

THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP



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SLOW DOWN, SPEED KILLS



Working in a mission like UNFICYP certainly has its advantages. Cyprus has an important cultural heritage, a great climate and beautiful beaches to spend precious off-duty hours. But the ability to enjoy these benefits can vanish in a split second! Changing an audio-cassette while driving, being blinded by the sun, misjudging traffic or getting

Road traffic accidents cause huge human suffering and an enormous loss of property.

Six UNFICYP personnel have been extremely lucky the last few weeks. After being involved in three separate serious road traffic accidents, they're still alive.

Although the last two years' road traffic accident statistics don't - mercifully - show any

fatalities, these recent accidents are a cause of major concern. What caused these accidents is still under investigation by the Force Military Police Unit.

Scanning early issues of *The Blue Beret*, there seems to have been a road accident almost every week. Many of these were fatal.

Of the 169 UNFICYP personnel who have died in Cyprus, 91 were killed on the roads. You might think that improved vehicles might reduce the number of accidents. But, sadly, there is nothing technology can do if drivers persist in overtaking carelessly, driving too fast, and driving if they've been drinking.

In the editorial and the tips section of this issue, there's a lot about safe driving. We hope this will help keep the UNFICYP traffic accident statistics down in 1999. There have already been eight injuries in four months. Last year there were ten in twelve months.

**STAY ALIVE,
DON'T
DRINK AND
DRIVE**

**FASTEN
YOUR
SEAT
BELT**

UNFICYP ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS								
RESPONDED TO BY FORCE MILITARY POLICE UNIT.								
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	5	1	1	4	8	1	1	6
INJURIES	8			1	0			
DEATHS	0			0				
YEAR	1	9	9	9	9	8		9

The brutal statistics of UNFICYP personnel and vehicles involved in road accidents

INSIDE: BB TIPS - PEOPLE - REAL LIFE - CLASSIFIED - SPORT

THE BLUE BERET

The newspaper for UNFICYP's
civilian, military and police
personnel

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

Editorial Team

Sarah Russell (Editor)

Maj Paul Kolken

Miriam Taylor

Photography

Force Photographer: Cpl Damian Faulkner
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Capt Fabian Ruiz
Sector Two	Capt James Baker
Sector Four	Maj Hans Horst Ehling
	Capt Gregorij Hvastja
	Capt Attila Rábai
UNCIVPOL	Sgt Ricki Hanisch
	Insp Liam Hogan
UN Flt	Lt Mario Corbalan
MFR Coy	Capt Horacio Faiella
MP Elm	SSgt Mario Steglegger
Camp Admin	RSM Cormack Kirwan
Civilian Admin	Mr Keith Cole

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

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QUOTATIONS

"The United Nations system as a whole is focusing as never before on peace-building - action to identify and support structures that will strengthen and solidify peace. Experience has shown that keeping peace in the sense of avoiding a relapse into armed conflict is a necessary but not sufficient condition for establishing the foundations of an enduring and just peace... No other institution in the world has the experience, competence, capacity for logistic support, coordinating ability, and universality that the United Nations brings to these tasks."

Kofi Annan

EDITORIAL

The highest duty for any soldier is to be ready to die, defending ideals, values, homeland. That spiritual attitude is honourable, highly commendable, and deserves the full admiration of humankind, because there is no higher love than that one which sacrifices one's own life for one's friends.

An accident involving soldiers generates a sad feeling among all of us, whether civilian, police or military, regardless of rank or nationality. We soldiers are ready to die for our home country if required, but it will always be difficult to accept a meaningless loss of lives.

Cyprus has one of the highest rates of road accidents in Europe. Moreover, vehicles drive on the left hand side of the road, and this can be confusing for those used to the opposite. Cyprus roads are often winding, narrow or slippery. Our patrol tracks are frequently the same.

Drive defensively: anticipate, observe, pay attention. Do not be part of the fatal statistics.

As Force Commander, I do my best to ensure that there are no meaningless losses of life. Contingent Commanders are directed that any contingent member who drinks and then drives will be sent home, and that any gross negligence while driving (meaning that human life has been endangered) will also result in immediate repatriation.

Drink + Driving = Sent Home
Gross Negligence + Driving = Sent Home

These very simple mathematical formulas are not negotiable. Your parents, spouse, children and relatives will be forever thankful that UNFICYP is consistent and uncompromising in implementing them.

They want you back.

Evergisto de Vergara
Force Commander

La tarea mas importante para un soldado es estar preparado para morir, defendiendo ideales, valores, su patria. Esta actitud espiritual es honorable, altamente loable y merecedoras de total admiración humana, porque "no hay amor mas grande que aquel que sacrifica su propia vida por la de un amigo". Un accidente automovilístico en el que se ve involucra personal militar es una mala sensación para todos nosotros. Nuestros soldados están listos para morir por nuestro país si es requerido, pero va a ser muy difícil aceptar la pérdida de vida sin sentido.

Chipre tiene uno de los mas altos porcentajes de accidentes en Europa. Además conducir vehículos de la mano izquierda de la ruta, esto puede llegar confundir a aquello que lo hacen por la derecha. Las rutas de Chipre son amenudo con muchas curvas, angostas y resbaladizas.

Nuestros caminos en la BZ son frecuentemente iguales.

Maneje a la defensiva: anticipese observe, ponga atención, no sea parte de estadísticas fatales.

Como Comandante de las Fuerzas, voy a hacer lo mejor de mi para que no hayan pérdidas de vida sin sentido. Los Comandantes de Contingentes recibieron la orden de que cualquier miembro de su contingente que beba y luego conduzca será enviado a casa y que cualquier negligencia mientras se está conduciendo (significa que la vida ha sido puesta en peligro) tendrá también como resultado la repatriación inmediata.

Beber + Manejar = Regreso a casa
Negligencia + Manejo = Regreso a casa

Estas simples formulas matemáticas no son negociables. Sus Padres, esposas, hijos y parientes, estarán por siempre agradecidos que UNFICYP es consciente y sin compromiso en la implementación de ello.

Ellos lo quieren de regreso.

Evergisto de Vergara
Force Commander

Der höchste Dienst für jeden Soldaten ist die Bereitschaft, bei der Verteidigung von Idealen, Werten oder der Heimat sein Leben einzusetzen. Diese geistige Einstellung ist ehrenhaft, höchst lobenswert und verdient die volle Anerkennung der gesamten Menschheit, da es keine größere Liebe geben kann als diese, das eigene Leben für das des Freundes zu opfern. Ein Unfall, an dem Soldaten beteiligt sind verursacht Mitgefühl unter allen von uns, gleich ob Soldaten, Polizisten oder Zivilisten – ohne Rücksicht auf Rang oder Nationalität. Wir Soldaten sind bereit für unser Heimatland zu sterben wenn nötig, aber es wird immer schwierig sein, den sinnlosen Verlust von Menschenleben zu akzeptieren. Zypern hat eine der höchsten Verkehrsunfallsraten Europas. Zusätzlich kann der hier übliche Linksverkehr für jene, die von zu Hause Rechtsverkehr gewöhnt sind zur Verwirrung führen. Die Straßen Zyperns sind oft kurvenreich, schmal oder rutschig. Unsere Patrouillenwege sind meist ähnlich und zusätzlich stellenweise in einem schlechten Zustand.

