FORCE COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

on 7 December 1993 in time for Christmas.
Christmas is very much a family affair, which we associate with family gatherings and have an opportunity to express appreciation and love of those who are nearest and dearest to us.
For most serving within UNFICYP, Christmas is spent far away from families and loved ones, and therefore it can be a particularly difficult time of the year. It is helpful, however, that the structure of military units within our Force contains many of the support elements of the family. The friendship and support of compatriots and colleagues are a source of companionship and strength. The customs of other countries that we learn about during our time UNFICYP are experiences that add to our enjoyment of the season.
Despite being far away from your nearest and dearest, may this Christmas bring you closer to your UNFICYP family and the international family of peacekeeping. May the International Year of the Family extend beyond 1994 as an appreciation of our most valued structure. I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

The staff of the Blue Beret wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and joy and happiness throughout 1994.

MR JOE CLARK, SRSG, PRESENTS UN MEDALS

On Tuesday 8 November 1993, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Joe Clark, presented the UN medal for service in Cyprus to members of the greatly reduced Canadian Contingent, Witnessed by the Force Commander, Maj Gen Minehan, and Contingent Commander, Maj Randy Kemp, Maj Kevin McLeod and Capt Bob Martyn.

From a previous strength which averaged 530 personnel, the Canadians now number six, with an additional four scheduled to arrive in January 1994. As presently established, the Canadian team roster includes:

Mr Randy Kemp
SO2 Ops (Policy & Plans)/Contingent Commander

Maj Kevin McLeod
Force Engineer

Capt Bob Ford
Duty Officer - Joint Operations Centre

Capt Bob Martyn
MA to Force Commander/ SO3 Ops (Info)

CPO Paul Kelly
Admin Clerk - Personnel & Logistics Branch

Sgt George Houston
Drafter - Ops (Info) Section

Having maintained a presence on the island since March 1964 (with the original mandate specifying three months), it only seems proper that some of us stick around to keep the Headquarters running!
SECTOR FOUR
AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE
by Supt Michael Sheely

In 1994, AUSTCIVPOL will have achieved 30 years' continuous involvement in UNFICYP. During that time, AUSTCIVPOL's endeavours have primarily been focused on Sectors One and Two (previously known as Sector West).

With the withdrawal of the Swedish Police last October, AUSTCIVPOL, in addition to their normal tasks, were required to cover Sector Four. A Superintendent and four Police Sergeants were deployed there on 6 October. The centre of operations was Pyla, with two Sergeants being deployed to Famagusta.

The reason for most of this activity came from the AUSCON member positioned in the UN observation post overlooking the village square. Unauthorised photography by tourists stimulated that member into immediate action. The community policing experience of AUSTCIVPOL members was invaluable in handling these and other matters which arose, ranging from demolition of an abandoned house to use of the local football pitch. AUSTCIVPOL Pyla were much appreciative of the friendly extended to them by the OIC of AUSCON Pyla Platoon, Gerhart Krenn, and his 2IC Lt Michael Schwenkendorf. Their willingness to share information and discuss relevant issues was an important factor in the positive working relationship between the two UN elements.

Our two members in Famagusta, Sgt Alan LeLeindre and Cpl Wayne Perry, were regularly required to use their initiative. Being the first AUSTCIVPOL members to live and work in this area was an experience that will leave an indelible mark on both members. Undertaking the money run along the panhandle was a unique experience which enabled contact with members of the Turkish Cypriot community in the north. Again the support of AUSCON in Duke Leopold V Camp was appreciated. Special thanks is extended to Lt Col Andreas Klass for facilitating this support.

The Friday International Operations Briefings, conducted by Maj Peter Rock and attended by Supt Sheely and his men, enabled some stimulating repartee between the police and military.

This is the 29th year that AUSTCIVPOL has celebrated the running of the "Melbourne Cup" horse race held in Australia on the first Tuesday in November every year.

Doug and Paul grazed the two-up ring with their stylish dress.

