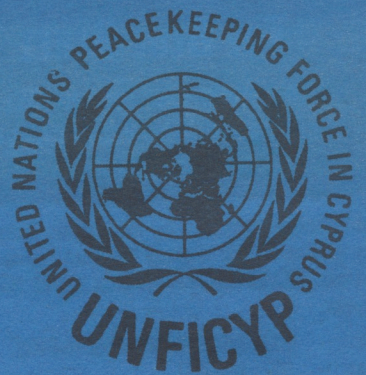


THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP



VOLUME No 1

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14 OCTOBER 1999

ACTING CHIEF OF MISSION ARRIVES

Mr James Holger, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission of UNFICYP, arrived in Cyprus on 13 October.

Mr Holger is no stranger to Cyprus. He served here from 1982-1988, first as Deputy to the Special Representative to the Secretary-General, and for four years as Acting Special Representative.

He has had a distinguished career in Chile's Foreign Service. From 1992-97, he was Chilean Ambassador to the Russian Federation, serving concurrently as Ambassador to Belarus, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine. From 1990-92 he was Chile's Deputy

Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Mr Holger has wide experience of the United Nations. He served for three years as Senior Political Adviser to UNIFIL. He also spent a year in the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs at UN headquarters, and a year as Executive Assistant to the Rector of the UN University in Tokyo.

Before coming back to UNFICYP, he was Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Academy in Santiago.

He is married and has one son. His wife, Cecilia, is accompanying him to Cyprus.



James Holger when last in Cyprus

UNFICYP'S ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS

The British Forces Cyprus annual Cyprus Walk-about is a gruelling competition, designed to provide a challenging test of physical endurance, mental stamina and team spirit, over routes that test competitors' map reading and route selection skills.

It is run over a two-day period. Day One sees teams moving from the Episkopi area to Troodos, then the second day they return to the Episkopi area. During each day, the teams pass through five checkpoints over a course of at least 45 km.

Such a description alone would put off most people. Knowing the sort of terrain

that exists in the mountainous Troodos area would succeed in putting off most of the remainder. Personnel from Sector 2 and the MFR, however, decided that they were up to the challenge.

Three teams were fielded from the UN. Team A consisted of Sergeant Mansfield, Lance Bombardier Butler and Lance Bombardier Wojtas; Team B was Captain Jez Mawdsley, Warrant Officer 2 (BSM) Groves and Bombardier White, and the mixed team was made up of Bombardier Smith, Gunner Shane Clash and Ms Diana Bridger.

Bombardier Smith won't forget the experience in a hurry. "Each day we were up

at 04:30 am so the first team could leave at 06:30 am. Thirty three teams started on the first day, setting off on what was to become a very real challenge. We covered ground varying from 550 feet up to 5,700 feet, on tracks and through wooded areas. It was quite hard going. I started getting cramp in my legs after a while which made running difficult, although being Commando-trained, I just gritted my teeth and carried on! Shane was having problems with his knee and we all developed blisters. Diana was a superb team captain. Her map-reading was really on the ball and she just kept egging us on when the going got tough.

"By the end of Day One, we came first in the mixed team category. Arriving at the camp at Troodos we felt mixed emotions. It was great to finish for the day, but knowing that you had to cover the same distance the following day was agony. We set off early on Day Two, but the team was dogged by cramp and blisters. The University mixed team raced by us and at each checkpoint we reached we learnt that they had increased their lead. By Checkpoint 4, they had a 50-minute lead on us.

"Thanks to Diana's superb map-reading and the sheer tenacity of the team, we started to claw back the gap and by

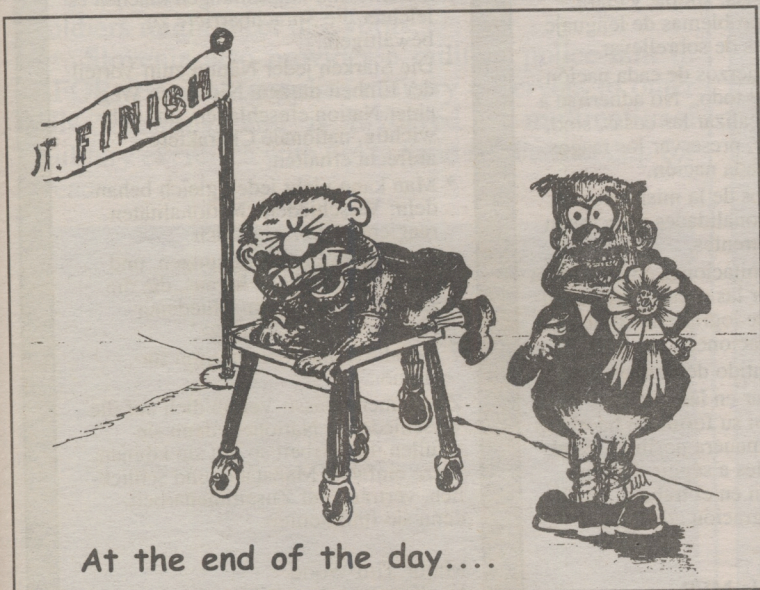


UNFICYP teams pose with their trophies after the event

Checkpoint 4, we were ahead again. One mile from the end they were right behind us. Pain was pushed to the rear of the mind and we sprinted for the finish line and just won the whole competition. The MFR teams of 20 Commando Battery clinched second and third

places for the on-island team category."

Of the thirty three teams that started, only twenty two finished. Key to the UN's success? Hard work (two months' strenuous training), team spirit and b.....-mindedness. They just weren't going to give up.



At the end of the day....

INSIDE: NEWS - REAL LIFE - PEOPLE - SPORT

THE BLUE BERET

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

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

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

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QUOTATIONS

As we gain knowledge, we do not
become more certain, we become
certain of more.

Ayn Rand

Home is an invention on which no
one has yet improved

Ann Douglas

It is much easier to be critical
than to be correct

Benjamin Disraeli

To escape criticism - do nothing,
say nothing, be nothing.

Elbert Hubbard

UNITED NATIONS DAY SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER 1999

Just to remind you that
UNFICYP will be celebrating
United Nations Day on
Sunday 24 October between
14:00 and 18:00 hours.

We need helping hands to assist
on stands, usher guests around
and altogether help in making
this day memorable for everyone.

Sectors and units are already
working hard to prepare their
tents, games are being organised
and music is being practised.

If there is anyone who wishes to
be involved and isn't already
allocated a task, kindly call the
CCPO on extension 4480.

All help gratefully accepted.

See you there on the day.

Almost halfway through my UN tour in command of the Mobile Force Reserve, I thought it might be appropriate to offer some thoughts on the nature of multinational operations. But first a little history....

The MFR was formed in 1997, partly as a result of the violent demonstrations in the Buffer Zone in 1996 when both peacekeepers and civilians were caught up in intercommunal violence that left two civilians dead and two soldiers severely injured. The UN required a reserve capable of operating anywhere in the Buffer Zone to support the sectors and UNCIVPOL.

