

# THE Blue Beret

March 1998



## SIMPLE ECONOMICS

A key part of the UNFICYP humanitarian role, on behalf of both communities, is the fulfilment of certain economic tasks. Their importance, indeed their very existence, is often lost amid the welter of general humanitarian issues. For years, the coordination and performance of economic tasks was the responsibility of a designated 'Economics Branch' within HQ UNFICYP, though nowadays, all such issues are dealt with under the humanitarian umbrella.

The person in day-to-day control of economic matters is the SO2 Humanitarian/Economics (Hum/Econ), Major Carlos Perez Aquino, who is a principal Staff Officer at HQ UNFICYP. He is responsible to the Chief Humanitarian Officer for a wide range of economic issues affecting life in the Buffer Zone (BZ) and beyond, on both sides. As far as the BZ is concerned, UNFICYP has always tried to facilitate its use for civilian enterprises, subject to certain conditions such as the compliance with UN regulations, the observance of safety measures, proof of ownership of land or buildings and the acceptance of security concerns expressed by either side.

Many businesses, large and small, thrive in the BZ. They include factories, retail outlets and, of course, many farms. Agriculture is big business in the BZ, and wide tracts of land are put to good use for all types of crops in each sector area. Sector humanitarian teams each have an economic representative who liaises closely with Major Perez Aquino for the issue of farming and job passes to permanent or seasonal farm workers. More than 1,500 were issued last year. Shepherds and goatherds are permitted to graze their flocks in BZ areas, a practice which often leads to difficulties when the beasts stray outside the BZ confines to the wrong side. Apiarists suffer no such hazards; 8,000 or so beehives are placed annually in the BZ, and are meticulously recorded by Sector economic representatives. There are no flying restrictions for our honey-producing friends, however they sometimes pose a di'sting'tive threat to UN peace-keepers and soldiers on both sides.

Perhaps the trickiest task undertaken by Major Perez Aquino is the coordination of the annual anti-malaria campaign, a complicated exercise involving a busy programme of spraying sessions throughout the BZ. The campaign involves the joint efforts of both Health Services, whose teams conduct spraying under escort by Sector humanitarian teams.

Major Perez Aquino's attention is also constantly held by major economic issues of local and national importance which affect the BZ in other ways. Through Sector representatives, he liaises with village and municipal officials on a variety of matters, but mainly construction projects such as house building schemes close

to the BZ or highways which are destined to pass through it. Since UNFICYP has authority over the BZ, all such projects must have UN approval and the agreement of authorities, both north and south.

At the national level and, arguably, most importantly of all, he acts as 'broker' between the water and electricity authorities on both sides of the island. To a certain extent, water and power resources are shared, and his office is the focal point for the necessary liaison between authorities in the north and the south. He often chairs meetings and, occasionally, either he or his Sector representative will be called upon to escort joint inspection or repair teams into the BZ which is criss-crossed by many pipes and cables. Knowledge of the water situation is particularly important and, during these critical months, Major Perez Aquino monitors the situation very closely, giving regular briefs and updates. He enjoys the fullest cooperation from each side.

So, economics is not all about money. As far as the SO2 Hum/Econ is concerned, the UNFICYP economic policy is simply designed to make life easier for Cypriots inside and outside the BZ, whilst encouraging cooperation between authorities across the island.



Major Perez Aquino



Mr Nicos Demetriou with his flock in the United Nations Protected Area

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Telephone: 2 - 359550  
Fax: 2 - 359752

## Editorial Staff

Editor  
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Assistant Editor  
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography  
Force Photographer  
Cpl Pat O'Meara  
and Contingent Photographers

## Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Bill Pazos
Sector Two	Lt James Grimshaw
Sector Four	Capt Wilhelm Ortner
HUNCON	Maj Dénes Fülöp
SLOCON	Capt Haut Boško
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IRCIVPOL	Insp Joe Behan
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MFR Coy	Capt Miguel Caceres
MP Elm	SSgt Dale Roberts
Camp Command	Coy Sgt Tony Clare
Civilian Admin	Ms Mary Dellar

The Blue Beret is the journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

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

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## FRONT COVER:

UNFICYP  
PROMOTING  
NORMALCY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
CPL PAT O'MEARA

## The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

It will not have escaped readers' attention that recent editions have included many aspects of UNFICYP humanitarian efforts in Cyprus. This is no coincidence; such work is a significant part of the Force's daily routine, and constitutes non-stop activities and initiatives, each with the sole aim of easing the various problems arising from the painful realities of this divided island.

