

BLUE BERET



Winter Military Skills Competition 2015

NICOSIA, 16 December 2015 – The Christmas holidays may be round the corner, but UNFICYP military personnel still had the energy to spend time preparing for one of the highlights of the year, the Military Skills Competition.

On the chilly morning of 2 December 2015, UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund opened the competition when she "horned out" all seven teams participating in the first Stand – the endurance run; per Military Skills Competition standards, each participant carried 12kg, including a helmet, weapon and day sack. The first three teams finished very close and well ahead of the others, with the Sector 2B team taking first place.

Teams proceeded to fulfil six other tasks, designed to be closely related to the military skills required in the UNFICYP Mission. These included Stand 2, a scenario in which teams carry a sensitive load over an electric fence and a river full of piranhas. Sector 4A was victorious here. In Stand 3 – where the teams' goal is to plot all 20 grid references on a map and then visit all of them – Sector 2A took this prize. Stand 4 involves driving, one of the troops' favorite activities, with the teams taking a cross-country ride; Sector 1B expertly steered their way to winning this, performing the quickest ride.

Marksmanship - shooting from five positions to five different marks – was Stand 5, and Sector 2A targeted their way to victory here. Stand 6 tested quick reactions by simulating an incident in which a car is engulfed in flames in a minefield; The Mobile Force Reserve unit proved the most skillful here. Finally, at the end of a long day of tests came the last one – an assault course that showed no mercy to the exhausted troops; Sector 1A outran the other teams across the obstacles to claim the win.

After a short, well-earned break for the fatigued teams, the eagerly awaited announcement of the overall winners was made – Sector 2B were declared champions of the 2015 Winter Military Skills Competition; Sector 1A placed second and Sector 2A finished third. In her address, the Force Commander thanked the competitors for a fair and thrilling competition, and recognized the good work of all who helped to prepare competition.

Congratulations to the winners and all who took part in this exciting display of military prowess! We look forward to the Summer Military Skills Competition in 2016.



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