So, following on from the UN "Scout Car" Squadron and the Permanent Force Reserve Platoon, the MFR came into being. Multinational from the outset, it has evolved into a company of three rifle platoons, an APC platoon and a Coy HQ. Based at the UNPA, each rifle platoon conducts a nine-day rotation consisting of three days on patrol in support of sectors or Force tasks; three days of security duties on UNPA; and three days of training, administration and standby. The coy provides a coy at six hours' notice to move, with platoons at two, four, and six hours' notice to move respectively.

The coy is fully integrated down to the lowest level, except for the APC Platoon which is Argentinian because the vehicles (the distinctive Tactics), are Argentinian. The platoons are commanded respectively by British, Austrian and Dutch officers with their nationality TSM.

A total of 33 Argentinians, 29 British, 24 Dutch, 10 Austrians and nine Hungarians make up the sections, platoons and coy. 20 Cdo Bty, which I normally command, makes up the UK element. The Dutch soldiers are from 13 Bty, and the other nationalities are from all types of backgrounds. This creates tremendous diversity, and, coupled with the language and different training, makes for a challenging command. However, the soldiers tend to be some of the best and the officers and SNCOs are a highly capable bunch. With the help of professional officers, NCOs and soldiers, the job is not as hard as it sounds.

The rotation of soldiers takes place throughout the tour - UK/Netherlands in December and June; Austria and Hungary in March and September; and Argentina in November and May. This means that we have to learn about new people and say goodbye to friends several times. It also means that the MFR gets frequent and regular injections of "new blood" which also stimulates the platoons into greater integration.

The MFR hints for anyone wishing to take on the challenge of working in a truly international environment are:

- * Keep everything simple - clear, precise orders and instructions make the language problems easier to overcome.
- * Use the strengths of each nation to the advantage of the whole - don't stick to one nation's way of doing things, and, most importantly, preserve national characteristics.
- * Don't treat everybody the same - different nationalities react to different stimuli.
- * Accept limitations on the normal ways of doing things, but emphasise what a combination of nations can do.
- * Keep a sense of humour.

In short, rely on the different nationalities to do things the best way they know. Set simple standards to follow, and finally, encourage integration at work and further integration will follow at "play".

Major Tim Wood
Officer Commanding MFR

EDITORIAL

Casi a la mitad de mi tour en la ONU al mando de la Fuerza de Reserva Móvil, (MFR), pensé que sería apropiado ofrecer algunos pensamientos sobre la naturaleza de las operaciones multinacionales. Pero primero una pequeña historia...

La MFR fue formada en 1997, en parte como resultado de violentas manifestaciones en la zona de amortiguación (Buffer Zone) en 1996, cuando tanto los protectores de la paz como los civiles quedaron atrapados en una violencia intercomunal que dejó un saldo de dos civiles muertos y dos soldados severamente heridos. La ONU solicitó una reserva capaz de operar en cualquier lugar dentro de la zona de amortiguación para apoyar a los sectores y a la policía civil (UNCIVPOL).

De esta forma, siguiendo al Escuadrón de Vehículos de Exploración de Naciones Unidas y al Pelotón de Reserva permanente de la Fuerza, la MFR se transformó en multinacional desde el principio, evolucionando en una compañía de tres secciones de tiradores, una sección de vehículos blindados de transporte de personal y una compañía de comando. Con base en la UNPA, cada sección de tiradores realiza una rotación de nueve días, consistente en: tres días de patrullas en apoyo de los sectores o tareas de la fuerza; tres días de servicios de seguridad en la UNPA; y tres días de entrenamiento, administración y reserva. La compañía proporciona una sección a seis horas, lista para su empleo, con pelotones a dos, cuatro y seis horas listos para su empleo, respectivamente.

La compañía está integrada totalmente hasta los niveles más inferiores, excepto por la sección APC la cual es Argentina, por cuanto los vehículos (las clásicas tácticas), son Argentinas. Las secciones están comandadas respectivamente por oficiales británicos, austriacos y holandeses y con sus respectivos encargados de pelotón.

Un total de 33 argentinos, 29 británicos, 24 holandeses, 10 austriacos y 9 húngaros componen las secciones, pelotones, y compañía "20 Cdo Bty", la cual comando personalmente y compone el elemento del Reino Unido (UK). Los soldados holandeses son de la "13 Bty" y las otras nacionalidades son de todo tipo de ambientes. Esto crea una tremenda diversidad, y junto al lenguaje y el entrenamiento diferente, hacen del comando un desafío. Sin embargo, los soldados tienden a ser de lo mejor y los oficiales y suboficiales tienen un alto grado de capacitación. Con la ayuda de oficiales, suboficiales y soldados profesionales, el trabajo no es tan arduo como suena.

La rotación de los soldados tiene lugar durante todo el tour. El Reino Unido y Holanda en junio y diciembre; Austria y Hungría en marzo y septiembre; y Argentina en mayo y noviembre. Esto significa que tenemos que aprender sobre la nueva gente y decir adiós a los amigos varias veces. También significa que la MFR tiene inyecciones regulares de "sangre nueva", lo cual estimula a las secciones para una mayor interacción. Las sugerencias de la MFR para cualquiera que desee tomar el desafío de trabajar en un ambiente verdaderamente internacional son:

- * Mantener las instrucciones y órdenes de manera precisa, simple y clara, hacen que los problemas de lenguaje sean más fáciles de sobrellevar.
- * Utilizar los esfuerzos de cada nación para ventaja del todo. No adherirse a una forma de realizar las cosas, sino, más importante, preservar los rasgos distintivos de cada nación.
- * No tratar a todos de la misma forma. Diferentes nacionalidades reaccionan a estímulos diferentes.
- * Aceptar las limitaciones en la manera normal de hacer las cosas, pero enfatizar lo que puede lograr una combinación entre las naciones.
- * Mantener el sentido del humor.

En resumen, confiar en las distintas nacionalidades y en su forma de hacer las cosas de la mejor manera posible. Establecer normas simples a seguir, fomentando la integración en el trabajo, como así también la integración adicional.

Major Tim Wood
Comandante de la MFR

Ungefähr die Hälfte meiner Zeit als MFR-Kommandant ist nun vorüber, und ich dachte es sei der richtige Zeitpunkt, einige Gedanken bezüglich der Arbeit einer multi-nationalen Einheit weiterzugeben.

Aber zuvor eine kleine Geschichte: Die MFR wurde 1997 formiert, teilweise resultierend aus den gewaltsamen Demonstrationen 1996 in der Pufferzone, bei denen es zwei zivile Tote und zwei ziemlich schwer verletzte Soldaten zu beklagen gab. Die UN verlangten eine Reserve, der es möglich ist, überall in der Pufferzone zu agieren und die einzelnen Sektoren und die UNCIVPOL zu unterstützen. Daher wurde die MFR aus der UN "Scout Car" Kompanie und der permanenten Force Reserve, die Zugstärke hatte, gebildet. Von Anfang an multinational, hat die MFR nun Kompaniestärke mit 3 Infanterie-Zügen und einem mechanisierten Zug, sowie einen Kp.Kdo. Stationiert in der UNPA, führt jeder Infanterie-Zug ein 9-tägiges Dienstrad durch, bestehend aus: 3 Tage auf Patroldfahrten, um Aufgaben der Sektoren oder des FC zu erfüllen; 3 Tage Sicherheitsdienst für die UNPA und 3 Tage Training, Administration und Stand By. Die Kompanie steht innerhalb einer 6-stündigen Rückkehrzeit zur Verfügung, wobei jedoch ständig 1 Zug eine 2-stündige, 1 Zug eine 4-stündige und der 3. Zug eine 6-stündige Rückkehrzeit hat. Die Kp ist bis hinunter zur Gruppe multinational gegliedert, außer dem Mech-Zug, der rein argentinisch ist, da die Fahrzeuge argentinischer Herkunft sind. Die Zugskommandanten sind ein britischer, ein holländischer und ein österreichischer Offizier, mit Stellvertretern der gleichen Nationalität.

