



**Saint Patrick's Day
Celebrations in the
UNPA**



**First
Integrated
Medal
Parade**

THE BLUE BERET

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SG's Message on Women's Day, 8 March 2005

Much has indeed happened for us to celebrate over the three decades that we have observed International Women's Day at the United Nations.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has been ratified by 179 countries.

Milestones such as the Beijing Conference and Platform for Action have served as engines of progress for women around the world.

And the voices of women are being heard loud and clear across the whole range of issues before the United Nations.

But we are still not hearing as many of women's voices as we should. And there are still far too many obstacles that prevent women from advancing and thriving in the Organisation.

We must work harder to correct this. The reasons why are obvious:

First, women possess half the brain power of the universe. Any institution that fails to make use of half its potential intellectual or creative assets is short-changing itself.

Second, there are no issues we deal with in the United Nations that do not affect women every bit as much as men. It is, therefore, right and indeed necessary that women should be here to work on these issues, with equal strength and in equal numbers.

And third, the United Nations must live up to – and be seen to live up to – the principles that we set out for the rest of the world. The first page of our Charter proclaims the equal rights of men and women. What we do in our own house surely sends a powerful message to the nations we represent.

In other words, our work for equal rights is not about a set of statistics and numbers to be pulled out of a file on International Women's Day, or on any other occasion when it is time to report on the status of women.

It is about instilling attitudes and awareness every day, in all dimensions of our work.

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Front Cover: First Integrated Medal Parade

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USG Guéhenno's Women's Day message

Strengthening the role of women in peacekeeping and post-conflict

peacekeeping missions, peacekeepers who have a responsibility to protect the vulnerable. Every effort is being taken to investigate such acts and to put in place the necessary reforms to ensure they do not recur.

In a number of mission areas, DPKO staff are teaming up with UN partners and local women's rights groups to address the scourge of gender-based violence at the national level. Gender units are playing a critical role in training and sensitizing peacekeeping personnel on gender mainstreaming approaches related to their work and helping to build strategies to prevent gender-based violence.

A gender perspective is also being increasingly applied to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes, but we must redouble our efforts to ensure that women associated with fighting forces are recognised as such and are able to access support under DDR programmes.

This year, DPKO has an important role to play to advocate and support women's contributions to shaping the future of their countries, through ongoing planning for elections and constitutional reforms in a number of UN missions. In Afghanistan, Burundi, the DRC, Haiti and Liberia, gender units in missions are working closely with electoral units, governmental partners and women's groups to facilitate meaningful participation of women in forthcoming elections in these countries, both as candidates seeking political office and as voters.

In these and all other aspects of peacekeeping, we must continue to listen to the voices of the host communities, particularly women and girls, whose voices, more often than not, tend to be marginal to decision-making processes.

As we mark International Women's Day, I invite all staff of DPKO to recommit to promoting, in all aspects of peacekeeping, the principles of equality between women and men.

J...T...J...

Jean-Marie Guéhenno, USG, DPKO

Women's Day at LPH

by Sally-Anne Corcoran

On 8 March, UNFICYP celebrated International Women's Day by hosting a panel of six distinguished Cypriot women from the academic, journalistic and public spheres who discussed the theme of: "Gender Equality beyond 2005 – building a more secure future", a most appropriate theme for the island. Without exception, they spoke in an inspiring and reconciliatory fashion about the type of Cyprus they envisaged sharing together in the future from a gender perspective. In my capacity of UNFICYP Gender Focal Point, I moderated the panel and gave my own opinion about what "building a more secure future" from a gender perspective meant, before moving on to our panelists and a Cypriot perspective.

I mentioned how in recent years, the SG had talked about "security" in a more expanded or holistic way and termed it "human security", which no longer means only freedom from fear or physical safety, but also freedom to develop equally with men and access to the same opportunities for doing so (professionally, academically and financially).

Nevertheless, freedom from fear continues to remain a prime concern and not just in conflict or war zones.



From the left: Ms. Sevgül Uludağ (journalist), Ms. Androulla Vassiliou (MP), Ambassador Erato Marcoulis, Sally-Anne Corcoran, Ms. Oya Talat (Chemist), Professor Maria Hadjipavlou and Professor Fatma Güven

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Strategy for Fighting Terrorism

The Secretary-General's keynote address to the closing plenary of the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, delivered in Madrid, Spain on 10 March 2005

Terrorism is a threat to all States, to all peoples, which can strike anytime, anywhere.

It is a direct attack on the core values the United Nations stands for: the rule of law; the protection of civilians; mutual respect between people of different faiths and cultures; and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

So, of course, the United Nations must be at the forefront in fighting against it, and first of all in proclaiming, loud and clear,

that terrorism can never be accepted or justified, in any cause whatsoever.

By the same token, the United Nations must continue to insist that, in the fight against terrorism, we cannot compromise the core values I

have listed. In particular, human rights and the rule of law must always be respected. As I see it, terrorism is in itself a direct attack on human rights and the rule of law. If we sacrifice them in our response, we will be handing victory to the terrorists.