Fahren Sie defensiv, vorausschauend, den Verkehr beobachtend und aufmerksam. Werden Sie nicht Bestandteil der Statistik der Verkehrstodesopfer.

Als Force Commander gebe ich mein Bestes, sicherzustellen daß es keinen sinnlosen Verlust von Leben gibt.

Die Kontingentskommandanten sind angewiesen, jeden heimzuschicken der Alkohol trinkt und anschließend ein Kfz lenkt. Auch jede grobe Fahrlässigkeit während der Fahrt, bei der Menschenleben gefährdet werden, wird mit unverzüglicher Repatriierung geahndet.

Alkohol + Lenken eines Kfz = Repatriierung

Grobe Fahrlässigkeit + Lenken eines Kfz = Repatriierung

Diese sehr einfachen mathematischen Formeln sind nicht zur Verhandlung geeignet.

Ihre Eltern, Gattinnen, Freundinnen, Kinder und Verwandten werden für immer dafür dankbar sein, daß UNFICYP in Durchsetzung dieser Formeln konsequent und nicht kompromißbereit ist.

Ihre Angehörigen und Freunde wollen Sie zurückhaben!

Evergisto de Vergara
Force Commander

BB TIPS: ON HOW TO SURVIVE IN TRAFFIC

1. As general common sense, do:

- make sure driver and passengers all wear safety-belts
- keep within speed limits
- look into your mirrors frequently: keep an eye on what's behind you
- wear sunglasses when the sun shines
- avoid getting dehydrated: it makes you sleepy
- drink a lot of water before you drive and always carry plenty of drinking water in your vehicle

2. On the patrol track, do:

- put your vehicle in 4-wheel drive
- stick to the speed limit of 25 kph
- make sure the driver drives, the passenger observes

3. Off duty, do one of the following if you're going out for the evening:

- take a taxi
- nominate a driver and make sure s/he doesn't drink
- stay overnight in a hotel
- or, if possible, take a duty driver

4. Don't:

- use a mobile telephone while driving
- change cassettes yourself while driving - ask your passenger or stop the car
- place objects on the dashboard - they'll distract you when they fall off
- play music too loud - you won't hear what's going on around you
- take things out of the dashboard locker while driving

STAY ALIVE AND COME HOME SAFE!!

1. Como sentido comun, en general:

- asegurarse que el conductor y los pasajeros tengan el cinturón de seguridad colocado.
- manténgase entre los límites de velocidad.
- mire a través de los espejos frecuentemente, mire que hay detrás de Ud.
- utilice anteojos de sol protegiéndose de los rayos del mismo.
- evite la deshidratación: esto hace que se duerma - beba abundante agua antes de manejar y siempre lleve un bidón de esta en su vehículo.

2. Que hacer en los caminos de patrulla:

- coloque su vehículo en tracción 4 x 4 WD.
- manténgase a una velocidad de 25 km/h.
- Asegúrese que el conductor maneje y los pasajeros observen.

3. Libre de actividad, haga lo siguiente si va a salir por la noche:

- tome un taxi.
- elija un conductor y asegúrese que este/ a no ha bebido.
- pase la noche en un hotel.
- o si es posible, lleve un conductor de guardia.

4. Lo que no debe hacer mientras conduce:

- utilizar el teléfono móvil.
- cambiar Ud. los cassettes, pídale a su compañero o detenga el automóvil.
- Colocar objetos en el tablero de instrumentos, los distraerán cuando se caigan.
- Tener la música muy fuerte, no podrá escuchar que esta pasando a su alrededor.
- sacar cosas de su tablero de instrumentos.

MANTÉNGASE CON VIDA, Y REGRESE SANO A CASA.

1. Beachten Sie generell:

- Stellen Sie sicher, daß alle Insassen angeschnallt sind
- Einhaltung der Höchstgeschwindigkeiten
- Schauen Sie von Zeit zu Zeit in den Rückspiegel, beachten Sie auch den Verkehr hinter Dir, Schulterblick beim Überholen und Aussteigen
- Tragen Sie einen Sonnenbrille bei grellem Sonnenschein
- Vermeidung von Dehydrierung: Dehydrierung macht schläfrig
- trinken Sie viel Wasser vor Fahrtantritt und nehmen Sie immer genügend Wasser im Kfz mit.

2. Bei Fahrten auf Patrouillenwegen:

- Schalten Sie auf Allradantrieb
- Halten Sie die Höchstgeschwindigkeit von 25 km/h ein
- Stellen Sie sicher, daß der Fahrer fährt, der Beifahrer beobachtet

3. Außerhalb des Dienstes, beim Ausgehen abends:

- Nehmen Sie ein Taxi
- Teilen Sie einen Fahrer ein und stellen Sie sicher, daß dieser keinen Alkohol trinkt
- Übernachten Sie in einem Hotel wenn möglich (und erlaubt)
- Nehmen Sie nach Möglichkeit den Fahrer vom Dienst

4. Vermeiden Sie:

- Die Benützung eines Handy's während der Fahrt.
- Kassettenwechsel während der Fahrt – Ersuchen Sie den Beifahrer dies zu tun oder halten Sie an.
- Gegenstände auf das Amaturenbrett zu legen, diese lenken Sie beim Herunterfallen ab.
- Laute Musik - Sie können dadurch nicht hören was um Sie herum vor sich geht.
- Gegenstände aus dem Handschuhfach während der Fahrt herauszunehmen.

BLEIBEN SIE AM LEBEN UND KOMMEN SIE SICHER UND GESUND NACH HAUSE!!!

THE REAL MEANING OF A DUTCH TREAT

The Dutch Queen's birthday - traditionally celebrated on 30 April - is one of the biggest celebrations of the year. Everyone has a day off and there are parades, street parties, markets, concerts and firework displays. There are orange flags and streamers everywhere (Holland is still ruled by the Royal House of Orange). Amsterdam is packed with people of all ages from all over the country, and the festivities last from dawn till well into the night.

This year, the hundred or so Dutch personnel serving with UNFICYP decided to take the opportunity to show some of their colleagues what a royal birthday party should look like. To make sure everyone had a chance to attend, the show (staged at St Michael's School) was repeated two nights running.

The event kicked off with a barbecue and salads. Although



...to celebrate the birthday of the Queen of The Netherlands...



All guests were issued with a royal orange baseball cap

herrings aren't a normal barbecue feature, this Dutch speciality made an appearance. It should be said, though, that although leaning back to swallow raw fish delighted many, it wasn't to everyone's taste.

Dinner over, it was time to listen to the Dutch national anthem, "Wilhelmus", as four women in clogs and traditional head-dress held up red, whites and blue striped national flags. This proved to be the only serious moment of the evening.

