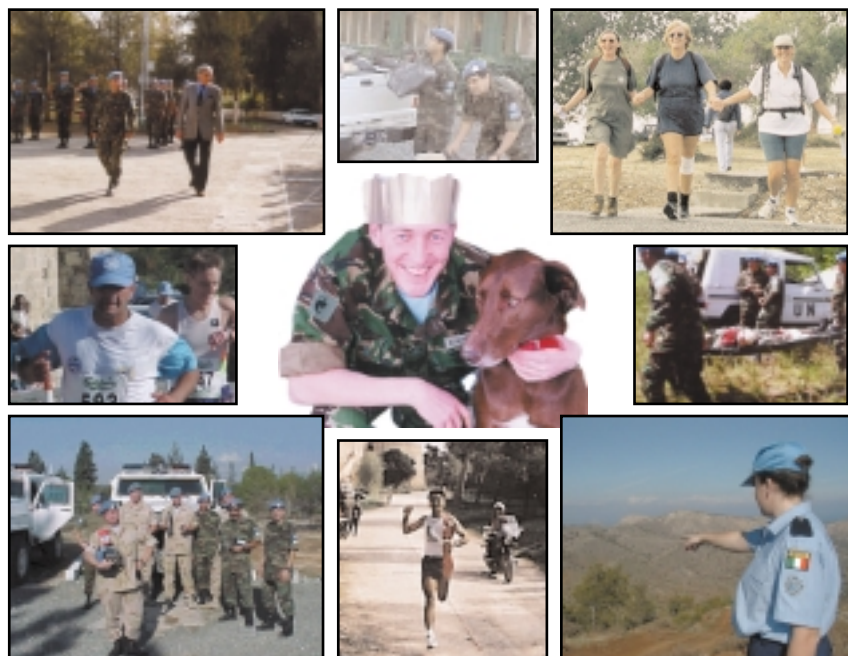
A regretful goodbye to Sarah Russell, who left Cyprus in December after serving as UNFICYP Spokesperson for the past two years. The family - now doubled in number, with year-old twins George and Anna - moved to Geneva, where Sarah's husband Rupert will be working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Sarah's professional skills in helping journalists "get the story" accurately were highly regarded by UNFICYP. The Blue Beret staff and her many friends in Cyprus will miss her.

And "hello" again to the acting Spokesperson (sometimes known as the Smokesman) Charles Gaulkin, who for the third time returns to UNFICYP from New York as a "pinch hitter" in the post for an interim period.

Contents

Editorial/Contents 2
UNFICYP Plants Trees in BZ/ FC
FC breathalyzed/
Lt Gen Guthrie departs 3
Christmas in UNFICYP 4/5
UN Flight 6
MFR 7
Sector 1 8/9/10/11
The Western Buffer Zone 12
Sector 4 13
Sector 2 14/15
12 Sig Unit Walkdown 2000 ... 16
FMPU 17
Sport 18/19
Christmas in Cyprus - MFR ... 20

**Front Cover:
Tree Planting in the
Buffer Zone**



**UNFICYP
PLANTS TREES
IN THE
BUFFER ZONE**



Tree planting in the UNPA



In the west of the island

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, callitris, 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.

FORCE COMMANDER BREATHALYZED

It's not every day that you get to breathalyze a General, but Sgt Gill had the opportunity at a recent Force Commander's visit to the FMPU. Maj Gen Rana was shown various items of new MP equipment, including the new Lion Intoximeter SD400 breathalyzer, the Lazer Speedmeter and digital cameras.

The Force Commander tried his hand at checking a few UN vehicles for speeding, and was most impressed by the accuracy of the machine. Calibrated daily, the machines are accurate to within 0.10kph at 1,000m. *Speeders beware!*



**Lieutenant General
Guthrie departs**

Lieutenant General Sir Charles Guthrie, outgoing Chief of the Defence Staff, visited Sector 2 on 15 December as part of his farewell to the British Army.

General Guthrie is the most senior member of the British Armed Forces, and as such has been responsible for all three services. He is replaced by Admiral Sir Michael Boyce.



Lt Gen Guthrie being briefed at Irish Bridge in Sector 2

CHRISTMAS IN UNFICYP

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



Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humour.

Here are some actual maintenance complaints/problems, generally known as squawks, recently submitted by pilots to maintenance engineers. After attending to the squawks, maintenance crews are required to log the details of the action taken to solve the pilots' squawks.

