

BLUE BERET

Finnish Veterans Visit Memorial

On 16 March 2016, a party of Finnish Veterans visited the UN Protected Area (UNPA) in Nicosia. They originally served as peacekeepers as part of FINCON 23-27 Battalion Supply & Logistics. The primary aim of the visit was to see the memorial statue located on Crazy Corner near the main entrance to the UNPA, which was erected in 1976 to pay tribute to Finnish Soldiers who lost their lives whilst serving with UNFICYP in Cyprus between 1975 and 1977.

The statue was designed and built by military engineer Senior Lieutenant Raimo Karjalainen (pictured in the red shirt) in 1976-77. Also pictured are Postmaster Tero Alen (1976-1977) and Captain Pekka Jokela, a Supply Officer in 1975-1976. The party also visited what was formerly the Finish Officers' Mess, where the party reminisced on the cold beers imbibed there during their time. The now-derelict building has not changed much, although the veterans expressed disappointment that the original Finish Sauna has since been removed.



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