After "Wilhelmus", Robotic Niek took over, introducing Checkpoint, a band flown in from Holland especially for this event. Song after song was played - most of them well known. And then, at half-time, the robot reappeared. A kiss from Helen Dobbins turned Niek back into a human being, who then set off on a series of strange and wonderful sound impersonations, using

just his voice.

He imitated an old-fashioned steam locomotive and a modern intercity train, followed by a variety of aircraft and weapons systems. Ferraris raced across the stage before a duck-hunting sailor, armed with an M-16, tried to start his outboard motor. The latter ended up sinking his own boat.

Throughout the second half of the show, most of the crowd danced in front of the stage. Towards the end, Rumanian-born Claudia Streza climbed on stage and stunned everyone with her magnificent voice. Her renditions of Gloria Gaynor's "I'll be there" and "I will survive" left the audience speechless.

Everyone who went to the birthday party left in high spirits. Those who weren't there missed out on the opportunity to sample a true Dutch treat.

BEING OBSERVANT

The world famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his detective went on a camping trip. After a good meal and an excellent bottle of wine, they lay down and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes nudged and awoke his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied "I see millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Holmes asked.

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies

and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I judge that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "Watson, you fool. Someone has stolen our tent."

Blue Beret Favourites

This issue's candidate for the Blue Beret Favourites quiz is the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus. Her favourites are:

Colour:	Red
Food:	My husband's Chinese cooking
Place:	Home
Hero:	Olaf Palme

1. Mint általános érvényű szabály:

- a gépjárművezető és az utas mindig használja a biztonsági övet
- a megengedett sebességhatárokon belül vezessen
- gyakran nézzen bele a visszapillantó tükrökbe: tudja, hogy mi történik a háta mögött
- viseljen napszemüveget, ha süt a Nap
- kerülje a kiszáradást: ez álmoságot okoz - igyon sok vizet
- mielőtt vezesd és mindig vigyén magával ivóvizet

2. A járóközés során

- kapcsolja négykerék hajtásra a gépjárművet
- ne lépje túl a 25km/órás sebességhatárt
- legyen biztos, hogy a vezető vezet, és az utas figyel

3. Szolgálaton kívül, ha szórakozni megy legalább az egyiket tegye meg:

- fogjon egy taxit
- jelöljön ki egy sofort, és legyen biztos, hogy az a személy nem fogyaszt alkoholt
- az éjszakát töltse egy szállodában
- vagy, ha lehetséges kérjen ügyeletes gépkocsivezetőt

4. Soha ne

- használjon mobiltelefont vezetés közben
- cseréljen kazettát vezetés közben - kérje meg az utasát erre, vagy álljon meg arra az időre
- tartson semmit a muszerfalón - mert ha leesik onnan, akkor elvonja a figyelmét
- halgassa túl hangosan a zenét - mert nem fogod hallani, hogy mi történik körülöttesd
- vezetés közben tegyen bármit is a kesztyutartóba

MARADJ ÉLETBEN ÉS ÉRJ HAZA ÉPSÉGBEN!!

1. Vedno ravnaj takole:

- voznik in sopotnik naj uporabljata varnostni pas,
- upostevaj omejitve hitrosti,
- redno uporabljaj vzvratna ogledala; opazuj, kaj se dogaja za teboj,
- kadar je mocna svetloba, uporabljaj sončna očala,
- preprecuj dehidracijo: le-ta povzroca zaspanost; pij veliko vode pred voznjo in poskrbi, da jo imas tudi na zalogi v vozilu.

2. Na patroljni stezi:

- prekipi na stiriholesni pogon,
- hitrost naj ne bo večja od 25 km/h,
- voznik naj vozi, sopotnik pa opazuje.

3. Ko imas prosti čas, izberi eno od možnosti:

- naroci taksi, ali
- izberi voznika, ki ne bo popival, ali
- ostani čez noč v hotelu, ali
- v kolikor je možno, vzemi službenega voznika.

4. Nikoline

- uporabljaj telefona med voznjo,
- menjaj kaset med voznjo, če upravljaš z vozilom,
- odlagaj predmete na policio, ker te bodo zmotili če padejo dol,
- poslušaj glasbe preglasno - poslušaj okolico,
- jemlji stvari iz predala med voznjo.

OSTANI ŽIV IN SE VRNI DOMOV VARNO!!

1. In het algemeen :

- Laat alle inzittenden veiligheidsgordels gebruiken
- Hou je aan de maximum snelheid
- Hou in de gaten wat achter je gebeurt. Gebruik je spiegels
- Draag een zonnebril bij sterke zonneschijn
- Voorkom uitdroging, het maakt je slaperig
- Drink voldoende water voor je vertrekt en neem voldoende water mee voor onderweg.

2. Op het 'patrol track':

- Gebruik de 4-wiel aandrijving
- Rijdt niet sneller dan 25 km/uur
- De chauffeur rijdt, de bijrijder observeert

3. Wanneer je na diensttijd gaat stappen:

- Neem dan een taxi
- Of spreek af wie alcoholvrij rijdt
- Of bespreek een hotel
- Of, indien mogelijk, vraag of de 'duty driver' je rijdt

4. Wat je niet moet doen, is:

- Een mobiele telefoon gebruiken als je achter het stuur zit
- Een muziekcassette verwisselen. Vraag dat aan de bijrijder of stop even
- Iets op het dashboard plaatsen. Wanneer het eraf valt wordt je afgeleid
- Luide muziek spelen, je hoort dan niet wat er in het verkeer gebeurt
- Dingen uit het handschoenenkastje pakken terwijl je rijdt

BLIJF LEVEN EN KOM VEILIG THUIS!!

REAL LIFE

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE



Bee keepers at their "factories" in the Buffer Zone

Military people have to be prepared to set up a working place at the weirdest locations. Sometimes this is the back of a Landrover, a barn in a field or a tent.

Major Julio Franco set up office in a coffee shop in Peristerona. Julio uses the coffee shop as a meeting point with all the farmers he does business with.

"It all has to do with my job. I have been the Sector One Civil Affairs Officer for the past five months. Part of my job is issuing job passes and farming permits. The three hundred and five farmers in our sector need to renew their farming permits every six months. Instead of them having to go to our Headquarters at Skouriotissa, I come to Peristerona."

"Of course the farmers need water for their crops. When Sector One personnel notice a blockage of the ditches during a patrol, they report it to me. I coordinate between the farmers and the Water Department, who then come to clean the ditches to ensure that farmers on both sides get enough water for irrigation. But it

sometimes happens that there is an emergency. In that case we remove the blockage ourselves."

Julio sips his coffee before he continues. "It's not only farmers I deal with. I also meet a lot of bee keepers. About 20 of these bee keepers have placed 2,000 beehives in Sector

One's area of the Buffer Zone. It is up to the United Nations to issue permits and to negotiate suitable locations. Especially during springtime, when there are a lot of flowers and all the trees are in blossom, there are millions of worker bees, collecting honey throughout and beyond the Buffer Zone."

