

The Blue Beret

July 2003



**Argentiniens
on Parade**



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Weeks of senseless fighting have rendered hundreds of thousands homeless, this time in Liberia. The humanitarian situation is reportedly "catastrophic". Liberia is looking to the international community to restore stability and ease the plight of the innocents. Peacekeepers are to be deployed.

From Bunia to Liberia, peacekeeping has become a kind of first aid to innocents. In the early periods though, peacekeepers monitored ceasefires even as their presence infused a sense of stability and calm. This created conducive conditions for the parties to enter negotiations.

A more complex world demanded peacekeeping become multi-functional. Peacekeeping tasks are not purely military in nature anymore. They could be humanitarian, political, administrative and even social and economic in nature. Peacekeepers have thus demobilized willing parties, secured delivery of relief assistance and even administered emerging States on an interim basis, as in Namibia or recently East Timor. The usefulness of peacekeeping is now well established; so much so that some have argued that the success of UNFICYP has served as a disincentive for the parties to reach an early agreement.

Detractors too do not have a problem with the idea perse. But they expect peacekeeping to be a corrective to the world's wrongs. Rwanda and Srebrenica revealed the idea's shortcomings or the inability of the international community to involve itself deeper. Member States however, are justifiably anxious not to put their soldiers' lives at risk to save those of others. Peacekeeping therefore should be seen as a means, and not an end in itself.

Editorial

Contents

Editorial/Contents	2
CM in Slovakia/FC in Hungary	3
Sector 1 News	4
Two Countries – One Hero	5
Medical Facilities in UNFICYP	6
Poisonous Snakes of Cyprus	7
Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part XIV –	
The Watchful Heights of St. Hilarion Castle	8/9
The World We Live In	10
Mille Grazie	11
Arrivals/Departures	12
FMPU News	13
Sector 2 News	14
The Aquatic Page	15

Front Cover: Argentinians on Parade

Back Cover: UNFICYP Farewell



Chief of Mission in Slovakia

Celebrating the United Nations Peacekeepers Day in the Slovak Republic strengthened my faith in the United Nations role in today's world. The genuine Slovak interest and involvement in peacekeeping operations is indeed impressive. I was privileged to see it on practically all levels of Slovak administration and also among the citizens. I visited the UN peacekeeping training centre in Nitra town which is run with utmost professionalism and passion. After seeing the centre, I understood why Slovak officers and soldiers serving in UNFICYP are so well prepared for their duties.

The highlight of my trip, however, was the ceremony on the occasion of International Day of UN peacekeepers, which was held in a centre of the historic city of Myjava. On a beautiful day, the participation of most inhabitants of that lovely town made the celebration truly spontaneous and happy. Standing next to the President of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Rudolf Schuster, and the Minister of Defence, Mr. Ivan Šimko, in front of the parading Slovak peacekeepers was a special and memorable experience; addressing them a true honour. It was both moving and encouraging to see the young faces expressing the commitment and readiness to serve the international community, whenever and wherever duty calls.

The trip to Slovakia made it possible for me to meet old friends. I was delighted to have lunch with the Republic's Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Kukan, with whom I worked very closely for many years when we were both ambassadors to the United Nations in New York. Great memories instantly came back.



Likewise with Dušan Rozbora, former ambassador in Cyprus, whose smiling face and friendship is fondly remembered on the island.

Slovakia is a beautiful country, and it has so much to offer. Wonderful people, amazing history and culture, diversified countryside and much much more. It is honestly one of Europe's hidden treasures. Bratislava, with its fairytale-like old city and Danube river, is only 60 kilometres away from Vienna. Incidentally, it is only 300 kilometres from Krakow (Poland) where my home is. And the Polish language is well understood there...

Zbigniew Wlosowicz

Force Commander in Hungary

The Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, paid an official visit to Hungary this month, the aim of which was to personally convey his appreciation for the Hungarian Contingent's contribution to UNFICYP.

In the early hours of 14 July, he arrived at Ferighy Airport, Budapest. The first office call was on Mr. Jozsef Bali, the Deputy State Secretary for Defence Policy.

A meeting with Mr. Imre Ivancsik, Political State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, followed and the importance of the UNFICYP mission for the Hungarian Defence Forces was emphasized. The next office call was with Brig. Gen. Janos Isaszegi, who expressed delight at the visit and was genuinely pleased to meet the Force Commander, about whom he had heard so much from members of the Hungarian contingents past and present.

On day two of his visit, the FC went to the Logistics Regiment in Kaposvar to review the outgoing Hungarian Contingent for Iraq. Given pride of place on the review stand, the FC was the guest of Contingent Commander Brig. Gen. Isaszegi. The review was also attended by Land Forces Commander Maj. Gen. Gyorossy. The event was the lead item on the nightly news and the blue beret had a nationwide viewing.

On the third day of his tour, the FC visited the First Light Cavalry Regiment where he met with members of the incoming UNFICYP contingent. He promised them a warm welcome on their arrival and a challenging mission for the duration of their tour of duty.



From the left: Maj. Gen. Gyorossy, Lt. Gen. Hwang and Brig. Gen. Isaszegi

Other highlights of the visit included some of the cultural attractions of Hungary and historic Budapest. There was a memorable meal in one of the most beautiful restaurants in Budapest where former Hungarian UNFICYP members reminisced fondly of their service in Cyprus.

The visit was a resounding success, opening new channels of communication and understanding between mission and troop contributing country. All told, an enjoyable experience, useful, productive and rewarding.

Argentinian Minister of Defence Visits

Argentinian Minister of Defence, Dr. José Pampuro, paid his first official visit to Cyprus between 16 to 18 July. The aim of the visit was to familiarize himself with the Argentinian soldiers stationed at HQ UNFICYP and in Sector 1.

