



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

www.dfmagazine.ie

(ESTABLISHED 1940)

Price: €3.00 (Stg £2.70)



FEB 2013

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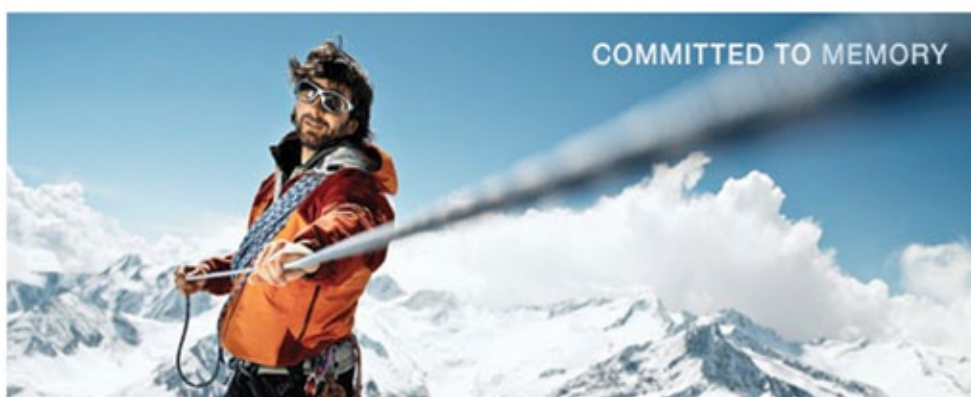
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POLICING

OCHA COMES TO THE DFTC

The Naqoura Trail
GUNDOG

ISSN 0010-9460





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Web: www.jmpublishing.ie
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Printer

Turner's Printing Co., Ltd

The fact that an article appears in this magazine does not indicate official approval of the views expressed by the author.

© Published by
Oic Public Relations Branch
for the Defence Forces at
DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks,
DFTC, Curragh Camp,
Co Kildare, Ireland.
Tel: 045 445312

Front Cover

Irish Soldier in Lebanon at dusk.
Photo By: Cpl Colum Lawlor

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photographs, checkout: www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine

Editorial

Welcome to our first issue of 2013. This month we had a hard time choosing your photos for *On Parade* due to the January break, I hope yours made it - apologies if not. Our *In Focus* features a nice small feature on the Peace Garden in Cavan, a small piece on the McKee Bks Officers Club and we learn who OCHA is on their recent visit to the UN Sch, DFTC. Our staff recently travelled to Lebanon on the rotation of the 106/107 IRISHFINNISH Bn and we will bring you their stories over the next few months starting with The Naquara Trail, UNIFIL Today and an interview with the Deputy Force Comdr UNIFIL Brig Gen Phelan. Next we have a report from the international military police course that was run in the MP Sch, DFTC recently. The centre spread is devoted to those units that were disestablished during our recent re-org. Our *In Reserve* feature is on the Gundog technology used in the Artillery Corps. In *History* Guy Warner brings us a story that starts during the Irish Civil War (1922) and tragically climaxes in WWII as Irishman JJ Gilmore goes From Rebel to MBE. Finally in *Sport* we have the 3 Inf Bn's Rugby match against the Garda RFC team, a report on a recent sniper competition in the US and our other regulars - *Tac Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

Flying High



Pictured are members of 29 Air Corps Cadet Class, who have completed a very demanding, challenging and rewarding course of basic officer training with 87 Cadet Class in the Curragh Camp and then their 'Wings Course' in the Flying Training School, Baldonnel. Congratulations to 2/Lts Neil Dunne (Newbridge, Co Kildare), David Fallon (Baldonnel, Co Dublin) and Paul McDermott (Dunleer, Co Louth), we wish them every success in their careers. Photo: 105 Sqn

First Female Petty Officers

Congratulations to the newly promoted Petty Officers Suzanne Grogan and Honor Murphy. They are pictured here receiving their rank markings from Commodore Mark Mellett DSM (FOCNS) at Haulbowline Naval Base recently. We wish them every success in their naval careers. Photo: A/Sea David Jones



CONGO DVD RELEASE

Following the broadcast of the documentary, *Troid ar son na Siochána (Fighting for Peace)* on TG4 on December 19th and 22nd 2012, there has been huge demand for a DVD of the programme. In response to this a DVD will be on sale from February 1st 2013.

Young Irish soldiers said goodbye to their families and set out, with a sense of adventure and excitement, into the unknown. What awaited them was a political and logistical nightmare, fraught with danger. Twenty-six would not come back alive.

Now veterans, they recall their experiences, illustrating their innocence, their lack of life experience, the army's lack of resources: equipment and clothing, and the lasting impact of the Congo mission on their lives.

Fighting for Peace is the story of the Congo, by the men who were there, and covers the full four years of the campaign: 1960 to 1964. A compelling blend of pathos, tragedy and humour.

It is an enduring tribute to those who paved the way for the development of the Irish army as the most highly regarded peace-keeping force in the world, and a tribute to the first young Irish peacekeepers that lost their lives in the cause of peace.

"They were the true pioneers. Through their service, their dedication, their courage and sacrifice they began a proud tradition, a tradition that continues to the present day."

Lt Gen Seán McCann, Chief of Staff Irish Defence Forces



For details, contact: Gerry Johnston at 01 2760590 or Email: gerryjohnstonsfx@gmail.com

Running time: 52 minutes
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THE BIG GUNS COME OUT ▼

Soldiers from Collins Bks, Cork, who returned from overseas duty with 105 Inf Bn UNIFIL in Lebanon, who held a raffle for a signed Munster jersey in aid of Marymount Hospital in Cork. The raffle raised €2,500 and the lucky winner was Cpl Angela Aylmer. (L/r): BS Patrick O'Driscoll (1 AR), Capt Colm Tubridy (1 AR) Peter O'Mahoney (Munster), Cpl Angela Aylmer (12 Inf Bn), Mrs Kay Dunne (Marymount), Lt Kieran Woulfe (DFTC), Comdt Bob Hurley (1 Bde HQ), Conor Murray (Munster) and RSM Jerry Dineen (1 AR). *Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy (1 Bde HQ)*



RUNNING FOR MANY CAUSES ▲

A group of 30 officers ran the Dublin City Marathon in block, raising over €13,000 for charities. Pictured on 5th Dec last, GOC Air Corps Brig Gen Paul Fry on behalf of the Air Corps block runners made three presentations to ICORG (€5,000), Friends of the Coombe (€5,000) and C.A.M.P. (€3,000). *Photo: Armn Jason Byrne (105 Sqn)*

NEW MP RSM ►

Pictured at the Taoiseach's annual Christmas Irish Coffee Morning in Military Complex, Government Buildings are (l/r): Comdt Michael Tracey (ADC to An Taoiseach), Capt Mick Daly (OIC MP Det Gov Blds), An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Brig Gen Michael Finn (GOC 2 Bde), Capt Dermot Earley (APM & OC 2 Bde MPC), Coy Sgt Paddy Barrett and newly promoted RSM John Jeffers (both 2 Bde MPC). *Photo: Cpl Donal O'Connor (2 Bde MPC)*



RETIRING ► AFTER 23 O/SEAS MISSIONS

Pictured at the stand-down parade for RSM Patrick 'Podge' O'Driscoll (1 AR) after 39 years of dedicated and loyal service and 23 overseas missions. Podge is pictured beneath the iconic clock tower in Collins Bks, Cork. *Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy (1 Bde HQ)*



◀ IUNVA REMEMBERS

Three members of the DF laid wreaths on behalf of the three services at the IUNVA annual wreath-laying ceremony on Sun, 11th Nov 2102 at the UN Memorial Arbour House. They were: O/Sea Sinead Doyle (NS), Gnr Glen Moody (2 AR) and Arwn Christine Brady (AC) *Photo: Tommy Maloney (Post 1 IUNVA)*



IRISH / FINNISH COMPATRIOTS ►

Pictured are members of 107 Irish / Finnish Battalion during their MRE in the Glen of Imaal in Oct. (L/r): Maj Kolehmainen, Capt Purhonen, Maj Kauppinen, Comdt O'Grady, Comdt Donovan, Lt Col Dignam (OC 107 Bn), Comdt O'Riordan, Lt Col Kurkinen, Comdt O'Shaughnessy and Capt Kettunen. *Photo: 107 Inf Bn*



THANK YOU 'DOC' ▲

Pictured is Sgt Patrick 'Doc' O'Doherty receiving an award in recognition of his 10yrs service in DFHQ from Maj Gen Conor O'Boyle (DCOS SP). Sgt O'Doherty is now based in the Admin Sch, DFTC. *Photo: Cpl Tom Reddy (DFHQ)*

NEW PHYSICAL TRAINING SUPERVISORS

Pictured are the instructors and students from the recent Physical Training Supervisors Course held at DFPES, DFTC.

Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)



IN REMEMBRANCE

Ex-service personnel from Ireland, North and South, proudly paraded their branch standards through the town of Clonmel on the occasion of the ONE Clonmel Branch's 'Lá na bhFiann' remembrance day.

Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS (PRO SAC, ONE)

AOIBHEANN'S PINK TIE

Lord Mayor of Galway, Clr Terry O'Flaherty, greets the cadets of 88 Cadet Class and instructors at the end of their charity battle run from the Curragh to Galway City (184 kms). It was completed in aid of Aoibheann's Pink Tie - a charity that supports families of young children receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment in St John's Ward, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. Photo by: Fr Bob McCabe Cf



7 INF BN FCA ASSOCIATION

Pictured here is 7 Inf Bn FCA (now 65 Inf Bn RDF) Association, who held their annual mass in McKee Bks on Nov 25, 2012.

Photo: Sean Shinnors



EUTM SOMALIA

Pictured before the Kampala Marathon 2012 are personnel from EUTM Mission HQ. The four DF members are central behind the flag (l/r): Capt Dermot Farrelly, Lt Col Gerard Buckley, Col Michael Beary (Mission Commander) and Sgt Derek Herbage. They are surrounded by other HQ colleagues from Germany, France, Portugal, Spain and the UK. Photo: Sgt Derek Herbage



THE BAND PLAYED ON

The Band of 1 Bde played voluntary recitals over the Christmas period in all weathers and received gracious donations from the public. They presented a cheque for €15,948 to Cork Simon recently at the NCOs' Mess Collins Bks, Cork. Pictured (l/r): Capt Prendergast (OC Band 1 Bde), CS Noel Galvin (Band 1 Bde), Brig Gen Derry Fitzgerald (GOC 1 Bde) and Mr Dave Ronayne (Chairman Cork Simon) along with members of the Band of the 1st Bde. Photo by: Cpl Christine O'Leary (1 Bde HQ)

MCKEE OFFICERS CLUB

BY COMDT GEORGE KERWIN (RETD)

Pictured at the McKee Officers Club annual lunch, are incoming club president, Col Tom Hodson (Retd), guest speaker Senator Marie Louise O'Donnell and the outgoing president Comdt George Kerwin (Retd).