The "AGE" newspaper in Melbourne stated that it is one of life's great mysteries that for little over three minutes on this day millions of Australians, who for 364 days of the year have no interest in horse racing, sit glued to television sets watching the

seven-year old gelding VINTAGE CROP at 14/1 surged to the front and won the race by six lengths. It was a history-making win, as it was the first northern hemisphere trained winner in the 133-year

history of Australia's richest and most internationally famous horse race. And to add insult to injury, it had an Irish owner, trainer and jockey - one Michael Kinane. To add a further international flavour, the winner was trained at English stables which are owned by Americans!

In the early hours of the following day, the hundred or so guests of the Australian Contingent happily

Before the big race began, the misty rain falling on a heavy track, caused by an overnight deluge, saw severe fluctuations in the previous days betting, with CASTLE TOWN being the punter's favourite and the renowned 'mudlark' and also winner of last year's cup, SUBZERO, also being well fancied. However, at the end of the 3200 metre grueling event, "Irish Eyes were Laughing" as the

Lady Anne looks delighted at her horse selection.

Melbourne Cup. The race, a handicap over a distance that horses race only a few times a year, means that the best horse in the

field is often carrying so much weight that it cannot win. Often a no-hoper, given no chance, comes from nowhere to snatch racing's greatest prize, and there is something egalitarian and very Australian about that.

To properly celebrate the day, AUSTCIVPOL held an open day in their Mess where sweeps on the "Cup" were held, together with 'dice' horse racing and the ever popular game of two-up. A chicken and champagne lunch was provided plus 'door prizes' and other prizes for the most outrageous hats.

A video tape of the Melbourne Cup was recorded in the wee hours and when replayed, after the drawing of the various 'sweeps', provided for all guests the excitement that all Australians enjoy when they are home.

Revelers listen to the call of the Cup.

Handover from SWEDCIVPOL to AUSTCIVPOL. From left to right: Supt Michael Sheely, Snr Sgt Paul Spears and Ch Insp Beng Ramang.

Upon completion of a three-day handover from SWEDCIVPOL, AUSTCIVPOL assumed police responsibility for the Sector on Friday 8 October. As can be expected, the learning curve was steep, and establishing sound relationships with AUSCON and the community of Pyla was a priority.

Of course, being part of a community with which police are required to provide a service is nothing new to members of AUSTCIVPOL. It is the normal part of a policing function. Supt Mike Sheely, Snr Sgt Paul Spears and Sgt Brett Poole would often be seen walking the streets and alleyways of Pyla, talking to both Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the community at all levels.

The police accommodation in Pyla overlooks the village square, which not only enabled AUSTCIVPOL members to observe activities within the square, but allowed ready access by members of the community.

In the office of AUSTCIVPOL Pyla, there is a direct field telephone line to the AUSCON Pyla Platoon, which is located on the northern outskirts of the village. The sound of that device ringing was enough to stimulate any person into action! On many occasions, AUSTCIVPOL members were required to respond to the call on the military communications.

Handover from AUSTCIVPOL to IRCIVPOL. Standing left to right: Supt Jim Toonan, Lt Michael Schwenkendorf, Snr Sgt Paul Spears and Ch Supt Tom King.

Kneeling left to right: Snr Sgt Gerry Ford, Sgt John McDonald and Insp Mike Hoare.

With mixed feelings, AUSTCIVPOL handed over police responsibility to Sector Four to the Irish police (IRCIVPOL) on Monday 1 November, 1993. The five members of IRCIVPOL all hold special memories of their experiences in this area, particularly in Pyla. These experiences have given them perhaps an appreciation of the UN commitment across the whole Buffer Zone.

Ch Supt Tom King and Insp Mike Hoare of the Irish Civilian Police celebrate their Irish win of the Melbourne Cup.

Sheik Arfat congratulates Princess Christine on drawing a winning ticket in the sweep.