Since terrorism is clearly one of the major threats that we face in this century, it is only right that it received close attention in the report, "A More Secure World – Our Shared Responsibility", produced by the High-level Panel that I set up to study global threats and recommend changes in the international system. And I am happy that some members of the Panel are here today.

The Panel asked me to promote a principled, comprehensive strategy. I intend to do that. This seems to me a fitting occasion to set out the main elements of that strategy, and the role of the United Nations in it:

- first, to dissuade disaffected groups from choosing terrorism as a tactic to achieve their goals;
- second, to deny terrorists the means to carry out their attacks;
- third, to deter States from supporting terrorists;
- fourth, to develop State capacity to prevent terrorism; and
- fifth, to defend human rights in the struggle against terrorism.

The United Nations has already, for many years, been playing a crucial role in all these areas, and has achieved important successes. But we need to do more, and we must do more.

Let me start with what I call the first D: *dissuading disaffected groups from choosing terrorism as a tactic*.

- Groups use terrorist tactics because they think those tactics are effective, and that people, or at least those in whose name they claim to act, will approve. Such beliefs are at the "root cause" of terrorism. Our job is to show unequivocally that they are wrong.
- We cannot, and need not, redress all the grievances that terrorists claim to be advancing. But we must convince all those who may be tempted to support terrorism that it is neither an acceptable nor an effective way to advance their cause. It should be clearly stated, by all possible moral and political authorities, that terrorism is unacceptable under any circumstances, and in any culture.
- The United Nations and its specialized agencies played a central role in negotiating and adopting 12 international anti-terrorism treaties. Now the time has come to complete a comprehensive convention outlawing terrorism in all its forms.
- For far too long the moral authority of the United Nations in confronting terrorism has been weakened by the spectacle of

protracted negotiations. But the report of the High-Level Panel offers us a way to end these arguments. We do not need to argue whether States can be guilty of terrorism, because deliberate use of armed force by States against civilians is already clearly prohibited under international law. As for the right to resist occupation, it must be understood in its true meaning. It cannot include the right to deliberately kill or maim civilians.

- The Panel calls for a definition of terrorism which would make it clear that any action constitutes terrorism if it is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians and non-combatants, with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a Government or an international organisation to do or abstain from any act. I believe this proposal has clear moral force, and I strongly urge world leaders to unite behind it.

Not only political leaders, but civil society and religious leaders should clearly denounce terrorist tactics as criminal and inexcusable. Civil society has already conducted magnificent campaigns against landmines, against the recruitment of children as soldiers, and against allowing war crimes to go unpunished. I should like to see an equally strong global campaign against terrorism.

- Finally, we must pay more attention to the victims of terrorism, and make sure that their voices can be heard. We at the UN especially are conscious of this, having lost beloved colleagues to a terrorist attack in Baghdad two years ago. Last October, the Security Council itself, in its resolution 1566, suggested an international fund to compensate victims and their families, to be financed in part from assets seized from terrorist organisations, their members and sponsors. This suggestion should be urgently followed up. I will now turn to the second D: *denying terrorists the means to carry out their attacks*. That means making it difficult for them to travel, to receive financial support, or to acquire nuclear or radiological material.

Here the United Nations has made important contributions. The UN Convention on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism has been in force for three years. And the Security Council has long since imposed travel and financial sanctions against members of Al-Qaida and associated entities. But we must do more to ensure that those sanctions are fully enforced.

We also need effective action against money-laundering. Here the United Nations could adopt and promote the eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing produced by the OECD's Financial Action Task Force.

- Perhaps the thing that it is most vital to deny terrorists access to nuclear materials. Nuclear terrorism is still often treated as science fiction. I wish it were. But, unfortunately, we live in a world of excess hazardous materials and abundant technological know-how, in which some terrorists clearly state their intention to inflict catastrophic casualties. Were such an attack to occur, it would not only cause widespread death and destruction, but it would stagger the world economy and thrust tens of millions of people into dire poverty. Given what we know of the relationship between poverty and infant mortality, any nuclear terrorist attack would have a second death toll throughout the developing world.

That such an attack has not yet happened is not an excuse for complacency. Rather, it gives us a last chance to take effective preventive action.

- That means consolidating, securing, and, when possible, eliminating potentially hazardous materials, and implementing effective export controls. Both the G8 and the UN Security Council have taken important steps to do this, and to plug gaps in the non-proliferation regime. We need to

make sure these measures are fully enforced, and that they reinforce each other. I urge the Member States of the United Nations to complete and adopt, without delay, the international convention on nuclear terrorism. And I applaud the efforts of the Proliferation Security Initiative to fill a gap in our defences.

My third D is the need to *deter States from supporting terrorist groups*.

