

THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP



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NEW POLICE ARRIVALS

By Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers

Monday 16 August saw the arrival of a new team of UNCIVPOL members consisting of one Irish and nine Australian police officers.

The new Australian contingent will be here for six months, whilst the new Irish officer has been posted in for 12 months.

One third of the new Australian contingent are female. Commander Graham Taylor, who selected all the incoming Australians, said that all of them - men and women - had been selected for their ability and skills. Although pleased to be doubling the number of female officers serving with UNFICYP, he stressed that: "There was absolutely no move to employ women for the sake of employing women - everyone is here on his or her merit."



One third of the Australian Contingent:
From the left: Kim, Jonelle and Michelle

CIVILIAN POLICE RESTRUCTURED

By Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers

Until March 1999, both UNFICYP's civilian police contingents (a 15-strong group from Ireland and a 20-person team from Australia) operated as separate entities. They worked in different areas and there was little contact between the two, although both reported to one police commander, who in turn reported to the Force Commander.

This spring, however, the two were integrated into a single UN Civilian Police element. UNCIVPOL commanders are taken alternately from Ireland and Australia, with each incoming commander serving a six-month term as deputy before taking charge. The commander now reports direct to the Chief of Mission.

The integration of the two contingents has meant both Irish and Australian police are deployed right along the Buffer Zone. Each UNCIVPOL office is staffed by a combination of Australian and Irish personnel.

As part of the restructuring process, UNCIVPOL last year carried out a statistical assessment of its activities to

establish where most of its work took place. As a result of this assessment, the police recommended to the Chief of Mission that they be stationed in the village of Linou, at the UNPA (UNCIVPOL's headquarters), in the Ledra Palace Hotel, and in Athienou, Pyla, Dherinia and Famagusta.

They also recommended that a new station be opened in the Buffer Zone village of Dhenia. This station, which opened on 1 September, is staffed by Sgt Bob Wynn and PO Trevor Graham.

Their task, like all other UNCIVPOL members, will be to provide a first point of contact between civilians and UNFICYP within the Buffer Zone. They will carry out community policing activities and patrols along an area that stretches from the UNPA to Astromeritis.

Having been stationed in the UNPA so far, Bob and Trevor say they look forward to having their own show, but note that facilities in the brand-new station may be a little different from those at HQ.

UNCIVPOL ON PARADE

By Sgt Ricki Hanisch



Medal recipients of the integrated UNCIVPOL

On 18 August 1999, 29 police officers marched on parade at the Sergeants' Mess, Ledra Palace Hotel, in the first medal parade ever held by an integrated UNCIVPOL.

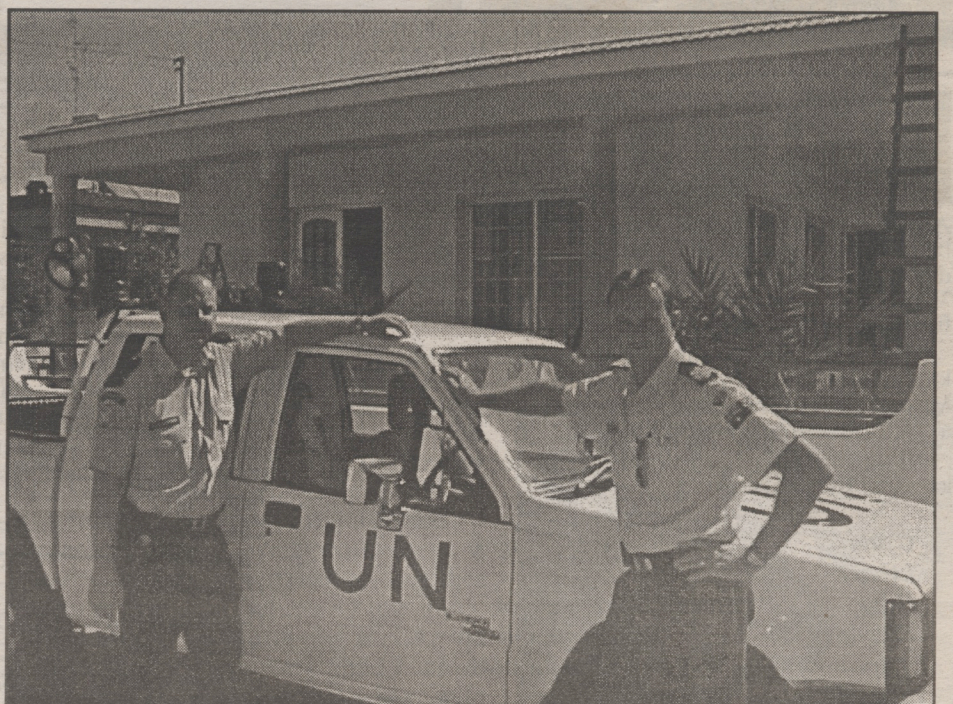
Police from both Ireland and Australia received their UN medals from the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, watched by approximately 300 guests. Commander Graham Taylor, Parade Commander and Commander of UNCIVPOL, received an additional numeral for his third term as a member

of the civilian police on Cyprus, while Sergeant Marianne Tully received an additional numeral for her second.

Entertainment after the parade was provided by Maria Rodriguez and WO3 Retamara, two Argentinians who charmed the audience with several beautiful songs, sung in English. Dr Irene Cotter moved everyone with her renditions of traditional Irish airs, and UNCIVPOL's Police Officer John Monahan proved himself a talented guitarist.

On 15 August 1999, Assistant Commissioner Hugh Sreenan of An Garda Síochána (Irish Police Force) travelled to Cyprus on a courtesy visit and also to attend the medal parade for members of both the Australian and Irish Contingents.

Assistant Commissioner Sreenan is Director of the Garda Síochána Training College in Ireland, and has overseen the development of the college over the past number of years.



Trevor (left) and Bob outside their new base

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

Editorial Team

Sarah Russell (Editor)
Maj Paul Kolken
Miriam Taylor

Photography

Force Photographer: Cpl Damian Faulkner
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One Lt Gastón Grasso
Sector Two Capt Vicki Walker
Sector Four Capt Andreas Vas
Capt Gregorij Hvastja
Capt Attila Rábai
UNCIVPOL Sgt Michelle Lomas-Travers
UN Fit 1/Lt Pablo Ribnikar
MFR Coy Capt Jeremy Mawdsley
FMPU Lt Stephanie Gras-Ficq
Civilian Admin Roger de Weever
Civil Affairs Cpl Maj Mark Kingston

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

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QUOTATIONS

Nor at all can tell
Whether I mean this day to end
myself
Or lend an ear to Plato where he says,
That men like soldiers may not quit
the post
Allotted by the Gods

Tennyson

RECTIFICATION

The Blue Beret editorial of 19 August gave a random list of some of the periods of Cyprus' history. This list omitted the Ottoman period. Blue Beret apologises for the omission, but notes that a complete overview of Cyprus' history can be found on page 6 of the same issue.

EDITORIAL

As I leave UNFICYP, I look back on a tour of peacekeeping duty that has been both interesting and challenging.

