

BLUE BERET

UNFICYP Magazine

July-August 2013

Fire Alert

*worst forest fires
seen in buffer zone
for decades*

PLUS

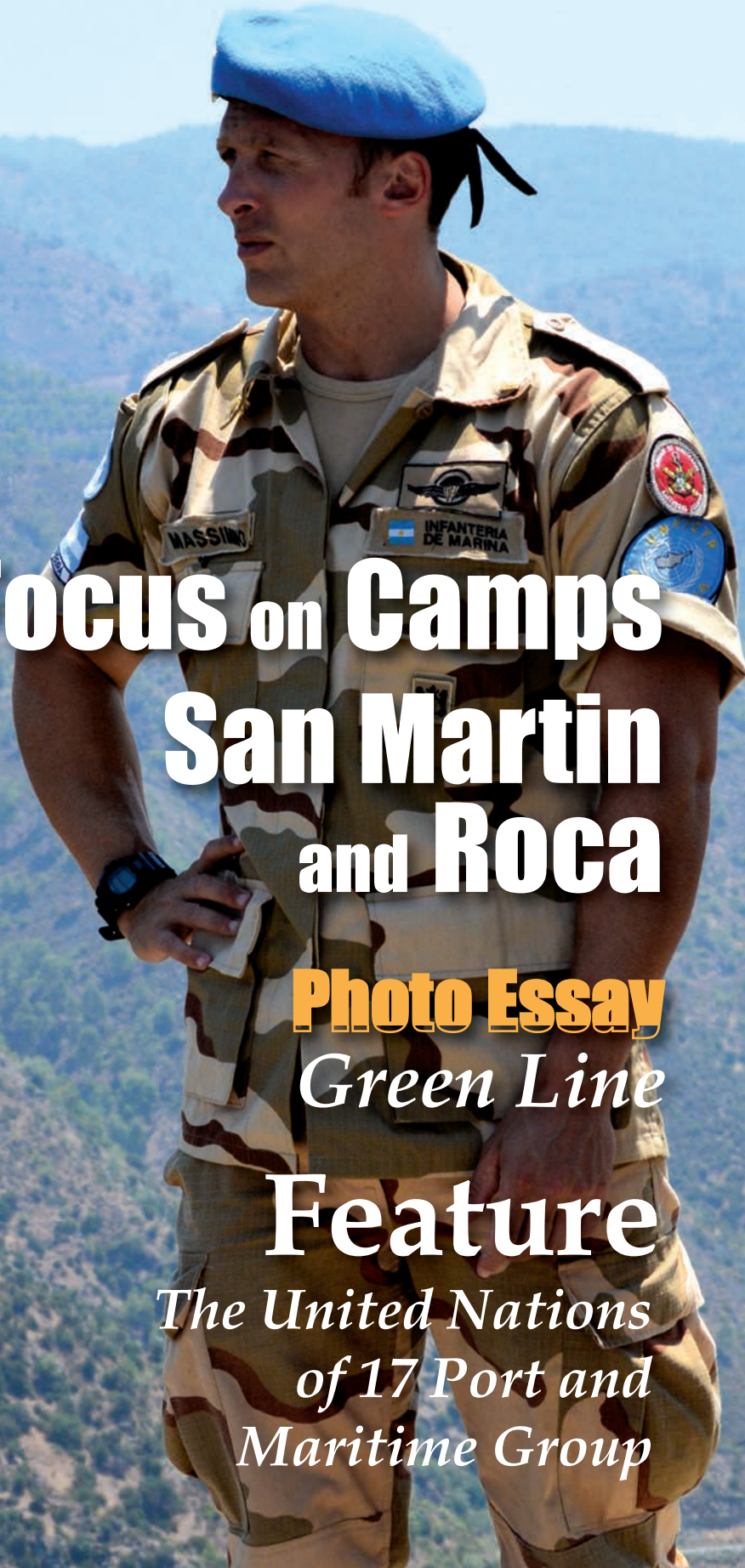
*Hungarian
National Day
Independence
Day of Argentina
Summer Medal
Parades*

Focus on Camps San Martin and Roca

Photo Essay
Green Line

Feature

*The United Nations
of 17 Port and
Maritime Group*



BLUE BERET

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Front cover: 1st Lt. Eduardo Blas Massimino at mountainous area of Skouriotissa

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Ask a Cypriot what happens in the summer months in Cyprus, and they will tell you that nothing happens. Nicosia is deserted as normal folk head for the sea breezes of the coast or the summer cool of the Troodos Mountains.

For UNFICYP however, every summer seems to defy this otherwise well-known truth. Of particular note this summer were the raging fires of mid-August, and particularly challenging for UN peacekeepers, were the fires in the buffer zone to the north-west of the island. It is a relief to all that there was no loss of life, despite the significant and saddening damage to large swathes of the country side, by one estimate some 200,000 trees were destroyed across some 4.5 km², the equivalent of 700 football pitches. Inside this edition, you will read about that fire, and learn about the role of UNFICYP in such circumstances – what we can do and what we cannot.

One only has to recall the tragedy in Arizona in early July and the loss of an elite team of 19 firefighters to know that fire-fighting is a serious business. The Mission acquitted itself to the best of its abilities and in difficult circumstances. We talk to two UNPOL officers based in that remote area, who were the first to react to a life-threatening situation, by evacuating seven Turkish Cypriots from the Limnitis/Yeşilirmak checkpoint. Read their story here.

One highlight of the summer months is the renewal at the end of July of the mandate extending UNFICYP's operations for a further six months. The Security Council once again expressed confidence in the presence and management of the peacekeeping operation, following a presentation in New York of the report of the Secretary-General by his Special Representative and Chief of Mission Ms. Lisa M. Buttenheim. In that presentation, the SRSB briefed about how the 180 km buffer zone is not a "dead zone", rather it is a place where people should be able to pursue normal activities, such as the UNFICYP facilitated annual pilgrimage to Ayia Marina in July.

The few hundred Argentinian soldiers living in the mountainous region of Sector 1 to the west certainly try to create some normality from life in the buffer zone. Here we focus on the two main camps – San Martin and Roca – and learn some history of the camps, and who

they are named after. Normality is also about family ties, so having your brother serve on the same tour makes life easier. Read about two sets of brothers in the Argentinian contingent.