*P = The problem logged by the pilot.
S = The solution and action taken by the engineers.*

- P - Left inside skid almost needs replacement.
- S - Almost replaced left inside skid.
- P - Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.
- S - Autoland not installed on this helicopter.

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 windscreen.
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 (18), Maria (15) and Alejandra (7).

The Company of Integration

By Capt Martin Estrada

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

"It's a very good opportunity for our boys to learn about others. They become good friends in a short time. I feel very comfortable with my job; everybody is cool", says 2/Lt Ojeda from Argentina.



A platoon updating their first aid knowledge during a training day



After a patrol, the section shares some Argentinian "Taragüi mate"

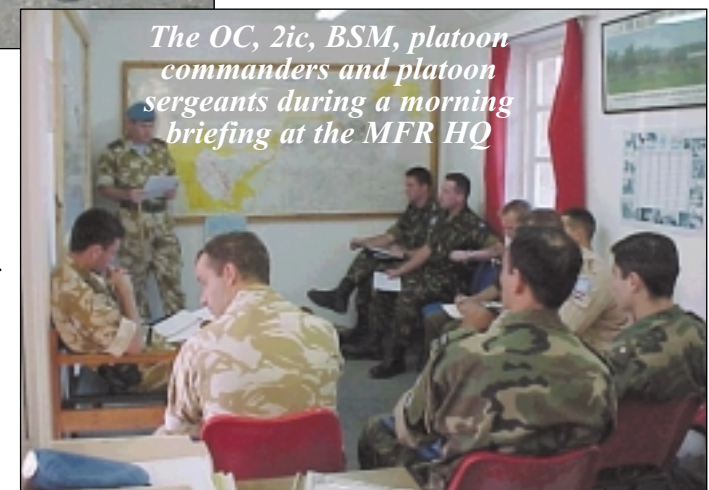
"I think it is very useful to work in a multinational force. We get to learn about different nationalities, countries, customs - and armies. We can exchange our knowledge and experiences and, after a short time, we get to learn and understand each other. This is very important if we want to serve together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

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 sitting together enjoying some "Taragüi mate" (a traditional Argentinian drink). But it does happen - a piece of one culture was adopted by another. Simple yet amazing.

"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.



The OC, 2ic, BSM, platoon commanders and platoon sergeants during a morning briefing at the MFR HQ

"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 Klapdoor from Holland.

Army Senior Military Chaplain visits ARGCON



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 Argentinian personnel of UNFICYP.

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 Martin 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 ATF 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.

Visita del Capellán Mayor del Ejército Argentino

Desde el 30 de diciembre de 2000 hasta el 11 de enero de 2001, nos visita en Chipre el Señor Capellán Mayor del Ejército Argentino Monseñor Mario Liborio de Leone. El motivo de su visita fue pasar las festividades de Año Nuevo con el personal del ARGCON.

Desde su llegada tuvo una variada actividad que varió desde misas por los diferentes Campos del Sector 1 y en la Capilla San Barrabas en la UNPA. Cada ceremonia fue vivida intensamente, en un clima de recogimiento por todos los presentes.

El 31 de diciembre, ofició una misa en el Campo San Martín para los familiares presentes en la Isla de los oficiales y suboficiales del Fuerza de Tarea,

consecutivo participó en la tradicional cena de Fin de Año para brindar el arribo del nuevo Milenio.

Además, Monseñor De Leone se preocupa constantemente por estar cerca de todos los integrantes de esta Fuerza de Tareas y no escatimó esfuerzo para recorrer los distintos OP y PB de la línea acompañando a los soldados argentinos en su tarea cotidiana, quien con su persona y alentadora predica, nos infunde una gran alegría y fortaleza.

Los integrantes de la FTA 16, agradecemos profundamente al Señor la visita del Monseñor De Leone y le imploramos que le siga manteniendo ese gran entusiasmo y amor hacia todos sus hijos de las Fuerzas Armadas.

Special People, These Musicians

By Lt Jorge Mobilia

Since the Argentinian Contingent joined UNFICYP in September 1993, military musicians have been included in their numbers.

Many of us in Sector 1 would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to these musicians who, in addition to their regular peacekeeping



duties, do much more by brightening up events with military marches and traditional songs.

The last medal parade, in particular, was a great success. And on 24th December, the musicians of Sector 1 attended every mass which took place at various locations in ATF 16, starting at Brown Base, the AOR of Charlie Coy, Roca Camp and ending in San Martín Camp. This success is due in no small measure to the excellent teamwork of our band, currently led by WOII Barreto. This man, although an experienced soldier, treats his fellow bandsmen as a father towards his children, and his dedication and devotion has brought out the best in our musicians.