During my two years here I have witnessed, at close quarters, intense diplomatic activity to ensure that there is peace on the island of Cyprus and in the Eastern Mediterranean region. I also have seen an enormous amount of determined and dogged hard work by the military, civilian police, civil affairs, and civil administration to fulfil the UNFICYP mandate. The key element of that mandate is, of course, to maintain the status quo between the opposing forces ranged along the ceasefire lines.

Working in an international peace-keeping mission is a rewarding experience, and it has been an honour to serve with UNFICYP as Chief of Staff. I can reflect with some satisfaction on the many long hours spent developing the ways we work together as an integrated team, blending different cultures and ideas to achieve the high standards needed to be successful "on the ground".

I would like to pay tribute here to the contingents and individuals who together have seized the opportunity to enhance UNFICYP's delivery of its mandate through a restructured organisation with a sharper focus on setting and achieving objectives.

I am acutely aware that in our mission, like all organisations today, there are real pressures to achieve more with less. It is a real credit to everyone serving with UNFICYP to see how well they have dealt with these constraints, whilst continuing to maintain the high standards expected of them.

UNFICYP's work is highly respected and deserves wide recognition. We are fortunate to be on this beautiful island, but we must not allow others to forget that our task is a demanding one, undertaken in what can often be difficult and uncomfortable conditions.

I have very much enjoyed my time with UNFICYP, as has my family, whom I would like to thank for their unflagging support. We leave behind many friends and colleagues and will always be very happy to return to Cyprus.

Thank you all for your cooperation and assistance. I wish the mission every success in the future.

Colonel CMB Coats
Chief of Staff

Da ich UNFICYP jetzt verlasse blicke ich auf einen friedenserhaltenden Einsatz zurück, der sowohl interessant als auch herausfordernd war. Während meines zweijährigen Aufenthaltes konnte ich aus nächster Entfernung erleben wie durch intensive diplomatische Aktivitäten der Frieden auf der Insel und in der östlichen Mittelmeerregion sichergestellt wurde. Ferner konnte ich einen entschlossenen und verbissenen Einsatz bei Soldaten, UNCIVPOL, civil affairs und der Administration zur Erfüllung des UN Mandats erkennen. Der Hauptpunkt dieses Mandates ist es natürlich den Status quo zwischen den beiden Parteien entlang der Waffenstillstandslinie zu garantieren.

In einem internationalen friedenserhaltenden Einsatz zu arbeiten war eine lohnende Erfahrung und ausserdem für mich eine Ehre bei UNFICYP als COS eingesetzt zu sein. Ich kann mit persönlicher Genugtuung auf die vielen Stunden zurückblicken, die von dem Team erbracht wurden die verschiedenen Kulturen und Ideen auf einen gemeinsamen Nenner zu bringen, um an der Basis Erfolg zu haben.

Ich möchte hier die Gelegenheit nutzen den Kontingenten und Einzelpersonen zu danken, die hier die gemeinsamen Möglichkeiten die Ausübung des UNFICYP Mandates zu verbessern, durch Umstrukturierung der Organisation mit einem genaueren Blick darauf einen Erfolg zu erzielen.

Natürlich ist mir bewusst, dass in unserem Einsatz, wie heute in allen Organisationen, ein ständiger Druck herrscht mit noch weniger Mitteln noch mehr zu erreichen. Jeder einzelne der bei UNFICYP dient kann stolz darauf sein wie mit diesen Zwängen umgegangen wurde und der hohe Standart dennoch von jedem gefordert wurde.

Die Arbeit der durch UNFICYP geleistet wird ist sehr angesehen und erfährt eine breite Anerkennung. Wir können uns glücklich schätzen auf einer solchen schönen Insel zu sein, dürfen dabei den anderen nicht erlauben zu vergessen, dass wir eine anspruchsvolle Aufgabe, oft unter schwierigsten und unbehaglichen Bedingungen, zu erfüllen haben.

Meine Familie, der ich für ihre grenzenlose Unterstützung danken möchte, und ich haben die Zeit die ich mit UNFICYP verbrachte sehr genossen. Wir müssen hier für viele Freunde und Kollegen zurücklassen und werden uns daher jedesmal wieder freuen nach Zypern zurückkehren zu können.

Ich möchte mich für ihre Unterstützung und Kooperation bedanken und wünsche dem Einsatz eine erfolgreiche Zukunft.

Colonel CMB Coats
Chief of Staff

Al dejar UNFICYP, miro hacia atrás y veo que los deberes de servicio en una misión de mantenimiento de paz han sido interesantes y desafiantes.

Durante mis dos años aquí, he sido testigo muy de cerca, de la intensa actividad diplomática que se requiere para asegurar que haya paz en la isla de Chipre y a la vez, en la región este del mediterráneo. También he visto la cantidad inmensa del empeñado, tenaz y arduo trabajo de parte de los militares, de la policía civil, de la oficina de asuntos civiles, y de la administración civil para poder alcanzar los objetivos del mandato de UNFICYP. El elemento clave de este mandato, es por supuesto, mantener a lo largo de las líneas de cese al fuego, el status quo entre las fuerzas opositoras.

Trabajar para una misión internacional de mantenimiento de paz, es una experiencia recompensada, y para mí ha sido un honor, haber prestado mis servicios en UNFICYP, como Jefe del Estado Mayor. Con alguna satisfacción puedo reflexionar sobre las largas horas dedicadas a desarrollar diferentes maneras para poder trabajar conjuntamente como equipo integral, amalgamando diferentes culturas e ideas para alcanzar el más alto rendimiento para conseguir el éxito "en el terreno".

Me gustaría asimismo rendir tributo a los contingentes e individuos que conjuntamente han comprendido la oportunidad que tenemos para mejorar el cumplimiento del mandato de UNFICYP, a través de una organización reestructurada con un enfoque mejor delineado para establecer y lograr sus objetivos.

Con cierto criticismo, estoy al tanto de que en nuestra misión, como en otras misiones del mundo de hoy, existen verdaderas presiones para hacer más con menos. Por lo tanto, verdaderamente se da crédito a cada uno que presta sus servicios en UNFICYP y ver qué bien se las han arreglado no obstante las restricciones y aún mantener el alto rendimiento que se espera de ellos.

La labor de UNFICYP es altamente respetada y merece un amplio reconocimiento. Somos afortunados de estar en esta bella isla. No permitamos que se olvide que tenemos una tarea exigente, la cual a menudo se realiza en condiciones difíciles e incómodas.

He disfrutado mucho mi estancia en UNFICYP, así como también mi familia a quien le agradezco su continuo apoyo. Dejamos atrás muchos amigos y colegas y siempre estaremos contentos de regresar a Chipre.

Gracias por toda su ayuda y cooperación. Le deseo a la misión mucho éxito en el futuro.

Colonel CMB Coats
Chief of Staff

BB TIPS: HAZARDOUS ITEMS

Amikor készülQdsz hazafelé, a missziód befelyezésekor, jusson eszedbe, hogy van néhány dolog, amit nem vihetsz magaddal. Egy részüket a VAM-szabályok miatt, a másik részüket repülés-biztonsági okok miatt.

Ha érdekel ezen tárgyak teljes listája, vedd fel a kapcsolatot a Force légi-biztonsági tisztjével, Capt. Maver-rel, vagy Richard Dellar-ral a Traffic Unit-tól, a 4456-os telefonszámon.