Moving across the Sectors, we include a photo tour of the Green Line dividing the old town of Nicosia, where time has stood still. The British Contingent however is certainly not a static regiment but ever changing. Here we reveal the diversity of backgrounds, which make up the 17 Port and Maritime Group. As an island, the UK has always been the subject of immigration and emigration. Without question, the once global reach of the British Empire has today transformed the UK into a truly multicultural society. UK's continuing ties through the Commonwealth allow for great opportunities for young people from around the world to join the British Army, and here are some of their stories.

To the east, the Blue Beret covers the celebration of Hungarian National Day at Camp Saint Istvan, which marks the canonization of the King Stephan I in 1083, the founder of the Hungarian State. Today, as Lt Col Terek explained, it also marks the end of the harvest. The summer medal parade at Deryneia was the final one before the September rotation of Slovak, Hungarian, Serbian and Croatian troops. The event was marked by SRSB Buttenheim's presence, congratulating them for their role on defusing tensions in a difficult area. A dance show by a group from the local village is a testament to the positive relations Sector 4 has always enjoyed with the local communities. Finally, summer wouldn't be summer without some sports, and so here we cover some healthy inter-contingent rivalry, whether on the rugby pitch, in the swimming pool, or battling it out over 10 km around Mission HQ.

To oversee the next Blue Beret, we will be delighted to welcome back PIO Chief Michel Bonnardeaux, who returns from a critical mission heading up the public information efforts in the UN's latest Mission in Mali. While my own day job remains in Political Affairs in the Office of the SRSB, I have been delighted to jump in to the PIO hot seat for a while over the summer, and I would like to also thank former acting spokesperson Rolando Gomez for returning for one month to take over his former role.

Serving UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

“Anyone would have done the same”

On 17 August, seven Turkish Cypriot police and customs officers scrambled into UNPOL and civilian vehicles, minutes before one of the worst forest fires seen in that part of the buffer zone for decades threatened to engulf the Turkish Cypriot side of the Limnitis/Yeşilirmak checkpoint.

To escape the fire, they were given refuge at the Greek Cypriot checkpoint, where they were welcomed. “They were in serious danger at the time, and they didn't have a choice,” said Sgt Stephen Powell (38, from Australia), one of two UNPOL officers on the ground at the time.

A usual day in the office for Sgt Powell and Senior Police Officer and Team Leader Danilo Cirovic (27, from Montenegro), would be to monitor the functioning of the crossing, and escort humanitarian convoys from the north through the buffer zone and on to the Kokkina/Erenköy enclave.

The UNPOL task was a key element of the UNFICYP brokered agreement in 2010 between the then Cypriot leaders Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat, which led to the opening of the seventh crossing, critically linking the north-west with the capital for the first time since 1974. But 17 August 2013 was no usual day.

In the intense mid-afternoon heat, a fire started within the buffer zone, just south of OP 10, blown quickly by the wind in a northerly direction along the Limnitis River bank towards the crossing, spreading at the same time both into the south and into the north. In difficult terrain, UNFICYP successfully facilitated the access of fire services from both sides, a task discharged by the military on the ground, coordinated from Nicosia by the Joint Operations Centre. The services however, were unable to contain the fire, and all vehicles withdrew from the area, while UN military personnel relocated to OP 08.

Further north, UNPOL officers Cirovic and Powell looked on with concern. “The wind was really strong and was getting out of control, so we went a couple of times to the north check-point to see the situation,” Cirovic told Blue Beret. “We could see that the fire would reach them very soon and it was becoming really dangerous,” he said. By 8 p.m., the fire looked set to encircle the Turkish Cypriot checkpoint, and with the route into the north blocked by the fire, there appeared to be a real and immediate danger to the personnel in the checkpoint. “When we came there, we

saw that they were really seriously in a dangerous situation. We told them to evacuate. So four of them got in one UN car and three more in one private car,” Cirovic said.

Asked if such a dangerous initiative was not above the call of duty, Cirovic said: “Being a police officer means helping people. In that moment I wasn't thinking about that - saving someone else's life is the priority”. Powell agreed. “I'm the same. The politics, at that time, don't worry. At the end of the day, we did the right thing regardless of politics”.

By one estimate, some 200,000 trees were destroyed that day, covering some 4.5 km², the equivalent of 700 football pitches. While the checkpoint in the end survived, as the wind changed direction, and opened shortly afterwards, the air conditioning units melted due to the heat of the fire. Cirovic denied the hero tag “because anyone would have done the same”. But he did see one positive outcome from that day: “Those guys that were there that night, they're much more friendly to us now. It means a lot when you see that somebody really ap-

preciates you, and of course they tell their colleagues”. Powell said he hoped that it would have a positive impact. “It makes our working lives a lot easier if everyone is working on the same side.”

Q&A

Can UNFICYP engage in fire-fighting?

While UNFICYP soldiers have basic training in fighting minor fires for self-preservation, they lack any formal training or equipment to fight major ground fires. For them to engage in or supervise fire-fighting, a highly skilled activity, would be irresponsible and dangerous. Nor does the Mission possess helicopters equipped with a fire-fighting capability. At the same time, soldiers can seek to put out minor fires, before they may get out of control.

What is UNFICYP's role in such circumstances?

UNFICYP's main task is to facilitate the access of the respective fire services, a task it discharges to the fullest of its ability, often in difficult terrain. UNFICYP maintains communications with both sides, ensuring the presence of both fire services in the buffer zone, as required. Should the fire rage out of control, vehicles should withdraw from the area, relocated to a safe location.

UNPOL officers Danilo Cirovic and Steve Powell





Fire in the Green Line

On 13 August 2013 fire broke out in the Green Line area of Nicosia. An UNFICYP patrol was quickly on the scene, and given that the fire was only minor at this stage, sought to contain the fire. After a short while however, the fire became significant and fire-fighting services from both communities were called.