UNFICYP provides its good offices, as necessary, in regard to the supply of electricity and water across the lines, facilitates contacts between both communities, provides emergency medical services, including medical evacuations, etc. Amidst all this, frequent humanitarian success stories are rarely accorded the publicity they deserve. Such unheralded achievements, however small, are a perfect counter to the sad picture which is so often painted. Our Front Cover picture typifies this point; it shows the sheer delight of the wellknown UNPA shepherd upon being reunited with his flock which had strayed to the north. An intense humanitarian drive, spearheaded by Inspector Joe Behan (also pictured), secured the creatures' safe return within six weeks (something of a record in the history of straying stocks), thus securing the livelihood of their owner. A routine but important event in the humanitarian annals of success.

## CONTENTS

Simple Economics .....	2
Editorial/Contents .....	3
UNFICYP Fire Training .....	4
The IRCON Medal Parade .....	5
The AUSTCIVPOL Medal Parade/Colombian Flag Raising ..	6
Sector One Crowd Control Training/ Sector Four Personnel Keeping Fit .....	7
A Brief Encounter with the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part XVII - Selimiye Mosque, Nicosia .....	8/9
French Navy visits Cyprus/Duty Officers in Sector One .....	10
Tpr McAdam - A Man For All Seasons/Fit to Serve .....	11
Sector One Training .....	12
The AUSCON Medal Parade/NBC Training .....	13
UN Flight Inspections/ Exchange Visit: 16 Flt AAC and UN Flt .....	14
Pit Your Wits/Letter to the Editor .....	15
Saint Patrick's Weekend .....	16

## UNFICYP FIRE TRAINING

### FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!

This is possibly one of the most frightening alarm calls you could experience, especially if you are deep in the arms of Morpheus and dreaming of the joys of summer. The best way to ensure that you only hear this word during a drill is, of course, prevention.



Camp Command carry out training in fire prevention

UNFICYP has a positive approach to the training of personnel in fire fighting techniques and the prevention of fire. The responsibility for this training lies with Camp Command who, with the unwavering assistance of the newly appointed Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Nadeem Qadir, conduct Fire Fighting, Fire Prevention and First Aid Fire Appliance Servicing Courses at various times during the year.

This training is completed by members of the MFR, AUSTCIVPOL, UN Flt and Camp Command in an effort to ensure that all areas of the UNPA have trained personnel available in the event of an emergency. These courses and exercises not only equip UN personnel with the skills of fire fighting, but also promote awareness of the causes and dangers of fire, the threat to life and property, and ways of preventing possible tragedies.

In 1989, a Bedford 4x4 truck was converted into a Fire Engine with a capacity of 1,500 litres and driven by a Godiva water pump. This vehicle remains the main fire fighting vehicle because of its ability to be operated by a two-man crew. In January 1998, the CFO received another Godiva water pump c/w trailer. This second pump can be

connected directly to the fire hydrants in the UNPA, and is also to any open source, such as the swimming pool, thus providing an extra point from which to attack a fire.

On 13 January 1998, a fire occurred in the Mobile Force Reserve accommodation Block 301, when a TV exploded. The timely deployment of the CFO and Camp Command ensured that the damage was limited to one room and, luckily, there were no casualties.

During 1997, the fire crew in Camp Command tackled 10 main fires within the UNPA and were called out to numerous small grass fires. They also conducted fire training for a total of 430 UN personnel. With summer quickly approaching, it is easy to forget about the dangers of our heating and electrical appliances, but remember, **ALL FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED.**

For further information on fire prevention or fire fighting courses, contact the Fire HQ, Camp Command on Extension 453/454.



Nadeem Qadir on UNFICYP's main fire fighting vehicle

## THE IRCON MEDAL PARADE

On 13 March, the Irish Contingent held its Medal Parade at the International Cafeteria in the UNPA. The Irish Minister for Defence, Mr Michael Smith TD, and Lt Gen Gerry McMahon, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, were both in attendance.

Mr Smith and Lt Gen McMahon had arrived in Cyprus on the evening of 12 March. Their first official engagement the following morning was to inspect an Honour Guard at HQ UNFICYP drawn from members of Camp Command and the MFR. Mr Smith then made an office call on the Chief of Mission, Mr G Feissel. He was then given an operational brief by the UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Col CMB Coats. This was followed by a visit to Camp Command, where Mr Smith received a brief on the roles and responsibilities of IRCON personnel.

During the visit, Lt Gen McMahon was presented with an oil painting of Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque. Lt Gen McMahon served in Cyprus in 1972 with the 21st Irish Infantry Group, and on this visit, he took the opportunity to talk over old times with Sgt Martin Doherty, who served as a young soldier under him in 1972 in Cyprus, and again in South Lebanon in 1979.



The Minister on a Green Line Tour in Nicosia

The IRCON Medal Parade commenced at 1545 hrs. Some 300 guests were in attendance, and while they awaited the arrival of the COS, they were entertained by the band of the Argentinian Contingent and traditional Irish music provided by Dr Irene Cotter. 14 members of IRCON, together with the OC Camp Command, Comdt Michael Delaney, were presented with their UNFICYP medal by the COS.