A legáltalánosabban problémát okozó eszközök UN katonák hazautazásakor:

Gyufa	Pirotechnikai anyagok
LQszer	Tisztító-oldó szerek
Haj spray	Aerosolos dezodorok
Propán palackok	Szén-dioxid patronok
Bajonettek	WD-40 (csavar lazítók)
Öngyújtók	Öngyújtó-töltők
Duplapengéjű kések	10.2cm-nél hosszabb pengével
Oxigén vagy süritett levegős palackok	

Wenn Sie am ende ihres Einsatzes ihre Koffer packen, denken sie bitte daran, dass es einige Dinge gibt die nicht mitgenommen werden dürfen. Einige auf Grund von Zollbestimmungen, andere wiederum auf Grund von Flugsicherheitsbestimmungen. Für eine gesamte Liste dieser Dinge können sie den Force Air Safety Officer, Captain Maver, auf der Klappe 4794 oder Mr. Dellar vom Traffic Unit, Klappe 4456 kontaktieren.

Wenn bei UN Soldaten diese verbotenen Dinge gefunden werden handelt es sich meistens um folgende Sachen:

Zündhölzer	Feuerwerkskörper
Munition	Reinigungslösungsmittel
Haarspray	Druckdosen
Gaskartuschen	Deodorants
WD-40	CO2 Pateronen
Bajonette	Sauerstofftanks (Tauchen, medizinische)
Feuerzeugbenzin	
Messer mit einer längeren Klinge als 10.2 cm	
(besonders Klappmesser)	

Prihaja cas odhoda domov in s tem tudi cas zlaganja prtljage. Ob tem ne smemo pozabiti na nekatere predmete, ki se ne smejo jemati s seboj; nekaterih zaradi carinskih omejitev, drugih zaradi varnostnih pravil v letalih. Popoln seznam prepovedanih predmetov vam lahko zagotovi varnostni castnik pri UN Flight, stotnik Maver na interni stevilki 4794, ali pa gospod Richard Dellar pri Prometni enoti na interni 4456.

Med prepovedanimi predmeti se med pripadniki UN najpogosteje najdejo:

vzgalice	WD-40
pirotehnicne igrace	kisikove jeklenke (potapljaske ali medicinske)
strelivo	bajoneti
cistilna sredstva	razlicni vzgalniki
lak za lase	goriva za vzgalniki
deodoranti v prsilkah	goriva za vzgalniki
tekoci plin (propan)	nozi z rezilom daljsim od 10,2 cm, zlasti izskocna rezila
ogljikov dioksid	

TURTLES COME TO LIFE

By
Major
Paul
Kolken

One minute our part of beach is flat and totally undisturbed. The next, a tiny creature has appeared. It's a baby loggerhead turtle that's crawled up out of the safety of its nest, a foot below the ground. From here, it's a long and dangerous journey to maturity. First it has to get from the nest to the sea. Then it has to avoid the predators that lurks in its depths. It is estimated that maybe only one turtle out of a thousand hatchlings will reach adulthood.

We're lucky. Last night's turtle watchers on Avdimou beach didn't see any hatchlings. For my children, seeing this one little creature was enough to make the trip worthwhile. But by 11 pm, five more had appeared.

Ian Williamson runs the turtle project at the Western Sovereign Base Area, and is only too happy to share his enthusiasm and knowledge. "I'm particularly happy that this nest has hatched," says Ian. "We used to take the nests from busy beaches like this one into the British Base and look after them there. But the essence of the project is to let nature go undisturbed and at the same time make the public aware of the uniqueness of turtles hatching almost in their backyard. So we left this one where it was. Most people think turtles can only be

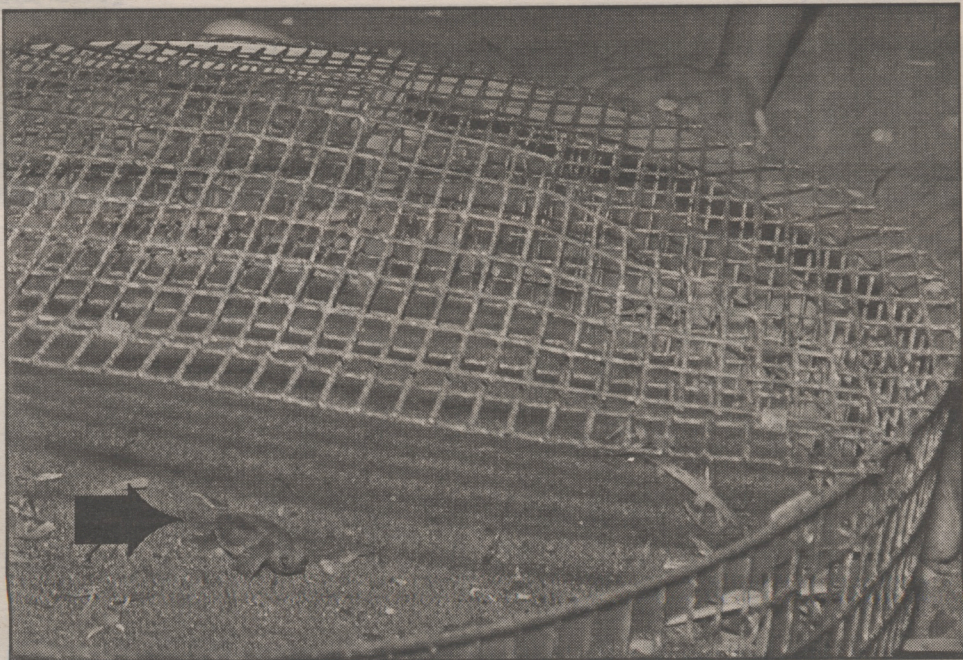
seen at the Lara beach project near Paphos or at the turtle beaches up in the north, near Apostolos Andreas monastery, but they do come in to nest here too."

What does running this project involve?

"Well, it starts with patrolling the beaches from the beginning of June onwards, when the turtles come ashore to



The sex of turtles is determined by temperature. The eggs at the top of the nest, closest to the surface, are the warmest. These will tend to be female. Eggs that incubate at temperatures below 30°C will tend to be male.



Loggerhead hatchling emerges

lay their eggs. Our volunteers look out for trails in the sand which show where the mothers have been to make their nests. To protect each nest against foxes or dogs, we put a cage over it. We also put up signs to tell tourists and the local population there's a turtle nest and kindly ask them not to disturb it. Unfortunately, this particular nest was interfered with, probably by children playing. At about 49 days, the young turtles are ready to hatch. We monitor this and record the times and number of turtles reaching the sea safely."

How do the turtles know what time to leave the nest?

"It's all temperature-driven. After sundown the temperature drops quickly. This tells them it's safe to come up as their natural enemies can't see them clearly because of darkness. Once they've reached the surface, their natural instinct is to head for light. This should be moonlight reflected by the sea. But you can imagine that bright lights of houses or discos on the shore can confuse them. That's why we sometimes use torches to guide them to the sea. They'll aim for the brightest light source around."

Wouldn't it be easier to pick them up and hand deliver them to the sea?