Die MFR setzt sich aus 33 Argentinern, 29 Briten, 24 Holländern, 10 Österreichern und 9 Ungarn zusammen. Die 20.Cdo Bty, die ich normalerweise kommandiere, stellt den britischen Teil, die Holländer sind von der 13. Bty und die anderen Nationen senden Soldaten verschiedenster Einheiten zur MFR. Dies ergibt eine gewaltige Vielfalt, und gemeinsam mit den verschiedenen Sprachen und der unterschiedlichen Ausbildung, ist das Kommando eine wirkliche Herausforderung. Wie auch immer, unter den Soldaten sind einige der Besten und die Offiziere und Unteroffiziere sind höchst qualifiziert. Mit der Hilfe dieser höchst professionellen Offiziere, Unteroffiziere und Soldaten ist meine Aufgabe nicht so schwer, wie sie sich anhört.

Die Rotation der Soldaten findet über das ganze Jahr verstreut statt: GB/Holland: Dezember/Juni, Österr./Ungarn: März/ September, Argentinien: November/Mai. Das heißt, dass wir ständig neue Leute kennenlernen, und uns von Freunden verabschieden müssen. Außerdem bekommen die Züge der MFR ständig neue Soldaten, die immer wieder für frischen Wind sorgen und die Züge noch mehr zusammenschweißen.

Daher sind meine Hinweise, bezüglich der MFR, für jeden, der die Herausforderung annehmen will, in einer wirklich internationalen Einheit zu arbeiten, folgende:

- * Alles einfach halten; Klare, präzise Befehle und Anordnungen machen es leichter die Sprachbarriere zu bewältigen.
- * Die Stärken jeder Nation zum Vorteil der Einheit nützen. Nicht den Weg einer Nation einschlagen, und sehr wichtig, nationale Charaktere aufrecht erhalten.
- * Man kann nicht jeden gleich behandeln: Verschiedene Nationalitäten reagieren unterschiedlich.
- * Akzeptiere Einschränkungen, und arbeite die Vorteile heraus, die die Zusammenarbeit verschiedener Nationen mit sich bringt.
- * Behalte immer deinen Sinn für Humor.

Zusammengefasst: Verlaß dich auf die verschiedenen Nationen, denn sie erfüllen ihre Arbeit so gut sie können. Setze einfache Maßstäbe, und schließlich, vertraue auf Zusammenarbeit, denn sie funktioniert.

Major Tim Wood
Kp-Kommandant MFR

VALENTINE'S DAY

By Major Paul Kolken

Carolyn Valentine won't see a lot of her husband during the first days of her holiday in Cyprus. Her husband will be busy. Very busy.

"That's because I'm involved in entertaining maybe 3,000 guests, hopefully from all over the island," says Captain John Valentine, Quartermaster Sector 2.

Along with UN organisations throughout the world, UNFICYP celebrates UN day on Sunday 24 October.

"So far, preparations haven't been too much of a burden," says John. "But as the day gets closer it will take all our attention. I'm lucky to have a good team around me. RQMS Neil Calpin and his six men provide great support in the day to day workload and in the organisation of UN Day as well."

What's the Open Day all about?

"The aim is to give information

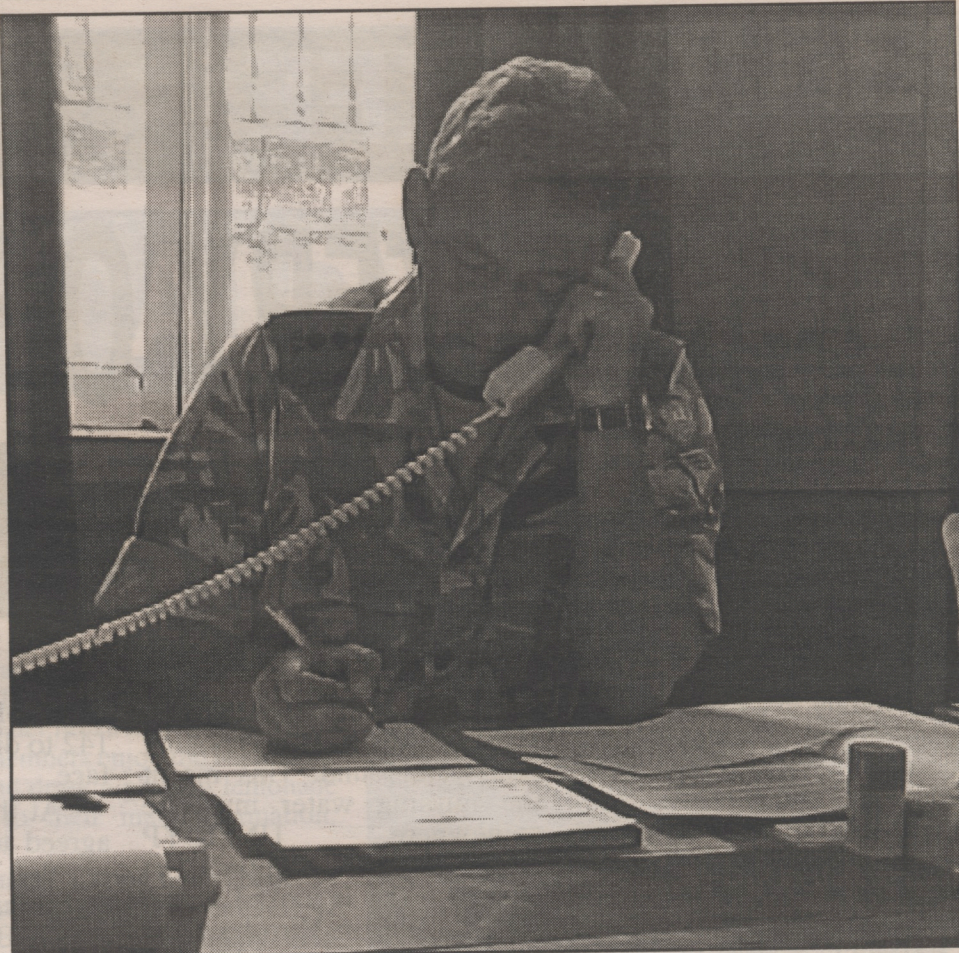
about UNFICYP, the UN, and about the force contributing nations. There will be tea and finger snacks from the various countries. There will also be lots of music, sports demonstrations and children's events.