The lunch was held in the Officer's Mess, McKee Bks on Wednesday 14 Nov, following the club's 37th AGM. Of significance for the club was the approval of a proposal to amend the club rules dealing with membership. The amended rule now reads "Membership shall be open to all commissioned officers of the Defence Forces who have served in McKee Barracks, DFHQ or any other Barracks within the Eastern Brigade area".

Commenting on the amendment Col Hodson said "the change is necessary to ensure the future of the club and reflects the changes that have occurred in the Defence Forces in recent years in terms of strength and organisation. He continued: I am delighted that we have already received membership applications from retired officers whose units would not have been eligible before the amendment".

People interested in joining the club should contact the club secretary Der Conway, Mobile: 0879085510 or email: derconway@yahoo.co.uk



Project 'Peace Garden'

REPORT BY GERRY BYRNE (TANAGH BRANCH, ONE)

On Sunday 18th November the Tanagh Branch of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE), in conjunction with Cavan County Council's Peace III Programme, and Northern Ireland's Phoenix Organisation and the Inniskilling Fusiliers, opened a peace garden in Cootehill, Co Cavan.

The peace gardens were opened in memory of those who lost their lives in the Great War and in the service of peace with the United Nations. The project, a Peace III 'good relations project', was initiated by the Tanagh Branch of ONE, which has engaged with a wide number of programmes aimed at building peace and reconciliation in the Cavan area.

Guest of honour at the

launch was Minister of State at the Dept of Defence, Paul Kehoe TD. The minister welcomed the initiative and paid tribute to the ex-servicemen in Cootehill for their good work, and to the Cavan Peace Partnership for supporting the project. In his speech the minister referenced the appearance of the ex-servicemen on the BBC's 'Songs of Praise' programme broadcast on Remembrance Day from Enniskillen, and also the first Peace III-led initiative, the memorial service 'Forgotten Dead' on 1st July 2012 that recognised those from Cavan who died in World War One.

The peace garden project gave the ex-servicemen the opportunity to develop deeper cross-border relations. Oliver Breen, chairman of the Fermanagh Branch of

the Phoenix Project, and chairperson of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, cut the ribbon to officially open the peace garden at the Courthouse, Cootehill, alongside Timmy Murphy, chairman of the Tanagh branch of ONE. The strength of this relationship was visible on the day of the launch with over 60 people attending from across the border, most of whom were ex-servicemen/women from the British armed forces or PSNI /RUC. With a total of over 200 people who braved the cold weather to attend the official launch of the peace garden, it was considered a successful conclusion to a year of planning.



OCHA COMES TO THE DFTC

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS BY A/M NEVILLE COUGHLAN

This autumn the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNSTI), in conjunction with the Dept. of Foreign Affairs Irish Aid, ran a UN FRST (Field Readiness Stand-by Training) course. The course was run for 24 students from the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and it was the first time such training had taken place in Ireland. These courses are open to every member of the OCHA HQ staff at Geneva, New York and the various OCHA regional offices worldwide, and staffers are actively encouraged to take the course on a regular basis.

OCHA may not be a term familiar to many in the Defence Forces but it is part of the UN Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. "It is taking care of the civilian side of the house," said UNSTI instructor Capt Conor Galvin. "It co-ordinates civilian UN agencies and NGOs in humanitarian, conflict, and post-conflict environments."

OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort. OCHA's mission is to mobilise and co-ordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies; advocate the rights of people in need; promote preparedness and prevention; and facilitate sustainable solutions.

The students came from all around the world: Canada, Chad, Columbia, Ethiopia, France, Sri Lanka, and Sweden just to name a few. Of the students on the course, 22 work directly for the UN and two were from the Irish Rapid Response Corps.

Irish Aid is responsible for the Rapid Response Initiative, part of which includes maintaining a roster of people, the Rapid Response Corps, who can be deployed with UN agencies for six months to address a humanitarian crisis. They might be engineers, doctors, CimCord (civilian military co-ordination) officers, gender officers, child protection officers, logistics officers, protection officers, humanitarian affairs officers: a whole range of profiles.

"At any one time we would have 15-20 people on deployment with the UN worldwide," we were told by the director of the Rapid Response Corps, Arthur Hendrick. "Courses like this are designed to train these personnel for any potential scenario they might meet overseas."

Scenarios were set up around the DFTC to test the students in a wide range of situations. These included the practise of UN procedures in a crisis situation, conducting checkpoints, dealing with road traffic accidents, and navigation and communication exercises using Motorola and BGAN satellite phones.





Africa

Algeria's prime minister, Abdelmalek Sellal, said 48 foreigners of eight nationalities and one Algerian worker were killed during the recent hostage crisis at a gas plant facility near the desert town of In Amenas. 32 of the militants have been killed. The four-day siege ended when Algerian troops recaptured the site. Five hostages are still missing.



Mali region has been growing more and more unstable. The former French colony, and a republic since 1960 and who still retains close ties with France, is bordered by Algeria on the north.

The French government has authorised its military to engage in combat against al-Qaeda-linked groups in the country two days after jihadists from al-Qaeda (in the Islamic Maghreb, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa and Ansar Dine) stormed the central Malian town of Konna and routed government forces in early January. France has put an initial 500 troops on the ground with a further 2,000 en route.

President Francois Bozizé of the Central African Republic said he would not resign after talks with rebels in nearby Gabon. South Africa sent troops to the Central African Republic to protect the regime after rebels were poised to take the capital, Bangui.

The presidents of North and South Sudan met in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. They both pledged to abide by the terms of a peace deal they signed in September last. The UN warned of a worsening humanitarian crisis in Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile provinces where rebels continue to fight government forces.

Asia

North Korea's successful launch of a satellite into orbit has raised concerns over the rogue state's advances in intercontinental ballistic technology.



South Korea's first female president,

Park Geunhye, said she was willing to reopen dialogue with the North.

In recent clashes between Pakistan and Indian over the disputed Kashmir region, two Indian and two Pakistani soldiers were killed. India has blamed Pakistan for a border incursion and Pakistan's military has accused the Indian army of killing its soldiers with "unprovoked

firing" and a "ceasefire violation" in what is the worst crisis in relations since the Mumbai attacks of 2008. The region has been an area of tension since partition between the two countries in 1947.

Japan said it would increase its defence spending after a decade of defence cuts. The move was sparked by growing tensions with China over disputed islands.

THE AMERICAS

After a couple died in their farmhouse following an arson attack by Mapuche Indian activists, Chile invoked an anti-terrorist law in the south of the country.

Chuck Hagel was appointed as the United State's next secretary of defence. John Brennan, President Obama's top advisor on counter-terrorism, was appointed as head of the CIA.

Adam Lanza fatally shot 20 children and 6 adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in the village of Sandy Hook in Newtown, Connecticut, on December

14th. Following recent gun attacks in the US, the White House kept up the pressure on gun control. New York has said that it will be implementing the most stringent gun control laws in the country.

At least 20 FARC guerrillas were killed by Colombia's army in the latest operations against the group.



Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's vice-president said that Hugo Chávez was too ill to be sworn in at his inauguration. He is currently in Havana, Cuba, undergoing treatment for cancer.

Middle East



At a meeting in the Moroccan city of Mar-

rakech, more than 100 countries formally recognised Syria's opposition as the civil war-torn nation's legitimate government. Bashar Assad, Syria's president gave his

first public speech in nearly seven months, he remaining defiant towards the rebels.

However, in a rare diplomatic act over 2,100 rebel prisoners held by Syria were freed in exchange for 48 Iranian hostages taken prisoner by rebels last August. The UN announced that at least

60,000 people have died since violence erupted in March 2011.

In a bid to implement a unity pact signed in 2011 between the two main Palestinian groups, Hamas and Fatah, President Muhammad Morsi of Egypt, mediated at recent talks in Cairo.

EUROPE

Thousands squeezed onto the streets of Diyarbakir, eastern Turkey to escort the bodies of the three PKK activists shot dead last week at their office in Paris. Many Kurds in Diyarbakir believe that the three activists were killed by forces trying to destroy peace talks between the Kurdish armed movement, the PKK, and the Turkish government. The talks began at the end of December - the first serious attempt at peace for 18 months.

The European Union was awarded the Nobel peace prize in Norway in recognition of six decades of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.



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The Naqoura Trail

BY WESLEY BOURKE
PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR

For anyone who hasn't served with UNIFIL before, landing in Beirut can be a bit of a culture- and climate-shock. The three hour drive south along the coast to Camp 246 takes you past some breath-taking scenery. You pass mosques; Crusader ruins; olive, banana and citrus plantations; and even, to remind you of Western influences, a KFC. And even though it may be winter it can still hit the mid-200C.