UNFICYP's role in such circumstances is to facilitate access. After nearly an hour, the fire was brought under control. Throughout the evening and the following night, the scene was monitored and damping down operations continued. As a result of UNFICYP facilitation and the cooperation of the two fire services, a potentially very

serious incident was contained with only significant damage occurring to uninhabited buildings within the Green Line. The prompt action of both fire services limited damage to the area and also some gardens that border the Green Line both north and south.

Major Adrian Spicer, Acting Commander of UNFICYP Military Forces in Nicosia said. "The prompt action of UNFICYP patrols and the officers on the ground resulted in excellent cooperation between the two fire services which meant a potentially very serious incident was avoided and we congratulate the effective and efficient work of both fire services."

Turkish Cypriot side of the Limnitis/Yeşilirmak checkpoint



The Green Line

The Green Line of the old town of Nicosia patrolled by Sector 2. The UN Observation Posts stand silent visited only occasionally since the unmanning agreements some decades ago. The shops that closed in 1974 are quiet, the hustle and bustle long past and just a memory. Nature takes its toll on the buildings of the Green Line.





San Martin Camp



Sector 1 is manned predominantly by soldiers from Argentina but also has contingents from Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. In the mountainous area of Skouriotissa there are two main camps. Sector 1 Headquarters is stationed in San Martin camp which historically housed the main offices of the Cyprus Mines Corporation. The camp is named after Argentinean hero General José Francisco de San Martín.

José de San Martín was an Argentine General and the main leader of the southern part of South America's successful struggle for independence from the Spanish Empire. Born in Yapeyú, Corrientes, in modern Argentina, he left his mother country at the early age of seven to study in Málaga, Spain. In 1808, after taking part in the Peninsular War against France, Lt Col San Martín contacted South American supporters of independence from Spain. In 1812, he set sail for Buenos Aires and offered his services to the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata, present-day Argentina. After participating in the Battle of San Lorenzo and time spent commanding the Army of the North during 1814, he organized a plan to defeat the Spanish forces that threatened the United Provinces from the north, using an alternative path to the Viceroyalty of Peru. This objective first involved the establishment

of a new army, the Army of the Andes, in Cuyo Province, Argentina. From there, he led the Crossing of the Andes to Chile, and triumphed at the Battle of Chacabuco and the Battle of Maipú (1818), thus liberating Chile from royalist rule. Then he sailed to attack the Spanish stronghold of Lima, Peru. On 12 July 1821, after seizing partial control of Lima, San Martín was appointed Protector of Peru, and Peruvian independence was officially declared on 28 July. On 22 July 1822, after a closed-door meeting with fellow libertador Simón Bolívar at Guayaquil, Ecuador, Bolívar took over the task of fully liberating Peru. San Martín unexpectedly left the country and resigned the command of his army, excluding himself from politics and the military, and moved to France in 1824. The details of the 22 July meeting would be a subject of debate by later historians.

General José Francisco de San Martín (25 February 1778 - 17 August 1850)



José de San Martín, was an Argentine General and the prime leader of the southern part of South America's successful struggle for independence from the Spanish Empire. Born in Yapeyú, Corrientes, in modern Argentina, he left his mother country at the early age of seven to study in Málaga, Spain.



Orden del Libertador General San Martín

San Martín is regarded as a national hero of Argentina and Peru, and, together with Bolívar, one of the liberators of Spanish South America. The Order of the Liberator General San Martín (Orden del Libertador General San Martín), created in his honor, is the highest decoration conferred by the Argentine government.



Cyprus Mines Corporation

The Cyprus Mines Corporation was an early twentieth century American mining company based in Cyprus. In 1914, Charles G. Gunther began prospecting in the Skouriotissa area after reading in ancient history books which state that the island was rich in copper and noticing promising ancient Roman slag heaps in the area. The company was established in 1916 by Colonel Seeley W. Mudd and his son, Harvey Seeley Mudd. Initially the mine struggled, but eventually obstacles were overcome and the mine made money. Greek and Turkish Cypriots were hired, and the town of Skouriotissa became a hub because so many miners moved there. The corporation took an old-style, paternalistic attitude towards workers, building a company town around the mine. Harvey Seeley Mudd claimed his experience with the Cyprus Mines Corporation influenced him to include the study of humanities in the engineering college he started, Harvey Mudd College.





Roca Camp

Roca Camp is the second largest camp in Sector 1 and is named after the hero, and later president, Julio Argentino Roca.

Julio Argentino Roca – full name, Alejo Julio Argentino Roca Paz – became Minister of War in 1878 as a member of President Avellaneda’s government, and it was his task to prepare a campaign that would bring to an end the “frontier problem” following the failure of efforts by his predecessor, Adolfo Alsina. Indigenous Indians frequently assaulted frontier settlements and stole horses and cattle, and captured women and children who were enslaved or offered as brides to warriors.

Roca’s approach to dealing with the Indian communities of the Pampas, however, was completely different from that of his predecessor, who had ordered the construction of a ditch and a defensive line of small fortresses across the Province of Buenos Aires. Roca saw no way of ending native attacks other than by putting all land up to the Río Negro under effective government control in a campaign, known as the Conquest of the Desert, that would “extinguish, subdue or expel” the Indians who lived there. This land conquest would also strengthen Argentina’s strategic position against Chile.

Due to his military successes and the massive territorial gains linked with them, Roca was put forward as a successor to President Avellaneda. In October 1879 he gave up his military career to get ready for the election campaign. When Carlos Tejedor instigated a revolution in 1880, Roca was one of the key figures in the federal-

ization of the country and the naming of Buenos Aires as the capital of Argentina, settling the question of central rule.

First presidency after triumphing over Tejedor, Roca took over the presidency on 12 October 1880. Under his mandate the so-called “laicist laws” (Leyes Laicas) were passed, which brought a series of functions that were previously under the control of the Church under the jurisdiction of the state.

Roca also created the so-called Registro Civil, an index of all births, deaths and marriages. He also made primary education free by nationalizing education institutions run by the Church.

Under Roca’s rule the economy became state-controlled and he presided over an era of rapid economic development fuelled by large-scale European immigration, railway construction, and agricultural exports.

In May 1886 Roca was the subject of a failed assassination attempt. In 1912 Roca was appointed Special Ambassador of Argentina to Brazil by President Roque Sáenz Peña. Roca returned to Argentina in 1914 and died in Buenos Aires on October 19, 1914. His son, Julio Argentino Roca, Jr., became vice-president of Argentina in 1932-1938.



