



UNFICYP's  
Communications  
Team installing  
the Direct-  
Inward-  
Dialling  
System  
(DID)



# The Blue Beret

April 2005

## Croatia's Flag Joins UNFICYP



## THE BLUE BERET

Published monthly by the:  
Public Information Office  
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in  
Cyprus  
HQ UNFICYP  
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## Editorial

To date, the Force 860 Review downsizing exercise has proceeded smoothly with the recommended 30% reduction almost totally implemented. It awaits the military handover of community relations responsibilities (SCAT) to our civilian police component. This is expected to be finalized later in the year once police numbers permit.

Already, by concentrating our peacekeepers in fewer sector camps and patrol bases, we have streamlined command and control of the force, making more efficient use of our resources in the conduct of our mandated tasks.

The overhaul has been infrastructural as well as institutional. The force remains a three-sector operation plus force headquarters and force troops. However, reducing the number of camps and re-equipping the remaining ones to handle the "re-centralized" peacekeepers does not happen overnight. Switching from staff- and maintenance-intensive static observations posts to a more mobile concept of monitoring is not an exercise in "pack and go".

Since last November, we have been living through a major engineering feat as our stalwart engineers have systematically dismantled some 32 assets along the buffer zone, a reconfiguration that not once interfered with the day-to-day tasks of running the mission.

True, we have fewer camps and OPs. Yes, our numbers are smaller. But, the buffer zone remains as large as ever. There are still as many patrol tracks to maintain.

So, with every "downsizing", there has to be an element of "upsizing". As noted above (and on page 6), UNFICYP's civilian police component is increasing its strength so that it can relieve the military of its SCAT duties.

The same applies to our engineering corps. To meet the new demands and to offset sectoral-level downsizing, our HQ Engineer Section has been "upsized" to platoon strength. As can be seen from their work profile on pages 4 and 5, they have delivered a complete package!

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**Front Cover: Two Croatian Police officers join UNCIVPOL, bringing the total count to 51**

**Back Cover: UNFICYP's Communications Branch enhances dialling efficiency for the mission**

## Sometimes Change is a Good Thing

We have all seen the flurry of e-mail bulletin boards from Roy Joblin, UNFICYP's Chief Communications Officer, detailing improvements to UNFICYP's telephone system.

As he describes these to the *Blue Beret* team, he comforts us by explaining that "sometimes, change is for the better". The biggest difference users will notice is that all UNFICYP four-digit telephone extension numbers are now in the 4000-4999 range (referred to below as 4xxx). This was done to take advantage of the direct-inward-dialling (DID) capabilities UNFICYP has installed which means "each telephone extension can be called directly, rather than having to go through UNFICYP's switchboard operator, thus simplifying the ability to reach our staff", explains Roy. Mobile phone users dialing from the north (including Turkcel and Telsim networks) can now make local calls to reach UNFICYP and need no longer make long distance connections, as was the case before the mission invested in the DID system.

UNFICYP's electronic telephone directory on Lotus Notes explains these changes and provides detailed instructions on how to use this new system.

The month-long project was accomplished with the able assistance of Mr. Ya-Xiong Tong, a telephony expert on loan to UNFICYP from the UN mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Now each UNFICYP telephone extension can be called directly from the outside world, rather than through our switchboard operator



*Top: Pambos Charalambous and Ali Tunay, communication technicians, installing a wireless radio link system*

*Left: Pambos and Ali maintaining one of the mission's Ericsson MD110 telephone systems*

*Above: Stella Hadjianastasiou, UNFICYP's sole telephone operator, continues to direct incoming calls and telephone billing*

## 2 easy ways to connect directly with UNFICYP

### Cyprus land lines

Dialing from the south:  
22.61.4XXX  
Dialing from the north:  
601.4XXX

### Cyprus mobile phones

South side:  
Cyta & Areeba  
22.61.4XXX  
North side:  
Turkcel & Telsim  
(0392) 601.4XXX





*UNFICYP Engineers' "Camp Tatry" accommodating those who have been re-located*

## Engineers Working - At Home and Abroad

tasks. HQ Engineers now occupy "Camp Tatry", a 25-container accommodation block in the UNPA named after the highest mountain range in Slovakia.

Force Engineer Maj. Marian Mjartan, in charge of the component of the 860 Review involving engineers, said: "With projects this large, we usually expect some difficulties or delays during the process. Much to my surprise, the whole plan ran very smoothly and without problems. The weather during the winter months was ideal since the limited rainfall caused fewer delays along the patrol tracks or in the camps, thereby lessening our normal workload and allowing us to concentrate on the project in hand."

There is still much work ahead for the engineer platoon. One major project is the conversion of Roca Camp's obsolete, run-down buildings to another "container village", complete with a brand-new prefabricated kitchen, guaranteed to be the best kitchen in the mission when finished! In addition, there are plans to improve UN Flight's facilities along the buffer zone including resurfacing helipads, installation of a new lighting system for night

Following the recent decision to downsize UNFICYP in keeping with the Force 860 Review, 32 assets including observation posts (OPs), patrol bases (PBs), troop houses and camps along the buffer zone were dismantled. Personnel from these locations were either repatriated at rotation time or transferred to more central locations. HQ Engineers working with sector engineers drew up plans for the reorganisation of UNFICYP installations and, guided by the Logistic Operational Order, began sequentially downsizing the mission infrastructure. It is a tribute to the engineers' skills and professionalism that this reconfiguration never interfered with the smooth running of the mission.