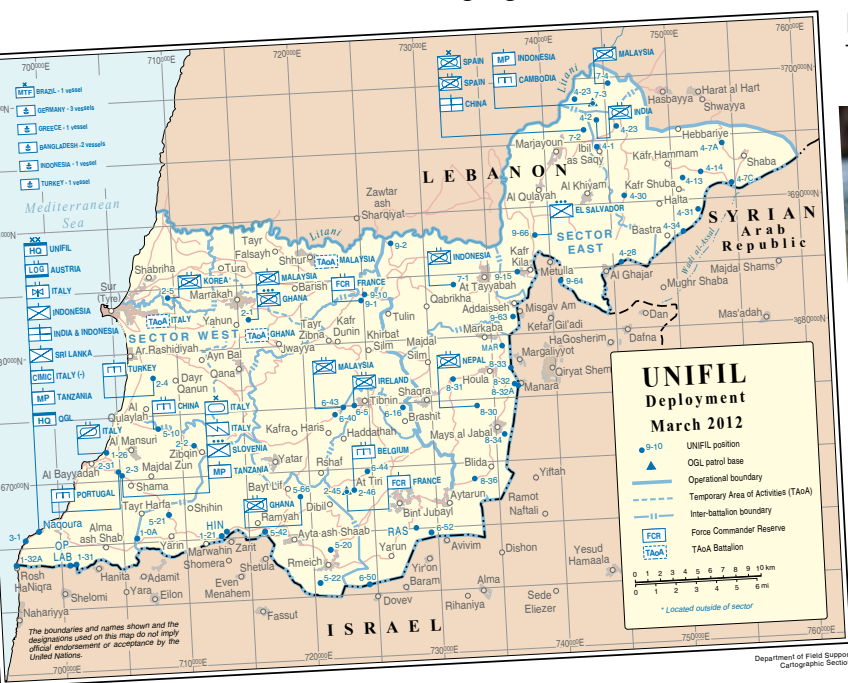
Situated in east of the Mediterranean the Lebanese Republic (دولة لبنان) is a beautiful country with a rich history shaped by a diverse ethnic and religious culture. To the east and north is Syria, to the south Israel. It has a population of 4,125,247, predominantly Muslim, and has Arabic and French as its two official languages. Over

the centuries Lebanon has been invaded or occupied by the Egyptian, Persian, Assyrian, Hellenic, Roman, Eastern Roman, Arab, Seljuk, Mamluk, and Ottoman empires, as well as by the Crusaders, and in later times the French.

During the handover from 106 Inf Bn to 107 Inf Bn we met up with Sgt Willie O'Connor, B Coy, 106 Inf Bn. Sgt O'Connor, who was helping the new arrivals zero their weapons on a range outside Naqoura, was completing his sixth tour in South Lebanon. On the drive back up to Camp 246 the journey took us on the route the Irish used to run from Camp Shamrock down to the border town on the shores of the Mediterranean. As we drove, our route took us past LAF checkpoints and barracks, UNIFIL patrols, citrus and banana plantations, goat and sheep herders, and minefield signs: through a dusty landscape that at times is juxtaposed with that of green cultivated fields on the Israeli side of the border.

"The people here are very friendly. They know we are here to protect them," Sgt O'Connor told us. "As long as you respect their culture and way of life you will get along fine." Everyone serving overseas is always given culture awareness brief but you really don't understand until you see it for yourself. Passing through villages we saw some women wearing hijabs, others with burqas, and as many again wearing Western-style clothes.

The most striking thing about the men is the high proportion with beards. Many have very large beards that they pride themselves on.





“It’s not until you have been here a few times that you really gain an understanding of the complexity of Lebanese culture,” said Sgt O’Connor. “For example, in our AO alone you have Shi’a, Sunni, and Druze Muslims, and a number of Christian sects including Maronites. As long as you don’t go around like a tourist taking pictures all over the place you’ll be fine.”

Driving along we couldn’t but notice that every time a local vehicle overtakes us its driver beeps his horn. Sgt O’Connor explained it had nothing to do with us being in UN vehicles, drivers habitually beep to let the person being overtaken know they are there: apparently most drivers in Lebanon rarely use their rear-view mirror.

While Lebanon is a parliamentary democracy, it implements a special system known as confessionalism, which is intended to deter sectarian conflict and attempts to fairly represent the demographic distribution of the 18 recognised religious groups in government. For the average peacekeeper this type of information may not be of great use but other things about how the country is structured are more relevant. For instance, knowing who and what a mukhtar is can be really useful. Basically, the mukhtar is a local village leader. In some larger villages there may be several mukhtars, each acting as a spokesman for a particular group within the community. If a good relationship is built up with the mukhtars they can provide useful information on things like the local mood, if there is a problem in the area, or if they need the UN to do anything for them.

Sgt O’Connor did his first tour of South Lebanon back in 1994 and he has literally seen it all. “Over my different tours I’ve seen everything from suicide bombings, IED attacks, shellings, and countless ‘groundhogs’. (For anyone unfamiliar with the term, ‘groundhog’ was the order given to Irish troops to take cover in the bunkers due to incoming fire. Sometimes a groundhog might only last a short time while on other occasions it might last for days, depending on the severity of the shelling or firing taking place in the area.)

had been the quietest.

“At the moment the hostilities in Gaza have not affected Lebanon. The civil war in Syria hasn’t had much of an impact in South Lebanon so far either, unlike other parts of the country. For example, there has been sectarian fighting around Tripoli in the north, and only a few weeks ago, in October, Gen Wissam al-Hassan, the head of Lebanon’s internal security forces, was killed in a bomb attack that is being blamed by many on the Syrian regime.”

Even though things are relatively quiet UNIFIL is still aware of the threat from IEDs and landmines and, accordingly, troops are regularly briefed on these threats and brought through their drills. However, for Irish troops with a long experience of Lebanon, any trip without a groundhog for the entire trip classifies as quiet!

On certain parts of our drive back to camp there were clear signs reminding us of the mainly military nature of the relationship between South Lebanon and Israel over the last thirty-odd years. At times we were not far from the Technical Fence and if you looked closely you might see an Israeli outpost. At another time we watched an IDF jet flying along the border. Meanwhile on our road we passed countless Hezbollah flags and posters and portraits of Hezbollah fighters who had died in action during the long and vicious conflict and who are viewed as martyrs. Some, we were told, were of fighters who had been killed while fighting for the Assad regime in Syria, which is supported by Hezbollah.

It’s not all minefields and armoured vehicles along the route, however. Herders waved and smiled as we passed by and children ran alongside our vehicles shouting excitedly as we slowed down to pass through the villages. Hopefully, someday all the mines and checkpoints will be gone and the rest of the world will get to see what a beautiful country all of Lebanon is. ■

“During my first tours we were out on the checkpoints,” Sgt O’Connor continued. “They weren’t easy. We were stopping every tenth car and searching it for arms and at times you could find yourself in a very tense situation. Today we are patrolling while other contingents are doing the checkpoints.” Of all his trips Sgt O’Connor said his time with 106 Inf Bn

UNIFIL

today



LAF/UNIFIL Training

BY WESLEY BOURKE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIFIL PRESS OFFICE

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is a peace-keeping mission that has become synonymous with the Defence Forces, influencing its psyche, doctrine, and history. Irish troops have served with the mission since its establishment under UN Security Council resolutions 425 and 426 in 1978. Over the past 34 years UNIFIL has evolved to meet the security threats of the region. Contingents from many nations have served with the mission in South Lebanon, hundreds of civilian and military UNIFIL personnel have been wounded, and over 500 have been killed.

Today UNIFIL, and Lebanon, are somewhat different from those early days in the 1970s and '80s. Lebanon's civil war is long over, the Syrian

army no longer occupies areas of the country, and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) finally withdrew all of its forces in 2000. Paramilitaries such as the South Lebanon Army, the Tigers Militia, Amal's military wing, and the Marada Brigades have either been disbanded or transformed into political movements. There are still Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Hezbollah is still active both as a political and paramilitary movement, but despite recent hostilities in Gaza and the ongoing civil war in Syria for the most part Lebanon is calm.

The Israeli invasion in 2006 resulted in an additional UN Security Council resolution (1701) which increased the size of UNIFIL to an establishment of 15,000. After the Israeli withdrawal

Lebanon's authorities took more responsibility of the border region and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) moved 15,000 troops into the region.

In addition to UNIFIL's duties under resolutions 425 and 426 (the confirmation of Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon; restoring international peace and security; and assisting the Lebanese government to restore its effective authority in the area) resolution 1701 has seen new additions to UNIFIL's responsibilities. These include accompanying and supporting the LAF deployment throughout the South in the wake of the IDF's withdrawal after the 2006 invasion; co-ordinating its activities with the governments of Lebanon and Israel; helping ensure



Joint EX Neptune Thunder



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon



Checkpoint

humanitarian access to civilian populations and the safe return of displaced persons; assisting the LAF in establishing, between the Blue Line and the Litani River, an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the government of Lebanon and UNIFIL.

The current force commander of UNIFIL is Maj Gen Paolo Serra from Italy, and the deputy force commander is Irish officer Brig Gen Patrick Phelan. Traveling around UNIFIL's Area of Operations (AO) provides an opportunity to see

their operational activities, such as patrols and checkpoints. In 2007 UNSC Resolution 1773 called for further co-operation as it recognised that the deployment of UNIFIL and the LAF in the area between the Litani River and the Blue Line, 'helped to establish a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon'. Accordingly, since the beginning of 2008, UNIFIL and the LAF have further intensified their co-operation and moved beyond co-ordinating their operational activities to carrying out combined activities together on a daily basis. These include various types of combined day- and night-time patrols throughout the AO and along the Blue Line; conducting checkpoints; and recovering and destroying weapons, munitions and infrastructure left from previous conflicts.

UNIFIL's force commander (FC) has several specialist units under his command. One of these is the Mine Action Co-ordination Centre for South Lebanon (MACC-SL), which was formed after the Israeli withdrawal in 2000. You cannot travel far in UNIFIL's AO without seeing 'Danger, Mines' signs in both English and Arabic. There are hundreds of thousands of mines and UXOs in South Lebanon left behind from the countless conflicts dating back to 1949. These mines and UXOs still present a huge threat to UNIFIL and LAF personnel as well as the civilian population. MACC-SL co-operating closely with the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) co-ordinates mine and cluster bomb clearance efforts in the country.

The FC is also assisted by around 50 military observers of Observer Group Lebanon (OGL), an unarmed UN military observer mission that has been present in Lebanon since 1949 as part of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). These observers conduct patrols in villages and along the Blue Line as a confidence-building measure and they work closely with the local population.

An aspect of UNIFIL that many may not be familiar with is the Maritime Task Force (MTF), which has been supporting the Lebanese Navy since 2006 to monitor its territorial waters, secure its coastline and prevent the unauthorised entry into Lebanon by sea of arms or related material. The MTF is the first naval task force ever to participate in a UN peacekeeping mission and its deployment after the 2006 conflict was a landmark move that prompted Israel to lift its naval blockade of Lebanon. For one year, starting in 2008, the MTF was led by the European Maritime Force (EUROMARFOR), the first time that EUROMARFOR operated under a UN mandate. Rear Admiral Wagner Lopes de Moraes Zamith of Brazil currently commands the MTF with his flag on the Brazilian Navy frigate Liberal.

To date, 15 countries have contributed to the MTF: Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. The force is currently comprised of eight ships; two each from Bangladesh and Germany, and one each from Brazil, Greece, Indonesia and Turkey. Since the start of its operations on 15 October 2006, the MTF has hailed well in excess of 47,000 ships and referred more than 2,600 vessels to the Lebanese authorities for further inspections. ■

a dynamic multinational force working alongside the LAF and the local authorities. Current contributing nations to the force include: Austria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, El-Salvador, Finland, France, FYR Macedonia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Turkey.