- In the past, the United Nations has not shrunk from confronting States that harbour and assist terrorists, and the Security Council has repeatedly applied sanctions. Indeed, it is largely thanks to such sanctions that several States which used to sponsor terrorists no longer do so.
- This firm line must be maintained and strengthened. All States must know that, if they give any kind of support to terrorists, the Council will not hesitate to use coercive measures against them.

The fourth D is to *develop State capacity to prevent terrorism*.

- Terrorists exploit weak States as havens where they can hide from arrest, and train their recruits. Making all States more capable and responsible must therefore be the cornerstone of our global counter-terrorism effort. This means promoting good governance and above all the rule of law, with professional police and security forces who respect human rights.
- The United Nations has already done a lot in this area. The Security Council, in its resolution 1373, required every State to take important steps in preventing terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee follows how well States are implementing that resolution.
- But many poor countries genuinely cannot afford to build the capacity they need. They need help. The new Counter-Terrorism Directorate will assess their needs, and develop a comprehensive approach to technical assistance.
- Every State must be able to develop and maintain an efficient criminal justice system. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime Prevention is experienced at this work and is prepared to do more.
- The United Nations Development Programme focuses increasingly on questions of governance, which we all now realize are decisive for development. And our Electoral Assistance Division is increasingly called on to assist countries with elections – often at turning points in their history, as recently they did in Afghanistan, Iraq, Burundi, as well as the Palestinian territory. I hope Member States will now build on this work, as President Bush suggested to the General Assembly last September, by supporting a fund to help countries establish or strengthen democracy.
- Terrorist groups find it easiest to recruit among people with a narrow or distorted view of the world. We must therefore help States to give all their citizens a modern education that encourages scientific inquiry and free thought. UNESCO has done much good work in this area, but I hope can do more.
- Few threats more vividly illustrate the imperative of building State capacity than biological terrorism, which could spread deadly infectious disease across the world in a matter of days. Neither States nor international organisations have yet adapted to a new world of biotechnology, full of promise and peril. There will soon be tens of thousands of laboratories around the world capable of producing designer bugs with awesome lethal potential.
- All experts agree that the best defence against this danger lies in strengthening public health. The World Health Organisation's Global Outbreak and Response Network, working on a shoe-string budget, has done an impressive job

in monitoring, and responding to, outbreaks of deadly infectious disease. But in the case of an overwhelming outbreak – natural or man-made – it is local health systems that will be in the front line; and in many poor countries they are inadequate or non-existent. We need a major initiative to build such systems.

The last D which is we must *defend human rights*.

- I regret to say that international human rights experts, including those of the UN system, are unanimous in finding that many measures which States are currently adopting to counter terrorism infringe on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Human rights law makes ample provision for counter-terrorist action, even in the most exceptional circumstances. But compromising human rights cannot serve the struggle against terrorism. On the contrary, it facilitates achievement of the terrorist's objective – by ceding to him the moral high ground, and provoking tension, hatred and mistrust of government among precisely those parts of the population where he is most likely to find recruits.

- Upholding human rights is not merely compatible with successful counter-terrorism strategy. It is an essential element.
- I therefore strongly endorse the recent proposal to create a special rapporteur who would report to the Commission on Human Rights on the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights laws. That completes my brief summary of the most important elements of a comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism.

All departments and agencies of the United Nations can and must contribute to carrying out this strategy. I am creating an implementation task force, under my Office, which will meet regularly to review the handling of terrorism and related issues throughout the UN system, and make sure that all parts of it play their proper role.

On 11 March we commemorate, in deep sorrow, and in common with the whole of Europe – indeed, the whole world – the 192 innocent people who were so brutally, inexcusably murdered in the last terrorist attack here in Madrid one year ago. We shall affirm our solidarity with their families and friends;

"... terrorism can never be accepted or justified, in any cause whatsoever."

At the same time, we will remember the victims of 11 September 2001, and those of other terrorist attacks in Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Tel Aviv, Bali, Istanbul, Riyadh, Casablanca, Baghdad, Bombay, Beslan – indeed, all victims of terrorism everywhere, no matter what their nationality, race or creed.

Some injuries can be healed with the passage of time. Others can never heal fully – and that applies especially to the mental anguish suffered by the survivors, whether wounded in body or, by the loss of their loved ones, in spirit.

To all victims around the world, our words of sympathy can bring only hollow comfort. They know that no one who is not so directly affected can truly share their grief. At least let us not exploit it. We must respect them. We must listen to them. We must do what we can to help them.

We must resolve to do everything in our power to spare others from meeting their fate.

Above all, we must not forget them.

Hail Glorious Saint Patrick!

The Irish Police and Military Contingents in Cyprus celebrated their national holiday, St. Patrick's Day, in style on 17 March, baked in glorious Cypriot sunshine.

St. Patrick's Day is known and celebrated by the Irish in every country in the world, and it is the day we are proud to be Irish, especially those of us who live and work abroad.