Is there anything special that happened during his stay with UNFICYP which Julio will not forget? "Yes, the role I had to play after a dead body was found in the Buffer Zone is one of the things I will remember. Another is the medical evacuation from the Kokkina pocket of a Turkish Cypriot who had a heart attack. Especially in the latter case, it made me feel good to be able to help."

New farmers park their tractors under the trees and approach Major Franco. He greets them with his Latino charm, has coffee with them and listens to their problems. Another day in the coffee shop.



A farmer tells Major Julio Franco about his problems

MINES, BE AWARE!!

Mines are not only lethal, they are not selective: anyone can become a mine victim. They are also cheap, and they have long lives.

In Cyprus, there are over 19,000 suspected anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. Currently, there are 38 known or suspected minefields inside the Buffer Zone, and 73 within 400 metres of it. The latest mine incident involving UNFICYP personnel happened in January 1998, when a United Nations excavator detonated a mine on the Lefka Road in Sector One. Luckily, nobody was hurt, but the incident underlines the importance of maintaining a high level of mine awareness among UNFICYP personnel.

When you see a mine, don't touch it. Just record the location and report it through the chain of command.

Canadian Captain Rob Cooper is the Force Minefield Recording Officer. He is working on an update of the UNFICYP records and on a database concerning mines and minefields. Part of this update involves a visit to Sector Four.

"Once it's finished, this project will contribute to the safety of all personnel. It will also ensure the availability of transparent knowledge that can be passed to incoming personnel," says Rob. "That's why I contacted Sector Four's Minefield Recording Officer, Major Horst Ehling from Austria, and asked him to escort me through the sector. Together we try to establish the status quo."

Horst adds: "Another problem is that some of the minefields were laid in a hurry. Sometimes, minefields are marked in a very exact manner and the files are complete, but sometimes there are almost no records. Although the patrol tracks within Sector Four's area of responsibility are well marked and follow routes that are known to be safe, a mistake in map reading could easily endanger lives."

"The first step to update minefield records is to make sure headquarters and the sectors have the same level of information," Captain Cooper states.

"Visits like the one I'm making to Sector Four today enable us to exchange a lot of valuable information and ensure our records are kept right up to date."

Says Chief of Staff, Colonel Chris Coats: "Military personnel are trained in mine awareness before deployment to Cyprus. They, in addition, attend

two awareness training sessions every six months." He adds: "All other UNFICYP personnel who might have to work in the vicinity of minefields must also take part in the regular training sessions. And, last but not least, personnel must obey the rules written down in the UNFICYP Mines Aide Memoire at all times."



GPS, binos and the human eye - all to get the record straight

PEOPLE

LIFE IN THE CM'S OFFICE

There seem to be two common perceptions of life in the Chief of Mission's Office – either that it is a "cushy number" or that it is incredibly stressful. The two most frequent questions asked of me are "What on earth do you do, exactly?" or "How do you cope?". The answer to both is "I have no idea! I just do it."

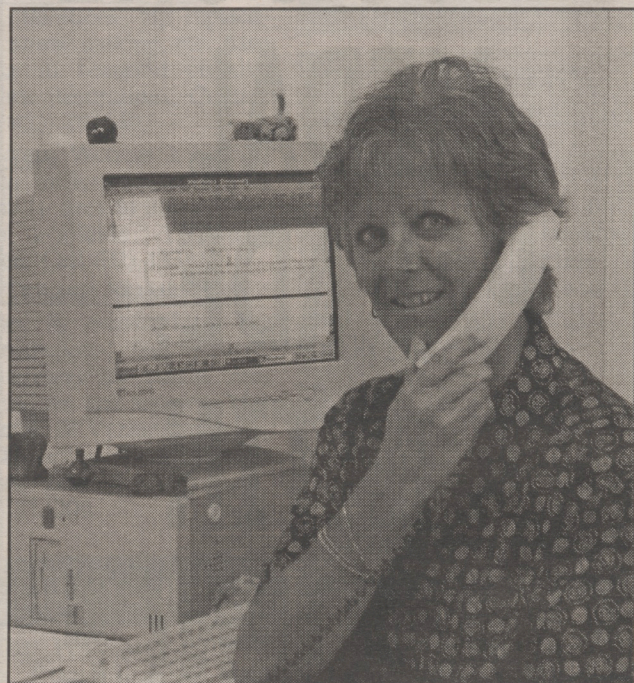
No two days are alike. The Chief of Mission is a dynamic individual who could not be accused of dragging her staff through boring, monotonous days! Merely attempting to keep up with her is an exhausting and challenging task.

Being a personal assistant (PA) to a senior executive, while not exactly rocket science, has its worth. In these days of garbage collectors being renamed "refuse technicians", please know I am happy to bear the title of Personal Assistant. I see my role as the PA to the Chief of Mission basically as a cross between a Pretorian Guard and a Maitre d'. In its simplest definition, it is my job to make the Chief of Mission's day in the office easier. That includes fielding the huge number of

telephone calls, sorting reams of paperwork and allocating her time. It calls for some pretty intangible traits – mind reading, diplomacy and juggling a full and ever-fluid diary! So, it's not the job which leads to success in popularity contests!

Where does one get the training or experience for this type of work? Marriage for one (negotiation skills); raising a rambunctious son (power-based unilateral decision-making). I did well on this one, my 18 year old being safely tucked away in a military college in the United States); three tours of duty in the "field" – six years in Jerusalem, and three years in a previous existence in UNFICYP; and three years in the Executive Office of the Secretary General at UN Headquarters, New York, commonly referred to as "the 38th Floor".

Our office comprises Senior Adviser Peter Schmitz and his PA Denise Glasser whose noisy, but friendly banter hone my refereeing skills! And there is also Angela Milne, the newest arrival. It's a pretty good team here.



"Can I help you?"

SECTOR-4 BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

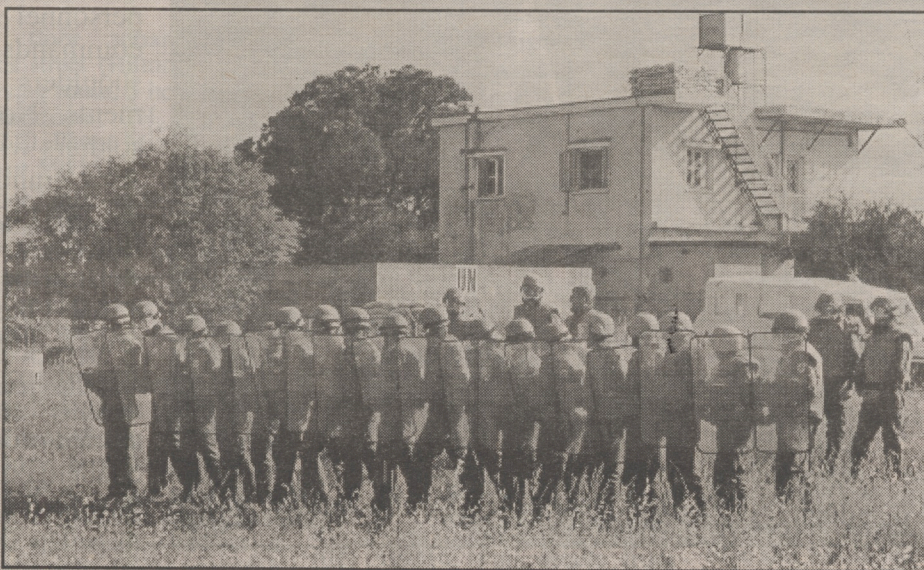
After a month of intense training in Sector-4, all personnel including all newcomers have studied the ins and outs of the Buffer Zone, the situation around the British Sovereign Base Areas and Corridor Road. They have also practised basic military skills, as well as safety emergency drills.