UNIFIL carries out a range of operations across its AO, which runs between the Litani River in the north and the Blue Line in the south. These operations include day- and night-time patrols, observation posts, monitoring the Blue Line, and clearing unexploded ordnance (UXO) and cluster munitions. Immediately upon the deployment of LAF troops in the south, which took place in parallel with the withdrawal of the IDF and the expansion of UNIFIL, the LAF and UNIFIL established mechanisms to closely co-ordinate

Crowd Control



Command Centre



Evidence Gathering

INTERNATIONAL Policing

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

The Defence Forces has become globally renowned for running some of the best international military courses; for example, CIMIC, command & staff, counter-IED, and military policing. Our MPs and their international counterparts have vast domestic and international experience, and bringing such people together for a course pools all that knowledge and experience, thereby enhancing the benefits for the students.

Since the inception of the International MP Course some 190 students from 43 countries have passed through the MP School's halls. This year the ninth course had 21 students, and two foreign instructors, from 11 countries; including for the first time two students from the USA.

When MPs deploy overseas they generally operate on a multinational level, either working in a multinational MP unit or co-operating with MPs from other contingents.

"The thrust of this course is to enable MPs to operate in a multinational environment with an EU, NATO/PfP, or UN mission," explained MP instructor, Lt Col John O'Loughlen. "The students who come on this course have varied degrees of experience. Some with close protection experience may have no experience of investigation. Others may just be responsible for camp and base security back in their home countries. So it is a great opportunity for all of them to see how things operate in different situations. Most importantly they will be able to hit the ground running overseas in a multinational MP unit."

The students received lectures from the different corps in the Defence Forces. These included lectures on cultural diversity from the Inf Sch; the legal aspects of multinational missions from Legal Branch; and talks from a weapons intelligence team in relation to the gathering of evidence. All of these subjects were treated in a way that related back to the MPs and what they need to be mindful of in an overseas context.

There was also a series of guest speakers including Professor Marie Cassidy the State Pathologist; Comdt Mark Hearn, who talked about his recent experiences in Syria; Brig Gen Ger Aherne who spoke about MINURCAT and EUFOR Chad/CAR; and Col Colm Doyle (retd), who has been giving evidence in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

In exercises in the Glen of Imaal simulating overseas operations, the three key concepts were 'integration', 'communication', and 'co-operation', with the instructors monitoring how the students integrated, how messages got passed along, and how they co-operated to achieve their mission.

The students faced a range of scenarios that they might encounter overseas, such as road traffic accidents, route reconnaissance, VIP escorts, managing an investigation and seeing it through until the end. At their disposal the course had a heli for aerial reconnaissance, a CIS detachment commanders course, and a mini unmanned aerial system (MUAS) from the Artillery Corps.

"The students were quite surprised at the standard of instructorship and equipment we provided," Lt Col O'Loughlen told us. "With the MUAS they were able to watch live footage of incidents taking place on the ground and respond accordingly."

One scenario involved an ambush on a peacekeeping foot patrol. When the MPs arrived they had to secure the scene, investigate it, take witness statements, and eventually arrive at a suspect. Major Jon Hipkins from the UK and WO Mark Kluge from Canada assessed the MP students as they went through their procedures. Facing the students was a scene of empty bullet casings from friendly and enemy forces, bandages and other medical implements left over from the medics that came in to take care of the wounded, vehicle tracks, and footprints. The provost MPs moved in first to secure the scene, making sure nobody tampered with the evidence, keeping all relevant personnel on-scene and gathering as much information as possible on what happened. Next to enter the area was the investigation team whose job is to process the scene in a manner similar to that portrayed on a CSI programme with everything they came across being photographed and tagged.

We learnt that while there are different forms and terminology used by MPs around the world, the fundamental practises and procedures of MPs are somewhat similar and at the core of all the nationalities is the MP motto *Securitas Copiarum* (Guardian of the Troops). ■

Students' Views



Capt Kirsten Pilotte, Canadian Armed Forces

"This was a fantastic course and a fantastic opportunity to come over to Ireland. We have learned a lot. The resources here are phenomenal and the training facilities and the instructors are great. The knowledge we have gained, not just on the course but also in the off-time in discussions with our MP colleagues from all over, was very informative. There are people here from many different nations who have much domestic and international experience. To learn from each other is great. And of course just visiting here was great too."



Capt Michael Brimage, US Army

"This international military police course was awesome. I learnt about a lot of things that we as US soldiers don't typically do on a daily basis, especially working with our MP counterparts from NATO/PfP, the EU, and the UN. Bringing everyone here together, working, and learning from each other is great."

"These MPs are from around the world and yet, generally, all our practises and procedures are the same; we just have different names for things. For example, we have an Emergency Operations Centre but over here you call it an ICP: same concept, different name. That might seem small but these are very important things when it comes to working together in an international environment."

"I have loved the scenery here in the Glen of Imaal. The exercise up here in these surroundings with the standard of people... amazing."



Inspector Ray Mulderrig, Garda Training Centre, Templemore

"I have to say the course was excellent. The standard of instructorship was very professional, and for me the international dimension was brilliant. To work with people from so many different countries and to gain their views and experiences from their countries and their overseas service was great."

"It is very important for members of the Garda Síochána to come and work with our military colleagues in environments like this. We deploy personnel on overseas missions and training as well and as a result would be working with police from all over the world. At present there are members of An Garda Síochána in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Cyprus, and we had personnel in Afghanistan. So courses like this are very important for us."



WO Jean-Pierre Leclercq, Belgium

"This is my first time to visit Ireland. It has been really good. Courses and exercises like this are very important for us, especially for overseas deployments. You can find overseas when we are working with our international counterparts we don't understand how each other works. In this environment you can learn how each country works, the materials they use, their procedures. The MP Sch and the instructors were great. The fact that the MP community is very small is obvious when I find that I have served in ISAF with the British instructor on this course and also one of the students from Poland."



1 Air Defence Reg Colours

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR, CPL PAUL MILLAR, ARMN
JASON BYRNE AND SGT JJ RYAN

The recent reorganisation of the Defence Forces has resulted in the disestablishment of many proud units with exemplary service, many stretching back to the foundation of the state. For units such as 4 Inf Bn in Cork, 5 Inf Bn, 2 Inf Bn and 2 Fd Arty Reg in Dublin, 4 Fd Arty Reg and 4 Cav Sqn in Athlone, or 1 ADR in the DFTC, the months of November and December saw them fly their colours, standards, and pennants for the last time. For members of these units this was a time of great poignancy and significance.

On January 24th 1923 GRO 16 authorised a new establishment for the Army that listed 65 infantry battalions stationed throughout a number of military divisions such as the Donegal Command, the Athlone Command, the Dublin Command, and the Claremorris Command, to name a few.

Over the intervening decades the Defence Forces has evolved and reorganised on several occasions to meet different security threats and other operational requirements. In 1998 the command structure gave way to the brigade structure that is still in place today although after the latest reorganisation there are now only two brigades in addition to the DFTC, the Naval Service and Air Corps.

Although for the members of these units it is a time of sadness it is also, as Brig Gen Derry Fitzgerald GOC 1 Bde commented, “an opportunity for us to remember and celebrate all that has been achieved by a truly remarkable collection of men and women.” He went on to add that

these ceremonies were “a tribute to the service, commitment, and sacrifice of those men and women.”

Indeed, the units being disestablished have rich histories that do not tell the story of just the Defence Forces but also that of the state at home and abroad.

Many of these units, such as 4 Inf Bn, were originally established during the Civil War and helped bring peace and stability to a fledgling nation. Others, such as 2 Fd Arty Reg and 1 ADR, were born during the Emergency. (1 ADR has the distinction of being the only unit of the Defence Forces to fire shots in anger during the Emergency as it responded to the Luftwaffe’s bombing of Dublin.)

Over the decades every one of these units has provided unstinting support to the state and the Irish people through countless aid-to-the-civil-power (ATCP) and aid-to-the-civil-authority (ATCA) operations. These operations covered everything from cash-, prisoner-, and explosives escorts, to intense border patrolling and operations during 30 years of the Troubles, to providing assistance to the general public at times of flooding, heavy snowfall and industrial unrest.

Overseas these men and women never hesitated to deploy to some of the most dangerous conflict zones in the world to help and protect the dispossessed and the poorest of the poor. Privates, troopers, medics, signalmen, engineers, gunners, and MPs from these long-standing units have seen peacekeeping service throughout the world from the Congo to East Timor, from Western Sahara to Uganda, Lebanon, Somalia, Kosovo, Cambodia,



Last Shoot of 2 & 4 Fd Arty Regs



5 Inf Bn, In Remembrance

world from the Congo to East Timor, from Western Sahara to Uganda, Lebanon, Somalia, Kosovo, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Chad, Liberia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and even the Arctic Circle with the EU Battlegroup.

Many members of the Defence Forces paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving on peacekeeping missions overseas came from these units. At the stand down parade held to mark the disestablishment of 5 Inf Bn a wreath-laying ceremony was held in tribute to the five members of the unit who gave their lives while on peacekeeping duties overseas.

In addition to these sacrifices the men and women of these units often also displayed exemplary bravery on these often dangerous missions. Indeed, 4 Fd Arty Reg has the honour of being a highly decorated unit in the Defence Forces. During their stand-down ceremony on December 4th (St Barbara's Day) at Ballinamuck, Co Longford, the regiment paid tribute to three of these men, the late Capt Tom Boyle, Sgt John Quirk and Cpl Bill Allen (who was the guest of honour on the day), all of whom were awarded DSMs for their leadership, courage, and devotion to duty while serving with ONUC in Katanga, Congo, in December 1962/January 1963.

While the units may be disestablished and their colours may be laid up, these units will live on in their histories. We can also be sure that, steeped as they are in the traditions and ethos of the Defence Forces, the members of these units will carry on their proud and honourable service in their new postings. ■



4 Fd Arty Reg at Ballinamuck



The 5 Inf Bn Assoc. led by former COS Lt Gen G McMahon (Retd) & marched on parade by Sgt Maj Mick Peirce (Retd)



Combined Pipe Band



Brig Gen Ger Ahearn inspect troops



4 W Bde Colours



Mass in Collins Bks, Cork

VIEW FROM THE FRONT LINES OF PEACE STRATEGIES



Brig Gen Patrick Phelan was selected by the UN as Deputy Force Commander UNIFIL and assumed his appointment on April 28th. When we visited Lebanon recently Brig Gen Phelan talked to us about the current situation.