Drifted home, well satisfied that even if they hadn't made a fortune, they had at least taken part in a unique Australian experience... the running of the Melbourne Cup.
ARGCON SIGNAL PLATOON
by Lt Carlos Kammerath

The ARGCON Signal Platoon has been working very hard since its arrival in UNFICYP on 4 August 1993. Although this Platoon has just been formed, the Platoon Leader, Lt Luis Rios, and his Platoon Sergeant, WO1 Jose Barbier, have managed to activate a very motivated team to accomplish their mission.

Besides fixing antennas, installing equipment in the camps, OPs and patrol cars, and operating radio and telephone circuits, the Signal Platoon has the responsibility to link soldiers of the Argentinian Contingent with their relatives at such distant points in Argentina as Jujuy (Northern Province) or Rospenke (Southern Patagonia).

ARGENTINIANS MEET MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY
by Lt Carlos Kammerath

On a recent visit to Cyprus, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and her Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh greeted Argentinian Officers, NCOs and soldiers alongside other members of UNFICYP at Wayne's Keep Cemetery at a ceremony which was held for those who died in the cause of peace.

MR Queen Elizabeth with members of ARGCON

AUSCON WINS UNFICYP TENNIS COMPETITION

On 18 October 1993, the 18 best tennis players in UNFICYP competed in the UNFICYP Tennis Tournament, which was hosted by Sector Four. WO1 Ernst Frank, who heads the tennis section of the AUSCON Sports Club, organized the one-day event, which saw Maj Kraus, AUSCON, winning the singles competition, beating Lt Krenn, AUSCON, into second place. The doubles was won by LtKrenn/Lt Dolzer, AUSCON, narrowly putting Maj Kraus/Maj Pocher, AUSCON, into second place.

The trophies and certificates were presented to the winners by the Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col Brüning-Hansen, on behalf of the Force Commander in a ceremony held at Camp Duke Leopold V.

HELP! HALF MARATHON
by Lt Carlos Kammerath

40 members of ARGCON recently competed in a half marathon in aid of HELPI, a charity which supplements the welfare of children in the north of Cyprus. The event took place in Kyrenia on Sunday 31 October.

Cpl Gustavo Mendez (12th), the first Argentinian to cross the line.

The Argentinian runners had been training hard under the orders of our coach, Lt Victor Irgino. The best Contingent performance was obtained by Cpl Gustavo Mendez who crossed the line in 1 hr 15m.

ARGENTINIAN MPS

Thursday 09 December 1993 saw the arrival of six Argentinian MPS in our unit. They immediately started training on patrols and are also undertaking lessons with a professor in English.

The welcome addition of these six Argentinian MPS now gives the UN MP Elm more flexibility and the facility to effectively police Sector One. While three of them are on six month tours, the other three have twelve month continuity postings, which is a further benefit as this provides additional stability and smooth handover on rotations.

This is the first occasion where Argentinian MPS have served with the UNFICYP MP Elm. The Unit wishes them a successful and productive tour and looks forward to their input, both operationally and socially, and also hopes that they will have the chance to introduce us to their colourful and exciting culture.

Sgt Christian Hart (right) and new arrivals, checking the accident kit

Sgt Gottfried Rosert (right), explaining the radar gun
AUSCON CELEBRATES AUSTRIAN NATIONAL DAY

On 26 October 1955, the Austrian Parliament voted for Austria's neutrality. 26 October is also celebrated because in the aftermath of World War II, the last allied soldier left Austrian territory on the evening of 26 October.

Vorarlberg, the smallest province, had to have the smallest table, but then again, Lt Kiene, AUSCON's Sig O (second from the right), is not one of the largest himself.

Therefore, on 26 October 1993, AUSCON held a parade in Camp Duke Leopold V. Following the parade, each of the nine Austrian provinces were given the opportunity to present themselves, mostly in the form of typical food and drinks from the respective regions, ranging from speck from the Tyrol to kasnocken from Vorarlberg. Schnaps was served from the Surgenland, the coffee came from Vienna, and "Most" (which is a cider) from Upper Austria.

