**Media Briefing Note**

**REPATRIATION OF PRIVATE SEÁN ROONEY RIP**

**CASEMENT AERODROME BALDONNEL 19 DECEMBER 2022**

Private Seán Rooney, who tragically lost his life while serving with UNIFIL on 14 December 2022 will be repatriated into Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel will full military honours at 0830hrs on Monday 19 December 2022. **Private Rooney was accompanied home by his Company Commander, 121 Irish Battalion Recce Company, Commandant Brian Connolly.**

**Prior to departing Beirut Private Rooney was awarded the following honours:**

During the ceremony at Beirut Airport, UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Aroldo Lázaro posthumously awarded Private Rooney the United Nations UNIFIL Peacekeeping Medal.

Major General Pierre Saab, representing LAF (Lebanese Armed Forces) Commander General Joseph Aoun, awarded him the War Medal, the Wounded Medal, and the Appreciation Medal Bronze Degree from the Lebanese Armed Forces.

**Brief Outline:**

1. Arrival of CASA
2. Removal of Pte Rooney’s remains
3. Prayer service in Hangar No 5
4. Departure from Baldonnel.

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| **COMPONENT** | **NAME** | **UNIT** |
| Bearer Party | NCO In Charge:  Sgt Ian Farrell  2 I/C: Sgt Andrew Kelly | 2 Brigade Military Police Company at Cathal Brugha Barracks |
| Pall Bearers | NCO I/C: Sgt Patrick Mc Gillion  2 I/C: Cpl James Burke | 2 Cavalry Squadron at Cathal Brugha Barracks |
| Chaplain | Fr Bernard McKay Morrissey | Air Corps |
| CASA Pilots | Lt Col Patrick Ridge  Comdt Owen McGrath  Capt Declan Hickey  Lt Lauren Cusack | Air Corps |
| CASA Crew | FS Padraig Crehan, Cpl Micheal Delahunt, Mr Peter Brennan |  |

Media may attend, but must respect the wishes of the family, the solemnity of the ceremony and the instructions of Press Officers.

**Bearer Party**

A Bearer Party not exceeding 10 personnel will carry the coffin during the ceremony. Drawn from 2 Brigade Military Police Company based at Cathal Brugha Bks. Sergeant Ian Farrell is the Sergeant in Command of the Bearer Party and Sergeant Andrew Kelly is the second in command.

**Pall Bearers**

Pall Bearers consisting of 10 personnel will provide honours during the ceremony. Drawn from 2 Cavalry Squadron at Cathal Brugha Barracks, they are led by Sergeant Patrick McGillion with Corporal James Burke as 2nd in command.

A pall-bearer is one of several funeral participants who helps carry the coffin of a deceased person from a religious or memorial service either directly to a cemetery or to and from the hearse which carries the coffin.

In ancient Rome, when a man died, his cloak, or "pallium," was spread over his body or coffin as it was carried from the home to the cemetery. A group of men would bear the body on their shoulders. In military or State funerals, the national flag serves as a pall over the casket.

**Outline of Ceremony**

* Prior to the arrival of the aircraft the pall bearers and bearer party will be in position in Hangar No 5 along with the Air Corps Chaplin and officials from Defence Forces Headquarters.
* When the aircraft has landed and cleared to board, DFHQ officials will board.
* On a cue from SO Ceremonial, Commandant Kate Hanrahan, the Military Police (MP) Bearer Party will march towards the aircraft. (board through the side door)
* The Military Police Bearer Party will dress the coffin with the National Flag and place Private Rooney’s UN Beret on top.
* Aircraft ramp will be lowered and the Pall Bearers will march into position and turn inwards.
* MP Bearer Party will exit the aircraft and Pall Bearers will salute. CURTÉIS
* I/C of Bearer party Sgt Ian Farrell will order TOGAIGH, Bearer Party will lean forward and make ready to lift the coffin
* I/C will order SUAS, Bearer party will lift the coffin onto their shoulders
* I/C will order the Slow March “GO MALL MÁIRSEÁIL”, Bearer party will step off on their inside foot
* Once in the Hangar, **private** family time will be afforded. Air Corps Chaplain, Fr Bernard McKay Morrissey will conduct a short prayer service.
* When appropriate the Pall Bearers will move to position near the hearse and the Bearer Party will take up position beside the coffin.
* The Bearer party will move the coffin into the hearse and the Pall Bearers will salute.
* The hearse will depart Baldonnel.