"It should be an enjoyable afternoon out for families. And once it's all set up, I hope I find some time to join Carolyn and my two children, Nicholas and Adina, and take part in the events."

What preparations are you specifically responsible for?

"It's my task to procure, collect and distribute all kinds of articles - food, drink, tents, tables, chairs, toilets, cups, plates, and so on. And once the event is over, everything has to be cleaned and returned."

So as you sit there enjoying your Wiener schnitzels and cakes, spare a thought for the Valentine family.



Captain John Valentine working on his check-list

NEW SLOVENIAN CONTINGENT COMMANDER

By Captain Gregorij Hvastja

Captain Damir Crnèè is a young Slovenian officer with lots of new ideas. He is also UNFICYP's new Slovenian contingent commander. He is 26 years old, not married, and a member of the Slovenian 10th Battalion, the Battalion for International Cupertino, which provides all the members of UNFICYP's Slovenian contingent.

Damir's working day is much busier than other contingent members' days. He is both contingent commander and Deputy Company Commander in Sector 4, 2nd Coy. This means he has to communicate between the UN Austrian/Hungarian/Slovenian Battalion and the Slovenian Army General Staff, and to take care of the SICON soldiers, NCOs and officers - on top of his normal UNFICYP duties.

Slovenia is currently a member of the UN Security Council, and Damir believes that this is an additional reason why SICON must maintain the highest possible standards.

"We put units for this kind of mission together very carefully," he explains. "We look at physical condition, the level of English, and prior military experience. When we've completed the unit, they spend about five weeks together, training on a programme specially designed for UNFICYP. This includes a lot of basic information about Cyprus and a final field exercise with all the tactical elements soldiers might meet in Cyprus."

Slovenia also provides a military police unit in SFOR (Bosnia), supplies military observers to other UN missions, and is involved in multinational military exercises with NATO and the Partnership for Peace.



NEW HUNGARIAN CONTINGENT COMMANDER

By Maj Zános Hatos

On 21 September, Lieutenant Colonel Béla Cserenyecz arrived in Cyprus to serve as the Hungarian contingent commander.

We asked him to tell something about himself.

"Apart from the fact that I am a lieutenant colonel in the Hungarian army, I'm 50 years old. I'm married (my wife's name is Katalin) and I have a 19-year-old son, Krisztián. My wife's a shop manager: my son is a student."

Where have you worked before? Have you ever been in other peacekeeping mission or foreign posting?

"After I finished technical high school in 1968, I joined the Hungarian army and signed up at the Military College, Kossuth Lajos. I have qualified as both a military engineer and a civilian technical engineer. My first assignment was as an engineer platoon commander and later I worked as chief engineer for the infantry division."

"After some years, I changed tack and worked as Chief of the Adult Education Department in the Hungarian army. In 1991, I had to change my job again, because the Hungarian army was dramatically reduced. From this point, I was the senior officer to the Hungarian Land Forces Commander."

"Meanwhile I completed a ten-month intensive English language course at the Military Academy and in 1994, I graduated from the Foreign Trade College. In the same year I was nominated for a very interesting and useful

UN mission at UNIKOM. Here I served as a military observer and later as a Patrol and Observation Base leader."

"When I returned to Hungary from UNIKOM, I was able to go back to my old job. Then, when Hungary joined NATO, I was posted again to different foreign military education institutes."

"Between 1995 and 1998, I completed my studies in Military Planning and Media at the Marshall Centre in Garnish-Partenkirchen (Germany), did the Multinational Forces Course at NATO (SHAPE) School in Oberammergau (Germany) and the NATO Leaders' Course at the NATO Defence College in Rome."

"Now I'm here with UNFICYP as the Sector 4 DCO and as the Hungarian Contingent Commander."

What is your duty as a contingent commander?

"My duty as contingent commander is challenging, but I regard it as a privilege too. The most important thing for me is to help Lieutenant Colonel Plieschnegger and his soldiers and to look after the Hungarian contingent. I have to represent Hungary, and ensure that we Hungarians contribute to a friendly international atmosphere."

Do Hungarian soldiers like to come to Cyprus and work with the UN?

"They certainly do! We regard the UNFICYP mission as a big challenge for all soldiers who want to prove their military professionalism. We've been here since 1993, and from the beginning,

UNFICYP has provided an opportunity for Hungarian soldiers to improve their professional skills, their own personal qualities, and to learn to work in an international environment under the UNFICYP umbrella - as well as contributing to the peace-keeping mission."

How do you spend your free time in Cyprus?

"If I ever have any spare time, I would like to spend it with my family in Cyprus. I would like to learn about the island's culture, history and famous places. Otherwise, I like taking photos and video films and reading. I like sports a lot. Basketball's my favourite, but I'd like to take up tennis."

"And, if you'll allow me, I'd like to pass on the Hungarian contingent's best wishes to all those serving in UNFICYP, now and in the future."



REAL LIFE

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING WATER

By Captain Andreas Vas

Looking at figures for the volume of water leaving the Phrenaros water supply and coming into Famagusta, UNFICYP found out that between August 1998 and August 1999 the amount of missing water had risen from 2,500 cubic metres to 14,000 cubic metres per month.

Now, losing 14,000 litres of water on an island as dry as Cyprus is no joke. Particularly if you're losing it every month.

So everybody started looking for the missing water.

At the end of these checks, no leakages or illegal syphoning offs were found. This meant the missing water must be somewhere.

UNFICYP seemed to have found the answer when it looked at the water meter in Varosha. This proved to be very old, and there was a strong possibility it was not working properly.

On 24 September, Sector 4's Civil Affairs Team arranged a meeting between the Water Development Department of Nicosia and the Water

Board of Famagusta at UN OP 142 to discuss the issue face to face.

At the meeting, both sides agreed to install a new meter on the Turkish Cypriot side somewhere beyond the end of the UNBZ. The Greek Cypriot side will provide the new meter and the Turkish Cypriot side will install it.

UNFICYP is looking forward to seeing this happen, and hopes that this will solve the problem. If not, the search will be resumed.



Mr Kampanellas, Water Development Department Nicosia, with Mr Ulucay from the Water Board, Famagusta, shake hands, overseen by SCAT officers Sector 4, Major Gräml and Major Looner

ROAD SAFETY BULLETIN

By Warrant Officer 2 Gorman,
Master Driver

Summer is pretty well over and winter is on its way. This means the weather will become increasingly unpredictable, and severe rain is likely to make driving conditions difficult and dangerous.