"Yes it would, but it's very important

they make the trip from the nest to the sea on their own. While doing so, they are thought to pick up chemical and perhaps magnetic information from the ground. This information stays with them all their life. By the time a female turtle comes to lay eggs herself, she'll come back to the beach she was born on. The males will never come ashore again."

How many turtles does each nest produce?

"Most loggerhead nests contain an average of 85 eggs. Not all of them will hatch. This particular nest this far produced 23 turtles, while there was a fair chance it wouldn't produce any, because of the interference I mentioned before. This meant that the temperature dropped. But we hope some more will come out."

The next day Ian decided to dig up the nest. He found 20 hatchlings trapped at the bottom. They all made it to the sea on their own.

There were also some hatchlings that were still too weak to make the journey out to sea, so Ian took them home and looked after them for a few days until they were strong enough to survive. Some eggs that he took home hatched out in his airing cupboard. These baby turtles were also released into the sea. Altogether the nest produced 66 hatchlings.

VISITS OFFICER LEAVES

By Major Paul Kolken

Visits Coordinator RSM Larry McGrath finished his tour of duty last week. A behind-the-scenes figure, Larry the sympathetic Irishman nevertheless was well-known to the protocol officers of every contingent.

No general, politician or UN-official embarked on an UNFICYP tour without McGrath arranging his or her visit.

Larry explains: "I started out as the Force Stationary Officer, but at the beginning of January, I was given the task of coordinating all the official visits to UNFICYP. To my mind, this job was far more interesting."

In the past eight months, UNFICYP has hosted 83 official visits.



RSM Jimmy Kerrigan joins UNFICYP as RSM Larry McGrath leaves

Some visitors send in specifications of who they want to meet and what they want to see. Others leave it up to UNFICYP to work out the programme. And the visits coordinator has to make sure nothing goes wrong.

As Larry explained: "For each visitor I had to make a personalised programme and coordinate this with the sectors, the briefing officers, and the honour guard, as well as setting up office calls to top UNFICYP personnel. During the visit I had to monitor arrangements and inform the relevant personnel if there were last-minute changes in the itinerary."

Which visit did you enjoy most?

"That was the visit of the Japanese journalists organised by New York

HQ in February. The way they approached their visit, the questions they asked, their enthusiasm, I enjoyed seeing that."

Was it a good tour?

"Yes, I bring back very good memories and have made a lot of friends. If I accepted all the invitations to visit people I've met here, I'd be travelling the world for more than a year. In fact I liked working in a multinational environment together with police and civilians so much that I am seriously considering leaving the Garda and joining the United Nations in an administrative job. My wife Maria says she's happy to follow me wherever I go. And we certainly aren't inclined to stay in Ireland for its

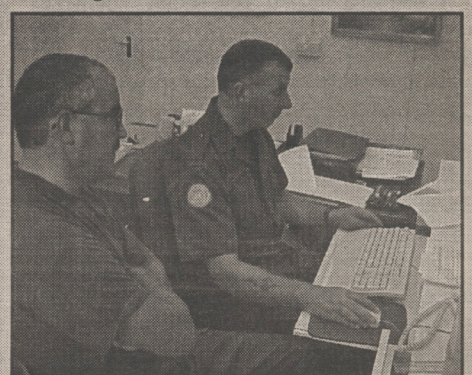
climate. We both loved the Cyprus weather."

Larry may have gone, but his replacement is already hard at work. RSM Jimmy Kerrigan arrived last week, bringing a lot of experience from previous missions.

"My first mission was actually in Cyprus as a rifleman, back in 1972. Since then I've served in Lebanon four times and once in Iran. My previous job was Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Irish Infantry Battalion in Galway. There I frequently had to deal with protocol and ceremonial tasks."

What do you expect of your new job?

"It's a new experience. I believe in making the most of all new experiences. And Cyprus is a good place to stay for my family. My wife Anne and three of my five sons will follow me after the first school semester. The boys can play football in the sun and when I'm not fixing visits, I hope to enjoy my hobby of hill walking in Troodos."



Handover/takeover in progress

REAL LIFE

SEVEN MARIAS AT OP-18

By Major Paul Kolken



Argentinian Juan Eckhardt enjoying his view from OP 18 watchtower

In a hotel, the better the view, the more expensive the room. If Sector 1 were a hotel, the Argentinian soldiers keeping the peace on OP 18 would have to pay a fortune. Not only do they have a perfect view of the Xeros Dam and the Mediterranean in the north, but in all other directions they see scenes taken straight from a nature magazine. To the south, for example, lie the reforested terraces of an old copper mine. To the east is the green valley that runs along the Lefka road.

For soldier Juan Eckhardt, this place, 13,000 kilometres from Argentina, is home for six months. His colleagues are, in a sense, his family. They have to take care of each other. And they do.

Today, 1st Corporal Cristian Coronel is on 'Maria-duty'. This means he is cook of the day. Staying inside is proving a tearful business, for Cristian is chopping onions. For a while, even he has got to go outside to relieve his eyes.

According to 1st Corporal Carlos Navalles, Cristian's pretty gifted when it comes to cooking.

"I've never had any training," says Cristian. "But I used to cook at home whenever I wasn't on exercise or in the barracks. That way, my wife could have a break from daily business. Now she has to cope with everything by herself. The only time I've cooked for her recently, was when I was on leave. I went back to Argentina to see her and my son Lucas Ivan. And to see my daughter Fiana Esther being born. We're a good team at OP 18, but I miss my real family."

Can they all cook?

"Yes, but there's one of us who's only allowed to make hamburgers or hot dogs."

Cooking isn't the only 'Maria-duty'. Another detail on the roster is washing the dishes or cleaning the buildings. "All the things your mother used to do at home are equally divided between all seven members of our team," says Carlos. "For me, this is my first mission. I only finished the three years of education at the military school in November last year. Almost immediately afterwards I was sent to Cyprus. I was used to being away from home already, and I think the fact that I am single makes it a bit easier. Still, I miss the atmosphere of Argentina. I

keep in touch with my roots by phoning my parents every Saturday. Actually I call them by radio from San Martin Camp. My parents then make sure they are at a barracks in Argentina. This way it's free, otherwise it would be too expensive to call every week."

OP commander, 2nd Lieutenant Alejandro Peralta, enters the building. "Sorry I wasn't here when you arrived," he apologises. "I had to go to San Martin to get fuel for the generator. I have to go down three times a week to make sure we won't run out of electricity. A return journey is 8 kilometres of mountain track. It's an operational necessity: no electricity, no radio reports. We have to send in our observations, and we receive messages like for instance the heat stress index.



On the menu: roast beef and croquettes

Although we're 270 metres above sea level, it gets just as hot as in San Martin Camp, which is 39°C today. Last week, we got an air-conditioner. That makes a huge difference."

It also uses a lot of electricity. Another, but much more modest, consumer the generator has to feed is the television. "That's one form of entertainment," says Corporal Navalles. "We watch adventure films, science-fiction, comics and thrillers. Besides our duties on the tower or as radio operator, we also spend time in our little gymnasium and we go running, read or play cards. All in all, life at OP 18 isn't bad."