Julio Argentino Roca



Julio Argentino Roca was born in the north-western city of San Miguel de Tucumán in 1843 into a prominent local family. He graduated from the National College in Concepción del Uruguay, Entre Ríos before he was 15. Roca joined the army of the Argentine Confederation on 19 March 1858. While still an

adolescent, he went to fight as a junior artillery officer in the struggle between Buenos Aires and the interior provinces. He also fought in the War of the Triple Alliance against Paraguay between 1865 and 1870. Roca rose to the rank of colonel serving in the war to suppress the revolt of Ricardo López Jordán in Entre Ríos. President Nicolás Avellaneda later promoted him to general after his victory over rebel general José M. Arredondo in the battle of Santa Rosa, who was leading the loyalist forces.



Argentine brothers serving in UNFICYP

By Captain Mariano Mujica



Capitan Juan Mujica

Capitan Mariano Mujica

Being appointed to the position of Duty Officer at HQ UNFICYP, is both a challenge and an exciting military adventure. Sharing the same place with a brother is a coincidence of fate and a great professional adventure.

Such is the case of Argentine captains Mariano Mujica and Juan Mujica, who were appointed to the UNFICYP HQ after a thorough selection.

One is taller than the other ... one is more friendly, the other a little more serious ... one is quieter than the other ... all sound and logical comparisons that are heard in the halls of the Joint Operations Centre (JOC). But for both captains that's just an anecdote.

Mornings at the JOC start most days with a Hand Over Take Over between siblings Mujica, who in addition to all the operational information regarding incidents in the BZ and others, they take a few minutes to do an update on the personal situation ... where were

you the day before? Whether you went to the gym or not or... if you could solve the technical problem of your car, etc...

For many people it is something outlandish and sometimes hilarious, but to them it is a simple challenge...

Here is a brief personal and professional summary of both: **Capitan Juan Mujica (Senior at the JOC but Junior in life)** is married to Julia and has a son (Benjamin, 3 years old), his family is currently on the island, and they will stay until October.

He is an Infantry Captain and owns the Paratrooper speciality. In this speciality, Juan spent his years of lieutenant making a lot of courses in the country and abroad. He was an instructor at the Military Academy and professor at the Infantry School, the latter being the role he played before joining UNFICYP. He performed the Military Parachutist course with the Chilean Army, and the course of VIPs security personnel with the army of the People's Republic of China. He participated twice in UNFICYP as MFR APC Platoon Leader and as MOLO in Sector 1.

Capitan Mariano Mujica (Junior at the JOC but Senior in life) is married to Fernanda and has two children (Maria Del Pilar, 6 years old, and Agustin, almost eight years old), his family is coming in the month of December and will stay until the end of June 2014.

He is an Infantry Captain and has specialities in parachute, Army Commando (Green Beret), Army Commando Instructor, Air Assault and Human Intelligence. He performed the Air Assault Course in the US Army (101st Airborne Division) and participated in other overseas missions in Kuwait, Middle East (Lebanon, Israel and Syria) and UNFICYP. Before coming to Cyprus Mariano served as HUMINT Company Commander.

Close family ties

Corporal Carlos Tomas GREEN; was born March 13, 1983. He is married to Norma Ugarte and has a 3-year-old daughter named Mia. He joined the Argentine Army in 2002 as a soldier and was promoted to NCO in 2005.

Corporal Jorge Agustín GREEN; was born on January 8, 1979. He is married to Milagros LAYANA and has a 4 year old son called Baptist. He joined the Argentine Army in 1997 as a soldier and was promoted to non-commissioned office in 2005.

Corporal Carlos Tomas GREEN and Corporal Jorge Agustín GREEN were based at the Tank Cavalry Regiment 10, when they were selected to join UNFICYP with AFT 42, Jorge was a driver at the EP 01 and Carlos was the driver of the DCO ATF 42.

At least once a week the brothers gather together to talk about their parents and relatives in Azul, Argentina. While drinking their "mate" (National drink of Argentina), they reduce the gap between the two continents using the technology available. The brothers say that it is very comfortable knowing that their families are supporting one another.

Jorge and Carlos refer to their participation in this mission as unique, both professionally and personally. They say that it is not easy being six months away from home, but in their case having a close family member nearby is an incentive in their daily tasks not to mention the unconditional support that their families and co-workers give them. This all makes this mission a rewarding experience, they say.



“Leadership Experience” from Antarctica to Cyprus

By Captain Jorge Adrian Schunck

As an Army Officer, to be here in Cyprus is an excellent way to practice all my leadership skills. It is difficult and sometimes very tiring, but I do have to apply such skills as a Company Commander. Of great use are my experiences of an Antarctic Deployment in 2009, where the weather and the isolated conditions are very different than here. There are some common points however that help me in guiding my unit that I would like to share with you. For example, every Patrol Base is like a little Antarctic base, where the Officers have to decide on their own, by using only my own broad instructions as a guide. On the other hand, the Extended Patrols are very similar to a Reconnaissance Antarctic Patrol. I hope the following points can help you in your duty as a leader, no matter the size of the unit, these elements should work for every organization.



1.- Never lose sight of the final goal and focus your energies on short range objectives:

The same as it is in the Antarctic, here in UNFICYP you must motivate your personnel by putting short range goals, in order to accomplish the final mission. For every leader who wants to push his organization to the limit of its efficiencies, it is very important to transform every day into a “mission” and send that message to his troopers. Similarly, you have to explain the final goal, so as to give a clear perspective of what to do and also, importantly, what not to do. Of course, supervision and feedback are always important to improve how your staff work.