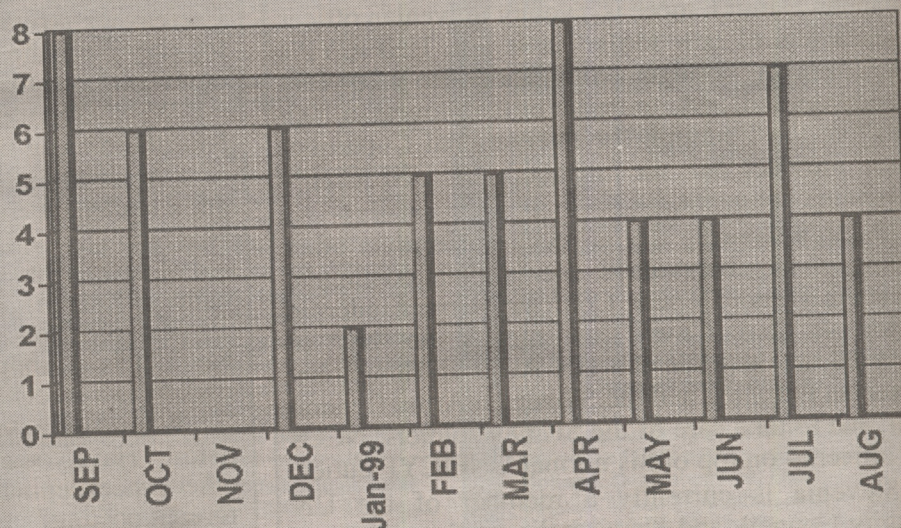
Over the past year, drivers of UN vehicles were involved in 59 road accidents. Sector 1 logged ten accidents; Sector 2, 16; and Sector 4, 24. Personnel serving elsewhere in UNFICYP were involved in nine accidents. These statistics do not include accidents in which UN drivers were involved as the third party, nor accidents in privately owned cars.

Some of the accidents were serious, some of them minor, but all of them cost money.

On average, the UN spends around \$180,000 per annum on vehicle repairs and replacement parts. The money that is spent on vehicle repairs could be better spent on your accommodation.

Every bent front bumper costs \$360 to fix - not including labour costs. For two bent bumpers,

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS: 01 SEP 98 - 01 SEP 99



TOTAL RTAs: 59

UNFICYP could buy an air conditioning unit.

So, to save money for yourself and the UN, the message is simple: **Drive defensively and slow down.**

For more information on Road

Safety or motoring matters, please call 02-864452.

Coming soon in *The Blue Beret*: **TIPS ON WINTER DRIVING, PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER.**

GETTING TO KNOW THE MPs

By Lieutenant Stephanie Gras-Ficq

We in the military police know that most people love policemen and are really keen to be our friends, but that they find this difficult because they don't know what we're like as people.

So, to help get over this hurdle and to give you an idea why people become MPs, we are introducing a series of seven profiles of military police officers of all nationalities.

We're starting with Slovenia. For those who don't know much about Slovenia, it's a small but strategically important country bordered by Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Italy. It became independent on 8 October 1991 and gained international recognition in January 1992. In June that year, Slovenia joined the UN.

Only one Slovenian serves with the MPs, and until recently, this has been Staff Sergeant Danijel

Kovac. Born in 1972 in the city of Maribor, Danijel studied engineering at high school before serving as a conscript for seven months. He enjoyed this so much that he decided to apply to be a professional soldier with the special forces.

But then he realised that the army could offer him more than simply military career options. He started work as a military policeman in his home town, where he worked as a patrol man. He then did courses in jurisdiction and to become an NCO.

He dives, parachutes, and climbs - and is a lively, friendly, and totally professional military police officer. Sadly for us, he has just left the island. But his replacement is here already. Staff Sergeant Praznik is big, strong, and as soon as we've got to know him, we'll let you know how friendly he is.



Staff Sergeant Kovac

PEOPLE

DRIVER TURNS AIDWORKER

By Major Paul Kolken

Private first class Annet Rook is actually a driver/medic, attached to the Ledra Palace medical centre. But today she's helping Sergeant Linda de Jager, driving a truck with humanitarian goods. Linda is a member of Sector 2's Civil Affairs Team. She explains what they're doing.

"Every second Tuesday UNFICYP sends some trucks to the Cyprus' government stores. There we take crates of vegetables, bottled gas, and bottled drinking water aboard, and sometimes some medicines. Then we cross at the Ledra Palace Checkpoint and deliver the articles in the Maronite communities, north of the buffer zone."

Annet makes sure she keeps her position in the middle of the convoy. North of Nicosia, the white vehicles turn westwards. The first stop is at Asomatos. The bent backs of the local population show their age clearly. All the inhabitants are well over 70 years old - many are over 80.

It's not only the foodstuffs they're grateful for. It's also for the physical strength the visiting soldiers offer. Any job that's peanuts for a young soldier, but too much for elderly people, will be done during the convoy's short stop. This time recent rains had caused some rubble to block a track. With the help of two British soldiers, the problem is easily solved.

Dutch Annet picks up one of the boxes and gestures to ask one of the Maronite women where to take it. The woman points uphill. Annet drops the box off at the end of a dirt track, well before the woman has struggled home.

Invitations to accept a cup of coffee have to be waved away. There are more villages waiting for the convoy. Next stop is Karpasia. Quickly all boxes are given to the right villagers. Instead of the pick-up trucks you see everywhere in the south, here donkeys, tractors and prams are used as means of transport.

Afterwards Linda has to complete some paperwork. The wife of the local mayor signs a receipt while Linda writes down her remarks and notes a few shortages. All convoy members enjoy the hospitality in the mayor's house, and drink a glass of lemonade before they drive on to their main destination: Kormakiti.

On the village square, a group of about 50 villagers gather to receive the fortnightly delivery of domestic supplies. The UNFICYP soldiers help unloading, while one of the villagers reads out the names of the recipients. Each time the named person replies and receives his or her crate, he carefully marks the name on his list: goods delivered.

Wiping the sweat from her forehead, Gunner Laura Jones comments on the scene in front of her. "This can't be compared to what I've experienced during an earlier mission in Northern Ireland. It's completely different and very rewarding to see the gratitude in the faces of these people."

Sergeant Simon Forrester adds: "That's why we always have different drivers on this patrol. It gives them an opportunity to see another environment, and it's good to see your work being appreciated."



Annet Rook distributes potatoes from her truck

IMAGES WITH A MESSAGE

By Noel Evdokiou



Images with a message might be a good title for a series of photographs taken by Captain Gregorij Hvastja since he arrived in Cyprus.

Gregorij joined UNFICYP in March, and the 29-year-old Slovenian, who has been a keen photographer since the age of 16, has been putting his camera - a Nikon F90 - to frequent use ever since.

He has been particularly busy taking pictures of children on both sides of the Buffer Zone, and this culminated in an exhibition of his

work - entitled Children of Cyprus - at the village of Vouni last month as part of a village open day organised by the Cyprus Donkey Sanctuary.

But Gregorij was not solely interested in capturing beautiful images. As he explains: "When I was walking around, looking at children, I thought how helpless they are. They have no choice where they're born."

One feature of his exhibition was that his photographs were randomly placed. He didn't divide them into Greek Cypriot and Turk-

ish Cypriot sections. He then asked three of his Greek Cypriot friends at the exhibition to tell them apart, a task that proved too difficult.

One politician who attended the exhibition told Gregorij that history would have to be changed to bring about true reconciliation.

But Gregorij is adamant: "You don't need to change history. You can't. But I personally believe you do need to have the goal that nowhere in the world should children be brought up to hate each other."

At his exhibition which, Gregorij says, was attended by around 3,000 people, he also put up an unconventional mirror made out of silver foil with an epigram attached to it.

As people looked at their reflections, they saw a message exhorting them to encourage all children to grow up to like one another.