The military's downsizing process began in November 2004 with the dismantling, relocation and, in certain instances, re-assembling of accommodations

along the buffer zone. All OPs have now been removed with the exception of those retained as PBs. Certain camps have increased in size and have been refurbished to accommodate those who have been relocated. Assets were removed from all closed-down locations for return to UNFICYP's warehouse or to the HQ Engineer Stores for re-use elsewhere. The re-allocation project was completed on 31 January 2005.

While all this was going on, last December, HQ Engineers were charged with construction of the new Engineer Camp in the UNPA. UNFICYP's HQ Engineering Section comprises 16 soldiers from Slovakia. Given the 860 Review's engineering downsize of Sectors 1, 2 and 4, HQ Engineer Section was "upsized" to platoon strength, giving it 37 personnel and leaving five line engineers per sector to deal with maintenance and repair

flying, and construction of a new control tower.

In the months ahead, several culverts will be constructed in Sector 1's mountainous terrain to divert the heavy winter rainfall responsible for the frequent

destruction of patrol tracks and causing extremely hazardous driving conditions.

Maj. Mjartan wishes to offer a "big thank you" to all those who contributed many long working hours, over and above what was

expected, to ensure completion of the downsizing task. Special mention should be made of the excellent assistance of 1/Lt. Tomas Takacs, who was promoted on 22 April to the rank of Captain! Well done engineers!



*Sector 4 line engineer MCpl. Miroslav Noga*



*Road grading on the "Kilmister Highway" alongside Ledra Palace Hotel*



### Esprit de Engineering Corps!

A major exercise like the UNFICYP downsizing is a perfect example of the mission's integrated engineering approach. This requires close cooperation between civilian and military engineers. Long before the military "muscle" of the engineering force took to the field, the team headed by Chief Engineer Paul Kilmartin and Force Engineer Maj. Marian Mjartan spent weeks poring over blueprints and making field trips the length and breadth of the buffer zone as they put the finishing touches to the relocation masterplan.

Paul was not present throughout, however. DPKO, knowing a good engineer when they see one, seized the opportunity to grab him and exploit his professional skills to good effect in the set-up of the Sudan Mission (UNAMIS) for a month. Paul flew to Khartoum, surveyed mission sites in the Malakal/Juba area and helped realise some of the blueprints for housing incoming blue berets.



*Above: Paul Kilmartin (left), UNFICYP's Chief Engineer in the Sudan, checking out sites for incoming peacekeepers with UNAMIS colleagues*



*Helping hands at HQ*



*More air-patrols in each sector means additional helipads*



# Hail and Farewell – UNCIVPOL Medal Parade

**R**escheduled because of the death of Pope John Paul II, UNCIVPOL held its medal parade for the 81st Australian and 2nd Dutch contingents on 22 April. The turnout was impressive, with UNCIVPOL's retirement-bound deputy commander Trevor Clarke presiding as master of ceremonies. Perhaps because they knew Trevor was drawing to the close of his third and last UNFICYP assignment, the weather gods were on the side of the popular Australian police contingent commander. All this to the relief of UNCIVPOL Commander Carla Van Maris, one of the day's medal recipients, and her line-up of distinguished guests, including the Chief of Mission, Dutch Ambassador HE Jhr Mr. M Gevers, Irish Ambassador John Swift, and Australian High Commissioner Garth Hunt. The music was a meze of popular show tunes served up by the Cyprus Police Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Mr. Costas Kyrkos.

In addition to Senior Police Adviser Carla van Maris, other medal recipients included Sgt. Ann McKenna, Insp. Mariska de Haan, Sen. Sgt. Bob Tait, Sgt. André van der Kolk, Sgt. Charlie Kascan and Sgt. John van der Linde.

There was also a special welcome for UNCIVPOL's newest contingent with the arrival of two new colleagues from Croatia (see article below). UNFICYP Civilian Police now consists of 51 officers, with contingents from five different nations, Australia, India, Ireland, The Netherlands and Croatia.



*UNCIVPOL colleagues join Commander Carla Van Maris (middle row, centre), who was among Australian and Dutch police officers honoured at the Medal Parade*

Speaking from the perspective of a mission veteran, Trevor Clarke welcomed the "new enthusiasm" brought to UNFICYP's policing task by the new contingents. He noted how the role of the police in UNFICYP differs from the authority one commands back home. Here, the onus is on using "our common sense and our ability to talk to people in a tactful and diplomatic way to solve any problems that may arise". Now, with staff numbers on the rise, he said, UNCIVPOL looks forward "to assuming responsibilities for Civil Affairs tasks throughout each of the sectors in the near future".



*All five of UNFICYP's Croatian personnel turned out for the flag-raising ceremony. From the left: Capt. Danijel Macanga, Igor Posavec (ITU Assistant) and his wife Maja, Ch. Insp. Mladen Vrtaric, the Chief of Mission, Sen. Insp. Nenad Tuskanac and Capt. Vera Musil*

## Croatia joins UNCIVPOL

**T**he number of police contingents serving in the mission grew to five with the arrival of two Croatian police officers on 14 April 2005. Ch. Insp. Mladen Vrtaric joined HQ UNFICYP as UN Liaison Officer, Police (UNLOP) based in Operations Branch at UNFICYP HQ. He serves as liaison between UNFICYP and the Cyprus Police (CYPOL) as well as liaising with Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE) on operational matters. His colleague, Sen. Insp. Nenad Tuskanac, joins UNCIVPOL's Dherynia team.