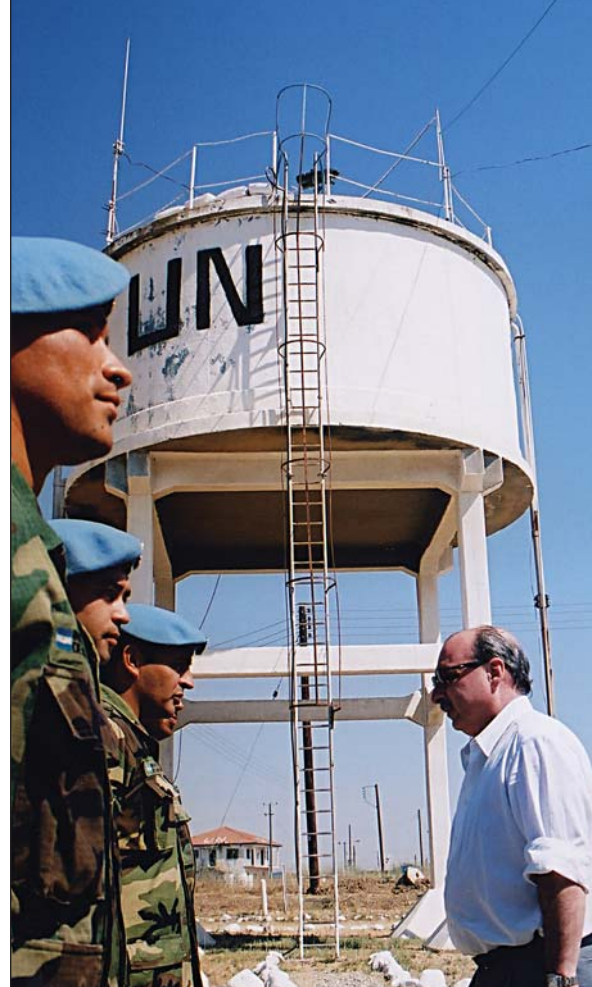
On 16 July, the Minister, accompanied by the Argentinian Defence Attaché in Israel, Mr. Raúl Federico, and Legal Representative Mr. Jorge Villaverde arrived at the HQ. They were greeted by an Honour Guard, following which the Minister paid an office call on the Senior Adviser, Mr. Włodzimierz Cibor, and the COS, Col. Ian Sinclair.

He was then flown to Sector 1 by UN Flight helicopter where he saluted the troops and was given a briefing by CO Sector 1, Lt. Col. Giró Martín. Whilst in Sector 1,

the Minister visited the Kokkina Enclave, OPs 09, 18, 22, 25, 32, 38 as well as Brown Camp and Roca Camp where he received short briefings about the work carried out in each location.

Finally, the Minister visited UN Flight personnel and installations and was taken on a Green Line tour in Sector 2.

At the end of his trip, Dr. Pampuro told his soldiers that his visit was his first to any military unit since his appointment. "I decided to travel to Cyprus just a few weeks after my appointment to the Ministry of Defence. Your presence on this island is of utmost importance for our country. It demonstrates the importance of South American participation in peacekeeping missions, and I am proud to have spent some time with you in this distant land."



Chiavaro's Son

The morning of 6 February will be marked forever in 2/Lt. Chiavaro's mind. On that day, he was notified he would be in the Argentine Task Force 21, due to report to UNFICYP at the beginning of April 2003. He was aware of the importance of his new assignment, but the news had a bittersweet taste for him and his wife. This was to be the month that their first son, Nahuel Agustin, would enter their lives.

A quick look at the predicament made it seem more difficult. The date of the birth was to be in the first week of April whereas the Task Force would leave for the island on 30 March. As happens in the life of



military personnel, duty comes first, ahead of personal life. He and his wife, Alejandra, discussed the dilemma and agreed they would take different paths. He would go to the place of preparation for the mission to Cyprus and she would travel to the eastern part of Argentina, to the city of Parana, where her parents awaited her arrival.

It looked as if the young officer would not be present for his son's birth. But, thanks to an unexpected order, the fates intervened. The Second Lieutenant was designated to leave for Cyprus later than first thought; his flight would depart on 11 April. He suddenly had new hope of being home for the birth of Nahuel. Within a few hours of hearing this, he set off for Parana. Alejandra was very surprised when he arrived. She was convinced that he had resigned his commission in order to be in the same city as her.

With the happy reunion, the race against the clock started. The birth had to occur before he left for Cyprus. The gynaecologist agreed to perform the scheduled Caesarean birth four days early.

At 08:00 hours on 4 April, in the operating room at Rawson Clinic in Parana, the cry of Nahuel Agustin Chiavaro unleashed the joy and excitement contained for nine months.



The goodbyes came a few days later. Getting on the bus proved to be very difficult for 2/Lt. Chiavaro.

The morning of 15 June was special for those of us in Camp San Martín who are lucky enough to be blessed with the happiness of having children. Without a doubt, it was a very special day for our Second Lieutenant. By internet he received his son's picture with a note that said "Happy Father's Day, Dad". Joy and pride marked every step of his way that day – comrades and friends saluted and congratulated him.

Finally, let us all ponder Chiavaro's heartfelt remarks on how the birth of his son Nahuel influences his working day: "Nahuel is the hope of every day; one day more is one day less, is the will of putting on the best face every day when waking up, is the will of facing every challenge that I find 14,000 kilometres from home."

Two Countries – One Hero

Ireland has many historical ties with Argentina. Today there are over 400,000 people of direct Irish descent in Argentina. Undoubtedly the most famous Irish Argentinian was Admiral William Brown, the founder of the Argentinian Navy and a national hero in Argentina.

In 1809, he found himself in Argentina, engaged in skirmishes with the Spanish who were blocking his coastal trading interests. At the request of the Argentinian government, Brown founded the Argentinian navy in 1813. Over the following years, he helped Argentina break away from Spanish rule and keep the threat of neighbouring Brazil at bay.