Col Coats then addressed the troops on parade and their invited guests. He thanked the members of IRCON for the enthusiasm and professionalism with which they carried out their duties, and he also thanked the Irish Minister of Defence, Mr Smith, for the continuing support the Irish Defence Forces give to the United Nations.

Following the COS's speech, shamrock was brought on to the parade and blessed by Revd Kevin Prince and Revd Richard Dunstan-Meadows. It was then presented to IRCON members by Comdt Delaney, while the SIO, Comdt Kavanagh, presented it to the distinguished guests, members of the Irish community living in Cyprus and family members of those on parade. The Medal Parade concluded with the playing of the Irish National Anthem by the Argentinian Band. Following the parade, everyone adjourned to the International Cafeteria for a superb buffet of traditional Irish food. The final chapter of the St Patrick's Day celebrations was written in the Hibernia Club, where an excellent time was had by all.

With the Medal Parade Day behind them, Mr Smith and Lt Gen McMahon recommenced their visit to UNFICYP. They paid a visit to



From the left: Mr Michael Smith, Mr Gustave Feissel and Lt Gen Gerry McMahon

Sector Two where they received a brief on the important tasks carried out by the British troops in Sector Two, and were then conducted on a Green Line Tour within the walled city of Nicosia. The Minister's official engagements finished with the airport brief conducted by RQMS Tommy Hughes of Camp Command.



Pinning on the shamrock: Comdt Delaney (left) and Comdt Kavanagh

The ministerial party left for South Lebanon on 15 March, and have extended their heartfelt thanks for the time and effort put into their busy schedule while visiting UNFICYP.

## THE AUSTCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE

On Wednesday 18 February 1998, AUSTCIVPOL's 53rd and 54th Contingents held their Medal Parade. It took place in the UN Flight hangar to allow for inclement weather, and this turned out to be a wise decision, since on the day, the skies opened and the rains came down.

The fine music of the Pipes and Drums of 1 RTR, under the command of Pipe Major Rob Hunter, was enjoyed by some 200 guests as the medal recipients were marched on parade, under the command of Supt Phil Newton. The Force Commander, Maj Gen EA De Vergara, received the General Salute, as did the Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, His Excellency Mr

Howard Brown. Each member was then presented with his/her medal/numeral by the Force Commander, and a short history of each individual was read out to the parade. Comd Barry Carpenter APM had the honour to be presented with number '10' clasp to his Cyprus medal.

The event concluded with a reception in the



The flags of the Australian Federal Police (left), the United Nations and the Australian Civilian Police

hangar and afterwards in the Kangaroo Club, where everyone was invited to help celebrate with the members of AUSTCIVPOL.

A number of guests later commented that they were surprised with the depth of experience and tertiary qualifications held by those members on parade. It proved to be a good opportunity to show other members of UNFICYP the level of talent and ability which can be brought to bear on issues relevant to AUSTCIVPOL and UNFICYP in general.

The event concluded with a reception in the hangar and afterwards in the Kangaroo Club, where everyone was invited to help celebrate with the members of AUSTCIVPOL.



AUSTCIVPOL's Medal/Numeral Recipients

### COLOMBIAN FLAG HOISTED IN SAN MARTIN CAMP

A simple ceremony took place in San Martin Camp on Tuesday 10 March. The flag of the Republic of Colombia was hoisted at the entrance of the Camp, and now flies side by side with the national flags of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

A new member of Sector One's staff, Hector R Jimenez, is the Administrative Officer in Sector One. The AO is there to assist the military in any administrative

task and to be accountable for any UN assets or resources.

Hector comes from Bogota, and is accompanied on his tour by his wife Marcela and their daughter Nancy. Both Hector and Marcela hoisted their national colours (see right), after which their national anthem was played by the Argentinian band.

Following the ceremony, a small celebration took place in the Officers' Mess.



## SECTOR ONE CROWD CONTROL TRAINING

by Sgt Ray Johnson, AUSTCIVPOL

The demonstrations in August 1996 at Dherinia have highlighted the importance of a coordinated approach by UNFICYP to handling demonstrations within the Buffer Zone. As a result, AUSTCIVPOL has taken an active role in training the various military contingents in crowd control and demonstration management techniques.

In November 1997, two AUSTCIVPOL members travelled to Germany and trained the current BRITCON Regiment, 1 RTR. However, distance and a limited budget dictates that predeployment training for members of ARGCON is not possible. Instruction of Sector One personnel is, therefore, carried out in Cyprus as soon as the members of the new contingent have settled into their peace-keeping role. In February, the latest round of training for ARGCON members took place, and three full days were dedicated by three members of AUSTCIVPOL to work with soldiers from Roca Camp, San Martin Camp and Admiral Brown Camp.