It is well-known that soldiers perform to the best of their ability when their morale is high, and there is no doubt that the musicians of Sector 1 contribute to a healthy esprit de corps around the Camp, making Argentina just that little bit closer.



The water truck, about to supply an OP

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".

Villegas. They, however, knew this was to be their task before arrival. They commented: "We knew what we were coming to and we're prepared to do our best. But it's not our only job. We are also assigned a number of duties in the Command Coy Reserve Section, which allows us to see the way line companies work and are deployed in the buffer zone. It really is a very special experience."

Thanks to these personnel, life continues smoothly in Sector 1.



ARGENTINIAN MARINES DAY

By Lt Jorge Mobilia



A special ceremony took place on 19th November at Admiral Brown Base. It commemorated the creation of the 121st Argentinian Marine Corps. CO Sector 1, Lt Col Osvald García, 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 Argentinian Marines Corps.

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

SILENT WORK

By Lt Jorge Mobilia

WOII Maita isn't the only one in Sector 1 who gets on with the "silent work". At dawn, there are others who get up very early and start on their rounds collecting refuse. This task is carried out by NCOs WOII José Raul Pedraza and WOII Hugo

Villegas. They, however, knew this was to be their task before arrival. They commented: "We knew what we were coming to and we're prepared to do our best. But it's not our only job. We are also assigned a number of duties in the Command Coy Reserve Section, which allows us to see the way line companies work and are deployed in the buffer zone. It really is a very special experience."

Thanks to these personnel, life continues smoothly in Sector 1.

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, Paragua 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.



ATF 15 hands over to ATF 16

Sector 1

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 Victory Rana y los Jefes: saliente Tcnl Abel Raúl Catuzzi (FTA 15) y entrante Tcnl Osvaldo Daniel García (FTA 16).

La misma comenzó sus actividades a partir del arribó a la isla de Chipre, el 2 de noviembre en un primer vuelo, de una serie de tres, proveniente de la República Argentina, trayendo abordo al nuevo Contingente Argentino - Chipre 16.

El personal que la conforma son hombres y

mujeres que provienen del Ejército, la Armada y de la Fuerza Aérea, además, incluyendo entre sus filas a oficiales y suboficiales de los siguientes países: Bolivia, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay.

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 quedarán 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 Hadjiscosti and Margarita Yiannakou, visited Camp San Martín, headquarters of the Argentinian Contingent in Sector 1. The children, who 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 "misa 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.

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 García, 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

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 and graduated in December 1990. In 1993, he served as a UN military observer in Kuwait (UNIKOM). In October 1994, he took over as Second in Command

of the logistical support base "Rio Gallegos" located in Santa Cruz. He subsequently served with the 11th Mechanised Brigade and taught at the War College. In 1996, he attended the Master in Strategic Intelligence at the War College. In November 1997, he assumed Command of the famous 6th Infantry Regiment "Gral Viamonte" until September 2000. On 25th September 2000, he was appointed CO-S1 (ATF 16).

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



Sector 1

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 Dec-

ember, having reached the rank of Major.

He then returned to the Army School of Engineers as chief of the course, and subsequently took over as Commanding Officer of the 10th Mechanised Engineer's Company, serving in the Army General Staff in the Ops Branch.

In 1999, he was designated to 14th Engineer's as Coy Commander in UNIKOM, Kuwait.

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



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.



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.

The Hunting Season

By Sgt Mairead Crowley

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.

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.



Assistance of a Special Kind

By Capt Andreas Scherer

Assistance of a very special kind was recently offered to the peacekeepers in Sector 4. A group of pupils from six training schools, accompanied by two of their instructors, up-graded the electricity supply network of UN camps in Famagusta and Pyla, as well as two OPs. The existing network was boosted and, among other things, lightning arresters and 60 sockets were installed.

These activities were carried out within the framework of a project of the training school for electrical engineering "Mollardgasse" in Vienna. The idea behind it was for the pupils to volunteer their manpower, for companies to donate the material and for the UN to cover the transport, food and accommodation.

"The work is carried out quickly and without problem, the main effort being the many arrangements made well in advance", says Ing. Hubert Imsele, one of the instructors who also came on a reconnaissance tour last summer to prepare for their mission. His colleague, Ing. Gerald Polly, agrees and emphasizes the support and good cooperation with the Austrian UN soldiers in the area. "A useful job that was pleasant for the pupils as well as for us", he said.