2.- Be a Personal Example in your messaging and behaviour.

a) Be natural:

Here on island, you work six months without your family and away from your own environment. That’s why you must motivate your personnel by talking normally, about “everyday problems”, showing to your unit that you are under the same conditions as they are. Back there on the Antarctic, you don’t have the opportunity to go out to the beach, or going out for running, here on Cyprus you can, but it doesn’t mean that your troopers have no stress issues. You must always motivate them, talking naturally and genuinely. Doing that, they are going to believe and most importantly, follow you.

b) Keep yourself visible so they can see their Commander:

Here in Cyprus you have a lot of responsibilities as briefings, inspections, etc. Obviously as a Commander you are not able to be everywhere all the time. But you must keep contact with your entire organization. By seeing you, they are going to start to trust in you. In the Antarctic base, it was impossible to disappear, so you must keep your sense open and listen to your personnel and take care of their problems. Don’t forget: they need to you be a leader, not a boss.

3.- Inspire Optimism and Self-confidence but be realistic:

On every operational deployment, whether in the Antarctic or in Cyprus, you must always tell the truth to the people under your command, no matter how something bad or unpopular a measure may be. When you are working into the Antarctic zone, you must fight against the weather conditions, as well as the stress of the entire group, yourself included. That may sound easy, but the routine can turn a regular soldier into a very difficult man. Such kinds of situations are going to happen, but it’s your duty as a leader to deal with it. Keep telling your people that the mission is the most important reason – otherwise, what is the point of being there at all?

4.- Take care of yourself, keep your resistance up:

In order to accomplish your duty, you must work hard, but also take rest when the situation allows. Here in UNFICYP and also in the Antarctic, you have to remain alert, keep in good spirits, and of course, keep an eye on your own health. If you don’t do that, you will not be able to do your job in a good way. Remember, no matter how hard the conditions are, your organization needs to you be a leader, and they need you to be in good condition.

5.- Remind your team: “we are only one team”:

I think this is the most important part of the message: work as a team. That will transform your organization in a synergistic machine. Everyone must know that their work is inter-related, whatever their role in the group. Your people will start to think differently, they will exchange ideas of how to do better, or share mistakes made. That is a very important issue, because you have to learn from your mistakes, and that only can be achieved if the entire group feel as if they are part of one big family.

Tango in Sector one Summer Medal Parade

By Captain Tomas Ciampor



July 9 Independence Day of Argentina was declared in 1816 by the Congress of Tucumán. On this memorable day Sector 1 celebrated their Medal parade together with the Independence Day of Argentina.

Force Commander Major General Chao Liu highlighted in his speech that where your distant relatives struggled for the independence of their country, you now find yourselves providing security for another land looking for a lasting peace. This September will mark the 20th anniversary of Argentine support to UNFICYP. I would like to thank all members of Sector One for your continued efforts in ensuring a stable Buffer Zone.



A piece of Argentine history

Declaration of Independence

The Congress was inaugurated in the city of Tucumán, with 33 deputies. The residency of Congress would be rotated monthly. Because the Congress had the freedom to choose topics of debate, endless discussions ensued. The voting finally ended on July 9 with a declaration of independence. The Declaration pointed to the circumstances in Europe in the past six years—the removal of the King of Spain by Napoleon and the subsequent refusal of Ferdinand VII to accept a constitutional rule both in the Iberian peninsula and overseas. The document claimed that Spanish America recovered its sovereignty from the Crown of Castile in 1808, when Ferdinand VII had been deposed, and therefore, any union between the overseas dominions of Spain and the Iberian peninsula had been dissolved. This was a legal concept that was

also invoked by the other Spanish American declarations of independence, such as Venezuela's (1811) and Mexico's (1810), which were responding to the same events. The president of the Congress at the time was Francisco Narciso de Laprida, delegate from San Juan Province. Subsequent discussions centred on what form of government the emerging state should adopt. The Congress continued its work in Buenos Aires in 1817, but it dissolved in 1820 after the Battle of Cepeda, which deepened the differences between the Unitarian Party, which favoured a strong central government, and the Federales, which favoured a weak central government. The house where the declaration was adopted has been rebuilt and is now a museum and monument: the House of Tucumán.



The Casa de Tucumán

The Casa de Tucumán (meaning "House of Tucumán" in Spanish, officially Casa Histórica de la Independencia) is a historic building and museum located in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, built during colonial times. The Congress of Tucumán worked in this house during the Argentine War of Independence, and issued the Argentine Declaration of Independence on July 9, 1816. It was declared a National Historic Monument of Argentina in 1941. The annual celebration of the Declaration of

Independence is attended by the president of Argentina, the governor of Tucumán province, their cabinets and special guests. The Casa de Tucumán is now a museum. A "son et lumière" show takes place at the House each evening to set the scene for the story of the Declaration of Independence. The show ends with the national anthem in front of the Argentine flag, flanked on either side by large reliefs of historic scenes that were sculpted by Lola Mora.

Hungarian National Day celebrated in Camp Saint István

By Captain Robert Bolesza

A small country in the heart of Europe is adorned on 20 August every year. National flags are hoisted and hung out on the main streets of the cities and villages in Hungary on this day. The different governmental and social organizations and the people collectively celebrate the most important event of the Hungarian history, the foundation of the Hungarian Kingdom.

20 August is the oldest, an almost 1000-year-old, feast as it has been celebrated since 1083. On this day in 1083 Stephan I, the first king of Hungary (c. 970, 975 – 1038), was canonized. He is considered to be the founder of the Hungarian state and one of the most renowned figures in Hungarian history. He was anointed King of Hungary on Christmas Day AD 1000 and according to tradition, he received a crown from Pope Sylvester II that is now held as a national treasure in Hungary and called Saint Stephen's Crown, or Holy Crown. The Holy Crown is the embodiment of the State and of all Hungarians, living anywhere in the world.

On behalf of the Hungarian Contingent, Lt. Col Tamás TERÉK welcomed the distinguished guests, including their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Hungary and the Republic of Serbia and the senior leadership of UNFICYP. In his speech, Colonel TERÉK talked about the importance and the special significance of this day and mentioned the different reasons why 20 August is special. "Actu-

ally," he says, "this day is St. Stephan's Ecclesiastical Day, but also the National Day since 1891. Due to its position in the calendar," he continued, "it became also a non-official harvest thanksgiving day. It symbolizes the beginning of a new life with the Day of the New Bread as by this time of the year the harvesting of bread-grain is finished in Hungary."

Colonel Terék went on to explain that "in the Commissioned Officers' life in the Hungarian Home Defense Forces, the new Officers after graduating are having the passing-out parade this day, which is the opening ceremony of the official governmental celebrations".