The day-long introduction to crowd control started with a brief



Members of AUSTCIVPOL with the students of San Martin Camp

case study of the Dherinia demonstrations. This was followed by a discussion on the use of force as a peace-keeper and the importance of using minimum force when dealing with civilians. The soldiers were also given some theoretical knowledge of crowd psychology and the process of assessing potential crowd reactions.

After the theory came the practice, and participants were taken outside and shown various tactics, including pain compliance techniques, transport holds and crowd control formations. The participants enjoyed the practical training exercises, even though a

certain amount of pain had to be inflicted. The prospect of giving some of their colleagues a hard time seemed to appeal to many, although maybe not the Quartermaster, as uniforms also suffered during the practical exercises!

This training highlights AUSTCIVPOL's ability to support the sectors in ways other than simply dealing with civilians in the Buffer Zone. The depth of policing experience and knowledge in dealing with large groups of civilians with a political intent is invaluable to achieving the mission of UNFICYP.

### SECTOR FOUR PERSONNEL KEEPING FIT

On Saturday 7 February, the AUSCON Sports Centre organized an international mountain-bike race with 31 daring participants, aged between 9 and 49, taking part. Rainy weather and a slippery downhill slope challenged everyone's riding skills and their will to succeed. Some racers were thrown off their "horses", a few lost their way and one had "technical" problems.

After a 23-kilometre challenge, SSgt Kabasser (AUSCON) passed the finish line in a time of 54'37", followed by Greek Cypriot participant Nicos Demetriou in 56'54" and third WO1 Friedl (AUSCON) in 60'26". Presenting the prizes, CO Sector Four, Lt Col Hufner, congratulated all competitors on an outstanding performance.



The winner: SSgt Kabasser, looking none the worse for wear!

## A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part XVIII

The Selimiye Cami (mosque) of Nicosia came into being on 15 September 1570 when the Cathedral of Saint Sophia, the most ancient and largest Latin church of Cyprus, was converted into a mosque, following the city's fall to the Ottomans. Christian symbols and furniture were removed, stained-glass windows altered, statues (except angels) mutilated and frescoes white-washed, as Islam does not tolerate human representations. Otherwise, the building was well kept.

Two minarets were added on either side of the west façade above the flanking towers, and a mirhap (niche) was set up in the southern arm of the transept of the cathedral to suit the new religion.

The Selimiye (Selim's) Mosque was named thus in honour of the Ottoman Sultan who conquered Cyprus, Selim II (1566-1574). He is reported to have decided to conquer the island for the famous Cypriot wines and the hunting falcons (falco Eleonora).

So, following the peace treaty which ended the war between the Ottomans and Hungary (1568), Selim turned his eyes to Cyprus. It was an obvious move for them, having already secured Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine and Egypt. After the conquest of Cyprus, and just a little before Sultan Selim II died, the Ottomans secured Tunisia from Spain in August 1574.

### HISTORY

The Byzantine Empire lost Cyprus in 1192 AD to Richard the Lionheart, when he, on his way to the Holy Land during the 3rd Crusade, defeated Duke Isaac Comnenos. Richard had the excuse that Isaac misbehaved towards his sister and fiancée, and imprisoned his knights who survived a storm off Limassol.

Having secured Cyprus, Richard sold it to the Knights Templar, who shortly returned it. Richard re-sold Cyprus to Guy of Lusignan, who had just lost his kingdom of Jerusalem (1187).

Thus, Cyprus began to experience long periods of western occupation

as a Frankish kingdom (1192-1489) and as a dependency of the Venetian Republic (1489-1570/1). The Genoese controlled Famagusta (hence the island's trade) from 1371 to 1474. During these periods, the Greek Orthodox prelates were expelled to the countryside. The Latin church became predominant with an Archbishop in Nicosia and bishops in Famagusta, Limassol and Paphos.

Most western religious orders had established churches and monasteries. These orders were the Benedictines, Cistercians, Augustinians, Carmelites, Franciscans, Dominicans and Premonstratensians as well as the orders of St Clare and of the Cross. The military orders of the Templars, the Hospitallers and the Knights of St Thomas of Canterbury also established commanderies. The Lusignan court cultivated chivalric practices, with the first revival of King Arthur's Round Table held in 1224 in Cyprus, and not in England.

The construction of the Saint Sophia Cathedral probably began as early as 1193 with beautiful limestone from the Kyrenia range, and it took 200 years to be completed. The financing for this project was secured by donations from Frankish royals, noblemen and Latin Archbishops. Most of the masons and other technicians were recruited

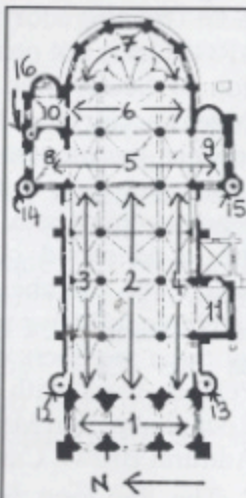
from among the Frenchmen who left the disbanded armies of the crusades.