A flag-raising ceremony, arranged to inaugurate their arrival, was attended by Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz, Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris, and Deputy Commander UNCIVPOL Cmdr. Trevor Clarke.

## UNCIVPOL visits CYPOL

**O**n 29 March 2005, a group of UNCIVPOL staff led by Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris visited the Headquarters of the Cyprus Police (CYPOL). In a first for the UNFICYP mission, UNCIVPOL officers were given a tour of the Police Academy, the Police Museum and the various laboratories that make up the criminal services branch.

The Director of Studies at the Police Academy Mr. Mirantes gave UNCIVPOL officers an overview of the training provided to CYPOL members. He also explained CYPOL's system of specialist schools for officers, for sergeants and constables, for Foreign Languages and the Research Office which covers legal and other police issues.



# SCAT and UNCIVPOL on Resupply Duties

**A** supply run, first established since the 3rd Vienna Agreement in 1975 to help Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas, continues to this day to meet the social assistance needs of the community there. The weekly delivery of food, gas and medicine is distributed to Greek Cypriot villagers in the Karpas peninsula under the banner of the Red Cross and the United Nations.

A group of UNFICYP's military Sector Civil Affairs Team (SCAT) personnel and UNCIVPOL officers are tasked with the transport of goods to the Karpas region. Sgt. Raymond Howe and I are based at the UNCIVPOL Famagusta station. Several months ago, we joined the Sector 4 SCAT-UNCIVPOL team and we have been finding the experience more rewarding with each trip.

On a routine day, the journey into the Karpas starts at 06:00 hrs in Nicosia where the SCAT-UNCIVPOL team and a Sector 4 Karpas Liaison Officer meet to load supplies from the (Government) Stores Department. Once loaded, the convoy weaves through the sleeping city of Nicosia before passing through the Ledra crossing and making its way to the Famagusta highway.

First stop is the small village of Leonarisso, sitting atop a plateau and home to four members of the Greek Cypriot community. As the trucks pull to a halt, we are greeted by a community representative along with residents of the village. People come to collect food and household supplies for themselves and for villagers unable to make the trip.

The convoy moves on to Agios Andronikos, home to a Greek Cypriot couple, before continuing on its way to Agia Trias along a newly sealed road. We come to a stop and are greeted by a much larger gathering who had been sitting in front of the Agia Trias Community Building. Once they spot our trucks, they are quick to move and organise themselves to receive the incoming supplies. A member of the community climbs up into the rear of the lead food truck and commences to holler out the names while handing out the bundles. A momentary confusion unfolds as people scramble toward the truck, yet after decades of practice, the process comes to order with military efficiency. Medicine previously ordered is handed over to the community spokesperson for distribution. Empty gas bottles, along with any medical prescriptions, are collected for preparation by the Red Cross for delivery on the next visit. The trucks head out northbound, to make a short stop at Agios Therysos where



*Capt. Zoli Komives distributes gas bottles in Rizokarpasso*

five Greek Cypriots operate a roadside restaurant, which also serves as their residence.

The final stop lies 10 minutes further along the main road – the largest village in the Karpas, Rizokarpasso, has some 280 Greek Cypriot residents. The main food truck backs up to the town warehouse while vehicles carrying propane gas and water supplies pull up to the side entrance. Mostly senior, the members of this community organise themselves for the collection of food from the warehouse hallways. As tractors and cars drive off with their load of supplies, the UN trucks are packed up with empty gas containers to head back to Nicosia, a one-and-a-half-hour drive now that there are no further stops.

The day's activities are recorded and along with prescription requests, documents are handed in to UNFICYP's Civil Affairs branch before SCAT and UNCIVPOL Sector 4 members return to our respective workstations in Famagusta. The day may be done, but the lingering feeling is one of appreciation and satisfaction, perhaps because we have dealt with local communities as well as with other UN members.

*Sgt. Graeme Macauley and Sgt. Raymond Howe*



*UNCIVPOL's Sgt. Graeme Macauley directs the docking of trucks upon arrival*



*SLOVCON Capt. Zoli Komives and UNCIVPOL Sgt. Raymond Howe*



*Women in Rizokarpasso await their supply rations at the town warehouse*



# The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus — Part XXX

## The Walls of Famagusta

*At some time during their reign in Cyprus, the Byzantines, who administered the island from 330 to 1191, founded Famagusta adjacent to the island's only natural harbour. To protect it from the enemy, they built a castle on the shoreline.*

*While the castle did not survive the test of time, later fortifications did. Today, inside the port town of Famagusta, lies old Famagusta in all its mediaeval glory, its defensive walls, castle, bastions, towers and gates running along a perimeter of 3.5 kilometres.*

### The History

Famagusta lay shrouded in obscurity until Cyprus became a Frankish Kingdom, when Guy de Lusignan (1192-1194), founder of the royal dynasty, fortified the town. In 1211, an unimpressed Bishop William of Oldenburg found his fortifications inadequate; however, Martoni, a French notary who visited Famagusta in 1394, rated the city's fortifications the best he had ever seen. Amalric de Lusignan was the man responsible for completing Famagusta's fortifications – ironically, a task begun by his brother King Henry II (1285-1324), against whom he successfully staged a coup.

After the Syrian city of Acre fell to the Moslems in 1291, there was an influx of immigrants to Famagusta. These included many rich merchants who boosted the Cypriot economy. During the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Famagusta became renowned as a city with a lifestyle so rich that even royalty was impressed. This ended when the Genoese usurped control of the city from the Franks. For the next 80 years (October 1383 to March 1461), Famagusta was to decline under a very harsh regime, the impact of which was to last for centuries.