The local highlight of the evening was a namesgiving ceremony, in which each province had the opportunity to put up an original Austrian street sign in one of the nine streets of Camp Duke Leopold V.

The morning of 27 October saw a reception for the

CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRIA

No stockings on the mantelpiece, no Santa Claus, no reindeer. What a boring Christmas you might think? Not so.

It is the "Christkind" (the Christ child) who brings the goodies on Christmas Eve, including the Christmas meal! So what do we Austrians do in the period before Christmas? We have the "Adventskranz", a wreath of fir springs with four candles. On the first of the last four Sundays preceding Christmas, the first candle is lit, and every subsequent Sunday one more candle is illuminated in a small family ceremony. Also already present in most households is a "Krippen" depicting the nativity scene.

But on Christmas Eve, after the Christmas carols have been sung in front of the candle light and colourfully decorated Christmas tree, the presents are opened. Then follows the festive dinner, the traditional "Weihnachtskarpfen", after which the families walk through the snow-covered woods to the nearest church to attend the "Christmalle", a midnight mass.

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE IN SALAMIS

On 15 October 1993, AUSCON paraded in the ancient ruins of Salamis to provide the picturesque setting for the FC, the COS, and the Senior Adviser to present UN medals and silver numbers to 148 members of the Austrian Contingent. The Alanbrook band contributed greatly to this event, surprising us all with their well rehearsed repertoire of Austrian military tunes.

A reception in the Othello tower within the medieval walls of Famagusta concluded the evening.

UNFICYP FORCE ENGINEER

Maj Kevin McLeod joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1976 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1980. After graduation, Maj McLeod was posted to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in British Columbia. During his four years with the Regiment, Maj McLeod was involved in all aspects of engineering in the army from construction projects in the high arctic, diving exercises with the US Navy Seals in San Diego to combat engineering in Wainwright and Gagetown. In 1984, Maj McLeod was posted to Montreal, Quebec to the Land Force Command HQ where he was involved in the production of training standards for individual training within the army. After two years in Montreal, Maj McLeod was posted to Lahr, Germany as the G3 Training of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. In 1989 Maj McLeod was posted to the National Capital, Ottawa, to attend the year long French course. Upon graduation of the Language School, Maj McLeod was again posted to Montreal, Quebec to Land Forces Command HQ as the G3 International Plans and the Senior Army Diver. This posting saw Maj McLeod come in close contact with the UN, as the International Plans Desk was responsible for all UN, NATO and offshore deployments. During the period 1990–1993, Maj McLeod was involved with deploying Canadian Troops to Bosnia, Croatia, Cambodia and Somalia. As the Senior Army Diver, Maj McLeod conducted combat diving exercises with both US Army and US Special Forces, the Royal Engineers, German Army Divers, French Army Divers and French Foreign Legion divers.

During his spare time, Maj McLeod is interested in biking, skiing, trekking, golf, basketball, ice hockey and squash.

For this tour of duty as the UNFICYP Force Engineer, Maj McLeod is accompanied by his wife Karen and their daughters Bridget, Laura and Hailey.
GOODBYE AND HELLO
39th Regiment Royal Artillery returned from Cyprus to Germany in early December having served six months with UNFICYP. Sector Two is now the responsibility of the Second Royal Tank Regiment. The articles and photographs are therefore a “Goodbye” from 39 Regt and “Hello” to 2RTR.

176 (ABU KLEA) BATTERY RA
BID CYPRUS A FOND FAREWELL
by Capt Hilary Long

Amazingly, six months have been and gone and it is with a little regret that I find myself penning this last article for the Blue Beret magazine. It has been a particularly difficult yet interesting time for the Battery, as soldiers were initially deployed from Kokkinia to the UNPA before being shifted to fill in on the west side of Nicosia as the Argentinians arrived. The range of incidents dealt with by the Battery indicated the continuing volatile nature of the Cyprus peace commitment. However, it is our earnest hope that we contributed a little to the cause of peace in our time here.