On behalf of UNFICYP, the Chief of Mission congratulated the Hungarian Contingent mentioning the importance of its participation in the Mission. Mrs. Lisa Buttenheim highlighted, that Hungary has been contributing troops to the Mission for exactly 20 years and whilst the strength of the contingent over that time has changed the Hungarian contingent has consistently conducted its various roles with high proficiency.

The ceremony was followed by a reception where traditional Hungarian food and drink was served and enjoyed by the guests from UNFICYP and the diplomatic and local communities.



From Left: Lt. Col Tamás Terék, Hungarian Ambassador Balázs Botos, Serbian Ambassador Savo Djurica and Chief of Mission Ms. Lisa Buttenheim



Sector 4 Summer medal parade in Deryneia

By 1st Lt Miroslav Matejko



Sector 4 soldiers were awarded the UN medal for their service in the UNFICYP peacekeeping mission, granted for serving in a foreign mission continuously for at least 90 days.

The ceremony was held on 26 June 2013, in the area of the old amphitheatre in the village of Deryneia.

At the beginning, Ms. Lisa Buttenheim as the mission's most senior official, was introduced and welcomed by the commander of Sector 4 Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Uličný.

In her speech Ms. Lisa Buttenheim expressed her appreciation to soldiers and thanked them for being the messengers of peace and stability for the people in the area of deployment. She highlighted the impor-

tance of the presence of soldiers of Sector 4 in the buffer zone and put particular emphasis on the engineers who carry out maintenance of buildings and engineering networks.

At the end of the speech, she stated that the operational work that these soldiers carry out was beneficial for the entire population of the island of Cyprus.

Important civilian and military representatives from mission headquarters in Nicosia were present among the invited guests at the summer medal parade.

The medal parade was concluded with a short cultural programme performed by every contingent and a dance group from the village of Deryneia.



The United Nations of 17 Port and Maritime Group

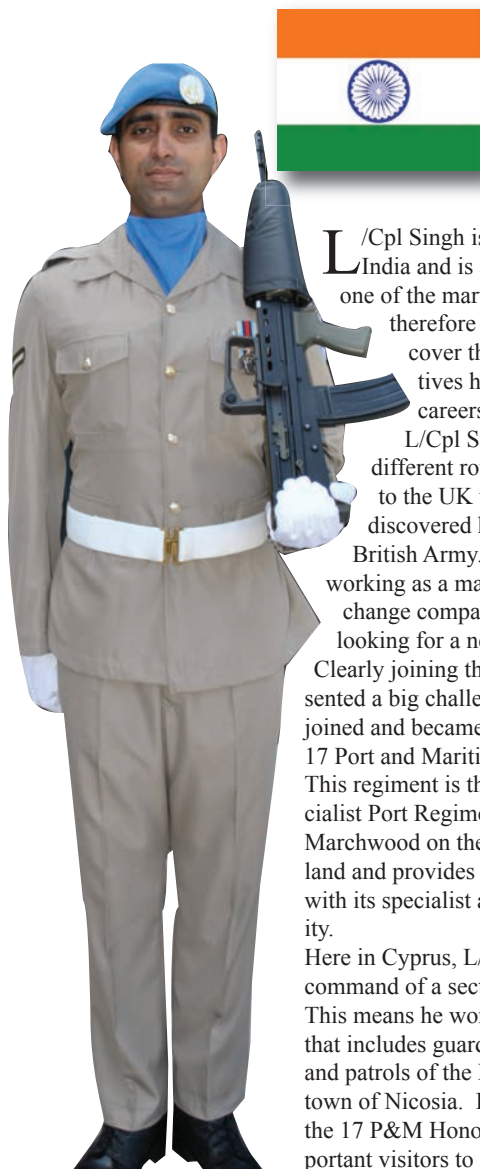
By Captain Peter Singlehurst

The United Nations quite rightly puts an emphasis on training for newly deployed troops that highlights the multi national and multi cultural nature of a UN deployment. Here in Sector 2 the home of the UK's main contribution to UNFICYP, the British Army has an advantage over many other contingents. Why, I hear you ask? The answer is a simple one, when you see a British soldier, it does not necessarily mean that they were born in the UK. In this article I shall explore where some of our soldiers originally came from, why they chose to join the British Army and what they do in Sector 2.

The UK itself is now a very multicultural society, for many years people from all over the world have chosen to come and live in the UK and many of these people originally lived in the former colonies of the old British Empire. Once resident in the UK they and their

descendants can join the British Army and many do. There is however a large group of non UK citizens who serve in the British Army and these are citizens of the Commonwealth of Nations. As the former colonies became independent, they became eligible to join an organisation that is now known as the "Commonwealth of Nations" or more commonly just "The Commonwealth" and it is the citizens of these countries who are also able to join the British Army.

17 Port and Maritime Group like any unit of the British Army has its share of these Commonwealth Soldiers. They serve under the same terms and conditions as UK citizens and they make their own valuable contribution to the British Army. These are some of their stories.



India

L/Cpl
Dilraj Singh

L/Cpl Singh is from the Punjab in India and is a Sikh. The Sikhs are one of the martial races of India and it therefore is no surprise to discover that many of his relatives have enjoyed successful careers in the Indian Forces.

L/Cpl Singh however chose a different route and while on a visit to the UK to see his mother he discovered he could join the British Army. At the time he was working as a manager for a foreign exchange company in India but was looking for a new challenge in life.

Clearly joining the British Army represented a big challenge and so in 2006 he joined and became a Port Operator with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment.

This regiment is the British Army's specialist Port Regiment and is based at Marchwood on the south coast of England and provides the British Military with its specialist and Maritime capability.

Here in Cyprus, L/Cpl Singh is second in command of a section with Centre Troop. This means he works a nine day cycle that includes guard duty at Ledra Palace and patrols of the Buffer Zone in the old town of Nicosia. He is also a member of the 17 P&M Honour Guard that greet important visitors to Ledra Palace.