In the meantime, Blue Beret readers will have a chance to see the photos exhibited at the UN Day celebrations at the Ledra Palace on 24 October.



NEWS

SECTOR 2 MEDAL PARADE

On a balmy Thursday 23 September, 22nd Regiment group Royal Artillery, the Sector 2 Roulement Regiment, held its medal parade at the Ledra Palace.

The atmosphere was tense as the soldiers waited away from the parade ground for the familiar beat of the band drum and the RSM's first words of command. Finally, the time came, and as late arrivers in the audience clambered to their seats, a lone figure marched on to the square. Then came the regular sound of boots sounding out in unison as troops marched across the square to take up their places for the rest of the parade.

The Force Commander inspected the parade. He then presented medals, along with the British High Commissioner, the Commander British Forces Cyprus and the Commander 13 Mech Brigade. Gunner Karen Brooks was on her first parade since passing out of basic training. "I felt quite tense before marching on," she said, "but when we crossed the square I felt proud to be part of it all. It took a lot of preparation to get ready: I spent a whole night preparing my boots!"

Many hours of preparation and practice had been put in by the regiment. Sector 2 is by now famous for its medal parade rehearsals, and Captain Richard Hayhurst had spent many long hours on sword drills.

Operational duties, however, still had to be covered. Gunner Brooks had come straight off her night shift, into

her best uniform and onto the COS's rehearsal. But the hard work certainly paid off, and the behind-the-scenes crew ensured that everything was all right on the day.

Even the now infamous Myfanwy played her part. An illness during the previous week had left the goat feeling decidedly under the weather, and the RSM wondering which Gunner to select to step in as a replacement, cunningly disguised. Fortunately, she recovered in time and took her place with pride.

The parade and the reception afterwards was an important milestone for Sector 2, as it marked the halfway point in the tour, and for some on the parade, their first coveted UN medal.



The Force Commander pinning the UN medal on Sector Two soldiers

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHARLIE COY

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Sector 1's Charlie Coy soldiers like being in Cyprus: "All our expectations have been met. We've had the chance to get to know new cultures, do tasks we'd never normally have to do, and to travel." The coy, which operates in the eastern part of the sector, is made up of members of the Argentinian Navy (Marines).

Soldiers like these are the real heroes of this mission. They work on the line, patrolling and reporting incidents that happen every day. In the long summer months, they live with the sun beating down on their backs, constantly observing and ensuring that regulations are followed.

Asked about the daily routine in an observation post, WO III Dure said: "During the morning, we get ready for vehicle and foot patrols. It's great when we get to patrol new areas."

The radio operators are constantly busy. Says Corporal Escudero: "We use the radio station to report any incident that occurs in the line, and to ask for things we need." Meanwhile, others clean the OP and cook the meal for the day. Everybody has a specific job and does their best to do this well, and to get on with their colleagues."

Corporal Cruz says: "We are

pleased because we are accomplishing our roles as peacekeepers, and we are happy to be part of UNFICYP. We'd like to work in other UN peacekeeping missions."

What do they like most about working here? Corporal Sanchez says: "The chance to work somewhere where there are so many demands and where the situation is real. Another thing: dusk here is wonderful. There's a cool breeze and a beautiful view."



On patrol in the Buffer Zone

Admiral visits Sector 1

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Last week, the General Chief of Staff of the Argentinian Navy, Admiral Carlos Alberto Marron, paid a three-day visit to Cyprus. He was welcomed by the Force Commander, CO Sector 1, and the Senior Argentinian naval officer serving with UNFICYP, CCIM Marcelo Davis. While he was here, he was able to get to know the Argentinian contingent's area of responsibility and installations and to meet the naval component of our contingent.

The visit to Sector 1 began with a parade in San Martín Camp. The Admiral said he was happy to visit the Argentinians who work for peace. Following a briefing by the CO and officers, he went on to Roca Camp. He went along the Lefka road, and heard about the mine explosions that occurred here some years ago.

He then headed for the Box Factory, where Charlie Coy Commander, TNIM Héctor Daniel Payero, explained what the Coy does. The Admiral met with all the members of the Argentinian Navy serving with UNFICYP, and told them how proud he was of them for the work they were doing here in Cyprus.

Overall, his presence here was a great boost to the whole contingent, and we are both happy and proud that he paid us this visit.

El pasado 25 de Setiembre arribó al Aeropuerto de LARNACA, en la Isla de CHIPRE, el Jefe del Estado Mayor General de la Armada, Almirante Carlos Alberto MARRON. Fue recibido por el Comandante de las Fuerzas en Chipre, General Evergisto DE VERGARA, por el Comandante de Sector 1, Teniente Coronel Rodolfo Sergio MUJICA, y por el Oficial Jefe mas antiguo de la Armada, CCIM Marcelo DAVIS. Durante su estadía de tres días, conoció el Area de Responsabilidad e instalaciones donde se desempeña el contingente Argentino, y tuvo la oportunidad de saludar al grupo de Marineros pertenecientes a la Compañía Charlie y resto del contingente.

Su visita al Sector 1 comenzó el día 27 de Setiembre con una formación y posterior desfile en Campo San Martín. Durante la misma el Almirante expresó su alegría de poder visitar a los argentinos que trabajan por el bien de la Paz. Luego del desfile militar, se le brindó una exposición por parte del Comandante de Sector y los Oficiales Jefes. En dicha presentación se abarcó todo lo relacionado con las actividades operativas que realiza el contingente Argentino dentro de su área de responsabilidad.

Al comenzar el recorrido a lo largo del Sector, el Almirante fue llevado hacia Campo Roca, por el conocido camino de LEFKA, donde se le explicó



Admiral Carlos Alberto Marron during a Sector 1 briefing

los desafortunados sucesos que ocurrieron unos años atrás a causa de las minas, y sobre como se había reanudado dicho camino.

Al dejar Campo Roca, fue el turno de visitar la Compañía CHARLIE, perteneciente a los Infantes de Marina del Sector 1. Al llegar, el Jefe de Compañía, TNIM Héctor Daniel PAYERO, le brindó al Almirante, una presentación sobre las tareas de los Marineros, a lo largo del sector de la Compañía CHARLIE.

Al concluir la explicación, el Sr. Almirante MARRON, se reunió con todos los miembros presentes de la Armada, desde Marineros Voluntarios hasta Oficiales Jefes, donde expresó su

orgullo de que hombres de la Institución sean partícipes de UNFICYP, e instó a que continuemos con nuestra correcta y eficaz labor.

Luego de saludar personalmente a cada uno de los Marineros, se dirigió hacia el OP 40 donde el Jefe de Area 70, TCIM Héctor Antonio HERRERA, le expuso un breve comentario acerca del área y sus actividades.

Su visita entregó una carga positiva de entusiasmo hacia todos los que conformamos el ARGCON. A pesar de estar a más de 14000 Km de nuestros hogares, y llevar casi cinco meses de comisión, el hecho de que nuestro Jefe de Estado Mayor nos visite, nos llena de alegría y orgullo.

CLASSIFIED

ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE

Opel Astra 1.4, 1996, 19,000 km. Dark red, a/c, c/l, automatic doors, very good condition. Price: £4,500. Tel: (02) 590941 or 357619.