In any tour of duty, there are the high spots and low spots. Low spots can be too mundane and sometimes too personal to mention; they are soon forgotten. It is the exciting, sometimes dangerous times in our lives that are remembered, dissected and improved upon, especially in company. We have had of a potentially explosive situation, remains an abiding memory.

Another high spot was the successful handover of the Battery area to the Argentinian Contingent. Even though there were language difficulties, the professionalism exhibited by both sides, helped by the use of paper and pencil to draw diagrams, ensured that the Sector was handed over in a good order. Of particular pleasure was the provision of the Guard for Queen Elizabeth at Wayne’s Keep as well as entertaining the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prime Minister at B-40 during a particularly busy week in October.

Capt Charlie Williams, the Regimental Medical Officer.

132 BATTERY (THE BENGAL ROCKET TROOP) RA
by Capt Peter Friskney

The final weeks of the Battery proved to be just as challenging as the initial weeks of the deployment. Having completed a simultaneous handover/takeover with 176 Battery and AUSCON, all ranks settled quickly into the new routine.

Over the last few weeks, the Battery has enjoyed the prestige and kudos of hosting some of the most important visitors ever to visit British troops in Cyprus. HM The Queen (our Captain General), HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Rt Hon John Major PC MP, and the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd PC MP all visited 39 Regiment in the same week.

There were a few highlights during our time in Cyprus, the principal of which must be the Queen’s visit. Battery Commander, Major Nick Lipscombe, had the great honour of commanding the Guard of Honour at Wayne’s Keep. The BRITCON Medal Parade at the Old Nicosia International Airport will always be remembered with fond memories. A special mention is required for LBrd “Geordie” Walsh, who completed 22 years of service with the Battery whilst serving in Cyprus. The Battery wishes him all the best for the future.

The Battery has enjoyed its time in Cyprus and has benefitted greatly from the experience of peace-keeping on the island. The Bengal Rocket Troop now looks to the future for new challenges and, who knows, further United Nation missions.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2ND ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (2 RTR) was formed on 5 August 1992, on the amalgamation of the former 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments. It is an armoured regiment stationed in Fallingbostel, Germany and equipped with Challenger Mark One Main Battle Tanks. The majority of the Regiment come from the south of England, principally from the Home Counties and the West Country.

Both the 2nd and the 3rd owed their existence to the Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps (HBMG Corps), whose Heavy Sections first took the tank into action at the Battle of Fleurs in September 1916. The First Tank Brigade was formed in January 1917 and the direct antecedents of 2 RTR fought in the first great tank battle, Cambrai. Four Victoria Crosses were won by members of the Regiment during the Great War, Cambrai Day 1 November 1917, is still celebrated every year by the Regiment.

In 1923, the Royal Tank Corps was formed by Royal appointment, becoming the Royal Tank Regiment in 1930. During WWII, the 2nd fought the Axis powers on three continents and in all theatres of war. This included a period under command of 7 Armoured Brigade (the Desert Rats), our current parent brigade in the Western Desert, Burma and Italy, a varied war for any regiment. Meanwhile, the 3rd had fought almost to the last man during the battle to hold Calais in May 1940. After reforming, the 3rd fought in Greece and in all the major engagements of the desert war, Sidi Rezegh, Gazala, Alam el Halfa, Alam el Halfa and Mareth amongst them.

The Regiment landed in France after D Day, took part in the assault on the territories of the UNPA and GOODWOOD, and then fought through Northern West Europe until the end of the war. Two VC’s were won by the RTR in WWII. In post war years, both Regiments served in the UK, Germany, Cypress, Northern Ireland and more recently were represented in the Gulf. Both Regiments have served in the armoured reconnaissance and the armoured role, equipped with various armoured cars and tanks including Centurion, Chieftain and now Challenger.