The celebrations here in UNPA commenced with Mass and the blessing of the shamrock (the three-leaf clover) at St. Columbas Church. The chief celebrant was Father Ciaran Dallat, a visiting priest from Northern Ireland, assisted by Padre Lee Ganiya who is attached to Sector 2. Following mass, the contingents and their families were invited to a reception at the residence of the Irish Ambassador and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John Swift. Here, UNFICYP personnel met many other Irish people resident or working on the island.

Celebrations continued back in the UNPA with a further reception hosted by Supt. Liam Mayock of the Irish Police Force (An Garda Siochana) and Lt. Col. Paul Quirke (Irish Army).

Here, police, military and civilians were treated to famous Irish delicacies including traditional Irish stew, Irish smoked salmon, Irish coffees and Bailey's Irish Cream. Whilst sampling these delights, a dance group from Ireland performed, accompanied by a traditional folkloric band.

One member of the audience noted: "It's strange, but the guitarist looks very much like the priest who conducted mass this morning". The reply was: "It *is* the priest – he's a man of many talents!".



Ireland's Ambassador to Cyprus John Swift with Lt. Col. Paul Quirke and Supt. Liam Mayock

It was also a pleasure for the event's organisers to welcome and introduce well-known and popular Irish politician, Mr. Alan Dukes.

Ambassador Swift spoke eloquently about Ireland, its people, culture and traditions, and he read out a message of peace and unity from the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

As can be seen from the photographs, fun and frolics was enjoyed by all.

So, who was St. Patrick? Legend has it that he was taken to Ireland as a slave (from England, Scotland or Wales). He went to Rome and studied for the priesthood, following which he was divinely inspired to return to pagan Ireland and convert its people to Christianity. The story goes that he preached the word of God and explaining the Holy Trinity by using the Shamrock. He is also reputed to have driven the snakes out of Ireland.

The Irish Contingent would like to thank most sincerely all those who helped make their National Day 2005 a very memorable one.



Sgt. Jim Flannagan



The Varosha Challenge



The

Tulip

and

Riviere

Court

hotels

stand

on

the

golden

sand

coast

of

Cyprus.

The

views



breathtaking. Imagine a sunset splashed with orange, blue, and violet, just like the fairy-tale horizon in the film "Never Ending Story". The rooms are equipped with bed canopies and protective mosquito netting.



From the left: Cpl. Jozef Horváth, Pte. Lubomír Ondruš, Cpl. Peter Hanus, Pte. Rastislav Šlinský and Cpl. Miloš Cséry

bedrooms on one of the floors where the peacekeepers sleep. Even the elevators are sealed off. The peacekeepers therefore walk up 11 flights of stairs to reach their work stations on the rooftops.

There is a daily delivery of food and other essential items for operational personnel. Other than a short strip of accessible beach, the only recreational facility available is a TV, making the Varosha experience a true challenge to morale. Nevertheless, the 12 Slovaks working on the easternmost part of the buffer zone meet that challenge head on, which, on their 12-month tours, is no mean feat.



UNFICYP's First Integrated Medal Parade



Up until now, each contingent on the island has held its own Medal Parade within sector. In January, the new Force 860 concept was introduced and all contingents have been scaled down since. Now that each contingent has reduced in size, it was decided that it would make more sense to have one big parade.

The obvious location for the newly integrated medal parade was the UNPA, as this is the central location along the Buffer Zone. Being a "winter" parade, an indoor site was in order. UN Flight kindly donated a hangar to house the show. Not wanting to feel left out, the MFR took on the job of organising and running the event.

But this was no easy task. UN Flight had to rehouse their helicopters elsewhere. They also had to put up with people running around their airfield trying to march and perform demos while scattering kit here, there and everywhere.

Once the hangar was cleared, the MFR started acquiring kit from many strange sources; chairs, a saluting dias, flags, Tacticas, tents, a public address system, potted plants, signs, lights... and then setting it all up. There was also plenty of white and blue painting to be done

The simple task of coordinating all the nationalities into a smooth and presentable parade fell to the BSM MFR, WO2 Whiteway. Different drill, different languages and different uniforms didn't seem to be too much of a challenge, and each contingent was given its instructions on the format of events.

All the elements were assembled for the first practice on 22 February. After a few attempts, things started to look like they would work on the day. The second practice saw the officers kitted out in their best day dress, turning a drab

rehearsal into quite a colourful event. The MFR Honour Guard perfected mixing its different drills into one. The Argentinian band was doing a fine job rehearsing the national anthems and the marching music for each contingent.

Thursday, the day of the parade, was a beautiful sunny day. Chefs from Slovakia, Hungary, UK and Argentina laboured to deliver amazing traditional food from each host nation. The seating arrangements were in place and the ushers were briefed on where the VIPs were to sit.

Then, just prior to the parade, the heavens opened and rain started dripping through the roof of the hangar. It was looking like the initial march into the hangar was going to have to be cut out. Then at the eleventh hour, the rain died away and the parade went ahead as planned.