SIETE MARIAS EN EL OP 18

En un hotel, lo mejor es la vista y por lo tanto, el precio por ese cuarto es el más caro. Si Sector 1 fuese un hotel, los soldados argentinos mantenedores de la paz del OP 18 deberían pagar una fortuna. No solo tienen una perfecta vista del Dique Xerox y el mar Mediterráneo hacia el Norte, sino también en todas direcciones. Las escenas que se aprecian desde allí parecen sacadas de una Revista de Naturaleza. Hacia el Sur, por ejemplo, se destacan las escalonadas terrazas de una vieja mina de cobre. Hacia el Este, es el verde valle que recorre a lo largo del Lefka Road.

Para el soldado Juan Eckhardt, este lugar que se encuentra a 13000 Kilómetros de Argentina, será su hogar durante los próximos seis meses. Sus compañeros o colegas serán en esencia, su familia. Deberán colaborar y cuidarse el uno al otro. Y por cierto lo hacen.

Hoy, el Cabo 1º Cristián Coronel, se encuentra responsable del servicio de 'Maria'. Esto significa que él será el cocinero durante el día. Pero, permanecer dentro del OP no es ningún regalo, obliga a hacer una tarea agobiante. Hoy, para Cristián, es cortar las cebollas para el almuerzo. Incluso, de a ratos, debe salir a tomar aire y aclarar sus ojos.

Según el Cabo 1º Carlos Navalles, Cristián es el preferido a la hora de la preparar las comidas del día.

"Yo nunca he tenido entrenamiento sobre cocina", dice Cristián. "Pero a veces suelo cocinar en mi casa cuando estoy de vacaciones o en mis tiempos libres, fuera del cuartel. De esta manera, le doy un respiro a mi esposa en su tarea diaria. Ahora, ella debe afrontar con todo. La última vez que tuve tiempo de cocinarle fue durante mi licencia. Regresé a la Argentina para estar con ella y mi hijo Lucas Ivan. Además de mi pequeña hija Fiama Esther, que nació hace unos días. Somos un buen equipo en el OP 18, pero extraño a mi verdadera familia."

Pueden todos cocinar?

"Sí, pero existe uno de todos nosotros que solamente está autorizado a realizar hamburguesas y panchos."

La cocina no es lo único del servicio de 'Maria'. La otra tarea en el turno es el lavado de vajillas y limpieza de la

vivienda. "Todas las cosas que una madre realiza en una casa, son iguales a las que realizamos los siete miembros del equipo" dice Carlos. "Esta es mi primera misión en UN. En noviembre finalicé mi educación militar en la Escuela de Suboficiales del Ejército de tres años de estudio. Casi inmediatamente fui enviado hacia Chipre. Estoy acostumbrado a estar lejos de casa, y el hecho de ser soltero me ayuda bastante. Sin embargo, extraño la atmósfera de Argentina. Me mantengo en contacto con mi familia hablando por teléfono cada sábado. Actualmente los llamo mediante el sistema de radio desde Campo San Martín. Para asegurarse, mis padres concurren a un cuartel cercano a mi domicilio y reciben mis llamadas sin problemas. De esta manera es gratis, y realmente sería muy caro llamar cada semana."

El 2º Jefe del Area 40, Sub-Teniente Alejandro Peralta, ingresa al edificio. "Lamento, que no estuve aquí cuando llegaron", se disculpó. "Tuve que ir a Campo San Martín que dista a ocho kilómetros aproximadamente. Tuve que ir a buscar combustible para el generador. Debo concurrir tres veces a la semana para asegurarme de que no nos quedemos sin electricidad. Es una necesidad operacional: sin electricidad, no hay reportes de radio. Debemos enviar nuestros informes y recibir mensajes, como por ejemplo, el índice de Temperatura y Stress. Aunque estamos a 270 metros del nivel del mar, la sensación térmica es tan calurosa como en Campo San Martín. Casi llegamos a los 39°C, los últimos días. La semana pasada adquirimos un aire acondicionado. Esto hace una gran diferencia."

Además utilizan mucho la electricidad. Otro consumidor, pero más modesto es el televisor. "Es uno de nuestros entretenimientos" dice el Cabo Navalles. "Miramos películas de video que nos dan en el Campo. Son títulos de aventuras, ciencia ficción y cómicas y además el noticiero en español. Aparte de nuestra tarea en la torre o en la radio, podemos utilizar un pequeño gimnasio, donde pasamos nuestro tiempo libre; jugar cartas, al "truco" típico juego argentino; salir a trotar o leer libros. Después de todo, la vida aquí en el OP 18 no está tan mal."

NEWS

S 2 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Captain Vicki Walker

The bright lights came to Sector 2 last week in the guise of the Welsh media, all geared up to report on how the boys and girls from the valleys were doing on their latest operational tour. We had a TV crew from HTV Wales and press representatives from North and South Wales. All of a sudden soldiers were walking around trying their best to look macho every time they saw anything vaguely resembling a camera. There was a distinct odour of fake tan as efforts were made to turn white bodies into bronzed Adonises - unfortunately working hard makes it well nigh impossible to get a decent suntan.

It is easy to think that all types of reporters can be lumped together. We soon learnt, however, that television requires totally different things to written press. Interviews with the scribblers were done swiftly and the soldiers from the regional areas concerned had their pictures taken within minutes, all grinning at the cameras and trying to flex their muscles. Meanwhile, we were on Take Four of "Welsh Gunners patrolling past dilapidated building" and still had another five angles to take of the same shot.

The team traipsed down to our adventure-training set-up on the Sunday to film and photograph off-duty soldiers sailing, windsurfing and throwing themselves off cliffs. Gunner Eric Tudor put everyone to shame jumping time and time again

from 15 metres up into crystal clear water. HTV reporter Craig Hooper thought that this would be an excellent opportunity for a "tease" shot. Craig was filmed, putting on a suitably nervous look for the camera, while Eric told him what to do. Eric made a demo jump to show Craig what to do. And then Craig realised that this wasn't just a TV act - he'd got to follow. The nervous look became very much more authentic. It took four more gunners plunging in before the reporter realised that there was no going back on the challenge. Jump he must and jump he did.

Lance Bombardier Tara Hughes was also filmed. "They were very friendly and it was a totally different experience," he said. "I've been interviewed for home town stories before, but this was the first time I've worked with a camera crew. It was relaxed and there was no stress." Are his sights set on a silver screen career? "Well, I would definitely do it again."



Performing in the public eye

S 1 DESPIDE AL CHIEF OF STAFF



Sector 2



Buen Viaje Coronel Coats.....Sector 1

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso.

El día miércoles 18 de agosto, se llevó a cabo una emotiva ceremonia donde el personal del Sector 1, encabezado por el CO Sector, Teniente Coronel Sergio Mujica, recibió al Jefe del Estado Mayor de UNFICYP Coronel Coats con motivo de su pronta partida de la Isla de Chipre.

Luego de pasar revista a las tropas formadas, el Coronel Coats, agradeció la cálida bienvenida que le brindó el Sector 1. También, durante sus palabras, deseó que al regreso de todos los que integran el contingente, hayan cumplido con us tarea de soldados

mantenedores de la Paz, y no hayan sufrido novedades de importancia.