Toyota RAV4, 5 doors, 1996, 54,000 km, 2.0 litres, 95 PK, injection, e/w, p/s, a/c, 4-w/d, dark green, new tyres, excellent condition. £6,995 ONO. Tel: (02) 469677 (O) or (02) 623920 (H).

Mazda 626 Estate 2.00, 7-seater, d/f, a/c, e/w, sun roof, only 41,000 km. £2,000 - price negotiable. Tel: (02) 753001 (O) or (02) 660997 (H).

Mazda 323 Familia, white, 1300cc, r/c, new exhaust, d/f £800. Call Sgt Wallerberger, Tel: (03) 822670.

Opel Ascona 1.6 RH 1985, 4-door, a/c, r/c, good condition, £1,200 d/p. Tel: (02) 759113 (O) or (02) 526235 (H).

Ford Escort 1.3, 1993 saloon, 75,000 km, diesel, white, d/f £1,400. Tel: Lt Hitz on (03) 822670 or (09) 451409.

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Firewood for sale. Home delivery. Tel: (02) 777422 or (09) 678812.

French-fry eating cat (neutered) looking for a home. All vet. documents provided. Owner leaving Cyprus. Tel: (02) 376544.

Bunk beds (Danish made, as new) with mattresses and ladder: £245. **Double bed** (Danish-made, wooden) with two mattresses and side table: £95. **Electric heater**: £15. Tel: (09) 607007 or (04) 642168.

Bargain Prices! Children's clothes from birth to four years, summer and winter, from only 20 cents to £5. Also play mats, play pen, sterilizer, bouncy chair, etc. Tel: (02) 670600 from 0730 to 1530 or 351349 after 1600 hrs.

Tomy AFX Scaletic Road Racing Set. 62 ft of track, 2 cars, controllers, transformer and all other accessories. Excellent condition and boxed as new. £35. Tel: Barry on (02) 359001 (h), 864510 (o).

Cannondale racing bike, size 56, dura-ace gear, suspended seat, £600. Tel: Lt Hitz on (03) 822670 or (09) 451409.

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 WO's & 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

New large house in Ayios Andreas area. 4 bedrooms, one with shower and a/c, hall, sitting room, dining room with a/c, large oak kitchen with electric oven, etc, two garages, c/h and solar water heater. £550. Tel: (02) 781477 any time.

House in Anthoupolis (fully furnished, if desired). 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, c/h and a/c in every room. 10 mins from UNPA. £450. Call (02) 382098 after 7:00 pm. Flats for rent near UNPA. Very reasonable prices. Tel: (09) 650700 or (02) 355470.

2-storey house (close to Forum) with 3 bedrooms (master with a/c and shower), large, open-plan living area with all electrical fittings in kitchen, c/h, garage (two cars), solar heater. Tel: (02) 352991 or (09) 680551.

Two large luxury 265 sqm 4-bedroom flats in Makedonitissa, one of which has separate 1-bedroom flat, bbq area and a 200 sqm roof terrace. Both have a/c, c/h, satellite dish, modern fitted kitchen, etc. Tel: (02) 351498 or (09) 610646

Fully-furnished flat in Ayios Dhometios (close to UNPA). £300. Tel Angela at (02) 864528.

New house (second storey) in Aglanjia area. Fully furnished, 3-bedrooms (one with private shower). A/c and c/h + private parking. Tel: (09) 417416 or (09) 6160824.

3-bedroom ground floor house, fully furnished, in Ayios Pavlos (close to UNPA). Solar water heater and c/h. Tel: (02) 774783.

Two minutes walk to the beach. Amathus (Limassol) area, one-bedroom flat, fully furnished with TV, covered parking, common gardens, tennis court and swimming pool. £15 per day. Only serious enquiries. Call between 15:00-19:00 hrs. No agents please. Tel: (02) 486423.

FACILITIES

WHY DON'T U.NETWORK@THE UNPA?

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 October at 10.00 am in the HIVE.

Come along for a cup of coffee and exchange information with a friendly group of spouses from UNFICYP and diplomatic missions. More info at (02) 591933 or (02) 489553.

THE NICOSIA LIBRARY is located at 23 Sycamore Road, UNPA. Tel (02) 359317.

A new selection of books, audio tapes, videos and CDs have arrived. Language courses available on long-term loans.

STOP PRESS: The Nicosia Library now has Internet facilities available. Come and read your favourite newspapers, research your school or university project, or simply search for news and information in cyberspace.

Change of library hours. From 1 Oct, winter hours are in effect.

Monday to Friday:

1000-1300 and 1500-1700 daily
Please ask Anthe or Rosemary for further details.

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).

The Nicosia HIVE Coordinator is Karen McCormack.

All nationalities are welcome!

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

Help is wanted. If you have some free time, we are looking for volunteers at the HIVE. For more details, call Karen on (02) 359316.

JUST A SECOND, the nearly-new clothing exchange in the Nicosia HIVE, has opened again. So spring-clean your wardrobes and bring in your autumn/winter clothes. Sellers receive 80% of the selling price and the remaining 20% goes to the UNFICYP Community Welfare Fund. Make some money and support a worthwhile cause. Opening times are every Mon and Thurs, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

ARABIC LANGUAGE LESSONS. The Libyan Arab Cultural Centre are holding Arabic language lessons which began on Thurs 23 Sept for a period of six months. For registration, call (02) 757296 from 0900-1300 and 1830-2100 hrs or visit the premises at No 7, Stassinou Avenue, Nicosia.

DECORATIVE ART LESSONS. Qualified teacher gives daily lessons to children aged 5-12 years in ceramics, drawing and handicraft using clay, paper, wood, etc. Ring Andri on (02) 424598 or (09) 648333.

BEAUTY TREATMENTS BY NIKI. Niki will be at the HIVE on Thurs 21 Oct. 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.

GREEK LESSONS started again on Tues 21 Sept at the HIVE. Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Cost: £20 for a course of 10 lessons. Phone the HIVE to register.

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

baby-sitting and assisting at drinks/dinner parties. Tel: (02) 330296 after 1600 hrs.

MATURE BABYSITTER Reliable, mature lady available for baby-sitting. 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, (close to UNPA, near Astra garage). Tel: (02) 773206.

YMCA NEWSFLASH!!

The YMCA now stocks a range of aromatherapy products from Applewoods of England for men and women.

During September and October, everyone purchasing Applewoods products goes into a draw for a free reflexology treatment.

We also have a wider range of photo albums and frames.

Lots of stock and cards have been reduced **by 25% and more.** Come and have a browse and bag a bargain!!!

ART FOR PLEASURE

Classes started again on Wednesday 29 Sept at 6 pm until 9 pm. It's a 10-week course, costing £30. Phone Lindsay on (02) 358611 or Karen on (02) 359316

FACILITIES

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 6:00-8:30 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, telephone (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.

NB: We are still looking for relief staff for the YMCA. If you fancy working a few hours now and then with a friendly team, contact Rose at the YMCA or ring (02) 359308.

Something new all the time at the YMCA.

We now have a selection of **GERMAN PAPER-BACKS**. Is there anybody in Sector 4 interested? Just give us a call.