On 22 June, a delegation from Foxford (birthplace of the Admiral) in County Mayo, Ireland led by Admiral Brown Society Chairman John Joseph O'Hara, paid a visit to Camp Brown, named after this esteemed seafarer. They came to present a bronze bust of the Admiral to the Naval Section of the Argentinian Contingent based here with UNFICYP.

Camp Brown turned out in style to welcome the many visitors who attended the unveiling. The Irish Ambassador, H.E. John Swift, and his wife Jean were there as well as the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, and his wife Bo, the Commanding Officer of IRCON, Lt. Col. Niall, and Helen Daly, Commander CIVPOL, Ch. Supt. Basil Walsh, and the Irish members of UNFICYP.



From the left: Cdr. Nieto, Mr. O'Hara, Lt. Col. Martín and Irish Ambassador John Swift pay tribute to Admiral Brown

CO ARGCON, Lt. Col. Giró Martín, and Lt. Col. (Cdr.) Eduardo Nieto greeted the guests on arrival. The FC inspected an honour guard as the band of Sector 1, under the baton of Sgt. Maj. Rual Cardoso, performed musical honours including the singing of both national anthems. The Irish Ambassador then spoke of the many connections between Argentina and Ireland and praised highly the efforts made by both communities to bring this day to fruition. He stated: "Our styles are so alike, that it is not by chance that the Irish are known as the Latins of the North".

Mr. O'Hara then accompanied the Ambassador, Lt. Col. Martín and Cdr. Nieto to the podium for the unveiling. Mr. O'Hara, speaking in Spanish, thanked all who helped in his quest to have the bust brought to Cyprus and to Camp Brown.

The ceremony concluded with Cdr. Nieto giving some background on the exploits of the Admiral and an explanation for why he is such an important figure to the modern Argentinian Navy and to the Argentinian people.

Refreshments were then served. Paintings and drawings of the Admiral and his ships, brought from the museum in Foxford Ireland by Mr. O'Hara, were displayed for all to see.

Finally, credit must be paid to the marines and the band of Camp Brown who performed their ceremonial drills admirably in extremely hot weather.



Lt. Col. Martín, the Irish Ambassador and Cdr. Nieto at the unveiling

Medical Facilities in UNFICYP

By Lt. Col. Pavel Babjak

UNFICYP has six first-level medical treatment facilities in the three sectors and also at the UNPA. Since not every facility has a holding capability, there are three “main” medical centres: the De Vergara Medical Centre at the UNPA, Roca Camp Medical Centre in Sector 1, and the Medical Centre at Camp General Stefanik, Sector 4, Famagusta.

Each contingent deploys medical officers experienced in first aid, and therefore provides primary medical care facilities. Each is required to have a small number of beds staffed by medical assistants and basic diagnostic facilities.

The UNPA Medical Centre provides primary care during working hours and emergency cover for UNFICYP military and civilian police personnel, as well as BRITCON dependants. International and locally employed civilians involved in an accident or an emergency at work within the UNPA, or in fact anybody requiring urgent, life- or limb-saving treatment in the UNPA, can be treated as well. During non-working hours, a nurse is on call through the JOC.



Hungarian Medical Centre in Sector 4



MEDEVAC training

Individual sector medical officers are responsible for handling medical emergencies for all contingents within their sector. They provide care up to the level military units have in their national army. All cases beyond first level of care are referred by the fastest possible means to secondary care facilities using road or helicopter.

Medical cover for UN Flight activities is provided by individual sectors within their jurisdiction and by the UNPA/Sector 2 Medical Centre when in the UNPA. UN Flight trains medics in helicopter casualty handling.

In serious cases, the special air ambulance “La Garde Aérienne Suisse de Sauvetage (REGA)” provides air ambulance facilities for the medical evacuation/repatriation of sick or injured personnel at UN peacekeeping and good offices missions. Only UN HQ may authorise use of this facility. Contact with

REGA is not permitted without the authorisation of the Chief of Mission or the Chief Administrative Officer.

Means and necessity of evacuation is at the discretion of the medical officer or the most senior person at the location of the incident. Several factors have to be taken into consideration, including the severity of the condition of the casualty, the degree of pain, the time and distance of travel to a suitable medical facility, weather conditions, cost and the staff resources needed. Casualty evacuation is by (in order of preference) UN ambulance, UN helicopter, or locally available transport.

Initial response to any casualty is a sector responsibility. First-aid on the spot is, of course, preferable, otherwise the evacuation of the patient to a sector medical facility and medical officer by the fastest means possible will be arranged.



Slovak Medical Centre in Sector 4

Poisonous Snakes of Cyprus

Since Cyprus is an island, one would expect the presence of only a few species of reptiles. But this is not the case. Cyprus boasts 22 different reptile species, some of which have evolved into endemic species and sub-species. The presence of many snakes and other reptiles in Cyprus was known from ancient times. The story of St. Helen, who

brought a shipload of cats to the island in an attempt to control the number of poisonous snakes which proliferated after a long period of serious drought, is well-known. This article hopes to educate our readers about the snakes, how to avoid snake bites and the first-aid measures that should be taken in the event of an attack.



The Montpellier snake (Malpolon monspessu lanus) is a large, fomidable, often uniform snake with a rather stiff, slender body and a narrow, characteristically shaped head. The combination of large eyes and strong “brows” gives this snake a very penetrating expression. Its comes in many colours – grey, reddish-brown, olive, greenish or blackish, sometimes with scattered light or dark spots. It can grow up to two metres in length.

This snake can be found in warm, dry habitats, nearly always with some plant cover in which it often hides. When threatened, it hisses loudly and for long periods. It feeds on lizards, other snakes, small mammals and occasionally on birds.

Its venom is not normally dangerous to man, but can cause painful local swelling and a headache and even fever. This usually passes in a few hours.

