

BRAVERY AWARDS IN CYPRUS

Two Australian Federal Police officers serving in Cyprus have been recognised for professionalism and bravery by both the United Nations and the AFP Commissioner, Major General Ronald Grey, for their actions during a sensitive incident in the UN Buffer zone on 28 August 1986.

Sergeants Vince Mylett of Eastern Region and Greg Slater of the ACT Region, both still serving with the UN Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus, were presented with awards from the UN Force Commander, Austrian Major General Greindl, in a special ceremony on 20 January. The AFP Commissioner issued two Commissioner's certificates for 'professionalism and bravery displayed in performing their duties in a dangerous situation within the United Nations Buffer Zone'.

During a particularly tense confrontation between rival groups near an unoccupied school building known as Beaver Lodge the Australian Civil Police contingent had been assigned the task of ensuring no civilians unwittingly came near where some armed soldiers and members of the United Nations force were attempting to resolve a territorial matter. Some of the conflicting parties were becoming agitated. It is UNFICYP policy that its civil police deal with civilians and that the police be unarmed.

Early on 28 August the UNFICYP troops began an operation in an attempt to defuse the conflict. For security reasons the nearby residents and local authorities were not told of the operation. The AUST CIVPOL were asked to



be present to deal with any civilian problems.

Shortly after the operation began, at about 7.30am, an elderly lady entered the operational area from her house nearby and was in danger. The UNFICYP commander asked that she be removed. She had walked from the doorway of her house into the street. On seeing the situation she stood in the street blessing herself and ignoring calls to go back inside. Sergeants Mylett and Slater responded to move her and approached her from different directions. Sergeant Mylett, being closer, reached the woman first. When the UNFICYP commander saw that Sergeant Mylett had the situation under control he asked Sergeant Slater to retire. Both the sergeants then assisted the woman to safety.

The UNFICYP commander's citation reads:

'Throughout the incident both Sergeant Mylett and Sergeant Slater were unarmed and clearly in danger from the

Sergeant Vince Mylett (left) and Greg Slater with the Commander of UNFICYP, Major General Greindl.

agitated Turkish soldiers threatening both Sergeant Mylett and the old woman. His prompt action and total disregard for his personal safety undoubtedly saved the elderly woman from a potentially lethal situation. In addition his action contributed to the overall success of the operation at Beaver Lodge. He is a credit to both the Australian Civilian Police Contingent and the United Nations Force in Cyprus.'

The Commissioner's commendation said that Sergeant Mylett's 'prompt and calm action and disregard for his own personal safety undoubtedly saved a life and contributed to the success of the operation'.

He said that Sergeant Slater's 'timely actions and disregard for his own personal safety assisted in the saving of a life and contributed to the success of the operation'.



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LATE ITEM

Since the writing of the article *Proceeds of Crime Bill 1987* (Page 5) the Bill passed both Houses of Parliament on 5 June. A double dissolution of the Parliament has delayed the enactment of some parts of the legislative 'package'.

FRONT COVER:

Commissioner Major-General Ronald Grey inspects an honour guard of People's Armed Police.