King James II (1460-1473), having ousted the Genoese usurpers, was the next to strengthen the fortifications. Then, the Venetians, who through treachery succeeded James's widow, Queen Caterina Cornaro (1473-1489), further reinforced the walls in 1496, most notably during the period of 1540-1570 when facing imminent attack from the Ottomans. The walls we see today in Famagusta date from this last Venetian construction period. There is also some Turkish restructuring, mainly to the arsenal and the ravelin of the Land Gate, both destroyed during the Ottoman siege of Famagusta (16 September 1570 to 5 August 1571). [A ravelin, from the old Italian "ravellino", is a complete external piece of fortification in front of the main defensive work.]

Since the walls are shaped in a trapezoid, each of the four corners had to be reinforced with very strong constructions. Security was further strengthened when a moat was excavated around the walls, some of which were further fortified with stones hewn from the bedrock. The moat was replenished with seawater. Later on, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the British took over Cyprus, they filled in the moat with earthworks.

### The Walls

The mean height and width of the walls is 15 metres and 4 metres respectively. The length of the walls are: western side, between the Ravelin and Martinengo Bastions, 750 metres; on the north, between the Martinengo and Diamantino Bastions, 500 metres; east, Diamantino Bastion to the Castle of the Citadel (Othello's Tower), 325 metres and between the Citadel Castle and the Arsenal, 650 metres; and south, between the Arsenal Tower and the Ravelin Bastion, 800 metres.

The Land or Limassol Gate serves as much more than the main entrance, since it is also the only entrance to the city by land. Excluding the castle on the Citadel, this is the oldest construction of the fortification, although the present bridge and the entrance are of a later date. In 1544, a very strong Bastion with a ravelin was built to protect the Land Gate.

Originally, there were two other land entrances to the area, which, to this day, can still be seen walled up on the "curtain" walls. [A curtain wall is the wall that separates bastions.] One is between the Camposanto and Andruzzu Bastions. The other, slightly bigger, lies between the Diamantino Bastion and the Signoria (Signory) Tower.

The Diocare, Moratto, Pulacazzaro and San Luca Bastions separate the Ravelin from the Martinengo Bastions. A marble slab on the Moratto Bastion records the fact that this west wall was erected by Nicolo Prioli, military engineer, in 1496. The Martinengo Bastion was named after either Geronimo Martinengo, chief of the military forces responsible for the defence of Famagusta against the Ottomans in 1570, who died en route to the island, or Ludovico Martinengo, the leader of the artillery who participated in the defence of this town.

This bastion is the work of a brilliant military architect, Giovanni Geronimo Sanmicheli, who supervised the construction from 1550 to 1559, when he died at age 45. The bastion is wedge-shaped, with walls at a thickness between 4 and 6m. The cannons were situated on a platform known as a "cavalier", designed to protect an area of about one square kilometre. The Martinengo Bastion did not come under many attacks, since the Ottomans considered it unassailable.

Between the Martinengo Bastion and the Diamantino Tower lies the Del Mezzo Bastion, about mid-way along the north side. After the Diamantino Tower on the east side, the walls turn southwards to the Signoria Tower, which lies outside the harbour. Then comes the castle on the Citadel.

Above the main entrance to the Citadel is a slab bearing the Winged Lion of St. Mark of Venice and the name of Nicolo Foscari, who reconstructed the Citadel in 1492. Set apart from the rest of the fortifications, the Castle on the Citadel is situated in front of the harbour and was, in mediaeval times, separated from its entrance with a chain. Built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Castle was a two-storey rectangular construction with four castellated round towers – one at each extremity, two of them facing the city and the other two facing the harbour. The upper storey was demolished by Foscari before reconstruction.

The British renamed the Citadel Castle "Othello Tower". For them, Famagusta was the "Sea Port in Cyprus" from Shakespeare's drama "Othello", and the Venetian nobleman Christoforo Moro, Governor of Cyprus from 1506-1508, was the noble Moor. Next is the Sea Gate, a round tower with battlements and arrow slits in the Italian style. Above the central entrance is a marble slab with Prioli's name, coat of arms and date of construction (1496), as well as the Winged Lion of Venice. The two Prioli slabs in the west and east of the walls are directly opposite each other.

In the Middle Ages, the eastern side of the walls from the Diamantino Bastion to the Citadel abutted open sea, whereas the stretch from the Citadel to the Arsenal was on the interior side of the harbour where there was a jetty. The Arsenal Tower is at the south-eastern extremity of the trapezoid. It is also known as Djamboulat Bastion in honour of the Ottoman ensign who planted the Turkish flag there on the day the Ottomans captured Famagusta. The Arsenal was the theatre of most of the fighting during the siege. Between the Arsenal and the Land Gate are three Bastions, the Camposanto, Andruzzu and the Santa Napa.

As the former moat stands now, it offers a pleasant walk in all seasons.