Contingents and honour guard entered to their marching music cue, courtesy of the Argentinian band. Chief of Mission Wlosowicz acknowledged the parade's new format and paid tribute to the contingents before joining Force Commander Maj. Gen. Figoli and members of the diplomatic community in presenting the medals.

Once the ceremony was over, everyone adjourned to the tents outside for drinks and to sample the food that the chefs had managed to keep intact during the downpour. While folk-dancing and other musical diversions were on display inside the hangar, such was the allure of the chefs' culinary skills, most people hovered close to the sumptuous array of food in the tents alongside.

As the evening drew to a close, all the remaining food and drink was cleared away. Following a general cleaning, UN Flight retrieved its hanger and everything else was returned wherever MFR BQMS Bright had found it.



International Cafeteria – Working Hard for You



Chef Dafnios Tsangari - service with a smile

Eurest Support Services (ESS), the contract catering company at the International Cafeteria, is taking serious steps to provide services beyond the call of duty. Recent changes highlight the company's dedication to providing excellent customer service to military and civilian personnel.

ESS, the largest contract catering provider in the world, employs over 150,000 people globally. The International Cafeteria serves more than 450 meals on a daily basis throughout the year. Customers are from a variety of countries and ESS consider it a priority to provide traditional dishes from the countries of their customers recognising that familiar food is a source of comfort for people when they are away from home.

ESS has been operating the International Cafeteria under the management of Facilities Manager Michael Charalambous (below) for the last four years. Michael completed his master's degree in Hospitality Management at Surrey University and gained eight years experience in the UK hospitality industry before returning to Cyprus. He has developed a strong relationship with civilian and military personnel and, in addition to running the cafeteria on a daily basis, he has also successfully coordinated several

specially requested functions for the United Nations. Michael leads a team of 18 Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot chefs and catering assistants.



Anyone for coffee?

According to Michael, the changes outlined below are the main ones that have had the greatest impact on the customer's meal experience in the dining room. These changes have been developed with the cooperation and guidance of the Force Supply Officer, Maj. Alan Staples (right).

The most recent change has been the upgrade and repositioning of the dessert buffet in the dining room. The newest member of the team, Eleni Vai Markidou, who was selected among many applicants from different organisations in Cyprus, is enticing everyone with her handmade sweets and pastries. The great enthusiasm she has brought to the team and the impression that she has made on the customers at the International Cafeteria has earned Eleni the title of Chef of the Month for January 2005, quite a feat since she only joined the team on 1 January!



Eleni baking her delicacies

The beverages buffet, which was designed and built locally according to specifications from the Facilities Manager, has been positioned in the centre of the dining room. This has improved the layout of the cafeteria, making it similar to traditional catering outlets that allow easy access to all customers and provide a less formal environment. Additionally, the installation of a hi fi system has improved the atmosphere of the cafeteria, making for a more relaxed meal experience for the customers. Over Christmas, seasonal CDs added to the festive spirit.

ESS strives to provide only the best service for its customers, and, in accordance with this aim, staff at the International Cafeteria continue to attend ongoing training sessions related to customer satisfaction. These sessions are run by Michael, together with personnel from HQ Eurest. The latest training was on Safety in the Kitchen and Food Hygiene.

Customer satisfaction is monitored by regular food tastings by the Force Supply Officer and through questionnaires placed on the dining room tables during meal times. This is in addition to feedback given directly to the facilities manager at any time.

Home from Home

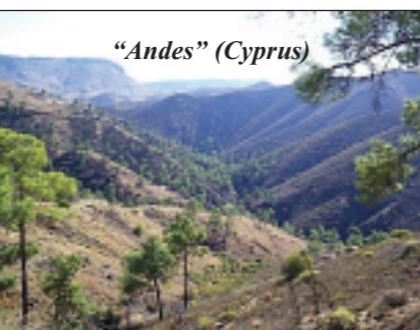
In 1993, the Argentinian Task Force took over responsibility for the western part of the buffer zone (Sector 1) from the Danish Contingent. Since then, it has been carrying out patrols duties along the buffer zone, which in Sector 1's area measures a distance of approximately 80 km and a width of 4 km to 250 metres. The patrol track was divided into three sections, each of them named after areas in Argentina which resemble the landscape seen on a daily basis. These tracks are called "Andes", "Patagonia" and "Pampas" respectively. The aim of this article is to explain the reasons for having chosen these names, so significant to the Argentinians, and also to make a comparison between the route we patrol and the geographical environment of our beloved country.

Argentina

Argentina is located in South America and stretches over a length of almost 3.8 million km², of which 2.8 million are in the continent and the rest in the Antarctic. The country borders Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Chile, with a perimeter of 29,038 km and a maritime waterfront facing the Atlantic Ocean of 5,117 km. Argentina has a population of 37 million inhabitants.