New Zealand

Cpl Vaughan
"Kiwi" Thomas

Cpl Thomas is from Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1998 after working for several years as a tourist guide on small boats, he wanted to do something more exciting and with his parents support he joined the British Army and found that in the Royal Logistic Corps, he could join as a seaman. So as Cpl Thomas had decided he wanted to join the army rather than the navy he joined the British Army to go to sea!

He chose the British Army also because it is bigger than the New Zealand Defence Forces and therefore gave him more opportunities. Since he joined 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, Cpl Thomas has become qualified to command a Mexifloat. This is a large landing barge used to transport men and equipment ashore. Prior to his service in Cyprus with the UN, Cpl Thomas has seen operational service in Sierra Leone and Iraq as well as non operational service around the world.

In Sector 2 Cpl Thomas is the Training Corporal for West Troop and is responsible for planning and implementing a training programme that maintains his troop's military skills. He also can take the place of any of the section commanders or the Troop Sergeant if they are absent.



Fiji
Pte Maika "Bunny"
Burenivalu



Pte Burenivalu is from the small South Pacific island of Yasawa. This island is one of the western outer islands of Fiji, a British colony up until 1970. Fijians are well known for their passion for rugby and they also have a long and proud history of service in the British Army.

In 2002 Pte Burenivalu, who is a gifted rugby player was working as a fisherman and playing rugby on Saturdays, when he heard from his cousin a Fijian international who was then serving in the British Army about the opportunities to play rugby in the British Army. In the British Army he would also have the chance to travel and improve himself both of which he wanted to do.

During his Army career, Pte Burenivalu has indeed been able to develop his rugby and he is an established member of the British Army rugby team playing in both the 15 aside and 7 aside teams. Here in Cyprus Pte Burenivalu is part of 17 P&M's Centre troop and so he carries out patrols on the Buffer Zone in the Old town of Nicosia.



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Pte Joel Richardson



Pte Richardson is from the small Caribbean Island of St Vincent. This island is part of the country that is now called Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and is in the southern part of the Windward Islands. St Vincent is only 18 km by 11km and was a British colony till independence in 1979.

Before joining the British Army Pte Richardson worked on the island as a broadcast journalist covering news and sport stories. In 2008 a British Army recruiting team visited the island and Pte Richardson contacted them as he was looking for a change, but also the opportunity to travel and see the world.

In Cyprus Pte Richardson works as a chef at Ledra Palace and has also been involved in other events when 17 P&M Grp have provided catering facilities.



Mauritius
Pte Mohamed
'Eddie' Eydatoula



Pte Eydatoula is from the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius that was administered by Britain until Independence in 1968.

In Mauritius, Pte Eydatoula served with the Special Support Unit of the police. This is an armed paramilitary organisation that is partly trained by the British Army. After 12 year's service, Pte Eydatoula wanted a greater challenge and saw the opportunity

to join the British Army as a 'step up' that would give him the opportunity to deploy on operations.

Pte Eydatoula is regularly one of the Honour Guards that greet high level visitors to Sector 2 at Ledra Palace.



Nepal

L/Cpl Chandra Limbu

L/Cpl Limbu is a Gurkha a member of the warrior classes from Nepal. As such he was able to join the British Army for different reasons as Nepal is not a Commonwealth country and was never part of the British Empire. Initially L/Cpl Limbu joined the British Army's Brigade of Gurkhas. To join this brigade is extremely demanding, L/Cpl Limbu relates that he was one of 20 000 who began the selection process the year he joined and that they were all chasing just 230 places.

In 2010 taking advantage of new rules that allowed Gurkha soldiers to transfer to the rest of the British Army, L/Cpl Limbu transferred to the Adjutant General Corps.

Here in Cyprus he works in the Sector 2 Admin Office and is one of the team that looks after soldiers pay matters. He also manages the leave applications and books flights and hire cars for Sector 2 personnel.



Malawi
Sgt Pesley Khonje



Sgt Khonje is from the African country of Malawi. This former British colony used to be known as Nyasaland and by African standards is quite a small country. In Malawi Sgt Khonje worked as an assistant accountant for Royal Sun Alliance, an insurance company.

In 2001 however while on holiday in the UK and just after he had got married he saw an advertisement for the British Army. The advert had the slogan "Be the Best" and he thought that is for me and so applied there and then and was accepted.

Sgt Khonje joined the Adjutant General Corps and has worked in Human Resources. Here in Cyprus he oversees the administration of any discipline issues that need to be dealt with. Since joining the British Army Sgt Khonje has played both football and hockey for the British Army.

These stories illustrate the diversity of backgrounds that in addition to the British officers and soldiers make up 17 Port and Maritime Group. The Group as a whole has officers and soldiers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus in addition to the soldiers already mentioned there are, a Zimbabwean, a Cameroonian, two Nigerians, seven Ghanaians, fourteen more Fijians, two from St Lucia, another Nepalese, two Jamaican, a soldier from Trinidad and Tobago and finally a Tongan. In total therefore 17 Port and Maritime Group has citizens from at least nineteen different countries cover the globe and therefore make 17 Port and Maritime Group its own United Nations.

An UNFICYP Summer of Sports

By Captain Peter Singlehurst

This summer the military contingents from UNFICYP have managed to find time away from operation commitments to take part in a number of sporting events. Teams from Sector 1 and Sector 2 joined five local teams to contest the inaugural Larnaca Beach Rugby Tournament organised by the Cyprus Rugby Federation.

Rugby is a popular sport in both Argentina and the UK and the teams from both the sectors made the journey to Larnaca on Sunday 29 July to lend their support. Rugby on the island is a growing sport with a number of local clubs now well supported by both local Cypriots and the wider ex patriot community.

Beach rugby is one of several forms of the game. For this tournament two pools of four teams each played three 10 minute games. The Sector 1 team played as the Troodos Pumas, adopting the traditional Argentinian nickname of their national team. Sector 2 entered two teams, the Dolphins and the Nomads.

The winners from each pool progressed to the final. After a slow start while the UN teams adapted to the style of the game, the Sector 2 A team, the Dolphins progressed to the final. In the final the Dolphins faced the Limassol Crusaders, where the superior fitness and greater rugby experience of the Dolphins meant the UN

team ran out comfortable winners.