CHURCH SERVICES

SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH, UNPA: ANGLICAN EUCHARIST:

Roman Catholic Mass, Saturdays: 18:00 hrs.

Sunday worship: 09:00 hrs.

All welcome.

Sector 2 Padre's Office (LPH) tel: 864760/1, Ext 301.

Britcon Chaplain: Padre Philip McCormack.

Dutch Chaplain, Padre Frank Duyvenvoorde.

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 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. NB: Advertisements will be

KEEP US INFORMED

Are there any charity functions, concerts, UN-related events, etc coming up in the near future?

Sectors/branches/UN-associated clubs are invited to advertise well in advance all events of interest to our readers.

Why don't you join us for a boat trip @ sea?

On Wednesday 20 October

U.Network@THE UNPA is organising a 3-hour boat trip. The total cost, including lunch, will be CP10.

Call for more information and for reservations:

Helgard: (02) 591933

Rina: (02) 489553.

kept in the Blue Beret for a **maximum of three consecutive issues.**

If readers wish to continue to advertise, they are requested to call/re-apply in writing.

BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

THE GLOBETROTTER

By Captain Andreas Vas

Sector 4's Master Sergeant Gerald Shat has seen quite a lot of our small planet in his 40 years. He visited South America for 14 months and has spent 18 months in Asia and Australia. He's also spent a fair amount of time with the UN, clocking up nine missions on the Golan Heights. This is his first mission with UNFICYP.

He's always enjoyed running, and has kept it up on all his UN missions. He's done the CanLogJog four times, entered and won the FinPatrol twice, and come first once and second twice in the Mount Hermon Run. Right now, he's training for the Boston marathon, to be run in the USA on 17 April 2000.

On 1 October he won the 10 km Cyprus independence day run in Nicosia. His next challenge will be the Kolossi marathon on 5 December - he wants to run this in under three

hours and beat his own personal record.

For the record: two other Austrians starred at the 1 October event: WO II Dockner won the 20-30 age group, and WO II Feller came second in the 40-50 group.



HERE WE GO!

By Captain Hugo Ulloque

6261 sounds like a phone number. It isn't. It's the scores from the Argentinian soccer team's first rounds of the UNFICYP World Championship Tournament.

After defeating the Dutch 6:2, ARGCON faced England. The sky that day was light blue and white - our national colours - which proved to be a heavenly omen. Partly thanks to this, and to the encouragement received from the many beautiful angels watching in the stands, ARGCON adopted what I can only describe as a faultless technique. The team followed a very aggressive strategy that enabled them to take over the middle field and show off its complete mastery of the ball. We won 6-1.



The defeat of the Dutch!

We meet the Welsh in the finals at 6.00 pm on Thursday 14 October at the Olympiakos Stadium in Nicosia. Come along and support us.

VISIT FROM UNIFIL



The Irish score a goal against the Argentinians

A visiting team from the Irish Battalion in the Lebanon (UNIFIL) arrived for a visit to Cyprus from 1-3 October to take part in a tournament against the major contingents of UNFICYP.

This has been an annual event for a number of years. As well as being a football tournament, it is an opportunity for the Irish soldiers to come to Cyprus and meet the soldiers of other nationalities here in UNFICYP. In addition, it is also a welcome break for Irish soldiers from their duties in south Lebanon.

The final result was that the Irish team from the Lebanon were the outright victors winning all three games with a spectacular display of skill. They returned to the Lebanon with fond memories of Cyprus - and a trophy to prove it.

TUG O'WAR

By Warrant Officer 2 (RQMS) Neil Calvin

The British Army's Royal Artillery has always had a great Tug O'War tradition. The late 1980s and early 1990s were a glorious time for 22 Regt RA's strongmen, but in recent years, enthusiasm for the sport has declined. Last year saw a brief attempt to revive interest, and this year there is a full-blown effort to win back our laurels. Our goal is to be British Army champions in at least one weight within two years.

We have started training slowly, teaching the basics to novices and less-experienced team members. We are entering a team in the UN Open Day Tug O'War competition, but need some stiff opposition for training. If you think you can provide this, come along to training and get a team together to enter the competition. For training times, contact the RQMS at Sector 2, Ext 175.



THE MARTIAL ARTS SUPREMO

By Major Roberto Paleo

El contingente ARGCON tiene una cantidad valiosa de hombres y mujeres que se destacan por sus cualidades o por sus capacidades para diferentes tareas. Alguno de ellos son buenos en música, otros en idiomas, pero nuestra principal fuerte son los Deportes. Tenemos grandes jugadores de fútbol, profesionales y eximios corredores de maratón y un experto en Artes Marciales.

El mes pasado tuvo su aparición en la revista Blue Beret, en un artículo junto al CO Sector 1, Tcnel. Rodolfo Mujica, como un irreconocible y olvidado paracaidista. Pueden recordarlo? Si, seguro que pueden, es el Encargado de Elemento del contingente ARGCON del Sector 1, Suboficial Mayor Carlos Alberto Aguilera. Tiene 47 años de edad y está casado con Nélida Estela. Su familia esta compuesta por sus dos hijos, Erika (22) y Pablo (18).

Nos explicó: "Practicar Artes Marciales es muy importante para aquellos que lo consideran saludable para la vida profesional y personal. Cuando tenía 22 años comencé a practicar Karate Do y 11 años después me integre en el Instituto Argentino de Artes Marciales, en la sección de estilo libre."

Tienen las Artes Marciales alguna similitud con las actividades militares? Nos respondió,

"Personalmente considero que las Artes Marciales y la vida militar tienen muchas cosas en común, por ejemplo el entrenamiento físico, el aplomo, el carácter y la seguridad para resolver situaciones diversas en la vida real. Esta actividad no la valoro



como un deporte, donde el principal objetivo no son las competencias sino, obtener conocimiento de sí mismo y el autocontrol, principios que forjan

indudablemente, una conducta de vida."

Se entrena aquí en Chipre?, "Si, por supuesto, pero no es fácil seguir un programa. Entreno tres veces a la semana, durante una hora, realizando movimientos sincronizados con o sin armas, tratando de encontrar los lugares apropiados para las rutinas. Además estoy entrenando a un grupo de soldados UN, del Sector 1, que quieren iniciarse en este deporte. Es grandioso poder seguir dando clases y sobre todo aquí, en Chipre."

En su familia, existe alguien mas que practique este deporte?, nos contó, "Si, mi hija Erika esta a cargo de las clases en Argentina. Ella ha practicado desde que tiene 6 años, y esta muy contenta de entrenar y participar en los torneos. En este momento tiene Cinturón Negro y es Primer Dan. También mi hijo Pablo practica en la Categoría Junior y progresa rápidamente."

Al finalizar nuestra charla concluyó: "Estoy muy orgulloso de haber tenido la oportunidad de servir en esta relevante misión, por el bien de la Paz. Estas oportunidades no se deben desaprovechar, por lo tanto estoy dando lo mejor de mí. Estoy seguro de que nuestra misión será cumplida con el mayor de los éxitos y es mi deseo, que una solución pacífica sea pronto aprobada, para el bienestar de esta bella Isla."