The Andes Track

The Andes Track starts in the northwest of Cyprus in the vicinity of Kato Pyrgos. It stretches along a length of approximately 74 km,



"Andes" (Argentina)



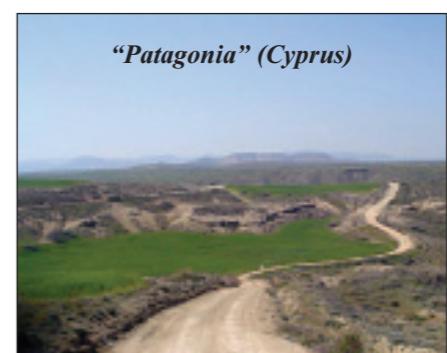
"Andes" (Argentina)

offering one of the most beautiful natural landscapes on the island. Its mountains, hills, plateaus and glens, together with the beautiful streams and vegetation, remind us of our dear Andes.

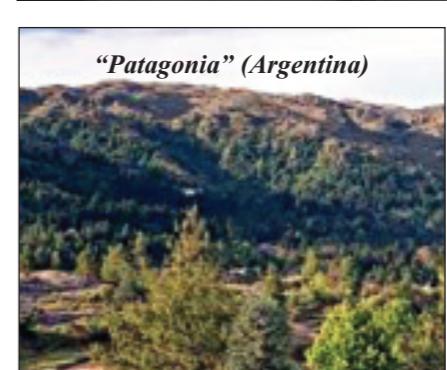
The Andes, the mountain range which runs the length of Argentina, takes its name from the indigenous *Aymará* language and means "Lighted Mountain", the reason being that its peaks are the first to be illuminated at sunrise and the last to be touched by the sunrays at dawn.

The Patagonia Track

Travelling east, the Andes patrol track ends and the Patagonia track begins, running close to OPT 17.



"Patagonia" (Argentina)

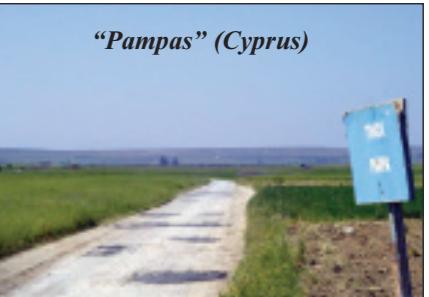


"Patagonia" (Argentina)

The Pampa Track

Moving on, Cyprus surprises us with a completely different land configuration compared to the previous two tracks. The Pampa track begins near PB 32 and stretches over a length of 40 km, and is a flat, fertile area.

Here, the name "Pampa" was formerly used when referring to the extended plains, or simply "pampas", of our central region. In Argentina, the Pampas region represents a key axle for her economy, providing fertile and capable lands for all types of farming and livestock breeding.



"Pampas" (Argentina)



As soldiers of the Argentinian Contingent, we feel that, even though a great distance separates us from our country, the island's geographical features constantly remind us of our home, making us feel not quite so far away.

Capt. Fernando Galletta and Maj. Diego Sanchez



UNFICYP Hears Wedding Bells

When Capt. Daniel Zegarac arrived in Cyprus as a bachelor back in July 2003, he never realized that his days as a single man were numbered.

Back in November 2003, Dan met Larysa Bovkun in her hometown of Kherson. At the time he was vacationing in Ukraine, and was on his way to visit such touristic hotspots as Sevestopol and its Russian naval ships and submarines, Crimean battlegrounds, and last but not least, the famous Yalta.

After countless letters, SMS, phone calls and a couple of visits in between, the couple were last summer happily able to be reunited here in Cyprus, the birthplace of Aphrodite, Goddess of Love. With the spark from Aphrodite, and a proposal in Jordan, they were engaged.

The Blue Beret is very happy to announce their marriage at the Nicosia Town Hall on Thursday, 24 March. Honeymoon plans are already underway, with an Egyptian cruise along the Nile planned for April.



In order to accommodate their families and friends, a religious ceremony will be held on 3 and 4 September in Ukraine, after which they will head off to Canada where they will make their happy home at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Alberta.

Congratulations Dan and Larysa!



It seems hard to believe but it is already almost six months since we became part of the MFR. With the first flights leaving on 25 March, OC Maj. Nick "The King" Andrew decreed that one last party for those outward bound was to be held in the International Bar.

The fliers went out advertising the event with entertainment promising to include a Kylie impersonator, a magician, a disco and a BBQ provided by the APC Platoon. By the evening of 19 March, the International

Service with a Theme

One of the recent changes in the International Cafeteria is the introduction of themed lunches, which are now a weekly feature. These take into consideration the nationalities of the customers at the International Cafeteria, but also include other popular cuisines from around the world.

The Eurest team are very enthusiastic about this scheme. When meals are provided from UNFICYP troop-contributing countries, a chef from the sector/unit arrives to discuss the menu and recipes, but then it is left to the team to provide and serve the meal. These lunches include traditional dishes and desserts and are, according to feedback from customers, a great success.

Farewell Fare!

Bar was decorated with balloons and farewell banners.