The winner's trophy was presented by Lawrence Vasiliades President of the Cyprus Rugby Federation who thanked all for coming and hoped the tournament would grow in future years. He also congratulated the winning Sector 2 team and thanked all the teams for supporting the event.

On 21 August, teams from all three Sectors plus the MFR and the HQ element gathered at the UNPA swimming pool to contest the summer swimming gala organised by Sector 2. The event consisted of individual and relay races in all the recognised swimming strokes plus a command relay and finally a fun relay where teams had to sit on a float and paddle the length of the pool. The MFR benefiting from some very experienced swimmers ran out winners but a very creditable result was achieved by the small but mature Sector 4 team who came second.

Prizes for the swimming gala were presented by Chief Operations Officer Lt Col Eduardo Wendeburg who commented that it was good to see all the contingents coming together in friendly sporting rivalry. He also thanked the organisers and noted that clearly the event had been well organised and that all had also importantly had fun.



10k Run

By Captain Tomas Ciampor

On Wednesday 14 August 2013 a traditional 10 km “FUN” race in UNFICYP took place. The competition started at 05.30 due to hazardous weather condition and consist from individuals and 6-members teams. There were teams from MFR and Sector 1, 2 and Military Police.

The run competition takes place traditionally twice per year and is organized by MFR. The aim is to motivate all military and police members of the Mission to participate to regular sport activity also in higher temperatures. The plan to experience an enjoyable, physically demanding competition and develop Inter sector/department relations was fulfilled 100 percent.

Exactly at 05:45 hrs of local time the competition was started by fan horn and competitors went on the 10 000 m

long running track in order to be the best. There were 6 watering stations along the track. Runners had chance to prove that they are able to conduct high quality sport performance also under demanding circumstances and thus doing so conduct operational mission tasks 24/7. Final times of those best in finish just prove those words: fastest individual was Rgr Hewitt (Sec 2) 37.28 and best team was MFR. Some runners crossed the line completely exhausted, and some just finished with “Mate” in their hands. For all participants it was a memorable run and due to the time, also a nice start to another working day!

In his final speech, the Chief of Staff Col Angus Loudon thanked all participants for the high quality sport performance and thanked all who helped prepare the event.



NEW FACES



**Major Karen Miller AGC (RMP)
Force Provost Marshal**

Major Karen Miller joined the British Army in August 1978 and has served within the Royal Military Police throughout her entire career. She has served in many locations including Hong Kong, Falkland Islands, Kosovo, Germany and UK. After completing 6 years uniform service, Major Miller transferred to the Special Investigation Branch (SIB) and was promoted through the ranks to WO1. She has investigated a vast number of serious cases including the IRA campaign in mainland Europe and the murder of members of the British Forces Germany community.

Major Miller commissioned in 2000 and whilst predominantly employed in SIB appointments she has served at the MOD and as PM BRITFOR/OPS Offr MNMP KFOR.

Major Miller assumed the appointment of Force Provost Marshal UNFICYP on 25 July and is the first female to serve in the role. She looks forward to the unique challenge of policing in a multi-national environment.

**Captain J.Y.C.M. Courtemanche, CD
SO3 Ops Info Officer**

Captain Courtemanche joined the Canadian Forces on 11 October, 1979 as an Artilleryman. Once his basic training was done, he was joined the Quebec Battery of the 5e Régiment d'Artillerie Légère du Canada at the Canadian Forces Base in Valcartier, the francophone Canadian Armed Forces Artillery Regiment located in the Québec province.

Capt Courtemanche commissioned officer through the military program for the non Commissioned Officer at the rank of Master Warrant Officer at 26 years of service. Capt Courtemanche's past operational military missions with the United-Nations/NATO are: Cyprus, in the former Sector 3 in 1980 and 1987; Haiti; Bosnia Herzegovina; Kabul Afghanistan; and Kandahar Afghanistan.

Captain Courtemanche plans to retire from the Regular Canadian Forces in 2015 at 35 years of service, will join the Canadian Primary Reserve Armed Forces, will go back to school in order to obtain his High School Diploma in General Building Maintenance and will likely open his own Renovation business. Captain Courtemanche is married to Solange Bédard and together, they have two children, Symon and Janyck.



**Sgt Craig Wedgwood
Warrant Officer Ops Info**

Sgt Wedgwood joined the British Army in 2002 as analytical and security staff. After training he moved to work for 3 years in Northern Ireland, before moving to 12 Mechanised Brigade in England. He then moved to serve 4 years in Germany, including 2 years with 7th Armoured Brigade "The Desert Rats". Sgt Wedgwood then moved to Cyprus to work in the HQ of British Forces Cyprus, Episkopi, where he stayed for 18 months before being drafted to UNFICYP. Past operational tours have included trips to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sgt Wedgwood is married to Lucy and has two children, James 5 and Mia 2, who are also looking forward to more time in the sun! He looks forward to working in another multi-national environment and all the challenges and rewards it will bring.

Annual pilgrimage to Ayia Marina

By Diana Bridger

The beautiful little chapel of Ayia Marina, surrounded by olive and fig trees, is situated in a shallow, oasis-like hollow in the buffer zone near Dherynia in Sector Four. Every year on the eponymous saint's name day, a traditional annual pilgrimage takes place and this year was no exception.

UN Police and military personnel from Sector Four successfully assisted in the escort of 1420 Greek Cypriots through the buffer zone to their much-venenerated local holy site on July 16th and on the actual name day itself on July 17th. The event was a prime example of excellent cooperation between UNFICYP and the organisers – Dherynia Municipality, and the Orthodox religious authorities who performed the liturgies in the chapel.

Part of the traditional pilgrimage is also to visit a “holy spring” which is inside a small cave under the chapel, and to touch a stone “foot print” of the saint herself, which is found nearby.

Ayia Marina is known locally as a protector of children and the elderly and this was evident in the numbers of families who attended who had young children or elderly relatives with them. The two extremely hot days went smoothly with no setbacks or hitches.

The pilgrimage was overseen by UNPOL Sector Four Deputy Commander Major Rastislav Caja and UNFICYP Military Sector Four Senior Operations Officer Major Richard Szilasi. The local people heaped a lot of praise on the UNFICYP teams for the helpful and sensitive manner in which the whole operation was conducted.





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