This cathedral has known days of glory, as it was used as the venue for many important royal events. Destroyed by earthquake several times, the last refurbishment took place just before the arrival of the Ottomans.

Although constructed later than Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, it retains the beautiful simplicity, nobleness and grace of that church's early Gothic style.



The western porch



The plan of Selimiye Mosque (Saint Sophia Latin Cathedral)



## THE SELIMIYE CAMI (MOSQUE)

### DESCRIPTION

The cathedral comprised a porch (1), a central nave (2) with lateral aisles of four bays (3 and 4), a transept with salient arms (5), each incorporating a chapel (8 and 9), a choir (7) and an ambulatory (6). The porch covers the entire western façade and is flanked on either side by a tower, each surmounted by a minaret, which were added by the Ottomans in the 16th century. A two-storey chapel (10) consisted of the treasury located on the ground floor and St Thomas Aquinas's chapel on the upper floor. A fourth chapel (11) was situated on the second bay of the southern aisle. Access to the upper parts of the cathedral was by means of five staircases (12-16). The vaulted (arched) roofs are ribbed.



The western central door from the inside

The cathedral measures 66 x 21m, excluding the porch and chapels. The Ottomans made some changes here and there, but otherwise, the building has been well maintained.

Although never finished, the porch in front of the three western entrances offers an excellent specimen of the exquisite Gothic style that was prevalent in the Frankish period of Cyprus. Imported directly by the king from his homeland in France, it was widely used not only by the Latins, but occasionally by the indigenous Greeks. The porch is covered by three vaulted bays with double transverse ribs and decorated with torus and grooves. Externally, the three arcades are surmounted by pointed cables decorated with leaves.

The three doorways of the western façade are separated by piers, decorated by colonettes on which rest the



The central nave and aisles facing east. In the background are the slender columns of the ambulatory

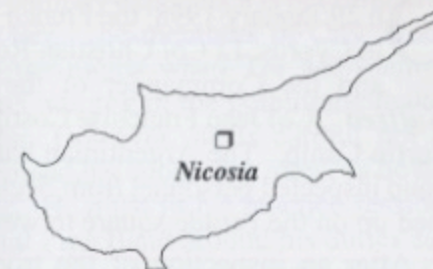
spring of the ribs, the arcades and the main arches of the vaults of the porch. Shallow twin niches are found on either side of the doorways. The arcades and panels on the tympanum of the central doorway are comparable to those of Rheims Cathedral.

Inside, above the central doorway, is a gallery with six open trilobe windows which are surmounted by another six glass trilobe lights, forming the basis of an arched window. The space between the arch and the windows is filled with an attractive arrangement of trefoils.

The walls of the nave are higher than those of the aisles. Its twin-pointed windows take up the whole space between the arched roof and the flat roofs of the aisles. They are surmounted by three circles.

The transept has windows on the west and south sides whereas on the north, there was a great stained-glass rose window, now sadly mutilated. It stands above a small doorway.

The choir has small lancet windows whereas its rectangular bay is lit by twin windows of the type found in the apse. The southern absidal chapel has a small, round, arched window on colonnettes, whereas the northern absidal chapel has no window. Both have semi-dome roofs. The two northern chapels communicated with each other, while the treasury communicated with the ambulatory by means of a southern doorway with pointed arch and a trilobed tympanum. On either side of the door, the jambs were decorated with columns. In the



cathedral, columns have octagonal, carved capitals, apart from two in the ambulatory which have relief carvings of the early French Gothic style. The vaults also had decorated keystones which were covered with plaster by the Ottomans. Outside, the building is reinforced by decorated flying buttresses which also contain gargoyles. A reinforcing plinth with Renaissance decorations was added by the Venetians.

In 1570, the Ottomans added a mirhap in the eastern arm of the transept and made other alterations to meet the needs of the Moslem religion.



The flying buttresses



The mirhap (the niche where the Moslems pray)

Visitors to Selimiye should be mindful that although the mosque is a historical monument, it remains a place of prayer, and is frequented by the devout on a daily basis.

## FRENCH NAVY VISITS UNFICYP

On 29 January 1998, the French Military Attaché in Cyprus, Lt Col Christian Rouanet Mehoulas, and the Commander of the French Frigate "Suffren", Col Jean François Costillieri, visited San Martin Camp. The Argentinian band played as the group inspected personnel from Sector One, who had lined up on the parade square to welcome the party.

After an inspection of the troops and a short briefing by the CO Sector One, Lt Col J Lopez Parravicini, Col Costillieri visited OP 22 where Lt Cesecini briefed him on life in an Observation Post. Lunch followed, which provided a good opportunity for Col Costillieri to talk with officers presently serving with the Argentinian Contingent.