The evening got off to a good start (for the English) with a victory over Scotland in the Six Nations Rugby tournament. Then the entertainment started. Amanda, now a regular performer, sang her first set, with Bdr. Robinson, a very regular performer, acting as a one-man dance troop and backing vocals. With burgers providing sustenance, it was the turn of the magician before the Kylie tribute artiste arrived. By now, the party was in full swing and the dance floor was packed.

Even the dancing had a multi-national feel to it with salsa and tango provided by the Argentinians and the "locomotion" and "air guitar" by the Brits. It seems a shame to single anyone out, but SSgt. "Richie" Holloway and Lt. Tomas Takacs, the Assistant Force Engineer, were certainly pulling off some interesting, if not slightly worrying, dance moves.

Many thanks go to Sgt. Giaccone for organising the event, and to the APC Platoon for providing the BBQ. Overall, it was another marvellous evening in the International Bar, and a great way for the current MFR to say goodbye.



Headquarters staff enjoying the Slovak lunch

Dancon Veterans visit Roca Camp

Danish troops were among the first to serve with UNFICYP when it was set up in March 1964. Then, in 1993, DANCON bade farewell to the island and left to carry out peacekeeping duties in Croatia, Kosovo and missions around the world, handing over to the Argentinian Contingent. Over the years, more than 25,000 troops served with DANCON in Cyprus.

In Denmark, 17 veteran associations have been established throughout the country. There are more than 3,000 active members who "kindle the fire" and share their memories of UNFICYP and the island. On 15 March, a group of association members gathered to commemorate the anniversary of the death of one of their comrades, just as they had done for another comrade in August 2004. They visited Roca Camp, once their own home, where they laid a wreath in the memory of their friend.



They arrived at San Martin Camp by bus. Some were accompanied by relatives and friends. Once in the Camp, they marched under the orders of former peacekeeper Erik Hansen, many proudly wearing their "Blå Baret" and UNFICYP medals.

Troops of ARGCON stood on parade while the sound of a trumpet playing in the background added to the solemnity of the moment. After that, the visitors were invited to refreshments at the Officers' Mess, where they presented commemorative pins to the Argentinian soldiers.

A sense of satisfaction and emotion was felt by all as the visitors left the Camp after the ceremony.



Danish Ambassador visits Sector 4

Danish Ambassador H.E. Mr. Svend Waever visited UNFICYP on 2 March. He arrived at the UNPA and was greeted by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, following which he travelled by car to Camp General Štefánik, Famagusta, for a briefing by CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Martin Bačko.

Ambassador Waever stayed for lunch in Sector 4. On his way back to Nicosia, he paid a visit to the UNCIVPOL Station in Pyla.

From the left: Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, Ambassador Waever and Lt. Col. Bačko

Sharpen Your Axe

Along the MOLO course, I learned a lot and gained much experience from others, especially the instructors. One of the things I particularly remember is how Maj. Chris Frazer, course coordinator, explained to us all how to prepare a negotiation. In one of his presentations, he highlighted that the most important thing to consider is always the preparation. And he used a saying of Abraham Lincoln: "If I had nine hours to cut down a tree, I would spend six sharpening my axe". I can't think of a better phrase to put his message over.

So, I would like to give you an example of how beneficial proper preparation can be.

One of the traditional sports in Alaska is tree felling. A young boy, who wanted to become a great woodcutter, heard about an old man who handled the axe like no other. So he decided to go and meet him. "I want to be your disciple and learn to cut down trees as well as you do", he said. The young man followed him as a pupil and after some time, he believed he had mastered the art better than his teacher. He felt stronger, more agile, and as he was younger, he was sure he could easily defeat him.



Thus, he challenged the old man to a nine-hour contest which consisted of felling as many trees as possible within a certain period of time. The teacher accepted the challenge, and the contest began. The young woodcutter started cutting down trees eagerly and vigorously. He frequently glanced over his shoulder at the old man, but most of the time, he saw him sitting down. Over and over again he felled trees, sure of winning, and even feeling a little sorry that he would beat the man who had taught him.

But when the time was up and the final count made, he realised to his amazement that the old man had felled many more trees than he had. He was simply astonished. "Every time I looked at you, you were resting", he said. The old man replied, "Oh no son, I was not resting. I was sharpening my axe. This is the reason I won and you lost". This demonstrates that the difference between one man and another is not power or skills, but taking advantage of one's experience.

That's why I would like to thank Maj. Frazer and all the instructors for having shared their experience with us. Classmates of the first MOLO course, let's sharpen the axe!

Maj. Oscar Fiori

Soldiers Decorated

Since the downsizing of UNFICYP, medal parades have changed their format to combine the presentation and numbers of all Sectors and Units into one parade. However, due to operational reasons, five officers and 36 NCOs in Sector 1 were unable to attend either the last Sector 1 Medal Parade in San Martin Camp on 24 January or the first integrated Medal Parade at HQ UNFICYP on 24 February.