“The current role of UNIFIL is essentially laid down in UN Resolution 1701, which augments its predecessor resolutions 425 and 426, which brought UNIFIL here in the first place. Our primary functions are: monitoring the cessation of hostilities; to accompany and support the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as they extend the authority of the government of Lebanon in the South; and to assist the LAF in maintaining an area between the Blue Line and Litani River free of armed personnel, weapons and other ordnance. If requested by the government of Lebanon we may also assist in the control of their borders and other entry points. We also have another responsibility in facilitating humanitarian access and supporting the voluntary safe return of refugees and displaced persons. We co-ordinate our activities with the parties involved, primarily the LAF and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

“We focus our activities in two directions. One is along the Blue Line, to determine if things are calm, stable and peaceful, and de-conflict issues that arise that may lead to tension and escalate out of hand. The other primary focus is deeper in the area of operations (AO) between the Blue Line and Litani River, to confirm that there is no military activity other than that of the UN and the LAF. This is primarily executed through patrols referred to as ‘counter-rocket-launching patrols’. In addition, we work to a significant degree at maintaining a very good relationship with the local population. Again, de-conflicting issues that may arise between the parties is very important.

“A unique mechanism known as the Tripartite Mechanism has been

Deputy Force Commander | 23

Brig Gen Patrick Phelan

INTERVIEW BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR AND COURTESY OF UNIFIL PRESS OFFICE

developed to deal with tensions and issues of potential conflict in South Lebanon. This is where UNIFIL, the senior military and civil components, meet with the LAF and IDF at a very high level on a regular basis, normally once a month, in periods of heightened tension or following a serious incident. It is a face-to-face forum for the parties to address issues, through UNIFIL, that are of concern to them. It is a unique mechanism that works very effectively and is a significant development from any of my other experiences here where in fact there was no communication whatsoever between the parties.

"The marking of the Blue Line is another significant development because it also involves the parties. The Blue Line is a line of withdrawal that was delineated following the 2000 IDF withdrawal from South Lebanon. It isn't the 1923 line between French Lebanon and Palestine or the 1949 Armistice Demarcation Line, but is the best approximation of both. It runs along the general line of the Israeli Technical Fence but not exactly along that line either. The Blue Line is actually demarcated on the ground by means of markers, each of which consists of a big concrete base with a blue barrel sitting on top, with a vertical pole and another blue barrel topping it off. These markers act as a point of reference for all parties along the approximate 120kms of the Blue Line. It was assessed and agreed to by the parties that it would take 473 markers to mark the whole line, although actually doing that is quite a challenge.

"Agreeing a particular point isn't easy. After an access lane is cleared through the minefields by our combat engineers and a general area is agreed, a GIS (geographical information systems) team from each jurisdiction will independently check exactly where the marker should go. This process is done by each party and UNIFIL separately. When a party decides on a particular point they put down a coloured spike. If both parties and UNIFIL can close the gap to within 50cms, that's where the marker goes. The construction engineers then come in and erect the blue barrel. Then there is a verification process where the

GIS teams again visit the site to confirm the marker is sited exactly where agreed.

"Out of the 473 markers deemed necessary to mark the Blue Line, 192 are in areas of reservation - that is where the parties are not ready to agree at this time - and are therefore out of the equation. This leaves 281, of which roughly half have been fully completed and verified. This process is not just valuable to the parties on the ground, and of course to UNIFIL, but also to the local civilian populations on both sides, and primarily to shepherds, who roam pretty freely around the area. The markers are an indication to them of which side of the line they are on, and so help to avoid violations of the line.

"Back in 2000 it was another Irish officer, (then) Brig Gen James Sreenan, who held this position here and who was instrumental in the delineation of the Blue Line on the map and facilitating this whole marking process. It is a very sensitive process: nobody on either side can concede territory on their own behalf as they are representing their respective governments. In areas of contention where there are unresolved claims, such as Shebaa Farms or al-Ghajar, these issues will remain pending until such time as the parties are ready to address them.

"I last served here in 1998 and there have been stark changes since then. Serving here you learn that the situation is constantly changing due to both internal and regional factors. Within Lebanon, UNIFIL's AO is an area of relative tranquillity at the moment. Yes, there are problems; yes, there is always a danger of a resumption of hostilities; and yes, we have had incidents within the not so distant past of rocket launches and IEDs. However, looking at it in the context of the rest of the country and the region, it is an island of stability. In northern Lebanon there have been sectarian clashes in the Tripoli area, which is always a threat given the confessional structure of society and government in Lebanon, and there is always a danger that some of the conflict in Syria will leach into Lebanon and be expressed in violence on the ground. Thankfully, that has not happened here in the South.

"Relative stability is a huge achievement in over three decades of UN involvement. I first came here in 1978 and in those early years of UNIFIL we witnessed anti-aircraft guns firing from the banana groves around the Tyre Pocket; active operations on the ground by various militias; and the establishment of the Israeli Controlled Area (ICA) where the Israeli-backed De Facto Forces (DFF) operated. There were also very significant and very tragic losses of life during this period. Back then the LAF only had a token representation in the South. Now they are deployed throughout the South and there are no active militia forces on the ground. We do not have an ICA anymore and the authority of the Lebanese government, apart from certain unresolved areas, runs right to the Blue Line. This to me is a huge achievement that can only be grasped in the context of what went before. The position that UNIFIL has helped to develop here over more than three decades, and that it can now help sustain due to the strength of the force and its mandate, as well as the cooperation of the parties, is of huge value to this country and to the greater region. Having contributed very significantly to the creation of this new strategic environment, I personally don't see any alternative to UNIFIL at this time, pending essential political developments that, alone, can ensure a permanent ceasefire." ■



IN RESERVE

GunDog

A fire-control system for the 120mm mortar

REPORT BY CAPT DAVE POWER (31 RES ARTY REGT)

MAIN IMAGE ARMN JASON BYRNE

The Ruag 120mm mortar, introduced to the Defence Forces in late 2008, has become the primary artillery fire-support weapon for overseas deployments and is currently deployed with our troops in Lebanon. It is capable of firing a 14kg projectile out to a range of almost 8km. While this is a long way short of the 17km range offered by the 105mm howitzer, the compact size of the

mortar system has made it the weapon of choice for such deployments. This article describes the development of a system to calculate firing data for the mortar. It is called 'GunDog', a name derived from the fact that the first version ran on a 'Husky' handheld device, similar to the type used by the 'MorFire' system.

The Artillery Corps uses a range of modern survey equipment to accurately determine the location of each gun or mortar to the nearest metre. It also has an array of equipment, including tripod-mounted, laser rangefinders, AMSTAR ground radar and LTAV-mounted OP suites that can accurately determine a target location to within five metres. To tie all of these elements together to deliver accurate fire on the ground, a computerised fire-control system is required to calculate mortar firing data.

Graphical plotters for determining firing data were provided along with the mortars. On these the operator marks the battery centre and the target on a 50cm plastic disc that is then rotated to determine the bearing to the target. The elevation is determined by measuring with a ruler graduated with charge and elevation data. This system is simple and easy to learn but has a number of limitations: the plotting resolution is 50m, the system is comparatively slow, and doesn't take the displacement of each individual gun into account. Furthermore, it only computes centre-to-centre data, and isn't capable of calculating sheaf, linear or converged fire patterns.

The Artillery School initially sought to upgrade its 'GunZen MkIII' systems to compute data for the new mortars. However, since Switzerland was the only other country in the world that used the Ruag 120mm, no off-the-shelf fire-control solution existed for it. The cost of having a custom module written for the 'GunZen' was investigated but proved prohibitive.

When people consider how the skills of personnel serving with the RDF can benefit the Defence Forces, their first thoughts usually turn to one of the other corps such as CIS, logistics, medical and engineering. It is usually the case that civilian qualifications are not officially recognised by the Defence Forces but there is a tacit understanding that an RDF member who has specialist skills, say, for instance, in installing data networks, would be of immense value in a corps such as CIS. To most, however, it is not immediately obvious that there could be civilian skills, which are of use to the Artillery Corps.

The Artillery School has always been keen to make the most of its RDF assets. RDF gun crews are often mixed with PDF batteries





The final stage would be to turn these algorithms into a reliable and user-friendly software system. This required a background in coding embedded software, a skill set that I possess thanks to my career as a software specialist with Enterprise Ireland.

The development work began in earnest in mid-2009, with the first version running on a 'Husky' handheld computer, similar to that already in use for the 'MorFire' system. The system was tested at each stage of development by Artillery School instructors to ensure that the data produced was correct and to guide the development of the feature set.

The first prototype was only capable of grid-type shoots but after successful testing in the Glen of Imaal it was decided to procure 36 'TopCon FC-2000', Windows-based, handheld computer systems. A number of these handhelds had previously been purchased by the Artillery School for survey work and they had proved to be reliable, soldier-proof and user-friendly, while also being waterproof, dustproof and shockproof.

In 2010, the program was ported to run on the .NET framework. This allows it to run on the 'FC-2000' as

well as on a normal Windows laptop, tablet or PC for classroom instruction. Since 2010, extra features have been gradually added and tested to bring the system to the stage where it is now fully functional and deployed to all artillery units. The system can now handle grid shoots, polar shoots, recorded targets, quick actions, single-gun actions, registration, MET, alternate positions, and simultaneous missions. Many aspects of the program have been tailored individually to the requirements of the Defence Forces. As well as calculating data for the Ruag 120mm, the system is also capable of being used with the Brandt 81mm mortar as well as the L118 and L119 105mm howitzers. It can also be used for calculating survey functions and incorporates a suite of safety functions such as 'safe-fire' templates, 'no-fire' areas and safety distances around OP and 'own troop' locations. The system can also be expanded as necessary to accommodate new functions or new ammunition and weapon types.