On the following Sunday, 31 January, personnel from all over UNFICYP were invited to the vessel which was moored in Larnaca harbour. There they



Briefing in the Commanding Officer's office



Guests at the parade square, with the staff officers

had the chance to exchange opinions and learn about the French Navy. This frigate, part of the Naval Action Force which was created in 1992, is the seventh to be named after Balli de Suffren, a distinguished naval officer who joined the Royal French Navy in 1744. In 1784, he was promoted to Lieutenant General of the French Navy and was named "Chevallier of Saint Spirit". The rank of vice admiral was created in his honour. He died in Paris in 1788.

The battleship's main task is to protect a naval force against air, sea and submarine threats. However, it also has sufficient fire power against ground targets. The frigate has a crew of 345 men. It is 157 metres long with a displacement of 7,000 tons, and carries weapons such as four Exocet MM38 missile launchers, four 20mm anti-aircraft cannons and two 100mm cannons. It is also equipped with four L5 torpedo launchers for anti-submarine warfare.

## DUTY OFFICERS IN SECTOR ONE

The basic staff of the JOC, the "nerve centre" of Sector One, are the Duty Officer and the Duty Radio Operator. At least one of them must be constantly present in the JOC, whilst the other may move within Ops Branch when the need arises.

The Duty Officer is responsible for the communication facilities, operations maps, files, key personnel location board/duty rosters and operational documents located in the JOC. Outside normal working hours, the DO is responsible for the production and distribution of all regular documents.

Once a month, each DO visits a company in order to improve his knowledge of the situation in that particular area and to receive an update on continuing incidents. A detailed programme for the visit is the responsibility of the Coy DO, and this training ensures that each JOC Duty Officer has an acquired knowledge on one of the companies within Sector One.



The Duty Officer team from Sector One (from the left): Capt Guillermo Monti, 1/Lt Esteban Ledesma Couto and Capt Ary Pelegrino Filho (from Brazil)

## TROOPER McADAM - A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Tpr Davie McAdam from G Sqn, 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Tank Regiment, has proved to be an invaluable member of City Troop during its stay at Maple House in the old city of Nicosia. Tpr McAdam, from Glasgow, carries out the normal duties of a City Troop soldier, patrolling and manning the Observation Posts in this area. In addition, he is a member of the Regimental Pipe Band and a 'hobby chef', that is, a specially trained soldier who can stand in for full time Army chefs when they are unavailable.

Tpr McAdam worked as a Chef in the Glasgow Holiday Inn prior to joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Tank

Regiment, so his culinary experience is not limited to the usual Army fare. The members of City Troop look forward to the nights when Tpr McAdam is cooking, since his training in the hotel trade makes him very popular. However, he is careful not to allow them to demand his talents too often, as he has a hectic schedule. He must fit his practice sessions for the Regimental Pipe Band around his duties as a Rifleman. Tpr McAdam has been in the Band for three years, and has performed at many prestigious events including the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the VE Day celebrations in London's Hyde Park and the Freedom Of Medicine Hat parade in Canada. He is looking forward to playing with the Pipe Band at the forthcoming millennium celebrations in Edinburgh.

In the meantime, Tpr McAdam remains busy. A typical day will include a morning of patrolling and sentry duty in City's UN Observation Posts, with a band practice in the afternoon, followed by preparing an evening meal for the soldiers of City Troop. He even finds time to engage in some of the many Adventure Training activities available on the island, and has been sailing and horse riding during his limited time off. When asked, Tpr McAdam merely says: "I do my bit."



## FIT TO SERVE

Professionalism is a component of self-confidence and self-discipline, and it is the hallmark of a specialist and proficient organisation. Sector Two has recognized that the link between personal and group fitness has an insurmountable impact upon that professionalism, and that the key to success will often depend on physical fitness. As a result, the Regiment parades four mornings per week to take part in some form of physical exercise, ranging from "ton ups" (including 100 sit ups), a form of legalized torture which the JOC are currently obsessed by, to early morning runs along the Buffer Zone.

This concept is not limited to Sector Two, but is felt strongly within all departments of UNFICYP. Can you guess who is exercising left?

As a matter of interest, the CLUB ENDORPHIN is a fitness suite available to all UNFICYP members and

their dependants. It is situated in the UNPA by the Unicorn Sports Club bar, adjacent to the UNFICYP sports pitches. It boasts the most modern hi-tech physical training equipment, and



has recently received a power jogger. Membership fees are minimal. For further information, ring PROM on 359 412 and get in trim for summer.

## SECTOR ONE TRAINING

Part of Sector One's objectives during their tour with UNFICYP is to maintain a high standard of military training for the personnel within the Sector, and Task Force 10 has developed a specific plan which is implemented on a weekly basis. This plan, organised by Ops Branch who are responsible for training, establishes a forced march and range firing every Tuesday. This programme has two sections, one for companies and the other for the reserves.