Para finalizar, se ejecutó una diana de gloria para desearle una diana de gloria para desearle un feliz regreso y próspero futuro a quien durante este ciclo supo mantener las buenas relaciones entre su Estado Mayor y el Argcon.

Luego del desfile militar que honró al Coronel Coats, se realizó un pequeño agasajo en el Casino de Oficiales, para despedirlo con algunos regalos y palabras del homenajeado.

Sector 1 le desea lo mejor en su regreso y augura para el año 2000 le brinde a él y a su familia, los éxitos que se merecen. Buen Viaje!

CM HERCUS MEETS MINISTER FASSLABEND



By Captain Andreas Vas

Am 18 August hat der Bundesminister für Landesverteidigung, Dr. Werner Fasslabend, im Rahmen seines Besuches zur 25 Jahr Gedächtnisfeier für die gefallenen österreichischen Soldaten von Goshi, auch die CM Dame Ann Hercus und den FC Generalmajor Evergisto de Vergara im Hauptquartier von Nicosia in der UNPA besucht.

Bei dem etwa einstündigem Besuch unterstrich der Minister die Wichtigkeit der Region wo beide für den Südosten

Europas entscheidenden Bevölkerungsgruppen, Türken und Griechen, direkt aufeinander treffen. Der hier geleistete Dienst für den Frieden überträgt sich auch auf die Stabilität des Balkanraumes und somit auf den gesamten Südosten der EU. Womit sich der Kreis für Österreich, an der EU Außengrenze, wieder schließt.

Der BM Dr. Fasslabend hat Zypern nach mehreren Gesprächen mit den hier eingesetzten österreichischen Soldaten am 18.08.1999 um 1730 Uhr wieder verlassen.

HUNGARIANS CELEBRATE NATIONAL DAY

By Captain Attila Rábai

Our national day falls on 28 August. It celebrates our first king, Saint Steven, and the foundation of Hungary. Steven was crowned 999 years ago by Pope Sylvester II, bringing Hungary into the family of Roman Catholic countries.

Saint Steven devoted his entire life to integrating Hungary and the Hungarians into Europe. He had to fight hard to achieve this noble objective, but by the end of his reign, he had turned Hungary into a well-organised, civilised European country with a good international reputation and culture.

Nearly a thousand years later, Hungary is in much the same state that it was at the beginning of Saint Steven's reign. Then, as now, the doors to the east were closing and we were trying to open the doors to the west. These days we don't have to fight for survival, but we do have to prevent ourselves from lagging behind others, so the strong will of the Hungarian people is being put to the test.

To mark our national day, Hungarian contingent commander, Lieu-

tenant Colonel Pállai, gave a reception for all the Hungarians in Camp Izay. First we commemorated Saint Steven, and then the contingent commander thanked everybody for the work they are doing in the mission. At the end of the celebration, Lieutenant Colonel Pállai and Major Turi rewarded ten soldiers for their excellent work.

István király napja



Saint Steven

HISTORY

LEDRA PALACE AND WOLSELEY BARRACKS

Old records found around the barracks complex reveal that in 1900, one Reverend Canon Frank Curvall Newhan bought 11 acres of land near the Pedeios River to build a school. He paid a thousand pounds. Ninety-nine years on, some of this land and buildings which once housed the English College of Nicosia, are used by the Nicosia Law Courts. The rest are used by UNFICYP's Sector 2.

In the 1930s, Cyprus experienced a period of unrest which resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency and a reinforcement of the British garrison. In 1934-5, the British army took over the English College as its headquarters and named the area Wolseley Barracks after Field Marshal Sir Garnet Wolseley, who had been Governor of Cyprus. The buildings were used to house the headquarters, and tent lines were set up stretching out towards the Pedeios River.

The British army remained at the Barracks until 1959 when the garrison was withdrawn to the Sovereign Base Areas in Akrotiri and Dhekelia. Control of the buildings then passed to the Cyprus government.

11 years later, UNFICYP's Canadian contingent moved its headquarters to the buildings when its area of responsibility changed from Kyrenia to Nicosia.

Each of the major buildings in the barracks area has its own history.

Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess



Officer's Mess

This building was built in 1902 for the headmaster of the English College. The British army took it over in 1934 and added a new dining room in 1952. Between 1959 and 1964, it was home to the Vice President of Cyprus, Dr Fazil Kutchuk. The building became the Canadian Officers' Mess in 1970. In 1993, the British returned - this time as members of UNFICYP. They too have used the building as an officers' mess.

The Joint Operations Centre

This building was constructed by the British in 1934. It is not known what it was used for originally, but in 1974 it became the headquarters for 1 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Based on an article by Supt Peter Lawler

The Ledra Palace opened in 1949. While it was being constructed, builders found a small carved stone depicting a griffin which became the hotel's emblem. Renowned as one of the most glamorous hotels in the eastern Mediterranean, it was a favoured haunt of the rich, famous, and infamous. It is said that the brandy sour was invented in the Ledra bar to satisfy King Farouk's appetite for cocktails that didn't look alcoholic. Ironically, the hotel's north wing was completed in summer 1974: the only residents it has ever known have been UNFICYP soldiers.

When Turkish troops landed on the island on 20 July 1974, the National Guard deployed a platoon in the hotel - to protect the 380 occupants. At this time (as during the troubles of 1963-4) the Ledra bar was packed out with international journalists. One possibly apocryphal story claims that the barman was known to file media reports on behalf of journalists who had imbibed too many of his concoctions and become incapable of sending bulletins home.

Within hours, fighting erupted in Nicosia. Canadian UN personnel, based next door at Wolseley, tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a ceasefire to evacuate civilians. By late afternoon, UNFICYP had also deployed a platoon within the hotel.



Ledra Palace in former days

The next day, the hotel was damaged by small arms, mortar, and rocket fire. It was clear that water and food supplies would not last long, and the UN resumed negotiations to have the civilian guests evacuated. By midday they had succeeded. UN personnel drove armoured vehicles to the rear of the hotel, filled them with hotel guests, and drove them away.

UNFICYP also persuaded the National Guard to withdraw its platoon, on condition that the UN would occupy the building and prevent either of the opposing forces from taking it over.

The UN has been there ever since. Canadian peacekeepers lived there for 19 years, until 1993. Since then, it has accommodated members of the British contingent, who have now been joined by

members of the Dutch contingent, as well as a small group of Australian and Irish UN civilian police officers.

Because of its location in the Buffer Zone, in central Nicosia, the Ledra has provided the venue for a number of bicomunal events - some organised by the UN, some by other organisations and institutions. The most recent large-scale bicomunal meeting was a pan-Cyprus trades union conference held at the end of April.

In the 1960s, a Cyprus travel brochure described the Ledra as "Nicosia's most distinctive hotel - the meeting place for travellers from all parts of the world". It can only be hoped that one day, the hotel will be able to resume its former glory.