Ravelin or Limassol Bastion



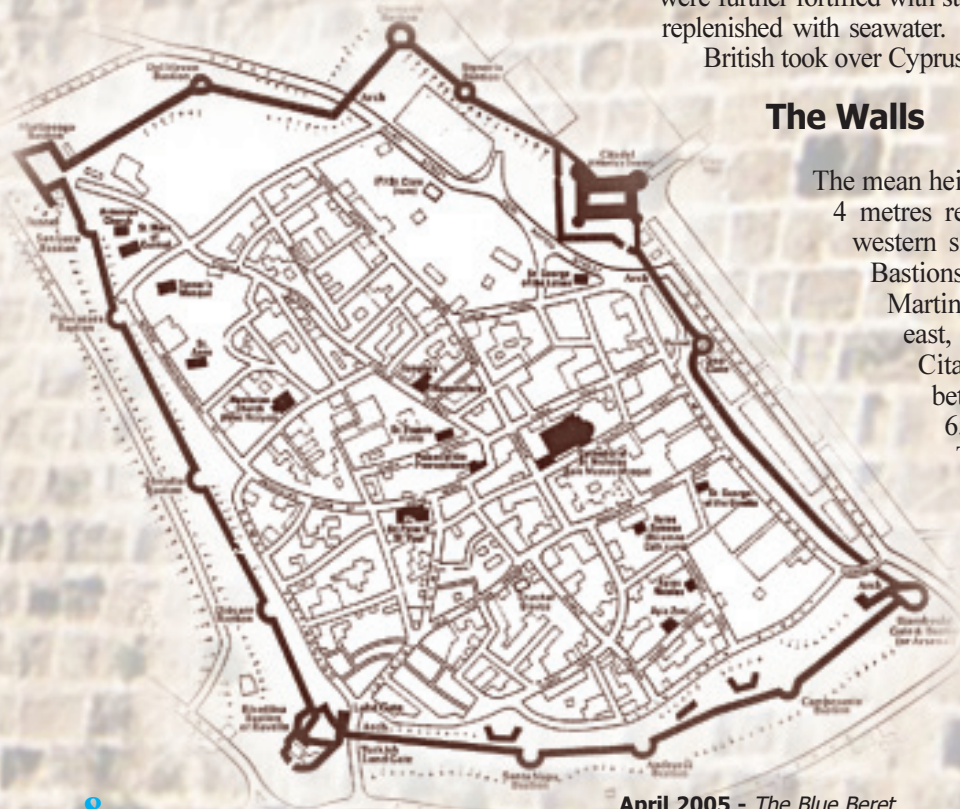
Martinengo Bastion



Sea Gate



Land or Limassol Gate





## Introducing Sector 2's Newcomers



Lt. Col. Neil Marshall took over as Sector 2 Commander on 5 April. He

was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in August 1985. His formative years were spent with 39 Heavy and 19 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, after which he returned to Sandhurst as an instructor. He then joined 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, and it was whilst there that he conducted his previous tour with UNFICYP in 1994.

After attending Staff College between 1997-98 he held a post within the Army Directorate of Manning. Later, in 2000, he assumed command of The Chestnut Troop within 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and deployed on operations to Bosnia. Lt.

Col. Marshall was promoted to his present rank in 2002 and appointed to Land Command, where he oversaw the UK Land Forces deployment to Iraq; a key role which was recognised through the award of an OBE. In June 2004 he was deployed to Iraq where he was based at the multi-national Force Headquarters in Baghdad, working in Information Operations.

Lt. Col. Marshall assumed command of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in November 2004 and has now deployed his Regiment to Sector 2.

Married to Trudi, they have two sons, Harry (12) and Tristan (11). His hobbies include skiing and cross-country running.

## Horse Gunners arrive in Sector 2



1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (1 RHA) took over from 26th Regiment Royal Artillery in Sector 2 on 5 April and are due to stay with UNFICYP until October.

The Regiment is normally based in Tidworth, south west England, where a large proportion have remained due to the Force 860 reduction. 1 RHA returned from a very demanding six-month tour in Basra, Iraq, in late October and now find themselves in very different circumstances facing the unique challenges of service as UN

peacekeepers.

The Regiment – the senior in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, The Gunners – is steeped in history. The Batteries that make up 1 RHA can trace back as far as 1793 and have been involved in almost every major conflict in which the British Army has participated, going back to before the Battle of Waterloo. They are now equipped with 155mm AS 90 self-propelled howitzers, a far cry from the horse-drawn guns used when they were formed.

Two of 1 RHAs Batteries, A Battery (The Chestnut Troop) Royal Horse Artillery and E Battery Royal Horse Artillery, have combined to form A/E Battery in order to act as the Sector 2 Operations Battery for the duration of the tour with UNFICYP. Elements from the Headquarters Battery – O Battery (The Rocket Troop) – are also in Cyprus.

1 RHA are keen to maximise their time with UNFICYP. Mixing with other contingents is a particular focus and members of ARGCON from Sector 1 are being lined up to come the Ledra Palace Hotel to watch the British Lions v Argentina rugby match. Similar events are planned throughout the tour (all invitations will be gratefully received!). Meanwhile, the team for the military skills competition has begun training and the Regimental Shooting Team will compete in the British Forces Cyprus Skill at Arms Meeting. All in Sector 2 is good and the next six months with the UN are eagerly anticipated.

## New Sector 2 Civil Affairs Team Hit the Ground Running

Sector 2's new SCAT team is now well settled and its members have already found their roles much more intricate than first expected. The first Long North Wind Patrol has been completed – a marvellous experience and an absolute pleasure to deliver humanitarian aid to Maronite communities living in the north.

In addition, the team hosted its first

large bi-communal event, an international Aikido seminar with over 100 delegates. Apart from those from Cyprus, there were participants from the world over. It's not every day you see people from these countries being flung around on an Aikido mat by one another! The new SCAT unit looks forward to the remainder of its stay in Cyprus.



Sector 2's SCAT team and Ms. Yianna Tsangara, UNFICYP Civil Affairs Branch, with Sister Bernadetta who lives in Kormakitis.