The reaction to the GunDog system from the soldiers who use it had been extremely positive. They have found it easy to learn and to operate, there is no waiting around while trajectories are computed, and the data is presented in a clear and easy to read format. The lightweight, good battery life, and general ergonomics of the device have all contributed to make the system well liked by those who use it. Gundog is not in use overseas at present. The whole project has been an excellent example of what can be achieved by a dedicated team of full-time and part-time soldiers working together. ■

at corps shoots and, where feasible, weapon courses have been open to PDF and RDF students alike. For example, when the School decided to upgrade its survey equipment, it turned to Capt Liam Crawford who was able to use his experience as a civil engineer to procure and commission a modern suite of total stations and differential GPS systems. Also, Sgt Denis Daly's aviation experience proved invaluable in the School's development of procedures and systems to allow the new mortars to be quickly and safely airlifted by helicopter.

It was against this backdrop that I suggested to the Artillery School that we could, and should, produce our own fire-control system. I had initially expected the idea to be treated with some scepticism but the backing and belief shown by the School Commandant and staff of the School was very heartening.

The project was well suited to my skill-set as it required a combination of military and civilian skill-sets across three areas: artillery, engineering, and software development.

The artillery aspect of the project needed a deep understanding of the specifications required to fulfil the task and I had this through years of experience in the use of other such fire-control systems, both as an operator and as the officer in charge of calculating the gun data.

The differential equations needed to model the ballistics of a projectile can be quite complex, and an engineering background was required to understand the mathematical transformations required to produce computational algorithms from these models.

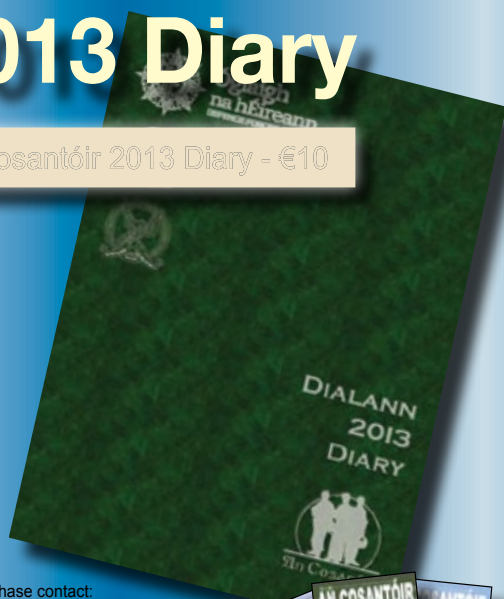


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National Leadership Local Support

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SALUTING CONTINUED

*Taken from the Manual of Foot Drill Part 1,
Section 5 **Saluting***



76. Saluting when meeting an officer.

- (a) When a soldier meets an officer, he will salute on the third pace before reaching him and cut away his hand to the side on the third pace after passing him.
- (b) Recruits will be practised in marching, two or three together, saluting points being placed on either side. When several men are together, the nearest man to the point, will give the time. They will be practised in saluting officers when meeting them.

77. Saluting when sitting.

A soldier, if sitting when an officer approaches, will stand to attention facing the officer and salute. If two or more men are sitting or standing about, the senior NCO or soldier will face the officer, call the whole party to attention and he alone will salute. In the absence of a NCO, the soldier who first sees an officer will bring the party to attention and salute.

78. Saluting before addressing an officer.

- (a) Before a soldier addresses an officer, he will halt two paces in front of him and salute, as for saluting to the front, judging the time. He will also salute before withdrawing.
- (b) When bringing a written message to an officer, the soldier will carry it in his left hand and after saluting transfer it to his right hand before handing it to the officer.

79. Saluting when without cap or tunic.

A soldier without cap or tunic, or with tunic undone as when



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dressed or when carrying anything other than his rifle which would prevent his using his right arm, will, if standing, come to attention as an officer passes him. If walking, he will turn his head smartly towards the officer in passing him, keeping his disengaged hand (or hands) by his side.

80. Exceptions.

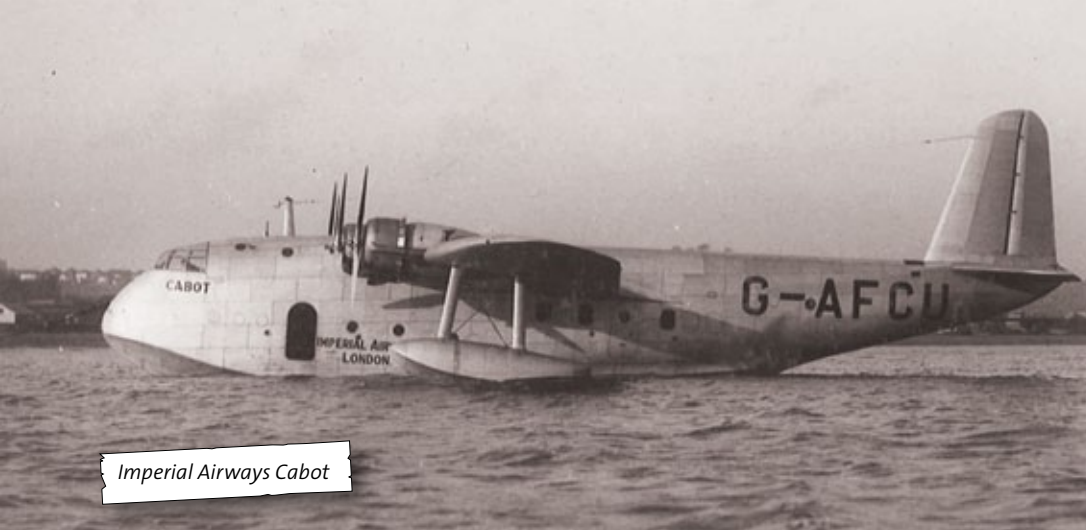
- (a) Salutes and Honours are not normally given by troops actively engaged in training. A man in the ranks on parade does not salute if directly addressed but comes to the position of attention unless already in that position.
- (b) Soldiers actually at work are not required to cease work to salute an officer unless addressed by him.
- (c) In public conveyances, e.g., trains and in such places as theatres, hotels, etc., salutes may be omitted when inappropriate.
- (d) Soldiers at meals, on being visited by an officer, will stop eating and talking and will remain seated.

81. Compliments when National Anthem is being played.

When the National Anthem is being played and members of the Defence Forces are present, they will stand to attention facing towards the music. If in uniform and wearing head-dress, they will salute at the first note and remain at the salute until the last note of the Anthem.

If the Flag is displayed during the playing of the National Anthem, they will face in that direction and not towards the music.

If in civilian attire, they will uncover instead of saluting, holding the head-dress opposite the left shoulder. In very inclement weather the head-dress may be held slightly raised. If present under the command of an officer, NCO or man they will be called to attention and the commander will salute. All officers will salute when the unit to which they belong is called to attention.



Imperial Airways Cabot



Lockheed Hudsons flying in formation

FROM REBEL TO MBE: JOHN JOSEPH GILMORE

BY GUY WARNER

Guy Warner, author and regular contributor to the Ulster Aviation Society's journal 'Ulster Airmail' and An Cosantóir brings us this very interesting story.

Joe Gilmore, the son of Patrick and Elizabeth (Crangle) Gilmore, was born on June 22nd 1900 at 31 Lowry Street in East Belfast. When quite young he went to live with his maternal grandmother near Ardglass. It was there that he went to school, completing his education in Downpatrick Technical College. He was by all accounts energetic and fearless. He played football for Ardtole GAA and later for the Down senior team. During his early manhood his mechanical ability and daring nature led him to automobiles, motorcycles and trucks. Joe set up his own engineering works at the bottom of Hill Street in Ardglass and had other workshops in the dock area. He also ran a taxi and a cartage company in Ardglass and worked in Belfast building aircraft engines.

He had a brush with the law in the 1920s when he became involved in IRA activity. In July 1923 he was arrested in the course of helping a wounded IRA prisoner to escape to the Irish Free State (as it was then known) and spent some time in custody. In 1929 Joe joined the Irish Free State Air Corps in Dublin as an aircraft engineer. He gained his pilot's license (No 23) on November 17th 1932. On April 17th 1933 at Baldonnel Aerodrome, from a height of 2,500 feet, he became the first Irishman to parachute from an aircraft and land on Irish soil. In all, he made a total of 15 parachute descents.

In 1933 he joined Imperial Airways, initially at Croydon Airport, as an aircraft engineer. In the same year he purchased a high-wing monoplane in East Lincolnshire and crashed it on the way home. He stored it on a local farm and having retrieved the wreckage some time later proceeded to rebuild it, using various spare parts and making his own where none was available. He

flew upwards of 300 hours in this machine. This was the Civilian CAC Coupe G-AAIL, which Joe re-registered EI-AAV. He was promoted Station Engineer and then served at Ronaldsway Airport on the Isle of Man and at Poole in Dorset.

In 1936 Imperial Airways chose him as engineer for an experimental flight to Arabia and return by way of Ethiopia, Egypt, Malta and France.

In 1938 he was transferred to Atlantic Division and sent to Montreal, Quebec in connection with North Atlantic flights, and participated in the preparation of the marine base at Boucherville, Quebec, and in aircraft servicing at Port Washington, New York.

In August 1940 Joe was transferred to Gander in Newfoundland where he became the first employee of the new Canadian Pacific Air Service department, set up to deliver aircraft to Britain to assist the war effort. Gander was the great airport carved out of the forests and the closest airport to Europe.

In 1941 his transfer became permanent when the operation was taken over by RAF Ferry Command. He was the Superintendent of Maintenance and so was involved in the preparation of the aircraft for the long trans-Atlantic flights. He personally flew with at least eight of these aircraft to Britain. Over the course of the war more than 9,000 aircraft were ferried over the Atlantic and made a major contribution to the Allied victory. During his time in Gander Joe was also involved in salvaging crashed aircraft and returning them to service.

In addition to his official duties he flew many rescue missions, many of them extremely hazardous given the nature of the weather and terrain in that part of the world. It is estimated that of over 500 such missions carried out during his time there, Joe Gilmore undertook more than half of them.

Joe developed a great fondness for the people of Newfound-

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land and for the country itself. He could hardly do otherwise for he got to know the people and the country intimately, flying several hundred hours, many times at great personal risk in adverse weather. Most of the flights were mercy flights to remote, inaccessible settlements carrying medical supplies and bringing sick or injured people to hospital in Gander.

On one such flight from Gander to Montreal on May 1st, 1945 the Norseman aircraft, which he habitually used in air-sea rescue missions, crashed in foggy conditions near Peake's Station, Prince Edward Island. Tragically, both Joe and his passenger were killed. When he died, he was mourned by his pregnant wife, Mary, and five children.