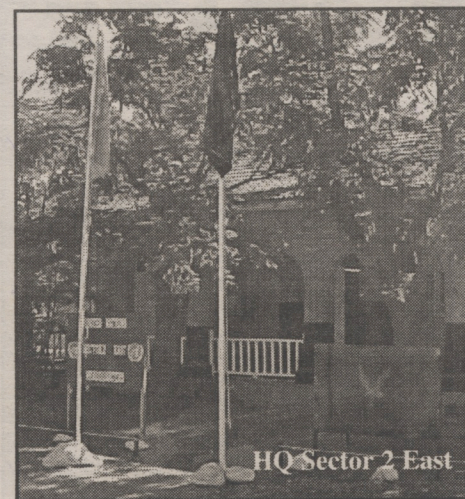


The Joint Operations Centre

Around 1980, it became the Sector 3's JOC - and then in 1993, Sector 2's JOC.

HQ Sector 2 East

Another British building from the 1930s. The British used it as the headquarters for the engineer officer. Between 1970 and 1974, it was used as officers' quarters by the UNFICYP Canadian contingent. In 1974, it turned into a unit aid station, where casualties were treated during July and August. For the next decade it was used as the headquarters for a line company and reconnaissance platoon. It then became the headquarters for City Battery, and is now the headquarters of Sector 2 East.



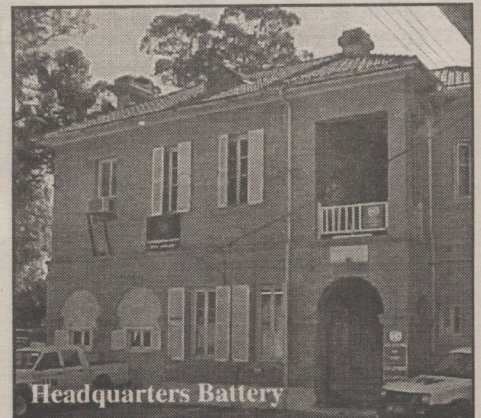
HQ Sector 2 East

Headquarters Battery

The old headquarters for the British Commander of Nicosia is currently occupied by Sector 2's Civil Affairs Team and Quartermaster. At various points, the Canadian contingent used it as a JOC, Ops office, civilian police office, and signals office.

Congreve House

Until 1974, Congreve House (formerly known as "La Casa") served as the residence of the brigadier commanding the British contingent. It was evacuated in 1974 because it lay between the opposing forces. Canadian Private J L G Perron was killed near its front gate on 6 August 1974 (a monument to the 20



Headquarters Battery

Canadian soldiers who died in the service of UNFICYP between 1964 and 1974 stands to the north of the JOC). The following month, the UN established an observation post known as OP Shakespeare in the building. The house, which takes its current name from the inventor of the first rocket ever to be deployed in battle, is now the residence of the commander and deputy commander of Sector 2.



Congreve House

CLASSIFIED

ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE

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

Opel Ascona 1.6 RH 1985; 4-door; a/c, r/c, good condition £1,200 d/p. Call Elena (02) 759113 (o) or (02) 526235 (h)

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

Toyota Corona 1.6, white, 1992, low mileage - 44,235 km, excellent shape inside and out, £2,000 d/f. Will consider payment by instalments. Tel: Chief of Mission's office at (02) 864402.

Mitsubishi Lancer, 1994, a/c, £1,400 d/f. Contact SSgt Kovac (02) 864666.

Fiat Ritmo, white, '80 good condition, £250. Call Peter (UNCIVPOL) on (03) 730716.

Mitsubishi Pajero GLS, 2800 Turbo Intercooler, green/silver, SWB, 3-doors, 1995, rhd, 60,000 kms, £7,500 d/f. Call Andrea: (02) 664362.

BMW 520i Sedan, 1986, 5-speed, a/c, radio-cassette, insurance to Apr 2000, 2 new tyres, new battery and recently serviced. £700 d/f. Tel: Sgt Andy Thorp on (02) 676870.

Mercedes 200, 1985, one owner, full service record, lhd, 195,000 km. £1,000. Tel: (02) 492650.

Honda Prelude Sports, EXM 271, 1992, 2.0 litre engine, new tyres, only 37,000 km. £1,960. Tel: (02) 864681.

Mazda 323, blue, 1300 cc, 1990 £1,100 ONO. Tel: (02) 314439 (o) or (02) 318162 (p).

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Three-piece suite (3-2-1), bluish-grey, in good condition, German-made. Any reasonable offer considered. Tel: Cyril (02) 864451 or (04) 646364.

Washing machine & dryer, General Electric, good capacity models, excellent condition. £230 the pair. Phone CM's office at (02) 864402.

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

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

Large, natural pine double bed + mattress. £100. Tel: (02) 492650.

WANTED

Items for a jumble sale, to be held on Sunday 19 Sep 99, to raise money for abandoned donkeys. Anything saleable accepted. Please drop off at CM's office.

ITEMS FOR HIRE

HIVE ITEMS FOR HIRE

The NICOSIA HIVE operates a comprehensive loan store.

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

DISCO FOR HIRE

The UNPA WOs' & Sgts' Mess (The Vic Club) has upgraded its disco equipment to a high standard. This is available for hire for functions etc. The cost of hire is now £50.00 per event. Two DJs are also available and separate arrangements should be made with either DJ regarding fees. Bookings for the disco should be made through the PMC, WO2 Miller on (02) 359760 ext 126 (W) at least seven days in advance.

HAVING A PARTY?

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

PROPERTY TO LET

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

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

2-bedroom fully furnished a/c apartment near UNPA. £300. Phone Klaus (02) 864520 or Evroula (09) 605992.

FACILITIES

NICOSIA LIBRARY

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

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

Book search and reservation service.

Language cassettes and books available on long-term loans.

Many music cassettes and books on tape.

Videos now available on loan.

Photocopying at 5c per copy.

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

Change of Library Hours:

1000-1300 hrs: Mon to Fri

1700-1900 hrs: Mon-Wed-Fri

Closed Tues/Thurs afternoons

WHY DON'T U.NETWORK@THE UNPA?

The next meeting after the summer break takes place on Wednesday 15 September at 10.00 am in the HIVE.

Come along and exchange information with a friendly group of spouses from

UNFICYP and diplomatic missions. More info at (02) 591933 or (02) 489553.

NICOSIA HIVE NEWS

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

The Nicosia HIVE Coordinator is Karen McCormack.

All nationalities are welcome! Opening Times: Mon-Wed-Fri, 0930-1230 and 1500-1700 hrs.

SERVICES

SANDRA'S HAIR FASHIONS

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

ENGLISH LESSONS

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

EVENING BABYSITTING AND ASSISTING AT PARTIES

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

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

UK-TRAINED SEAMSTRESS

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

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

BRITISH TRAINED SEAMSTRESS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

BRATCON YOUTH CLUB.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED. The BRATCON Youth Club urgently requires new volunteers to help out at their twice-

weekly sessions. If you have some free time and would like to work with a bunch of happy kids, please contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more information. Don't delay - pick up the phone NOW.

KEEP US INFORMED

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Roman Catholic Mass, Saturdays: 18:00 hrs.

Sunday worship: 09:00 hrs.

All welcome.

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

Britcon Chaplain: Padré Philip McCormack.

Dutch Chaplain, Padré Frank Duyvenvoorde.

YMCA NEWSFLASH!!

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

For Sep and Oct, everyone purchasing Applewoods products goes into a draw for a free reflexology treatment.