The blunt-nosed viper (Vipera Lebetina) is a dangerous, highly poisonous viper. It is a short, thick snake, with a sturdy head that is clearly distinguishable from the neck. On its back there are two rows of ochre-coloured staggered transverse patches. Generally a robust snake, it reaches up to 150 cm and occasionally two metres. Its colour is whitish-grey, straw-yellow or rust-brown.

It is mainly day-active, although during the summer months of July and August, it hunts

The Cyprus Cat Snake is slender with a broad flat head. It is usually 75 cm in length and can grow up to one metre. It has small eyes with vertical cat-like pupil. It is a yellow-brown colour, speckled with black

This snake is usually found in stony/rocky places, old walls, rock piles, ruins, etc. It hunts mainly at twilight, but sometimes it is active at night in summer and by day in the cooler part of the year.

This snake is a fast mover, catching mostly lizards from its hiding place. It has grooved fangs at back of its upper jaw which inject venom into prey, causing death in two to three minutes. It is unlikely to be dangerous to man, as the mouth is too small to allow fangs to be used effectively.

mainly at night. Its prey usually consists of rats, mice, birds, lizards and occasionally snakes. It is an active and very poisonous snake, and its bite must be treated by antidote and the victim hospitalised as soon as possible.



How to avoid snake bites

Snake bites mainly occur in two ways; either someone attempts to pick up the snake, or the snake is frightened and feels threatened by sudden movement. So, even if a snake appears to be dead, avoid touching it.

When out walking, watch your step and wear trousers and boots. If you see a snake, keep your distance. Don't pick up stones with bare hands and don't put your hands into places you can't see, such as in piles of leaves or under logs. Use a flashlight at night in camp. Avoid sleeping on the ground and shake out sleeping bags, boots, and clothes before use.

What to do if bitten

Characteristics of a poisonous bite are as follows: two small puncture wounds, discoloration around bite, burning pain and swelling. A non-poisonous bite will have teeth marks in a horseshoe shape and should not hurt.

If you or someone with you has been bitten, above all else, remain calm. Have the person sit down and if

necessary remove all rings or constricting objects from the limb before swelling occurs. Clean and disinfect the bite and apply a soft bandage. Do NOT suck the wound or apply a tourniquet. Prevent the patient from moving, as this will spread the venom through the blood. Do not remove the bandage once it has been applied. Do not allow the patient to drink alcohol.

Watch the patient for signs that would suggest a poisonous bite. These include swelling, local pain, irritation of the skin, and enlargement of lymph nodes. General symptoms that develop later on include: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, confusion, and, in the most severe cases, even coma. By the time the patient develops any of these symptoms, he or she should already be in the care of the nearest hospital or clinic. When in doubt about a bite, take the person to the hospital. Even if the bite turns out to be from a non-poisonous snake, it is better to spend a few hours at a hospital unnecessarily than to suffer the consequences of an untreated poisonous bite.

Remember: A snake is normally more afraid of you than you are of the snake!

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part XIV

The Watchful Heights of St. Hilarion Castle

St. Hilarion Castle

St. Hilarion Castle clings to the twin peaks of Didymos Mountain like an ancient dragon keeping watch over the craggy limestone cliffs. The harbour town of Kyrenia lies more than 700 metres below to the north, while the long spine of the Kyrenia mountain range marches to the east and west. Also known as the Pendactylos Range, the Kyrenia Mountains parallel the island's northern coastline.

The Byzantines recognized the strategic importance of these mountains, building castles on three carefully selected peaks to serve as observation posts, keeping watch over the coast. St. Hilarion remains the best preserved of the three.

The origin of St. Hilarion's name isn't certain: some believe that it came from St. Hilarion the Great, a 6th-century Syrian hermit and friend of St. Jerome, while others believe that the name originates with one of the 300 refugees from the Holy Land after the Arab invasion. The site's religious importance remains strong, however, in the chapel that is the castle's oldest building, and in the stories of a monastery that once existed here.

St. Hilarion formed part of the Byzantine defences of the island, which included the castles of Kyrenia (on the coast itself), and Buffavento and Kantara (the other two mountain-top castles). Although the date of its construction isn't known, it is believed to be in the late 11th century. At this time, Cyprus, which had been recovered from the Arabs in 965, was exposed to attack by the Seljuk Turks who had invaded the Byzantine provinces in Asia Minor. At St. Hilarion, the garrison's main role was to guard and defend the strategic pass between the capital of Nicosia and the port of Kyrenia. On a clear night, signal flares lit here could be seen eight miles to the east at Buffavento Castle, and relayed on to Kantara Castle, on the eastern reaches of the Kyrenia Mountains.

The earliest references to the castle are found in the contemporary accounts of Richard the Lionheart's campaign on the island in 1191. After Richard's victory at Tremethousa, where Isaac Comnenos was captured, St. Hilarion and the other castles in the north of the island remained defiant. When Richard fell ill at Nicosia, he assigned the task of winning the castles to Guy de Lusignan. After a brief attack, Kyrenia Castle was surrendered, together with Isaac's family and treasures. St. Hilarion resisted vigorously until Isaac ordered its surrender, whereupon Isaac's daughter was placed in the castle to prevent her from being recaptured by his supporters.

At this time, the castle was known as Didymos (the twins), from the twin crests that crown the mountain peak on which it is built, a name that the Lusignans adjusted to Dieudamour (Dieu d'Amour, or God of Love). The Lusignans adapted the castle as a Catholic establishment and also improved its defensive measures, something that became essential in subsequent years. In 1232, for example, John d'Ibelin, regent of the island, defeated the forces of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II in a battle nearby, ending several years when the castle was a focus for their dispute over control of the island.

More than a century of peace followed, when the castle became a royal retreat from the summer heat of the city and even from the plague. The castle was used as a base to help defend against the Genoese invasions in 1382, but was eventually abandoned, by the Venetians, in 1489 as a cost-cutting measure.