Joe also had an impressive record of inventions to his credit. He designed and fitted the air intake shutters and the carburettor alcohol de-icing on the first Lockheed Hudsons to fly the Atlantic and the designs were taken up more widely. He also designed a fuel dump system that was used on BOAC B-24 Liberator aircraft.

For his part in the war effort he posthumously received the MBE in the 1946 birthday honours list.

He is the only civilian buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Gander. He was always, however, proud of his Irish roots.

With thanks to the Gilmore family, the Ulster History Circle and the Lecale & Downe Historical Society. ■

Imperial Airways Caribou



John Joseph Gilmore



Lockheed Hudsons under maintenance



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



Pte Blaine Donovan claiming a throw



Pte Andrew Gleeson getting the ball away from a scrum.



3 Inf Bn team which defeated Carrick on Suir RFC in September were:

Back row (L/R): Pte R Macnamara, Pte F Wright, Capt J Lynch, Pte M McCormack, Pte B Donovan, Pte E Ahern, Cpl B Farrell, Capt K Kennedy, Cpl A O'Malley. **Front row (L/R):** Pte K Long, Pte S Holloway, Pte J Kelleher, Pte B Divine, Capt I Collins, Capt C Brady, Cpl T Comerford



Cpl O'Malley, Pte Holloway, Cpl Farrell in action V Carrick RFC

'THE BLOODS' RUGBY TEAM 3 INF BN Vs Garda RFC

On Friday 23rd November, the 3 Inf Bn rugby team played their annual Champion Cup game against Garda RFC. This is the second year of the competition named in honour of Mr Ray Champion one of the founders of Garda Rugby Football Club. The first half didn't go to well for the 3 Inf Bn team who conceded three tries. However, in the second half the Defence Forces men came back strongly. Pte Blaine Donovan controlled the lineout well and robbed and disrupted a number of Garda throws. Using

ball won at the lineout 'The Bloods' were able to drive down the field and a great try was scored by No 7 Cpl Anthony O'Malley following a number of powerful surges by the team's forwards. Pte Brian Devine duly converted the try. Shortly after, Pte Kieran Long was unlucky not to score as he was fouled while making a break for the Garda line.

In the end the hard-fought game finished 22-7 in favour of Garda RFC. After the game a presentation was held in the NCOs Mess, Stephens Bks, and a good night was had by all.

BY CPL BRIAN FARRELL
PHOTOS FR DAN MCCARTHY
(STEPHENS BKS)

This was 3 Inf Bn Rugby's third game since September as we had also played challenge matches against two local clubs winning against Carrick-on-Suir RFC and narrowly losing to Kilkenny RFC in our Ormonde Trophy match. Both of these games are also played annually and strong links have been forged with these clubs.

There have been over 40 players who have now worn The Bloods' red jersey, most of whom are drawn from Stephens Bks with the rest being 'ex-pats' who are now serving in other units. ■

International **SNIPER** COMPETITION

experiences encountered in today's multinational operations.

Lt Kieran Woulfe, chief sniper instructor in the Infantry Weapons Wing (IWW) said, "We could have sent any DF team and they would have been well placed given the current standard of sniping in Ireland. The outstanding performance by this year's representatives from the ARW is not only a testament to their own hard work but also to that of the high quality of sniper training being carried out at brigade and unit level within the DF."

The lessons learned from this competition will be shared by the IWW during the following events: sniper seminar (09th April), sniper concentration (20th -24th May) and the sniper instructor course (3rd June - 26th July). ■

A sniper team from the Army Ranger Wing (ARW) finished second in the US Army International Sniper Competition in November. The 72-hour competition was held in Fort Benning and had 36 teams from across the world. It is the second year in a row that we have taken home silver and were only defeated by an Olympic gold medal winning US team.

The competition had 14 events and included a sniper stalk with roving foot and car patrols, urban shooting, firing under 'stressful' conditions and various other tests of sniping and marksmanship.

The stress fire was from a barricade, running back 10m for each round fired, with targets ranged from 500m – 800m. The night shoot was timed to three minutes with the teams having to engage five targets with their NVS. This was followed by an unknown distance shoot from two bunkers and a 4.5-mile march in which the Irish team were the fastest.

They were all conducted continuously over the three days and were as realistic and instinctive as possible; mirroring the



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Registration fee is €25 and climbers are asked to raise €50 for Concern.

Accommodation is at The Helm in Westport. Two nights accommodation, two breakfasts and one dinner cost €75.

Early afternoon on Friday March 1st a bus will leave Mullingar and travel via Dublin to bring climbers to Westport.

An Cosantóir readers are guaranteed a great weekend for an all-in price of €150.

Please Visit:
www.ShowYourConcern.net

If you are interested, please contact Zoe Holyoak at 01 417 8028, email at zoe.holyoak@concern-net or write to:

Zoe Holyoak, Concern, 52-55 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2.



Among Us



The Among Us Photographic Project is looking to contact retired or serving members of the Defence Forces whom have been awarded a Distinguished Service Award during their service with the Army, Naval Service or Air Corp.

For full information about the project, please log on to the Among Us website at:

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GEAR REVIEW



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

STREAMLIGHT SIDEWINDER COMPACT II:

RETAIL PRICE €78.00

The manufacturer says...

Streamlight Sidewinder Compact II is a multi-battery, multi-LED, hands-free flashlight. It accepts multiple power sources to provide ultimate flexibility in the field. It has the same great features as the original Sidewinder Compact®: lightweight, multi-directional and multi-functional.

It accepts a variety of different battery types: it uses one 3V CR123A lithium battery (included), AA lithium battery or AA alkaline battery. Four individual light sources: C4® LED, white, blue, IR & red. Pull-to-turn rotary selector knob prevents accidental mode changes and allows selection of LED colour. Rubber dome actuator and 4-position pull-to-turn, locking, rotary selector knob with IR LED tactile indicator provide easy operation even when wearing heavy gloves. Powers on at low output and progresses to high intensity, in four discrete steps. IR Safe mode prevents accidental activation and battery depletion while in IR mode. Double-click push button to initiate strobe (all LED colours have a strobe function). 185° tilting body, rotates 360° on helmet mount. Durable clip attaches to helmet, head strap or MOLLE vest. Cord attachment hole provided in clip capable of supporting 25lbs of load. Three-metre impact resistance tested. IPX7/waterproof to 1-metre for 30 minutes. O-Ring and gasket sealed openings. Meets MIL-STD-810F.



Our tester, Cadet Kevin Fitzgerald (Cadet Sch, Mil Col), says...

I tested the Streamlight Sidewinder Compact II torch and it was worn at all times throughout rigorous exercises. It never dimmed or got damaged and never moved from its position on the helmet mount clip. It's very durable, shockproof and waterproof. However the helmet mount clip is too small for the thicker parts of the Defence Forces helmet. A very useful feature is that the click is a very small pinprick, which means you won't expose too much light. The torch's brightness settings are easily cycled through, from two pinprick beams to very bright light, which is much brighter than standard torches. The torch is quite difficult to deal with when it is mounted on the helmet, the button is hard to depress and it is very difficult to change lighting modes. However this is helpful in military operations, as it won't be turned on accidentally. Overall this is an excellent piece of kit that exceeds any standard head torch available. It shows that it has been designed with military operations in mind and I would highly recommend it.

Rating: Brightness 9 - Battery Life 9 - Waterproof 9 - Safe Mode 7

5.11 TACTICAL HARDTIME GLOVE

RETAIL PRICE €69.95

The manufacturer says...

The 5.11 Tactical HardTime Glove partnered with Ironclad Performance Wear®, to set new standards for dexterity, fit, and durability and provide you with gloves you can depend on. Our commitment to functional innovation and unparalleled quality, combined with Ironclad's dedication to superior fit and tactility, means you can trust our gloves as you navigate through the day's challenges.

American made Kevlar® back panel for flash and slash protection. Articulated TPR-covered two-piece hard knuckle protection. Tactical Touch™ precision fit fingertips for maximum dexterity and comfort. Durable Goatskin leather palm. Neoprene and Velcro® wrist closure. Reinforced pull tab. Lightweight and fast drying.

Instead of a single piece covering all four knuckles, our two plates flex with your hand, each covering two knuckles and improving your comfort, dexterity, and performance while protecting your knuckles from impact. Tough thermoplastic plates are padded on the hand side and covered with a durable subdued finish TPR laminate on the business side.



Our tester, Sgt John Griffin (Cadet Sch, Mil Col), says...

I tested 5.11 Tactical HardTime Glove over the last two weeks. I found them very comfortable to wear and they allowed me to operate the weapon without any problems. The biggest advantage I found was the two-piece knuckle protection. It gives good protection to the knuckles but most of all it allows for better movement of your hand and doesn't hamper you in any way. The gloves are not waterproof but they are fast drying so that helps. They are small and lightweight so they don't take up much room in your admin in the field. Overall I found the gloves very good and would be ideal for fighting in built up areas (FIBUA) exercises. I would recommend these to a friend or colleague.

Rating: Dexterity 9 - Fit 8 - Durability 10 - Slash/Flash protection (Kevlar) 10

COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha are offering a €100 Voucher to be used on their website www.team-alpha.ie. For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question:

What price is the Delux Law Enforcement Cleaning System on the team-alpha website? Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 20th Feb 2013. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner of a €120 Voucher for Team-Alpha.ie was Will Rowan, Kildare Town



NOTICEBOARD

This page is designed to give our readers an easy-to-follow list of upcoming events or notices for our wider Defence Forces Family. Readers who want to submit notices that may be of interest to others should keep their notices to the point, include contact details and send by email to: magazine@military.ie or by post to: Editor An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceann Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland. PS. Our old noticeboard will still be made available on www.dfmagazine.ie

On Display

Model soldiers of the Franco-Prussian war are on display at Collins Barracks in a new travelling exhibition from Paris: **IRLANDE: Exposition '1689-2011, les Irlandais et la France: trois siècles de relations militaires'**. These soldiers are part of a exhibition showcasing three centuries of military relations between the Irish and France was conducted by the French Army Museum.

The event is from January to June 2013, their opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm, Sunday: 2pm - 5pm (Closed Mondays).

The National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7, Ireland. Phone: +353 1 6777444 – Web: www.museum.ie

See ad on page 4 for more info.

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 Irish Military Clothing irishmilitarytshirts.com

Word Search

Cross off the words in the list as you find them.

Word searches are fun, they also bring benefits you may not realise and can play an important role in keeping you mentally fit.