Projects like this in Sector 4 are not new for the instructors since they have carried out similar activities for the Austrian UN peacekeepers on the Golan Heights in 1999. Instructors and pupils from another Viennese training school for



gas, water and installation have also been there, with helping hands, in yet another project for the benefit of UN soldiers.

How this all came about is as follows. School director Ing. Patocka was himself a militia officer in the Armed Forces and has also served on the Golan Heights. During a visit (you see how important and helpful they can be!), he learned about the conditions under which some of our soldiers have to carry out their duties in the service of peace. So he decided to act - and the idea of the project was born.

For pupils aged 18-19 who have to face call-up orders to do their compulsory military service, their missions abroad were also an interesting contact with the soldiers. For example, one of these "Golan pupils" was so enthusiastic that he decided to sign up for a few years and to volunteer for a UN mission in the Near East - doing exactly what he is trained for.

Once again, the peacekeepers of Sector 4 would like to thank the pupils, their instructors, their director, and also the many companies who provided materials free of charge: ABB, Alstom, Elin, Gawron, Henkel, Pettrill, Sag-Tessag, Schweizer, Siemens and Trpak.

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 Lady Ogilvy GCVO, is the Deputy Colonel in Chief.

The original four regiments had long and distinguished histories. 16/5L celebrated the Battle of Aliwal (1846 - India) and 17/21L the Battle of Balaklava (1854 - Crimea) as their principal Battle Honours. QRL celebrate Fondouk (9th April 1943), a battle at which both 16/5L and 17/21L fought alongside each other in North Africa during World War Two.

Both regiments have been based in Germany; the 16/5L from 1986-91 in Herford (in the reconnaissance role) and 17/21L from 1980-90 in Munster (in the armoured role). More recently, during the Gulf War, 16/5L were employed as the Divisional Reconnaissance Regiment and 17/21L sent five tank troops as reinforcements to The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and The Scots Dragoon Guards. In 1993, A Squadron 16/5L were the last squadron to serve as the UNFICYP Scout Car Squadron.

Following amalgamation, QRL moved to Osnabrück, Germany, in July 1993. QRL then completed a full training year before deploying to Cyprus in December 1994 in the UN peacekeeping role, returning in June 1995. In the same year, C Squadron deployed to Bosnia, having re-rolled to reconnaissance with BRITCAVBAT. As part of UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force), they were based in and around Maglaj.

1997 saw the Regiment employed as the Opposition Force (OPFOR) at the British Army Training Unit in Suffield (BATUS), Canada. In 1998, B Squadron deployed to Bosnia as part as the NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) before being replaced in December 1998 by

the QRL BG. The Regiment was present in Bosnia throughout the highly volatile period of the Kosovo Campaign. On the return to Germany, the Regiment undertook conversion to the British Army's new main battle tank, Challenger 2.

In addition to the QRL, the Sector 2 forces include 12 Armoured Air Defence Battery of the Royal Netherlands Army, which is responsible for Sector 2 West. 12AD Battery is part of the 43 (NL) Mechanised Brigade, and has one recce platoon 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 Platoon and a Battery HQ. Each AD platoon consists of three Cheetahs, three Stinger sections and a command section equipped with the YPR765. The Cheetah 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 YPR is an Armoured Personnel Carrier based on the American M-113.

In addition to the members of 1 (NL) UN Coy UNFICYP serving with The Queen's Royal Lancers, there is also a troop of British gunners. Liri Troop occupies the eastern most site of Sector 2 and shares a boundary

with AUSCON, in this case a troop of Hungarians. Liri Troop, although attached to A Squadron of The Queen's Royal Lancers, is in fact made up of one officer and 26 soldiers from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery. 4th Regiment has also provided a further three gunners to bolster the numbers in Ortona Troop. 4th Regiment are equipped with the AS90 field Howitzer, a self-propelled 155 mm artillery piece.

Members of the Regiment are more accustomed to being deployed to the Balkans than to the sunnier climes of Cyprus. The troop consists of several young gunners, and for many, this is their first operational tour. All the gunners are volunteers so motivation is high and there is great enthusiasm to get on with a new role, or possibly to get away from the Gun Park!