Description

In its main outline and arrangement, the castle remains today much as the Byzantines built it, although many sections are Frankish, the work of those who rebuilt and improved the castle under the Lusignan kings.

The castle is divided into three ascending levels, wrapped around and blending into the mountain. The lower ward occupies the southward slope below the rocky summit; the middle ward is the main section on the eastward shoulder; and the upper ward lies between the twin crests of the summit.

The lower ward is the largest section, and is where the men-at-arms and animals were quartered. Entered through a gate next to a tower called a barbican, the castle's outer wall has seven semi-circular towers spaced along it as its initial line of defence. From the path that leads upwards to the second level (the middle ward), a

small plateau below the castle can be seen – the old jousting ground, not far from the castle walls.

The middle ward is reached through a massive gatehouse, a Byzantine shell within which the Lusignan masons created a vaulted passage in cut stone, originally closed by a drawbridge. Beyond the passage and up a set of steps to the right, is a roofless Byzantine church, formerly covered by a large dome, with three arched windows that echo the three arches of its apse. The church and its annexes, which far exceed the needs of a castle chapel, support the belief that the first substantial structure on the site was a monastery. Back down the stairs, the passage continues into the belvedere, a vaulted loggia that commands fine views through its open archways.

Other middle ward rooms include the refectory, which was later turned into a banqueting hall, and various smaller chambers that line several different paths. Local legend says that although the castle has 101 rooms, only 100 can ever be found, the last one being enchanted – the twists and turns of the various paths certainly make that easy to believe.

At the exit from the middle ward was a postern (a back gate), outside which stands an enormous, open, rectangular cistern (reservoir) that would have collected rainwater. The cistern lies at the bottom of the gulley up which a zigzag path climbs to the upper ward through a sparse stand of Calabrian pine trees.

At the top of the path, two other paths lead left and right. To the left, up narrow stairs and along a clifftop path, is Prince John's Tower. This strong, squat, isolated tower stands in the centre of St. Hilarion Castle, with sheer precipices on three sides. Its vaulted Frankish construction suggests a date in the 14th century, and indeed the story surrounding the tower's name is that in 1373, a suspicious John, Prince of Antioch, handled the possibility of disloyalty from his bodyguards by throwing them off the tower's cliff.

The right-hand path, meanwhile, leads to a Frankish-arched entrance that is set in a rough Byzantine wall and protected by a tower similar to those of the lower ward. Through the entrance, a small plateau forms a courtyard that is flanked by the twin crests of rock forming the mountain's summit. It's believed that a temple to Aphrodite may have stood here in Greek times. Today, the courtyard's westernmost reaches are closed off by the royal apartments, a fine but damaged Lusignan building dating to the 14th century. On its upper level, several tall, arched windows set into a ruined wall frame the view out to the Mediterranean, with one of the windows offering two stone benches that are set into the wall – traditionally, the Queen's window.

From the courtyard, steps climb to the southern crest, on which the topmost rampart sits, an early Frankish construction with square towers that would have been covered with flat roofs on rafters. A splendid panorama can be seen from the summit.

Stables in the lower ward

Part of the Byzantine chapel complex middle ward

Human Development Report 2003

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) places Cyprus 25th out of the 157 countries rated in this annual assessment of living standards, quality of life and development performance. Cyprus features mid-way in the list of 55 countries seen as being blessed with a high standard of human development. It rated very highly in life expectancy and adult literacy.

In the year 2000, world leaders set out to create a list of poverty-eradicating goals for 2015. These are what the report particularly focuses on. They include decreases in the number of people forced to survive on \$1 a day, more primary education, and increased access to clean water and better health care, especially for children. Ranking was determined by the progress of 175 countries towards these goals.

The report found that 54 countries had actually regressed and are poorer than they were in 1990. The "boom decade" clearly had not bettered the lives of all. In 14 countries, more children die before reaching the age of five, and in 34, life expectancy had fallen in the past 13 years.

World Population Day 2003

There are more than one billion people between the ages of 10 and 19 on the planet today. That means about one in six people on earth are part of the largest youth generation in human history. Half of the world's population, over three billion, is under the age of 25.

The theme of this year's World Population Day, celebrated on 11 July, highlighted the needs of this age group. Education is the key to unlocking the potential of this and every young generation. All of society will suffer if this generation is denied educational opportunity and deprived of the life-enhancing gift of choice that schooling brings.

Through education, these young women and men will make better decisions about their futures, especially regarding their health. Women who get even basic education often delay marriage, and therefore bear fewer children. Fewer children mean slower population growth, a factor crucial to sustaining life on earth. The more teenagers and young adults we educate about HIV/AIDS, before they become sexually active, including better information about transmission and prevention of

Previous reports had never seen such setbacks. The most likely causes for these reversals of fortune are decreases in aid to poor countries, increased debt in developing nations, growth in the number of HIV/AIDS cases, and the drop in value of those commodities so vital to many countries' GDPs.

In some cases, the regression is so great that goals set to be met in 12 years could take as long as 140 years to be realised. To combat these disappointing conditions, UNDP has called for more aid from wealthy countries such as Ireland, which presently contributes 0.41% of its GDP as aid, but which plans to increase this amount to 0.7% by 2007.

The top ten countries are as follows: Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Australia, The Netherlands, Belgium, United States, Canada, Japan and Switzerland. Ireland ranked 12th and the United Kingdom 13th. UNFICYP peacekeeper nations ranking in the top 55 include Finland (14), Austria (16), Republic of Korea (30), Argentina (34), Hungary (38), Slovakia (39), Uruguay (40) and Chile (43).

the virus, the better our chance to contain this global scourge.

The full report on the state of the world's population, soon to be released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), calls for young people to be active and involved. They need to have a voice in decisions affecting their lives and opportunities to be equal citizens.

The needs of this generation cannot be ignored. All around the world, including here in Cyprus, young adults have voices and views their leaders need to hear. Their new ideas might help fix problems that their parents cannot.