"Fire! Fire! Leave the observation point immediately!" OP 152 in Varosha is conducting an emergency escape exercise. But how do you leave your OP when the stairs are on fire and there's no helicopter available? For the Austrians that's no problem. Most of them are experienced in Alpine techniques. Just give them a rope and they'll come down safely. Unless of course you're unconscious.... Then one of your buddies will have to carry you. The good thing about being unconscious is that you don't notice the massive drop down from the 12th floor. You need a bit of courage to start descending, but with comrades standing by to applaud you when you finish, everybody manages to get down.



Not far now

INTENZÍV KIKÉPZÉS



4. szektor 1. Századánál április 01-től 30-ig tartott az intenzív kiképzés az újonnan érkezettek részére. Négy nagyobb gyakorlás volt ahol mindannyian részt vettek.

In Camp Izay, further to the west, the Hungarian soldiers who arrived in September show the newcomers how to practise crowd riot control. The participants all take the training very seriously. One of them was heard saying: "Not too many friendships were born during this exercise." Live firing, a 12-kilometre Buffer Zone march, and erecting and operating a temporary checkpoint are other elements of the introduction period, which ended with a "line diploma" test. According to Slovenian Corporal Pungarcar "The first month meant absorbing a lot of information, especially in the beginning. As the days were passing, we were better able to do the job on our own. The 'line diploma' test increased the motivation to study. It's obvious, though, that UN soldiers must know their responsibilities to do the job well."



Ready, aim, fire!

Az első ilyen a lövészet volt. Mindenki eredményesen végrehajtotta mind a pisztoly, mind pedig a géppisztoly lövészetet.

A következő /a legnépszerűbb/ „Crowd Control” gyakorlása volt. A tüntetőket a szeptemberi állomány alakította, az újak pedig a „Line”-ban álltak. Nem mondhatnám, hogy túl sok barátság született.

Ezután a Buffer Zóna gyalogos bejárása következett. Az 1. szakasz újoncai a UN-92 bázistól az UN-OPT-97-ig vezető utat tették meg. A többi újonc az UN-OPT-118-tól indulva alig 2 óra 5 perc alatt érkezett az UN-10 bázisra.

Végül, de nem utolsó sorban, pedig a „Checkpoint” gyakorlás volt megtartva. Mindenki megtanulhatta, hogyan és mit kell tenni ezen a helyen.

NEWS

SECTOR ONE MEDAL PARADE, A LATIN EXPERIENCE



The Argentinian Padre blesses the medals before presentation

Representatives from the different sectors and from UNFICYP headquarters travelled to Skouriotissa on Tuesday 4 May to join the Argentinian, Bolivian, Brazilian, Paraguayan and Uruguayan soldiers, men and women, of Sector One, in their celebration of receiving the United Nations medal for peacekeeping. The

many children playing around and other family members present underlined the Latin atmosphere of the event. ARGCON even dedicated an area left of the stands for the smaller children.

As a clear sign of integration, all the national

anthems of the nationalities receiving medals were played. Chief Administrative Officer, Clemens Adams, assisted Force Commander Major General Evergisto de Vergara, Chief of Staff Colonel Chris Coats and Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Rodolfo Mujica in presenting the medals to the proud soldiers.

After the ceremony, a selection of Sector One personnel gave a drill demonstration without commands. Their weapons went from feet to shoulders and back again in smooth movements. Nobody needed to explain that only soldiers with a lot of practice can achieve that. As a grand finale, all fired a blank, disturbing the serene surroundings of San Martin Camp. End of the official part, start of a great reception - or maybe "party" is a better word.

All guests found their way easily to the drinks and snacks on the tables which were spread around the grass terraces. Soon the hosts unveiled their vocal and musical skills, dancers circled around each other and the audience was challenged to take part. Latinos certainly know how to celebrate and how to involve everybody in a day that, for the decorated soldier, is the jewel in the crown of his tour of duty.



A lively reception with songs and dances

NEW UN FLIGHT COMMANDER



During the change of command ceremony on Thursday 29 April (above), Major Hector Angel Panighi assumed command over UN Flight. In the same rotation, three pilots and nine NCOs arrived in Cyprus, after they participated in a fire fighting mission in the southern part of Argentina.

Departing Commander Lieutenant Colonel Julio Cesar Sorgenti, together with the pilots and NCOs, have returned to Argentina after six months of hard work.

FREEDOM IS SOMETHING YOU MAKE TOGETHER

Eight o'clock. Sunset. The Dutch flag is flying at half mast. It is 4 May. The Dutch UN peacekeepers salute. One of the five musicians of the Parachute Regiment blows the last post, after which there is two minutes of silence. Silence on and around the square of Wolseley barracks, where the derelict buildings remind people of a past war. There is silence on hundreds of locations in The Netherlands or in other locations where Dutch people are present. Not only in Cyprus, but also in Bosnia, Albania and Italy. Only the birds can be heard.

Two minutes to think about the horrors of the Second World War, the five years of occupation of The Netherlands.

Two minutes to think about people who were killed because they didn't fit in with the ideas of Hitler. Because they were Jews or gypsies or homosexuals. Or people who got killed because they stood up to fight the regime they disagreed with, because

they helped people in need.

Two minutes, also to think about the situation at the end of this millennium. About what is happening in Kosovo, Tadjikistan, Libya, and about the role of a peacekeeper.

Then the five musicians play the Dutch national anthem and the national flag is lowered.

On 5 May 1945, the German regime signed the capitulation and The Netherlands were liberated. Liberated mainly by foreign soldiers. Polish, Canadian, British and American. Every year since then, the Dutch celebrate their liberation on 5 May and commemorate their dead the day before. Festivities are all based on a national theme. This year's theme is: "Freedom is something you make together." In his speech, Padre Peter 't Hoen reflected on this theme and the role of a soldier on the line. May God bless our efforts.

CLASSIFIED

ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE

Hyundai Excel L.S. 4 doors, 26,000 km, duty free. Phone (02) 779842.

Volkswagen Polo SP, lhd, 1984, red, duty-free, RC, 150,000 km, £400 (negotiable). Call (02) 664362 (o) or 666485 (p).

Peugeot 405 Saloon GL, white, Nov '88, a/c, radio/cass, duty-free, £1,000. Phone (02) 445318 or 664068.

BMW 525 TDS, '96, 40,000 km, rhd, red metallic, a/c and many other extras, £12,600. Phone M. Schroder, (02) 664362 during working hours.