The range firing takes place at the Marathasa Valley in Sector One's area of the Buffer Zone. This location is 17 km from San Martin Camp, Skouriotissa. Every Tuesday, the reserve personnel who are not on duty at this Camp, combined with off-duty personnel from Roca and Brown Camps, march fully equipped to the range in compliance with the rules and regulations of the training schedule. The route is along Track 100, which stretches from San Martin Camp, through Ayios Yiorgios and Ayios Nikolaos, and ends at the abandoned quarry where the firing range is located. A paramedic accompanies the marchers, along with an ambulance, in compliance with security measures. On occasion, members of AUSTCIVPOL have participated as special guests of Sector One.

The range, for those who have never visited the location, is an old quarry where a mine was once in operation. Following the troubles in 1974, it was abandoned. However, the characteristics of the site fulfil the security requirements for a firing range.



MEDEVAC training at San Martin Camp



A rest on the march to the rifle range

Yet another objective of this plan is to ensure that Sector One personnel are regularly updated on the situation in Cyprus, including the political scene. Apart from the physical training aspects of the programme, other factors include UN procedures, SOPs, first aid and communications. One important topic which is sometimes overlooked, due to different national requirements, is land navigation and map reading.

Every week, the officer in charge of the Reserve Platoon takes over responsibility for teaching and exercising the training procedures, as well as implementing the current ones still in use. These involve MEDEVACs, CASEVACs, fire drills, etc.

The Argentinian Task Force has three line companies, a Headquarters base located in San Martin Camp and a Support Company in Roca Camp. Located within the Headquarters is Task Force 10's Joint Operations Centre. The companies, including Observation Posts and Patrol Bases, train on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Reserve carries out training on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

All training carried out assists the troops in maintaining the physical standards and intellectual levels required for their individual taskings. It also contributes to improving the image and respect required for all members of UN Peace-keeping Forces, as the opposing forces keep a daily watch on all training which takes place.

## THE AUSCON MEDAL PARADE

On Friday 12 March 1998, Sector Four held a Medal Parade which took place on this occasion in the Dherinia Town Hall. In the presence of guests of honour, Sector Four personnel and their families and friends, 60 members of the Austrian Contingent were presented with their UN medal after completion of 90 days' service with UNFICYP.



Col Coats saluting the national flags of Austria, UN, Hungary and Slovenia

The medals were awarded by the Chief of Staff, Col Christopher Coats, and the CO Sector Four, Lt Col Heinz Hufner. In his welcoming speech, the Chief of Staff greeted all visitors and addressed the medal recipients in their mother tongue (German, Hungarian and Slovenian), congratulating them all on their devotion to duty.

During the ceremony, an Austrian Military Band from the Tyrol played the "Zapfenstreich". This music dates back to 1769, and, translated into English, it means the "last post". The music lasts for approximately 12 minutes, and provides listeners with a musical interpretation of the long historical and military traditions in Austria. At the beginning of the 18th century, as the military camps grew in



The Austrian Guard of Honour

size, military bands were used to play the "Zapfenstreich" to denote the retreat to quarters. Those military bands were accompanied by guards to enforce this signal, and this piece of music is still used today for large military events.

The ceremony ended with the Chief of Staff expressing his gratitude for the impressive Medal Parade, followed by a reception in the Town Hall with traditional Austrian delicacies.



Lt Col Hufner presenting the UN medal to SSgt Sándor Tamasne (Hungary), currently serving as a Medical Assistant in Athienou

## NBC TRAINING

In Sector Four, routine training includes exercises for incidents which may arise at any time and under any conditions. The NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) reconnaissance troop, located in the HQ Coy at Camp Duke Leopold V, is equipped to check whether any contamination has occurred.

At the beginning of March, an exercise was conducted. The scenario was a truck which had crashed into a tree near the fence at Camp

Duke Leopold V. Barrels of unknown content were catapulted onto the grounds within the Camp, and the Sector Four NBC reconnaissance troop was immediately alerted to search for nuclear, biological and/or chemical agents.

As far as records show, no contamination has ever been detected on the island, but it is comforting to know that the expertise and facilities are available, if ever the need arises.



## UN FLIGHT INSPECTIONS

The Hughes MD 500 McDonnell-Douglas, currently in use by UN Flight, is a one-engined, multi-purpose helicopter. It is designed to carry a cargo (both internal and underload) of 1,500 lbs, and requires the minimum amount of fuel and maintenance. It is very versatile and can be used for a number of purposes, ie observation, search and rescue operations, carriage of internal/external cargo, MEDEVACs and CASEVACs, transport of personnel and tactical flights.

This helicopter requires three maintenance inspections after 25, 100 and 300 flying hours in order to be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The 300-hour inspection is the most detailed and important of the three, when the entire helicopter is disassembled and all parts checked individually. Personnel involved in this inspection include 11 technicians and one engineer with experience in this kind of aircraft.