The Executive Director of UNFPA, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, best summed up the wishes for the day. Speaking from New York, she said: "Working together, we must support adolescents to achieve their dreams for a better life. If they are prepared with knowledge, choices and opportunities, they can live healthy and productive lives and contribute to a more stable world. If, on the other hand, their needs and concerns are ignored or given low priority, the disservice done is to us all."

Small Arms

Despite efforts by the UN and NGOs worldwide, the global small arms industry continues to grow. The latest survey, conducted by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, found that there are some 639 million guns still to be found all over the world.

The UN had cracked down aggressively on illegal arms deals and campaigned to destroy weapons in former war zones. Of the 639 million, 59% are owned legally by civilians.

About seven million new guns are manufactured

every year, an annual setback to all the efforts of the UN and international organisations to collect and destroy arms.

Small arms are responsible for half a million deaths each year and featured prominently as the weapon of choice in the armed conflicts of the 1990s – 47 of 49 conflicts were waged mostly with small arms. The prevalence of small arms also poses a considerable threat to peacekeeping missions, given their ready availability, plus the fact that they are easy to use and easy to hide.

Mille Grazie!

Football history was made on the playing fields of the UNPA on 9 July when an all-island team of Turkish and Greek Cypriots took on an international selection of diplomats and UNFICYP soldiers under the watchful eyes of members of the Rome-based Lazio FC training staff.

The match was organized by the Italian Embassy as one of a series of bicommunal events marking Italy's ascendancy to the EU presidency. The EU Delegation in Cyprus provided support (and a player) while UNFICYP hosted the big game. Spectators paid a small entry fee, with the proceeds going to charities in the north and in the south.

The young Cyprus side (all players under age 21) showed remarkable cohesion and teamwork, given that they had only assembled for training and selection by the Lazio coaches 24 hours earlier. Ultimately, they lost out to the grizzled elders of UNFICYP's international selection by a score of 5-3. But the awards were shared, with every player getting a medal and a Lazio FC shirt. Also, Italian Ambassador La Francesca presented the winning team with the first ever Friendship Cup.



Lazio's Felice Pulici with MFR's LBdr. Tracey Foster



"Well done, old man" – the COO with his MVP award

Best player awards went to two members from each team – one Turkish Cypriot, one Greek Cypriot on the all-island team; one Argentinian and the oldest UNFICYP player in captivity, the COO, Lt. Col. Hans Thomaschitz, from the international selection. For the record, it should be noted that the COO played professionally 100 years ago (well, that's what the 21-year-olds thought!). Few doubted his credentials after a brilliant first half display of goalkeeping. While he may not have preserved the status quo totally intact, the violations incurred were minor as he rose above younger heads time after time to intercept high crosses and drive danger from his goalmouth.

UNFICYP facilitated another Italian-sponsored bicommunal event on 11 July, when Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot actors performed Pirandello's "The Fable of the Changed Son" in Greek and Turkish at the Ledra Palace.



The two teams with Italian Ambassador Gherardo La Francesca

Colonel Ian Sinclair – Incoming COS

Colonel Ian Sinclair, CBE QCVS Late RA, was educated at Liverpool College and Worcester College, Oxford. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1974.

As a field artillery officer, he has served at regimental duty in a variety of appointments in 40 Field Regiment and 27 Field Regiment in Germany, Northern Ireland and Canada and in 29 Commando Regiment in Norway, the Far East, the USA and UK. In 1991, he attended the Army Command and Staff Course at Camberley before serving as a staff officer in Hong Kong.

Col. Sinclair was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1994 and was appointed Commanding Officer of 29 Commando Regiment from 1995-1997, including operational tour with the UN Force in Cyprus as a Sector Commander. Since 1997, he has served in a variety of staff and liaison appointments, including tours in NATO HQ and the UK Ministry of Defence.

He was promoted to Colonel in 2001 and his most recent appointment was as Senior British Coalition Adviser Afghanistan. He has seen operational service in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan. He was mentioned in dispatches in



Northern Ireland, awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in Kosovo and was made CBE in June 2003.

Col. Sinclair is married to Keely and they have two children, a daughter and a son. His hobbies include running, swimming, sailing, walking his two dogs, drinking wine and smoking the occasional cigar.

New Deputy Commander UNCIVPOL



Ch. Supt. John McLoughlin is married to Lena and they have three sons and two daughters.

John joined An Garda Síochána in December 1965 and worked as a detective, detective sergeant and inspector in Dublin where he was involved in the investigation of serious crime including murder, drug trafficking and all types of gangland and subversive crime. He was promoted to Superintendent in November 1989 and was posted to Donegal Division in NW

Ireland. This division borders Northern Ireland and he was involved in the investigation of the Provisional I.R.A. bomb attacks and shootings on the security services.

He was promoted to Chief Superintendent in May 1999 and posted to the Dublin Metropolitan Division of Dublin West. There he was responsible for the management of resources, budgeting and discipline.

John took up his position with the United Nations in June 2003.

Col Hamish Fletcher Heads for Ghana



Col. Hamish Fletcher, the outgoing Chief of Staff, bade farewell to UNFICYP on 15 July when he handed over command to Col. Ian Sinclair.

Col. Fletcher took over from Col. Jeremy Brooks in July 2001 as the 20th Chief of Staff since UNFICYP was formed in 1964.

Col. Fletcher has moved with his family to Ghana to command the British Military Training Team.



Outgoing Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher, Maj. Paul Hope from Ops Branch, and Mr. John Gagnon, Defence and Army Attaché of the US Embassy in Nicosia have a farewell drink with the Force Commander at their mug out on 11 July

Mig Mechanic, Marine Or MP?

For those serving all around the world as military policemen, the daily duties of patrolling in police vehicles and conducting speed checks can seem fairly routine. However for many of those serving within the FMPU, in particular MSgt. Zoltan Schroder, HUNCON, and Sgt. Marcello Iniguez, ARGCON, this idea of normalcy is quite different from what they would traditionally do.