Subaru 1.3DL, white, new brakes and shock absorbers, sun roof, duty paid, £850 ONO. Phone (09) 698374.

Lada Niva 1600, 4x4, cream-white, new gearbox, duty paid, £1,200. Phone (09) 698374.

Mobile Sandwich van, new engine and interior, 2-flame gas grill, 2 built-in electric fridges. Phone (09) 698374.

Mazda 626 Estate 2.0 GT. Genuine 7-seater, a/c, cruise control, electric windows, sun roof, low mileage. Excellent condition. £3,500 ONO. Tel John or Bronwyn Jones at (02) 753001 (O) or 660997 (H).

Mazda 323, 1993, white, 4-door sedan, 5-speed, a/c, power windows/locks, new battery/tyres. Very good condition, 60,500 km. Duty free: £1,200 OBO! Available July. Call (02) 776400, Ext 2595 (O) or 352502 (H).

Volkswagen Golf automatic saloon, 5 doors, duty free, only 11,750 miles - low price. Call (02) 771834.

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Intel Pentium 200 MMX computer, 32 MB RAM, 3.2 GB hard drive, 24 sp CD ROM, speakers, monitor, colour printer, windows 95. £450 OVNO. Computer Table £15. Contact WO2 Barry Green on ext 4510 or (02) 359001.

Russian Silver Fox fur coat, as new. Very special price: £1,000 O.N.O. Contact 02-864485 or 02-316559.

Black dining table with 8 chairs, new cloth upholstery, £220. Phone (02) 774325 or (09) 614068.

Complete house contents for sale including furniture, carpets, electrical appliances, crockery, crystal, pots pans and many, many extras! Prices are low and negotiable. Make an appointment to view. Tel: Mrs Drogoul at (02) 779910/11/12 (O) or 513039 (H).

ITEMS FOR HIRE

HIVE ITEMS FOR HIRE

The NICOSIA HIVE operates a comprehensive loan store. Items available are: VAX machine, child's car seats, pushchairs, backpacks, high chair, travel cots, children's toys and bikes, cool boxes, sun loungers, golf clubs, radio/cassette players, BBQ, etc. Call the HIVE to check availability.

DISCO FOR HIRE

The UNPA WOs' & Sgts' Mess (The Vic Club) has upgraded its disco equipment to a high standard. This is available for hire for functions etc. The cost of hire is now £50.00 per event. Two DJs are also available and

separate arrangements should be made with either DJ regarding fees. Bookings for the disco should be made through the PMC, WO2 Miller on (02) 359760 ext 126 (W) at least seven days in advance.

HAVING A PARTY?

The Youth Club is now available for hire. Many facilities including new disco equipment and lights, barbecue and plenty of space! Contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more details.

PROPERTY TO LET

Double story house in Anthoupolis area, 10 min from UNPA. Big living room, large solid wooden kitchen, 4 bedrooms, split unit and spare shower in master bedroom, big yard, c/h and solar water heater. 400 pds. Contact Stelios: (09)621143

Luxury house at Ioannis Psycharis Street 33, Ayios Andreas. 3 bedrooms + master bedroom, sitting room with bar, modern kitchen with all amenities, c/h, a/c, flower and fruit tree garden. Contact (02)771039 or call opposite the premises for Mrs. Alexia Hadjigeorgiou.

Flat in Lycavitos. Third floor, 3 bedrooms, storeroom, covered parking, c/h, provision for a/c. Can be let furnished or unfurnished. Rent: £400 (negotiable). Phone Yannis on (02) 344461/09-693993 or Yanna on (02) 864524.

Second floor apartment in Romanos street (Hilton area) for rent. Living room, 3 bedrooms, 2 WCs, bathroom, CH, car park. Rent: £210. Phone Mrs Leto, (02) 374820 or 591153.

First floor house in Strovolos (11 Herodou Attikou St). 220 sq.m. with 3 bedrooms, hall, living room, office, kitchen, 2 WCs, laundry room, garage and c/h. Solar water heater. Rent: £400. Tel: (02) 422516.

3-bedroom penthouse flat to let in Acropolis (Hilton area). 175 sq.m. Sitting/dining room, TV room, study, large kitchen, bathroom, 2 WCs. Fully furnished, including all kitchen appliances. Split unit and separate shower in master bedroom. Large verandah overlooking park. C/h and solar water heater. Available from end May. Address: 2 Ermokleos St. Rent: £395. Call (02) 337044 (O) or 335534 (H).

FOR SALE:

Detached, 3-bedroom furnished house in small village, 15 mins from UNPA. Large garden with orange and lemon trees. Phone (09) 698374.

FACILITIES

NICOSIA LIBRARY

The Nicosia Library, 23 Sycamore Road, UNPA. Tel (02) 359317. Many new books now in stock. For the new entrance please follow the arrows round the side.

Opening Hours:

1000-1300 and 1700-1900 hrs Mon - Fri.

All nationalities are welcome

Huge selection of fiction & non-fiction books for adults and children

Book search and reservation service.

Language cassettes and books

available on long-term loans.

Many music cassettes and books on tape.

Videos now available on loan.

Photocopying at 5c per copy.

Computer & CD-ROM for use with military studies. "COIC Career Builder" programme.

YMCA NEWSFLASH!! Spring is in the air and the staff of the YMCA are just "abuzz" with ideas to improve our service to you. Visit Jackie, Carol and Ann at the canteen and sample our great sandwiches, English breakfasts, tea or coffee. We make a mean milkshake, and yes, Rose will be baking again. Need a card or a gift wrap for a special occasion coming up? How about stamps, stationery, etc. Call into the YMCA and see Rose.

SERVICES

NICOSIA HIVE NEWS

The NICOSIA HIVE is open for information and advice and is located at 21 Sycamore Road, UNPA (within the Married Quarters area). Tel (02) 359316.

The Nicosia HIVE Coordinator is Geraldine McKendrick.

All nationalities are welcome!

Opening Times: Mon-Wed-Fri, 0930-1230 and 1500-1700 hrs.

Why don't U.Network@the UNPA?

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 19 May 1999 at 10.00 hours in the Nicosia HIVE. Come along and exchange news and information with a friendly group of spouses from UNFICYP and diplomatic missions. More info from Helgard Adams on (02) 591933.

BEAUTY TREATMENTS BY NIKI. Are your legs and feet ready for spring? Niki will be at the HIVE on Thursday 27 May. A wide range of facials, manicures, pedicures and waxing treatments available. For appointments or more information, call Niki on (05) 391640 or the Nicosia HIVE on (02) 359316.

ART FOR PLEASURE. The new term started on **Tuesday 20 April 1999** at St Michael's School on the UNPA. New students welcome. Cost of course is £20. To register, please phone the HIVE on (02) 359316. Full details from Lindsay Twort on (02) 358611.