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S	N	I	P	E	R	W	D	L	Y	M	W	Y	L	L
S	M	F	D	M	X	W	T	D	F	E	G	A	N	P
K	H	Q	B	F	S	I	C	I	E	L	M	Z	R	Y
K	H	S	R	P	I	S	T	O	L	Z	M	B	X	S
Q	C	I	O	J	R	E	C	Q	S	A	C	A	Q	H
B	U	P	W	G	L	H	L	R	C	U	Y	T	Y	S
G	Y	G	N	F	R	P	C	H	I	H	Z	X	Z	A
D	C	V	I	O	I	E	I	F	E	C	Z	D	I	Z
B	U	R	N	X	A	N	N	O	P	A	E	W	X	N
F	D	U	G	G	E	H	Q	A	B	Y	Q	C	U	O
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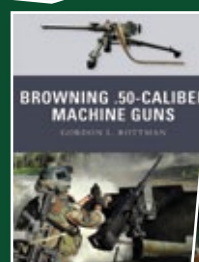
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WEAPON

FEBRUARY Q&A COMPETITION

1. Where did the DF come in the Sniper Competition (this issue)?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win two Osprey Books: **Browning .50-Caliber Machine Guns** & **The Rocket Propelled Grenade** by Gordon L. Rottman.

Last month's winner of a signed copy of Paul O'Brien's latest book 'Field of Fire, 1916 & the Battle for Ashbourne' was Thomas Salmon, Mullingar.



BOOK

THE NATHAN MCBRIDE SERIES BY ANDREW PETERSON

FORCED TO KILL

Author: Andrew Peterson

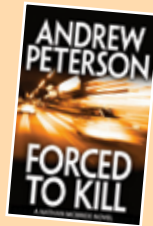
Publisher: Leisure (Jan 2012)

Pages: 288 pages

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services Inc.

Price: €2.33 (Kindle Edition)

ASIN: Boo6WBQOE2



THIS IS BOOK Two in the Nathan McBride series following on from 'First to Kill' (reviewed July/August 2012). When a mutilated body is discovered in a remote Utah lake it triggers a chain of events that will take Nathan's memory and soul back to his Nicaraguan nightmare. Nathan believes his Nicaraguan interrogator Montez de Oca has now resurfaced on American soil after 14 years in obscurity. McBride's body was scarred beyond belief as Montez de Oca created his work of art with a blade and left him close to death. Now he faces his old enemy where his hatred and want for revenge must be held back so that he can discover de Oca's plan and enact justice. Follow trained marine sniper and ex-CIA black ops member Nathan McBride on his toughest mission yet as he plays cat-and-mouse with de Oca and ends at the heart of the US government.

OPTION TO KILL

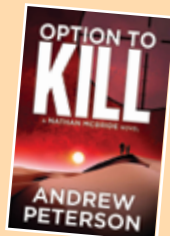
Print Length: 172 pages

Publisher: Thomas & Mercer
(Sept 2012)

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services, Inc.

Price: €2.33 (Kindle Edition)

ASIN: Boo8MMQ5oC



MCBRIDE RETURNS in the third instalment of the toughest new guy, action thriller of the 'soon to be a movie' series. In a few short steps Andrew Peterson has created a character that other authors only dream of. The action jumps off the page and your life will pass you by as you try to keep track of McBride in a '24' style serial where everything happens so quickly you won't put it down.

It starts with a text message that leads to a child abduction of a niece Nathan never knew he had and then Peterson takes us on a rollercoaster shootout after shootout in down-town Los Angeles that finally climaxes in the desert. This 36hr story ends in a life-or-death finale I haven't read since 'Point of Impact', the book that became the movie 'Shooter' with Mark Wahlberg.

This book was initially released in 7 episodes as a Kindle serial, where you received a serial every 2 weeks over a 3 month period. *All episodes are now available for immediate download as a complete book.

Andrew Peterson holds the classification of 'Master' in the US National Rifle Association's High Power Rifle ranking system and has won numerous competitions throughout the US Southwest. When he's not writing, he enjoys scuba diving, target shooting, flying helicopters, hiking and camping, and an occasional round of golf. www.andrewpeterson.com

DVD

THE EXPENDABLES 2

Directed by: Simon West

Featuring: Sylvester

Stallone, Jason

Statham, Jet Li, Arnold

Schwarzenegger, Bruce

Willis, Terry Crews, Randy Couture, Liam Hemsworth,

Dolph Lundgren, Jean-Claude Van Damme & Chuck Norris

Genre: Action

Duration: 1 hr 42 mins

Certification: 12

Released: 7 Dec 2012

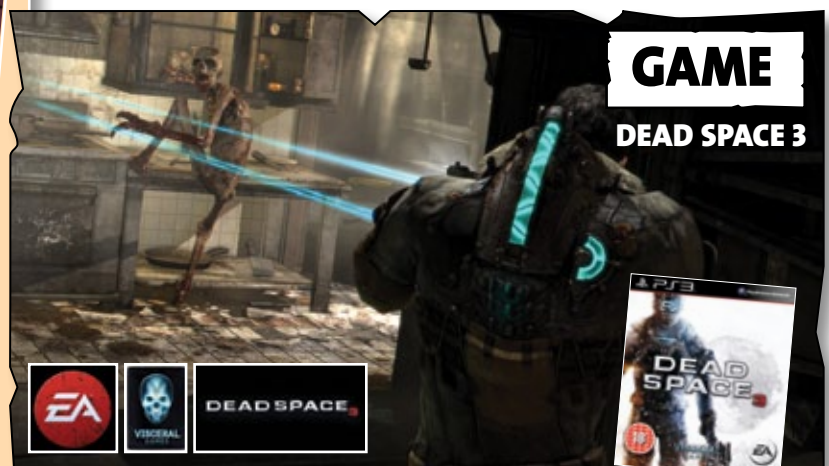


SIMON WEST (most noted as the screen writer of 'Lara Croft: Tomb Raider') brings us the second instalment of 'The Expendables' franchise. The film is a 'Who's-Who' action movie, featuring nearly every action hero from the last two decades, such as: Stallone, Statham, Lundgren, Li, Schwarzenegger and Willis all reprising their roles for this entertaining sequel. Completing the line-up is the legendary Chuck Norris making a great cameo appearance as the lone wolf.

Ross (Stallone) is approached by CIA man Mr Church (Willis), who calls in his favour and tasks 'The Expendables' to go to the former Soviet Union to retrieve something that was on a crashed plane. The team find the package but are then ambushed and have their sniper killed by the aptly named Vilain (Van Damme), who leads a group called 'The Sangs'. And so begins a chase to stop Vilain find the buried plutonium and sell it - with some great battles and climaxes. This film is not meant to be taken seriously and the one-liners set the movie off perfectly.

GAME

DEAD SPACE 3



TEAM UP AND take down the terror together in the third instalment of the Sci-Fi genre 'Dead Space 3'. Isaac Clarke returns, joined by merciless soldier John Carver, they are now on a journey across space to discover the source of the Necromorph outbreak. Crash-landed on the frozen planet of Tau Volantis, Isaac must comb the harsh environment for raw materials and scavenged parts, using his engineering skills to the ultimate test to create and customise weapons and survival tools. Facing more deadly evolved enemies and brutal elements including avalanches, treacherous ice-climbs, the unlikely pair must work together to save mankind from the impending apocalypse. Isaac can choose to team up, not only for his own survival, but for mankind's. Play together with a friend or go it alone as Isaac Clarke using the seamless new drop in, drop out co-op functionality. Each mode offers unique story elements and gameplay. www.deadspace.com

Genre: FPS - **Platform:** Xbox 360, PS3 & PC - **PEGI:** 18+ - **Price** €49.97 (PC €39.97) (gamestop.ie). **Released:** 08 Feb 2013. © 2013 Electronic Arts. All Rights Reserved.



“The Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) is situated within the Naval Base in Haulbowline, where historically it has been staffed and managed by the Naval Service. In a nutshell, the FMC, which Ireland is required

to maintain under both European and national legislation, monitors the activities of all fishing vessels operating in Irish waters (which cover an area 12 times the size of Ireland) and Irish fishing vessels wherever they may be in the world.

It is my responsibility to ensure that fishing vessels comply with all quota and technical regulations that ensure that the catch of fish taken from our seas remains at a sustainable level for current and future generations to exploit. In order to do this, my staff and I liaise with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) on a daily basis. In addition, we are in constant contact with FMCs throughout the Europe Union and other, non-EU, states who have vessels operating in our waters. I also advise Naval Command on all aspects of fishery protection and national and EU policy.”

“Fish are migratory and therefore fishing patterns change on a frequent basis, resulting in a wide distribution of fishing fleets. I meet on a regular basis with the SFPA to establish what their priorities are for the forthcoming period. I then, with Naval Operations, establish which ships are available for fishery protection. With this information we plan the ships’ patrol areas for the coming weeks. Before each ship goes out on patrol we provide a tailored brief to the ship’s OC and boarding teams on what they can expect and should be looking for, or if there are any changes in legislation or quota information. Generally our ships will focus their inspections on vessels that are unlikely to land their catches into an Irish port where they would be subject to controls exercised by the SFPA. I also prepare weekly fishery patrols for the Air Corps’ CASA maritime patrol aircraft.

“The FMC is divided into four sections: Operations, Data Management, Training and Legislation. Ops section routinely conducts risk analysis assessments of fishing fleets using diverse monitoring systems, both passive and active, and ‘int’ from a

variety of sources. This is collated and passed out to ships at sea for action.

Data Management collates the results of all inspections and conducts statistical analysis on this data, which then becomes a constituent of reports forwarded to the Department of Defence, the SFPA and the European Commission.

The training cell ensures all Naval Service inspection personnel are trained to the requirements of the 2006 Maritime Jurisdiction Act.

Legislation Section ensures all legislative and quota information is kept current. It also prepares inspection teams for giving evidence in court cases at home and abroad.

“It is my job, taking into account national policy, to give direction to all these entities, and to ensure that they all work together to enable the FMC to operate as a cohesive entity.

“In addition, I often represent the Naval Service at relevant international meetings abroad that may be hosted by the EU Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency or various regional or international fisheries commissions.

It is important that

the Naval Service is represented at these meetings to ensure that

our commitment of resources to various fishery protection campaigns

is realistic, achievable and sustainable, and to ensure that the considerable expertise that we have in this area is brought to an international forum.” ■



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