In keeping with the traditional flexibility of the Royal Armoured Corps, the Regiment deploys to Cyprus in the peace-keeping role and its soldiers are no strangers to operating on their feet. The Regiment has re-organised into three Squadrons, the names reflecting Regimental Battle honours. Burma Squadron is based in Wolseley Barracks and is deployed in Nicosia and to the east of Sector Two. Normandy Squadron is based in CB-18 Kingston and is responsible for the west of the Sector. Alamein Squadron is the Headquarters Squadron and is based in St David’s Camp with Regimental Headquarters in Wolseley Barracks.

LEUTENANT COLONEL SJB WHITE, MBE RTR
Commanding Officer, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment

Lt Col Stephen White was born in Alcombe, Somerset in February 1953. He was educated at Brentwood School and the University of Durham, and was commissioned in February 1971.

As a junior officer, he served as a troop leader and operations/intelligence officer with 4th Royal Tank Regiment in Germany, Northern Ireland and Canada. He spent four months with the Australian Army in Australia and Malaysia. In 1982, he joined BRLXM, the Commander in Chief (BAOR’s) Military Mission to the Soviet Forces in Europe, and spent two years on operational touring duties and was made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

Following a year at Staff College, he commanded D Squadron 4th Royal Tank Regiment (equipped with Chieftain tanks) including a dismounted tour as OC Prison Guard Force in Northern Ireland. He was then Military Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff 1986-90 before a brief period as Second-in-Command of 4th Royal Tank Regiment. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1990 and became a member of the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College. His last three months at Camberley were spent as co-author of the British Army Operations and Command Chairman for the 1990s. He assumed command of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment on 7 August 1993.

His hobbies include flying (he owns and flies a vintage military biplane, as part of an air display team), sailing and tennis, and he writes for aviation magazines.

He is married to Kate and has a daughter Stephanie, 12 years old and a son Lawrence who is 10.

THE BRITCON MEDICAL CENTRE, UNPA

The closure of the BRITCON Medical Centre in December 1993 marks the end of a long era of medical personnel in the UNPA by British Medical Services. Since 1974, the Medical Centre has provided routine and emergent medical services to all UN personnel and their dependants living within the UNPA.

The Medical Centre was staffed by two Medical Officers, the CMO and RMO of the British Regiment with nursing and medical assistants. There was considerable liaison and out-of-hours cover shared with the adjacent Canadian Medical Centre.

The Regimental Medical Centre was re-located to Viking Camp at Xeros in December 1992 when the Regiment duties extended to Sector West, and a Medical Officer was posted onto the strength of Support Regiment to fill the deficit on Sector Two.

By July 1993, radical changes had occurred. With the departure of the Canadian Contingent, closure of the Canadian Medical Centre, and the deletion of the UNPA Support Regiment RMO there was a restriction on all medical services. The CMO then took all responsibility for all UNPA personnel on a 24-hour-a-day basis, with a reduced staff in the Medical Centre.

Initially, treatment of UN military personnel and, to some extent, care of dependants continued. However, from October 1993, sadly, the Medical Centre was restricted to providing medical care to only British UN military and their dependants.

From 15 October 1993, the two ambulances and drivers were removed from the Medical Centre, so services were further reduced before the final demise of the Centre last month.

Since August 1993, Colonel Angela Curran has been the Chief Medical Officer in charge of the team - Sgt Marion Gillys (the Practice Manager), Mrs Clare Hewstone (the Practice Nurse), and three medical assistants, Cpl Paul Malloch and LCpl “Geordie” Whelan and Steve Mather. Andreas Odysseos has worked in the Medical Centre for eight years and Jane Apostolou for five years. These women have been looking after the maintenance of the building and assisting the staff has been much appreciated.

A Medical Centre is to be constructed at Wolseley Barracks to provide medical services to the Regiment and all British UN military personnel. The Families Clinic at Hillcrest is to re-open, staffed by nurses, to provide care for British dependants. Sgt Gilly will be organizing the move to the Hillcrest Medical Centre. Not only furnishings and medical equipment will require to be transported, but also the resident cats, Gert and Daisie, and a growing number of budgerigars in the aviary.