## New OC MFR

On 5 April, Maj. James Phillips RA of 10 (Assaye) Battery Royal Artillery assumed command of the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) at HQ UNFICYP.

The MFR is a multinational Mechanised Infantry Company equipped with TACTICA Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC). As the Force Commander's reserve, the MFR is on constant standby to deploy throughout the UNFICYP Area of Operations (AO). Divided into three infantry platoons and an APC platoon, the Company consists of soldiers from Argentina, Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

Soldiers from the MFR are

trained as a high readiness crowd control force, able to deploy throughout the AO in support of operations as directed by the Force Commander.

The MFR also provides security for the UNPA as well as performing a variety of duties including providing ceremonial honour guards for official visits to HQ UNFICYP.

Pre-deployment training has ensured that all MFR soldiers are fully versed in their various roles, and this training continues under the direction of Capt. Filippi (ARGCON). Continuation training includes fire-fighting and helicopter familiarisation with UN Flight, as well as both rural and urban crowd control drills.



He's got the whole world, in his hands!

## 10 (Assaye) Battery

Ten (Assaye) Battery was originally formed in 1755 as the 3rd Company Bombay Artillery, and fought under the Duke of Wellington in India, where it won its honour title "ASSAYE".

Since the Second World War, the battery has been in the Air Defence role, initially with 3.7 inch guns. It was one of the first units to be equipped with guided weapons – the Thunderbird missile. The battery moved to Thorney Island,

near Portsmouth, on the south coast of England in 1993 to become part of 47 Regt, providing Close Air Defence in support of 1 Mechanised Brigade, 3 (UK) Division.

10 (Assaye) Battery is currently equipped with the self-propelled High Velocity Missile system (HVM). Being part of a Royal Artillery Regiment, our secondary role is to work as dismounted or mechanised infantrymen. It is in this capacity that we have deployed

as part of the British Contingent of Sector 2: 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, as the Mobile Force Reserve.



## Sector 2 Visits Officer

The rotation in Sector 2 has seen a new host of personalities. One that many members of UNFICYP will meet is the new Visits Officer. Capt. Tom Foss-Smith, among his other duties, is responsible for taking bookings for, and then conducting, the Green Line Tour. He has quickly built up his knowledge of the old city, but he does have a head start; he was with UNFICYP between 2001-2 as the Bengal Troop Commander.

Normally a Forward Observation Officer responsible for directing artillery fire, he finds his new role particularly enjoyable.



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Capt. Foss-Smith is enthusiastic about Cyprus, its culinary delights and an excellent standard of tailoring offered second to none. He lists amongst his lifetime achievements victory in the Durham University pizza-eating contest, demolishing a 14-inch pizza in an astonishing 2 minutes 36 seconds.

He is married to Nicky, who plans to visit him in Cyprus to ensure he is eating properly! He is looking forward to another six months of service with UNFICYP – you will no doubt see him on a Green Line tour soon!



## Going Places ...



**Sonia Dohman**  
reassigned to  
MINUSTAH -  
Haiti



**Michael Clarkson**  
reassigned to  
MINUSTAH -  
Haiti



**Håkan Malström**  
reassigned to  
MINUSTAH -  
Haiti



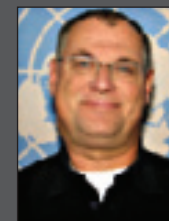
**Bojana Kosavac**  
reassigned to  
MINURSO  
Western Sahara



**Héctor Jiménez**  
reassigned to  
UNMIS  
Sudan



**Raul Farfan**  
reassigned to  
UNMIS  
Sudan



**Klaus Höchtl**  
reassigned to  
UNMIS  
Sudan

Continuously adapting to the changing needs in the world of peacekeeping, Field Service staff are always ready to relocate to different troubled spots. The **Blue Beret** congratulates these staff members on completing their Eastern Mediterranean assignments and wishes them luck in their future endeavours.



**Capt. Štefan Zemanovic, MPIO**

## New Faces...

Capt. Štefan Zemanovič from Trenčín joins UNFICYP as the Military Public Information Officer (MPIO). Capt. Zemanovič trained as an Air Force Technician and Weapon Systems Specialist for five years at the Slovakian Air Force's Military Academy.

Four years ago, his career took a turn that brought him to Camp Kuchyna (which means kitchen in Slovakian!), where he began his career as a Military

Public Information Officer – quite a difference from his earlier post as Technical Flight Commander.

Now he is living in Blue Beret Camp where he will be spending his 30th birthday. “Fortunately I’m single but not alone,” explains Stefan. His girlfriend is in Slovakia. In case you want to get him a welcoming or birthday gift, keep in mind that he likes modelling kits of military vehicles and aircrafts.



**Capt. Jozef Kascak, 2IC - FMPU**

Capt. Jozef Kascak was born in Presov, Slovakia, on 3 April 1968. He attended the military grammar school in Opava, Czech Republic, and then the Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia. He graduated from university with a degree in anti-aircraft defence in 1990. His first position was in AA brigade in Plzeň, the Czech Republic, as platoon leader.

Then he moved to Kosice, Soviet Republic, as the officer responsible for processing of RL information. He has been working for the military

police for the last 11 years as an investigator, and was also responsible for force safety in different barracks. In the course of his studies, Jozef has attended the Police Academy in Bratislava and a defence operational planning course in the Netherlands.

Last year, he served as an MP officer with the peacekeeping mission KFOR, Kosovo. Jozef is married to Anna. They have two children, Renata, 11, and Eduard, 8. He enjoys sports, particularly playing ice-hockey.