CONVERSATIONAL GREEK. New term started on **Tuesday 20 April 1999** at the HIVE. Time: 17:30- 18:30 for intermediate and 18:30-19:30 for beginners. Please note that these courses will run subject to sufficient demand. The cost is £20 per course and a small deposit is payable on registration. To register, please phone the HIVE on (02) 359316.

FED UP WITH THE IRONING BOARD? Mature British lady takes in ironing. Excellent service, reasonable rates. Tel: (02) 661787.

SANDRA'S HAIR FASHIONS

Sandra's Hair Fashions is situated at 21 Sycamore Road on the Married Quarters Patch. Open Mon-Fri between 0900-1800 hrs. Tel: (02) 776454.

ENGLISH LESSONS

Qualified and experienced teacher available to teach English to small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Tel: (02) 772991.

EVENING BABYSITTING AND ASSISTING AT PARTIES

Lady available for evening babysitting and assisting at drinks/dinner parties. Tel Maroulla: (02) 330296 after 1600 hrs.

MATURE BABYSITTER Reliable, mature lady available for babysitting. Tel: (02) 623850 after 1600 hrs.

UK-TRAINED SEAMSTRESS available for alterations, zip replacements, costume making, etc. Also specialises in beautiful creative home fabric decorations. Contact Stella on (02) 491840.

JOB WANTED: Woman is looking for houses, offices and staircases in Nicosia + area to clean. Own transport available. 12 years experience. Call (02) 433811.

BRITISH TRAINED SEAMSTRESS

Specialises in dressmaking for formal occasions, ball gowns, wedding dresses and outfits, etc, also alterations and repairs. Mrs Chris Broad. 28 Vyzantiou Street, Ayios Dhometios, Nicosia (close to UNPA, near Astra garage). Tel: (02) 773206.

MISCELLANEOUS

TEDDY TOTS PLAYGROUP, UNPA.

Children from the UN and international community are most welcome. Ages: Two to rising five. Excellent facilities, air-conditioned, follows English preschool curriculum. Small numbers in class. For further information Tel: (02) 359655 (school) or 359225 (home).

"BRATCON" YOUTH CLUB.

If you are aged between 8-16, and want to have some fun, "BRATCON" is the place to be seen. We are open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6-8.30 pm at St Michael's School in the UNPA. Our club is run by volunteers. We do everything from sporting activities to staging our own pantomime.

Come along and make some new friends. For further information, contact Pam Kingston on (02) 359112, or pop in on one of the nights that we are open and find out for yourself. Membership is £1.50 per term or £4 annually. Nightly subs - 50c for members and 75c for visitors.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED.

The "BRATCON" Youth Club urgently requires new volunteers to help out at their twice-weekly sessions. If you have some free time and would like to work with a bunch of happy kids, please contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more information. Don't delay - pick up the phone NOW.

Two beautiful, intelligent puppies looking for a home...

Small breed

Two months old and wonderful with children

Tel: (02) 624758
or (09) 542154

THE NICOSIA DOG SHELTER

Volunteers needed to help in our charity shop. Can you spare a couple of hours at any time on any day? All money raised is for the Nicosia dog shelter. Please help. Call the shop on (02) 669568 and help to support a good cause.

To advertise in the Blue Beret, send your ads to the Public Information Office at HQ UNFICYP or e-mail to blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com.

TRAVEL TIPS

A Brief View of Jordan

Jordan is a land of ancient heritage with a history as old as time itself. The country, also known as the Hashemite Kingdom, is a mere 45 minute flight away and yet full of stark differences.

Main Places to Visit:

- The Nabatean City of Petra (2-3 hours from Amman) is the most famous sight and an experience not to be forgotten. The city is hewn from solid pink rock.
- The Red Sea at Aqaba.
- Jerash (½ hour from Amman) is the ancient Roman City which has survived an incredible 2,300 years.
- The Crusader Castles
- Madaba and Mount Nebo where Moses first looked over to the Promised Land and is also buried.
- The briny Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth.
- Wadi Rum, the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes (where the famous Lawrence of Arabia was filmed).

Transport. Local transport is cheap. Yellow government taxis are reliable and run on a meter.

Public transport is not recommended as buses do not have set schedules.

If you hire a car (right-hand drive), you can go as you please. It is very easy to drive from Amman to Petra and from Petra to Aqaba.

Where to Stay. Hotels in Jordan vary from 5-star to budget hotels. Prices start from £10 to £40 with breakfast.

Currency. The Jordanian Dinar. You can order dinars in advance from your bank, alternatively you can take US dollars and change to dinars in any local bank.

Visas and tax. All nationals require visas and prices vary. Check with the Jordanian Consulate before departure.

On departure from Jordan, everyone must pay departure tax at Queen Alia Airport (approximately Jod 10).

Final Words. Jordan is a great country for any traveller to visit, whether on a short break to see the great sights or for a more relaxed stay in Aqaba (Red Sea Resort). The locals are very friendly and speak English. Local Arabic food is delicious.

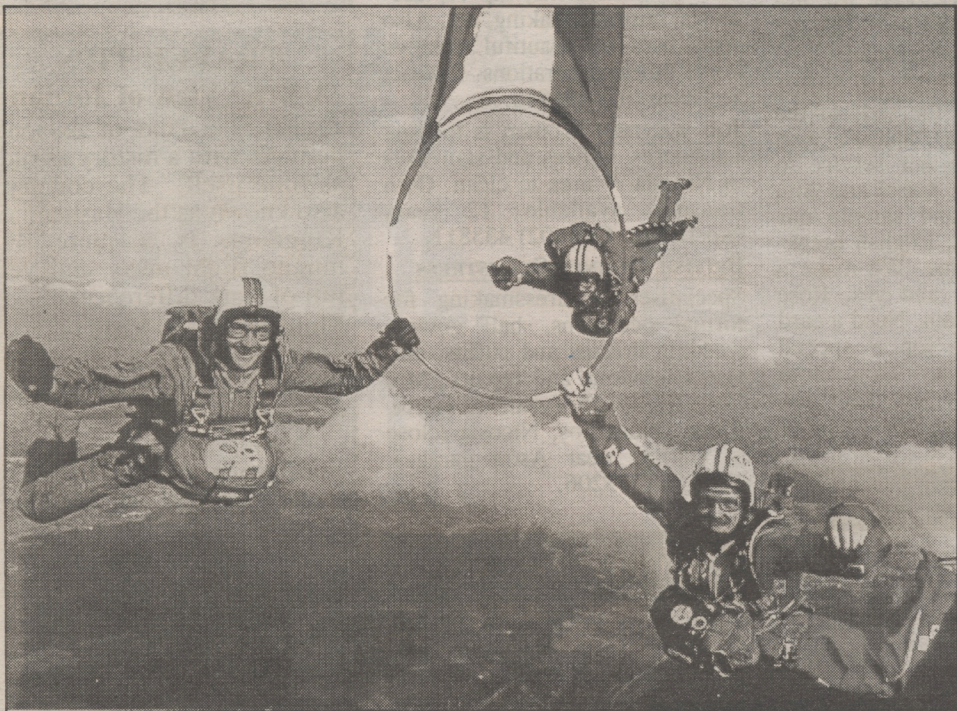
Good buys include sand bottles, handmade glass, jewellery, rugs and spices.