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

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

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

Reduction in Telephone Rates

CYTA has reduced telephone user charge rates to five countries for calls made from fixed and mobile telephones, as well as public payphones.

Destination	New Rates (per minute)	
	Normal (0800-2200 hrs)	Reduced (2200-0800) and all day Sunday
Greece	0.25	0.24
Germany	0.45	0.39
UK	0.45	0.39
Russia	0.55	0.45
USA	0.57	0.46

MILITARY BAND CONCERT - 7 OCT 99

HQ BRITCON will sponsor a military band concert on Thursday 7 Oct 99 in the UNPA, starting at 1900 hrs.

All members of UNFICYP, the diplomatic community and those with access to the UNPA are welcome to attend this musical evening. Food and drink will be available, and there will be a small charge for entrance, with all proceeds going to charity.

More details to follow, but mark up your diaries now!

THE NICOSIA DOG SHELTER

Volunteers needed to help in our charity shop. Can you spare a couple of hours at any time on any day? All money raised is for the Nicosia dog shelter.

Please help. Call the shop on (02) 669568 and support a good cause.

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

12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RUNNING CONTEST OF AGROS

Sunday 12 Sept 1999

at 1100 hrs

with start/finish at the

Rodon Hotel in Agros.

3,000 m and 7,000m runs.

Participation free of charge.

Awards will take place at 1300 hrs.

For more information, contact (02) 356552 or (09) 411411.

THE BEST FILMS CAN NOW BE SEEN AT THE UNPA

Every Sunday evening at

20.00 hrs in St Michael's

School. You're too late for

"Blade" and "Enemy of the

State", but there will be more

high quality digital films.

Read the notices in the Inter-

national Cafeteria for an

evening of good

entertainment.

Also shown in the Ledra

Palace Hotel.

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

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

BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

GET WET, GO CANYONING

By Lieutenant Martin Lehner

Temperatures in Famagusta are in the high thirties, and air-conditioners are scarce items in Camp Duke Leopold 5. So what's the best way to escape the heat?

Canyoning! Never heard of it? Or just know vaguely that there was a terrible canyoning accident in Switzerland this summer? Okay, here's a short explanation.

Canyoning is a comparatively young form of leisure-time activity. A kind of sport which is mainly carried out in the Alps, where its popularity is rapidly increasing. The aim is to descend mountain gorges with steep walls of rock. You slip, jump and rope down, while white water washes through them.

So what? Why are you telling me that, you may ask. Well, you may not believe it, but canyoning is an up-and-coming adventure sport in Cyprus as well. Some Austrians with a sense of adventure have explored the Troodos mountains and have discovered a number of pretty demanding routes. Some of these are both difficult and dangerous – so don't even think about tackling them without a very experienced guide.

Experts advise wearing wetsuits, pads and helmets, as this is a high risk activity. For more information or advice, contact Lieutenant Martin Lehner, Duty Officer Sector 4.



Es ist fürchterlich heiß in Famagusta. Klimaanlage sind gut, aber leider nicht sehr verbreitet. Was kann man also tun, um der Hitze zu entfliehen? Haben Sie schon einmal etwas über Canyoning gehört? - Noch nie? - Gut, hier eine kurze Erklärung:

Canyoning ist eine relativ junge Form der Freizeitaktivität, eine Sportart die hauptsächlich in den Alpen betrieben wird und sich dort wachsender Beliebtheit erfreut.

Gebirgsbäche und Schluchten, umgeben von steilen Felswänden, werden durch Abrutschen, Abseilen und Springen bezwungen. Und jetzt? Warum erzählen sie das mir, werden Sie fragen. Nun gut, Sie werden es nicht glauben, aber Canyoning hat jetzt auch in Zypern als Abenteuersport Einzug gefunden.

Abenteuerlustige Österreicher haben das Troodosgebirge erkundet und dort sehr anspruchsvolle Routen entdeckt. Diese beinhalten, wie unser Foto zeigt, höchste Schwierigkeitsgrade. Daher wird auch dringend empfohlen, sich der Führung erfahrener Spezialisten anzuvertrauen und sich von diesen einmal auf eine andere Weise in die Bergwelt Zyperns einführen zu lassen.

Experten raten an einen Taucheranzug anzuziehen und einen Helm zu tragen. Leutnant Martin Lehner, Duty Officer Sector 4, kann weitere Informationen geben.

FORMULA ONE MAYHEM AT UNPA

By Lieutenant A Simons

What better way could there be to spend a late afternoon than speeding around the UNPA, immune from the dreaded UN Military Police? Well, there are probably lots, but for nine members of 42 Alem Hamza Battery RA, a couple of hours of go-karting on the course up at the UNPA airfield was an exciting enough way to finish off a hectic day at the office.

On our arrival at the airfield we were met by Staff Sergeant Paterson and his wife who run UNPA's mini Silverstone. After a quick but thorough safety brief, we were let loose on the track. With a few practice laps under our belts we got straight down to the racing. There were four competitors in each race and there were to be four heats before the knockout stage began.

Things started off quite smooth and relaxed. It was not long, though, before tensions rose as, impelled by a desperate urge to win, drivers began blocking and ramming other karts off the road. Chief culprit to this was Captain "Schumacher, out of my way" Wood who was (much as it pains me to admit it) the fastest and most skillful driver of the

afternoon. After successfully cutting up his battery Commander, Major Simon Collins, on a hellish bend and leaving him for dust, Captain Wood stormed away for his first win.

Meanwhile, Corporal Clive Cooper and Lance Bombardier Steve Long clearly showed that before joining the army, they had both been true "boy racers". All their races were close-run contests of excitement and daring which they dominated masterfully – apart from the odd 360-degree spin.

At the other end of the skill ladder came myself, some of the battery's SNCOs, and Gunner Paul Marsh. Sergeant Paul Middleton worked his way around the track efficiently, but was unable to keep pace with the lightning speeds of the top three. Meanwhile, Sergeant Steve Magee and Sergeant Adrian Kirkby must have just been given a slow kart each, as they spent all their races vying ignominiously for third place, although they did this in great style.

Time for the semi-finals arrived and the battery commander departed (an urgent meeting apparently). After two incident-packed races, four drivers were left for what was to end up as a very controversial

final. Captain Wood held pole position, followed by Corporal Cooper, Lance Bombardier Long and the author. How I made it to the finals was a mystery to me as much as to anybody. Four were soon to become three, however as one of the karts developed axle trouble. The solution to this was to kick out your correspondent, who clearly didn't deserve to be there anyway.

The atmosphere was tense as the three finalists sat at the grid waiting for the green light. Once away, Corporal Cooper took an early lead whilst Captain Wood held a respectable third place. After the first lap and still at the rear he decided that enough was enough in true "ginger" style. His first victim was Lance Bombardier Long who was mercilessly shunted off the track and who was never able to get back into the running. Corporal Cooper was dispatched next via similar tactics. Once he'd got to the front, there was no beating Captain Wood.

One final note – while we were helping put the karts back into the garages Lance Bombardier Long eventually limped across the finish line.

We all had a great afternoon, and our thanks go to Staff Sergeant Paterson and his wife for hosting us.

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