**Sadio Kanté, Communication Officer**

As a Communication Officer, French national Ms. Sadio Kanté is working with Mick Raine in establishing the communication plan of the EU-funded UNDP (PFF) de-mining programme, otherwise known as the Mine Action Cell. She enjoys cooking, diving and sewing. Touareg art is her particular passion.

Originally from Mali, Sadio has lived in Africa and Europe. Along the way, she developed a sensibility to the vast contemporary social, economic, and cultural issues found on each continent.

Her interest in media has resulted in assignments at various film festivals

including Cannes. Sadio still remembers the famous film festival and the standing ovation given there for the African film “Kini and Adam” directed by Idrissa Ouedrigo. She also experienced the glitz of Monaco while on staff with the Press Office of the World Music Awards. On the way to a show venue, “a wonderful 1950s Mercedes came to pick me up. Along the road, people were shouting and taking photographs”. What else could she do but play the part and smile for the flashing cameras. Sadio was a star, even if for just a brief moment!

## Sector 1



Sector 1 received visits by the Vice Chiefs of Staff of the Argentinian Armed Forces, as well the Defence Attaché to the Argentinian Embassy in Israel. After having met the Chief of Mission and Argentinian soldiers of MFR, FMPU and HQ in the UNPA, the visitors landed at Camp San Martin's heliport on 1 April. They were greeted by an honour parade and CO Sector 1, Lt. Col. Federico Sidders, who welcomed the group comprising Gen. Perez Vovard (Army), Adm. Juan Gaudiero (Navy), Brig. Bianco (Air Force) and Col. Locatelli (Defence Attaché).

During their brief stay, the visitors went to PBs 03, 08, 18 and 32 in order to see first-hand the soldiers at work. The final stop was for a visit to Camp Roca.

The Argentina-based group departed on a flight shared with the first rotation of troops homeward-bound. The officials were well satisfied at having observed the Argentinian personnel at work and proud of the contingent's achievements while serving with UNFICYP.



On 31 March, UN Flight received a visit from the Argentinian Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Brig. Eduardo Ernesto Bianco, and his Army and Navy counterparts.

They were given a tour of the UN Flight facilities and flown over the territory patrolled by the Argentinian Contingent. At the end of the visit, the

military officials congratulated the staff on the excellent state of the aircrafts as well as for their impeccable work in the mission.

UN Flight also received Ms. Leslie Harrison from the department of Air Safety in UNHQ NY. Her task was to inspect the development of UN Flight's terrestrial and aerial activities from a security perspective. Her



Early morning on 30 March, after a long and tiring journey, the first rotation troops of the ATF 25 arrived in Cyprus to serve with the UNFICYP peacekeeping mission. Our predecessors, ATF 24, anxiously awaited our arrival so they could hand over their duties and then be free to set their mind to returning home and joining their families!

Even though there are a few among us who have previously served in Cyprus, the majority are new. We therefore assumed our duties with expectation, curiosity and even a bit of astonishment... with regards to culture, history, religion and language. In short, a completely different environment was awaiting us, but we are “tough cookies” and we shall soon adapt to it all!

ARGCON is a “Joint and Combined Contingent”. Active duty personnel come from the Argentinian Army, Navy, and Air Force. Since the beginning, it has also incorporated soldiers from other South American countries, including a platoon from Paraguay, one from Chile, another one from Peru, with officers and ratings from Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay.

itinerary, established by UNFICYP's Air Safety Officer, Lt. Col. Fabián Raña, included inspection of one aircraft, a briefing by the technical staff, a walk through the UN Flight site, a flight over the cease fire line, and briefings by Officer-in-Charge, Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi, the pilots and maintenance staff. At the end of her three-day visit, Ms. Harrison commended the unity and professionalism of the Argentinian team.



**Lt. Col. Fabián Raña and Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi with Ms. Harrison**



# Opening of the Dolphin Swimming Pool

Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli presided over the official opening of the Dolphin Swimming Pool for the 2005 season on 25 March. Members of the committee even braved the chilly weather and jumped in! It has to be said that it is a wonderful facility for all United Nations members in Nicosia to enjoy. Parents can relax while children splash about in the shallow waters under the shade of a large awning. Get a great workout in one of several lanes reserved for the use by fitness swimmers. Refreshments, including a variety of snacks and hot or cold drinks, at reasonable prices are available at the pool-side kiosk.

All personnel, military, police and civilian, are invited to take out memberships. Because it is a self-funded pool, a small fee is required. Daily tickets can be obtained on entry to the pool, or you can take advantage of our monthly memberships sold at reduced rates. These can be purchased from Sarah Staples in the HIVE, or from Property Manager Maj. Fred Reid in the Property Management Office (365reid@armymail.mod.uk). It is an excellent facility on your doorstep. Be sure to take advantage of it!



Pool Hours	April	11:00 - 17:00 hrs
	May - Jun	10:00 - 18:00 hrs
	Jul - Sep	10:00 - 20:00 hrs
	Oct - Nov	11:00 - 18:00 hrs

## Charity Breakfast



On 14 April, the HIVE hosted the annual Great Spring Breakfast. This is the main fundraising event for Open Arms TPMH Cancer Patients Support Group, and is run island-wide. The event has grown in popularity year by year, and the money raised is much needed to help support cancer patients and their families in the Eastern and Western Sovereign Base Areas. The opportunity is also taken to donate money to local cancer charities.