Ahlan Wa Sahlan!
Welcome to Jordan!

"Travel Tips" prepared by Penny of Chronos Travel

BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT



Parachute jumping used to be something that only appealed to daredevils. Nowadays, it attracts a wider clientele.

The technical development of the parachute itself and the chance to receive a video with documentary evidence afterwards made this sport attractive for nearly everybody. During the last rotation, Sector Four was reinforced by some soldiers who really like jumping out of planes.

One of them is Clerk Corporal Leder. WO1 Pachfischer, SGM of 2nd Coy, is another. The latter is very experienced. He's made more

than 650 jumps, and is a qualified parachute jumping instructor. The number of soldiers who start parachuting here is increasing steadily.

In their spare time, they go to Kingsfield, Dhekelia, where there is a parachute jumper's club. After two days' training, the participants are ready to jump out of a plane which is flying at an altitude of 1,300 metres.

Some of them are a little bit nervous at first, but that's not unusual. However, everyone we spoke to said the experience was well worth it.

RENDERS ON HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Like a spider on the wall, Dutch Lieutenant Stijn Renders, troop commander of Liri troop, moves to the ceiling of the gym. Carefully he stretches out to reach one of the tiny ridges, screwed on the overhanging wall. For him, this training track doesn't have any surprises any more.

"Still it is very important to keep practising," Stijn comments, "if only to exercise the hand muscles. In the Royal Netherlands Army, climbing is used to overcome fears, to learn to trust the equipment and, most important of all, to learn to trust your buddy. He or she is the one who safeguards the climber."

After covering his finger tips with magnesium powder he places his toes on a tiny shape and gives another demonstration. Once down again: "During my leave period in April I first visited the gym I normally train at in the Netherlands. After that, I visited my family. I've also spent some time in



Gravity is only in the mind.....

France with my climbing friends to train on rock, the real thing. In Cyprus I was lucky enough to find a gym near by my troop location, east of Nicosia.. I guess you could say I'm at least a bit addicted to this beautiful sport. It's getting high in a healthy way!"

And up he goes again, concentrating and with smooth movements.

KEEPING COOL AT THE POOL

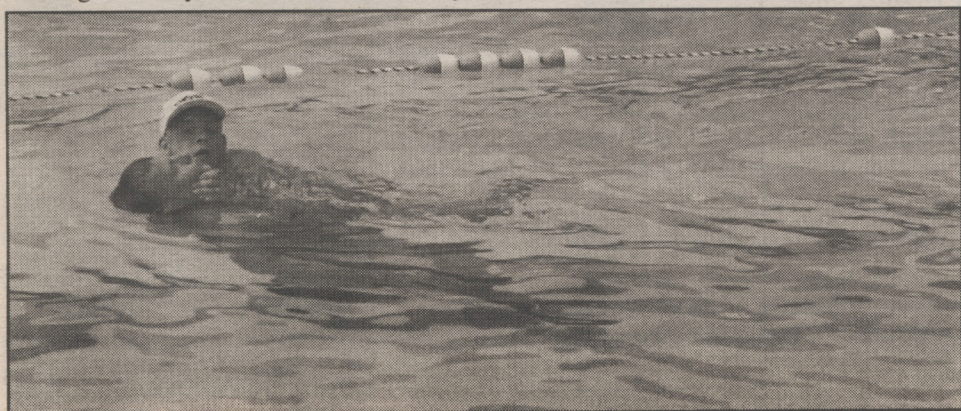
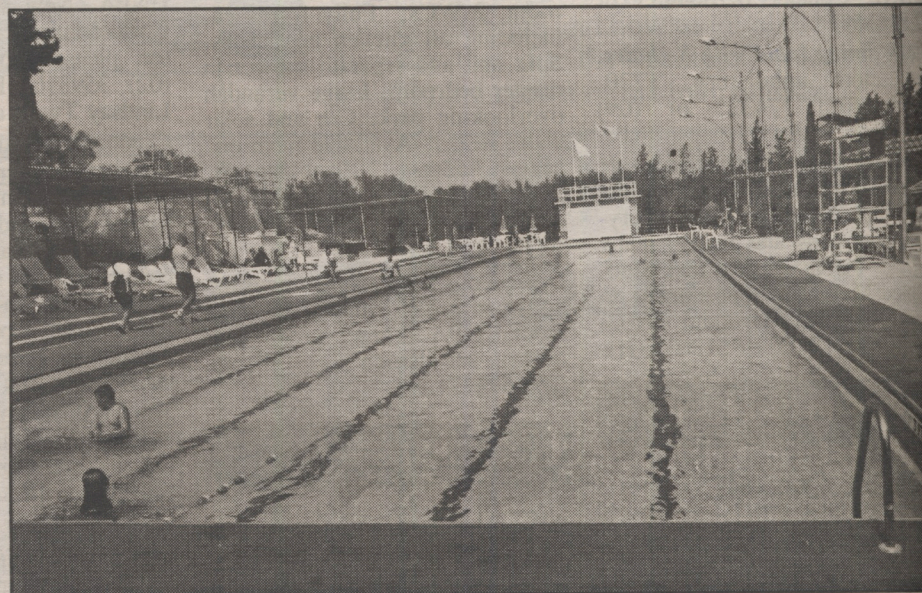
The Dolphin Swimming Pool opened in the UNPA last Sunday, 2 May. Olympic length (but not quite in width), it features a fully shaded children's pool, a reserved 50-metre training lane and, for those under 18, an excellent inflatable spaceship.

Naturally, the first thing to be considered before opening was the training of pool life guards. As in the past, troops from the Mobile Force Reserve volunteered to undertake this task. Under the supervision of fully qualified instructors from the Eastern Sovereign Base Areas (Dhekelia Garrison), 22 members of the MFR will finally take home with them diplomas from the Royal Life-Saving Society (RLSS) which they

can present anywhere in the world. The four-day instruction course includes practical water rescue, resuscitation and first aid.

The picture below shows training on the specialised vice grip for rescuing someone with a suspected spinal injury.

All personnel within UNFICYP, civilian, military, police and their families are invited to become members. Pool users are reminded that the Dolphin Pool is not a free facility. It operates as a club, open only to members who have bought a ticket. There is a strict code of conduct, and unacceptable behaviour will lead to the removal of individuals from the pool.



OPENING HOURS:

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat and Sun:

0900 hrs - 1800 hrs

Tue and Thu: 0900 hrs - 2000 hrs

Want to take up diving for a hobby? Joanne has a ladies' (Marin) medium size diving suit with jacket for sale.

As new. **Half price at £85.**

Phone (02) 864485

SWIMMING POOL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Family season ticket:	£50.00
Single season ticket:	£25.00
Family monthly ticket:	£15.00
Single monthly ticket:	£10.00
Adult daily ticket:	£1.50
Child daily ticket:	£0.50

For enquiries, tel (02) 864412
To arrange membership, tel (02) 864569