The primary reason for this is that as a Mig 29 engine mechanic, Zoltan is more likely to sit in the cockpit of a Mig 29 fighter plane checking the instruments, than a police patrol vehicle. In the case of Marcello, who is a marine in the Argentinian Army, the concept of a gun that doesn't fire bullets is a very strange one indeed.

The main reason for this contrast to their normal military lives is that neither Argentina nor Hungary have professional military police in their armies. It is therefore necessary to have army personnel from these countries trained to serve with the FMPU. The personnel selected go through a rigorous selection process and then spend their first month post-appointment doing in-house training.

Military Police training at FMPU includes familiarisation patrols of the UNPA, Nicosia and the Sector areas. Practical lectures are given on how to fill out police notebooks and other police documentation and also on how to use police technical equipment such as speed guns and alcolimeters. In additions to these tasks, policemen are also taught how to deal with traffic accidents, impaired driving and other routine calls for



assistance. During major events at the UNPA, FMPU are responsible for the route signing and car parking. FMPU also carry out security checks and offer security and crime prevention advice.

As willing volunteers for what must at first seemed to have been a daunting task, both Zoltan and Marcello have met the complete change of career with enthusiasm and determination. Now well advanced into their tour of duty, both soldiers have found that they relish the challenges faced, in particular getting used to English as the unit's primary language. This is no easy task, given the amount of police jargon and technical phrases. Yet their command of English has immensely improved – a great credit to their determination.

Both soldiers have enjoyed the variety of tasks working in this multi-national unit. FMPU has allowed them to meet not only challenges, but also many people from other nations. When they reach the end of their mission, both know they will look back at an interesting chapter of their lives with good memories and a great deal of pride at what they have achieved.

Argyra – The End of an Era

Friday 27 June was a momentous if sad day in the history of the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU). The reason? The retirement of Argyra Piripitsi, FMPU's language assistant since 1976.

Argyra began her working career as a typist in Orderly Room Headquarters, Episkopi, in 1959. Between then and 1976 she held several different appointments as a typist in Episkopi and Akrotori.

In 1976 she became the Language Assistant in the FMPU and began what was to be a long affiliation with all the different nationalities of military policemen and women who have passed through the FMPU. Throughout her years in the FMPU, she has been ably assisted by Toulla Christou, and perhaps it is fitting that after 27 years sitting opposite each other in the offices of FMPU, it is Toulla who succeeds Argyra as the unit's Language Assistant.

To celebrate Argyra's long and successful years in the FMPU, she was presented with a beautiful brooch by Maj M. Bottomley, Force Provost Marshal (FPM) in the International Police Club on behalf of the staff in appreciation of all her work.

The party adjourned to the Prosillio Restaurant for the evening and Argyra and Toulla regaled the audience with stories of FMPU from many years. The offices of the FMPU will not be the same without Argyra and her



Cyprus coffee. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

Last Tour For 22nd Regt RA "The Welsh Gunners"

After a highly successful and extremely busy tour, 47 Regiment Royal Artillery formally handed over the reins of Sector 2 to 22nd Regiment on 4 June.

The Welsh Gunners had been training hard for two months prior to taking over the Line, and the planning had been ongoing for at least six months. With a healthy number of personnel with UNFICYP experience, and after a re-formulated and highly successful training package, the Regiment was looking forward to its six-month stint in command.

22nd Regt. Royal Artillery received the honour title "The Welsh Gunners" from Her Majesty the Queen, the Captain General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, in 1973 and we have been equipped with the Rapier Surface-to-Air Missile system since 1979. The Regiment has been commanded by Lt. Col. Robert Caldwell since February 2002. This UN tour also provides 22nd Regt. with our last operational role, as we are to be disbanded on our return to the UK, as the British Army undergoes a period of restructuring.

The Regiment's recent operations have all involved military aid to government departments. The Regiment trained for and conducted emergency fire fighting in the county of Derbyshire during the national fire fighters' strike and did an excellent job, surprising all observers with their professionalism and flexibility. When not deployed to Derbyshire, the Regiment had to conduct the extremely complex operation of drawing down its equipment, which involved seemingly endless checks and inspections to ensure no individual pieces of equipment

were missing. We also had to cram training for this tour, pre-tour leave and preparations for St. David's Day (St. David being the patron saint of Wales) into a very short space of time!

The Regiment is normally based in Kirton-in-Lindsey, a small town some 16 miles north of Lincoln. The Barracks is built on the site of an old Second World War RAF station, once used to train free Polish forces pilots on the Hurricane fighter before they flew with the RAF. The Regiment has very strong links with Wales, especially the city of Swansea where our main recruiting team is based.

As you would expect of a Welsh Regiment, the rugby team is traditionally very strong, and in the past has been the focal point for regimental sports. However, recently the football team have started to come to the fore, and is now of at least equal standing within the Regiment. Last season, the team reached the Army Cup quarter finals and won the Royal Artillery Cup and the Lincolnshire League Inter Services Competition. There's lots of other stuff football officer Capt. Brian Ransom MBE gets very excited about!

The Welsh Gunners are a very proud formation, and everybody serving with the Regiment will be very sad to see its demise, as will all who have served in the past as a Welsh Gunner and indeed the wider Royal Regiment of Artillery. The Welsh Gunners are determined that the last operational tour on which the Regiment will deploy will be conducted in a professional manner, but with all the spirit and panache for which the Regiment is famed.

42nd Bty Handover

On 4 June 2003, Sector 2 West (Ypenburg) came under the watchful eye of 42nd Alem Hamza Battery Royal Artillery. The Battery was first raised as Captain Buchanan's Company, 4th Battalion Royal Artillery on 16 February 1771.