The RCWO from Sector 2 and members of his catering team were absolute stars in coming up with a menu. Instead of the usual Thursday morning coffee and Bourbon biscuits, visitors were greeted by the wonderful smell of bacon and croissants. It was a glorious day, and the garden soon became packed with salivating customers. Numbers swelled, thanks to members of the MOLO course who switched their coffee break venue to the HIVE. Then there was the MFR, always able to sniff out a bacon sandwich, who joined us along with their BC. It was great to see so many nationalities supporting this worthy cause. Meanwhile, the soldiers at Ledra Palace also enjoyed bacon rolls for their breakfast that morning, and with their donations added to those raised at the HIVE, we managed to collect £143.95.

Thanks to all who supported this event, particularly Geoff, Phil and Si for all their hard work. Much appreciated!

*Sarah Staples*

## Anoyira 10km Road Race

The small village of Anoyira, famous for its “pastelli” (sweets), wine and olive oil, located midway between Limassol and Paphos, some 12km north of the coastal highway, hosted the now annual “Anoyira Ten” as part of its annual Anoyira Festival on Sunday 10 April.

The Anoyira Ten is not just a 10km road race. It is part of a village festival of both cultural and social activities that appeal to the whole family. The challenging course, between the villages of Anoyira and Pachna, is open to anyone. Serious runners, fun runners, joggers, walkers, hashers, ramblers, even dog walkers and pram pushers, can complete the 10km (6.2 miles) in less than two and a half hours. A nominal fee was charged for all participants who received a T-shirt and a medal, and the money collected was donated to the village fund.

At the start of the event, there was music and folk dancing with plenty of food and drink stands as well as locally produced fare on sale. A super fun day was had by all.

*WO2 (SQMS) Mark Kriehn*



*Nathaniel, Benjamin, Ellis, Naomi and Rebecca, representatives from the Nicosia Youth Club.*



Preparations for the London Marathon began in September 2004 when I, along with 150,000 runners from the world over, submitted applications to this mega event.

In December, an envelope arrived. Half expecting another negative reply after so many attempts year after year, I had finally managed to gain access. At long last, I had been accepted!

With 26.4 miles or 42 kilometres to cover, I had four months to train before 17 April. This was my daunting objective. New training shoes were purchased and a running programme began. I did all my training in the UNPA, initially concentrating on improving my speed but later increasing my distances to develop stamina and strength.

Finally, the time arrived to head for London. Flying home for the race filled me with much trepidation. “What ifs” plagued my thoughts as the morning of 17 April finally dawned. Walking down to the train station with my dad, I suddenly became aware that an abnormally large proportion of people at the station were also dressed in running gear. The sheer magnitude of the event struck me as I stood there on the platform with so many runners. Thousands of people flooded the station and kept filling the trains as they pulled in every two minutes. The ride to Blackheath was only 17 minutes long, but the walk to the Blue Start line felt like it

took ages as a rush of anxiety mixed with excitement about the race took hold of me for the first time.

Unusual for the UK, the weather was fine with clear blue skies and warm sunshine. The atmosphere in the starting queue was electric. Helicopters circled above, the Tannoy announcements and the throng of people, runners and spectators, all added to the spectacle. Too far away from the starting line to have heard the starter’s pistol go off, I was amazed it took me a full 16 minutes to shuffle across the starting gate before finally getting on my way to achieving the 25th London Marathon.

The butterflies in my stomach began to subside as I focused on establishing a running rhythm. Too fast and I would hit “the wall” – too slow and I would embarrass myself. Pace is everything in the world of marathons! The miles passed in a blur; southeast London was behind me, down to Greenwich, through Docklands and crossing over Tower Bridge into east London. By the 13th mile I had been running just under two hours, and was feeling quite positive about my effort thus far until I saw the elite runners come into view. They essentially covered 22 miles – that’s 83% of the marathon when I had completed just under 50%! The 16, 17 and 18-mile markers passed and I began

to wonder where this so-called “wall” was that everybody cautioned me about? I figured I was probably running too slow for an obstacle like that. Past the Tower of London, through the City, onto the Embankment and the 24-mile point where “Big Ben” loomed in the far distance. I was tired, my feet were sore and I desperately wanted to finish. Eventually I rounded the corner into Parliament Square and headed toward Buckingham Palace. That meant that I had only 1.5 miles left before reaching the finish. My fatigue subsided and I was propelled along to the roar of thousands of cheering supporters. People were everywhere; hanging from lamp posts, traffic lights, in windows, on road barriers.

The finish line was finally mine in 4:14. I had completed the London Marathon, an incredible accomplishment!

The support was immense and it reminded me that people are generous and kind. I did not run for a charity, but I did run for a little girl who lives in Cyprus, a little girl whose circumstance provided me with both inspiration and motivation.

*Maj. Chris Frazer*



## Volleyball – Sector 4



Volleyball was a popular sport in Sector 4 during the month of April. The first of inter-sector tournament games with teams from the UNPA was held on 16 April. Teams from Camp General Štefánik, HQ Coy Sector 4 and two teams from the Hungarian Contingent took part. All players enjoyed the excellent spirit that prevailed during the matches, nevertheless the name of the game was to win.... and the mixed team from the UNPA were the victors.



Spectators were treated to an excellent game in the Famagusta sports stadium on 19 April when the Sector 4 team played against 4th Regt. (Turkish Cypriot Security Forces). Plenty of opportunities were had and lost and the intense tempo kept the game very close. Finally, 4th Regt. forged ahead to win the match. Players from both teams enjoyed a post-game get-together hosted by the CO Sector 4 at the Officers’ Club, Camp General Štefánik.