The Engineer Detachment supporting Sector 2 is established for one officer, one SNCO and 11 other ranks; currently two of the engineers are from the Royal Netherlands Army. All other engineers are Gurkha soldiers and the Engineer Detachment Commander is a British Officer, posted to 69 Gurkha Field Squadron.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers were formed on 28th September 1948, although there have been Gurkha Engineers in the British Army since 19th Century. 69 Gurkha Field Squadron forms one of two squadrons in The Queen's Gurkha Engineers. Both squadrons are part of 36 Engineer Regiment, which is based in Maidstone, Kent. The tour is supported by each of its three Field Squadrons and HQ Squadron, in rotation.

Finally, the Regiment, as ever, is well supported by members of The Adjutant Generals Corps, The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and The Royal Logistics Corps.

The Queen's Royal Lancers took over in Sector 2 on 7th December 2000 and will remain until 6th June 2001. We shall be replaced by 12 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery.

THE CHANGING FACE OF UNFICYP 1992-2000

SSgt 'Jimmy' James

In July 1992, A Sqn 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers deployed to Prince William Camp on the UNPA in Nicosia as the Force Scout Car Squadron. They took over from D Sqn 16/5L and became the Force Commander's armoured mobile reserve island-wide. The Squadron was deployed from DANCON in the west, through BRITCON and CANCON in the centre to AUSCON in the east, rotating through the outstations on a two-weekly basis.



The UNPA was a hive of activity then, with Prince William, Jubilee, St David's and Blue Beret camps all full of various contingents and headquarters. The UN Flight, provided by the British

Army Air Corps detachment, were based on the UNPA along with a multinational UN police force made up of detachments from Canada, the UK, Eire, Australia, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Austria, all administered by a Staff Corporal from The Blues and Royals.

A Sqn 16/5L were the last Scout Car Squadron to be deployed by the UN in Cyprus, returning the armoured vehicles to RAF Akrotiri prior to returning to the UK in January 1993.

Returning in December 1994, A, D and HQ Squadrons, of the newly amalgamated Queen's Royal Lancers, deployed as the UNFICYP Roulement Regiment based at the Ledra Palace with A Squadron in the west and D Squadron in the east. It was a sharp change from our previous tour: the Squadrons carried out mobile patrols in Landrovers and foot patrols in their different AORs from the UNPA to the Omorphita plain. The Mobile Force Reserve, partly made up of members of The Queen's Royal Lancers Reconnaissance Troop, backed the line squadrons.

The make-up of the island's UN force was very different to our previous deployment. Sector One in the west was now manned by the

Argentinian Contingent, Sectors 2 and 3 were now merged as Sector 2 and manned by British and Sector 4 was unchanged and manned by the Austrians. Only two years had passed, but the UNPA was already fairly derelict, with only Blue Beret Camp hosting the multinational Force Reserve.

The other camps were locked and deserted, the Argentinians now manned the UN Flight and the UN police force now only comprised contingents from Australia, Eire and the UK.

Returning now in the year 2001 are A, B and HQ Squadrons of the QRL to once again act as the URR. The force is very much as it was in 1995, with additional troops in Sector 4 from Hungary and Slovenia and a Dutch contingent manning Sector 2 West from the UNPA to Ledra palace. Nothing has changed in the UNPA with the exception that Prince William Camp has now been demolished.

In only eight years, UNFICYP has seen many changes as contingents come and go and contributing nations AORs are extended. Although the personnel may be different, the UN mandate continues to be upheld in a peaceful, professional manner.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL J R EVERARD OBE

Lt Col James Everard was born at home in Leicestershire on 23rd September 1962. He was educated at Uppingham.

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 Assistant to the Assistant Chief of the General Staff. In 1991 he returned to the 17th/21st Lancers as a Sqn Ldr at Tidworth before attending Division II of the Army Command and Staff Course.

Post Staff College, Lt Col

Everard was appointed COS, 4th Armoured Brigade. During this time, the Brigade deployed initially as UNPROFOR HQ, Sector South-West, and subsequently as the leading UK element of the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR). Returning to regimental duty he took command of C Squadron, deploying to Canada to form the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) Opposing Force (OPFOR). 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 SOI Policy. Two weeks into the appointment he was rescued and moved to become the MA to the Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). A day after his arrival at HQ ARRC, it fully deployed to FYROM and his post was



redesignated Military Assistant to Commander Kosovo Force. It was as a result of his work in this role that he was awarded an OBE.

Lt Col Everard took over command of The Queen's Royal Lancers in September 2000. The QRL deployed as the UNFICYP Sector 2 Regiment in December 2000.