Her Majesty the Queen bestowed the honour title "Alem Hamza" on 12 December 1973. This came after a hugely courageous action during the Second World War when the Battery was fighting in North Africa. The Allied Army had captured Tobruk, and was fast pursuing the German Afrika Korps across the desert. A combined force of artillery, infantry and cavalry (tanks) found itself on Alem Hamza ridge, and was then subjected to an overwhelming German counter-attack involving some 400 tanks.

The British 25-pounder anti-tank guns of 105th Bty (which was to become 42nd Bty) fought incredibly hard and with immense bravery, even though some detachments were reduced to as few as two men. Eventually all the guns were destroyed and all the "Gunners" killed or captured – but not before they had

taken their toll on the German tanks.

The handover we received from 47th Regt RA was without fault, and was a credit to all involved. Since then the Battery Sergeant Major, WO2 (BSM) Brandon has implemented a number of changes (after all, a new broom sweeps clean!) and the Battery is now running smoothly and the improvement projects are coming along very well. Maybe an example of a project would be interesting here, besides the bar, that is.

The most impressive aspect of the handover was the effort that had been put in to the construction of the Imjin Bar. Now renamed the Eagle Bar, it was difficult to identify ways to improve it! One suggestion was that the sand, which had been a key feature of the beach bar theme, was of a type that required a great deal of maintenance, and therefore perhaps another type of flooring would alleviate the problem. The Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, (BQMS) SSgt Cranshaw, found the materials required (best not to ask how!), and by midnight the bar had been emptied and refilled. Thirty new paving slabs had been laid, and then



Maj G. Carter,
OC Sector 2 West

on top of those had been dumped five tons of new sand! The bar now looks fantastic, and the soldiers of 42nd Battery immensely enjoy the feeling of drinking beer while their toes nestle in the golden sand!

So what's next for the Eagle Bar? Come and see!

HMS UN-Submarine

Lt. Bdr. (Guns) Hughes, Chief Petty Officer, HMS UN-Submarine, writes: We were all sitting outside the Lendra Troop Operations room having our ritual smoke before going on night shift, when along came WO2 Pete Barnes, our Troop Sergeant Major (TSM). He mentioned a charity raft race that was being held on 28 June at Dhekelia, and "suggested" we might like to take part. We were starting to think that we were competitors on Big Brother (cue Geordie accent) "Lendra Palace Hotel (LPH) Day 27: The house-mates have been set a new task", but it was a great way for the Section to get away from it all. After another exciting night manning Gurkha Gate, everyone forgot about it. I certainly did!

Back on the night shift (our last shift before training administration and stand-down), WO2 Barnes asked how our raft was coming along as we were due to compete in the race the next day! Trying our hardest to keep straight faces, we replied, "It's being unveiled in the morning!"

For the next two hours we ran around LPH borrowing materiel for our raft. Bdr. Chris Edis dragged himself away from computer solitaire for five minutes and managed to come up with the worst ever design for a raft. It even included two telegraph poles, which are not the easiest things to find lying around LPH! Seeing this mad idea, LBdr. "Bob" Marley took control of the desperate situation and three hours, four planks of wood, 18 six-inch nails, four rolls of mine tape, six water jerry cans and the all important two rolls of "black nasty" tape later, HMS "UN-Submarine" was born! **Race Day Dawns:** With half the section away on UNRRATT (United Nations Roulement Regiment Adventure Training Team) we all met up at the Yacht Club for the start of the race, apart from LBdr. "Daz" Elson who said he couldn't make it because he had a prior engagement to gaze at the ladies on Nissi beach! Given the opportunity, that would have been my excuse too. After seeing all the other rafts and with



HMS UN-Submarine
getting ready for action

90% of LPH convinced ours would sink, Section 2 set out to prove them all wrong.

The A-team proudly took to the water aboard HMS UN-Submarine and with Bdr. Edis as skipper, myself and the "Hawaii Five O" crew of Gnrs. Wagalevu, Evans, and Jones, we thought we had an awesome vessel and a fearsome crew! The gun sounded for the start of the race and we made a start to be proud of, tearing into first position! It was 45 seconds into the race when I started to cough (no doubt my bad smoking habits), and the "Hawaii Five O" crew began to gasp for lack of oxygen; we slipped from 1st to 4th place in the blink of an eye. We of course blamed our position on the heavy and cumbersome shovels we were using for oars (another blindingly intelligent idea from Bdr. Edis), but really it was really down to a total lack of thoughtful preparation!

The race seemed to go on for miles (nothing to do with the pain caused by the 40 Woodbines I smoke each day), but we hung on to a "respectable" 4th place – just don't mention the fact that there were only five rafts in the race and the one that came last fell apart! I can honestly say that at the end of the day we did ourselves proud, especially as the "Professional Adventure Trainers" of UNRRATT had their entry end up in pieces. As for HMS UN-Submarine on her maiden voyage, she at least held together and kept our reputation intact!

Bay to Bay Swim

There is something very British about swimming a ridiculously long way at a ridiculous time in the morning, even more so if that swim is in the sea.

On 25 July, at 7:00 am, approximately 337 people lined up on the coast at Episkopi to do precisely that – swim a mile in the sea. Of that number, 20 were from 22 Regt URR, the majority of whom were novices to sea swimming and only a few of the assembled volunteers had ever swum a mile before.

The mass start was more physical than was anticipated – more akin to a rugby scrum than a swimming event. However, as expected, the field soon spread out. All 20 finished the swim – quite an achievement – in times ranging from 34 minutes to 80 minutes.

The Bay-to-Bay swim is an annual event organised by the Cyprus Joint Police Unit (CJPU).



The 22 Regt URR Team – before the mass start

There are two classes – "the race" and "the fun event", both of which involve swimming a mile in the sea. It is a very well organised event, providing all participants with a real sense of achievement.

UNFICYP Farewell



**COS Col.
Hamish Fletcher
departs
UNFICYP on
completion of
his two-year
tour**