COLONEL ANGELA CURRAN CMO MB CB MRCGP DCH Dobs RCOG

Col Angela Curran is currently the Chief Medical Officer in HQ UNIFCYP. As she states, “her soul was born in Ireland, and her body in England - a few years ago.”

After qualifying in medicine, Angela took posts in obstetrics and gynaecology, obtaining her four certificates in these specialties. She also worked in radiology at Guy’s Hospital and is a qualified Trainer in General Practice.

She then spent the best two years of her life as the ship’s surgeon aboard “SS Uganda”, a children’s educational cruise ship, travelling to all areas of geographical, historical and archaeological interest.

As regards military postings, Angela has been posted to Cyprus, Mombasa, SHAPE (NATO), Belize and Kenya with recurrent postings in the UK at the Guards’ Depot. Before coming to Cyprus, she spent six months “sabbatical” in a busy general practice at the Hammersmith Hospital.

Angela’s great love is animals and conservation, and she was seriously considering converting the empty Medical Centre into a home for geriatric cats in the UNPA.
ONE HELL OF A NIGHT!

Article and photos by WOII Günther Sakoparnik

Back home in Austria, we celebrate annually the feast of St Nicolas on 6th December. St Nicolas, who was a Bishop, represents the good in the world, and Lucifer, known in Austria as the Krampus, represents evil.

On 11 December, the very successful "Krampus Night" was celebrated in the International Mess at HQ UNFICYP. This was the first function to be held at this new Mess, and was hosted by the Austrian Contingent. The main aim of this event, besides having a great time, is to reveal people's good deeds and their sins, and subsequently to reward or punish them!

Whenever WOII Werner Müller is serving in UNFICYP, he takes the part of St Nicolas, and this year as always, he gave an excellent performance, together with Herb Vicent and Tony Pichler, who played the Krampuses.

The highlight of the evening was the disclosure of the good and evil committed by Top Ranking UNFICYP personnel! Let's hope that all of us learnt something out of this...

DID YOU KNOW?

Coy Sgt Colm Shine assumed the appointment of the MP Elm Crime Reader (CR) on 3 Jul 93. He is responsible for maintaining the timely submission and quality control of MP police reports/case files and maintaining liaison with his civilian counterparts on both sides of the "Green Line". He is also responsible for overseeing the smooth running of the MP Orderly Room and the UNPA Pass Control Office.

Colm has had plenty of police experience. He served as a civilian police officer (Garda) back in Ireland between 1964-1972, and several years later he joined the Military Police. Wearing the blue beret is no novelty for this seasoned veteran, who has completed three UN tours in Lebanon and one in Iraq.

To those of you who have already met this talented accordion player, you will know that Colm is not at all bashful! He is also the holder of an all-Ireland Gaelic football medal with his native county Roscommon, and plays a mean game of golf.

We wish him and his family an enjoyable tour with UNFICYP.

A ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE

As Christmas fast approaches, the road conditions in Cyprus have become more hazardous, the hours of darkness longer and the roads slippery with frequent rain showers and occasional frost and fog patches. So it is more important than ever that extreme care be taken whilst driving. This year there have been 31 UN personnel injured in traffic accidents. Please do not become another statistic. Allow more time for your journeys, keep the speed down and don't drink and drive.

The Force Provost Marshal and all members of the MP Element wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

ROAD SAFETY

When struck by a car at 30 mph, an adult will be catapulted forward a minimum of 25 metres! THINK "KILL your speed - NOT a child".

Too many children are killed or seriously injured simply because someone is in a hurry. Research shows that when children are hit by a car:

- at 20 mph, one child in 20 is killed
- at 30 mph, half are killed
- at 40 mph, most are killed
SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM THE UNFICYP MP ELEMENT