The last inspection is in full flight, when all parameters are examined, both on the ground and in flight. The technicians are divided into six teams and



The 300-hour inspection

check the engine, transmission, air frame, instruments, electronics and electricity. The final assessment is overseen by a representative from the FAA, and once the inspection is over, he certifies that the required standards have been reached.

As can be seen above, UN Flight recently carried out the 300-hour inspection on one of their helicopters.

*It passed the test with flying colours!*

## EXCHANGE VISIT BETWEEN 16 FLIGHT ARMY AIR CORPS AND UN FLIGHT

Following a visit to Dhekelia by UN Flight, the Argentinian Air Force received 12 members of 16 Flt AAC who are currently serving in Dhekelia. Four pilots and eight mechanics arrived in three GAZELLE helicopters, together with two reporters from the British Forces Broadcasting Service who covered the events taking place.

After landing at the Nicosia International Airport, both the British and Argentinians attended a briefing where the 2ic UN Flight, Maj Victor Nuñez, explained the mission of the Argentinian Air Force in UNFICYP.

Following the briefing, the British pilots were flown over the Buffer Zone and familiarized themselves with the flight aspects of the Hughes 500, whilst the technicians were given an in-depth briefing on the ground.

Both ground crew and pilots agreed that this was a very enlightening assignment.



The British and Argentinian pilots and crew

## PIT YOUR WITS

*This month's puzzles aren't so difficult, so put on your thinking caps and GET GOING! The prize for March is the winner's portrait, taken by the UNFICYP Force Photographer.*

*Answers to the Editor's Office by Friday 24 April 1998.*

*(PS: There is more than one answer to No 2)*

- Three playing cards are placed face down, side by side. To the right of a king there are one or two queens. To the left of a queen there are one or two queens. To the left of a heart there are one or two spades. To the right of a spade there are one or two spades.

*What are the three cards?*

- A man lives on the top floor of a 26-storey block of flats. He leaves for the office at 7:00 am each morning, always using the elevator down to street level. He arrives back at his block at 5:50 pm every day and, if the weather is fine, he takes the elevator only up to the 18th floor and uses the stairs for the rest of the way to his flat. If, however, the weather is wet, he always uses the elevator all the way up to the top floor.

*What is the reason for his unusual behaviour?*

The answers to February's **Pit Your Wits** are as follows:

- 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (in the order 15+12 inside triangle, 12+14+13 inside circle and 13+11 inside square).
- There are equal numbers of black olives in the green dish and green olives in the black dish.
- (Am)Erica lives in Washington, (Den)Mark lives in Copenhagen and (Argen)Tina lives in Buenos Aires.

And finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I must express my sincere disappointment that nobody managed to find three correct answers to last month's three simple puzzles! Where's the spirit of competition? The two riddles above should prove no problem for you - so get on your thinking caps and let's have a better response this month.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR - OTHER IMPRESSIONS

It's good that I've got this Pajero because I can hardly walk after all these medal parade rehearsals; my feet are covered in blisters! Covered! Why we can't just walk on parade like the other sectors, I'll never know. It sure has been the month of march (ha ha ha).

It'll be worse in the future, what with all these Dutchmen on the Sector Twomedal parade. Those cloggies don't go on parade, they stroll onto the square; we'll have to practice for ages. Still, I've got an open mind; we Brits get on quite well with the Dutch, and me and the boys are planning to plant some tulips around the OPs, just to make them feel at home. I expect they'll bring plenty of Gowda and porn with them. I wonder what the new contingent will be called - DUTCON? CLOGCON? I suppose if they came from the Bahamas, they could be called BACON. I hope they bring some more Pajeros with them; I've done 9,000 in mine already and the tyres are pretty thin. Must be those roads in the north. Speaking of the north, I had a bit of a shock the other day. Me and the lads were in north Nick and

we ordered a cup of coffee, about 100,000 lire a cup. By the time we had finished it, the price had gone up to 130,000 lire. Still, that's inflation for you.

It doesn't seem to affect Mr Osmond's prices though; I've ordered a smoking jacket for when Sharon arrives, for when we book into the hotel and to wear around the pool. It was her idea, she likes a bit of class. I can't wait till she gets here and puts the spice back into me. I've missed her a lot. Oh, I know that there are plenty of other girls around UNFICYP, but there's nothing worse than a 25 year old face on top of a 45 year old neck.

I've got to finish there 'cos I'm in a bit of a rush to get to my first St Patrick's Week party. The Irish lads are the world's best hosts and I'm looking forward to plenty of Guinness and good grub. I'm late already and the Hib Club will be packed with the party in full swing. It'll be even better in the evenings and at weekends.

Oh, by the way, five sunbeds have been pinched from the Leda pool so we're organising a raid on Sector Four to get them back.

# SAINT PATRICK'S WEEKEND