Lt Col Everard is married to Caroline, and they have three children: Archie (born 1995 while he was in Bosnia), Samuel and Matilda (born in 1999 while he was in Kosovo). He is a keen skier, a bad shot, and collects corkscrews.

THE 12 SIGNAL UNIT WALKDOWN 2000 REPORT

By Diana Bridger

UNFICYP entered a record 14 teams to the millennial 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 male" 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 kit 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", Civil Affairs Political Officer Madeline Garlick, would not be returning in time from talks in Athens and Ankara with Mr de Soto. But UNFICYP prides itself on its flexibility, so a quick reshuffle was executed and by 0530 hrs on the morning of the competition, 13 teams were ready to head off from Nicosia meet the opposition at the Psilo Dendro Trout Farm.

The first starters were the youth and school. They were closely followed at 30-second intervals by the

women's teams, the veteran teams, general category and finally the male teams.

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 "Bermuda Triangles" team, attired in kilt, dinner jacket and bow tie, carrying a bottle of port in his back pack. Mrs "Jackie Onassis" Forrest of "Forrest, Gump & Co Mark II" was actually witnessed running at various points and the "UNFICYP PACEKEEPERS" - top-corridor PAs Ann Artis and Chamuri Keast 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 by 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 UN team, and were the second male team to finish. Capt Annie Hairsine, LBdr Ben Nott and Pte Philip Hardwick, aka the "UNFICYP Scallywags", won third overall prize in the General category while Maj Belcourt, Maj Lorimer and Diana Bridger collected trophies for the 1st Veteran Team.

Many thanks to Lt Col Lane and the MFR for ensuring an unforgettable day on which UNFICYP civilians and military competed on an equally sore, tired and blistered footing.



Don't let this be you

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 rolling 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!**

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 2i/c 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.

For 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;



Incoming and Outgoing Mareschaussee personnel

- upholding legislation in respect of aliens. This includes control of the external borders of the Schengen area and the Mobile Monitoring of Aliens.

Military Tasks

- carrying out the police task for the Dutch armed forces, as well as for foreign armed 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 can act as Assistant Public Prosecutor, should the need arise.

FMPU



December 2000/January 2001 - The Blue Beret

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 Fama-

gusta, 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 Dhekelia 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 Dhekelia 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 Wohlkönig (also winner of last year's SBA Swimming Competition) and Korosec, WO II Steiner, Sgt Remler and Cpls Bartl, Cizely, Düringer, Kovacic, Plössnig, Rinesch, Romanesco, Unterholzer, Voga and Würzlhuber.

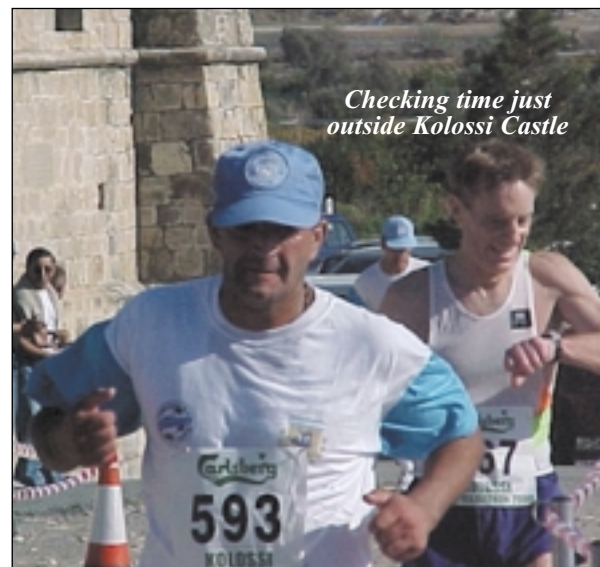
FAMAGUSTA, PAPHOS AND KOLOSSI RUNS

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.



Checking time just outside Kolossi Castle

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 backs move, leaving no one in any doubt who wanted to win more.



The operation must continue to take precedence over sport, but with the makings of a highly successful team, we intend to book our place in all of the forthcoming tournaments on the island, beginning with the Ayios Nikolaos 15s on February 3rd. We now have two quality coaches in Maj Adrian Prior (HQ UNFICYP) and WO2 Everson (Sector 2).

The Unicorns have now recruited one player from Sector 1 and all potential players are encouraged to join the team. Training sessions are held at the UNPA on Thursdays and Fridays at 1100 hours with matches on Saturdays. For information, contact Lt Ben Horne or WO2 Ison at the MFR on 4735.

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, 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 36 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**