These men therefore stood to attention in the grounds of San Martin Camp on 17 March and were decorated by their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col Federico Sidders. Following the presentation, Lt. Col. Sidders addressed the recipients, highlighting the significance of completing their mission. The ceremony ended with a parade and later a traditional "asado" (the Argentinian barbecue) was served at the NCOs' Mess.



Basketball and Football Aces



HQ team (from the left): Maj. Neil Wright, Lt. Col. Guillermo Vignolo, Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli (Team Captain), WO2 Carlos Rojo, Sgt. Richard Burnham, SSgt. Juan Soria, SSgt. Ricardo Giménez and Capt. Carlos Fraquelli

Sector 4 organised a basketball tournament in a local stadium on 21 February. Teams from Sectors 1, 2 and 4 and the HQ participated. Even though the HQ team (above) were "veteran players", even though they had not practised a lot, even though they were not the "dream team", they still won 2nd prize!

Women's Day at LPH: *Continued from Page 3*

Violence against women is often much more subtle and perpetrated in both the private and public spheres. To my mind, real security entails not only equal access to equal opportunities, but equal respect on all levels. For example, it means a workplace free of harassment, where women are integrated as full and equal partners in the decision making process. It also means targeted activities to address gaps and inequalities between women and men in all spheres and it means women's empowerment which is the only thing that can really challenge gender inequality.

In the decade since the 1995 Beijing Conference, which many of the panelists attended, life for many of the world's women has become tougher, yet in the words of the SG in his message, "the challenges facing women are not problems without solutions".

In his Women's Day address, the SG called for "specific, targeted action to change the historical legacy that puts women at a disadvantage in most societies" and noted, that in the 60 years since the equal rights of women and men were inscribed on the first page of the UN Charter, that "there is no tool more effective than the empowerment of women and no policy more important in preventing conflict or, in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended".

I find that the closing phrase of the SG's phrases perfectly describe my sentiments after the inspiring Women's Day event hosted by UNFICYP, in which six Cypriot women, three from each community, sat together and spoke positively about the future of women in Cyprus and about the importance of working together to a positive end for all Cypriot women. I also echo the closing words of Ambassador Marcoulis' address at the event: "A woman's place is in the House... and Senate"!

Medevac Exercise in Sector 4

On 27 January, a night MEDEVAC helicopter exercise was arranged in Sector 4 to review and practise medical evacuation drills during night hours.

The scenario was of two soldiers in a UN pick-up truck which "crashed" whilst on a routine patrol in the buffer zone near OPT 101. One of the patrol members reported the accident to the COMCEN of 1st Platoon, and this report followed the chain of command up to the activated MEDEVAC, whereupon the casualties were evacuated.

Spectators were present and given the chance to observe the procedures close at hand so as to raise any issue they thought significant. The exercise was pronounced a success.



While Others Subtract, UN Flight Adds!

UNFICYP may be downsizing, but UN Flight is upsizing with the addition of one more helicopter pilot. Lt. Col. Guillermo Ortiz became UN Flight's 28th pilot. The 27-year-old member of the Argentinian Air Force joined UNFICYP to help the helicopter fleet in fulfilling its new requirements. When asked how he feels about his new assignment, Guillermo says, "I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve with this mission and represent my country".

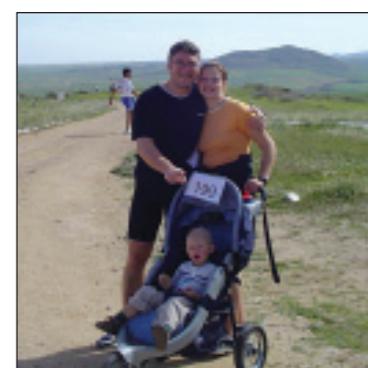
As stipulated by UNHQ New York, UNFICYP is undergoing a reduction in personnel deployed to the island. UN Flight is adapting to these changes. The increase of in-flight hours is required to achieve better and more efficient aerial coverage of all tasks such as medevac, casevac, and special operations. One additional pilot was necessary to accomplish this effort.

Recognition of UN Flight's professionalism over a period of 11 years of uninterrupted service confirms that good flight planning begins on the ground. So, as the rest of the contingents reduce their personnel, we add one more pilot to our line-up in order to meet the future demands that will come with these winds of change.



OC UN Flight Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi (left) on his return from UNHQ/DPKO Aviation Seminar (16-18 Feb) in NY, and Lt. Ortiz before his first recce flight of the island in a Hughes 500D

Families Run in Sector 1



Sector 1 held a race on 5 March. The competition was divided into two cross-country runs, one covering a distance of 15km and the other one 7km. More than 100 participants competed over the difficult terrain of Sector 1 which, although tough at times, afforded them the opportunity to appreciate the scenery as they ran. The 7km course was considered a "Families Run" and had one special participant, two-year-old Dorian (above, right) who proudly completed the course in Buggy 199, together with Dad, WO2 Sasha Nagy from HQ UNFICYP, and Mum, Alexandra.